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PM Shehbaz vows implementation of Journalist Safety Law

Detailed News On Page-08

No space for peace's spoilers: COAS

**Detailed News On Page-08** 



England won't fear France, says Saka





### **Briefs**

### **Religious** card of corrupt leader failed

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broad-



casting Marrangzeb said on Tuesday that the religious card of the

incompetent corrupt Kashmir seller has failed. In a tweet, she said that Imran Khan had ruined governance, economy and foreign relations of the country during his four year rule. The minister said that the accountability narrative of PTI leadership failed and they destroyed relations with friendly countries. "Imran US conspiracy narrative has been buried", she maintained.

### Dar, Fazl trying to browbeat **IMF**

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Senior AML leader Sheikh Rashid tweeted that Ish-Dar and Maulana

were trying to browbeat the IMF. The AML leader said the business activities had already slowed down and now the Centaurus mall had been victimized. Mr Rashid stated that the public was bearing the brunt of Miftah Ismail and Ishaq Dar's incompetence. He affirmed that the former prime minister Imran Khan was satisfied and delaying the process of dissolving the assemblies till Dec 30.

### Dr Christain calls on Dar

DNA



Commis. sioner, Dr. Christian Turner along with UNDP Consultant

Sir Michael Barber called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar. SAPM on Finance Tariq Bajwa, Secretary Finance and other senior officers from Finance Division participated in the meeting, said a press release issued here. The finance minister extended his warm welcome to the British HC and UNDP Consultant Sir Michael Barber and apprised them about the overall economic outlook of the country.

Inside.

General elections to base on

7th population census: Ahsan

OEPs quota to be increased: Minister

Over 3,846 small

rain water harvesting

schemes completed

What is

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Politically influenced

India denies visas

to Pakistan

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# Arshad Sharif murder

# Apex court orders FIR registration

FIR of the case registered in Ramna police station

COURT REPORTER / DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan Tuesday ordered the government to register a first information report (FIR) of the murder of journalist Arshad Sharif and submit the report of the fact-finding committee. Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial issued the directives today during the hearing of the suo motu notice of the journalist's killing in Kenya. A five-member bench including CJP Bandial, Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi, and Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar is hearing the case.

"The journalist community in the country and the public at large are deeply distressed and concerned about the death of the senior journalist and are seeking the court's scrutiny of the matter," said the apex court in a statement announcing the suo motu action. It had also announced that it would hold a hearing today. The court had issued notices to the interior secretary, foreign secretary, information secretary, director generals of the Federal Investigation Authority (FIA), Intelligence Bureau, and president of the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists. At the outset of the hearing, CJP Bandial asked Additional Attorney General Amir probe the killing of Arshad Sharif. Rehman about the fact-finding committee report. "Since receiving a letter from Arshad Sharif's mother, the SC human rights cell is investigating the matter. The Interior Ministry had to submit a report of the fact-finding committee last Friday," remarked the CJP. He added that the court is yet to receive the report. "Should we summon the interior minister? Where is the interior minister?" asked the CJP.At this, the additional attorney general informed the court that the report will be submitted tomorrow."Wasting time in the investigation is the government's habit, not the Supreme Court's," said the CJP in response, adding that Sharif was a well-known journalist. "Why was Arshad Sharif murdered, and in a foreign country?" asked the CJP.He added that the country has vast resources."Mr attorney general it's been a long time since the

### **PM Shehbaz** welcomes SC's suo moto

A sister publication of **CENTRELINE & DNA News Agency** 

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday welcome the suo moto notice taken by the Supreme Court on the killing of prominent journalist Arshad Sharif.He assured that the government would extend full cooperation to the Court. "I welcome Supreme Court taking suo moto notice of the murder of journalist Arshad Sharif," he said in a Twitter post. Shehbaz Sharif mentioned that he had already written a letter to the Chief Justice of Pakistan for setting up a judicial commission to probe the murder. The Supreme Court on Tuesday headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial directed the government to register a first information report (FIR) by tonight. The court also sought the inquiry report of the committee formed by the government to

fact-finding committee has returned, why has the final report of the commission not yet been received by the Supreme Court?" asked the top judge. The CJP stated that the medical report the court received were "unsatisfactory", adding that every life must be considered important. He added that senior doctors prepared the medical report but it was not satisfactory.

"Mistreatment of journalists cannot be tolerated under any circumstances. In Pakistan, journalists are the voice of truth," said Justice Bandial.At this, the AAG intervened and informed the court that Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah was in Faisalabad when the report came and once he sees it,

Continued on Page 06

# INDEPENDENCE DAY OF FINLAND



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Finland Hannu Ripatti, Ambassador of European Union Riina Kionka, spouse and daughter of Ambassador Ripatti cutting the cake to celebrate the 105th Independence Day of Finland. Finland has re-opened its embassy in Pakistan. - DNA

### Fazl, **Shehbaz** rule out snap polls

Sav Imran wants to create chaos in the country



### KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Movement Democratic (PDM) and Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam - Fazl (JUI-F) chief Fazlur Rehman on Tuesday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at PM House in Islamabad. Sources privy to the matter said that both bigwigs met to discuss the ongoing situation in the aftermath of the Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf's (PTI) decision to dissolve Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assemblies.

Continued on Page 06

### FM to visit Indonesia

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will pay official visits to Indonesia and Singapore from 7-9 December 2022. In Bali, Indonesia, the Foreign Minister will hold a bilateral meeting with Indonesian Foreign Minister H.E. Ms. Retno Marsudi. He will participate in two multilateral events: i) 15th Bali Democracy Forum; and ii) International Conference on

## Some partymen afraid of dissolution of assemblies: Imran

Says the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) was not controlled by him

ALI HAMZA

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman and ex-PM Imran Khan has said that some members of his party were afraid of the dissolution of assemblies. Speaking to the current affairs vloggers in Lahore on Tuesday, he directed members of his party members to ignore if they disagree with any statement from coalition partners as they were not limited to our line and length, and we should ignore such talks. Imran Khan maintained that the dissolution of assemblies won't affect party's image.

Repeating his mantra, the former PM said that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) was not controlled by him. The PTI chairman went on to say that the accountability system will be improved if his party came into power again. Earlier, Imran Khan said

that giving more relaxation to the incumbent government would be a 'bad omen' for economy. According to sources, PTI chief presided over a meeting of lawmakers from Sheikhupura, Kasur, and Nankana Sahib. The participants included Punjab health minister Dr Yasmin Rashid, Provincial minister Sardar Asif Nakai, MNA Sardar Talib Nakai, MNA Brig (retd) Rahat Aman, Provincial minister Syed Ali Abbas Shah, MNA Sardar Amir Dogar, and MPA Khurram Ijaz Chatha.

Matters pertaining to the dissolution of provincial assemblies and resignations were discussed. All the participants assured the party chief their complete support in the dissolution. The sources added that the participants said that free and fair elections were the only solution to the issues the country was facing. Dissolution of

Continued on Page 06

# Roadside bomb kills seven in Afghanistan

At least 19 people were killed and 24 others wounded earlier this month

MAZARI SHARIF: A roadside bomb killed seven petroleum company employees commuting to work on a packed bus in northern Afghanistan's biggest city, an official and survivors said on Tuesday

A police official told media that Tuesday's blast happened around 7:00 am (0230 GMT) in Mazar-i-Sharif - an ancient city famed for its beautiful blue mosque.

"I was reading the Quran on my phone screen and there was a boom," survivor Azim, whose right leg was injured by shrapnel, told AFP. Mohammad Hanif, who was also hurt in the blast, said there were around 52 people aboard the bus at the time. Seven people were killed and six others wounded according to Asif Waziri, spokesman for the Balkh province police department. "The bomb was placed in a cart by the roadside. It was detonated as the bus arrived," he said. There has so far been no claim of responsibility. At least 19 people were killed and 24 others wounded earlier this month by a blast at a madrassa in Aybak, southeast of Mazari-Sharif. - Agencies

### Continued on Page 06 Stalemate persists between **IMF, Pakistan over review** An IMF review for the release of next tranche under bailout funding has been pending since September

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Talks between Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are at a stalemate with global lender pushing Islamabad on policies and reforms needed to keep the bailout programme's targets on track and complete the pending ninth review, a fund official told reporters.

Esther Perez Ruiz, IMF's Resident

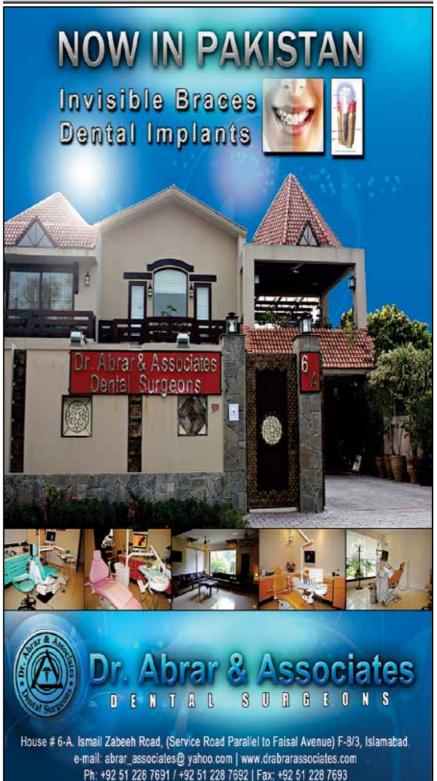
Türkiye considers "... a key purpose of program reviews in Pakistan, as in all program coun-Azerbaijan as tries, is to evaluate both program threat to itself performance to date, as well as, for-- Page 07 ward-looking, whether the program is on track or policy measures are need-PM Shehbaz vows ed to meet program targets, advance implementation of reform objectives, and maintain mac-Journalist Safety Law - Page 08 roeconomic stability going forward,"

Chief in Pakistan, said in a written reply. An IMF review for the release of the next tranche under bailout funding has been pending since September. However, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar claimed last week kistan all tarthat Pam e t **▽** for gets re-\* view. ever, IMF t h e

dent resichief s a i d discussions with the Pakistani "authorities in these areas are ongoing, especially as not all end-September quantitative targets have been met". "Significant new developments have taken place since the last program

review including the extraordinary floods and a number of new measures and developments, which affect this year's economic outlook," Ruiz added. Sources, privy to the talks, told the publication that the global lender has communicated to the finance ministry that it requires completion of all end-quarter performance criteria and targets, "Both sides would also require broader agreement on forward-looking data on the basis of which the performance targets and indicative targets for the remaining program period till June 2023 will be set," they added. Following the catastrophic floods, IMF and Pakistan had revised all macroeconomic and fiscal frameworks were adjusted altogether so both sides could strike a consensus on it.

Continued on Page 06



**Achieving** 

**SDGs** pivotal

for regional

progress

of National Parliamentary Task Force on Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs)

Romina Khurshid Alam on

Tuesday said both Sri Lanka

and Pakistan shared the same

challenges like climate-induced emergencies, poverty

and other socioeconomic

issues. Expressing the views

in a meeting with the Sri Lan-

kan delegation led by its State Minister for Finance Priyana-

tha here at the Parliament

House, she said achieving

SDGs was a win-win situa-

tion for both countries. The

Sri Lankan state minister expressed solidarity with the

people of Pakistan who had

been facing the devastating

impacts of recent floods in

the country. He said mutual

cooperation and a unanimous

approach essential to trans-

form regional socioeconomic

challenges into opportuni-

ties. Convener SDGs Romina

also sought the cooperation of Sri Lanka for the students'

exchange program and en-

hancing business-to-business contacts between both coun-

tries. She also pointed out

that the health sector in Paki-

stan could learn a lot from the

success stories of the Sri Lan-

kan health sector, especially

ISLAMABAD:

### Wednesday, December 07, 2022

### Karachi **Arts Council** elections on **Dec 18**

**DNA** 

KARACHI: Arts Council of Pakistan Chairman Commissioner Karachi and Chief Commissioner Muhammad Iqbal Memon has said that the Deputy Commissioner South has been appointed as the Election Commissioner for Arts Council elections 2023-2024. According to the law, elections will be held on December 18., the administration shall take all possible measures for peaceful elections, shall take all possible measures for campaigning and elections, rioting or actions which may cause unrest during election campaigning and elections shall be prohibited, possession of arms shall be prohibited. He expressed these views while addressing a press conference at the Arts Council along with Deputy Commissioner South Saeed Leghari on Tuesday. DNA

### 180 girls exhibit driving skills under **UNDP WoW** program

LAHORE :As many as 180 girls showcased their driving skills as they rode motorcycles with dexterity in an exhibition of skill, mobility and autonomy in a motorbike rally under the UNDP's Women-on-Wheels (WoW) program at a local hotel, on Tuesday. The UNDP, Pakistan had provided motorcycle training to 180 girls across Lahore to create a long-lasting sustainable impact on the lives of women and girls to increase their mobility, independence, and visibility in public spaces.

Being part of its commitment to support Government of Punjab in gender equality for equitable and sustainable development under the UNDP's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a policy dialogue on 'Women's Mobility' was also held prior to the motorbike rally of girls.—APP

### Governor LHC suspends FIA's notice to Imran

LAHORE :The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday suspended the operation of a call-up notice issued to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in the cipher audio leak scandal.

Justice Asjad Javed Ghural passed the orders while hearing a petition filed by the PTI chairman against the call-up notices by the FIA in the scandal. The court also sought a reply from the federal government and the

FIA till December 19. Imran Khan's counsel argued before the court that the FIA had launched an inquiry into the alleged audio leak pertaining to the diplomatic cipher and summoned his client for recording a statement on December 6. He submitted that it was not clear in the notice whether his client was summoned as a witness or accused. The court observed that audio leak was a sensitive issue, and questioned whether any inquiry was held as to how the audio leaked.-APP



Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Argentine and Ambassador of Argentine, Leopoldo Francisco Sahores at Parliament House. - DNA

# General elections to base on 7th population census: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD :Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday said that the next general election in the country would be held on the basis of data compiled through 7th Population and Housing Census (digital census) in October 2023. Addressing the inaugural ceremony of training of master trainers for 7th Population and Housing Census, the minister said government would spend about Rs34 billion on this exercise of vital importance that would help in framing economic policies and ensure equitable distribution of resources among

all the stakeholders for the development of the country. He said that the government is providing Rs13.5 billion to the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), which would arrange digital solutions, adding that it would be the first digital census that would help swift completion of the process. He said that an offline data collection system would also be available for areas out of internet coverage, adding that this census would also determine whether the population was on an increasing or decreasing trend. The minister said that the census was a constitutional

obligation on the basis of which the government determines National Finance Commission Award and distributes national resources for just development of all areas. Ahsan Iqbal said that Pakistan was ranked among the rapidly population-growing countries. He said, due to increase in population, the availability of basic civic facilities like education, health and clean drinking water were reducing whereas the per-capita availability of water and agriculture land was also on decline. He said that a huge bulge of local population comprised of youth, which was a blessing if we could provide

them proper education and skills for economic development of the country. He said that in the meantime, the increasing polarization would push this national dividend into extremism and called for creating balance between resources and challenges. The minister said that economic stability was not possible overnight, adding that it required proper time and continuity in policies and political stability. He said the crisis which was faced by the current government was created by previous regime and it was the result of its incapabil-

ity and bad governance.

However, he said that the government has successfully averted the default challenge on external front and took tough decisions and was honouring all commitments made by last government with multi-lateral agencies. He said that the country tolerated another shock worth \$30 billion due to recent flash floods and rains that hit the country particularly Sindh and Balochistan provinces. He said that government was also able to overcome this challenge. He said reconstruction and rehabilitation work in all affected areas was in progress and that

would continue till the settlement of last effected person. Ahsan Iqbal said that the government intended to organize Climate Resilience Conference next month to mobilize about \$16 billion for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of flood effected people, adding that the conference would be attended by friendly countries. Later, talking to media, the minister said that narrative developed by Imran Khan was badly beaten and it was exposed in local body election in Azad Jammu and Kashmir where 70 percent seats were won by other parties other than PTI.

### in the area of training the world's best midwives.—APP KP govt taking steps to promote tourism as industry

PESHAWAR :Khyber Pakh-

tunkhwa government is taking concrete measures for the promotion of tourism as an industry in the province for which the tendering of Integrated Tourism Zones at four different locations of the province will be completed soon. Additionally, a road show/investor conference will be held in Karachi this month, followed by road shows in Lahore and Islamabad to attract investment in the tourism sector. This was disclosed in a progress review meeting of the tourism department held here on Tuesday with Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan in the chair. The meeting was given a detailed briefing regarding the ongoing reforms in the department, development projects in the tourism sector and the progress on the decisions made during the last meeting. The participants were informed that the feasibility study has been completed for Boyun Ski Resorts and Hund Park under the public-private partnership mode.-APP

# PSF, IST sign MoU for science popularization

Science Foundation (PSF) and the Institute of Space Technology (IST) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the promotion and popularization of Science, STEAM Education in space science, technology, and its application. The MoU was signed in a ceremony held on Tuesday at the Ministry of Science and Technology. The ceremony was witnessed by the Federal Minister for Science and Technology Agha Hassan Baloch, Secretary G.M Memon and other senior officers of the ministry,

PSF and IST respectively.

The MoU was signed by the chairman PSF. Professor Dr. Shahid Mahmood Baig and Vice Chancellor IST. Major General (R) Rehan Abdul Baqi. In this programme of cooperation, ize a Teenager Space Maker Camp for young Pakistani students, for which Chinese leading organization the China Youth Science Centre ( CYSC) of the China Association of Science and Technology ( CAST) has very kindly provided ten space maker kits to PSF. The PSF, today handed over these kits to IST and the both would jointly undertake the

space maker camp. Teenage students will be trained to make space balloons with these kits which would reach up to 30 kilometers in space. The objective of this MoU is to define the gener-PSF has planned to organ- al framework of scientific and technological cooperation between the parties. In addition the MOU is aimed at getting benefits from each other's expertise through mutual collaboration and interaction in joint scientific activities. The MoU will also cover the areas of joint management, organizing and preparation for participation in international Olympiads, moots,

While giving his remarks regarding the space maker camp, Agha Hassan Baloch said that this was the first program of its nature and it would bring positive results by uplifting the teenager students' scientific skills and harness their talent in the right direction. He said that for the promotion of scientific aptitudes in the students, fifty STEM schools equipped with latest STEM labs were being developed across the country and in January the training sessions for STEM teachers would be

started. -APP



called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.-DNA

# IIUI Extravaganza 2022 kicks off

ISLAMABAD :Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki on Tuesday inaugurated the Extravaganza 2022 organized by International Islamic University (IIU) Islamabad at the new campus. The event would continue till December 9 during which a food gala, book fair, speeches media hunt, art exhibition, and competitions of Qirat & Naat and Mushaira are being organized. On the first day, a book fair, flower exhibition and food festivals were organized. The inaugural ceremony was also joined by Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) Dr. Mukhatar Ahmed, IIUI President Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, diplomats of KSA and other Muslim countries, vice presidents of the university, Deans, DGs, students advisors, provosts and a large number of students at both the campuses. Speaking on the occasion, KSA Ambassador said that the extravaganza 2022 is a true picture of the university's Islamic and international character. He said these activities will provide a platform to the youth to showcase talent and utilize their energies. The Saudi Ambassador said IIUI has a special role in nurturing the Muslim youth in

light of Islamic teachings. Talking about Pak-Saudi relations, he said both countries have deep-rooted brethren ties that are historic. He said the university is an omen of strong times between KSA and Pakistan. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed in his address said universities are vital across the world as every nation's progress is dependent on higher education institutions. He said the government is keen to make the youth compatible and competitive according to modern needs so that young minds may contribute to socio-economic progress of the country. He added that universities must operate according to the needs of society. IIUI has made

a tremendous chain of activities that deserve appreciation. Dr. Mukhtar opined that universities must address the societal requirements like IIUI adding that IIUI is heading in the right direction. He added that we must shift towards the technologies and we must not be hesitant to opt for modern ways of education. It is time to pay back to society according to its needs, he said. Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi said that the university is keen to focus on the needs of society and we are making all our efforts to bring youth towards the initiatives that may pay back to society. He said the university has a clear idea that youth is the biggest



ganza is an example as in dozens of events we have brought various platforms for the young talented students to shine and serve society and humanity. He said students are the top priority of IIUI management which is why it is going to launch a facilitation centre for the students. IIUI President specially thanked the Custodian of Two Holy Mosques for the continuous financial support of IIUI. Earlier, the vice president female campus Dr. Samina Malik said that the university under the leadership of Dr. Hathal is working hard to prosper and shine and results are now on our doors as the university has outshined in the rankings and the performance report has already been published. The chief guest visited the food stalls of the students of various countries who had come with cultural cuisines and famous sweet dishes of their respective countries. Later, IIUI president also inaugurated the calligraphy exhibition set by up the department of Islamic Arts and Architecture. Famous calligrapher Rasheed Butt was the chief guest of the exhibition.—APP

agent of change and this extrava-

### Durrani terms Pakistan gateway to trade, economy

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Speaker National Assembly Zahid Akram Durrani has said that Pakistan was a gateway of trade and connectivity, especially for the landlocked Central Asian States. Talking to Vice Foreign Minister of the Republic of Argentina Pablo Tettamanti in the Parliament House, he said that Pakistan was a land of opportunities for trade and economic activities and it was also blessed with deep seaport Gwadar which can connect the number of regional countries for mutual progress and development. Zahid Akram Durrani invited traders and businessmen from Argentina to explore increased investment opportunities in Pakistan. While talking about the vast tourism potential in the country, NA Deputy Speaker said that Pakistan has been blessed with all kinds of natural resources. He said that although Pakistan has been facing the worst impacts of devastating floods yet Pakistani people were resolute enough to get out of this challenge. Convener Pakistan-Argentina Parliamentary Friendship Group MNA Dr Muhammad Afzal Dhandla stressed the need to enhance the parliamentary cooperation between the two countries. He said that parliament to parliament contacts were pivotal for the progress and development of both countries.—APP



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For further information please contact the following.

Maj (r) Sabih Ur Rehman Mobile: 0300 8553342

### **National** Days and Armed **Forces Days**

### December

Dec 01 / Romania National Day

Dec 02 / UAE

National Day

Nov 07 / Russian **Federation** Socialist Revolution

Dec 02 / Laos Republic

National Day Dec 05 / Thailand

National Day Dec 06 / Finland Independence Day

Dec 07 / India Armed Forces Flag Day

Dec 09/ Tanzania National Day

Dec 11/ Oman Armed Forces Day

Dec 12 / Kenya Independence Day

Dec 12 / Turkmenistan Neutrality Day

Dec 16 / Bahrain National Day

Dec 16 / Kazakhstan Independence Day Dec 18 / Qatar

National Day Dec 18 / Niger

National Day

Dec 23 / Philippines Armed Forces Day Dec 23/ Japan

### **Hotels &** Restaurants

National Day

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



### **Airlines**

Turkish Airlines.....8494949



### **Emergency**

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



### **Enquiry**

Edhi Ambulance	11
PIAFlightInfo	11
PIACargo	928097
Railway Inquiry	11
Railway Exchanges	9270831-
WASA Rawalpindi.	5555489
CAA	028100



### Hospitals

р.	
CMH	5611111
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital.	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa Internation	nal.4603666



### Departments

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

### **Islamabad** Metropolitan

Corporation......9209224 Potohar Town......9209224 RawalTown......5773343

### **Water Tank**

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

# OEPs quota to be increased: Minister

He said this while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI)

DNA ISLAMABAD: Sajid Hussain Turi, Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP & HRD) said that the government is working to allocate quota to Overseas Employment Promoters (OEPs) in order to increase manpower exports as the government has set a target of manpower export of one million this year. He said that he is tapping new markets for manpower export as he has visited many countries including Romania, Portugal, Greece who have shown interest to import manpower from Pakistan. He said that Malta, Poland, Hungary, South Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Tajikistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Iraq have also shown interest to import manpower from Pakistan and MoUs are being signed with many of them for manpower export. He said this while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI).



Sajid Hussain Turi said that over 4700 OEPs are working in Pakistan out of which about 2200 are active and stressed that they should play a role in promoting manpower exports while the government would facilitate them. He announced that OEPs would be included in the delegations of his Ministry so that they could

explore new avenues of manpower export. He said that special courts would be set up to decide the cases of Overseas Pakistanis in 60 days. He said that more schools and industrial homes for Overseas Pakistanis would also be set up. He said that Protector Offices in Islamabad, Sukkur, Abbottabad, Bannu, Gilgit

Baltistan would be opened to facilitate the OEPs in promoting manpower export. He said that a new policy for Community Welfare Attaches (CWAs) is being made to give them targets for community welfare and addressing the issues of Overseas Pakistanis. He assured that all highlighted

munity would be considered for redress. Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that Pakistan is facing reducing foreign exchange reserves and promoting manpower export is the best option to enhance remittances and improve forex reserves.

SNGPL sets up

control room

ISLAMABAD: The Regional Office of Sui Northern Gas

Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has established a control

room to resolve consumers' complaints related to low gas

pressure in the areas of its operations including Islama-

bad, Attock, Fateh Jang, Wah, Taxila, Murree and Kahuta.

The control room will operate round-the-clock and take

promote action by mobilizing field teams to resolve

the gas-press-related issues, SNGPL General Manager

Khurrum Ayub Khan said in a news release. He feared

that due to changing weather patterns there could be gas

pressure issues in the remote and tail-end of the gas distri-

bution system of the Islamabad region. The GM said con-

sumers could lodge their complaints at the Call Center at

1199 and Control Room's landlines number 051-9257774.

He advised the consumers to avoid excessive use of gas in

the peak and install fuel-efficient gas appliances like gev-

sers and heaters in the peak winter season. He asked for

adopting all possible precautionary measures by discour-

aging the rubber-pipe use with gas appliances and keeping

the room windows open to avoid any untoward incident

caused by gas leakages. The GM said the company had

also started a service of providing Liquefied Petroleum

Gas (LPG) cylinders for its consumers, which could be ob-

tained by calling on Helpline-1210 or sending a Whatsapp

**Air University** 

to organize 3rd

Int'l conference

ISLAMABAD : National Centre for Cyber Security (NCCS)

at Air University, Islamabad is organizing "3rd International

Conference on Cyber Warfare and Security (ICCWS-2022)"

on 7th and 8th of December 2022 in Islamabad. Accord-

ing to the University, this two-day international conference,

technically co-sponsored by IEEE, is aimed at providing a

platform for researchers and professionals engaged with

contemporary research in the emerging areas of cyber

security to share their experiences. IEEE ICCWS-22 will

focus on the technologies, applications, and innovations in

the field of cyber security. This event will feature nine key-

note tech talks by National/International speakers, CEO/

CISOs. Panel discussions, and eight research paper pres-

entations highlighting the recent advancements in the field

of cyber security. Keynote speakers are coming from differ-

ent countries around the globe including USA, Belgium, Es-

tonia, Qatar, and Malaysia. It will be a unique opportunity

for collaboration between industry, academia, and research/

development organizations working in the multifaceted

field of cyber security. ICCWS-22 is an eminent learning

opportunity for students as well as professionals all over the

globe. This gives participants a golden chance to enhance

their learning and make a perceptible contribution for a bet-

ter and securer Pakistan.-APP

message on 0333-7641199.-APP

is quite young and the government should equip this talent with latest skills and training to improve the prospects of manpower exports. He stressed that the rising difference between interbank and open market dollar rate should be taken up with the Finance Minister to address this issue as it would further reduce forex reserves and weaken our economy. Faad Waheed Senior Vice President ICCI, Hafiz Faheem Iqbal Senior Vice Chairman, Asad Hafeez Kiyani Vice Chairman Pakistan Overseas Employment Promoters Association (POEPA), Zafar Bakhtawari, Mian Shaukat Masud, Dildar Abbasi, Zia Qureshi, Athar Iqbal, Khursheed Barlas and others also highlighted various issues of OEPs related to NAVTTC, OPF, Bureau of Immigration, EOBI, Workers Welfare Fund and stressed that the Federal Minister (OP & HRD) should cooperate in addressing them.

the population of Pakistan

### and social services of former Minister of State late SahibzadaNazir Sultan. They prayed to Almighty Allah to grant the deceased a high place in jannah and give strength and courage to the bereaved families to bear this irreparable loss.—APP Bilal breaks internet with latest track 'Qurban' ISLAMABAD :Bilal Khan, a top-notch Pakistani mu-

back with another super hit track 'Qurban' and fans are stunned by the soulful blend of Urdu and Pashto lyrics. singer-turned-actor took to his official Instagram account and left netizens in awe as he shared the captivating teaser along with the caption "New song Qurban out on YouTube" The much-talked-about track has received an overwhelming response from celebs as well as fans. Stunned by the song's spellbinding Pashto

sician and YouTuber, is

**NA Speaker** 

expresses

over former

minister's

ISLAMABAD :National As-

sembly Speaker Raja Pervez

Ashraf and Deputy Speaker

Zahid Akram Durrani on

Tuesday expressed their

grief and sorrow over the

death of former State Min-

ister SahibzadaNazir Sultan.

Speaker and Deputy Speak-

er in their separate condo-

lence messages paid a mov-

ing tribute to the political

lyrics, netizens are crowding the comment section with loved-up comments to let the superstar know his voice can "fit in any genre". In just two days of its release, the simple yet enchanting lyrical video has managed to sweep the internet and got thousands of likes and comments on Khan's official YouTube

### IHC seeks comments on appointment of PNC president

ISLAMABAD, Dec 6 (AP-

P):The Islamabad High

Court (IHC) on Tuesday rejected a request seeking to stop the president Pakistan Nursing Council (PNC) from working and sought comments in the petition challenging her selection. Justice SamanRaffat Imtiaz heard the case filed by a citizen MuzamilYaseen against the appointment of Dr. Shazia Sobia as President PNC. The court rejected the request to grant a stay order and said that it would decide the matter after listening to the respondents. During the hearing, petitioner's lawyer Muhammad Tayyab Advocate, Assistant Attorney General Imran Farooq, Speaker National Assembly's lawyer Hazrat Younis and Sher Afzal Advocate appeared on behalf of President PNC.-APP

### Eight illegal arm holders arrested during crackdown

RAWALPINDI: Police have

arrested eight illegal arm holders and recovered arms and ammunition from their possession during crackdown here on Tuesday, informed police spokesman. According to the details, Bani police recovered 01 pistol 30 bore from Uzbek alias Ishaq. Similarly, Civil Line police held Sarfraz and recovered 01 pistol 30 bore from his possession. Airport police nabbed Usman and recovered 01 pistol 30 bore from his custody and same police recovered 01 pistol 30 bore from Ghulam Bahlul and 01 pistol 30 bore from Amir Shahzad. Mandra police recovered 01 pistol 30 bore from Abu Torab. Dhamyal police recovered 01 pistol 30 bore from Ajmal and 01 pistol 30 bore from Arsalan ul Hag. Police have registered separate cases against the accused and further investigation was in progress.-APP

# AJK people reject PTI's narrative of lies

He alleged that Farah Gogi was facilitated by the PTI leadership

STAFF REPORT

Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Narcotics Control Atta Tara here on Tuesday said people of Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK) had rejected the narrative of lies of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf in the local government elections. Addressing a press conference, he said, "People of AJK have totally rejected the PTI's narrative of lies and leveling allegations against opponents without any evidence in

the Local Government

Elections". He said PTI ing an event held in AJK. ment (PDM) parties.

He said Imran Khan had caused damage to the Kashmir cause during his tenure, adding India had revoked article 370 of the constitution and changed the special status of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Tara deplored the misconduct of AJK Prime Minister with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif exhibited dur-

had been defeated in Mu- He alleged Sardar Tanveer zafarabad, Neelam valley, Ilyas had been nominat-Rawalakot and Haveli by the ed as Prime Minister of Pakistan Democratic Move- AJK by Imran Khan after all the corruption cases. He getting 'highest bidding' (bribery). He alleged that the AIK PM wanted to get NOC for his housing society and Centaurus Mall adding that during the PDM government, the NOC will be issued as per law. Before sealing the Centaurus Mall, the Capital Development Authority had issued four show cause notices, out of which two were issued during the tenure of

PTI government, he added. He alleged that Farah Gogi had been given an 'NRO' by the Punjab government in questioned why two Director Generals of Anti-corruption had been changed in a short time. "The two DGs of Anti-Corruption had been changed just to give NRO to Farah Gogi," he said.

Tarar said that Farah Gogi did all the corruption in line with the direction of Imran Khan's family. He alleged that Farah Gogi was facilitated by the PTI leadership to fly outside the country.

# F-8 courts should be shifted to a newly constructed building

This project should be completed soon for the honor of judges, judiciary and lawyers .Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari

**DNA** 

ISLAMABAD: bad's prominent businessman Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari has said that keeping in mind the respect of judges, judiciary and lawyers, District Coat Islamabad from f-8 Markaz immediately be shifted to a newly constructed building. This will increase the prestige of judiciary and lawyers and they will be able to perform their services in a better place and environment . Along with this, the residents of F8 Markaz will also get relief



expressed these views while speaking in a meeting yesterday. He said that parking has become an issue in F8 Markaz and even people are parking in the streets around f-8 Markaz which is a cause of increasing suffering of the people.

Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari has demanded from the government and higher authorities that the construction of Islamabad High Court building and new District court building should be completed as soon as possible so that the resident of F-8 Markaz can use the commercial facilities of it in a

### **HEC announces scholarships for Hungary**

It is worth mentioning here that the applicants are advised to submit complete online applications separately on both HEC portal (https://scholarship.hec.gov.pk/) and Hungary portal.

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) on Tuesday has announced the Stipendium Scholarship Hungaricum Programme 2023-24. According to the details, the Higher Education Commission (HEC) has invited applications from Pakistani/ AJ&K nationals for Stipen-

dium Hungaricum Schol-

arship Program (2023-24) for Bachelor's, One-Tier Master's, Master's and PhD studies. The applicants are requested to apply only in HEC approved study fields available on HEC website. The students are encour-

aged to visit for details, www.hec.gov.pk/site/ARL. The last date for submission of online applications

at HEC portal Monday, January 16, 2023 16:00 hours It is worth mentioning

here that the applicants are advised to submit complete online applications separately on both HEC portal (https://scholarship. hec.gov.pk/) and Hungary (https://stipendiumhungaricum.hu/apply/)

without waiting for the deadline. Meanwhile, Education Testing Council (ETC) Pakistan may conduct aptitude test for PhD, MS/MPhil and Undergraduate studies in January-February (tentatively). For more

information, please visit

official website of ETC at

https://etc.hec.gov.pk.

### UN, int'l community urged to save Muslim heritage

ISLAMABAD :On the 30th anniversary of the demolition of the historic Babri Mosque in India, Pakistan on Tuesday urged the international community and the United Nations to play their role in preserving the Islamic heritage sites in India from the extremist 'Hindutva' regime. "The Indian government must ensure the safety, security, and protection of minorities, particularly Muslims, and their places of worship," the Foreign Office said in a statement on completion of three decades marking the demolition of the historic Babri Mosque in the Indian city of Ayodhya by Hindu zealots. The FO said, "The occasion is a sad reminder of the growing anti-Muslim frenzy in India ever since," adding that "We condemn the ongoing construction of a Hindu temple on the site of the demolished mosque, and the acquittal of the criminals responsible for its destruction." It mentioned that the Hindu supremacist groups in India were demanding the conversion of some other mosques into temples, including the Gyanvapi Mosque in Varanasi. "These demands might lead to more tragedies like that of Babri Mosque," it said.—APP

### Wednesday, December 07, 2022

### **Briefs**

### **AIOU** provides quality education to int'I students

Iqbal Open University has expanded its educational services globally and the number of international students is increasing rapidly. According to AIOU, the 460 international students from 36 countries got enrolled in the last semester. The students from any country in the world including America, Africa, Germany, Japan, Canada, United Kingdom, Turkey, Malaysia, Indonesia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates can enroll in AIOU. Moreover, in the last few years the University has laid special focus on signing MoUs regarding faculty and students exchange programs, and joint degree initiatives with national and international institutions including universities and research organizations from the United Kingdom, Turkey, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, and others in the last four years. Another important initiative taken by AIOU was the agreement with Turkey and United Kingdom regarding the professional development of AIOU's faculty and staff and now university is sending small cohorts of faculty and staff for training. In last four years, AIOU has established a facilitation center for students to provide information under one roof to solve their problems, expansion of university infrastructure, providing internet packages to students at discounted rates for AIOU students, the launch of email and SMS service for immediate noti fications for students, call centers for students' problems and provide prompt response and establishment of "Online Complaint Management Center", tracking system for information of books and verification of exams, and degrees. Regional offices and model study centers of AIOU have been established in far flung areas to include out-of-school children in remote areas in the educational network University is focusing on to shift the regional offices from rented houses to their own buildings, a lot of progress has been made in this regard as well and the construction of AIOU's own buildings in different areas

### IRSA releases 82,600 cusecs water

is in progress.-APP

ISLAMABAD:Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 82,600 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 43.100 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1503.62 feet and was 105.62 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 21,600 cusecs while outflow as 46,000 cusecs. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1132.10 feet, which was 82.10 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 6,900 cusecs and 22,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa ,Guddu and Sukkur was recorded 49,000, 40,900, 31,900 and 12,200 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 9,200 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 2,000 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.-APP

### Rawalpindi Food dept foils bids to smuggle flour bags

RAWALPINDI:The Food Department Rawalpindi and district police foiled three bids to smuggle wheat and seized 590 bags of flour here on Tuesday. According to a district administration spokesman, the authorities of the food department along with Potohar division police conducted raids and rounded up three drivers namely Khalil, SabazZameen and Haider and recovered 590 wheat and flour bags. Superintendent of Police said, strict action in accordance with the law was being taken against wheat smugglers.-APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Czech Republic, Chairman High Education Commission and others taking interest in paintings during an exhibition at the National Council of Arts, Islamabad, -DNA

# Over 3,846 small rain water harvesting schemes completed

3,980 schemes were planned for Punjab, of which 180 have been completed while work on 320 schemes were under progress. Some 3,480 schemes were at approval stages

ISLAMABAD :As many as 3,846 small scales rain water harvesting schemes aimed at promoting appropriate technologies for water storage in rural and urban areas have been completed so far across the country. Officials sources told APP here that out of total 3,846 schemes, highest number of 3,606 schemes have been completed in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), followed by 180 in Punjab and 60 in Sindh provinces. Sharing details of such projects, they said some 3,980 schemes were planned for Punjab, of which 180 have been completed while work on 320 schemes were under progress. Some 3,480 schemes were at approval stages, they said. In KPK, some 12,790 schemes were proposed, out of which 3,606 schemes have already been completed and 42 were under progress. Similarly, in Sindh out of 108 schemes, 60 have already been completed while work on 23 were going on. Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) authorities have submitted some 600 such schemes the federal government for approval.

Due to the emerging water crisis, the government was also promoting appropriate technologies for rainwater harvesting in rural as well as urban areas which was one of the important objectives of the National Water Policy (NWP). Consistent with NWP, the concept of rainwater harvesting is being used in the country for water conservation for crops and livestock as well as groundwater recharge and the countrywide data regarding progress on implementation of various rainwater harvesting RWH projects in Islamabad Capital Territory Administration (ICT) showed that

69 check dams/ponds etc. have been completed. Currently, 39 such schemes were currently in progress in ICT while 57 more schemes have been planned for the capital till 2024, the sources said. In Sindh, through federal government funding, around 28 small storage/mini dams have been completed, the number of ongoing mini dam projects was seven. Similarly, the Sindh government under its Annual Development Plan (ADP) built 36 small storage dams/delay action dams, retention weirs and Impervious Sub-Surface Outflow (ISSO) barriers while working in progress on 12 ongoing mini dam projects. In Balochistan, Abato and Sanza dams in the Chaman have been built for water storage while work on Diasara dam was in process. In District Killa

Abdullah, 65 out of 200 ongoing dams have been completed while work was in progress on the remaining sites. In District Killa Saifullah, work on 71 dams out of 100 ongoing dams, construction of 200 Small Check Dams for Ground Water Recharge in Quetta and construction of 100 Delay Action Dams in Tehsil Dobandi, Gulistan, Killa Abdullah and Chaman area have been completed. In KPK, 13 small dams have been completed so far while other 14 were under various stages of execution. In Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), construction of 600 water tanks and harvesting structures for storage of 4.5 million gallons of water was in progress while a feasibility study for the Bhimber dam project has been completed.

# ISA conducts 2-day capacity building training workshop

tion Service Academy (ISA), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Islamabad on Tuesday conducted a two-day capacity-building training workshop for staffers of official media here at Radio Pakistan. The workshop was attended by information officers, reporters, sub-editors, producers, cameramen, and other staff members of the Press Infor-

mation Department (PID) Peshawar, Radio Pakistan, Pakistan Television, and Associated Press of Pakistan (APP). In the inaugural session, Director General PID Islamabad, Saeed Ahmed Shaikh, and Deputy Director ISA Muhammad Asif shared their rich experiences and viewpoints about maintaining of social ethics in news reporting and office management. Saeed Ahmad

be thoroughly checked to ensure it was based on facts and accuracy before its release and broadcast. He said that all news-related information must be supported by strong evidence and must not be ambiguous. He said journalists were like a mirror of the society on whom great responsibilities rest to portray the real picture

speculations and sensationalism may be avoided. Saeed said that a polite attitude should be adopted while meeting with people in offices and the masses should be dealt with with great respect. Later, the organizers and trainers sought suggestions from participants to make such kinds of the workshop more productive. - **DNA** 



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi offering condolences over the sad demise of former Chinese President, Jiang Zemin, at Chinese Embassy in Islamabad.-DNA

# President for entry of women in Faisal Mosque's main hall

**DNA** 

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has said that women in modest Islamic dress with covered hair were allowed in Mosques all over the world to offer their prayers but restrictions had been imposed on women for offering prayers and visiting the main hall of the Faisal Mosque, Islamabad which had a religious and touristic value. He said that there was no enclosure for

and the elderly and unwell women were constrained to climbing stairs to approach the enclosure on the first floor due to the absence of an elevator. He expressed concern as to how women would be able to offer their prayers while faced with these restrictions. The President gave these remarks while taking note of a special report published by Dawn News on 14th September wherein restrictions on women to offer their prayers, poor

cleanliness conditions and maintenance, and beggary at the historic mosque was highlighted. The President said that he believed that the women should be allowed to pray in an enclosure in the main hall and to visit the main hall to appreciate the architectural beauty of this magnificent mosque. This is my opinion which is based upon observation throughout the world including the Harmain Sharifain, he added. The CDA in his report submitted to the

President Secretariat had informed that it has initiated actions to ensure cleanliness and to carry out the maintenance and rid the area of beggars, whereas, after the construction of the mosque as a policy of Dawah Academy, Islamic University, only one gallery was reserved for ladies and there was no permission for women to enter in the main hall. The President has desired that the Administrator of Faisal Mosque may discuss and brief on these issues.

### ANF seizes over 2130 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI :Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan seized 2130.019 kg drugs worth US\$ 40.56 million internationally, arrested 33 accused including two women and three foreigners besides impounding 15 vehicles while conducting 32 counter narcotics operations throughout the country during last week. According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, the seized drugs comprised 379.560 kg Opium, 61.12 kg Heroin, 1671.969 kg Hashish, 13.117 kg Methamphetamine (Ice),3.500 kg Cocaine, 0.123 kg Weed and 0.630 kg Ecstasy Tablets (930 Tabs).

ANF Balochistan recovered 1680 kg drugs in four operations, arrested two accused in drug smuggling while seized two vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 260 kg Opium, five kg Heroin, 1410 kg Hashish and five kg Methamphetamine (Ice). ANF Punjab recovered 74.703 kg drugs in three operations and arrested four drug smugglers including two foreigners and seized two vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 9.6 kg Opium, 64.800 kg Hashish and 0.303 kg Methamphetamine (Ice). ANF KPK recovered 193.246 kg drugs in eight operations and arrested nine persons including a woman and two foreigners who were allegedly involved in drug smuggling. ANF also seized four vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 107.100 kg Opium, 48.45 kg Heroin, 33.566 kg Hashish and 3.5 kg Methamphetamine (Ice) and 0.630 kg Ecstasy Tablets (930 Tabs). ANF Sindh recovered 172.556 kg drugs in nine operations while 10 accused including a woman were sent behind the bars and four vehicles were also impounded. The seized drugs comprised 7.670 kg Heroin, 159.263 kg Hashish, 2.068 kg Methamphetamine (Ice), 3.5 kg Cocaine and 0.055 kg weed. ANF North recovered 9.514 kg drugs in eight operations, arrested eight accused and impounded three vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 2.860 kg Opium, 4.340 kg Hashish, 2.246 Methamphetamine (Ice) and 0.068 kg weed. All cases have been registered at respective ANF Police Stations under CNS Act 1997 (Amended 2022) and further investigations are under process.—APP

### Mobile phone's usage decreases book reading habit

ISLAMABAD: The usage of mobile phones was significantly diminishing and decreasing book reading habit among writers, intellectuals, authors, poets, students and other readers. Talking to APP, Assistant Professor of Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur, Dr Sahib Khan said that the people especially students were reading books, newspapers, thesis and other materials by using the internet on cell phones rather than hard copies and it had badly affected book reading. He said that the people belonging to every age were busy with messages, texts, tweets by using Twitter, WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram and other social networking Apps and it was promptly decreasing the concept of book reading among its lovers. He said that reading books were enhancing knowledge and giving ample information to compete

with the world and also making a person able to talk with others with logic, evidence, proof and solid imagination. He said, "Read thousands of books then words will come into the reader's mind like floods." Poet, Khalid Ahmed Tyagi said that the young people were wasting their precious time and money by using mobile phones and they were not focusing on studies and examinations. He urged the youth to read immense books, novels and poetic verses which would teach them the dynamic ways of talking and postures. Reading study material's on was leading smartphones poor comprehension and understanding among the readers compared to reading the books. Managing Director of National Book Foundation, Dr Raja Mazhar Hameed said the foundation provide more

### PM pays tribute to late Najma Hameed

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday paid tribute to the former senior president of the women's wing of Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) and senior parliamentarian Najma Hameed for her contribution towards democracy and the party. The prime minister visited the residence of the late Najma Hameed who passed away recently and offered Fatiha for her soul to rest in peace. He extended condolences to Najma Hameed's sons, her sister Tahira Aurangzeb and niece Marriyum Aurangzeb and said Najma Hameed was a valuable asset to the party.—APP

### 2,322 fine tickets issued over traffic rules

ISLAMABAD :Islamabad Capital Police have expedited legal action against traffic rules violators and issued 2,322 fine tickets to road users over violation of traffic rules during the last 24 hours.

According to police, various police teams issued 2,322 fine tickets to road users over violation of traffic rules. A total of 189 fine tickets were issued over lane violations, 73 for red-signal violations, over using mobile phone while driving, four for amateur driving, 79 over violation of one-way, 17 for violation of zebra crossing, four vehicles for having pressure horns, 58 for having tinted glasses, eight for emitting smoke, 134 for having fancy number plates, 355 bikers for riding without helmets and 246 motorists for violations of different traffic

rules. Chief Traffic officer Syed Mustafa Tanveer said that strict action would be taken against traffic rules violators. He said that Islamabad capital police personnel have been directed to ensure the implementation of traffic rules irrespective of status and rank and demonstrate patience while issuing traffic viousers.-APP

### Punjab musical night held at Lok Mela

RAWALPINDI :Punjab Musical Night was organized on the last day of the ongoing folk mela at Folk Heritage Islamabad, in which traditional songs of Punjab were presented. Deputy Speaker of Punjab Assembly Wasiq Qayyum Abbasi and Director General Punjab Arts Council (PAC) Muhammad Abrar Alam were the special

guests on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Wasiq said that the folk songs of Punjab have a unique place in the culture of the entire country, in which the traditions, simplicity, and sincere love of the people of Punjab were hidden.

The artists of Punjab have preserved their folk songs, tunes, and unique accents in a prosperous manner, he added. Director General PAC Muhammad Abrar Alam said that the Arts Council also significantly promoted the culture of other provinces and federal units. During the Lok Mela, the citizens had shown interest in the Punjab Pavilion, while the youth have made selfies in the Haveli model.—APP

### 51st anniversary of Major Shabbir Sharif Shaheed

RAWALPINDI, Dec 06 (APP):The 51st anniversary of Major Shabbir Sharif Shaheed, Nishan-e-Haider was observed on Tuesday at Lahore. According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, General Officer Commanding, Major General Malik Amir Muhammad Khan laid floral wreath at Major Shabbir Sharif Shaheed's mausoleum.

A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Army presented a guard of honour. Various people from different walks of life, civil and military officials and relatives of Shaheed attended the wreath-laying ceremony.—APP

# Beijing optimizes anti COVID measures

hina's capital city Beijing, with a population of more than 21 million, on Tuesday announced further optimized anti-COVID-19 measures including removing test requirements for some public venues, amid a consistent strategy and flexible measures in the face of the weakening Omicron variant. Experts said that the virulence and pathogenicity of the Omicron variant and its evolutionary branches are significantly reduced compared with the original strain. Starting from Tuesday, residents in Beijing will no longer be required to present a negative nucleic acid test report before entering supermarkets, office buildings, parks and other public venues, and they only need to scan their health codes, said the Beijing authorities. But for some indoor entertainment venues such as internet cafes and bars, residents still need to show negative nucleic acid testing results obtained within 48 hours. Dine-in services also resumed on Tuesday, but customers need to show 48-hour negative results and scan their health codes.

Nearly 50 cities across the country have reportedly announced similar measures to relax COVID-19 test requirements for some public venues. Public health experts told the Global Times that these measures were adjusted dynamically and scientifically based on many factors including the "epidemic situation, virus virulence and pathogenicity and other medical supportive conditions," which doesn't mean that the country is loosening all COVID-19 restrictions following about three years of efforts against the virus. What has happened in the past few years shows that China's COVID-19 policy provided maximum protection for people's lives and health, minimized the impact on socioeconomic development, and bought precious time for understanding the virus on the basis of science, for the research and development of vaccines and therapeutics, and for vaccinating more people across the country, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said at Tuesday's press briefing.

"As has been proven by facts, China's approach to COVID-19 over the past few years has been right, science-based and effective," Mao said. "The Omicron variant has become less pathogenic and less likely to cause severe pneumonia. The raising of the vaccination rate also has lowered the risk of severe illness and death rate from COVID-19," Li Tongzeng, a medical expert at Beijing's Xiaotangshan Hospital, told the Global Times on Tuesday.

However, it has become more difficult to prevent it since the variant spreads faster in a hidden manner, and the country has been seeking a balanced way to optimize prevention and control measures to combat the virus and minimize the impact on daily life, according to Li. "Policies and measures will be adjusted dynamically according to the changed situation of the epidemic rather than a simple openness," Li said.

# Islamabad POST

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### FIR of slain journalist

n the order of Supreme Court of Pakistan, FIR of Arshad Sharif murder case was registered in Ramna police station Islamabad. According to the Islamabad Police, the FIR of the Arshad Sharif murder case was registered in the government's complaint. Police has named 3 persons Waqar Ahmed, Khurram Ahmed and Tariq Wasi in the FIR of Arshad Sharif's murder. The Supreme Court heard the Somoto case of journalist Arshad Sharif's murder in Kenya and ordered the FIR of the incident to be registered by Tuesday night.

A 5-member larger bench headed by Chief Justice Umar Atta Bandial, comprising Justice Ijaz-ul-Ahsan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandukhel, Justice Mazahir Ali Akbar Naqvi and Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, conducted the hearing. It should be noted that journalist Arshad Sharif, who is in Kenya, was shot and killed by Kenyan police on the night of October 22 and 23 while going in a car. Jawaria Siddique, the widow of Arshad Sharif, expressed her lack of confidence in the current government. In this regard, Arshad Sharif's widow Jawaria Siddique expressed reservations and said that why a case has been registered in the police complaint while the family members are there. We have not filed this FIR as Ramanawale is neither our relative nor Arshad's family.

He said that Arshad's family members are still alive, only the case of Arshad Sharif Shaheed will be registered in the complaint of my mother-in-law, why was the FIR registered in the complaint of the rest of the police? Arshad is not abandoned. Jawaria Siddique said that this government will not give us justice. According to the government's intention, the police filed an FIR in their complaint, now who and when will file the FIR of the family members?

If Arshad Sharif's family members are not satisfied with this FIR, then how will justice be achieved in this case? Does the government want to play with court orders? In such a big case, about which there is great public outrage, a case has been registered on the police's complaint to confuse the case. If the government is serious about solving this issue, it should avoid any action that does not satisfy the bereaved family.

# What is happening in Iran?

Seyed Mohammed Ali Hosseini



After the Corona pandemics and at a time when the world was heading to recover itself from the shocks caused by this ominous virus, and to revive their economy and social resources, the lamentable death of an Iranian woman caused some agitation and created some controversy against Iran. In this atmosphere, some of the western countries along with their supported media, contrary to all the principles and rules of the international law, have called for turmoil against a United Nations state member, and asked protesters to resort to the aggressive measures, destroy urban infrastructures and public and private properties, and in a word to turn to hooliganism in order to achieve their goals.

uring the few last months, some materials are published by different news agencies including Western Persian-language media, and they are published in the mainstream or social media, which raise unfair and unrealistic allegations against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Here effort is made to scrutinize into some different aspects of these allegations, facts about the internal events in Iran and the real reasons behind attributing such allegations to Iran. Western countries, by supporting and equipping hostile groups and enemies of the I.R. Iran, arming and providing facilities, ammunitions, intelligence feeding and financial supports for them, try to induce disorder and mutiny in Iran. Thus their media produce fake, false and unreal content in the TV channels and newspapers. The antagonistic content published in the media, financed and supported by them, engage various issues, including nuclear energy, human rights, military, security etc. This is while these groups and the media act comprehensively against a country that is a member state of the international community and therefore threaten the peace and security as well as the sovereignty and national security of a country that is a member state of the United Nations. These groups and media have continuously encouraged unrest and disorder in Iran and have gone as far as teaching civilians how to make incendiary weapons such as Molotov cocktails, hand grenades etc. They even tell their pawns through their news line in the cable TVs to seize and disarm Iran's military and security institutions and even ask people to infringe the state buildings or ask the states to suspend or withdraw diplomatic relations with Iran. Despite the politicized, fallacious and unreliable allegations by these media, the true reality is something else practically. During the last decades, the people of Iran have endured the cruellest international sanctions and the secondary sanctions imposed by America just because they want to enjoy their inalienable right for peaceful atomic energy. Despite complying with its international obligations; Iran has faced the maximum pressure campaign imposed by the previous American president. Shortly after, Major General

Qasem Soleimani, Iran's senior military commanders and the hero of the fight against terrorism and extremism was assassinated during an official mission to a foreign country. Then, the pandemics of Corona Virus plagued and swept the region and the world. In this situation, more than 150,000 Iranian citizens died as a result of the lack of vaccine export to Iran at the proper time due to the sanctions and the obstacles posed by west. However, a little later, Iran managed to produce the first Corona Vaccine in the Islamic world and could not only overcome the mortality rate, but to export vaccine and the other medical equipment to the other countries by relying on the domestic science. After the Corona pandemics and at a time when the world was heading to recover itself from the shocks caused by this ominous virus, and to revive their economy and social resources, the lamentable death of an Iranian woman caused some agitation and created some controversy against Iran. In this atmosphere, some of the western countries along with their supported media, contrary to all the principles and rules of the international law, have called for turmoil against a United Nations state member, and asked protesters to resort to the aggressive measures, destroy urban infrastructures and public and private properties, and in a word to turn to hooliganism in order to achieve their goals. At the same time, tens of Iranian law enforcement forces were killed due to the assault and battery exerted by the rioters or by cold weapons or direct gunfire in the streets. According to the law, this people were performing their legal duties to establish order. Smuggling of weapons and ammunition from outside the borders into Iran, destruction of the public property, disruption of the democratic order and public order, arson, vandalism, threat, intimidation, assault and battery, assassination, terror and lynching are only parts of the destructive and illegal actions done by this so-called freedom fighters and defenders of the women's rights. Most of the weapons used by them are foreign and unknown in Iran, thus exported from outside the country. Just like enemy soldiers, their task is to disrupt order and security. During the investigations, some detained rioters have admitted connection with the intelligence services of the foreign countries. In one of the cases, the ISIS terrorist group attacked a religious site and martyred dozens of women, men and children praying in Shahcheragh Shrine of Shiraz. Still, the propaganda machinery against Iran acted so brazenly that even when the ISIS officially accepted the responsibility of the terrorist attack in its media, the hostile groups and their media distorted the reality to insinuate its audience that it is carried out by the forces affiliated with the government. Westerners and their biased media have launched their propaganda machinery to promote violence, aggression and terrorism in Iran. Therefore, by settling in the countries that claim democracy and respect for the rights of nations. openly and blatantly act against the territorial integrity, sovereignty, national unity, stability and the national security of a member state of the United Nation. This is while the international community, international organizations and even some supporting states, stay silent before this inequity and breach of the international law. Even some countries, including the USA and its allies, openly support them and finance them. The thirst for power in these hostile, rioter groups is to such that they do not hesitate to take any brutal, violent and deadly action to build a case against Iran in order to divert public opinion and influence the feelings of the masses. Announcing grandiloquent and deceptive slogans such as seeking freedom and defending women's rights is not only a lie, but also a cover for creating disorder and damage to the democratic structures, spreading hatred, creating ethnic conflict and sectarian war in Iran. With a brief look at the functional and organizational history of each of the active groups in the recent riots, the veracity of this claims and the falsity of their allegations will be determined. The documents and evidence of the contemporary history in the last few decades evidently testifies their brutality, selfishness, divisiveness and the morbid desire for the power. For example, in the past, and during the Iran-Iraq war, in alignment with the Iraqi Ba'ath regime

and using borrowed weapons, the hypocrite group of MOK attacked the border cities of Iran and massacred thousands of women, children and unarmed civilians. Presently once again, this group activates its death squads against the people of Iran in two phases including field operations in the Iranian cities, and then the psychological warfare operations in the cyberspace through spreading lies, slander and libel and fabricating criminal cases against government and publishing unrealistic contents in their media in order to reverse the facts about Iran.

During the last decades, hostility, terror and killing of the civilians have been the common pain of the two great nations of Iran and Pakistan. The two countries have suffered from this blights and families have lost their loved ones as well. Therefore, the honourable people of Pakistan understand this pain as the two countries have sacrificed many precious martyrs for the cause of security, stability and peace. To conclude, it is worth mentioning that the two friendly, brotherly and neighbouring countries of Iran and Pakistan have always supported each other in the hard times throughout the history and are proud of their cultural, linguistic, ethnic and religious links and commonalities. It should be remembered, and of course, a brief look at the region confirms it, that the security, stability, sustainable development, integrity and constancy of the geopolitical and geostrategic position of the region and its party states, comprise a comprehensive and monolithic entity. Therefore, the security and stability in one area can contribute to the security and stability of the other areas in the region. Strengthening the geo-economy of the region, boosting the economic and commercial prosperity, connecting the border crossings gates, expanding the transportation corridors, guaranteeing safe and current flow of energy and finally maintaining the security of the infrastructures in the region, all and all, require security, stability and continuity of the geographical borders, territorial integrity of the countries of the region, internal security and political stability throughout

The Writer is the Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan

# Even Israelis disapprove of Indian propaganda

Sadia N Qazi

Indian film industry has always been biased in portrayal of Muslims. Its movies often stereotype Muslims as extremists and terrorists reining the underworld mafia. It has stooped to a new abyss of darkness with its recent release of a right wing propaganda movie 'The Kashmir Files'. It was recently showcased at International Film Festival held in Goa where an Israeli filmmaker was also among the jury. In an interview he slammed the exhibit of the movie.

inema industry is a powerful tool to define and manipulate the collecdefine and manipulate the tive conscious of a society. And the movie industry as massive as Bollywood is sure to behold its reach to the nook and expanse of its society. Indian film industry has always been biased in portrayal of Muslims. Its movies often stereotype Muslims as extremists and terrorists reining the underworld mafia. It has stooped to a new abyss of darkness with its recent release of a right wing propaganda movie 'The Kashmir Files'. It was recently showcased at International Film Festival held in Goa where an Israeli filmmaker was also among the jury. In an interview he slammed the exhibit of the movie quoting that he "knows how to recognise propaganda disguised as a movie." He asserted that the movie was pushed into the prestigious festival owing to the political pressure. Israeli filmmaker's criticism of the movie as 'vulgar' and 'propaganda' ignited a row and many notables were not happy at such statement. He said many from within Bollywood came up to him to take back his remarks, but he refused. Since its release the movie is causing quite turmoil in the already stirring Islamophobic India. The movie's phenomenal success is not for the right reasons. Since its show-time, the internet is breaking with the post movie reactions and extremist incantations. The aftermath of Hindi-language drama film based on fictional storyline narrating an exodus of Kashmiri pundits from IIOJ&K has sparked the already existing religious polarization in Indian society. The story of 1990s exodus of pundits is only a distortion of historical facts and nothing else.

The movie is written and directed by Vivek Agnihotri starring veteran actors Mithun Chakraborty, Anupam Kher, Darshan Kumar and Pallavi Joshi. The few minutes into the movie and we see Muslims lusting after Hindu women, Muslim kids flaunting Kalashnikovs and insulting Hindu deities, and a Muslim betraying his Hindu friend to support terrorism. There is a scene where an alleged Muslim militant tells a Kashmiri Hindu who wore apparel portraying a Hindu god that only those who will chant "Allah o Akbar" will be allowed to stay in Indian Occupied Kashmir. The reaction of which in audience was

The reaction of which in audience was the chants of "Jai Shri Ram". Even the Muslim children of Kashmir are depicted as brutal and inhumane. The movie is graphical in terms of violence with scenes of Muslims in skullcaps brutally murdering Hindus. The movie is rated as 18+ due to violence but nowhere is mentioned that it is some sort of documentary. Despite being a fiction, the movie is being perceived and propagated as factual historic account of the exodus; it incites violence against Muslims in general and Kashmiris in particular. The movie was banned in Singapore by their censor board citing that the film's provoking and one-sided portrayal of Muslims has a potential of disrupting social cohesion and religious harmony. Historically, in 1990, a large gathering for independence movement was called in Srinagar by Hurriyat leadership. To crush the movement for independence, Governor Jagmohan Malhotra was sent with full authority. He gave big blow to the movement. Within two months of his appointment he was removed due to atrocities he unleashed against Kashmiri Muslims which was

had no choice but to oust him. During this period a number of Hindu minority people living in the valley fled away. During this conflict, 30 to 80 were reportedly killed. So the Kashmir Files movie depicts historically inaccurate and incorrect facts. The movie presents only one sided story with evil motive of sabotaging the freedom movement. It is notable that despite the reservations and criticism of the few circles from within country, the screening of the movie was elaborated from 600 to 3000 screens. The government gave a tax relief to the movie so that people can buy the movie tickets at cheaper rates. From government offices special relief and time offs are granted to watch the movie. The movie is being aggressively advertised and pushed on social media as well. It is heavily campaigned by the Hindu nationalist government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who hailed it recommending people to watch it. He appreciated the team of 'The Kashmir Files' and said more films like this need to be made to tell the 'truth'. Made on a budget of approximately \$2m, as of 28 April 2022, the film has grossed more than \$39m in India and \$5.6m overseas that accumulates to a worldwide gross collection of \$45m. These financials are the highest for any Bollywood movie. The movie incited a rage across India. Audiences coming out of the theatres were filled with anger against the Muslims believing what they saw on screen was the actual account of history. Social media was flooded with videos and posts of the hate speech against Muslims and the resolve to avenge the so-called genocide by the Muslims. They were fuelled with hate speech by the Hindutva goons

covered by international media. India

while watching the movie in the cinemas by raising slogans promoting mortal violence against Indian Muslims in general and Kashmiri Muslims in particular. Only recently in Ahmedabad, Gujarat a fanatic group of RSS stopped a mere passer by Muslim Muhammad Adnan and forcibly showed him the movie on their mobile while beating him and torturing him.

They called out that all Muslims are responsible for what happened with the Hindu Pundits in 1990s and they are to be made accountable and punished for the deeds. The Muslims are pestered and victimized all over India for being responsible for the massacre that never happened. For some time, India has been making movies, distorting the factual history, and re-writing their own fictional version of history to malign the Muslims with their character assassination. With the historical revisionism and appalling storytelling, India engulfed in the hatred against the Muslims already surpassed the genocide echelons has descent further into the darkness of racism and violence. A projecting surge in the islamophobic hatred incidents across the Indian states and the aggressive violence against the Muslims is an alarming humanitarian predicament. The circumstances in Kashmir are no different and since the revoke of article 370 in 2019, the valley has been turned into a prison with above the charts atrocious human rights violations. Playing by the hybrid warfare the objective of the movie is to sabotage the freedom movement for the right of self-determination in IIOJK screening them as blood thirty fanatics and propagate the Hindutva agenda of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) across India.

# World / Sports



### Briefs

### **Apex court** orders FIR registration

From Page 01 the report will be forwarded to the apex court. The CIP also added that the court was waiting for the report for more than 40 days, adding that the five-member bench was formed considering the seriousness of the situation. "Since October 23, the court has only received medical reports,' said the CJP.At this point, Justice Mazhar intervened and asked whether an investigation was ongoing in Kenya.While Justice Ahsan noted that the journalist was murdered suspiciously in Kenya."What steps have the foreign ministry taken as of yet?" he asked.

Foreign Secretary Asad Majeed shared that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had spoken to the Kenyan president. He added that the Pakistani high commissioner in Kenya was also in touch with the relevant officials. However, the official added that he was unaware of the progress made in the case so far.After hearing the secretary, CJP Bandial wondered why a criminal case was not registered in Pakistan.

"How will the investigations in Pakistan be held when the FIR has not been registered?" asked the judge. To this, the interior secretary told the court that the decision to file a case will be made after reviewing the fact-finding report. However, Justice Mazahar Ali Naqvi and Justice Ahsan raised questions on the government's approach in the case.

Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail remarked that it is a test case for the Foreign Ministry.Meanwhile, CJP Bandial remarked that journalists are the source of information. He added that when he visited Kenya years ago he got to know about the big Pakistani community in the African nation. "People have a lot of concerns related to the case. All facts in this regard must be brought to the people," remarked the CIP.The court directed the the murder by tonight and also directed the ministry to submit the fact-finding committee's report today.

### Stalemate persists between...

From Page 01

The broader agreement on the revised macroeconomic framework could pave the way for evolving consensus on a staff-level agreement for the completion of the 9th review under the \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF). With the revised figure of nominal growth in the range of 25%, the taxto-GDP ratio was bound to decline if the FBR achieved its annual target of Rs7.47 trillion for the current fiscal year. Without agreement on revised figures, it would be difficult for striking an agreement between the two sides.

Pakistani authorities are still hopeful that soon the 9th review would be accomplished paving the way for the release of the next tranche of around \$1 billion for Pakistan's struggling economy. Amid dwindling foreign exchange reserves that touched \$7.5 billion, Pakistan requires dollars inflows injection in order to get breathing space.

With the possibility of more deposits from a friendly country, the authorities will become in a position to negotiate a better deal with the IMF but if no deposit materialised within the next couple of weeks then the foreign exchange reserves might further deplete in weeks ahead. Meanwhile, the stock market reacted negatively Monday and declined sharply due to the

delay in the IMF review. Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 Shares Index lost 537.43 points (1.28%) to close at 41,612 points after hitting an intraday low of 635 points. Topline Securities in its daily market report said after a slightly positive opening, the market succumbed to sweeping profit-taking."This selling spree can be attributed to investor anxiety over a holdup in IMF's ninth review and the subsequent approval of a \$1.2 billion loan tranche," the brokerage said

# Politically influenced India denies visas to Pakistan

PCB Chairman Ramiz Raja had clearly stated that Pakistan will not go to India for ICC World Cup 2023 if they don't come to Pakistan for the Asian event next year

SPORT DESK

LAHORE: The Government of India has declined to issue visas to the squad of Pakistan's blind cricket team for the ongoing T20 Blind World Cup 2022, it emerged on Tuesday. Expressing its disappointment at the Indian government's decision to not issue visas to the Pakistan blind cricket team, the Pakistan Blind Cricket Council (PBCC) said that New Delhi made the decision on "political grounds". In a statement, the PBCC said that Pakistan, a two-time runner-up, were a strong candidate to win the T20 World Cup. Pakistan's blind cricket team was to leave for India on Sunday to attend the international sports event. The T20 Blind World Cup is taking place in India from Dec 5 to 17. PBCA Chairman Sultan Shah, who is also the president of the World Blind Cricket Council (WBCC), disclosed that India's



foreign ministry failed to issue a no-objection certificate (NOC)

sas because India's foreign ministry didn't issue NOC," shared

waiting for visas. If we get permission to travel today, all the

he added. Pakistan, who stand as the number one team in the world, were scheduled to play in the tournament's opener against South Africa today. Earlier, WBCC's president Shah claimed that India was given the hosting rights on a condition to issue visas to all participating nations. Be it normal cricket or some special form, ties between Pakistan and India are highly influenced by political policies. The two teams played each other only in International Cricket Council (ICC) men's events from 2012-13. Recently, India refused to travel to Pakistan for Asia Cup 2023 due to political pressure. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)'s secretary and Asian Cricket Council (ACC)'s president Jay Shah statement sparked controversy. Meanwhile, PCB Chairman Ramiz Raja had clearly stated that Pakistan will not go to India for ICC World Cup 2023 if they don't come to Pakistan for the Asian event next year.

### Coach Bento leaves England won't fear France, says Saka

DOHA: Bukayo Saka said on Monday England have no reason to feel inferior to France as they prepare to face the World Cup holders in a blockbuster quarter-final. Fuelled by the brilliance of Kylian Mbappe, France have powered through to the last eight in formidable fashion as they look to retain the trophy. Mbappe is the tournament's leading scorer with five goals and his lethal form has convinced many pundits to make France the favourites in the lasteight showdown at the Al Bayt Stadium on Saturday. Even England boss Gareth Southgate conceded after his team's 3-0 win against Senegal in the last 16 that France will pose the "acid test" of the Three Lions' title bid. But England forward Saka, who scored against Senegal after being selected instead of Marcus Rashford, is adamant his side deserve as much respect as Les Bleus. "We know the qualities they have but we also know our own qualities. We've had three clean sheets and at the same time we've scored the most goals (in the tournament)," Saka told reporters. "There's a lot of tournament experience now. If you look at the results from the last few tournaments we've been in, we've got to a semi-final and a final. So when the big games come, we have a lot of players who know what they need to do. "We are feeling good right now. Of course, we have to believe we can win the tournament." With the red-hot Mbappe providing the cutting edge to a formidable France attack, there have been suggestions Southgate should use a three-man central defence in a bid to tame the holders. Saka acknowledged France's threat, saying: "There's only one Kylian Mbappe. He's up there with the best players in the world.

"We know the quality he has and we have to be prepared to stop him. But not just him, France have lots of other quality players. "It will be a really difficult game. We have performed quite well in our first four games. We just have to stay hungry." However, Saka suggested England, scorers of 12 goals in four games, have done enough at this World Cup to show they can take the game to France rather than focus on containing them. "That's no doubt the quality we have in our team. We are blessed with an amazing frontline with so much quality," Saka said. "I'm not a manager, I'm a player. I have to trust Gareth and his staff to prepare the best game-plan. I don't see us needing to change too much. "We all back the manager. He has an unbelievable record in these big tournaments. We need to believe in him and stop doubting him."-Agencies

# South Korea role

DOHA: Paulo Bento anbe staying on as coach of South Korea after they were eliminated from the FIFA World Cup 2022 with a 4-1 defeat at the hands of Brazil on Monday.

"Now I need to think about the future, but I will not be with the Korea team. I am going to rest and then the 53-year-old former Portugal coach said after the loss in the last 16. "I have just told the players and the president of the

in September. It was set in stone and today I confirmed it. I have to thank them and am very proud to have been their manager." Bento took over following the 2018 World Cup, succeeding Shin Tae-yong. In Qatar, he led South Ko-

rea to the knockout round for the first time since 2010 with a last-gasp win over Portugal in their final group game. However, they were outclassed by Brazil

national federation. "This as they found themselves second in their qualifying nounced he would not is a decision which I took four goals down before half- group behind Iran but time at Doha's Stadium 974, although they did pull one back late on through substitute Paik Seung-ho. "I believe we can be very proud of what we have done at this World Cup, and what we have done over the last four years to get here," said Bento, who coached his home country at the 2014 tournament in Brazil. A Korean side captained by Son Heung-min got to Qatar by finishing

their last-16 exit means they have still never won World Cup knockout tie outside of their home country. "I think we did really well in the group stage although I think we could have picked up more points as we should have beaten Ghana," Bento said. "But I think we can be very proud and I am proud with what we have done over the last four years."-APP

### Al Jazeera takes Abu Akleh killing to ICC

DOHA: Al Jazeera television said Tuesday it filed a lawsuit with the International Criminal Court (ICC) over the killing of its journalist Shireen Abu Akleh while covering an Israeli raid in the occupied West Bank. The Doha-based network said the lawsuit includes "new witness evidence and video footage that clearly show that Abu Akleh and her colleagues were directly fired at by Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF)." Abu Akleh, 51, a Palestinian-American journalist, was killed on May 11, and the Palestinian Health Ministry said she was shot in the head while covering an Israeli military raid in the West Bank city of Jenin. In September, the Israeli army said Abu Akleh was likely killed by "wrong" gunfire from an Israeli soldier. But Al Jazeera said that the Israeli claim that the reporter was killed by mistake was "unfounded". "The evidence presented to the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) confirms, without any doubt, that there was no firing in the area where Shireen was, other than the IOF shooting directly at her," it added. "The evidence shows that this deliberate killing was part of a wider campaign to target and silence Al Jazeera." Several leading media agencies, including Al Jazeera, CNN, Associated Press, Washington Post, and the New York Times, conducted their own investigations, which all came to an end that Abu Akleh was killed by an Israeli bullet.-APP



MINSK: Pakistan ambassador to Belarus Sajjad Haider attends the National Day reception of UAE which was organised by Emirati embassy. —DNA

# Brazil put down biggest marker at WC

DOHA: Brazil coach Tite did not produce the night's smoothest moves but the sight of the sober-suited elder statesman gyrating with his players on the touchline epitomised this football carnival. Tite cut a somewhat incongruous figure but he simply could not resist joining a communal samba as Brazil put down the biggest marker at this World Cup with a dazzling victory over South Korea that sets up a quarter-final against Croatia on Friday. And what a moment it was that inspired Tite, 61, to let it all hang out, as Brazil produced the tournament's best football in a 4-1 win that had their status as World Cup favourites stamped right through it. Richarlison had just made his second entry into the showreel for the greatest goals scored in Qatar, delivering Brazil's third after only 29 minutes of a first half that will live long in the memory. It was a marvel of pin-point passing around the edge of the area. The Tottenham forward juggled the ball on his head three times, and once with his foot, then laid it off to Marquinhos. He delivered to Thiago Silva and his first-time pass slotted in Richarlison on the run to give the move the finish it deserved past South Korea keeper Kim Seung-gyu. If Richarlison's acrobatic bicycle kick against Serbia was magical, this may just have surpassed it - a glorious mixture of individual brilliance and passing perfection.= It was, like pretty much all of Brazil's first-half football, po-

stop us?" All this and the return of Neymar, too. Brazil could not be in better shape going into the last eight, despite the loss of Gabriel Jesus and

mar got in the act from the spot-his 'Riverdance' footwork on his stuttering approach embellishing the penalty. It leaves him one behind Pele's all-time record of 77 goals for his country. West



Alex Telles to injury. Neymar was the headline act as he made his comeback after an ankle problem but he had to share top billing here with his attacking team-mates Richarlison and Vinicius Jr. Vinicius showed his class when putting Brazil ahead after only seven minutes, and then NeyHam United's Lucas Paqueta volleyed a sumptuous fourth from Vinicius' cross before half-time, allowing Brazil from then on to preserve energy for Croatia. Brazil have been easing their way into this World Cup, even losing to Cameroon in the group stage, but the first 45 minutes was an outstanding side on full power, sending a message to their rivals about what they would have to equal - at least - to win the trophy. This was not simply a performance - it was an outpouring of Brazilian joy. Football such as this is their national emblem. They could even give their outstanding goalkeeper Alisson 10 minutes off as Tite sent on third-choice Weverton to get in on the action - meaning Brazil became the first team to use all 26 players at this World Cup. And it even allowed for dad dancing from their veteran coach, although the pre-rehearsed moves following goals went on so long that many observers questioned whether they amounted to a show of disrespect for their opponents. The opposite view is that Brazil played with such freedom of expression, in the very finest traditions of their country, that their elation was purely natural. Whether it was the corner flag or Tite, Brazil's players were so locked into their own elation they were happy to take anything as a dance partner. Neymar's presence galvanised their early work, team-mates looking for the returning superstar. He got 81 minutes in the tank before he was replaced by Rodrygo. In scoring from the spot, Nevmar became only the third Brazilian man to score in at least three World Cups - 2014, 2018 and 2022. Pele scored in four - 1958, 1962, 1966 and 1970 - and Ronaldo in three - 1998, 2002 and 2006.—Agencies

### Some partymen afraid of...

From Page 01 assemblies was a big decision and it should be thoroughly deliberated before it can later be used to exert maximum pressure on the federal government, the sources said. Mr Khan advised all the present members to prepare for elections adding that the party should be mobilize before elections. The members were taken into confidence regarding the roadmap to elections and protests.

Earlier Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan on Tuesday said that giving more relaxation to the incumbent government would be a 'bad omen' for economy. According to sources, PTI chief presided over a meeting of lawmakers from Sheikhupura, Kasur, and Nankana Sahib. The participants included Punjab health minister Dr Yasmin Rashid, Provincial minister Sardar Asif Nakai, MNA Sardar Talib Nakai, MNA Brig (retd) Rahat Aman, Provincial minister Syed Ali Abbas Shah, MNA Sardar Amir Dogar, and MPA Khurram Ijaz Chatha. Matters pertaining to the dissolution of provincial assemblies and resignations were discussed. All the participants assured the party chief their complete support in the dissolution.

The sources added that the participants said that free and fair elections were the only solution to the issues the country was facing. Dissolution of assemblies was a big decision and it should be thoroughly deliberated before it can later be used to exert maximum pressure on the federal government, the sources said. Mr Khan advised all the present members to prepare for elections adding that the party should be mobilize before elections. The members were taken into confidence regarding the roadmap to elections and protests.

### Fazl, Shehbaz rule out snap polls

From Page 01

During the meeting, PM Shehbaz said that the government is focusing on improving the country's economic condition and soon the centre will provide relief to the masses. Taking a shot at deposed Prime Minister Imran Khan, the PDM chief stated that he wants to create chaos in the country by dissolving assemblies.

While both leaders ruled out the PTI chief's demand for early elections in the country and vowed not to accept any pressure. Earlier on Monday, the PDM chief during a media talk in Peshawar while highlighting the western hypocrisy over Indian brutal actions said that the US has blind-sided itself from the Indian atrocities in the occupied Kashmir, adding that Our Parliament has supremacy and the right to legislate, no power in the world is allowed to pressurize Pakistan's interior sovereignty. Fazl said that they want to

be considered equals in relations with the world, adding that Pakistan's welfare is its top priority in its foreign policy. KPK has been 'ruined' and they will make every potential effort to stabilise the economy.

The JUI-F chief while taking a jibe at the deposed premier Imran Khan said that he is trying to hide his failed 10-year plan while ignoring the KP province masses, adding that every decision Khan had taken led to the destruction of the economy.

### FM to visit Indonesia

From Page 01 Afghan Women's Education. In the 15th Bali Democracy Forum, Foreign Minister will underscore Pakistan's commitment to democratic values and the importance of democracy in responding to modern day challenges. At the International Conference on Afghan Women's Education, he will highlight Pakistan's efforts for lasting peace and development in Afghanistan, including the importance of equal access to education for all segments of society.

In Singapore, the Foreign Minister will hold a meeting with Foreign Minister H.E. Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan and call on President H.E. Ms. HalimahYacob. A wide spectrum of bilateral relations will be discussed during these meetings.

# Business / World



### **Briefs**

### **UK rail union** announces additional strikes

LONDON: The UK's Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers union has announced additional strike dates in the run-up to Christmas as it rejected a pay offer from Network Rail. Mick Lynch, the RMT's general secretary, on Monday said "it was unfortunate that that union had been compelled to take this action due to the continuing intransigence of the employers."

"We remain available for talks in order to resolve these issues but we will not bow to pressure from the employers and the government to the detriment of our members," he added. About 40,000 staff members across Network Rail and 14 other rail firms are expected to go ahead with the industrial action on Dec. 13, 14, 16 and 17 as previously planned. With the new announcement, rail workers will also go on strike from 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve until 5.59 a.m. on Dec. 27.

The RMT statement said "there has been no improved offer from the Rail Delivery Group" and the union "awaits the outcome of a planned meeting" with the RDG on Tuesday. The RDG said it had offered a 4% pay rise for this year, and another 4% for 2023, saying the offer "reflects cost-of-living challenges as well as guarantees on no compulsory redundancies until 1 April 2024." Tim Shoveller, Network Rail's chief negotiator, said the RMT is "playing fast and loose with people's Christmas plans and the new strike dates announced deliberately target vital engineering work designed to improve the railway."-APP

### OECD inflation hits record high since April 1988

ISTANBUL: The annual inflation rate in the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) area hit 10.7% in October, the highest level since April 1988. According to an official statement released by the OECD on Tuesday, the annual inflation rate increased from

10.5% in September.

The organization said 18 out of 38 OECD countries posted double-digit inflation rates in October, while Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, and Türkiye saw rates over 20%. In October, the food inflation hit the highest rate since May 1974 by reaching 16.1%, up from 15.3% in September. Energy inflation dropped to 28.1% in October from 28.9% in September. Excluding food and energy, the annual inflation rate in the OECD was at 7.6% in October. The rate was 7.8% for the Group of Seven countries, 10.6% for the euro area, 11.5% for the EU, and 9.5% for the Group of 20. Among the OECD countries, the highest rates were recorded in Türkiye (85.5%), Lithuania (23.6%), and Estonia (22.5%), while Switzerland (3%), Japan (3.7%), and Israel (5.1%) saw lowest rates.—APP

### **KS** Relief concludes anti-blindness program in Morocco

RIYADH: King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center has concluded an anti-blindness voluntary program in Morocco's Ti-

Under the Saudi Noor Voluntary Program, held in collaboration with the Kingdom's Al-Basar International Foundation, doctors performed 462 cataract removal operations, examined 5,800 patients and distributed 1,470 glasses. The program comes as part of Saudi Arabia's efforts to help low-income families in the region, according to a statement by state news agency (SPA). KSRelief continued providing medical aid to Syrian refugees residing in Jordan's Zaatari camp. The agency's medical clinics offered consultations to 14,704 refugees during November, said SPA.

The laboratory and radiology departments also received 1,480 people.-APP

# Türkiye considers threat to Azerbaijan as threat to itself

Everyone must understand that region no longer needs future built on conflicts, grudges and hate, says Turkish defense minister in Baku

ocations against Türkiye and Azerbaijan is directed against both countries, said Turkish national defense minister on Tuesday.

At a joint navy drill dubbed Fraternal Fist, Hulusi Akar hailed strong relations between Ankara and Baku.

"A friend for one of us is a

friend to the other and an enemy is an enemy for both of us. There should be no doubt about this," he added. Akar accompanied by top including commanders Chief of General Staff Gen. Yasar Guler and the Turkish Land Forces, Naval Forces, and Air Force commanders, viewed the military drill that is taking place in Baku. Emphasizing that the world and the region is going through an era of increased uncertainty, risks, threats and dangers, Akar said: "Ensuring the security of our countries and nation is possible only if we have an effective, deterrent and respected army amid such critical period.

"Everyone should understand that the region no longer needs a future built



tred, but a future built on mutual development, respect for international law and friendly relations," he added. Akar urged all to support Turkish and Azerbaijani leaders' efforts for permanent peace and tranquility, as he urged Armenia to grasp the olive branch extended by Türkiye and Azerwish that Armenia will hold the hand of peace extended by Türkiye and Azerbaijan. We support sincere efforts to establish lasting peace between Azerbaijan and Armenia," he added.

Regarding the military drill, Turkish defense chief noted that such joint military

together, coordinate and prepare for (possible threat of) war." On Monday, the Turkish and Azerbaijani militaries, in accordance with an agreement on military cooperation, began a joint military exercise. "The exercises involving the military personnel of various types of troops, combat

and special engineer-sapper equipment, as well as military aviation vehicles of the Azerbaijan Army and the Turkish Armed Forces, are being held in Baku, as well as the territories of the Astara, Jabrayil and Imishli regions," said an Azerbaijani Defense Ministry statement. Regarding the Zangezur corridor, Akar

wish to re-establish the railway and road connections in the region, especially the opening of the Zangezur corridor, to start economic activities, and to ensure a comprehensive normalization throughout the region, including the relations between Azerbaijan-Armenia and Türkiye-Armenia." "Thus, we believe that the Caucasus region will peacefully and confidently advance towards the future," he added. The Zangezur region was part of Azerbaijan, though the Soviets gave it to Armenia in the 1920s, leaving Azerbaijan deprived of its direct overland route to Nakhchivan, Following a 44-day conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia in September 2020, Baku liberated numerous cities, villages and settlements in Karabakh from Armenian occupation, ending in a Moscow-brokered truce. Since then, Azerbaijan has focused on planned connections including motorways and a 43-kilometer (26.7mile) railway through the corridor.-Agencies

### **Pakistan's** seafood exports to China up 41pc in Jan-**Oct 2022**

### **DNA**

BEIJING: Pakistan's seafood exports to China topped \$166.56 million, an increase of 41% in the month of January-October year-on-year, while last year it was \$118.07 million, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday quoting the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC).

GACC's data shows that

in the first ten months this year, Pakistan's exports of frozen fish, commodity code (03038990), to China, crossed \$45.47 million, which were \$21.80 million during the same period last year. In terms of volume, in January-October more than 22331.728 tons of frozen fish were exported to China whereas last year during the same period it was 13084.984 tons. Data shows that in January-October this year exports of fresh & chilled crabs, commodity code (03063399), to China touched \$22.46 million. However last year in the same period they were \$17.14 million, an increase of 31%. In terms of quantity, in the first ten months of this year it was 3174.391 tons and last year in the same duration it was 2445.136 tons, an increase of nearly 30%. Conferring to the data, in January-October this year, exports of molluscs and shellfish, commodity code (16055900), to China, crossed \$19.77 million, whereas they were just \$1.89 million during the

same period last year. Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counsellor, Pakistani Embassy in Beijing, told CEN that China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement helped many Pakistani products enter the Chinese market, and Pakistan's seafood exports to China are increasing day-by-day due to this agreement. "Now many Pakistani seafood exporters enjoy zero-traffic duty on seafood items while they are getting more awareness about China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement. Recently, we registered new species under the 2nd phase of CPF-TA which helped increase exports to China and we are negotiating with GACC to add more species to our seafood export list under CPFTA," he added.

### Indonesia rattled by 6.4 magnitude earthquake

JAKARTA: A 6.4 magnitude earthquake shook Indonesia on Tuesday, according to the country's National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB). The BNPB said in a statement that the earthquake struck off the southern coast of East Java province and was felt strongly in the Java town of Jember and the Kuta area on the resort island of Bali. So far, no injuries or property damage have been reported. The tremors were felt around 1:07 p.m. local time (0607GMT). The earthquake was measured at a depth of 10 kilometers (6.2 miles), with the epicenter around 223 kilometers (about 139 miles) south of Jember. Last month, a 5.6 magnitude earthquake hit the Southeast nation, killing 321 people and damaging 62,000 homes in the western Java district of Cianjur.-APP

### Military plane crashes in central Türkiye

ANKARA: An F-5 military aircraft crashed in the central Turkish province of Konya on Tuesday. The Ministry of National Defense announced that the pilot managed to eject himself and survived the accident. The ministry said in a statement that the plane's engines stopped after being struck by a bird. It added that the pilot was hospitalized and was in good health. The plane was part of the Turkish Stars, the aerobatic demonstration team of the Turkish Air Forces, which is known for its stunts at major events. The Turkish Stars lost two members in crashes since the team's establishment in 1992. Both crashes were in Konya where they are

# Students protest campus lockdown as China eases curbs

ed against a lockdown at a university in eastern China. highlighting continued anger as huge numbers of people across the country still face restrictions despite the government easing its zero-Covid policy. Some Chinese cities have begun tentatively rolling back mass testing and curbs on movement following nationwide anti-lockdown demonstrations last week. But analysts at Japanese firm Nomura on Monday calculated that 53 cities - home to nearly a third of China's population - still had some restrictions in place. China's

lice presence while boosting online censorship and surveillance. Videos published on social media Tuesday and geolocated by AFP show a crowd of students at Nanjing Tech University on Monday night shouting demands to leave the campus. "Your power is given to you by students, not by yourselves," one person can be heard shouting in the footage. "Serve the students!" A third-year student who asked to remain anonymous confirmed the protest took place, a day after the school announced it would seal off the campus for five days because of just one Covid case. Chinese universities have restricted movement for months, with many requiring

students to apply for permission to leave the campus and

banning visitors. The Nanjing Tech student told AFP her peers were unhappy about poor communication from the university and worried they would be blocked from traveling home for the winter holidays. In the footage, the crowd can be seen arguing with university representatives and shouting for school leaders to step down. "If you touch us you will become the second Foxconn!" one protester yells in reference to violent demonstrations last month in central China at a factory run by the Taiwanese tech giant that supplies Apple. Other clips showed a police car

university officials promising students they would compile their complaints in a file. The Nanjing protest comes days after people took to the streets in multiple Chinese cities urging an end to the zero-Covid policy, with some even calling for Chinese President Xi Jinping to step down. Hundreds gathered at Beijing's elite Tsinghua and Peking universities at the end of last month as well as on campuses in the cities of Xi'an, Guangzhou and Wuhan. Authorities have cracked down on subsequent efforts to protest while appearing to answer some demands by easing a number of restrictions.-Agencies

amounted to \$21.03million, up more than 17% in the first 10 months of 2022 as compared with the same period in 2021, as per the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC), China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday. According to the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China, men's or boys' apparel (commodity code 61034200), increased by 15.29% worth \$11.85 million while last year in the same period it was \$ 10.28 million. Data further showed that men's or boys' trousers, and breeches, nes, of cotton (commodity code 62034290) up 16.42% and crossed \$6.49 million in the first 10 months of 2022, whereas in the same period last year it was \$5.58million. The bilateral trade in textile sectors improved very fast. Women's garments exports from Pakistan to China crossed \$8.32 million while home textiles crossed \$6.74 million, witnessing an increase of 29% as compared with last year in the same period which was \$5.25 million. Asif Muhammad Sulehri CEO of Brizbane Group of Companies in Sialkot and textile exporter told China Economic Net that three major factors are behind the increasing export of Men's clothing to China. Pakistan is a major producer of cotton crops, and it is cheaper as compared to China so it has a benefit over them, he said, adding that Pakistan has cheap labor compared to China which is cost-effective for men's apparel exports to China. "In January 2020, Pakistan and China entered into the second phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA2), under which China has eliminated tariffs on 313 priority tariff lines of Pakistan's export and out of the 313 high-priority products that Pakistan can now export without duty payments to China, 130 are from the textiles sector," he stated.—DNA

Apparel exports from

Pak to China up 17%

BEIJING: Pakistani men's apparel exports to China

### iran sentences 5 more people to death amid unrest

vast security apparatus has

moved swiftly to smother the

rallies, deploying a heavy po-

TEHRAN: Iran's judiciary on Tuesday issued death sentences against five more people allegedly involved in last month's killing of a Basij paramilitary member following a high-profile televised trial. The verdict takes the total number of death sentences to 11 since the outbreak of countrywide protests in September over the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in the custody of morality police. Addressing a press conference in Tehran, Iran's judiciary spokesman Masoud Setayeshi said 16 accused were summoned in the case related to the killing of Ruhollah Aiamian. Five of them were sentenced to death in preliminary verdicts while 11 others, including three under the age of 18, were handed down longterm imprisonments.—DNA



KARACHI: Ambassador of Spain and Executive Director of IBA in Karachi, Prof. Dr. S. Akbar Zaidi, sign a MoU to install a Lectureship in Spanish language and culture at the university. - DNA

# Danish authorities threatening Syrian children

renowned as a liberal society with respect for human rights, has taken one of the hardest lines on asylum and migration in recent years by becoming the first country in Europe to revoke residence permits for Syrian refugees. A 12-year-old Syrian, Ghazal Sbinati, has spent eight years living and studying in Denmark.

COPENHAGEN: Denmark, once

She recently received a letter from the Danish Immigration Service telling her that if she did not leave voluntarily, she could be "forcibly sent to Syria." "I go to school and have many friends and I hope we stay in Denmark." Sbinati told local broadcaster DR. The Danish Refugee Council has since objected to the policy, with a senior member branding it as "shocking." "When you address a letter directly to a child and write that they can be forcibly deported to Syria if they don't go themselves, that's a completely different way for an authority to be talking to a child and threatening them with what they're at risk of. I think that's shocking," the council's head of asy-

Singer asserted that the letters should not be sent to children under any circumstances as "the children cannot act on them.""In any case, the letters are also sent to the parents, and that's normal procedure" once a decision is made, she said, underlining that they should only be sent to adult guardians, and "should not be sent directly to children." Assem Swaif, who founded the human rights group Finjan which advocates for Syrian refugees in Denmark, told Anadolu Agency that his organization had been contacted by many parents who complained that their children received deportation letters. In one instance, he was contacted by a parent whose nine-year-old son and an 11-year-old daughter both got mail threatening them with forced expulsion from the country. Swaif's advocacy group is working to raise awareness by informing the UN International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and other organizations such as Save the Children about the issue so "we can protect those chil-

lum Eva Singer told Anadolu Agency.

dren." Sending letters to little boys and girls is "really, really insane and inhumane," Swaif said. The Nordic country has no repatriation agreement with Svria, meaning that it cannot force refugees whose immigration status has been revoked to leave. Authorities instead place them at the

so-called "departure centers," dubbed Danish camps, in the hopes that this will intimidate them into leaving voluntarily. Singer, the refugee council's asylum chief, criticized the policy and language used in the letters forced deportation, arguing that the country's Immigration Service "should not process these cases until they know whether they can forcibly be deported." Danish law ensures temporary status for refugees fleeing indiscriminate violence, rather than individual persecution. This means that those with temporary protection risk losing their status as soon as there is any improvement in the conditions of the country from which they fled, even if the situation remains fragile and unpredictable. Human rights organi-

courage other European countries to focus on the decline in armed conflict when making their asylum policies. Swaif told Anadolu Agency that Denmark needed to change its asylum law. "People who seek asylum, they aren't migrants, they're people seeking protection. They need protection. They're fleeing from dictatorship, from torture. So, we need to consider them as refugees, not as migrants," he said. Singer also pointed out that there were "big" changes and differences in the terms of different categories of refugees coming to Denmark and how they are received. "For example, if you look at the way the refugees from Ukraine have been received, there's a special law granting them temporary protection, and that has been processed very, very fast," she said. For Syrian and other refugees, things are a lot more complicated as they must follow standard asylum procedures. Singer thinks that one of

the major issues in Denmark's asylum

policy is the emphasis on temporari-

zations worry that such laws could en-

ness as individual refugees may have their residence permits withdrawn even if changes in their home country are "very, very small, even if they are only temporary." This, she said, is a problem in terms of the integration process for each individual but also in the terms of assessment, which leads to "decisions which are very, very harsh, especially when you look at refugees coming from Syria." Singer accused the government of endangering Syrian refugees by stripping them of their residence permits, despite them risking abuse and persecution upon returning to Svria. Earlier this year, the Immigration Service published a report saying that returning Syrians were at risk of persecution by authorities in the country gripped by civil conflict for over a decade. DR reported. The report also said that Syrian authorities continued to arrest, detain, interrogate, torture, extort, and kill returning refugees, echoing similar findings in a separate EU report released earlier this year.—Agencies



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### Briefs

### China's Xi to visit Saudi Arabia

BEIJING: China's President Xi Jinping will be in Saudi Arabia from December 7-9 on an official visit to the kingdom and to attend a Chinese-Saudi summit, state news agency SPA said on Tuesday. This is President Xi's first visit to the world's biggest crude oil exporter since 2016. The trip will include a bilateral summit chaired by Saudi King Salman and attended by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the kingdom's de facto ruler, the agency reported.

Xi, head of the world's second-biggest economy, will also attend a summit with rulers from the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council and talks convening leaders from elsewhere in the Middle East, the state news agency said. The Chinese leader's arrival coincides with height ened tensions between Saudi Arabia and the United States over issues ranging from energy policy to regional security and human rights.

The latest blow to that decades-old partnership came in October when the OPEC+ oil bloc agreed to cut production by two million barrels a day, a move the White House said amounted to "aligning with Russia" on the war in Ukraine. On Sunday, OPEC+ opted to keep those cuts in place. China is Saudi Arabia's biggest customer for crude oil, purchasing rughly a quarter of Saudi oil exports. - APP

### Schoolgirl killed in knife attack in Germany

BERLIN: A 14-year-old girl has died and another, aged 13, has been seriously injured after they were attacked by a man with a knife while walking to school in southern Germany. Police say the suspect came out of a refugee shelter in the village of Illerkirchberg on Monday morning and attacked the pupils. The older girl later died in hospital. German police arrested a

27-year-old man, who they said was an asylum seeker from Eritrea. The 13-year-old girl suffered serious knife wounds but reports said her life was not in danger. The man had fled to the refugee shelter after the stabbing and police said they had found him with a knife thought to have been used in the attack. The suspect was taken to hospital with serious wounds, thought to have been caused by the knife, and he was later questioned by police.

Prosecutors were trying to establish whether the suspect had psychiatric issues and whether he had known the two girls before the attack. In a statement, police urged the public not to use the incident to stoke suspicion of foreigners or asylum seekers. "Everything connected to this is completely unclear so far," police spokesman Wolfgang Jürgens told reporters. - APP

### Spain's former king wins partial victory in UK

LONDON: Three appeal judges in London on Tuesday ruled that the former mistress of Spain's ex-king Juan Carlos I could not sue him for harassment in the English courts for the period while he was on the throne. The judges said in a written judgment that he was "immune from the jurisdiction" in England and Wales until his abdication in 2014.

That means that Corinna zu Sayn-Wittgenstein-Sayn can still pursue the 84-year-old former monarch in the English courts for his alleged behaviour after that time. Zu Sayn-Wittgenstein-Sayn, who lives in England, wants an "injunction and damages" due to "a continuous and ongoing campaign of harassment" against her. She claims the campaign began in 2012, following the "break-up of an intimate romantic relationship", and

continues to this day. She filed a harassment suit in London in 2020, alleging he pressured her to return gifts worth 65 million euros (\$65 million), including works of art and jewellery. - APP

# PM vows implementation of Journalist Safety Law



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing at a seminar titled, "10 Years of UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity in Pakistan" in Islamabad. - DNA

### SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said media freedom and democracy reinforced each other and expressed his government's resolve to support an environment for journalists free of intimidation and harassment.

"My government believes that no journalist or human rights activist should be called out in the line of duty," he said, expressing his firm resolve to proactively facilitate the implementation of the Journalists Safety Law. Addressing at an event here to mark 10 years of the United Nations' Plan of Action organized by Journalist Safety Forum, the prime minister termed a free media and freedom of expression the important pillars of a State. Shehbaz Sharif said press freedom in Pakistan had been close to the hearts of journalists and civil society.

years greatly contributed to press freedom and mentioned that Hamid Mir, as the chairperson of Journalist Safety Forum, faced difficult challenges including an attempt on his life. He termed the killing of prominent journalist Arshad Sharif an "extremely sad incident" and said that he soon after spoke to the government of Kenya and later wrote a letter to the Chief Justice of Pakistan to form a judicial commission.

Shehbaz Sharif said despite the chequered history with 33 years of military rule, the collective political efforts lead to resumption of democracy to put the country on right track. He termed the 1973 constitution 'a very sacred document' which acted as a binding force among the units of the federation and ensured democratic values besides ensuring basic rights of citizens. In 2013, he said, Pakistan became the first country in Asia to pass legislation on the safety of journalists and last year, the par-

Shehbaz Sharif, on requests of the media community, assured to look into the Section 6 of the Act to prevent harassment and intimidation of journalists. He mentioned that there were still challenges facing the journalists in their line of duty and required sustained efforts by media, civil society, UN and international bodies. He appreciated the contribution

of international community in supporting

economic and social development of Pakistan,

particularly UNESCO and countries including

Journalists and Media Protection Act'.

Norway, Denmark and France. He expressed confidence that the outcomes and recommendations of the Forum would help lead towards a free media in Pakistan. Ambassador of France Nicolas Galey said freedom of expression could not be termed as an obstacle in the working of a government and emphasized the need to promote safety of journalists, media pluralism, and the right to inform and be informed. He

nalists as a significant step in encouraging freedom of expression.

Ambassador of Denmark Linulf said it was crucial to promote freedom of expression and ensure a safe environment for journalists. He said Denmark backed the 'community journalism' in Pakistan. He congratulated Pakistan for its remarkable step to legislate on the safety of journalists, the first in Asia. Ambassador of Norway Per Albert Ilsaas said best quality journalism provides proper information and ensure democratic values. Pakistani journalists, he said "self-censored" the content, which could otherwise be said directly, such the use of word "establishment".

Chairperson Journalist Safety Forum Hamid Mir proposed that federal and Sindh governments must notify the safety commissions under the laws passed by the National Assembly and stressed passage of similar laws for the journalists of Khyber Pukhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Punjab.

### **LHC suspends** FIA summons to Imran Khan

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday overruled an office objection to a petition filed by Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan, against the summons by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in the cipher audio leak scandal, and ordered to fix the petition for hearing. The LHC registrar office

had objected to the maintainability of the petition on the ground of its territorial jurisdiction. Justice Asjad laved Ghural took up the petition as an objection case and overruled the objection after hearing arguments of

the petitioner's counsel. Imran Khan's counsel Salman Safdar argued before the court that the FIA was a federal institution and the LHC had jurisdiction to hear the matter. The PTI chairman, through the petition, submitted that the FIA had launched an inquiry into the alleged audio leak pertaining to the diplomatic cipher and summoned him for recording a statement on December 6. - APP

### Zelensky visits Donbas front

KYIV: President Volodymyr Zelensky on Tuesday visited the frontline region of Donetsk in east Ukraine, describing fighting in the area as "difficult" with Russian forces pushing to capture the industrial city of Bakhmut. The visit came as Vladimir Putin convened his security council in the wake of the latest spate of drone attacks on military-linked facilities inside



ISLAMABAD: 5th BPC between Pakistan & Argentina was held today. Pakistan was led by Foreign Secretary Asad Majeed Khan while Argentina by Foreign Secretary Tettamanti. - DNA

### BHC bars filing of new cases against Azam Swati

### BUREAU REPORT

QUETTA: Balochistan High Court (BHC) Tuesday ordered that no more cases be registered against Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) Senator Azam Swati, who is facing charges of slander against military officers in his tweets. A two-member BHC bench consisting of Justice Kamran Khan Mulakhail and Justice Aamir Rana passed the order on a petition seeking the termination of cases against Swati. The petition was filed by the PTI leader's son Osman Swati. Moreover, the court has also sought a written report of the cases filed against the ailing Swati from the police chief. On Sunday, a Quetta court handed over Swati to police for a five-day physical remand in the case. The PTI lawmaker was arrested by the Balochistan Police from Islamabad and brought to Quetta. At the time of his arrest, he was already on judicial remand in Adiala Jail, following his detention for a second time in the case of a controversial tweet on November 27. He was then shifted to Quetta under a transit remand acquired by the police.

### 'Pak set to become one of world's biggest economies by 2047'

WASHINGTON: Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan says when Pakistan would complete its 100 years in 2047, the World Bank in its report 'Pakistan at 100' foresees it as innovation-driven country of multiple trade and investment hubs and centres of excellence. Addressing an event in Washington D.C, he said that Pakistan has the 23rd largest economy on the basis of Public Private Partnership (PPP) and 42nd in terms of nominal GDP. The Ambassador said Pakistan is a young country, with abundant labour and growing professional class. He said hundreds of thousands of students graduating from Pakistan's universities are ready to be absorbed by national and global markets. Masood Khan said Pakistan, for decades, was the fastest performing economy in South Asia and one of the fastest in Asia but its growth slowed down because of wars in the neighbourhood and security challenges posed by terrorism. The Ambassador said now the security situation is improving and there are no wars therefore we will resolutely build our markets. He said that new and ground-breaking business ecosystems are being unlocked in Pakistan. - DNA

# No one will be allowed to disrupt gains of terror war



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir visited Tirah Valley, Khyber District today.

COAS spent day with forward troops deployed along Pakistan - Afghanistan Border. He was brief by field commander about operational preparedness and border control measures in place as part of Western Borders Management Regime. While interacting with officers and men, COAS praised them for their high morale and operational readiness in the line of duty. COAS said that State's writ has been established due to innumerable sacrifices by tribal people and security forces. Our fight against terrorism will continue with the support of the nation till we achieve enduring peace and stability, COAS reiterated. COAS said that defence of the motherland will be ensured at all costs and there won't be any space for peace's spoilers. No one will be allowed to disrupt the hard earned gains of war against terror made thus far, COAS concluded. Later, COAS visited Corps Headquarters Peshawar and laid floral wreath to pay homage to Shahuada, COAS was also briefed about operational, training and other matters of the formation including efforts to create secure environment for socio- economic development projects to uplift the newly merged districts. Earlier, on arrival, COAS was received by Lieutenant General Hassan Azhar Hayat, Commander Peshawar Corps. - DNA

# China rejects latest US report on its military

Defense Ministry spokesperson accuses Washington of 'distorting' facts, 'creating' division, 'inciting' confrontation

BEIJING: China on Tuesday rejected the latest US report on its military, accusing Washington of "distorting" facts, "creating division" and "inciting" confrontation. Reacting to Pentagon's "2022 China Military Power Report," China's Defense Ministry spokesperson Senior Colonel Tan Kefei said it "distorted China's national defense policy and military strategy, made groundless speculation about China's military development, and grossly interfered in China on the Taiwan question." "China is firmly committed to the path of peaceful development, upholds a national defense policy that is defensive in nature, and is always a builder of world peace, contributor to global development and defender of the international order," he added. The US Defense Department last week in its annual report outlined the "challenges" facing the American military and assessed "changes" in China's military and security strategy. It highlighted China's efforts to "expand its national power to transform the international system; increase military coercion; strengthen its space, nuclear and counterspace capabilities; and intensify its diplomatic, political, economic and military pressure against Taiwan." A senior US defense official had said: "It's important to understand the contours of (People's Liberation Army - PLA) modernization to include their thinking about what the PLA's way of war would look like, to kind of survey their current activities and modernizing capabilities and to assess their future military modernization goals." - DNA

