



# Islamabad POST

Wednesday, November 30, 2022

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## Briefs

### Pakistan stands by Palestine

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday reiterated Pakistan's unflinching support for the cause of Palestine against the tyranny and illegal occupation of the Israeli forces. "Pakistan has historically supported the legitimate struggle of Palestinians and shall continue to do so," the president said in his message on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. President Alvi said collective voice and action could bring peace and security to Palestinians and expressed hope that justice and fairness would prevail over tyranny and oppression.

### PM reaffirms support to Palestine

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support to the oppressed Palestinian people. In his tweets on Tuesday on the occasion of International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, he said this day highlights the extreme sufferings Palestinians have endured under illegal Israeli occupation. PM said Israeli persecution and oppressive actions that find no parallel in contemporary history are emboldened by impunity. He said unresolved Palestinian issue is not just a moral question, but an issue that has implication for global peace.

### Farah sends legal notice to journalists

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Farah Khan, a close aide of PTI chief Imran Khan's wife, sent a Rs5 billion legal notice on Tuesday to Dubai-based businessman Umar Farooq Zahoore, Geo News and anchorperson Shahzeb Khanzada for airing remarks about her alleged involvement in the sale of Toshakhana gifts. Farah's legal notice, dated November 26, alleged that Zahoore had "deliberately uttered various defamatory remarks" against her.

## General Asim takes charge as Army Chief

"I have full faith that under his leadership army will reach new heights", says Gen. Bajwa

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

RAWALPINDI: General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Tuesday handed over the command of the Pakistan Army to his successor Gen Asim Munir in a ceremony held at the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi. With the change of command, Gen Munir has become the 17th army chief of the Pakistan Army when Gen Bajwa handed over the baton to him. Before handing over the command, Gen Bajwa, in his last address, congratulated his successor Gen Asim Munir for being promoted to the four star rank and as the head of the army. "I have full faith that under his leadership army will reach new heights and his appointment will prove to be a positive for the country," said Gen Bajwa. He added that he was happy to know that he was retiring by handing the army to an able officer like Gen Munir. Gen Bajwa said that his journey in the army started 44 years ago and has ended today. "I am thankful to Allah that he not only gave me an opportunity to work in the courageous and great army but also honoured me to command this army," he said. Appreciating the Pakistan Army, Gen Bajwa said that his prayers will always be with it in difficult times. "I am proud that the army protects the borders from Siachen to Thar despite having limited resources," he added.

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### A brief look at Gen. Asim Munir's career

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff Gen Asim Munir took charge of the Pakistan Army on Tuesday from his predecessor Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa. Gen Munir has become the 17th chief of army staff of the Pakistan Army. Last week, President Arif Alvi had approved General Asim Munir as Pakistan's new chief of army staff (COAS). Let's take a look at his career and achievements. Gen Munir was commissioned in the 23rd Frontier Force Regiment in 1986. He passed out with the 17th Officers Training course, Mangla and was awarded the coveted sword of honour. Before taking charge he was posted as the quarter-master general at the General Headquarters. Before taking charge as COAS, Gen Munir was also posted as a

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## PML-N, PPP speed up efforts to foil PTI plan

*The parliamentary party of PTI is split, claim the opposition*

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Tuesday met the leaders of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in Lahore and both the parties claimed while talking to media afterwards that they had a fruitful discussion on political change in Punjab. "We have proceeded with the process of consultation. The role of Asif Zardari was appreciated in the meeting," PML-N leader Attaullah Tarar said. "All options including the vote of no-confidence were considered during the consultation. There is anxiety among the members of the Punjab Assembly, and they are not in favour of dissolution of the assembly," he added. "The parliamentary party of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has been split into different groups. Everyone is of the opinion that the assemblies should complete the constitutional term," he claimed. "We want the public mandate not to be cheated and to be respected. We will announce our course of action very soon," he averred. "There is also a revision appeal in the Supreme Court. Our case is not heard on time. The speaker case has been pending in the Lahore High Court (LHC) for the past several months," he regretted. "It has been decided to speed up our contacts with the MPs on the treasury benches in Punjab Assembly, and we will tell about further developments in a few days," he stated.

### PM, Zardari mull strategy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former president Asif Ali Zardari Tuesday met Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in the PM house to hold talks regarding the current political scenario. Both the leaders ponder over ways to counter the strategy of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman Imran Khan to prevent the dissolution of Punjab Assembly and considered various options to fail his strategy. Zardari and Shehbaz met at the PM house to discuss the political issues going on in Punjab. Both the leaders discussed various options including bringing a no-confidence motion and imposing Governor's Rule in Punjab. Former president Zardari assured complete support to Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) in Punjab Assembly.

PPP leader Syed Hassan Murtaza said that the administrative and economic situation in

Continued on Page 06



RAWALPINDI: General Qamar Javed Bajwa hands over the command of the Pakistan Army to his successor Gen Asim Munir in a ceremony held at the General Headquarters. – DNA

### Security forces kill 10 terrorists

RAWALPINDI: Security forces have killed ten terrorists and captured one during an intelligence based operation in Balochistan. According to ISPR, an Intelligence Based Operation was conducted to clear a hideout of Terrorists linked with firing incidents targeting security forces and civilians alike besides planting of improvised explosive devices on M-8 in general area Hoshab. As security forces were in process of establishing blocking positions after identification of 12-14 terrorists location, terrorists opened

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### Fawad holds hour-long meeting with US envoy



ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: PTI Senior Vice President Fawad Chaudhry Tuesday met US Ambassador Donald Blome at the US embassy in Islamabad, media reported citing sources. Both sides discussed the country's prevailing political situation in detail in an hour-long meeting held between 3-4pm, the sources said. This was Fawad Chaudhry's second meeting with the US diplomat this month. After the first meeting, the PTI leader initially denied holding a such meeting but later admitted to meeting Donald Blome. The diplomatic sources shared that the US envoy off and on meets with PDM and PTI leaders but the details of such interactions are not released to the media.

## Pakistan delegation in Kabul to discuss TTP, other issues

*The visit comes as the TTP Monday announced unilateral end to ceasefire*

NEWS DESK

KABUL: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar concluded a one-day trip to Kabul on Tuesday where she held wide-ranging talks with Afghan Taliban leadership on security issues and economic cooperation. Khar, who was leading a high-level delegation, was the first minister to travel to the Afghan capital since the government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif took over in April. The Foreign Office (FO) said in a statement that Khar met acting Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi shortly after landing in Kabul. Pakistan's special representative for Afghanistan Mohammad Sadiq was also part of the delegation. Pakistan and Afghanistan agreed to introduce new mechanisms for bilateral relations to review all common opportunities and problems through dialogue and to make progress, Afghan officials said. "Both sides have also agreed to take positive and productive steps for a solution to the prob-

lems," Afghan deputy foreign affairs spokesperson Hafiz Zia Takal said in a statement posted through his Twitter account.

Takal added that FM Muttaqi described relations between the two neighbouring countries as important for the people and the region. Muttaqi, as per the spokesperson, raised the issues of the release of Afghan detainees in Pakistan, facilities for passengers in cross-border movement, and progress in trade and transit. "The Afghan side also showed readiness to make progress on the TAPI gas pipeline, railway lines, and other projects." He also explained the stance of the Afghan Taliban on "political relations, economic development, and security". The spokesperson said the Pakistani side promised "good treatment" for Afghan refugees, solutions to the problems in cross-border movement, and issuance of visas. "Pakistani side also said they will take steps to further facilitate transit." The Afghan statement quoted Khar as saying that

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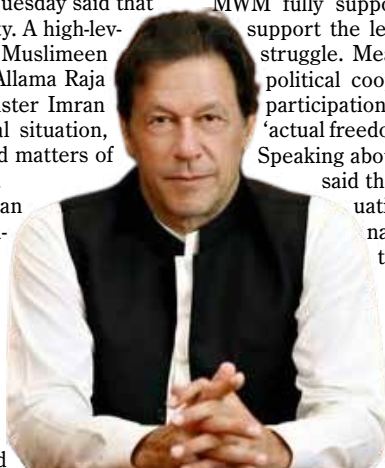
Direct flights between Pakistan, Kazakhstan to start soon  
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## Imran sees economic woes as 'threat' to national security

MWM leadership congratulated Imran for organizing the 'Haqeeqi Azadi' march in Rawalpindi and gave full support to the upcoming political strategy

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President and former Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday said that economic woes threaten national security. A high-level delegation from Majlis Wahdatul Muslimeen (MWM) under the leadership of Chief Allama Raja Nasir Abbas visited former Prime Minister Imran Khan. During the meeting, the political situation, cooperation between the two parties and matters of mutual interest were discussed in detail. MWM leadership congratulated Imran Khan for organizing the 'Haqeeqi Azadi' march in Rawalpindi and gave full support to the upcoming political strategy. Noting that the country suffers from the most complex political and economic challenges, Allama Raja Nasir Abbas said that the "actual freedom" narrative has extraordinary acceptance across all schools of thought. Allama Raja Nasir Abbas, who stressed

the need for early, fair and transparent polls, said that the MWM fully supports the PTI chief's narrative and will support the leadership in every phase of the political struggle. Meanwhile, Imran Khan said he values the political cooperation of the MWM, adding that the participation of the MWM workers and leaders in the 'actual freedom' march in Rawalpindi is commendable. Speaking about the current economic situation, Imran said that the rapidly deteriorating economic situation is bringing extraordinary threats to national survival and security. Underlining the importance of the ruler and the law, the former prime minister said: "The supremacy of the constitution and the law is an essential component for the sustainable foundations of the country's development. Imran urged people of all schools of thought to play a part in the movement to lead Pakistan on the path of constitution and law. – DNA



## Tanvir for addressing education sector challenges

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain on Tuesday highlighted three major challenges of education sector including out-of-school children, learning standards and learning lost during Covid-19, stated that the government was making efforts to address these problems. He was speaking at a conference organized by the Islamic World Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) on Global Perspective and Challenges for Metaverse Technologies. Federal Minister said that we face three major challenges. Firstly, the need to bring out-of-school children into school. Secondly, the need to improve learning for those already in school, and to address the learning lost in the Covid-19 pandemic. Finally, we need to make an education system resilient to emergencies, such as the recent floods, and to increase access through technology. Rana Tanveer said the current devastating floods are a reminder of the huge challenges Pakistan faces, from climate change to meeting its educational needs. He said that these challenges are not unique to Pakistan or developing nations, they are global. The whole world must grapple with the potential inequality that will come from Industry 4.0 and new frontier technologies, including the Metaverse. Rana Tanveer Hussain said that globally, 'frontier technologies' such as robotics, AI and the metaverse present huge potential investment opportunities. Already this market is worth \$350 billion USD, and could grow to over \$3 trillion USD by 2025. – APP

## Foggy conditions likely to prevail over Punjab: PMD

ISLAMABAD: Foggy conditions are likely to prevail over plain areas of Punjab at night and morning hours during the next 24 hours. Mainly cold and dry weather is expected in most parts of the country. According to the synoptic situation, continental air was prevailing over most parts of the country. During the last 24 hours, cold and dry weather prevailed over most parts of the country, while very cold in Gilgit-Baltistan and north Balochistan during night and morning hours. Foggy conditions prevailed in a few plain areas of Punjab. The lowest minimum temperatures recorded during the last 24 hours were Leh -09C, Skardu -06, Ziarat -05, Kalat -04, Astore -03, Bagrote, Shopian, Pulwama, Gilgit, Kalam -02, Srinagar, Anantnag, Quetta and Baramulla -01C. – APP

# RCCI holds PAK-UK trade conference

## DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) in collaboration with Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce (GBCC) has organized the fourth Pak-UK trade and investment conference in Birmingham. The conference, happening for the fourth time, was held at Birmingham council house with the participation of Chamber patrons and more than 75 delegates from Pakistan. Lord Mayor of Birmingham Maureen Cornish was the chief guest on the occasion. Acting Consul General Bakhtawar Mir, leader of Birmingham city council Ian Ward, Commonwealth Chamber president Mark Smith, vice president of GBCC Dr. Nasir Awan, minister on trade and investment of Pakistan Shafiq Shahzad, Shehzad Chaudhary from the department for international trade, Chris Lau from West Midlands Growth Company and Mandy Haque from the GBCC addressed the conference and highlighted the key areas for expanding the scope, diversification of products and enhanced networking for promoting trade ties and increasing the bilat-

# China's initiative for global peace and prosperity

SYED ALI NAWAZ GILANI

The President of Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), Ambassador Lin Songtian recently on his first Foreign visit, which was started from Pakistan, said that promotion of people-to-people exchanges, media cooperation and youth exchange programs are on top his agenda and he would love to work with Pakistani counterparts and officials to make this plan a success being an integral part of China's initiatives for global peace and prosperity. Recently held successful 20th National People's Congress (NPC) of Communist Party of China's (CPC) indicated new goals to enable China to stay at the forefront of the world. CPAFFC President was heading 6-members high level delegation which included Mr. Ji Yongjun, Deputy Director-General Asian & African Affairs, Mr. Xu Yan Deputy Director-General Asian & African Affairs, Ms. Huang Xiaowei, Director Asian & African Affairs, Mr. Liu Chang, Deputy Director and Ms. Pei Xingchen, Section Officer. CPAFFC President Ambassador Lin Songtian visit is very important which bring a message of encouragement for people to people interaction, strengthening sister cities relations at a high level to achieve the desired goal for peace enabling all to achieve prosperity in the world. During the visit the delegation called on Deputy Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Senator Mirza Muhammad Afridi, Federal Government officials apart from very important interactions with their counterparts. All Pakistan China Friendship Association (APCFA), Pakistan China Friendship Association (PCFA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province of Pakistan which was initially established in 1971 as Pak-China Student Friendship Association, Think Tanks, Art & Cultural reputed organization Hunerkada, interact with National Mass Media. CPAFFC will go to complete its 7 decades of establishment as it was established on 3rd May 1954, by the then Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai by putting together 10 leading non organization as Chinese People's Association for cultural relations with Foreign Countries (CPACRFC), that were Chinese People's Committee for Protection of World Peace, China Federation of Literary & Art Circles, All China Federation of Trade Unions, All China Democratic



Women's Federation, All China Democratic Youth Federation, All China Student Federation, China-India Friendship Association, China-Burma Friendship Association and Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs, all these Association were later on combined together with leading Chinese People's Committee for World Peace and Chinese Committee for Afro-Asian People's Solidarity merged in to CPAFFC. Since its first President Mr. Chu Tunan (1954-1969) who was also Vice Chairperson of 6th National People's Congress Standing Committee headed more than a decade CPAFFC. At present, Ambassador Lin Songtian who is China's top diplomat for African countries has contributed his visionary thoughts for the improvement of social-economic developmental activities and had earned great respect for China, Chinese people and himself. PCFA Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pakistan has the honor for having more than 3 decades friendly interaction and exchanges of delegation to further strengthening the common cause of CPAFFC & PCFA. PCFA has also having the honor to host CPAFFC President His Excellency Mr. Han Xu, H. E. Madam Li Xiaolin and now interact with H.E. Mr. Lin Songtian. The President CPAFFC while meeting with Deputy Chairman Senate of Pakistan, it was desired to have joint efforts for progress. During an hour plus cordial meeting, Ambassador Lin Songtian stated that China and Pakistan should work together to explore more opportunities in the social, cultural, and economic spheres for mutual benefit. Chinese Charge d' Affaires, Madam Pang Chunxue, Syed Zafar Ali Shah, and Syed

Ali Nawaz Gilani, the Secretary-General of the Pakistan China Friendship Association (PCFA), were also present during the meeting. The visiting CPAFFC President Lin Songtian praised PCFA Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's efforts during the last three decades. In this vein, he suggested to explore new possibilities and learning from one another's experiences to advance social prosperity & economic development. He also discussed his experiences while serving as China's Ambassador to the African continent. He said that sincere efforts combined with a clear vision can overcome the hurdles and bring positive social change. He also expressed gratitude for China's assistance during the floods. Along these lines, Senator Mirza Muhammad Afridi enunciated that the two partner countries ought to take advantage of historical and exemplary relationships to further solidify ties for future generations. Likewise, he mentioned that both China and Pakistan should further strengthen people-to-people as well as sister-city relationships to get benefit from each other's experiences. During two days stay of the CPAFFC delegation in Federal Capital in Islamabad, an important interaction was at China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) of ISSI where a roundtable discussion was organized with the 6-member delegation which was moderated by Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director China CPSC at ISSI while the Keynote speeches were delivered by Amb. Lin Songtian, and Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed. In his remarks Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director, CPSC said that the modernization of China is being termed as 'China's rise' in international politics. In

his keynote address, Mr. Lin Songtian, President CPAFFC said that despite all of the changes in global landscape, Pakistan has always stood by China and the same has been reciprocated by China as well. China has always stressed on shared prosperity and win-win cooperation and for that it encourages fast development of its neighbors particularly its iron-brother Pakistan. The purpose of this visit is to see what Pakistan has, where it stands, what it needs and how can China help and facilitate it. He stated that this visit also aims to carry forward the joint consensus of President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Speaking on the occasion, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed said that despite having different cultures, systems and beliefs Pakistan-China relations are quite unique, remarkable and unprecedented in the chronicles of modern history. No matter how things change in the region or the world, China firmly support Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity and Pakistan will do the same. It would not be wrong to say that China is the 'sheet anchor' of Pakistan's defense, territorial and economic interests. He noted that China today is the leader in globalization and is doing great work to make China more Green and Clean. While interacting with Islamabad based media, President CPAFFC said "Media cooperation is helpful to promote people to people exchanges and we will invite Pakistani media to visit China and look for themselves the true story of how China defeated poverty. Capacity building is fundamental to development

like human resources development. Vocational training schools are important in this regard. He mentioned that China and Pakistan have 18 friendship cities and I would like to work to promote this bond so the two cities can work together to further develop together. "Pakistan was among the initial group of countries to join the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and it has largely benefitted from CPEC. In the second phase of the corridor, China is ready to support Pakistan in its journey to development and prosperity and in this regard they would extend help to Pakistan in transforming its human resource into skilled labour. We are also working in infrastructure building which is the key to regional and global connectivity," President CPAFFC was confident. He said that keeping in view the iron-bond of friendship between China and Pakistan, he chose Pakistan as the first country for his overseas visit. He said that the CPAFFC had collected supplies worth 126 million RMB for flood hit people of Pakistan and these supplies would soon be shipped to Pakistan. "Pakistan is my second home. We always remember that Pakistan always stood for China and also helped Chinese people in natural calamities and fighting COVID-19. I also came to help implement the consensus reached between President Xi and Premier Shehbaz Sharif on promoting people to people exchanges to shape a community with a shared future for mankind," Amb. Lin Songtian said. He said under the CPEC, China plans to connect China's Xinjiang with Gwadar through high speed railway as infrastructure building is key to development. "We are moving to the second phase of the CPEC. I would urge investors from China and other countries to come and invest in Pakistan. I also plan to promote people to people exchanges. We shall contribute to foster a new type of international relations and the building of a community with a shared future for mankind by playing our part in people-to-people diplomacy. To achieve these goals regular exchange of delegations from all walks of life to further understand China and to cultivate these friendly relations for the benefits of both nation and region, we always support and appreciate CPAFFC initiatives.

– The writer is Secretary-General Pakistan China Friendship Association KP

# Pak reiterates its full support for Palestinians' struggle

The position of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Qatar and other Islamic countries is clear that the solution to the problem of Palestine is a free and independent Palestinian state

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: On the eve of International Day to express solidarity with people of Palestine, the public and the government of Pakistan reiterate their continuous support and commitment for the cause of Palestinian people. In a statement, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council, Special Aide to Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and Middle East said that Pakistan has always supported the struggle of Palestinian people and will continue to do so. Pakistan fully endorses and supports the Palestinians' consent for negotiations in accordance with internationally recognized terms and peace agreements. Unending Israeli violence against Palestinians and Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine are the undeniable facts of this conflict, said Hafiz



Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi. Israel's annexation and illegal occupation of the Palestinian territories is against humanitarian and international laws, said Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi. He vowed that the Palestinians' freedom struggle will continue until the right to self-determination is achieved adding that Pakistan stands united with the Palestinians and will continue to take stand for the cause of Palestinians. Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council

and the Special Representative of the Prime Minister of Pakistan for Interfaith Harmony and the Middle East, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi in a statement said that for more than 75 years, Israel has been committing atrocities on Palestinians, blood of innocent Palestinians is being shed and the world is silent on it. The position of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Qatar and other Islamic countries is clear that the solution to the problem of Palestine is a free and independent Palestinian state, said Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi. He reiterated that Pakistan will continue to support and endorse the oppressed Kashmiris and Palestinians adding that God willing, the days are near when two rakat Nawafil prayers will be offered in Masjid-e Al-Aqsa and Kashmir and Palestine will be blessed with independence.

## EU hands over a mobile food testing lab to Sindh

KARACHI: European Union Ambassador to Pakistan Dr Riina Kionka has handed over keys of a mobile food-testing laboratory to the Sindh Food Authority. This was done in a ceremony held at Director General Excise and Taxation and Narcotics Control office here, as part of the Growth for Rural Advancement and Sustainable Progress (GRASP) project, funded by the European Union,

and implemented by the International Trade Centre (ITC), said a statement on Tuesday. Sindh Minister for Food Mukesh Kumar Chawla has said that the purpose of establishing SFA is to ensure adulteration-free food items to the people of Sindh and mobile food testing lab will definitely help SFA to perform its functions more effectively. On this occasion Secretary Food Raja Khuram Shehzad Umer, DG SFA Imran Bhatti and other officers were also present. Speaking at the ceremony, Dr Riina Kionka said, "The EU is glad to be one of the main donors working to improve the food quality in Sindh. We see food safety not only as important for public health perspective,

but also economically: Safe quality products open up access to new and premium markets for the agriculture sector." The handing over of food testing lab was a result of following an assessment of the Food Authorities of Sindh and Balochistan in 2020, GRASP identified the need to provide mobile food testing facilities to both provinces to help support the implementation of food safety standards and overall quality assurance of food items being supplied to markets. As part of its duties, the van will also be used to check for food contamination to ensure, in particular processed foods, are free from undeclared ingredients, are accurately labeled. – APP

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

November

Nov 01 / Algeria  
National Day

Nov 04 / Italy  
Armed Forces Day

Nov 07 / Russian Federation  
Socialist Revolution

Nov 09 / Cambodia  
National Day

Nov 11 / Poland  
Independence Day

Nov 14 / Jordan  
Birthday of King Hussein

Nov 15 / Belgium  
Kings Day

Nov 15 / Brazil  
Republic Day

Nov 15 / Northern Cyprus  
National Day

Nov 18 / Morocco  
Independence Day

Nov 21 / Bangladesh  
Armed Forces Day

Nov 22 / Lebanon  
Independence Day

Nov 25 / Suriname  
National Day

Nov 28 / Mauritania  
National Day

Nov 28 / Albania  
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Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

# British HC welcomes return of England team to Pakistan

## England Batter, Ollie Pope, said: ‘We’re delighted to return to Pakistan for this historic Test tour after such an exciting T20 series earlier this year

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The British High Commission hosted a reception to welcome the return of the England Test cricket to Pakistan. In attendance were notable sports and media personalities, political figures, representatives from the ECB and PCB as well as cricket players who are set to play Test cricket in Pakistan for the first time in 17 years. The return of the England Test team comes amid a standout year for UK-Pakistan sporting and cultural ties, coinciding with the 75-year anniversary of UK-Pakistan relations, the Birmingham Commonwealth Games, the England T20 Pakistan cricket tour and the World Cup T20 England-Pakistan final. The Tests mark a highpoint, as 2022 draws to a close. The return of England cricket has coincided with a strong focus on the power of sports diplomacy – with both tours taking place following devastation caused by floods. Both the ECB and cricketers contributed to the UK’s DEC Pakistan flood appeal during the T20s which raised over £30m to provide lifesaving aid to those affected. England Test Captain, Ben Stokes, has also generously announced that he will be donating his match fees for this Test series to the DEC appeal. In addition the ECB in collaboration with the Lord’s Taverners, BA, IAG Cargo, Football for Peace and the Sarwar Foundation are shipping in 1 tonne of cricket kit to enable schools affected by flooding to rebuild their sports curriculums and help children return to a sense of normality. This sports diplomacy drive complements a wider UK Government focus in supporting Pakistan’s resilience in the aftermath of the floods via education development. Through its programmes, the UK is currently supporting 40,000 marginalised children with back to school kits including essential textbooks, providing 8,000 dignity kits for adolescent girls, and delivering an accelerated learning programme to 30,000 children to help them catch up on lost learning due to flood disruption. These efforts will safeguard girls in particular, and in the coming months the UK is set to expand its educational drive even further with a ‘Girls and Out of school children: Action for Learning (GOAL)’ programme which will support 20,000 flood-affected students (at least 60% female) to return to education in 235 schools. The British High Commissioner, Dr Christian Turner said the following: ‘Cricket teaches us to play hard, accept defeat and respect our opponents. The players, PCB and ECB are great ambassadors for their sport and it is a pleasure to welcome them to the High Commission. The generous donations to flood victims is a sign of the deep ties and affection between our two countries.’ England Batter, Ollie Pope, said: ‘We’re delighted to return to Pakistan for this historic Test tour after such an exciting T20 series earlier this year. We’re grateful for the warm welcome we have received but also know that many communities have been impacted severely by the floods. It’s great to see so many different organisations coming together to arrange this donation of cricket equipment and hopefully it will go a small way to ensuring that children in some of the affected areas can still benefit from all the good that cricket can do as they try to recover.’




# Arrival of England team good omen: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD :Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Tuesday that cricket has become a part of Pakistan’s culture and everybody was interested in it. Speaking at a ceremony arranged in honor of the England cricket team she said that the arrival of an international team in Pakistan was not only positive for domestic cricket but also for Pakistani viewers, fans, and common people. The minister said that it was an honor that the English cricket team had come to Pakistan for the first time after 2005 for playing the Test series. She said that it was important for domestic cricket as well that international cricket teams keep coming to Pakistan. Marriyum Aurangzeb said that the Test series was the real spirit of cricket and there was no politics involved in cricket. The minister said that the role of the British High Commissioner, the Government of Pakistan, and the Prime Minister’s Office could not be forgotten in organizing the Test series between Pakistan and England in Pakistan. She congratulated the people of Pakistan on the visit of the England cricket team and said that positive activity can be witnessed among the youth from the visit of the England cricket team. She said that FIFA World Cup matches were also being played and telecast live and the youth of Pakistan were engaged in positive activities. He said that the Prime Minister has also restarted departmental sports in the country which was a positive move. Marriyum opined that the restoration of international cricket in Pakistan and the visit of the English cricket team will have a long-term positive impact on the youth of Pakistan and domestic cricket. The minister said that the test series will also increase the confidence of other international cricket teams in cricket. She said that Pakistan and England were the best cricket teams which recently played the final in T20 World Cup. Expressing good wishes for both teams, she said that the Test series will prove to be a great entertainment opportunity for the people of Pakistan.—APP




# AIOU to launch English works

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is launching an English Works program in collaboration with the U.S. Department of State. The English Works is a 6-month intensive language and skill program for under-students aged 17-25, a press release on Tuesday said. The program will be offered at the Lahore Regional Campus of Allama Iqbal Open University. Classes will be held 5 days a week in the afternoon. The English for Workforce Development in Pakistan program (English Works!), sponsored by the U.S. Embassy, Islamabad to improve the English language skills of unemployed or under-employed youth, it will also work to enhance entrepreneurial and technical skills to increase employability. Program activities foster cross-cultural dialogues and support the sharing of best practices in the field of English teaching and learning. This six-month program will improve learners’ English language skills through after-school English teaching and learning, enabling learners to build professional entrepreneurial skills that equip our youth to compete in the job market. The last date to apply for admission is December 5, 2022. Admission forms are available online at <https://forms.gle/co3p9SRtZrGGSLSA9> Only shortlisted candidates will be called for a test and interview.—APP



# World AIDS Day to be marked on Dec 1

ISLAMABAD: World AIDS Day will be marked on December 1 (Thursday) across the globe including Pakistan to honor AIDS victims and focus on issues surrounding the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). A simple red ribbon is one of the most widely recognized symbols of HIV and AIDS. World AIDS Day is the focal point of the World AIDS Campaign, which is active all year round. On December 1, there are many health education campaigns that promote the day. Anti-discrimination activities are also launched on or around this date. Many people hold events on World AIDS Day to remember people who died of AIDS-related conditions. One example is an AIDS Memorial Quilt project, which allows friends and family members of a deceased AIDS sufferer to construct quilt panels, which are then exhibited throughout the United States. AIDS stands for “acquired immune deficiency syndrome” or “acquired immunodeficiency syndrome” and denotes a condition that results from the damage done by HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) to the immune system. The condition was first identified in 1981 and the name “AIDS” was first introduced on July 27, 1982. HIV can only be transmitted between people through direct contact with a mucous membrane or the bloodstream with bodily fluid. Hence, there has been a lot of stigma around the spread of HIV and people living with HIV and AIDS. It has been estimated that around 33 million people around the world have been infected with HIV and that around two million people die from AIDS-related conditions each year. On October 27, 1988, the UN General Assembly officially recognized that the World Health Organization declared December 1, 1988, to be World AIDS Day. World AIDS Day has also been observed on this date each year since then.—APP



# ANF seizes over 3000 kg drug, arrests 32 drug pushers

ISLAMABAD :Anti-Narcotics Force seized 3000.65 kilograms of drugs and 4820 Liters of Prohibited chemicals worth US\$ 44.046 million and arrested 32 drug pushers including two women during 34 counter-narcotics operations throughout the country. According to a spokesperson of ANF, the force during the operation had also impounded 10 vehicles being used for the smuggling of the drug across the country. Sharing the details, he said, the ANF seized drugs comprised 2245.200 Kg Opium, 40.282 Kg Heroin, 703.691 Kg Hashish, 10.538 Kg Methamphetamine (Ice), 0.028 Kg Weed, 0.811 Kg Alprazolam Tablets (6400 x Tabs), 0.100 Kg Diazepam Tablets (500 x Tramadol Tabs), 3795x Liters Hydrochloric Acid (HCL) and 1025 Liters Acetic Anhydride (of AA).

In Balochistan, the force recovered 2583.986 Kg of drugs including 3795 liters of Hydrochloric Acid (HCL) and 1025 liters (AA) in 8 operations and arrested two persons in drug smuggling while seizing two vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 2100 Kg Opium, 30 Kg Heroin, 453 Kg Hashish, 0.986 Kg Methamphetamine (Ice) 3795 Liters Hydrochloric Acid (HCL) and 1025 Liter (AA).—APP

# Pak-US trade witnesses over 10% surplus in 4 months

ISLAMABAD :Pakistan’s goods and services trade with the United States (US) witnessed a surplus of 10.65 per cent during the first four months of the current fiscal year (2022-23) as compared to the corresponding period of last year. Trade surplus during the months under review was recorded at \$1397.879 million against \$1263.332 million last year, showing 10.65 per cent growth. The overall exports to the US were recorded at US \$2132.689 million during July-October this year against exports of US \$2096.444 million during the same months last year, showing an increase of 1.72 per cent, SBP data revealed. Meanwhile, on a year-on-year basis, exports to the US during October 2022 however decreased by 10.50 per cent from US \$ 531.123 million to US \$ 475.330 million. Similarly, month-on-month exports to the US dipped by 11.06 per cent during October 2022 as compared with exports of US \$ 534.477 million in September 2022, the SBP data said. Overall Pakistan’s exports to all countries witnessed an increase of 2.60 per cent in four months, from US \$9576.107 million to US \$9825.020 million, the SBP data said.—APP

# HEC announces Dec. 15 deadline to apply for scholarships

ISLAMABAD :The Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan has announced December 15, 2022, as the deadline to apply for the scholarships 2023-24 in Chinese universities. According to official sources, HEC had invited applications from Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Pakistani students to study and conduct research in various fields at the best universities in China. The Chinese Scholarship Council, Govt. of China is offering these scholarships with a view to enhancing educational cooperation between two neighboring countries. On behalf of Govt. of Pakistan, HEC is nominating the agency for these scholarships in the academic year 2023-24. China Scholarship Council (CSC), entrusted by the Ministry of Education, People’s Republic of China, is responsible for the enrollment and administration of the Chinese Government Scholarship Program. Qualified applicants can apply for scholarships for Undergraduate/Bachelor, Masters & Doctoral/Ph.D. programs in their respective fields of study. Designated Chinese Universities offer a wide variety of academic programs in Science, Engineering, Agriculture, Medicine, Economics, Legal Studies, Management, Education, History, Literature, Philosophy and Fine Arts etc. for scholarship recipients at all levels. The deadline to submit an online application on the HEC portal [www.scholarship.hec.gov.pk](http://www.scholarship.hec.gov.pk) under learning opportunities abroad is Thursday, 15th December 2022. To check the deadline and submit an online application for the HAT test (Masters & Ph.D) and USAT test (Undergraduate), please visit <https://etc.hec.gov.pk/#/login> if you have already a valid HAT or USAT score after January 01, 2022, you may submit the score on HEC portal during application submission. To submit an online application on China Scholarship Council’s portal under category A (agency No. 5861), please visit [campuschina.org](http://campuschina.org) or <https://www.csc.edu.cn/laihua?> As per the details of the scholarships, tuition funds will be comprehensively used by the host university. It may cover education, administration costs, health insurance, and expenditures to support student activities. However, the university will offer a free university dormitory or accommodation subsidy to each awardee. The stipend, as per China Govt. Scholarship Program, the undergraduate students will get CNY 2,500 per month (Min), masters students: CNY 3,000 per month (Min), and Ph.D. students: CNY 3,500 per month (Min). The travel expenditure would be borne by the scholarship winners themselves. HEC will have no financial responsibility, it added.—APP

# Three IHC’s additional judges made regular

ISLAMABAD :President Dr Arif Alvi approved regularization of three additional judges of Islamabad High Court (IHC), the President House said Tuesday. The additional judges include Justice Sardar Ijaz Ishaq Khan, Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir and Justice Saman Rafat Intiaz. The president gave the approval under Article 175-A(13) of the Constitution.

# MOITT launches 2 more projects

ISLAMABAD :Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication had launched two more projects worth one billion rupees for the provision of mobile and high-speed internet services in the Tharparkar and Gwadar districts. On the directive of Minister IT & Telecom, the Universal Service Fund (USF) Board approved an award of 2 contracts worth approximately Rs1.06 billion to Telenor and Ufone for the unserved and under-served communities of Balochistan and Sindh provinces. “We own the urban and rural areas of Sindh and continuously rolling out Broadband, OFC and other connectivity projects for these areas without any discrimination,” the official of the ministry said. A project worth more than Rs870 million for Tharparkar district will be completed in 18 months and provide mobile and broadband facilities to more than 72,000 residents of various unserved villages spread over an area of 10,432 sq. km. He said the broadband project had also been approved costing Rs188.1 million for more than 15,000 people in 19 villages of Gwadar, Balochistan.—APP

# Railways all set to operate Green Line Train in December

ISLAMABAD :Pakistan Railways is all set to operate Green Line Train during the month of December as a superior service to facilitate the passengers and generate revenues for the department. “The train is comprised of two AC Parlor, five AC Business, six AC Standards and four to five economy class coaches,” an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. He said the decision was taken on the directives of Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique, who wanted the best arrangements for the Green Line Train for the travellers. The official said that the minister also directed the official concerned for reducing the travel time of the Green Line from Lahore to Karachi to less than 20 hours which would restore the confidence of the passengers. “It is also decided to provide the best travel facilities in the Green Line train including the provision of high-quality food and keeping the ticket price at an affordable level. Besides, a separate LCD will be installed on each seat of the AC Parlor to let passengers enjoy favourite videos through headphones,” he added. To a question, he said Pakistan Railways was also going to expedite work to improve services in the passenger trains as well as at the major railway stations by involving the private sector which would help address growing issues.—APP

# CORRECTION IN NAME

My real name is Muhammad Zayed Arman S/o Muhammad Arman while in the record of Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education my name is written Hafiz Muhammad Zayed Arman ID NO 1034/00048, Roll NO 9900412. The record may please be corrected. Muhammad Zayed Arman S/o Muhammad Arman OPF Boys College, H 8/4, ISLAMABAD

## Briefs

## Group show by various artists continues at PNCA

ISLAMABAD "Life Is Not Still" - a group show of still life paintings is continued for art lovers and students here at Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) featuring as many as 47 works by various artists. Curated by Dr. Rahat Naveed Masud and Amna I Pataudi, the show exhibits works of Aasim Akhter, Ali Hamad, Amina Cheema, Amna Ismail Pataudi, Aqeel Javaid Teetu, Buland Iqbal, Dure Waseem, Ghulam Mustafa, Hadiqa Asad, Hira Siddiqui, Ibrahim Ramay Jimmy Engineer, Kahkashan Jafri, Kaleem Khan, Mariam Arslan, Masood Kohari, Mian Ijaz ul Hassan, Minaa Haroon, Mohammad Atif Khan, Mughees Riaz, Muhammad Asif Naela Amir, Najia Azmat, Rabia Asim, Rahat Naveed Masud, Rahat Qavi, Rifat Dar, Sakina Akbar, Sara Riaz, Shahnaz Akhter, Sumera Jawad, Sundas Azfer, Tassaduq Amin and Zafar Malik. Still-life drawing and painting is the seed which sprouted all other genres but unfortunately, it lost a lot of ground comparing to modern art forms like portrait, landscape, computer graphics and digital art. "We owe a debt of gratitude to artists who are exhibiting their works in this exhibition, and continue promoting still-life as art." The idea of curating a show on 'Still-Life' is to revisit this very intimate and distinctive genre of painting, said Amna Pataudi about the show. Local painters were introduced to different popular genres of European painting, such as portrait and figure painting, landscape painting and still life's which they eagerly adopted. In Western painting, at one point in time still-life painting became immensely popular among artists and buyers. —APP

## Police arrest PO wanted in murder case

RAWALPINDI :Rawalpindi Police here on Tuesday arrested a proclaimed offender (PO) wanted in a murder and attempt to murder case registered in Kalar Syedan police station. According to a police spokesman, police managed to arrest a PO namely Muhammad Sajjad, wanted in a murder case registered at Kalar Syedan police station. The accused had allegedly killed a woman, Sayan Bibi, injured Najam ul Hassain and Sajida Bibi over a land dispute in September this year. Kalar Syedan police after registration of the case had rounded up another accused namely Zanyan, who was also involved in the case. He said that Rawalpindi district police were taking strict action in accordance with the law against the lawbreakers, adding the operations would continue and all the POs would be sent behind the bars. The Superintendent of Police directed the police officers to accelerate ongoing operations against POs and most wanted criminals. —APP

## Pakistan Railway launches ERP system to improve efficiency

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railway on Tuesday signed an agreement with Telemarks Consulting Private Limited for converting its manual data into digital form through Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system with an aim to improve its efficiency and services. The commencement of ERP system in the railway was the beginning of new chapter which would help ensure innovation, transparency and direct monitoring in the working, said a press release. ERP system was the dire need of time which would provide advance facilities to the passengers, improve the operation efficiency and transparency in tenders. Similarly, the service matters of the employees would be performed in a better manner and the records of retired railway employees would be converted into digital form. —APP

## CPEC energy projects offer low-cost electricity for Pak

State of Industry Report 2022 by NEPRA shows the price of electricity from wind and solar power plants are less than half of the price of electricity currently being procured from thermal sources

## DNA

BEIJING, Nov.29 (: "CPEC energy projects have improved the power industry in Pakistan and contributed to economic growth by increasing power supply with high efficiency at lower cost," Tauseef H. Farooqi, Chairman National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) said in an interview with China Economic Net (CEN). According to the Chairman, the total installed capacity of CPEC energy projects, including that of coal, wind, solar and hydro power, stands at 6570 MW. They have generated 28549.94 Gwh and 25772.48 Gwh power respectively in FY2020-21 and FY2021-22, accounting for 22.03% and 18.37% of the total generation in Pakistan. The average 20% annual addition to the national grid has alleviated rampant cases of load shedding within the country and especially powered the export-oriented industries in Pakistan. Pakistan's energy sector is mainly dependent on imported fuel (oil and LNG), which has caused a heavy burden on foreign reserves and confined industrial

development of the country. As the CPEC energy projects replaced the costlier energy production from furnace oil and diesel to coal and renewable energy resources in the last five years, the energy needs of Pakistan has been fulfilled at lower prices, driving growth in the export-oriented industries", the Chairman revealed. Regarding the power generation cost, in October 2021, CPEC projects based on imported coal produced electricity at Rs.8.0/kWh. While the cost of domestic projects based on FO and RLNG were Rs.21.5/kWh and Rs.20.0/kWh respectively, twice more expensive than CPEC projects, data provided by KASB Trade shows. The cost has been rising over the last year due to surged fuel prices in the international market. Nevertheless, the CPEC projects still provide competitive rates. In October this year, power generation cost of CPEC projects based on imported coal was Rs.18.5/kWh, and that of domestic projects based on FO and RLNG was Rs.34.0/kWh, Rs.31.0/kWh. When it comes to electricity rate, the chairman told CEN, CPEC projects (EPP) based on coal is

Rs.22.13/kWh on average, and that of non-CPEC projects based on oil is Rs.36.61/kWh. This shows the CPEC energy projects, utilizing fuel with higher efficiency, are providing affordable electricity to millions of Pakistani households. Rising fuel prices and a new energy landscape after the Ukrain war necessitates Pakistan to avail of its indigenous resources, and at the time being, the most efficient solution is Thar coal. Data provided by NEPRA shows that proven coal reserves in Thar are approximately 175 billion tons. After the commissioning of phase II of Block II, the daily coal production is approximately 24,000 tons, sufficient to fire 1320 MWs. Based on current coal prices of South African Coal, the fuel saving is approximately Rs. 13.46/kWh and the annual fuel savings for 1320 MW will be approximately Rs. 121 billion from Thar coal. CPEC projects have enabled Pakistan to utilize the Thar coal and produce electricity at around Rs.7-7.5/kWh, the report says. Currently, the 660 MW Engro Power Thar Limited, Lucky Electric, Engro Powergen Thar and Thar Energy are completely or partially running

on Thar coal. On top of that, another 1,320 MW Shanghai Electric coal power plant, together with an open-pit coal mine of 7.8m tons capacity in Thar Coal Block-I, has been completed recently and is in the process of synchronizing with the national grid. Once put into commercial operation, it will help double electricity generation based on Thar coal to 2640 MW and lower average electricity costs in Pakistan. In December 2020, Pakistan announced that it would not build any new power projects that depend on imported coal, and pledged that by 2030, 60pc of its energy will come from clean and renewable sources. This coincided with China's commitment of building a green CPEC, which entails not building new coal-fired power plants overseas, and increasing support for low-carbon energy. In this connection, four hydro power projects have been completed or in development under the CPEC Framework, including the biggest run of the river hydro power project 720 MW Karot HPP commissioned on 29th June 2022, 840 MW Suki Kinari HPP under construction, and a 640 MW project recently approved in

Mahl.

According to the State of Industry Report 2022 issued by NEPRA, the HPPs have a comparatively long operational life which can be used as an advantage for reducing their tariff through a large spread of the cost over the life of the project. Besides, CPEC projects have invigorated the once barren land in Jhimpir and transformed the region into a 'wind corridor' in real. Four wind farms built here with a total installed capacity of 300 MW have supplied economical and clean energy to national grid of Pakistan. In Bahawalpur located the first ever solar power plant in Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park. The plant was initially launched with a capacity of generating 100 MW of power. Since 2015, there have been addition of 300 MW power generation capacity, and there are numerous planned projects reported for the Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park by AEDB with cumulative capacity of 1,050 MW. The State of Industry Report 2022 by NEPRA shows the price of electricity from wind and solar power plants are less than half of the price of electricity currently being procured from thermal sources.

## Best possible security arrangements finalized for Pak-England match: CPO

RAWALPINDI :Rawalpindi district police have made the best possible security arrangements for the Pak-England practice session and cricket match said City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi Syed Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari. He informed that police had finalized foolproof security arrangements for the cricket match. He said, 3000 cops had been deployed to ensure foolproof security arrangements. According to a police spokesman, CPO and SSP Operations Rawalpindi Waseem Riaz Khan were monitoring all the security arrangements. The CPO during a visit to the cricket stadium and adjoining areas directed the police officers to make the best possible arrangements for the cricket match, he added. The spokesman said that CPO had also instructed the police officers to utilize all available resources for foolproof security at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, its surroundings, and cricket teams during the practice session and Pak-England cricket match. —APP

## Power consumers likely to get 32 paise per unit relief for October

ISLAMABAD :The consumers of XWAPDA power distribution companies (DISCOs) are likely to get 32 paise per unit relief for October under the monthly Fuel Cost Adjustment (FCA) mechanism. The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) concluded a hearing into a petition filed by Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA-G) on behalf of XWDISCOs with Chairman Tauseef H Farooqi in the chair here on Tuesday. NEPRA members Sindh Rafique Ahmed Shaikh and member KPK Engineer Maqsood Anwar Khan were also present on the occasion. The CPPA-G had sought a 25 paise per unit hike in power tariff for October for XWDISCOs under the monthly FCA mechanism. However, the power regulator calculated a 32 paise reduction in the tariff as per the initial assessment for the said period. The regulator had charged positive FCA of 8 paise for September. The FCA for October would be 40 paise less than September FCA and would be applicable for one month. —APP

## Pakistan, Malaysia agree to continue dialogue

ISLAMABAD :Pakistan and Malaysia here on Tuesday agreed to continue dialogue on mutual areas of collaboration particularly 5G, cyber security and regulatory frameworks. The agreement reached between the meeting of PTA Chairman Maj. Gen (Retd) Amir Azeem Bajwa and Interim Chairman of the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC), Tan Sri Mohamad Salim bin Fateh Din, said a news release. During the meeting, Pakistan and Malaysia discussed the digital landscape including major initiatives and future projects. Member (Finance) PTA, Muhammad Naveed; Commission Member MCMC, Datuk Lim Thean Shiang and former High Commissioner of Pakistan to Malaysia, Lt. Gen. (R) Tahir Mehmood Qazi and other MCMC and PTA officers were also present at the meeting. The phenomenal growth of the ICT sector in Pakistan was appreciated by the Chairman MCMC. The Malaysian delegation shared details of their landmark projects such as PEDi (digital empowerment of rural communities) and their unique 5G model i.e. Single Wholesale Network. This meeting was held in continuation of the previous engagements between PTA and MCMC. A non-binding cooperation mechanism is also expected to be signed between the two regulators in the near future. —APP

## Conference on Pak China-non-wood forest science held in Gwadar

ISLAMABAD: The second conference on exploration of China-Pakistan tropical arid non-wood forest science and technology exchange cooperation in Gwadar was held online. According to Gwadar Pro on Tuesday, theme of the second conference was on highly efficient water and soil conversion plants. Two research fellows, Ms Razia Junaid and Ms Misbah Amin presented their research papers. Pakistani delegation consisting of professors of Faisalabad and Karachi universities participated online, while other dignitaries consisting of Chairman COPHC Zhang Baozhong, Chancellor Indus University Khalid Amin and senior officials from Chinese Embassy and Karachi Consulate took part through video link. Indus University, University of Karachi and Faisalabad University of Agriculture in collaboration with China's Central South University of Forestry and Technology and China Overseas Ports Holding Company have jointly established the Belt and Road Scientific Research Laboratory in Gwadar Free Zone. The conference is a sustainable research cooperation program between Pakistani and Chinese academic and research institutions. The Scientific Research Laboratory has taken remarkable steps to promote the agricultural development of Gwadar and Balochistan. Scientific research on xerophytes has been conducted. Using the modernized sophisticated tissue culture and cloning techniques many varieties of bananas, jujube and fig plants have been grown in Gwadar green house. The objective of this coordination is the transfer of modern technological know-how to Pakistan to produce water efficient plants adaptable to Gwadar's arid ecosystem. China has dramatically de-desertified large swaths of arid land, known as the Great Green Wall, to cultivable land. This serves two-goods of generating revenue and helping curb climate change. —DNA

## Businessmen Panel condoles death of SM Munir

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) on Tuesday expressed profound grief and sorrow over sad demise of UBG Chairman and veteran trade and industry leader S. M Munir who has passed away the other day. In a condolence message, the FPCCI former president and BMP Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar said that demise of S.M Munir was a big blow and irreparable loss. He said that the late S.M Munir rendered matchless services for the cause of business community. He said that the entire business community was in a state of shock due to the sudden demise of TDAP former Chief Executive and ex minister, whose services for the cause of business community are matchless. Anjum Nisar said that SM Munir was a great man and his services for the cause of the business community would always be remembered. Being chief of TDAP he rendered matchless services for the trade and industry. He said that the demise of SM Munir was an irreparable loss. He termed his death a big loss for the Pakistani business community. He was a fearless man who did not shy away from expressing his views in front of policymakers, he recalled. He was a nationalist who used to tell people not to discuss personal issues and instead talk about national issues. —DNA

## ICCI expresses condolences over sad demise of S.M. Munir

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the sad demise of renowned business leader S.M. Munir who passed away in Karachi, terming it a great loss to the business community of the country. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari President, Faad Waheed Senior Vice President and Engr. Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) expressed their heartfelt condolences with the bereaved family and prayed that may Allah the Almighty keep the depart-



ed soul in eternal peace and grant the bereaved family the courage to bear this loss with patience. They said that S.M. Munir was a great business leader who rendered valuable services for the business community as Chairman TDAP, President FPCCI and Patron-in-Chief, United

Business Group. Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader, Khalid Javed, Tariq Sadiq, Abdul Rauf Alam, Zubair Ahmed Malik, Muhammad Akram Farid, Mian Shaikat Masud, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Zafar Bakhtawari, Ahmed Hassan Moughal, Nasir Qureshi, Ch. Abdul Waheed, former Presidents, Executive Members and members of ICCI also expressed their condolences over the sad demise of S.M. Munir and paid tribute to his services for the business community. They also prayed that may Allah the Almighty keep the departed soul in peace and give courage to the bereaved family members to bear this loss with fortitude.

## Gang of bike lifters busted, stolen bikes recovered

ISLAMABAD :Islamabad capital police have busted a gang of bike lifters and recovered three motorbikes from their possession. According to police, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan directed to intensify crackdown against the criminal elements. As per his directions, a team of Shahzad town police succeeded in apprehending three gangsters involved in bike lifting. The accused have been identified as Wasif, Qadeer and Waqas. The police team also recovered three stolen motorbikes and spare parts from their possession. During the preliminary investigation, the accused confessed their involvement in numerous bike-lifting incidents in different areas of Islamabad. Cases have been registered against them and further investigation is underway. —APP

## KP pavilion displays unique cultural heritage

ISLAMABAD: The cultural pavilion of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at the ongoing Folk Festival of Pakistan - Lok Mela is serving as the center of attraction for visitors besides pavilions of other provinces. Featuring as many as 25 master craftsmen and craftswomen from different parts of the province, the Pavilion offers authentic food and cultural dances presented by performers attired in vibrant costumes. All the provinces and regions like Punjab, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan have set up their pavilions presenting folk music, dance and traditional arts and crafts from their respective areas. While various artisan stalls have been allocated to female artisans including Tasleem Bibi in Hazara 'Phulkari', Naheed Bibi in Taar Kashi from D.I Khan, Naseem Akhtar and Tanzeela Yasmin in Hazara 'Jasti' work, Nasreen and Rameem Naz in crochet work and Farhat Jabeen in cross stitch embroidery. Amongst them, the prominent is Tasleem Bibi who specializes in 'Phulkari' which means flower work or flowering on a hand-woven coarse cotton cloth. As the tradition of embroidery runs in her family, she attained mastery in this field from her mother and other female members at a very tender age. Embroidery is the embellishment of any material with patterns or designs done with the needle and thread on the material. It reflects the local traditions, culture and physical environment of people and the place where it developed. Phulkari is well known for its intricate designs. Silk threads in yellow shocking pink, white and green are used and darning stitch is employed in vertical, horizontal and diagonal movements to create elaborate geometric and floral patterns. —APP

## TTP infiltration in North alarming, says experts

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Resurgence of TTP in Pakistan was manifest through the several attacks, both individual and on institutions, in the northern belt of Pakistan, said Syed Kaleem Imam, former IG Punjab, IG Sindh, and Federal Secretary of Ministry of Narcotics Control. He was speaking at a Roundtable Discussion at the Institute of Regional Studies titled 'Recent TTP infiltration in the North of Pakistan: Impact and Future Prospects'. Mr Imam said that Pakistan's threat spectrum mainly constituted of an unstable Afghanistan and a hostile India in its neighborhood. Internally, Pakistan had been resiliently dealing with terrorism and growing militancy. US withdrawal and the takeover of Taliban



of Afghanistan had directly affected the northern belt of Pakistan, i.e., an area that had suffered the worst fate during the previous Taliban regime. He added that Pakistan did have policy frameworks but required robust efforts to ensure sustaina-

ble peacekeeping measures. Police reforms along with vigorous actions on what orders were imperative. While there had been several reforms in police, community policing was still a far cry and required elimination of several challenges. Extra

judicial measures needed to be discouraged along with support for apolitical policing to strengthen the LEAs was significant in moving forward, he said. Moreover, timely intelligence sharing, especially in case of FATA was of grave importance to curb militancy in the troubled areas of Pakistan. He stressed that police must be represented in the counter-terrorism policy making. He was of the view that despite all odds, Pakistan had stood tall in the face of all challenges. The state response in the form of legislations and military maneuvers and most importantly the reforms within the criminal justice system were laudable. Introduction of NISP and NSP as a combination of kinetic and non-kinetic measures to combat terrorism was also significant move on part of a government as suggestively vulnerable as Pakistan.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti  
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Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 03 Issue: 104

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## China's protests: zero Covid, max frustration

THE extraordinary outbreak of unrest that spread through China at the weekend is of a kind that has not been seen for decades. Protests are not uncommon, given the limited means for people to express their views, but are usually local incidents based on specific grievances. While there have been larger individual protests in the recent past, these have rapidly sprung up across major cities, including Beijing, Shanghai, Wuhan and Chengdu, and now Hong Kong. They have taken place in prestigious universities too.

They challenge a zero-Covid policy that comes from the very top. And though many protesters are cautious or silent – holding up blank sheets of paper to express their dissent – some have called for human rights, press freedom and even the departure of Xi Jinping and the Communist party, only weeks after Mr Xi embarked upon a norm-breaking third term and thus indefinite leadership. Such calls were an incredible act of defiance given the country's increasingly tight political control. At first, China's coronavirus strategy allowed most people to get on with life as usual, while other countries struggled with repeated lockdowns or high death tolls, or both. But it has long been clear that elimination is not feasible, and a policy now in its third year is causing increasing frustration and economic damage, leading to a growing number of local Covid-related protests.

Chinese audiences watching the World Cup noted unmasked crowds celebrating and realised that plenty of places – not just the reckless US – were living happily without such stringent controls. Then came reports that 10 people, including children, had been killed in a blaze while under lockdown in Urumqi, Xinjiang. Video showed a fire engine vainly trying to spray the building from a distance. Despite the tight security controls in Xinjiang, residents gathered to protest. Surprisingly, the unrest spread to Shanghai, and then onwards, with the case becoming emblematic of other deaths related to the policy and inhumane enforcement. Officials initially took a relatively hands-off approach, with a few detentions rather than a sweeping crackdown. Extensive surveillance makes later retribution straightforward. But if increased censorship and police presence don't see these protests off, worse may follow. The response in Xinjiang is likely to be harder than in prosperous Shanghai. Those calling for looser controls can expect more lenience than those shouting "Oppose dictatorship". Many citizens still back zero-Covid measures, regarding them as necessary. The lacklustre vaccination campaign, and refusal to use more effective foreign vaccines, has left elderly people vulnerable. Infections are already rising steeply; further relaxation could see a wave of deaths. Whatever the solution, China's people should be free to discuss the decisions being made and the leaders who impose them, and to protest against them. The party does not recognise those rights, of course. But these events should remind it that relying on repression has its limits.

## Sunak should not let US dim 'golden era'

WHILE the members of the European Union have become increasingly aware of the nature of the US administration's invitation for its allies to help it contain China, as well as its scheme to drag out the Ukraine crisis – so as to weaken Russia and bring European countries into its fold – the United Kingdom is willingly throwing itself into a dangerous liaison. The United States was an ardent supporter of Brexit, as by encouraging the UK to sever itself from the EU, and it has secured a more docile lackey that it can push to the forefront of its geopolitical games. It was only after Brexit that the US was able to form AUK-US with the UK and Australia, and engage the UK in its "Indo-Pacific" strategy. Now that the Brexit chickens have come home to roost and are laying rotten eggs that the UK is being forced to swallow, the UK is desperately looking to the US for some kind of relish to make them more palatable.

Thus it is of no surprise to hear the latest to pass through No 10 Downing Street's revolving door echo the rhetoric of the US administration, as UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak did on Monday, when he declared that the "golden era" of Sino-British relations is over, warning that China poses a "systemic challenge" to the "values and interests" of the UK. Although calling China a "challenge" rather than a "threat" earned him strong criticism from the anti-China hawks in his party, it was still a far cry from the more pragmatic approach he adopted toward China as chancellor of the exchequer. By declaring an end of the "golden era", a term the UK and China employed to describe the bright prospects for their cooperation in 2015, Sunak has apparently recalibrated his position on China.

In doing so, it is clear that although the UK government still appears to be vacillating on its China policy, which it has vowed to adjust over the past three months under three prime ministers, the anti-China hawks in the Conservative Party are pushing Sunak into casting the UK's lot in with Washington. No wonder some leaders of major countries have found it unnecessary to meet with Sunak after meeting with their US counterparts, as they know the UK will just follow the US' lead. Being the youngest prime minister of the country does not excuse Sunak from the responsibility of not letting Washington lead the UK astray. He should beware the UK being left high and dry should the US start mending its relations with those countries toward which it is instructing the UK to bark.

# Bleeding of Balochistan

Muhammad Faisal Yousafzai



Right to education is every person fundamental right in today's world which the federal government ignored in rural areas of Baluchistan. There are no hospitals in rural areas of Baluchistan that's why when there is emergency people shift their patient to Punjab or to Quetta hospitals and unfortunately on the way patient became expire, especially women during pregnancy. The other major factor is the lack of political representation. Due to uneducated youth mostly the youth of Baloch tribe are the servant of their nawabs or sardars and at the cost of their youth these nawabs and sardars fulfill their own interests and when federal government...

AS everyone knows that Baluchistan is the largest province of Pakistan in terms of area and the smallest province in terms of population, 43 percent and 5.94 percent respectively. Baluchistan is so much diversified in terms of ethnicities such as there is approximately 52 percent Baloch, 36 percent pashtoon and the remaining 12 percent of population belongs to hazara, Punjabis, Uzbek and Saraki. Naturally Baluchistan is full of natural resources like saindak, reko-diq, Gwadar port, oil, gas, coal etc. However, since independence of Pakistan there is insurgent groups whose destroyed the whole beauty of Baluchistan. The word insurgency means "revolt". When a group of people take up arms against its own central government it is called insurgent group. Currently we are living in the 5th stage of insurgency. The 1st insurgency was started in 1948-1950. Before the independence, current Baluchistan comprise of 4 princely states which were Kalat, lasbela, kharan, and makran.

The province shahi jirga (royal council) decided to join Pakistan on 29 June 1947. The three princely states except Kalat acceded to Pakistan however, the nawab of Kalat "Ahmed yar khan" wanted independence of Kalat after some weeks of independent state he decided to accede to Pakistan on 27th March 1948. This decision of Ahmed yar khan led his brothers prince Abdul Karim and Muhammad Rahim to revolt against his brother's decision in July 1948 and they refuse to lay down arms against central government. Due this revolt Jinnah and his successor permitted Ahmed yar khan to retain his title until the province's dissolution in 1955. The 2nd insurgency was started in 1958 to 1959, in which nawab nuroz took up arms in resistance to one unit policy.

It was the time of 1st martial law administrator general Ayoub khan, however, at the end he and his group were arrested by military of Pakistan. The 3rd insurgency was started in 1963 to 1969 because president Ayoub khan established military bases in chaotic areas of Baluchistan, which came under the influence of share Muhammad bijrani he didn't like it. The other major alienation was that share Muhammad bijrani wanted equal dividends of profit which state gets from sui gas, but later Ayoub khan denies his request, due to which civil war started. It was ended when Zia ul haq ended one unit policy and gave a proper status of province to Baluchistan. The 4th insurgency was started in 1973-77, when Z.A Bhutto dismissed the local government of Baluchistan on the pretext that arms had been recovered in Iraq embassy for Baloch rebels, and imposed a martial law in those specific areas, which led to arms insurgency.

The 5th and till continued insurgency were started on 3rd January 2005, when captain hammed raped a lady doctor "Shazia Khalid" at the sui gas areas which sparked igniting the conflict. Due to President Perwaz Musharraf unusual comments and biased judgement led to the violent uprising by Bugti tribe and they disrupted the supply of gas to much of the country for several weeks. In 2006 nawab Akbar khan Bugti, a 79 years old political leader of Baloch, was killed in fighting with Pakistan army. Despite history there are many other factors which led Baloch to insurgent groups such as socio-economic problems, the weak financial position, education, and infrastructure, medical facilities etc. created the inferiority complex among the youth of Baluchistan. In Baluchistan especially in rural areas there is still lack of basic education, 47 to 50 percent Childs are out of schools. Illiteracy in those areas exceeds to 90 percent. In 2006 the human right commission of Pakistan review that the level of facilities of education, accessibility facility of sanitation, electrification and accessibility to safe normal water is relatively lower in Baluchistan region than the rest of the country.

Right to education is every person fundamental right in today's world which the federal government ignored in rural areas of Baluchistan. There are no hospitals in rural areas of Baluchistan that's why when there is emergency people shift their patient to Punjab or to Quetta hospitals and unfortunately on the way patient became expire, especially women during pregnancy. The other major factor is the lack of political representation. Due to uneducated youth mostly the youth of Baloch tribe are the servant of their nawabs or sardars and at the cost of their youth these nawabs and sardars fulfill their own interests and when federal government stop these nawabs from exploitation of their youth these nawabs give command to their servants to become a member of the insurgent's groups and then Trane them for bomb blasts etc. the other factor is the not given equal dividends to Baluchistan. It is fact that the whole Pakistan is using and making profits from the resources of Baluchistan province, but the resident of Baluchistan didn't get equal shares. Like sui gas was discovered in 1950s and it was supplied to all provinces except Baluchistan and Quetta get gas pipelines in 1988. The other major factor is the missing persons, in 2001 the Pakistan interior minister acknowledge that around 1,100 Baloch have disappeared and till now very few comebacks to home, their families are still trying by protest and having hopes that one day their be-

loved one will come back to home. It is the failing of subsequent governmental authorities which did not reach to the real issues of the people of Baluchistan. This continuous process of marginalization and under development of the province had led to inner, exterior fault lines which were used by their nawabs/sardars as well as by foreign powers in their interests or in weakening Pakistan. From the beginning the founder of Pakistan didn't realize that what they are propagating is not the one single religious identity which will be able to subsume the ethnic fault lines which was not happened 1971 and didn't seem to be happening in case of Baluchistan. All those grievances can be tackled if the federal government improve the socio-economic conditions of Baluchistan, started projects in which the economic, political, social problems would be recognized and acknowledge, provide jobs to the youth of Baluchistan especially for Baloch tribes, establish schools, colleges, universities and give Baloch special quota in these institutions. When the youth get educations, they have their own ideas they will not follow their nawabs or sardars orders without logical thinking, after that these youth will also participate in opportunities given to them by state and when other tribesman look to their youth how are getting education will also be willing to give education to their child.

In that processes the youth of Pakistan will be easily separated from those insurgents' groups, then it will be easy for the federal government to negotiate with those groups and these groups when lose support from the youth will have no other option except to accept the conditions of government. The Pakistani government needs to develop comprehensive political strategy to ensure that the Baloch people will regain their trust on the legitimacy of the federal government and there is a need to bring an end to old system of patronage politics.

There are many huge developments projects in Baluchistan which can only be started with the approval of regional authorities. It is the interest of the state to reconcile with Baluchistan by replacing the resources of Baluchistan with the people of Baluchistan. The federal government needs to promote political dialogues with these insurgents' groups because it is not the work of military to dialogue. If again military, try to control these insurgents' groups by hard power the Baloch insurgency will remains, and the 6th period of insurgency seems to be likely in future. That's why federal government of Pakistan needs to not repeat history otherwise unfortunately Baluchistan will be the next example of Bangladesh.

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# Qatar FIFA World Cup 2022

Muhammad Sayed Anwar



Criticism also dived over the host country for homosexual and alcohol ban on the stadium and other public places. Any kinds of LGBTQ+ symbol is prohibited in the country. Wearing benign costume is also required while staying in stadium and other open places. Actually, this is Qatar's own and most essentially Islamic culture

QATAR, a Middle Eastern oil-oriented rich economy, is hosting the 2022 FIFA World Cup. But the country is facing huge criticism from all around the world, especially from the West regarding LGBTQ+ rights, alcohol ban on the stadium and other public places, clothing requirements, and migrant workers' human rights. Some western teams such as England, Wales, Germany, Denmark, Belgium, Switzerland, and the Netherlands are standing in solidarity with the homosexuals willing to wear rainbow-themed one-love armbands. Under FIFA rules, players wearing kit that is not authorized by the football world governing body could be shown a yellow card. If that player was then shown a second yellow card, they would be sent off. But in fear of sporting sanctions, the football federations asked the teams not to wear those armbands. Again, the Belgian jersey is also banned by FIFA because of containing a One-love sign on the collar.

Before criticizing Qatar, the west shouldn't forget their deeds in reverse to the global south. The world knows well about their atrocities. Western colluders, nearly all of them champions of human rights, have used the oil extracted with cheap labor that piles Gulf economies, to control and survive the hegemony. Both the West and the Gulf countries have benefited from the cheap migrant workers sourced from Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and other Asian and African countries. The West should also not forget about their colonialism and exploitation in this southern hemisphere. The people of this region haven't forgotten about their plundering of wealth making Africa a hungry continent. The oppression against African slaves couldn't be gone into oblivion. The divide and rule policy still suffer people severely. We are not safe from west's new colonialism. They are creating anger, frustration, and discrimination among people via direct or indirect control over local natural resources is the implication of a new model of divide and rule policy. But ridiculously, the West is alleged to teach morality to the World. They criticize Qatar of human rights abuses and unequal rights. They have originated many aggression and wars in the name of war on terror, humanitarian intervention killing hundreds of thousands of

people in Afghanistan, Syria, Libya, Iraq, and others. West outrage over the Gulf country hosting the World Cup is just one aspect of hypocrisy and bias. The boycott of the Moscow Olympics over the USSR's invasion of Afghanistan was dressed up as a moral proposition, which it might have been but for the forked tongue at play. That numerous Olympic contests went ahead undeterred in Western stadiums despite their illegal wars or support for dictators everywhere was never called out. FIFA President Gianni Infantino says, "I am a European, for what we have been doing for 3,000 years around the world, we should be apologizing for the next 3,000 years before giving moral lessons". Criticism also dived over the host country for homosexual and alcohol ban on the stadium and other public places. Any kinds of LGBTQ+ symbol is prohibited in the country. Wearing benign costume is also required while staying in stadium and other open places. Actually, this is Qatar's own and most essentially Islamic culture. But these caused disappointment to the western fans. Before criticizing Qatar, everyone should consider Qatar's context. The country is again Muslim majority sharia-based state. Its constitution says Islam as official religion and sharia as a principal source of legislation. Again, in chapter two, Article 1 says to protect young people from physical, mental, and spiritual neglect. To serve the constitution, Qatar needs to go following Islamic practice. But giving spare to those unlawful activities could harm Qataris' faithfulness and spirituality. I am not saying that Qatar is a sacred state free from any geopolitical dirt. But it again is showing its smart power neglecting western culture. It is refusing the cultural hegemony of the West. Many of the western hegemony haters are uneven to ignore this western cultural hegemony. Qatar is just doing her duty to deter the cultural hegemony of the west showcasing its soft power before the world. This is the first world cup in a Muslim country, as well as in the middle east. The host spent \$220 billion, making a record, for the seven stadium, a new airport, more than 100 hotels, new highways, and a new metro. It's a huge amount! Question can arise regarding the reason behind the spending of such giant

amount. The reply is very simple, to extend her soft power. The Qatar blockade of 2017 by MBS, MBZ and other GCC nations taught Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani a great lesson of maximizing its power in the region and acquiring self-sufficiency. Again, Qatar is a country where 65% Muslims, 15% Hindus, 15% Christians, 3% Buddhists and other 2% various religious and creeds people living side by side with peace, harmony, and unity. 20 different kinds of ethnic groups are also there. We must say that Qatar is a welcoming country when you recall the percentage of foreigners. 85% of the total population is outsiders and only 15% are Qatari citizens. What about Mesut Ozil? He was dismissed only because of supporting the deplored and oppressed Muslim people by the Germany football authority. Ridiculously, now they are now criticizing Qatar of human rights violation and discrimination.

Colorado club terrorist attack might also be in consideration. Qatar might be in fear of terrorist raid, presuming the case of LGBTQ+ presence in stadium and other places. Even, analysts have been concerned about the potentiality of terrorist attack in a Gulf country like Qatar. This, probably, may be a reason for Qatar and FIFA's ban on them. Infantino echoes that if anyone don't take beer in the stadium for a few hours, he will not die or nothing will happen to him. However, the West need to rethink their policy and agenda about the middle east and other Asian and African countries for global peace, harmony, and prosperity preventing hostility and discrimination. We all should be united as human. We could have had different culture, belief or religion but it is true that we are all human beings. We should respect others faith and culture considering their private and internal zone under UN charter of non-intervention and tolerance. Hugo Lloris, a fence footballer, said in a statement, "In France, when we welcome foreigners we often want them to play by our rules and respect our culture – and I will do the same when I go to Qatar".

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## Briefs

## General Asim takes charge as Army Chief

FROM PAGE 01  
Gen Bajwa said that the army defends regardless of language, colour, caste and religion. "I will soon go into oblivion, but the spiritual connection will always remain with the army," said General Bajwa.  
Earlier, General Bajwa was presented guard of honour for the last time as the chief of army staff during the ceremony. The change of command ceremony marks the time-honoured tradition that symbolises the seamless transition of military leadership. The ceremony was attended by the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza and chiefs of the armed forces. It was also attended by senior serving and retired military officers with their families. Chief ministers, federal ministers, secretaries and foreign military officers deployed at embassies were also present at the ceremony.

## PML-N, PPP speed up efforts to foil PTI plan

FROM PAGE 01  
Punjab was bad because of the PTI. "We want to put the responsibility of the worst situation on their own shoulders and send them home," he stated. "How can Pervaiz Elahi dissolve the Punjab Assembly? Pervaiz Elahi betrayed us and backed the PTI because our government was to complete its term," he deployed. "If there is any democracy in the country at present, it is because of Asif Zardari," he stated. Earlier on Monday, the PTI senior leader and former federal minister Fawad Chaudhary on Monday said that the final date will be given within three days regarding the dissolution of the provincial assemblies.

## Security forces kill 10 terrorists

FROM PAGE 01  
fire onto the security forces. During ensuing heavy exchange of fire, 10 terrorists have been killed while 1 terrorist has been apprehended in injured condition; while two terrorists managed to escape - the operation to trace them continues in the area. A heavy cache of arms and ammunition including improvised explosive devices has also been recovered. Security forces, in step with the nation, remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan. - Agencies

## UK police arrest man over 2021 deaths of 27 migrants

LONDON: UK police on Tuesday arrested a man suspected of playing a "key role" in the deaths of at least 27 people who drowned attempting to cross the Channel in a dinghy last November. The National Crime Agency (NCA) said the 32-year-old was arrested at an address near Cheltenham, southwest England, on suspicion of being "a member of the organised crime group who conspired to transport the migrants to the UK in a small boat". NCA investigators are working with the French authorities to track down those responsible for the tragedy. French prosecutors have so far charged 10 people for their alleged role in the disaster on November 24 last year. It was the worst accident in the Channel since 2018, when the narrow strait became a key route for migrants from Africa, the Middle East and Asia attempting to reach England from France. The vessel sank after leaving the French coast, leading to the death of all but two of those aboard. Four people remain missing.

## Northern outclass Sindh to win Quaid-e-Azam Trophy

This edition of Quaid-e-Azam Trophy will also be remembered for Northern's complete dominance in the tournament. Mohammad Huraira topped the batting charts with 1024 runs and was awarded best batter of the tournament

## SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Northern created history here at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on Tuesday when they defeated Sindh by an innings and 55 runs to win their maiden Quaid-e-Azam Trophy title inside four days of the five-day final. Northern's captain Umar Amin bagged the winning trophy and also PKR 10,000,000. Northern have been the finalist twice since the revamp of the domestic system in 2019-20. They were lucky the third time after losing out on the title both in 2019-20 and 2021-22 seasons. Starting their second innings with a deficit of 309 runs, Sindh lost six wickets in the first session and were 105 for six at the lunch interval. That the Sindh managed to score 254 in 56.2 overs was largely due to Fawad Alam's 43rd first-class century which included a 63-run partnership with first innings top run-getter Asif Mehmood (21 off 33 balls) and a 62-run eighth wicket partnership with Muhammad Umar (36 off 31). Fawad's 113-run innings came off 130 balls, which included 18 fours. For Northern, Aamir Jamal and Musa Khan bagged three wickets apiece, while Mehran Mumtaz took two wickets. This edition of Quaid-e-Azam Trophy will also be remembered for Northern's



complete dominance in the tournament. Mohammad Huraira topped the batting charts with 1024 runs and was awarded best batter of the tournament. For his match-winning double-century, Huraira was also named player of the final. The 20-year-old Mubasir Khan for his all-round performance (522 runs and 31 wickets) was named player of the tournament. He was also named the player of the tournament in last year's Quaid-e-Azam Trophy.

Another young 21-year-old Rohail Nazir was named best wicket-keeper of the tournament. He completed 43 dismissals behind the stumps and scored 434 runs in the tournament. Sindh's Abrar Ahmed was named best bowler of the tournament, he took 43 wickets in 12 innings. The mystery spinner couldn't feature for his side in the final as he, for his outstanding performance, was named in Pakistan Men's squad for the three-match Test series

against England, starting from 1 December at the Pindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi. **Scores in brief:** Northern beat Sindh by an innings and 55 runs Sindh 284 all out, 92.5 overs (Asif Mehmood 78, Fawad Alam 61 not out, Omair Bin Yousuf 36, Saad Khan 35, Saim Ayub 29; Musa Khan 3-61, Aamir Jamal 3-76, Mubasir Khan 2-59) and 254 all out, 56.2 overs (Fawad Alam 113, Muhammad Umar 36, Aaliyan Mahmood 33; Musa Khan

3-49, Aamir Jamal 3-63, Mehran Mumtaz 2-75) Northern 593 all out, 141 overs (Mohammad Huraira 221, Umar Amin 114, Umar Waheed 109, Rohail Nazir 94; Aaliyan Mahmood 4-96, Muhammad Umar 4-116) Player of the Tournament - Mubasir Khan (Northern) Best Batter - Mohammad Huraira (Northern) Best Bowler - Abrar Ahmed (Sindh) Best Wicket-keeper - Rohail Nazir (Northern) Player of the final - Mohammad Huraira (Northern).

## Pakistan delegation in Kabul to...

FROM PAGE 01  
Pakistan and Afghanistan are Muslim neighbours and have cultural similarities, and both governments should cooperate with each other to secure bilateral interests. Khar later met Acting Deputy Prime Minister for Administrative Affairs of Afghanistan Abdul Salam Hanafi to discuss bilateral trade, connectivity & people-to-people contacts. The state minister also met the Women's Chamber of Commerce where she underlined the important role of women in society, expressed Pakistan's keen interest in strengthening linkages between women entrepreneurs from both countries and announced that Pakistan would give preference to the import of products by women-run businesses. The state minister met the Taliban leaders amid mistrust over certain issues, including firing exchanges along the border and a spike in Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) attacks. Pakistan says TTP operates from Afghan soil - something that the Afghan Taliban deny.

## A brief look at Gen. Asim Munir's...

FROM PAGE 01  
directing staff in Command and Staff College, Quetta, brigade major of a deployed infantry brigade in Kel, general staff officer, grade-2, CGS secretariat and chief of staff of Mangla corps. Gen Munir has commanded the 23rd Frontier Force Regiment, Infantry Brigade, remained as a force commander in Northern Areas, Gilgit. The incoming army chief has also served as the director general of Military Intelligence (MI). In 2018, Gen Munir was appointed as the director-general of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and later transferred as corps commander Gujranwala. After heading the Gujranwala corps, he was posted as quartermaster general which was his last assignment before becoming COAS. Gen Munir graduated from Fuji school Japan, Command and Staff College, Quetta, Malaysian Armed Forces College, Kuala Lumpur and National Defence University, Islamabad. The general also has M Phil in Public Policy and Strategic Security Management from National Defence University. Gen Munir has become the first army chief who has headed both - MI and ISI. He is also the first army chief awarded the Sword of Honour. Gen Munir is a keen sportsman, avid reader, traveller and also a Hafiz e Quran.

## Dar seeks support from Bank of China

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance Ishaq Dar Tuesday sought the support of Bank of China and asked the Bank's President for the expansion of business relations with Pakistan to deepen the economic and financial relations. In a virtual meeting with President Bank of China Liu Jin, the minister shared that it has always been a great pleasure to work with the Bank of China and Pakistan has enjoyed sound financial dealings with the bank. The Finance Minister also highlighted the recent visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to China and talked about the reciprocation of warm sentiments from the Chinese leadership. SAPM on Finance Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue Tariq Mehmood Pasha, Special Secretary Finance and other senior officers from Finance Division attended the meeting. The Finance Minister, while talking about the longstanding and durable relationships between the government of China and the Government of Pakistan, shared gratitude to the President, Bank of China for continuous support to Pakistan in testing times. It was shared that the Bank of China has played a crucial role in extending budgetary support to Pakistan which has played a significant role in easing pressure on the external account and meeting budgetary needs. The Finance Minister extended invitation to the President Bank of China to visit Pakistan. He briefed the President Bank of China about the financial and fiscal conditions inherited by the present government and shared that the present government has a strong resolution to bring back the macro-economic stability. - APP

## Ireland beat Pakistan to end their semi-final hopes



## DNA

POTCHEFSTROOM: Pakistan team lost to Ireland by 3-1 which ended their hopes to qualify for the semi-final in Nations Cup. In their second pool A match here today, Pakistan fell apart against Irish team. The first quarter of

the match remained goalless with both teams failing to finish their chances strongly. Abdullah Shahid helped Pakistan take 1-0 lead in 16th minute with a field goal. But, it wasn't too late for Ireland to score an equaliser thanks to Empey Conor. Just a minute later to Pakistan's goal, Conor, with his brilliant field

work, netted the ball to make the scoreboard read 1-1. No further goal was scored in the second quarter with solid defence by both teams. After scoring a goal each in third and fourth quarter, Ireland beat Pakistan to go on top of the points table with two victories. Walker Benjamin and O'donoghue

Shane scored a goal each for Ireland. Pakistan will now play dead rubber game against France on December 1. Recently, Pakistan bagged bronze medal in Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Cup after 11 years. The FIH Nations Cup offers top-level competition to the best-ranked teams not participating in the FIH Hockey Pro League and gives the winning team the option to be promoted to the FIH Hockey Pro League next season. Therefore, the FIH Hockey Nations Cup marks the start of the promotion-relegation principle for the FIH Hockey Pro League, with the winning team of the first FIH Hockey Nations Cup having the chance to be promoted to the 2023-24 FIH Hockey Pro League. The FIH Pro League champions in 2023-24 and 2024-25 will earn direct qualification to their respective 2026 Hockey World Cups. The winners in 2025-26 and 2026-27 will then qualify for the 2028 Olympics.

## Kane: Injury 'hype' similar to Rooney and Beckham

LONDON: England captain Harry Kane says the "hype and noise" around his injury is similar to when David Beckham and Wayne Rooney suffered their issues before and during previous major tournaments. Kane sustained a heavy blow to the ankle in the opening 6-2 win over Iran and was taken off after 76 minutes. The Tottenham striker had a precautionary scan, but then played the whole of the laboured 0-0 draw against the United States. "Whether or not I am fully fit or injured, someone else can come in - in any position," Kane told BBC Sport. "The team isn't just me. We have 26 players here who are all looking to achieve the same thing: to win a World Cup." In 2002, England's build-up to the World Cup was overshadowed by news headlines and bulletins about captain Beckham's infamous metatarsal injury. Just 54 days before the start of the tournament in Japan and South Korea, the midfielder broke a bone in his left foot playing for Manchester United in the Champions League. But Beckham made a remarkable recovery following treatment in an oxygen tent to lead his side to the quarter-finals, where they were beaten 2-1 by eventual winners Brazil. Two years later, an 18-year-old Rooney was breaking on to the international stage and was England's star player at Euro 2004, scoring four goals during a run to the last eight. But, like Beckham, he suffered a broken metatarsal in the quarter-final against Portugal and England eventually lost the match (6-5) on penalties. "I was an England fan before I was an England player. I know [about] when Rooney got injured, when Beckham had the injury, so I know the hype and noise that can come," Kane added. "I know and understand why it happens, but from our point of view, we are fully focused on ourselves to go far in the tournament." England top Group B and will progress to the last 16 in Qatar if they avoid a four-goal defeat by Wales in their final group game on Tuesday (19:00 GMT kick-off). - Agencies

## Fernandes double sends Portugal into last 16

DOHA: Portugal secured their place in the last 16 of the World Cup with victory over Uruguay in a scrappy encounter at Lusail Stadium. A game short on real quality saw the deadlock broken in the 54th minute when a cross from Bruno Fernandes floated beyond Uruguay keeper Sergio Rochet, the goal given to Manchester United's midfielder man despite Cristiano Ronaldo claiming it had glanced off his head. Portugal made most of the running until they went ahead but Uruguay, who must now beat Ghana in their final Group H game to have a chance of qualifying, created chances of their own and could have taken a point. Rodrigo Bentancur's brilliant first-half run was halted by Portugal keeper Diogo Costa's save, while substitute Maxi Gomez hit the post as Uruguay went in search of an equaliser. Portugal wrapped up the win in stoppage time when Fernandes got his second from the spot after a video assistant referee intervention which adjudged Jose Gimenez had handled. Fernandes almost got his hat-trick before the final whistle but saw a low shot strike the post. The game was interrupted in the second half by a pitch invader carrying a rainbow flag and wearing a t-shirt emblazoned with the words 'Save Ukraine' on the front and 'Respect for Iranian woman' on the back. - Agencies

## Anderson determined for England's victory

RAWALPINDI: England's veteran fast bowler James Anderson was upbeat ahead of the start of three-match Test series against Pakistan in their backyard. On the sidelines of England team's training session here today, Anderson spoke to the media about his return to the cricket-loved country after almost 17 years. "I am happy to be back in Pakistan," said Anderson who finished his last tour of Pakistan with a player-of-the-match award in last ODI of five-match series. The right-arm pacer bagged seven wickets in four ODIs he last played in Pakistan back in 2005. While talking about playing his first-ever Test series in Pakistan, Anderson said they are here to

win. "We will try to play aggressive cricket here. Our focus will be to put pressure on Pakistan and win the series," he said. "Pakistan are a very good side at home. We need to plan strongly and play good cricket against them," the pacer added. To a query about leaving cricket, Anderson said he will continue playing as long as he is fit. "I have never set a target for myself. I try to always enjoy my cricket. You'll see me playing as long as I am fit," said the veteran of 175 Tests who has 667 wickets in his account. Anderson is the only survivor of England's last series in Pakistan - in 2005 - and while he didn't play then, the 40-year-old will spearhead England's attack in

first Test starting Thursday. Anderson has 667 wickets from 175 Tests, eclipsed only by Sri Lankan Muttiah Muralitharan (800) and Australian Shane Warne (708). Pakistan and England will play first Test here from December 1. Multan and Karachi will host second and last Test of the series respectively. While The precocious Shah, 19, showered praise Tuesday on Anderson, saying he hopes to learn from 40-year-old veteran. - DNA



## ICCI delegation visits Italy to explore collaborations

## DNA

ROME: 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, Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh, Ch. Javed Iqbal, Humayun Kabir, Shahbaz Majeed

of Commerce and Industry said that Pakistan considers Italy an important country for trade and exports and ICCI delegation has come to Italy to explore new areas of business collaboration between the two countries. He said that close cooperation between the SMEs of Pakistan and Italy would be helpful in sharing expe-

riences 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. He said that close cooperation between Promos Italia and ICCI would create beneficial outcomes for the SMEs of both countries. Muhammad Shakeel Munir former President, Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh, former Senior Vice President ICCI and other members of ICCI delegation also shared useful proposals to improve bilateral trade and economic ties between Pakistan and Italy.

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## Briefs

## Violence erupts in Mexican border city

MEXICO CITY: Criminal groups unleashed havoc Monday in the Mexican border city Nuevo Laredo in Tamaulipas state after authorities arrested a cartel leader. Residents of Nuevo Laredo were awakened by gunshots in various parts of the city, while sightings of burning vehicles and blockades were also reported. Following the violence in the city, Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said the shootings were in response to the arrest of a leader of the Northeast cartel. During his morning press conference, Lopez Obrador confirmed that the cartel leader was apprehended at 4.40 a.m. local time (1040GMT). "Early this morning, there was a confrontation in Nuevo Laredo. A person was arrested, the leader of a criminal group, and there was a response, but the arrest was carried out. There is proof to show that he was responsible for other violent crimes in that area. He has been transported to Mexico City, so action is already being taken," said Lopez Obrador.—APP

## UK summons China envoy after arrest of journalist

LONDON: Britain on Tuesday summoned the Chinese ambassador in London for a rebuke after the arrest and alleged assault of a BBC journalist covering Covid protests. Zheng Zeguang was called in to the foreign office after the incident involving Ed Lawrence in Shanghai, which Foreign Secretary James Cleverly had called "deeply disturbing". "It is incredibly important that we protect media freedom," Cleverly told reporters at a NATO meeting in Romania, confirming Zheng had been summoned. "It is something very, very much at the heart of the UK's belief system," the foreign minister said. "It's incredibly important that journalists are able to go about their business, unmolested, and without fear of attack." Lawrence was hauled away by police late Sunday while filming a protest against Covid restrictions, one of many that have rocked China in recent days.—

## Pak, Luxembourg agree to enhance cooperation

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: The inaugural session of Pakistan-Luxembourg Bilateral Political Consultations was held on Monday in Luxembourg wherein the two sides agreed to enhance cooperation in the fields of education, health, science and technology and creating start-ups linkages. The Pakistan side was led by Acting Foreign Secretary Jauhar Saleem while the Luxembourg side was headed by Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs Jean Olinger, a Foreign Office press release said. Welcoming the revival of bilateral political dialogue coinciding with the 70th anniversary of establishment of the diplomatic relations, the two sides underscored the importance of sustained high level engagements and the exchange of business missions. The consultations provided an important opportunity to review and discuss the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, including ways to expand trade and investment cooperation and fostering partnerships in green economy. The acting foreign secretary thanked



the Luxembourg government for the support to the victims of the unprecedented climate induced floods in Pakistan. He briefed the Luxembourg side about the

scale of damage and multilateral cooperation required for building climate resilient infrastructure. Jauhar Saleem apprised the Luxembourg side on the egregious

human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He highlighted that Indian illegal and unilateral actions of August 5, 2019 were aimed at un-

dermining the internationally recognized disputes, and altering the demographic structure of the IIOJK was a blatant violation of the UNSC resolutions, 4th Geneva Convention and international law. It was agreed that instability in Afghanistan could lead to threats with wider geographical implications. The acting foreign secretary stressed the significance of continuing international engagement with the interim Afghan government for lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan and beyond. Both sides also expressed concern over the situation in Ukraine and stressed the need to find peaceful solutions to conflicts, in full respect to the principles of international law and the UN Charter. They reiterated their support for each other at different multilateral fora including the UN. It was agreed to continue constructive engagement between the two countries within the EU. Pakistan considers expansion of ties with Luxembourg as an important objective in the region and the European Union. The inaugural round of consultations provided a much-needed opportunity to identify avenues for deepening of bilateral relations.

## China shuts tourist spots in Shanghai

BEIJING: Chinese authorities on Tuesday temporarily closed tourist spots in Shanghai, including Shanghai Disney Resort, following the recent surge in COVID-19 cases. Shanghai Disney Resort announced the closure in line with pandemic prevention and control measures only four days after it resumed operations on Nov. 25, state-run media outlet Global Times reported. Shanghai, located on the country's central coast, is China's biggest city and financial hub.

On the weekend, huge protests were held in the city against the strict coronavirus pandemic policy and police used pepper spray to block hundreds of demonstrators who had gathered at Middle Urumqi Road at midnight.

The protesters carried flowers, candles, and signs reading "Urumqi, Nov. 24, those who died rest in peace" to remember those killed in Xinjiang's capital city Urumqi. At least 10 people were killed and nine others injured when a fire broke out in a residential building in Urumqi that was reportedly under a coronavirus lockdown, Xinhua News Agency reported on Friday. Many claimed that restrictions caused by tough coronavirus measures made the fire worse and took emergency personnel three hours to extinguish the blaze.—Agencies

## France's Macron heads to US

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron heads to Washington Tuesday to discuss a slew of issues with US counterpart Joe Biden, ranging from aligning policy on Russia's invasion of Ukraine to easing trade spats. Macron, in a rare honour the first French leader to be invited for two US state visits, can look forward to another 21-gun salute and ostentatious White House dinner that ex-president Donald Trump provided in 2018.

His travelling entourage of foreign, defence and finance ministers, as well as business leaders and astronauts, illustrates the range of transatlantic cooperation Paris hopes to push forward. But one senior American official told AFP that while there might be concrete "progress" in some fields, "this visit is about the personal relationship, the alliance relationship" with France.—Agencies

## Romania hosts meeting of NATO foreign ministers

BUCHAREST: NATO foreign ministers are taking a part in a two-day meeting in the Romanian capital Bucharest starting on Tuesday. The ministers are set to discuss the war in Ukraine, considered a threat to Euro-Atlantic peace and security. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg ahead of the meetings said Russian President Vladimir Putin is trying to use winter as a weapon against Ukraine and that Russia might continue attacking the Ukrainian electricity grid and natural gas infrastructure. Stoltenberg added that NATO foreign ministers will meet with Ukrainian counterpart Dmytro Kuleba to discuss Ukraine's most urgent needs. "NATO will continue to stand with Ukraine for as long as it takes. We will not back down. There can be no lasting peace if the aggressor wins," said Stoltenberg. Ukraine's top diplomat said NATO foreign ministers will discuss the provision of new weapons, ammunition, and military equipment for Kyiv during the meeting. Also, the foreign ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, and Moldova will be present to discuss cooperation with NATO. "These three countries are facing Russian pressure in many different ways, so at our meeting, we will take further steps to help them protect their independence and strengthen their ability to defend themselves," said Stoltenberg. Stoltenberg also said it is time to finalize the accession process of Finland and Sweden and welcome them as full-fledged NATO members. "This will make them safer, NATO stronger and the Euro-Atlantic area more secure, he noted. Türkiye's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, among the participants of the NATO meeting, is expected to meet with German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock and British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly. He also announced on Monday that a meeting with Swedish and Finnish foreign ministers will be held in a tripartite format on Tuesday. Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said Ankara's security concerns will be addressed under the June tripartite memorandum.—Agencies

## Energy crisis threatens drinking water in Germany

BERLIN: Energy crisis and supply-chain disruptions could threaten drinking water supplies in Germany, an industry association warned on Tuesday. "Municipal suppliers have their backs to the wall, not only because of pricing, but also because of the low availability of basic chemicals," VCI President Markus Steilemann told German daily Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. According to Steilemann, there is a shortage of hydrochloric acid in particular, needed for wastewater treatment. Threatening shortages have now emerged because of high energy prices and compromised supply chains, he said. Steilemann added that as a consequence of these shortages, individual authorities already suspended some environmental regulations for the short term: "This means that higher phosphate levels in wastewater are tolerated, so that higher phosphate levels can be discharged into waterways."—APP

## UK pushing China out of nuclear project

LONDON: The UK will exclude China from the development of the country's new nuclear energy project by owning 50% of the stakes and seeking new third-party investment to finance the construction and operation, according to an official state-

ment on Tuesday. The agreement with the owner of the EDF – the British integrated energy company – means the exclusion of China General Nuclear (CGN) from the project, with CGN selling its 20% development stake. "Once complete, this mega project will power millions of homes with clean, affordable, home-grown energy for decades to come," British finance minister Jeremy Hunt said in a statement. The statement confirmed that the UK will provide around £700 million (\$842 million) to the Sizewell C nuclear plant in southeast-

ern England. The announcement came after Prime Minister Rishi Sunak signaled on Monday that the "golden era" between the UK and China has ended, referring to a term coined in 2015 by his predecessor David Cameron. In a speech in London, Sunak added that "the naive idea that trade would lead to social and political reform" in China is also over. Speaking at the Lord Mayor's Banquet, an annual event where the prime minister addresses business leaders, international dignitaries, and foreign policy experts.—Agencies



TOKYO: Ambassador designate, Raza Bashir Tarar received Shun Imaizumi, President Japan-Pakistan association at the embassy. - DNA

## December 1st: National Day of Romania

On December 1st, Romanians around the world, including Pakistan, celebrate the Romanian National Day. This year marks the 104th anniversary of the Unification of Transylvania with Romania when the century-long ideal of national unity has been achieved, building the foundation of the modern Romanian state. The historic Great Union of all Romanian territories, made possible by the will of the Romanian people, is now celebrated as a milestone in the long-standing quest for freedom and unity. The unification declaration came to the public during a historical event attended by over 100,000 Romanians in the city of Alba Iulia. The Great Union Anniversary provides the Romanian people with the chance to pay tribute to the legacy of the sacrifices made for creating the new Romania, which placed the country at the center of the large



European family. The armistice that ended the First World War in 1918 marks a crucial point in history that profoundly reshaped both international relations and sociocultural ideals. Romania and Europe will always remember that 1.1 million soldiers from the subcontinent had fought courageously and heroically in different battle fields of the First World War and 60,000 of them, mostly from today's Pakistani Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, had paid the ultimate price in defending the ideals of peace, freedom, liberty, dignity, democracy and fundamental human rights. They all deserve our tribute and honor.

## ROMANIA IN 2022



More than a century after the Great Union, Romania reaffirms its faithfulness to the values that shape the central pillar of its international standing, under the principles of international law, promoting stability, security, acceptance and dialogue. Romania stands firm in the collective duty to protect these values and secure them in the medium and long term, as well as to prepare for challenges ahead.

## ROMANIA AND PAKISTAN – 58 YEARS TOGETHER

The year 2022 marks the celebration of 58 years of bilateral relations between Romania and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan that have developed into fruitful cooperation in political, economic, educational, de-



fense and cultural fields. Pakistan represents an important partner for Romania in the South Asian region. Romania acknowledges Pakistan's efforts in fighting terrorism, militancy and radical extremism and hopes that these endeavors will continue to be an important part of the international war on terror. Common efforts are made by the two countries to work hard for taking forward the bilateral agenda, as well as the cooperation within the EU-Pakistan framework and in multilateral formats, especially in the UN. The connection between Romania and Pakistan is characterized by friendship, mutual interest, and efficient dialogue. In recent years, the relations have witnessed new dynamics, with result-driven political dialogue and positive developments in the economic, educational and cultural sectors. Romania is Pakistan's one of the closest partners in Europe. As one of the major trade and economic partners, Romania has supported Pakistan in the European Union to achieve GSP status, which has helped Pakistan increase its exports to the EU to more than 1 billion USD. This year, we had the visit of the foreign minister of Pakistan to Romania and also the meeting between the Romanian foreign minister Professor Bogdan Aurescu and his counterpart on the sideline of an international conference, just to mention only the most important ones of the encounters of the Romanian officials with their Pakistani colleagues. It is worth mentioning that the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Romanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry have signed an agreement that has the potential to boost the promotion of bilateral trade. We are proud that in Romania two frigates have been already built for Pakistani army and there are two more in different stages of commissioning.

The education field has experienced positive evolution and has shown good potential for development. A Memorandum of Understanding has been put in place this year for the provision of educational scholarships to Pakistani students by Bucharest Polytechnic University. We are in the final stage of signing a number of important memorandum and agreements which are meant to boost the cooperation between the two countries in different domains: economic, cultural, education and so on. Romania enjoys close cultural ties with Pakistan and as milestones in the recognition of the common values are the national poets Alama Iqbal and Mihai Eminescu, who are honored with a common monument on one of the most important boulevards of Islamabad. The Honorary Consulates of Romania in Sindh, Punjab, and KP have an important contribution to the overall development of the Romanian-Pakistan relationship.

## ROMANIA – EU AND NATO MEMBERSHIP

In the current challenges and provocations witnessed by the global community, Romania, as an important member of NATO and the European Union, actively assumes its duties and responsibilities in dealing with the increasingly complex and dynamic issues of the current international situation. The today's world is characterized by a very complicated and sensitive security environment caused primarily by the brutal, vi-



olent, unprovoked, and unlawful aggression of Russia against Ukraine. The aggression has blatantly violated every international rule and generated crises on a global scale, energy, financial and food crises among them. While asking Moscow to stop the war immediately and participating fully in the sanctions imposed on Russia, like all EU, NATO and like-minded countries, Romania is making great efforts to support Ukraine politically, economically, financially, humanitarian, etc. to go through these difficult times and successfully resisting the aggressor.

## ROMANIA – A GREAT PLACE TO BE!

Romania with its vast landscapes, high mountains, tremendous sea shore, and diverse architecture, has a lot of striking places that you would want to see at least once in a lifetime.

## PELES CASTLE – SINAIA



This lavishly decorated fairy-tale Romanian royal palace is one of the most impressive castles in Europe. Construction took 10 years, but in the end, the Romanian royal family had a summer palace equipped with everything from a cinema to a concert hall. The ornate 160-room palace was built in the neo-Renaissance style and each room has its own identity and theme. After its inauguration in 1883, the King and his family began their summer vacation at the fairytale castle, which also served as the venue for important gatherings during the early months of World War I.

## RÂSNOV FORTRESS



Râsnov Fortress is located on a rocky hilltop in the

Carpathian Mountains, 650 ft. above the town of Râșnov, in the center of Romania. First mentioned in an official document in 1331, the fortress was built by Teutonic Knights as protection against invading Tartars and was later enlarged by the local Saxon population. Recently, the old fortress has been restored to its former glory and today, you can visit the impressive remains. There is also a museum here, hidden behind the ancient walls, where the inner rooms are maze-like, with several wooden ladders linking them and a few so-called secret passages which should keep you busy for quite awhile.

## BRAN CASTLE



Surrounded by an aura of mystery and legend and perched high atop a 200-foot-high rock, Bran Castle owes its fame to its imposing towers and turrets as well as to the myth created around Bram Stoker's Dracula. Although Stoker never visited Transylvania, the Irish author relied on research and his vivid imagination to create the dark and intimidating stomping ground of Count Dracula, leading to persistent myths that it was once the home of Vlad Tepes, a Romanian ancient ruler. The castle continues to hold a strong attraction for all fans of the Count.

## DECEMBER 1st A MOMENT OF CELEBRATION AND REMEMBRANCE

On Romanian National Day, the Romanian people feel the richness of the history of the country, remember past events, and marvel at how far the nation has come.

—Romania - Pakistan dosti zindabad!



## Briefs

## 'Covid badly affected lives, economy'

DNA

ISTANBUL: Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety Mr. Faisal Karim Kundi has said that "the COVID-19 pandemic" has taken lives and overwhelmed health systems and economies at an unprecedented pace and scale. It has negatively impacted millions of individuals and has disproportionately affected the poor at a large scale. He said this while addressing the COMCEC 38th session on "Pakistan's Effective Social Assistance Provision and Socioeconomic Empowerment in the light of COVID-19 Pandemic".

SAPM highlighted that Government of Pakistan allocated USD 1.23 billion to deliver one-time emergency cash to 16.9 million families, which came to over 109 million people, including minorities and transgender citizens. Through Benazir Income Support Program's Emergency Cash disbursement, each family received USD 75, for immediate subsistence needs, he added. Faisal Karim Kundi informed the participants that by utilizing BISP's NSER data, a hybrid targeting approach was adopted, combining emergency assistance for the known vulnerable with demand-based support for the "new poor". He said that The Millennium Development Goals (MDG) on poverty eradication was achieved five years ahead of schedule.

## Christians now a minority in England and Wales

LONDON: Fewer than half of people in England and Wales identify as Christian, according to census data released on Tuesday, underlining a landmark shift towards secularism in multicultural Britain. The findings from the 10-yearly census, carried out in 2021, came just over a month after Rishi Sunak became Britain's first Hindu prime minister. They showed rapid growth among the Muslim population. However, "no religion" was the second most common response after "Christian", the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said. Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell said it was no "great surprise" that the Christian proportion was declining over time. But he said that, facing a cost-of-living crisis and war in Europe, people still needed spiritual sustenance. "We will be there for them, in many cases, providing food and warmth. And at Christmas, millions of people will still come to our services," said Anglican Church's second-ranking cleric. - APP

## Russian targeting of energy 'war crime'

BERLIN: Russian missile strikes on energy infrastructure in Ukraine constituted a "war crime", German Justice Minister Marco Buschmann said Tuesday after hosting talks with his G7 counterparts. A Russian campaign of missile strikes has severely damaged Ukraine's energy infrastructure and plunged millions into darkness as the country endures first snows and chill winds of winter. "Systematic destruction of the heating and electricity supply" ahead of the coldest months of the year was a "terrible war crime", Buschmann told reporters. "Many people will fall victim to the winter," Buschmann said after the first meeting of G7 justice ministers, which was attended by the Ukrainian justice minister and prosecutor general. "War criminals should not and must not be allowed to feel safe anywhere," Buschmann said. The members of the G7 group of industrial democracies had to "cooperate better together to combat war crimes", he said. Buschmann underlined that he was "certain that at the end, we will see war crimes cases at the International Criminal Court against senior Russian leadership too". - APP

## Direct flights between Pak, Kazakhstan to start soon

MOU likely to be signed in December to start flights in February or March 2023; initially Flights will operate from Lahore and Karachi to Amaty: Ambassador Kistafin

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistafin has said direct air links between Kazakhstan and Pakistan shall soon be resumed adding an MoU shall be signed in this regard in December and most likely the direct flights will start from February or March 2023. The ambassador made this announcement while speaking at a ceremony at the COMSTECH titled, 'Kazakhstan Alumni Forum'. Prof Dr. M Iqbal Chaudhry Coordinator General of the COMSTECH also spoke on the occasion and welcomed the guests. Ambassador Kistafin also proposed Prof Iqbal Chaudhry to be the first President of the Kazakhstan Alumni Forum. The ambassador further said the direct flights are scheduled to start from Lahore and Karachi to Almaty initially while in the due course flights from Islamabad to Almaty shall also start. He hoped that there will be enough load of passengers to make these air links sustainable. He also highlighted the importance of educational and cultural links between the two countries adding both countries need to further expand cooperation in this sphere. He said Pakistan's most of the population consists of youth which is a great strength of this country. The ambassador also shed light on the possible role of the Kazakhstan Alumni Forum and hoped this Forum shall play key role in strengthening cultural as well education links between the two brotherly countries. In order to facilitate more and more people to people contacts, the ambassador assured that visa process for Pakistani brothers and sisters shall be made simpler. He thanked Prof. Dr. Iqbal Chaudhry for his outstanding efforts towards promotion of academic links between the two countries.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kazakhstan Yerzhan Kistafin delivering the key note address. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kazakhstan presenting a souvenir to Prof Dr. Iqbal Chaudhry to recognize her services. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kazakhstan Yerzhan Kistafin and Prof Iqbal Chaudhry cutting cake along with members of Alumni. - DNA

## SC to announce verdict on Reko Diq next week

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Tuesday completed the hearing of a reference filed in the Reko Diq case by President Dr Arif Alvi. A five-member larger bench - headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial - heard the case and will give its verdict on the presidential reference next week. Before reserving the verdict, the chief justice, during the hearing, said that the president has sought the opinion from legal channels. "The court will be careful while giving an opinion on the matter of basic rights in the presidential reference," said CJP Bandial. He said that Pakistan is facing a fine of a billion dollars, adding that the federal government followed the constitution and the law concerning the Reko Diq agreement. CJP Bandial said that he is happy Reko Diq agreement ensured international standard protection. Justice Ijazul Ahsan said that it is a positive factor that no party signed an illegal agreement in the Reko Diq project. All the lawyers agree that Reko Diq is a trans-

parent and public contract," he added. Meanwhile, the deputy attorney general said that the negotiations on the agreement took place for three years. The apex court held 17 hearings on the Reko Diq presidential reference. The chief justice thanked all the judicial assistants, additional attorney general and lawyers. On October 18, President Alvi filed the reference on the advice of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to seek the top court's opinion on the Reko Diq settlement agreement under article 186 of the Constitution of Pakistan. The president asked two legal questions in reference. Whether the Government of Balochistan or Government of Pakistan can enter into an international agreement as per Supreme Court's Judgment, in the Molvi Abdul Haq vs Federation of Pakistan 2013 Case. If the proposed Foreign Investment (Protection and Promotion) Act 2022 would accord to the constitution. In March 2022, the then finance minister Shaukat Tarin announced that an agreement for the development of the Reko Diq mine had been reached with a foreign company Barrick Gold, according to which Balochistan would have a 25% share.

## Pak, KSA reiterate desire to further strengthen ties

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) on Tuesday expressed the desire to further strengthen long-standing fraternal ties which are based on common religion, shared values and culture. This was discussed in a meeting between Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani and Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki here at the Parliament House. Talking to the envoy, the Chairman said Pakistan accorded utmost importance to its ties with KSA which had always supported Pakistan in difficult times, adding that both countries enjoyed significant convergence on a number of regional and global issues. He urged the need to further develop a strategic and broad-based partnership with KSA in different areas for the mutual interest of the two brotherly countries. During the meeting, it was emphasised to further enhance commercial bonds and encourage businessmen and chambers of commerce of both countries to interact regularly to further boost bilateral trade relations. Sanjrani also highlighted that over 2 million Pakistani diaspora in KSA was playing a significant role in the progress and development of both brotherly countries.

## ECP rejects Imran appeal against fine

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday rejected Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's plea against the slapping of a fine on him for violating the election code of conduct ahead of NA 45 by-polls. Former prime minister Imran Khan had filed an appeal against the imposition of Rs 30,000 fine on him and others by district monitoring officer, Peshawar for violating code of conduct ahead of by polls in NA 45 Kurram, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The ECP announced its reserved verdict said that the former prime minister was required to challenge the decision of the monitoring officer within three days, but now the time has passed, therefore the plea stands rejected. According to the commission, Imran Khan and others used state resources ahead of by-elections in NA 45, Kurram. According to the ECP code of conduct, the public office-holders including president, prime minister, chairman/deputy chairman senate, speaker/deputy speaker of an assembly, federal ministers, ministers of state, governors, chief ministers, provincial ministers, and advisers to the prime minister and the chief minister, mayor/chairman/Nazim, their deputies, cannot participate in the by-polls campaigns. - APP

## US mulls sending Ukraine 100-mile strike weapons

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: The US government is mulling over a proposal to send Ukraine small and cheap precision bombs fitted onto abundantly available rockets, allowing the country to strike up to 94 miles behind Russian lines. According to Reuters, Boeing's proposed system called the Ground-Launched Small Diameter Bomb (GLSDB) combines small, inexpensive precision GBU-39 bombs fitted to a M26 rocket motor which are both in abundant supply in the US inventories. Washington has sent Ukraine more than \$19 billion in military aid since the outbreak of the war in February, including 8,500 Javelin anti-air missile systems. The Boeing proposal is one out of six to support President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's military and other Western allies in eastern Europe. Previously, Zelenskyy's request for the 185-mile range AT-ACMS missile was rejected, however,

the delivery of the GLSDB is said to happen as soon as spring of 2023 to help the Ukrainian military to continue pressing its counterattacks by disrupting Russian rear areas. "It's about getting quantity at a cheap cost," Tom Karako, a weapons and security expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said. He noted that falling stockpiles at US inventories are "getting low relative to the levels we like to keep on hand and certainly to the levels we're going to need to deter a China conflict." Last week, Doug Bush, the US Army's chief weapons buyer, told reporters at the Pentagon that the special military operation in Ukraine had driven up demands for American weaponry, and US Allies are "putting a lot of orders, in for a range of arms. The Islamic republic has deployed state security forces against what it labels "riots" that broke out after the 22-year-old Kurdish-Iranian died on September 16, three days after her arrest for allegedly breaching Iran's dress code for women.



ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani meets with Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki at the Parliament House. - DNA

## Israeli forces kill four Palestinians in West Bank

NEWS DESK

RAMALLAH: Four more Palestinian fatalities are added to the list of Israeli crimes on Tuesday. Israeli forces have killed four Palestinians during in the occupied West Bank, in the latest confrontation that has made 2022 the deadliest year of violence in the occupied territories in nearly a decade. The fatalities included two Palestinian brothers, identified by Palestinian Ministry of Health as 22-year-old Jawad and Thafer Abdul Rahman Rimawi, 21, stating that the two siblings were fatally shot after soldiers stormed the village of Kafr Ein, located northwest of Ramallah, on Tuesday morning, according to the official Palestinian news agency Wafa. The report added that Jawad, a new Business Administration grad-

uate from Birzeit University, was shot in the pelvis. His brother Thafer, a fourth-year Technology student also at the same university, was shot in the chest. Another Palestinian man fell victim to Israeli violence in the occupied West Bank on Tuesday. Israeli forces shot dead the man in an alleged car ramming near Ramallah. The killings came only a few hours after Israeli troops shot dead another Palestinian, named as Mufeed Mohammad Ikhlil, during confrontations in Beit Ummar town, located eleven kilometers northwest of al-Khalil. The 44-year-old was shot in the head and died as Israeli soldiers and stone-throwing Palestinians engaged in skirmishes. Nine others were shot by live bullets as well. One was hit in the chest while the rest were struck in the upper and lower parts of their bodies. They were taken to nearby

hospitals, and are said to be in stable condition. Israeli forces attack southern West Bank town, killing Palestinian by targeting him in the head with live fire. The Palestinian Hamas resistance movement has strongly denounced the death of three Palestinians on Tuesday, including the two brothers, during Israeli military raids across the West Bank, stating that the Tel Aviv regime's crimes will be met with an upsurge in retaliatory attacks and acts of resistance. Hazem Qassem, a spokesman for the Gaza-based group, said the occupying Israeli regime is desperately seeking to suffocate the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian nation to recover their land and enjoy freedom by means of killings and assassinations. He stressed that the blood of martyrs will fuel the Palestinian nation's ongoing popular uprising against the Israeli occupation.

98 Palestinian and international organizations call on the International Criminal Court to investigate Israeli crimes and for public condemnation. Israeli forces have recently been conducting overnight raids and killings in the northern occupied West Bank, mainly in the cities of Jenin and Nablus, where new groups of Palestinian resistance fighters have been formed. Since the start of 2022, Israeli troops have killed more than 200 Palestinians, including more than 50 children, in the occupied West Bank and East al-Quds as well as the besieged Gaza Strip. According to the United Nations, the number of Palestinians killed by Israel in the occupied West Bank this year is the highest in 16 years. Local and international rights groups have condemned Israel's excessive use of force and "shoot-to-kill policy" against Palestinians.

## Iran general says over 300 dead in unrest

WEB DESK

TEHRAN: Iran has for the first time reported that over 300 people have died in over two months of protests sparked by the death of Mahsa Amini in morality police custody. The Islamic republic has deployed state security forces against what it labels "riots" that broke out after the 22-year-old Kurdish-Iranian died on September 16, three days after her arrest for allegedly breaching Iran's dress code for women.