



Khyber Mail wishes all of its valued readers happy  
**Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi**

Rabi ul Awal 12, 1444 A.H.

## Russia-backed forces claim gains near Bakhmut in east Ukraine

BAKHMUT: Russian forces said Friday they had captured ground in Donetsk in east Ukraine, their first claim of new gains since a Kyiv counter-offensive rattled Moscow's war effort. The announcement came as Russia's Orthodox leader said President Vladimir Putin's rule had been mandated by God, congratulating him on his 70th birthday, and as the Nobel Committee awarded the Peace Prize to rights defenders in Russia,

Ukraine and Belarus. Separatist forces in the war-battered Donetsk region said they had retaken a series of villages near the Ukraine-controlled industrial town of Bakhmut, which has been under Russian shelling for weeks. AFP journalists in the centre of Bakhmut heard the sound of heavy artillery and multiple rocket launch systems near the remains of a smashed bridge over the Bakhmutka river. "On the territory

of the Donetsk People's Republic, a grouping of troops of the Donetsk and Lugansk republics, with fire support from Russian forces, liberated Otradovka, Veselaya Dolina and Zaitsevo," separatist forces said on social media. The Donetsk region, which has been partially controlled by Kremlin-backed separatists for years, is a key prize for Russian forces, which invaded Ukraine in February. (Agencies)

## The US midterm election for dummies

WASHINGTON: It is only two years since US President Joe Biden was swept to power in one of the most fraught elections Washington has witnessed, but all eyes are already on the next nationwide vote. Biden isn't up for re-election until 2024, but candidates vying for positions large and small -- from county commissioner or tribal chief to US senator -- will be sweating the outcome of Election Day on November 8. As Democratic and Republican nominees duke it out in the final weeks of the campaign trail, here is a guide to what's at stake. US voters decide



every two years who gets the majority in both chambers of Congress -- and whether the president will get any new policies passed or if the opposition will be able to frustrate the agenda. All 435 seats in the House of Representatives are on the ballot,

as well as 35 of the 100 Senate seats. Governors' mansions are also up for grabs in 36 states, and there are elections for state-level lawmakers, secretaries of state and attorneys general. Those more local contests will affect state policies on a range of issues from abortion access to voting rights and Covid-19 restrictions. - The horse race - In a typical midterm, the party in the White House suffers double-digit losses in the House -- 26 on average since World War II -- and around four Senate seats as voters seek a check on the president's power. (APP)

## France advises nationals visiting Iran to leave

PARIS: The French government on Friday advised its nationals visiting Iran to "leave the country as soon as possible," citing the risk of arbitrary detention. "All French visitors, including dual nationals, are exposed to a high risk of arrest, arbitrary detention and unfair trial," the foreign ministry said on its website, adding "this risk also concerns people making a simple tourist visit." The foreign ministry went on to warn that "in the event of arrest or detention, respect for fundamental rights and the safety of individuals are not guaranteed" in Iran. The move came the day after Iranian state television broadcast what it said were "confessions" by two French nationals, five months after they were arrested in the Islamic republic. French teachers' union official Cecile Kohler and her partner Jacques Par-

is have been detained in Iran since May 7 and stand accused of seeking to stir labor unrest during teachers' strikes earlier this year. Iran had announced on May 11 the arrest of two Europeans "who entered the country with the aim of triggering chaos and destabilizing society." The release of the alleged confessions comes as Iran grapples with a new wave of women-led protests that erupted on September 16 following the death in custody of Mahsa Amini. The 22-year-old Iranian Kurd died after being detained for allegedly breaching the country's strict rules on how women should dress. Iran said Friday an investigation into Amini's death in custody found she lost her life to illness rather than reported beatings that sparked three weeks of bloody protests. (Agencies)

## Zelensky says Ukraine has retaken nearly 2,500 sq km in new counteroffensive



KYIV: Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky on Friday said Ukrainian forces have recaptured nearly 2,500 square kilometres (965 square miles) of territory from Russia in a counteroffensive that began late last month. "This week alone, our soldiers liberated 776 square kilometres of territory in the east of our country and 29 settlements, including six in Lugansk region," Zelensky said. "In total, 2,434 square kilometres of our land and 96 settlements have already been liberated since the beginning of this offensive operation," he added in his daily speech shared

on social media. Ukraine has in recent days made a second significant push to reclaim territory in the northeastern region of Kharkiv, but also in the south, near Kherson, a city under Russian control. In mid-September, Zelensky said Ukrainian forces retook 6,000 square kilometres from Russian troops in the first counteroffensive. Russian forces said earlier on Friday they had captured ground in Donetsk in east Ukraine, their first claim of new gains since Kyiv grabbed the momentum with its lightning counteroffensive that rattled Russia's war effort. (Agencies)

## UN peacekeeping Chief to visit Pakistan

UNITED NATIONS: The head of the UN Peacekeeping Department, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, leaves Wednesday on a 10-day tour of four Asian countries, including Pakistan, a UN spokesman said Tuesday. "The purpose of Mr Lacroix's visit is to thank the countries for their contributions and support to UN peacekeeping, as well as to update on progress enhancing the effectiveness of peacekeeping, including through the (UN) Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping+ initiative (A4P)," Spokesman Stephane Dujarric told the regular noon briefing at UN Headquarters in New York. The A4P initiative aims at focusing on key priorities that are designed to be catalytic and enhance UN missions' impact. Pakistan has been one of the largest troop contributors to UN peacekeeping operations in hot spots around the



world. Besides Pakistan, Under-Secretary-General Lacroix will visit India, United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Japan. No dates were given. In New Delhi, Lacroix will participate in a two-day meeting organized by the Challenges Forum, which brings together leading policymakers, practitioners, and academics on key issues linked to peace operations. During his visit, the UN peacekeeping chief will meet senior government officials. (APP)

## Dollar to below Rs 200 in days: Dar

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Saturday said, Rupee has regaining strength against dollar since his arrival and dollar will fall below Rs 200, because it is not its real value. Talking to a private TV channel, Finance Minister said country's macroeconomic indicators has surely lots of problems but this economic mess was inherited from Imran Khan led government that left us on the verge of bankruptcy. Finance Minister said

that his first goal was to stop declining economic terms and then reverse these terms because they all are interconnected. He further said, "the Pakistani rupee has been manipulated in near past. Individuals, some institutions and few banks were also involved in that game. Those player damaged country for the sake to earn a few billion rupees." Minister said that coalition government was doing its best to help the lower class of the country. (APP)

## Canada confirm 1,411 monkey pox cases

DAMASCUS: Canada has confirmed 1,411 cases of monkeypox, including 38 hospitalisations, the Public Health Agency of Canada said on Friday. Of the confirmed cases, 674 are from Ontario, 521 from Quebec, 167 from British Columbia, 41 from Alberta, three from Saskatchewan,

two from the Yukon and one each from Nova Scotia, Manitoba and New Brunswick, said the health agency. The rollout of second doses in Canada started this week. The second dose, only for people who do not have symptoms, can be administered 28 days after the first. (APP)

## Austria challenges EU 'green' nuclear label in court

VIENNA: Austria on Friday filed a complaint with the top EU court over the bloc's decision to label nuclear power as green, the climate ministry said. The European Parliament in July approved a European Union proposal giving a sustainable finance label to investments in gas and nuclear power, sparking claims of "greenwashing" by environmental lobbyists. Environment Minister Leonore Gewessler said Austria had filed the complaint ahead of Monday's deadline. "Nuclear energy and gas are neither green nor sustainable," she said in a statement, adding she

would give more details on Monday. Austrian daily Kurier reported earlier Friday that the complaint had been filed, adding it had little chance of success according to legal experts. The European Commission had defied protests from green campaigners and dissent in its own ranks to put a green label on gas and nuclear power. It had argued that both have a role to play as cleaner power sources during the transition to a net-zero carbon future. Gewessler had vowed Austria would file legal action against labelling nuclear energy as green. (Agencies)

## Moscow says car bomb sparked fire on key Crimean bridge



MOSCOW: A fire sparked by a car bomb has broken out on a key road and rail bridge linking Crimea to Russia, which annexed the territory from Ukraine in 2014, Moscow authorities said Saturday. "Today at 6:07 am (0307 GMT) on the road traffic side of the Crimean bridge ... a car bomb exploded, setting fire to seven oil tankers being carried by rail to Crimea," Russian news agencies cited the national anti-terrorism committee as

saying. The bridge, which was built on the orders of Russian President Vladimir Putin and inaugurated in 2018, was a key transport link for carrying military equipment to Russian soldiers fighting in Ukraine, especially in the south, as well as ferrying troops there. Russia had maintained the bridge was safe despite the fighting in Ukraine but had threatened Kyiv with reprisals if it was attacked. (Agencies)

**About Khyber Mail** The Khyber mail was first published in Peshawar, Pakistan in 1932. A newspaper in English by the eminent journalist Sheikh Sana Ullah. From 1932 to 1989 it has survived as leading English newspaper in the region by the sons of Sana Ullah i.e. Sheikh Zaka Ullah, Sheikh Inayat Ullah and Sheikh Saleem Ullah. The publication was shut down in 1989 due to various reasons. The current owner Rizwan Inayat son of Sheikh Inayat Ullah and grandson of Sheikh Sana Ullah, has restarted the family heritage but meeting with the requirement of the century, by giving the readers current happenings around the world with one touch anywhere any time and updating the reader to pace up with the world.



## KP Assembly to meet on October 24

PESHAWAR: Speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly has summoned the session of provincial assembly on October 24, 2022. According to a notification issued by assembly secretariat, the speaker exercising power under prescribed rule has summoned the assembly session on October 24 (Monday), 2022, 2:00 p.m.(APP)

## Aerial firing claims another life

PESHAWAR: Aerial firing killed a youngster in cantonment area. This was confirmed by the police on Saturday. According to details shard by the police, Muhammad Umair, who worked at a mobile phone shop in Bilor Plaza, Peshawar Saddar area, was hit by an aerial bullet when he left the shop. The local people rushed him to nearby hospital where he succumbed to injury. He was a resident of Gulbarg. Police said that aerial firing was a social crime and so far nine youths had reportedly been killed recently in different incidents of aerial firing in the area. “We have taken all precautionary measures and have increased patrolling but despite many awareness messages there were aerial firing incidents. (APP)

## GOLD PRICE IN PAK

Gold Rate	24K Gold	22K Gold	21K Gold	18K Gold
Per Tola Gold	Rs. 141500	Rs. 129707	Rs. 123813	Rs. 106125
Per 10 Gram	Rs. 121300	Rs. 111191	Rs. 106138	Rs. 90975
Per Gram Gold	Rs. 12130	Rs. 11119	Rs. 10614	Rs. 9098
Per Ounce	Rs. 343900	Rs. 315239	Rs. 300913	Rs. 257925

## FOREX RATES

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	219	221
China Yuan	31.31	31.56
Japanese Yen	1.15	1.2
Saudi Riyal	57.7	58.3
U.A.E Dirham	59.5	60.1
UK Pound	244	248
Euro	216	218
Australian Dollar	143.02	144.27
Canadian Dollar	162.33	163.68

## Emergency Numbers

Organization	Phone No
Rescue 1122 HQrs	091-2264224-25
Rescue 1122 Mardan	0937-9230770
Fire Brigade Cantt:	091-9212534
Fire Brigade City	091-2566666
Police Emergency	091-9212222
Edhi Ambulance	091-2214575
Red Crescent Ambulance	091-2210836
Emergency Ambulance	091-2590846
Civil Defence, Peshawar	091-9212176
Lady Reading Hospital	091-9211430
HMC Peshawar	091-9217140-46
KTH Peshawar	091-9216340-8
Irnarn Hospital	091-9216115
Mission Hospital	091-2212371
Al-Khidmat Hospital	091-2215945
Fauji Foundation Hospital	091-9212771-4
Frontier Foundation Blood Services	091-5703463
Hamza Foundation, Peshawar	091-5841632
Sui Gas, Peshawar	091-9213016
Wapda Complaint Peshawar	091-9212041
PIA, Peshawar	091-9213351
Airport Inquiry	114
Railway Inquiry	117

## Pesco to ensure uninterrupted power supply on Eid Milad-un-Nabi

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar Electric Supply Company (Pesco) has made all the necessary arrangements to ensure uninterrupted power supply on Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW). A crisis cell has also been established at WAPDA House Peshawar under the supervision of Chief Engineer Operation Muhammad

Zubair to deal with any situation regarding power supply, according to official sources. Trolley- mounted transformers and other necessary equipment have been provided to all Pesco sub-divisions and complaint centres. People may call at 0330-9971048 / 0330- 9971043 to register their complaints. (APP)

## Ababeel Squad equipped with heavy bikes, taser guns, modern gadgets

PESHAWAR: SSP Operation, Kashif Abbasi here on Saturday handed over modern heavy bikes, taser guns, and other gadgets to Ababeel Squad aiming to improve security measures for protection of properties and lives of people. A ceremony in this connection was held at Malik Saad Shaheed Police Lines that besides other concerned staff was attended by SP Cantt. Mohammad Azhar and DSP City Patrolling Usman Khan. Speaking on the occasion, the SSP said the objective of Ababeel Squad was to combat street crimes and the performance of the squad was commendable so far. He directed the jawans of Ababeel Squad



to utilize their energies for combing anti-social elements, so that the goal of peaceful society would be achieved. Abbasi said that the process of providing necessary tools and equipment to Squad has been started that would not only improve the performance of the squad but would also help eliminate street crimes in the provincial metropolis. (APP)

## National Resilience Day observed to express solidarity with earthquake victims

PESHAWAR: The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in collaboration with the GLOF-II project sponsored by green climate fund and implemented by UNDP, federal ministry of climate change and government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Saturday observed “National Resilience Day” at Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University, Sheringal, Dir Upper in remembrance of the Martyrs of October 8, 2005 Earthquake. The objective of the event was to express solidarity with the bereaved families who lost their family members on 8th October. Representatives from PDMA, UNDP GLOF-II official, Vice Province-chancellor, Registrar Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University, Sheringal, Representative humanitarian organizations, academia, large number of Students along with representatives from INGOs, Rescue 1122 and Civil defense representatives participated in the event. Assistant Commissioner Sheringal Muhammad Yaar welcomed the participants and highlighted the memories of resent past disasters, disasters are not only effecting the human lives but also severely damaging the socio-economic fabric of the country. He thanks PDMA KP and GLOF 2 project for selecting this district and briefed the audience about the relief activities during recent floods and rains. Hamad representative from Glof 2 said “on this day we aim to raise awareness on the devastating impacts of climate change induced disasters with a special focus on disaster resilience”. Considering the fact that Pakistan is ranked as 8th most vulnerable country to extreme weather events on the Global Risk Index. We support the Government of Pakistan in tackling environmental challenges, natural resource management, environmental protection, and climate change mitigation Together with the Ministry of Climate Change, we work on integrating government priorities to the climate change agenda. Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Director Disaster Risk Management Muhammad Javid said that in the 2005 earthquake, northern parts of the province were badly affected. Muzaffarabad was the hardest hit area mainly because the epicenter of earthquake was just 19 kilometers (12 miles) to its northeast. The commemoration of the day is further aimed to create awareness in stakeholders about disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management. The Authority also intends to involve all stakeholders to make Disaster Resilient Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He added that risk and uncertainties are increasing in the region due to climate change, greater frequency of extreme climatic events, extreme minimum and maximum temperature and increased incidence of temperature

influenced disasters and pests. The world in general and Pakistan in particular is suffering as a result of climate change. He said, due to uneven distribution of monsoon rains, floods and famine are the fate of this region. In addition to these hazards, GLOF is another emerging phenomenon, observed especially in Chitral District (having a glacial cover of 4000 sq.km, the second largest glacial inventory in Pakistan after GB). The incidents of GLOF have posed some serious threats and challenges to the mountainous communities in the far-flung areas in recent times. He further said, today many people of our province are living in earthquake and disaster prone regions and many communities are at risks from cyclone and other extreme weather events. If we are going to defeat climate change and address its impacts, we need to work together. PDMA is trying their level best to achieve the goal of resilience in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Director General PDMA in message said that natural disasters phenomenon cannot be stopped but can be reduced by taking DRR measures. As a nation there is a need to take the ownership and readiness for any volunteer work. He further said PDMA in its proactive role, is taking steps to nullify or manage disaster risks before it results in catastrophe. In this regard, actions are taken in the domains of risk assessments, mitigation and preparedness. The observance of National Resilience Day is an occasion to evaluate and reiterate commitment at making greater preparedness to avert or face natural calamities and by showing resolve for disaster risk reduction. He further emphasized that we need to reduce disaster risk through prevention and mitigation along with preparedness. In order to enhance the capacity to deal with the disasters like earthquake, GLOF and other natural disasters mock drills simulation exercise was also conducted in collaboration with the Rescue 1122 including the community members. Spokesperson PDMA KP Taimur Ali said, the series of activities are planned for the month of October. PDMA conducts multiple activities in October to create public awareness about natural disasters and climate change adaptation. Such awareness events will enhance youth understanding on the effects of climate change on Glaciers and Glacial lakes leading to disasters, along with the prevention, mitigation and preparedness and adaptation to climate change induced disasters. He further said Climate change impacts like Glacial Lake Outburst Floods pose a direct threat to our local communities. The Ceremony concluded with prayers for the departed souls of disaster victims and safety of Pakistan. (APP)

## Distt admin to take prompt action on complaints of overcharging

PESHAWAR: Deputy Commissioner Peshawar Shafiullah Khan has said the administration would take prompt action on the complaints lodged by citizens regarding overcharging by shopkeepers. The district administration has also urged the people to lodge their complaints

in control room on the number 0919211338 regarding overcharging and non-display of approved price lists. According to the district administration, the shopkeepers are bound to display price lists on prominent places for public facilitation.(APP)

## Increase in street crime creates panic in citizen ranks

PESHAWAR: Street crimes in Peshawar city are increasing day by day. This also created panic in the rank of citizens as after the urban areas, the suburban areas are not safe from the robbers. The boundaries of Khazana Police Station have become a no go area wherein scores of mobile and other valuable

snatching incidents were reported. Likewise, a citizen was robbed at gunpoint was recorded by CCTV and its video was widely viral on social media. In the attack two armed men have deprived a citizen of his motorcycle along with his mobile phone and cash. It can be seen in the CCTV video. (APP)

## Political elders criticize govt for failing to control dengue epidemic

PESHAWAR: The elders of different political parties on Saturday criticized the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government for failing to control dengue epidemic in the provincial capital. They threatened to block the University Road as a mark of protest if the authorities failed to take adequate measures to bring the situation under control. A meeting in this connection was held in residence of Arbab Khizer Hayat of Pakistan Muslim League (N), at Muslim League House Tehkal Bala Peshawar, Khizer said that situation was going from bad to worse with each passing day. Ex Federal Minister of PPP Dr Arbab Alamgir Khan , Ex General Secretary ANP Arbab Muhammad Tahir , Former MPA And JUIF Leader Atif ur Rehman Khalil , Former Minister and Jumaat e Islami Leader Kashif Azam and elders of conglomerate of various

political parties and local elected representatives were present. Arbab Khizer Hayat added that about 10 persons had died so far of dengue fever and thousands are admitted in hospitals in Tehkal, Palsai, Shaheen Town, Pawaka, Newe Kele, Surband , Gharibabad, Sufaid Dheri, and Pishtakhara. He said that increasing number of dengue cases had exposed the performance of the provincial government and its so-called health reforms and tall claims about provision of health facilities to patients. PPP Leader Dr Arbab Alamgir feared a surge in death toll if the authorities didn't take prompt action to control dengue. Jamaat e Islami leader Kashif Azam said that death toll had jumped for lack of lack of proper mechanism to handle the dengue outbreak in Peshawar. (APP)

## SCCI assures traders to take up issues with relevant authorities

PESHAWAR: President, Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Muhammad Ishaq on Saturday assured the traders community to take up issues with relevant government departments and authorities in an efficient manner. He gave this assurance during a meeting of Peshawar saddar road traders' belonging to mobile accessories and other businesses which chaired by President of the chamber Muhammad Ishaq here at the SCCI's house. Delegation of the traders headed by SCCI former executive members Shams Rahim and Zahoor Khan, which had come to the chamber to felicitate Muhammad Iqbal for becoming president of the SCCI for next term. Shahid Hussain, Senior Vice President, and

Ejaz Khan Afridi, Vice President of the chamber along with presidents and office bearers of Peshawar's saddar traders and bazaars associations and unions were present during the meeting. Ishaq asked traders to identify issues relating to different government departments to raise them in an efficient manner. He assured the issues pertaining to customs and police departments would be taken up with relevant high officials. Highlighting the significance of China-Pak China Corridor projects, the benefits of the multi-billion dollars CPEC would be reap by taking proactive initiatives, the SCCI chief vowed. He also reiterated his firm resolve to raise traders' community issues at every forum. (APP)

## Mushtaq Ghani felicitates Muslim Ummah on Eid Milad-un-Nabi

PESHAWAR: Acting Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mushtaq Ahmed Ghani Saturday urged nation to create unity and follow the golden principles of Hazrat Muhammad (Peace be upon him) to get respect and prominence in the world. In a statement issued here, KP Governor felicitated Muslim Ummah on 12th Rabiul Awal (Milad-un-Nabi) and said that teachings of Prophet

(PBUH) enlightened Muslims and brought them from darkness into light. Ghani said Allah Almighty has sent last Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) as Rehmatul Lil Aalameen for the entire humanity and he disseminated the message of peace, love, brotherhood and forgiveness that are the beacon light for the whole Muslim Ummah. (APP)

## Atish Toriyali Tank enters into Peshawar Football League Season-5 final

PESHAWAR: In the first semi-final of the Peshawar Football League Season-5, Atish Toriyali Tank Club defeated North Waziristan Baryalay by three goals to one and qualified for the grand final here at Tehmas Khan Football Stadium on Saturday. Former Pakistan team goal-keeper Muhammad Aslam Khan was the chief guest on this occasion and before the start of the semi-final match, the players of the teams were introduced to him. Organizing Secretary and Chairman Youth Glam Welfare Organization, officials of the district administration, former national team skipper Basit Kamal, former Pakistan team coach and skipper Gohar Zaman, FIFA Penal Referee Syed Imtiaz Ali Shah, large number of football spectators

were also present and witnessed the thrill-packed match. The semi-final was played between North Waziristan and Atish Toriyali Tank Club, in which Atish Club won three to one and entered the final for the first time. Atish Tank scored the first goal in the 14th minute of the first half of the game when unmarked Faqir netted a fine goal to make the tally 1-0 while soon Jameel Khan made it 2-0 by scoring another goal on the field attempt in the 25th minute of the first session. Super-fit right winger Najeebullah scored the third goal in the 52nd minute. It was really the goal of the League when Faqir sent a cross from the left side in front of the goal-mouth and Najeebullah headed in to make the tally 3-0. (APP)





**-Your Source for Alternate News-**

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## President's address of the Parliament

In his address to the joint session of the Parliament, President Dr. Arif Alvi covered a number of national and international issues, including economy, measures to deal with flood disasters, improving relations with China, US, Saudi Arabia and other friendly countries.

In the prevailing situation the President's speech has a great importance as he covered each point that national secrets should not be exposed, audio leaks be investigated. Everyone agrees that NAB should be strengthened, the institution should not be used for political purposes. Efforts to improve relations with the US are commendable. A President in a parliamentary democracy is uncontroversial, in some countries, the president reads a speech prepared by the government, some presidents have been speaking outside of this tradition. The President's party is not in power at center but he still supports the PTI, for which he is criticized. Today's problem is how to pull the country out of the crisis, by holding elections, or joint decisions be taken by politicians to get the nation out of the crisis. In this connection, the President must play a positive role, not a role like a political worker.

In his speech, the President appreciated the role of the Pakistan Army in helping the flood victims. He thanked the welfare organizations, related institutions, philanthropists, the United Nations Secretary General who visited Pakistan, the delegation of the US Congress, foreign dignitaries and ambassadors based in Pakistan who went to the affected areas. According to newspaper reports, attendance was low in the joint session of the Parliament. The big question is that sincere efforts need to develop consensus on certain issues. Pakistan has already been suffering from some serious issues including the weakening of the economy, flood havoc, thus, a joint strategy and efforts have become necessary. There is a need to make Parliament active in legislative matters. Each matter must be brought to the parliament to resolve that through a democratic way instead of protests and long marches and the President's role is much important to play in this connection.

## A consultative democracy

— By Yasir Habib Khan

Against the backdrop of the epic CPC's 20th National Congress taking place on October 16, China continues to march towards becoming a "great modern socialist country" exercising consultative democracy under the command of the 100-year-old Communist Party of China (CPC) under the leadership of President Xi Jinping. China's 2022 government work report, was approved at the closing meeting of the fifth session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC), and revised 92 items including revisions on stabilising the economy, promoting innovation, and benefiting livelihood. In November 2022, the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) met to study the regulations on the Communist Party of China's (CPC's) work regarding political consultation. The regulations were developed from the rich practices and successful experiences of the Party's work on political consultation since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, and they serve as fundamental guidelines for improving political consultation. CPPCC conducted 25 consultation sessions, organised 82 inspection surveys and research tours, filed 5039 proposals, and collected and distributed 867 conference speeches. In the face of criticism bedeviling Chinese Communism and consultative democracy as a rubber stamp, the way NPC and CPPCC work promoting consultations at all tiers of the political system is a manifestation of the fact that under the leadership of President Xi Jinping, China realised its dream to become a modern socialist country in a new era.

During the last few years, President Xi Jinping has repeatedly discussed the significance of Consultative Democracy and its people-centered

approach. President Xi has always advocated participatory democracy through his speeches, lectures, written instructions, and letters on various occasions. While speaking to a Central Conference on the Work of People's Congresses on 13th October 2021 as mentioned on page 286 of the recently published book, "Xi Jinping: The Governance of China IV", he stressed the essence and importance of participatory democracy. Xi Jinping said that we must remain committed to a people-centered approach, uphold the principle that all power of the state belongs to the people, and support and ensure the people's exercise of state power through people's congresses. President Xi also urged on improving democracy by creating more forms of democracy, expanding channels for democracy, and ensuring people's equal right to participation in governance and development, to promote a whole-process people's democracy that is broader, fuller, and more robust. During his speech at the Central Conference on the work of People's Congresses, mentioned in his book, he said that democracy is not an ornament to be put on display, but an instrument for addressing the issues that concern the people. President Xi's remarks have exposed the western democratic system which has failed to deliver and live up to the expectations of most of today's developing nations. President Xi has also insisted that whether a country is democratic or not should be judged by a community consensus, not by a self-appointed judge. Having mentioned on pages 298 and 299 in the book "Xi Jinping: The Governance of China IV", he put forth on the same occasion five basic ideas behind upholding people's democracy.

Courtesy The Na

THE much “debated” and “awaited” the 20th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party (CPC) will be held in Beijing, on 16 October 2022. It has become a hot topic in the international media due to which Western “speculations”, rumours, false, fake and fictional “propaganda” is getting momentum. It seems that the US, EU and Indian social media “secretive groups” and “goons” are trying to chase their wild dreams of socio-economic, geopolitical and geostrategic domination against China in merely making “castles in the air” by disseminating rumours on social media about so-called military coup in China. 2,296 delegates will represent the CPC. The CPC Central Committee, under the leadership of Chinese President Xi Jinping will review the country’s major socio-economic policies, programs and projects. Hopefully, it will also announce its future “strategic priorities” to achieve the desired goals of socio-economic development in the new era and elect China’s new central leadership. The CPC and Chinese President Xi Jinping have been playing a “constructive” role in promoting dialogue among civilizations in the world with an open Chinese vision to all, in accordance with the principle of “the common future of mankind”. To achieve this strategic goal, the “CPC” maintains regular communications with more than “400 parties” and political organizations in more than “160 countries” in the world and expands its circle of friends. It seems that the “CPC” is keen in strengthening communications with all of the parties of the world, share party-building and state-rule experiences, conduct exchange and dialogue among civilizations, enhance strategic mutual trust and work with

## China, CPC and Xi: An iron triangle

— By Dr Mehmood-ul-Hassan Khan

the peoples of the world to advance the “building of a community with a shared future for mankind and the building of a better world hand in hand”. Furthermore, the Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, while attending the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), shared the “holistic and futuristic” vision of China for achieving greater political understanding, equitable economic development as well as peace and harmony in the world. In this regard, he shared that “peace instead of war”, “development instead of poverty”, “openness instead of closeness”, “cooperation instead of confrontation”, “unity instead of division” and “equity instead of bullying” should be mantra of every government in the world which also vividly reflects CPC persuasions of “Civilizational Dialogue” among different civilizations and last but not the least, Xi’s universal philosophies of “Global Development Initiative”, “Global Security Initiative” and “Shared prosperity”. Therefore, the upcoming 20th National Congress of the CPC has great significance not only for China and its people but also for the rest of the world. The CPC was founded in 1921 with a total membership of 50 people. The CPC has been acting as a magnetic force for an equitable and balanced social revolution in China. It has actually transformed poverty into community development which is commendable. According to Chinese official data (2021-2022), the CPC has over 95.1m members and nearly 4.9m primary-level organizations. It has 27.45m female members, representing 28.8% of the total strength. There are 7.135m members from minority ethnic groups, accounting for 7.5% of the total, and

around 52%, roughly 49.51m, of the membership has obtained a college degree or above. So, despite Western propaganda about the CPC so-called authoritarian rule structure it has complete “transparency”, “accountability”, “openness” and “separation of power” because it has its own integrated, productive, participatory and functional “democratic model” of delivery and sharing & caring having humanistic values. It also shows rich “ethnic diversity” and multidimensional multiculturalism in China and its national politics. Moreover, it shows that 134,000 of the current members devoted themselves to the party before October 1949, when the People’s Republic of China was founded. As of 5 June 2021, the number of applicants for CPC membership had reached 20m which reaffirms nation-wide popularity of the CPC which has actually maintained an irrevocable trust level with the people. By 2020, China eliminated absolute poverty. Its global efforts for poverty eradication remained 70%. Moreover, China has announced it will achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. Basic medical insurance was extended to 1.36b people in China till April 2020. Basic old age insurance extended to more than one billion Chinese people. It shows the CPC’s holistic and human centric philosophies and policies. In terms of infrastructure development, the CPC introduced the concept of integrated mechanism to achieve world-class means of communications in the country. During 2020, China road network totalled 5.2m KM.99.4% of administrative villages/counties had bus service. Rail network extended 146,000 KM in which 38,000 KM had speed rail.

Courtesy Pakistan Observer

## The oath politics

— By Dr Qaisar Rashid

On October 4, former Prime Minister Imran Khan led his followers to swear, in an oath-taking ceremony in Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's former Governor Shah Farman read out the oath and the attendees repeated the words: "We will uphold the constitution and protect it. We will consider the party's movement for Haqeeqi Azadi (real independence) as jihad (holy war), and we will render all kinds of sacrifices for the cause."

The apparent objective of the oath was to make the party workers bound to join in the Haqeeqi Azadi March on Islamabad, whenever the chairman Pakistan Tehreke Insaf (PTI) would give a call. That is, the oath taking was a preparatory step to make the march successful. The hidden objective of the oath, however, was to reassure the Chairman PTI that he would seek the shored up political support on the ground. The scenario was interesting because, in the past, Peshawar had not disappointed the PTI. It was like overkill on an issue. For instance, on May 25, it was Lahore (and not Peshawar) that failed to meet the expectations of the PTI. In Punjab, in the PTI ranks, there is no leader of a high stature that could be instrumental in stirring Lahore into marching on Islamabad. It is an uphill task. Perhaps, the Lahorites have also measured well the length of the GT Road well, besides the time and the effort that would be consumed.

In Lahore, Mian Mahmood ur Rash-

eed, Mian Mohammad Aslam Iqbal, Shafqat Mehmood, Andleeb Abbas, and Dr Yasmin Rashid are all minions politically. Individually, they may be popular in their respective constituencies, but not out of those electoral confines. Hitherto, they have never mobilized the masses to lead Lahore on their own. They have kept hiding behind the excuse of police highhandedness which they declare was sufficient to sabotage the march. They remained handicapped to the popularity of the PTI Chairman, but then Khan never led a long march on his own from Lahore. In 2014, he had the support of intelligence agencies and Allama Tahir-ul Qadri's party. This time, however, the PTI might be thinking that Peshawar would come out to support the march under the local political leaders, whereas the PTI Chairman would take the party followers from Lahore along. Generally, the loss of faith may be the major factor necessitating the oath-taking ceremony for workers and leaders alike. The PTI chairman apprehends that he might not garner sufficient desirable support from the PTI's hub, Peshawar, in trying times. Peshawar might be a beginning; the turn of Lahore could be next— to reassure the PTI Chairman of wholehearted participation. The PTI is generally known for introducing innovations to politics. Band Baja was one, the oath politics is now another. The use of loud musical instruments accompanied by rousing songs-cum-slogans has

filled the streets with the effulgent youth glowing with the prospects of Azadi (freedom). The famous Islamic touch adds spice to the political flavor. The oath-taking by raising hands showcased a canny similarity with that of Nazi Germans who followed the path laid by their leader, Adolf Hitler. It was not that Hitler could convince the German followers of his argument; it was that Hitler needed unchallenged unadulterated obedience from his followers. That is, the followers had to surrender their freedom of thought to the will of Hitler.

This was a spell of sheer subjugation which eventually wrecked not only Germany itself but also the rest of Western Europe. Hitler is still a recipient of invective and slurs from the Europeans. A stream of expletives still haunts the Germans. Lying in the consequence is a lesson to learn for the PTI. Unquestioned subordination destroyed both Germany and Europe. History refuses to support the subjugation act. History replaced subjugation with democracy in Germany to let the Germans think with open minds and question the intent of a leader. Apparently, the PTI is launching a real freedom march but after rendering the minds of its followers closed to debate and dissent. The PTI demands an unflinching loyalty from its supporters to overturn the regime that has ensclosed itself secure— both constitutionally and legally— in Islamabad.

Courtesy Pakistan Today

## Letters to the Editor

## Broader minds

Intolerance, in its true nature, is an unwillingness to accept another's beliefs, opinions or behaviour if they differ from one's own. The rise in intolerance is nibbling away at the very fabric of Pakistan. Intolerance towards cultural, religious and ethnic minorities is increasingly common.

The malaise of intolerance cannot be eradicated through force alone.

instead, a collaborative mechanism must be developed that takes a deeper look into the underlying causes that lead to an intolerant mindset.

Many believe that intolerance is a result of lack of education, while others point to the quality of an education as the root cause. I think both arguments are sound. A good education encourages one to be self-critical and not to immediate-

ly dismiss the opinions of others if they conflict with one's own. Thus, to thoroughly uproot intolerance from society one must eliminate the intolerant mindset, which is only possible through inculcating logical and rational thinking and broad-mindedness amongst the young people as early as possible.

– Usama Mughal  
Kandhkot



## President urges for adaptation of best practices aimed at resilience building of nation

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has stressed that the observance of ‘National Resilience Day’ reminded them of the need to adopt best practices, implement desired policy actions and strategies aimed at resilience building of the nation.

“In view of our vulnerabilities, I would urge all related federal and provincial stakeholders to create synergies in action to ensure disaster risk reduction, and preparedness, besides mounting swift and prompt response mechanisms,” the president said in a message on the occasion of “National Resilience Day” being observed on Saturday. The president said the policy actions in Pakistan should address

key sectors including resilient and safe development of infrastructure, enhance “Disaster Preparedness” along with other areas, such as poverty alleviation, safer land use planning, building codes implementation, water resources management, sound agriculture practices, enhance forestation across Pakistan including coastal areas.

Most importantly, he said that they must take care of vulnerable segments of their society including women, children, elderly people and people with disabilities in all our interventions. “The 8th day of every October is an occasion to express our solidarity and sympathy with all those families who suffered from

natural calamities of unprecedented magnitude,” he added.

The president also urged the international community to provide all possible support to Pakistan to tackle the negative impacts of climate change phenomenon.

He said the observance of the day reminded them the devastating earthquake of 2005 that wreaked havoc in Azad Jammu & Kashmir, parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and Islamabad Capital Territory. “We commemorate this occasion with a mission and commitment to advance national preparedness by improving and increasing the nation’s resilience to disasters,” he added. (APP)

## Govt to take action as per forensic report findings in audios-leaked saga: Rana Sana Ullah

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah Khan on Friday said the government would take decision to pursue any legal action after the forensic report and its relevant findings of the slew of audios leaked were submitted before the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Talking to a private news channel, he said the government would investigate the leaked audios to present the truth before the nation. “The audio shows that Imran Khan was trying to buy MNAs of the then allied parties but not succeeded in his bid to orchestrate the horse trading in the assembly,” said

the Interior minister. Meanwhile, the minister held Imran’s cipher affair as a “fraud and he (Imran) is spreading chaos in the country by planning to ‘invade’ capital.

“Rana Sana Ullah alluded that the third audio leak of Imran was the final nail in the coffin for the latter’s politics as there was nothing left for the PTI chairman to defend himself. In addition, the minister asserted that the leaked audios had exposed Imran’s dual face, which had been plotting conspiracy against the country while blaming his adversaries for doing the same thing. (APP)

## Muhammad Khan Sohu appointed as acting CEO

HYDERABAD: The Ministry of Energy, Power Division, has appointed Muhammad Khan Sohu as an acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO). According to a notification which was issued after approval of the Federal Cabinet on Friday, Sohu would replace the in-

cumbent acting CEO Riaz Ahmed Pathan. Sohu is currently posted as a Chief Engineer at Sukkur Electric Power Company (SEPCO). “Sohu is assigned to look after the work of CEO HESCO as a stopgap arrangement purely on temporary basis with immediate effect till appointment of a regular CEO.” (APP)

## Pakistan ‘very satisfied’ with ‘wide support’ in UNGA to resolution on flood havoc: Munir Akram

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan’s Ambassador to the United Nations Munir Akram Friday expressed satisfaction over the adoption by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) of the resolution expressing solidarity with the flood-hit Pakistani government and people, saying it reflected the “wide support” the country enjoys in the international community. The resolution was sponsored by 159 countries out of the 193 members of the Assembly.

In an interview with APP after the adoption of the resolution, Ambassador Akram said he was “very satisfied” at its adoption by consensus in the aftermath of the disaster. Pakistan, he said, had responded

heroically to the disaster. “We are working with the international community in order to overcome this disaster in a way that will be more resilient and that that we will mitigate the impact from future such disasters,” the envoy said.

“So, these are objectives that are shared by the international community.” “What transpired today in the Assembly also shows the wide respect and support for Pakistan, and I think that is the most important thing,”

Ambassador Akram said, noting the decision to hold the pledging conference to raise funds for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the devastated areas. (APP)

## Bilawal thanks Germany for 60m euros aid for flood victims

BERLIN: Minister for Foreign Affairs Bilawal Bhutto Zardari while thanking the German government for its assistance for flood affectees in Pakistan on Friday said the total amount of aid from Germany had reached 60 million Euros. Talking to media, he said he held a positive meeting with the German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock and they discussed matters related to cli-

mate change, floods in Pakistan and green energy. Later, the foreign minister visited the Pakistani embassy in Berlin and inaugurated the digital tourism center. He appreciated the step to promote the heritage and tourist spots of Pakistan through augmented and virtual reality.

The chief executive officer of Digital Munich Arslan Minhas briefed the minister about the project. (APP)

## All set in AJK to celebrate Eid Milad un Nabi (PBUH) with full religious zeal and fervor

MIRPUR: Like rest of the entire Islamic world, all is set in this liberated part of the Himalayan State of Jammu & Kashmir - Azad Jammu & Kashmir, to celebrate Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH), the birth day of the last Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) on Sunday Oct 9 with full religious enthusiasm, respect and honour. All arrangements have been completed to celebrate the sacred day with great traditional religious enthusiasm and devotion. The Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) processions will be taken out and ‘Ma-haafil-e-Milad’ will be hosted in all small and major towns and cities across Azad Jammu Kashmir to celebrate the sanctified day and

an icon of exceptional religious significance in over 1400 years old Islamic history. Major ceremonies, to be followed by the Eid Milad un Nabi (S.A.W) processions, to celebrate the sacred day will be held at the capital city of Muzaffarabad as well as in Mirpur, Kotli, Bagh, Rawalakot, Palandri, Bhimber and Neelam valley, Haveili and Hattian districts besides at all tehsil headquarters, towns and villages throughout the liberated territory. Religious scholars including Ulema and other speakers will pay glorious tributes to the last prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) for his great and remarkable services for giving. (APP)

## Eight found murdered near Narang Mandi

SHEIKHUPURA: Eight people were found murdered in various parts of Hachar village near Narang Mandi on Saturday. According to DPO Faisal Mukhtar Sheikh, the victims were sleeping in streets and outhouses at night when they were targeted. However, the police have arrested a suspect with a sharp edged weapon. The suspect was stated to be mentally ill. Two of the victims were identified as Dilawar (22) son of Salamat and Asad (24) son of Akhtar belong to Hachar village while the identification of other victims was going on till the filing of this report. It is premature to say that the incident was the outcome of terrorism or an enmity, the DPO said. Police were collecting evidences with the help of CCTV cameras from various locations of the village. The bodies were shifted to hospital for autopsy. A case has been registered in this regard. (APP)

## Power shutdown notice

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) has issued power shutdown schedule for Monday due to necessary repair, maintenance and expansion of electricity lines. According to the schedule, power supply from all feeders originating from 132-KV Gohar Textile grid station and Sadaqat Textile grid station, VAC-1, Garment City, Chawla Enterprises, Sumaira Fabrics, Tricon Beverage, Sadaqat Textile, Gohar Textile, Global Spinning, Bahmaniwala, Ahmad Jamal and Shahkot Road feeders linked with 132-KV VAC grid station will remain suspended from 9 a. m. to 2 p.m. while Chenab Nagar, new Factory Area, new Ahmad Nagar and Muslim Colony feeders connected with 132-KV Chenab Nagar grid station will observe shutdown from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Monday (October 10, 2022). (APP)

## Court acquits 4 accused in journalist murder case

LAHORE: A sessions court on Friday acquitted four accused, involved in killing of Journalist Husnain Shah, after retraction of the complainant and witnesses. Additional District and Sessions Judge Yasin Mohal conducted the case proceedings, wherein complainant Mehwish, wife of deceased Journalist Husnain Shah, appeared. The complainant submitted that the police had arrested four accused in connection with the case but they did not have any link with the matter. She submitted that the eye witnesses had also refused to identify the accused. (APP)

## All main rivers continue to flow normal: FFC

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Flood Commission (FFC) has said that all major rivers Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej continue to flow normal as the monsoon season has already ended with no flood generating rains at present. According to daily FFC report on Friday, the combined live storage of country’s major reservoirs (Tarbela, Chashma & Mangla) is 9.066 MAF (67.35% of 13.461 MAF). According to Flood Forecasting Division (FFD), Lahore, yesterday’s trough of Westerly Wave continues to prevail over Northeastern Afghanistan. For the ensuing 24 hours. (APP)

## Ombudsman office mediates to retrieve over 49 kanal state lands worth 28.32mn

LAHORE: As a result of the prompt actions taken by the concerned administration on the orders of the Office of the Ombudsman Punjab, more than 49 kanals of government lands, totalling Rs.28.32 million, have been retrieved from illegal occupants in different districts. In a statement issued on Saturday, the spokesman said that the Pakpattan administration has recovered 40.5 kanals of government land, having a market value of 61 lakh 54 thousand rupees, from illegal dwellers. The action has been taken on orders of Ombudsman Punjab Azam Suleman Khan on a public complaint. The Pakpattan administration has also recovered six kanal of government

land valuing Rs.5 million from squatters, the spokesman noted. The ombudsman’s office interceded in the public interest to remove encroachments on Railway Station Chowk, Kutchery Road in Mianwali. The market value of retrieved government land is one crore, 52 lakh and 18600 rupees, the spokesman reported. Alongside this, 1.25 kanal land of 14.25 lakh rupees in the Sarai Alamgir area of Gujrat and two kanal state land in Khanewal district, with a market value of 5,32,250 rupees, have been recovered by the administration after the involvement of the ombudsman’s office on public complaints, the spokesman concluded. (APP)

## ANF recovers over 79 kg narcotics; arrests six

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting raids in different areas of the country managed to recover over 79 kg narcotics and arrested six drug smugglers. According to an ANF spokesman, ANF Rawalpindi conducted a raid near Islamabad Motorway Toll Plaza and recovered 4800 grams opium and over 13 kg charras from secret cavities of a car and rounded up two accused. In another raid, ANF while conducting a raid on Quetta Saria

road seized 17 kg charras from the possession of a drug smuggler. ANF and FC in a joint operation seized over 31 kg charras and netted two accused.

He informed that the force in a raid recovered over 13 kg charras from the possession of a drug pusher. Separate cases have been registered against the accused, he said and informed that accomplices of the accused would also be sent behind the bars. (APP)

## Road safety awareness seminar for seminary students held

MUZAFFARGARH: Traffic Education unit has started awareness campaign about traffic rules among seminaries students along with educational institutions across the district. The traffic education unit provided awareness to the teachers and students at Madrassa Ameer Hamza about road safety and other traffic laws through pamphlets and lectures during the seminar held

on Saturday. Speaking on this occasion, DSP Traffic Muzaffargarh, Ejaz Jhakar said that traffic education was also necessary along with religious and worldly education. Awareness about traffic rules was actually a part of Haqooq-ul-Ibad (duties towards mankind) because saving a person’s life is like saving the life of the whole humanity, he added. (APP)

## Mehfil e Milad (PBUH) held in educational institution

MIRPUR: In connection with Eid Milad un Nabi (PBUH) celebrations, a Mehfil e Milad was held at a local school here on Friday. The school’s principal, teachers and other participants paid glorious tributes to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and threw light on the seerat of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The teachers said that the sacred event of Mehfil e Milad un Nabi (PBUH) always stands as beautiful and best means of reiterating and promoting the love with the Prophet

(PBUH). The ceremony concluded with recitation of Durood and Salam besides special prayers for upholding of supreme religion of islam and the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PUBUH). Participants also prayed for the sovereignty, progress and prosperity and the unity of Muslim ummah, freedom of all the illegally occupied Muslim homelands including Indian occupied Jammu Kashmir and Palestine from the clutches of the usurpers. (APP)

## CPWB rescue team assaulted by beggars

LAHORE: The rescue team of Child Protection and Welfare Bureau (CPWB) was assaulted by the beggars mafia for taking beggars children into protective custody, here on Friday. The begging gang brutally tortured the staff of the bureau including lady officer deputed at Mohni Road on routine child beggars rescue operation. CPWB Chairperson Sarah Ahmad strongly condemned the incident and said that

legal action should be taken against perpetrators. She informed that first information report (FIR) was also being lodged against the accused on behalf of the injured rescue team. The chairperson said that rescue operations were underway in the limits of all district offices of CPWB to end child beggary, adding that people involved directly or indirectly in this racket would be dealt with iron hands. (APP)

## GB govt to provide free meals to schoolchildren

ISLAMABAD: Chief Secretary Gilgit-Baltistan Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani Friday said the Gilgit-Baltistan government rolled out a “School Meals” program with the help of private sector which would be extended soon to the whole region. The programme was the need of the hour as most of the people in the country belonged to middle class and it was difficult for them to meet both ends. Therefore, he said the GB government had started this program which would help them to ease their financial burden, a press released

said. He said the school feeding programme had been extended to the special education schools which would ensure balance diet to the students with disabilities and improve their health. Highlighting the features of the programme, he said the meal programme was designed to meet the nutritional needs of school going children and enabling them to be healthy enough to participate in daily activities. Providing food to schoolchildren would also incentivize parents to send their children to schools, he added. (APP)

## Germany pledges additional 10m euros for flood victims

BERLIN: Germany on Friday pledged additional ten million Euros aid for emergency care and services for flood victims of Pakistan especially for children. German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock announced the financial assistance at a joint press conference along with her Pakistani counterpart Bilawal

Bhutto Zardari here. Expressing sympathy with the families suffering due to the devastating floods, she said, “Pakistan is the most affected country by climate change.” The German Foreign Minister said the current devastation in Pakistan was a reminder to the world about the dramatic. (APP)



## Japanese Ambassador Wada Mitsuhiro calls on Ishaq Dar

ISLAMABAD: Japan’s Ambassador to Pakistan Wada Mitsuhiro on Friday called on the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, here, and assured his country’s full cooperation for improving the bilateral trade and economic relations. During the meeting, Ishaq Dar apprised the ambassador on the devastation caused by the recent floods in Pakistan and its impact on the

country’s economy, a Finance Ministry press release said. The minister, highlighting the cordial relations between Pakistan and Japan, said both countries enjoy friendly relations which were getting stronger with each passing day. “Japan is one of the major development partners of Pakistan and I firmly believe that the cooperation will further strengthen in multiple fields for the mutual benefit of both

the countries,” he added. The minister, also giving a brief overview of the economic challenges and priorities of the incumbent government and, said the government believed in enhancing the bilateral economic and trade relations between both countries. Meanwhile, the Japanese ambassador extended felicitations to the finance minister on assuming the charge of the Finance Ministry. (APP)

## LHC directs authorities to impose smog emergency in Punjab

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) ordered the Punjab government on Friday to impose a smog emergency and call for a meeting to take precautionary measures before extreme cold weather takes hold. Dense smog has engulfed Lahore once again as October began. The air quality level shot to an alarming level. The rising levels of air pollution in the city have been declared “hazardous” for human health. Justice Shahid Jamil heard the petition of Farooq, a resident of Lahore. The petitioner maintained that the government was not taking any measures to control smog and it soars health issues. The court should order the relevant authorities

to take action in order to control and eradicate smog, it maintained. Cars and industries that adds to the smog should be banned, he remarked. The court remarked that the measures to eradicate smog should be finalized and a team should immediately be constituted to take action against those responsible. The court further said that vehicles should be provided to the teams. If this does not happen, the vehicles of the chief secretary’s office will be handed over to them. The court ordered the authorities to declare a smog emergency in the province and directed them to purchase air quality sensors within two weeks. (APP)

## President upholds dismissal from service, penalty of two Commissionerate Afghan Refugees officials

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has upheld the penalty of “dismissal from service” and a fine of Rs 500,000 each to the Chief Finance Officer (CFO) and Project Director (PD) of the Commissionerate Afghan Refugees, Peshawar after the charges of committing sexual harassment against two female colleagues were proved against them. While rejecting the representation of the two accused officials against the decision of the Federal Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace (FOSPAH), the president said that such individuals not only tarnished the image of their agency but their country as well. In his decision, the president wrote that such incidents were among the major reasons for women feeling reluctant to work as their public space

was limited and they were not safe as such individuals harassed them in the workplace, besides using their authority for coercion, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release on Saturday. He further said that it was the duty of the state to stamp down such incidents while also keeping in mind that only a few of the cases of sexual harassment were reported. He also rejected the stance of the accused officials that the female employees had levelled the charges of sexual harassment against them due to previous enmity, grudge and animosity, saying that it was not convincing to believe that the female complainants could have filed such complaints against their male colleagues after putting their dignity and reputation at risk. (APP)

## MWL Secretary General seeks Ulema’s help to counter extremism, terrorism

ISLAMABAD: Muslim World League (MWL) Secretary General Dr Mohammad bin Abdul Karim Al-Issa has sought Ulema’s help to cope with extremism as it is portraying a negative image of Muslims across the world. Addressing a grand reception, hosted in his honor by Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood here on Friday night, he said it was the responsibility of the religious scholars to disseminate the true teachings of Islam among the people in a bid to bring social reforms. The MWL secretary general said there were certain elements fueling extremism in the Muslim societies to promote terrorist activities due to which the Muslim communities around the globe were facing various issues. He stressed the need to enlighten the Muslim youth with the correct education of Islam and

its proper understanding, saying that the Seerat-un-Nabi (Peace Be Upon Him) was one of best sources to approach it. He said the youth should be educated on tolerance, love and forgiveness as these were the Sunnah of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). He said forgiveness was one of the great moral values of Islam which could help create a spirit of brotherhood in the society. Quoting a verse from the Holy Quran, Al-Issa said, “We should invite the people towards the way of Allah Almighty and show people the right path.” The MWL, in collaboration with the Ulema of Pakistan, would make efforts to spread the real message of Islam throughout the world, he added. Al-Issa said the MWL was making all out efforts to help the flood victims in Pakistan and it would further provide support for their rehabilitation. (APP)

## Coal Mine Power Project donates Rs 2.5 mln for flood victims

ISLAMABAD: Thar Block-1 Integrated Coal Mine Power Project has donated Rs 2.5 million through Saylani Welfare Trust for flood relief efforts in Sindh. The project has also initiated assistance for flood affectees Thar Block-1 initiate assistance for flood hit areas. In the immediate aftermath of the disaster, Thar Block-1 Integrated Coal Mine Power Project initiated the assistance to provide solace to the victims affected by the devastating floods triggered by heavy monsoon rains in the country. Recently, Thar Coal Block-1 Power Generation Company (Pvt.) Ltd. , and Sino Sindh Resources (Pvt.) Ltd., Chairman Meng Donghai, SSRL CEO Li Jigen provided tents, food items, water and selected medical supplies etc. to support

flood effected people through Mithi Government. During their recent visit to the Project, both the Mayor of Mithi, Sindh and the President of Saylani Welfare Trust expressed their gratitude for the Project’s positive social responsibility and generous assistance in helping the needy residents in the region, and their recognition and appreciation for the timely assistance when emergencies occurred. In addition, while fighting against the floods, the company excavated 2,300 meters of flood drains for the resident villages and built three reinforced dams to avoid the local villagers from being devastated by heavy rain, helping the affected people to quickly resume production and life and rebuild their homes. (APP)

## Asiya Azeem takes oath as MNA

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf here on Friday administered oath to the newly elected member of the House Asiya Azeem Chaudhary. After taking the oath, the elected member signed the roll. She has become Member of National Assembly (MNA) on women reserved seat as nominee of the Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI). She has been qualified as MNA against a women reserved seat as nominee of PTI after acceptance of resignations by the speaker of two PTI female members and nine male members. Asiya Azeem joined Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf during 2018 and was subsequently designated as the Senior Vice President of the Islamabad region. (APP)

## Hangul Day Observed at NUML

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Republic of Korea Suh-Sangpyo on Friday said that Korean government was enhancing visa opportunities for Pakistani nationals which would further extend the bilateral relations. He stated this during his visit to the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) to attend the Hangul Day (Korean alphabet Day) as chief guest. The event was jointly organized by the King Sejong Institute Islamabad and Korean language department of NUML. Director General NUML Brig Syed Nadir Ali, Dean Languages Prof. Jamil Asghar Jami, Directors, Head of Department Korean Language and a large number of students also attended the ceremony. The ambassador said that NUML is playing pivotal role in promoting Korean language in Pakistan and Korean Embassy will further enhance the interactions with NUML in future. He paid rich tribute to King Sejong who introduced Korean alphabets which led Korea to become a developed state. (APP)

## Collective efforts needed to control dengue virus

SARGODHA: Chief Executive Officer Health Authority Dr Khaliqdad Niswana said on Saturday that collective efforts were needed to control dengue virus. Talking to APP, he said the health department had adopted comprehensive measures to tackle the dengue virus. He said that total 39 cases of dengue virus had been reported in Sargodha district since January 01, 2022 to up till now while 37 probable cases and 12,693 suspected cases of dengue virus were reported. Dr Khaliqdad said that 650 dengue surveillance teams including 500 indoor and 150 outdoor were working in the district. As many as 108 FIRs were got registered over the presence of dengue larvae at various localities of the city. He urged the citizens to follow the precautionary measures to ward off dengue fever. (APP)

## Five shops sealed during anti-encroachment operation

MULTAN: District administration has sealed five shops and demolished various illegal constructions during an operation launched against encroachment here on Saturday. In line with special directives of the Deputy Commissioner(DC) Muhammad Tahir Wattoo, the anti-encroachment squad led by Superintendent Muhammad Javed Anwar launched a crackdown at Iron Market. The team demolished various illegal constructions and also sealed five shops during the operation. The encroachment team used heavy machinery in the operation and also took the material into custody. (APP)

## Resonance of Imran’s audio leak on horse trading to increase every day: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Friday said the third audio leak of PTI Chairman was really an affront for Imran Khan and its resonance would enhance with every day. Imran Khan did play a serious game with national interests and security with his devilish tricks to achieve ulterior motives, she said while addressing a press conference. Lambasting the PTI chairman, she said that buying the conscience of elected members of the parliament used to be a ‘shirk’ for Imran but now it was a ‘Sawab’ after Imran’s audio leak on horse trading. Imran Khan was the leader of ‘Jail Bharo’ movement and not ‘Jail Bharo Movement’, she said while referring to his claim of Jail Bharo movement. “A slave to watches, rings, a few pieces of land, diamonds and

having lust for power, had no right to take an oath of true freedom from the people”, she opined. She said how ironic it was that a person who violated the constitutional oath of the office of the Prime Minister, was taking an pledge (oath) from the people. Imran Khan after coming to power made the country an economic subservient, destroyed the national economy and now he had agenda apparently against the nuclear Pakistan, she remarked. She said that PTI chairman Imran Khan was lying on daily basis and trying to befool the people. The minister opined that Imran Khan thought that by lies on regular basis, would make people believe at a later stage. She said that the government team was now feeling exhausted in countering the fallacies of Imran, but he was never seemed tired.(APP)

## ECP summons Punjab chief secretary on Oct 28 to explain delay in LG polls

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday summoned Punjab government officials on Oct 18 to explain delay in holding local government elections in Punjab. Taking notice of the repeated amendments in LG laws and

unjustified delays by provincial government, the commission has directed Punjab Chief Secretary and Secretary Local Government to appear before the commission’s bench so that the LG polls could be held in the province as soon as possible. (APP)

## Governor Punjab dispatches 20 truck-loads of relief goods for flood victims

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman on Friday sent truck-loads containing 20,000 ration packs for the flood victims to the flood-hit areas of the province. The relief goods was arranged by the All Pakistan Textile Manufacturers Association (APTMA). Speaking at a press conference at the Governor’s House, he said the top priority of the Federal government is rehabilitation of the flood victims, adding that the federal government is actively involved in relief activities in flood affected areas and coordinated efforts are being made in this

regard. Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said Punjab province has also share in the relief goods being distributed by the federal government to the flood victims. He said it is a matter of pride that the government as well as institutions, district administrations and welfare organizations have come together to help the flood victims. Muhammad Balighur Rehman said businessmen have always actively participated in public welfare works in every difficult hour and today, twenty truck-loads of relief goods were sent from Governor House Lahore.(APP)

## KP govt introduces internship program for female IT master degree holders

ABBOTTABAD: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Technology Board in collaboration with World Bank and Code for Pakistan has brought a special internship program for women of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Internees of Women Civic Digital Internship Programme 2022-23 would get a stipend of 30000 rupees per month, free internet facility and travel allowance for visits. The internship duration would be six months where the female would be provided capacity-building training to compete in the global ICT market. Under this program women from

small towns can make their careers in the field of information technology from their homes. Through this program, women will not only get an opportunity to learn digital skills but also get an opportunity to work as technologists and on government projects. In this regard KP government has also issued guidelines, applicants must be a citizen of KP including newly merged districts, graduates during the last three years are eligible to apply while fresh can also apply by submitting a course completion certificate. (APP)

## CJP convenes JCP meeting to consider permanent appointment of LHC additional judges

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial has convened the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) meeting on October 12, to consider permanent appointment of 13 additional judges to the Lahore High Court (LHC). The names of judges who would be considered for the permanent appointment include Justice Sohail Nasir, Justice Shakeel Ahmed, Justice Safdar Saleem Shahid, Justice Ahmed Nadeem Arshad, Jus-

tice Tariq Nadeem, Justice Amjad Rafique, Justice Abid Hussain Chatha, Justice Anwar Hussain, Justice Ali Zia Bajwa, Justice Sultan Tanveer Ahmed, Justice Raza Qureshi, Justice Shaan Gul and Justice Raheel Kamran. The appointment of 13 additional judges in the Lahore High Court was recommended on April 22 last year. In April this year, the tenure of Additional Judges was further extended by six months. (APP)

## 17th anniversary of 8th October devastating earthquake observed in Balakot

BALAKOT: People of Balakot on Saturday observed a one-minute silence at 8:52 am on the 17 anniversary of the devastating earthquake of 2005 to pay homage to the martyred. In Mansehra High School floral wreaths were also laid on the mass graves of 63 children those have lost their lives during the earthquake where Assistant Commissioner Balakot Bisharat Shah and a large number of civil society members participated. In Tehsil Balakot of district Mansehra still, 70 schools have not been constructed and the allotment of plots in New Balakot City could not be completed yet. Later, the survivors of the earthquake, members of the civil society, students and other organizations

offered Fatiha at the government boy’s high school graveyard for the people who have lost their lives in the earthquake. Like all previous years, the traders’ associations of Balakot also observed complete shutter down in the city and adjoining areas and staged a protest by blocking Mansehra Naran Jalkhad (MNJ) road repeating their demands for the reconstruction of destroyed buildings of schools, colleges, hospitals and water supply schemes in the area. 17 years ago on 8th October 2005 at 08:52 am, some 80000 people died and houses were destroyed when an earthquake of 7.6 magnitudes hit Azad Kashmir and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. (APP)



## Projects worth billions approved by ECNEC in energy, education, communication sectors

ISLAMABAD: The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) here on Friday approved projects worth billions of rupees relating to energy, education, communication, food security and agriculture sectors of the country.

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the ECNEC meeting, according to press statement issued by the finance ministry here. Among others, the meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal; Federal Minister for Commerce,



Syed Naveed Qamar; Finance Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Taimur Saleem Khan Jhagra; Finance Minister Punjab, Mohammad Mohsin Leghari; Senator Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, Federal Secretaries and other federal and provincial senior officers. According to the press statement, ECNEC approved a 500 KV Sialkot Substation proj-

ect of Ministry of Energy (Power Division) funded by French Development agency (AFD) at a total estimated cost of Rs. 31,820.66 million. The amount includes foreign exchange component (FEC) of Rs. 17,202.32 million subject to review of cost in next three months according to the exchange rate of dollar. The main object of the project is construction of 500 KV substation at Sialkot with associated transmission lines to meet the additional load demand and voltage profile improvement of areas which fall under jurisdiction of Gujranwala Electric Power supply Company (GEPCO). (Agencies)

## Brazil's vehicle output climbs 19.3 pct in September

SAO PAULO: Brazil's vehicle production rose 19.3 percent in September compared to the same month last year, the National Association of Automotive Vehicle Manufacturers (Anfavea) said Friday. Car, truck and bus makers produced 207,762 units in the Latin America's leading economy and consumer market during the month compared to 174,087 units in September 2021, according to the report. From January through September of this year,

the South American country manufactured 1.75 million units, 6.3 percent more than that in the first nine months of 2021, though production in September was down 12.7 percent compared to August. In September, vehicle exports rose 20.7 percent year on year, with 28,544 units sold abroad compared to 23,639 units in the same month last year. Foreign sales through September saw a 31.2 percent rise compared to the same period in 2021. (APP)

## Khalid Tawab elected unopposed Chairman of PISMA

KARACHI: Senior business leader S.Khalid Tawab has been elected unopposed as Chairman Pakistan Iron and Steel Merchants Association for 2022-23. He is also Chairman of M/s. F. Rabbi Steel (Pvt.) Limited, M/s. Tawab Steel (Pvt.) Limited, M/s. Qadria Board Mills (Pvt.) Limited and M/s. Sharif &

Co., (Pvt.) Limited. Besides, being the Honorary Consul General of Republic of Mozambique since 1989. He has served Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry as senior vice president. (APP)

## PIA to operate weekly six flights for turkiye from Nov 14: Saad

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique on Friday announced that Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) would start operating six flights a week for Istanbul under the PIA-Turkish Airlines Code Share agreement, extending con-

nectivity to over 28 points in Europe, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The PIA-Istanbul flights operation is being started on the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Turkiye, the minister said in a brief

press statement here. Initially, he said, four Boeing-777 flights would be operating from Islamabad and two from Lahore to Turkiye. While in second-phase, the Istanbul-bound flights would commence from Karachi, he added. (Agencies)

## SBP stops operations of TAGIL as EMI

KARACHI: State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has revoked in-principle the approval and pilot operations granted to M/s. TAG Innovation (Pvt.) Limited to operate as an Electronic Money Institution with immediate effect as per the applicable laws. SBP has taken this decision to protect the interest of public at large after identifying violation of its reg-

ulatory requirements and other concerns during the pilot operations of the company, said SBP statement on Friday.

Six EMIs are entities that offer innovative, user-friendly and cost effective low value digital payment instruments like wallets, prepaid cards, and contactless payment instruments. M/s TAG has been ad-

vised to close all customers' wallets and remove their application from Google's Play Store and Apple's App Store and any other platform with immediate effect.

Earlier, SBP through its Press Release dated August 04, 2022 had informed the public about the regulatory action taken against M/s TAG. (Agencies)

## China's logistics sector rebounds as demand recovers

BEIJING: China's logistics sector regained growth momentum in September as market demand recovered and business operations improved, industry data showed. The index tracking the country's logistics market performance stood at 50.6 percent last month, up 4.3 percentage points from August, re-

versing a two-month losing streak, according to the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing (CFLP). A reading above 50 indicates expansion, while a reading below reflects contraction. Most sub-indexes edged up in September.

The sub-index for new orders came in at 50.1 percent, up 3.2 percentage

points from August, indicating the increase in orders and the recovery of demand in the logistics market. In September, the sub-index for employees increased by 1.4 percentage points to near 50 percent, indicating that the employment situation in the sector was stable, according to the CFLP. (APP)

## Inflation expectations among consumers in euro area remain unchanged: ECB

FRANKFURT: Consumers in the euro area expect that inflation will remain unchanged for the next 12 months, according to a survey released by the European Central Bank (ECB) on Friday. The median expectation for the three years ahead also remains unchanged, the survey said, but consumers expect slight economic growth, as well as increases in nominal income

and spending. The central bank's consumer expectations survey, a monthly survey of around 14,000 adults from six euro area countries, showed that inflation expectations in August for the next 12 months and three years ahead remained unchanged at 5.0 percent and 3.0 percent respectively. The ECB is targeting an inflation rate of 2 percent over the medium term.

Consumers estimate that their nominal income will grow by 1.0 percent over the next 12 months, up from 0.8 percent in July. However, they expect a faster increase in expenses, of 4.5 percent for the next 12 months, up from 4.2 percent in July. This is due to the increases anticipated by lower- and middle-income respondents. (APP)

## Tibet's annual GDP growth reaches 9.5 pct over 10 years

LHASA: The gross domestic product of southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region grew by an annual average of 9.5 percent from 2012 to 2021, 2.9 percentage points higher than the national av-

erage. In 2021, the region's GDP exceeded 200 billion yuan (about 28.17 billion U.S. dollars), according to a press conference held on Thursday by the regional development and reform commission. The

per capita GDP exceeded 56,800 yuan in 2021, realizing an average annual growth of 7.6 percent over the decade, 1.5 percentage points higher than the national average. (APP)

## Labour Rights Index calls for reforms as per ILO experts recommendations for improving labour working conditions in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan needs to bring in requisite reforms in its industrial relations laws for improving working conditions of its labour, especially women for meeting international standards of "Basic Access to Decent Work" and implement recommendations by the International Labour Organization's (ILO) experts in this regard, said a Labour Rights Index (LRI) 2022, released by Centre for Labour Research Pakistan here Saturday. The Labour Rights Index is one of the flagship products of the WageIndicator Foundation, a Dutch nonprofit organisation and the Centre for Labour Research (Pakistan) is its global labour law office in Pakistan based in Rawalpindi. The 7th October was marked as World Day for Decent Work so the index comprising 135 countries including

Pakistan was released late Friday which provided objective legal data on the labour market and ranked these countries by applying the "Basic Access to Decent Work" criteria. It also proposes certain amendments in laws of different countries to meet standards of decent working conditions, said a news release of Centre for Labour Research here. The index evaluates countries along ten indicators -fair wages, decent work hours, employment security, family responsibilities, maternity at work, safe work, social security, fair treatment, child and forced labour, and trade unions. These indicators (and 46 components) are derived from the Decent Work Agenda of the United Nations. Based on their scores, countries are graded on a six-point scale ranging from a "Total Lack of

Decent Work" to "Decent Work". The Labour Rights Index (LRI) 2022 has found legal rights relating to freedom of association, family responsibility, and employment security to be the most violated. Meanwhile, legal rights relating to child and forced labour, safe work, and decent working hours have been the most complied with. The legal data for Pakistan refers to the legislation applicable to Punjab while different rules may apply in other jurisdictions, necessitating a review of other sources. Following this approach, Pakistan's overall score is 51 out of 100. Pakistan is rated "Basic Access to Decent Work", the second lowest rating category. The overall score for Pakistan is lower than the regional average observed across South Asia (64). (APP)

## WTI crude futures settle sharply higher

NEW YORK: U.S. oil prices surged on Friday. The West Texas Intermediate (WTI) for November delivery added

4.19 U.S. dollars to settle at 92.64 dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. (Agencies)

## Gold falls on robust U.S. jobs report

CHICAGO: Gold futures on the COMEX division of the New York Mercantile Exchange fell Friday on robust U.S. September jobs report. The most active gold contract for December delivery fell 11.5 U.S. dollars, or 0.67 percent, to close at 1,709.3 dollars per ounce. Gold rose 2.2 percent for the week. U.S. Labor Department reported Friday that U.S. economy added 263,000 jobs in September. While the gain was lower than August's up-

wardly revised 315,000, it surpassed the 250,000 level economists had projected. The unemployment rate edged down to 3.5 percent from 3.7 percent in August. Strong U.S. jobs report shows the labor market is in better shape than the market might suggest, giving the Federal Reserve leeway to continue hiking interest rates, market analysts hold. Following the jobs report, U.S. Dollar index and Treasury yields climbed, dampening gold. (Agencies)

## China's central bank adds liquidity via reverse repos

BEIJING: China's central bank on Saturday conducted a total of 17 billion yuan (about 2.39 billion U.S. dollars) of reverse repos to maintain liquidity in the banking system. The interest rate for the seven-day reverse repos was set at 2 percent, according to the People's Bank of Chi-

na. The move aims to keep stable liquidity in the banking system, the central bank said. A reverse repo is a process in which the central bank purchases securities from commercial banks through bidding, with an agreement to sell them back in the future. (APP)



Commissioner Gold hockey tournament to be held in last week of Nov

MULTAN: Divisional administration has decided to conduct ‘Commissioner Gold hockey tournament’ at newly built hockey stadium in last week of November a step towards restoration of national game hockey. The event will also helpful in providing positive recreational opportunities to the residents of City of Saints. The teams from different departments and all provinces will

participate in Commissioner Gold Hockey Tournament. Commissioner Multan division Engineer Aamir Khattak expressed these views while presiding over maiden meeting regarding arrangements for hockey tournament. Commissioner Aamir Khattak ordered to give special representation to players of Multan division. It was our responsibility to provide op-

portunities to local talent. Commissioner directed sports department and district administration to make foolproof arrangements regarding the hockey event. Assistant Commissioners Khawaja Umair, Ayub Bukhari, Aamir Iftikhar, Divisional Sports Officer Rana Nadeem Anjum, DSO Farooq Latif and Hockey Association members were also present. (Agencies)

Swiatek into 10th semi-final of 2022, eyes 60th win

OSTRAVA: World number one Iga Swiatek reached her 10th semi-final of the season on Friday by defeating American qualifier Caty McNally in straight sets at the Ostrava WTA tournament. French and US Open champion Swiatek triumphed 6-4, 6-4 to take her 2022 record to 59 wins against just seven defeats. The 21-year-old Pole is just one victory away from tying Caroline Wozniacki, the last player to win 60 matches in a single season in 2017. “It was definitely physical -- at the beginning of the second set I could feel my energy level went down a little



bit,” said Swiatek, who fired 24 winners to McNally’s 18. “I’m pretty happy I got it back again and I could use my experience in my important moments, because Caty played really well.” Swiatek had

won the 2018 French Open girls’ doubles title with McNally, who is ranked at 151. “Tactically it was easier to prepare, because I know her game style. She’s playing differently to other players. But on the other hand, a lot of time has passed since we played last time. I knew she’d made progress and I had to be ready,” added the top seed. Swiatek will face either wild card Tereza Martincova of the Czech Republic or Russia’s Ekaterina Alexandrova on Saturday for a place in the final. (Agencies)

Big guns deliver in record-breaking opening to women’s Rugby World Cup

Auckland: England and France romped to big wins while hosts New Zealand survived a mighty scare on Saturday in front of a record crowd on the opening day of the women’s Rugby World Cup. Tournament hot favourites England crushed Fiji 84-19 at Eden Park in Auckland after fellow European powerhouses France outclassed South Africa 40-5. Then a world-record crowd for a women’s rugby match of 40,000 saw

the final match of a triple-header at Eden Park as holders New Zealand fought back from 17-0 down against Australia to prevail 41-17. Prolific try-scorer Portia Woodman scored a hat-trick for the hosts while Ruby Tui bagged a late double, playing their part on a high-octane opening day in which wingers scored 20 of the 34 tries. England extended their unbeaten run to 26 matches and scored their most points in a World Cup

game, but only after surviving early fireworks from the Fijians and taking a tight 24-14 advantage into halftime. Six Nations champions England left little doubt they will be the team to beat at the 12-nation tournament, unleashing a mix of speed and power in a match that brought together the highest- and lowest-ranked teams. Claudia MacDonald scored four tries while fellow winger Lydia Thompson bagged a double. (APP)

Nike suspends Hockey Canada partnership in wake of sexual assault allegations

MONTREAL: Nike announced on Friday that it has suspended its partnership with Hockey Canada, as the national governing body faces scrutiny over how it handled sexual assault allegations. Hockey Canada had its funding frozen by the federal government after news of an alleged group sexual assault involving members of Canada’s 2018 World

Cup junior team, and a related out-of-court settlement, broke in May. As part of a statement obtained by Reuters, Nike confirmed that it had suspended its relationship with the federation and “paused” support “after further review of Hockey Canada’s response” to the scandal. “We’ll continue to monitor the situation and await more information

regarding Hockey Canada’s actions to address the findings in these investigations and create a safe environment for all athletes,” it added. Nike said it is “deeply concerned by the ongoing reports around Hockey Canada” and believes “significant and substantive action is required to support athletes and transform hockey. (Agencies)

DAILY HOROSCOPE: OCTOBER 9, 2022



– It’s a general reading which may differ from person to person because of time date and year.  
– ARIES: The full moon in your sign this weekend could make you a touch more emotional than usual, so think before you act and try not to say things you might regret later on. Your antics may impress some people but others won’t be amused.  
– TAURUS: So many things seem to be happening at once now, so it’s hardly a surprise that you feel a bit confused. Don’t worry, you’re not the only one who can’t seem to work out what’s going on, so keep a low profile. The confusion will pass.  
– GEMINI: The more you get out into the world this weekend the more the world will reward you with experiences that make you feel good to be alive. You are at your best when dealing with people on a one-to-one basis, so be sociable and make new friends.  
– CANCER: It may be tempting to let someone in a position of authority know what you think of them – not a lot – but while it may feel good for an hour or two later on you may regret being so confrontational. Don’t say things that might harm your career.  
– LEO: You need to recognize that other people have opinions too and sometimes those opinions will be the opposite of your own. If someone disagrees with you today don’t act as if it’s a declaration of war because it’s

really not that serious an issue.  
– VIRGO: It’s not often you act impulsively but it’s likely you will do so this weekend. In a way that could be a good thing in that you need to escape your “nice guy” image, but it could also be bad if it costs you money, so be careful.  
– LIBRA: Don’t allow other people to dictate to you in any way, shape or form over the next 48 hours. The planets warn that if they are allowed to call the shots once they will want to do so every single time. Get tough with them right from the start.  
– SCORPIO: Someone will try to talk you into doing things you don’t want to do this weekend, but now you know that you can take defensive measures. Have an excuse ready as to why you cannot afford the time to assist them. It may be a lie but so what!  
– SAGITTARIUS: Be careful what you say while the moon is full, because once your mouth starts to move you may not be able to stop it coming out with all sorts of weird and wonderful stuff. You don’t need an opinion on every issue under the Sun.  
– CAPRICORN: A family member will insist on making a huge drama out of a very small crisis this weekend. What can you do about it? Probably not much but you can resolve not to take their antics seriously. Don’t get angry with them, laugh at them instead.  
– ACQUARIUS: It’s not often you get excitable but you could get worked up this weekend about things that previously did not bother you in the slightest. If it happens it happens, but you may have to apologize to someone later on for an uncharacteristic outburst.  
– PISCES: A full moon in the money area of your chart warns if you go on a spending spree over the next 48 hours you will regret it later on when you realize you don’t have the cash to buy something you truly desire. Self-control is a must.

Verstappen wins pole position for Japanese Grand Prix



SUZUKA: Max Verstappen took the pole position for the Japanese Grand Prix here on Saturday and stayed on right track to retain his world title. The Red Bull driver clocked one minute 29.332 seconds, beating Ferrari’s Charles Leclerc by 0.253 seconds. Carlos Sainz, also of Ferrari, was third and Red Bull’s Sergio Perez finished fourth. Zhou Guanyu, the first Chinese F1 driver in history, missed the third qualifying session, finishing 14th with his Alfa Romeo car equipped with a new front wing. His teammate Valtteri Bottas was 12th. It was Verstappen’s fourth pole of the season and 18th in his career. He will clinch the second straight season title if he wins the race with the fastest lap. (APP)

Djokovic marches on in Astana with crushing victory

ASTANA: Novak Djokovic cruised into the quarterfinals of the ATP tournament in Astana on Thursday with a crushing 6-3, 6-1 win over Dutchman Botic van de Zandschulp. The 71-minute demolition of the world No 34 follows his 64-minute 6-1, 6-1 thrashing of Cristian Garin on Wednesday. Former world No 1 Djokovic, who collected his 89th career title in Tel Aviv last weekend, extended his winning streak to six matches with a ruthless display. (Agencies)

England, France romp to wins on first day of women’s Rugby World Cup

AUCKLAND: Hot favourites England opened their women’s Rugby World Cup campaign in imperious style by crushing Fiji 84-19 while France were also convincing winners on day one on Saturday. England extended their unbeaten run to 26 matches and scored their most points in a World Cup game, but only after surviving early fireworks from the Fijians and taking a tight 24-14 advantage into halftime. The ninth edition of the tournament opened with two entertaining affairs, with fellow European heavyweights France earlier scoring six tries to dispatch South Africa 40-5. A triple-header of matches was to

conclude at Eden Park when defending champions New Zealand face Australia. By that stage, the crowd is expected to swell to a capacity 40,000, a record for any women’s rugby match. Six Nations champions England left little doubt they will be the team to beat at the 12-nation tournament, unleashing a mix of speed and power in a match that brought together the highest- and lowest-ranked teams. Claudia MacDonald scored four tries while fellow winger Lydia Thompson bagged a double in what was a record World Cup points haul for the English, surpassing their 82-0 demolition of Kazakhstan in 2010. (Agencies)

Departmental sports to become functional from Monday: Ehsan Mazari

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) Ehsan Ur Rehman Mazari Friday said the summary for restoration of departmental sports in the country had been approved by the prime minister and their teams in various disciplines would start functioning from Monday. “I had requested the prime minister to approve the summary for restoration of departmental sports. He was kind enough to approve that. A notification has been issued today wherein the departments have been told that financing [to departmental] sports will continue,” the minister said while speaking as chief guest at the concluding ceremony of Mid Court- Athletes Unraveled ATF Championships 14 under Leg-1 here at the Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) Complex. He said the departments concerned had been told to proceed with their

sport teams as they used to be in the past and intimate the IPC ministry about that. “It is heartening that the departmental teams will once again start functioning and we’ll see sports flourishing in the country. “Our new National Sports Policy is also about to be introduced soon. We are very clear [in the sports policy] that we’ll fully support the national sports federations, who are doing well. We’ll provide them more funds as we want the betterment of sports,” he added. The minister said developing sports fields and promoting sports at all levels was the government’s top priority. He said he would talk to the Capital Development Authority for the construction of a world class tennis facility at the PTF Complex as it was essential to produce top players, besides holding international events. (Agencies)

Top two teams, Northern and Balochistan, face-off in third round of Quaid-e-Azam Trophy

LAHORE: Pakistan’s best first-class cricketers continue to ply their trade in the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2022-23 and the third round of the four-day tournament commences tomorrow, Sunday in Abbottabad, Faisalabad and Rawalpindi. After two of the three matches in the first round produced results, all three matches in the second round ended in a draw. The draws, however, set up the third round nicely with the points difference between top-ranked Northern and second-placed Balochistan reduced to only three before their face-off at the Abbottabad Cricket Stadium. Balochistan staged an outstanding comeback to secure a draw after falling behind Central Punjab by 350 runs in the

last round. It was a valiant second innings century from Imam-ul-Haq – who joined Balochistan after returning from County Cricket – and half-centuries from Imran Butt and Asad Shafiq that added five points to Balochistan’s tally, instead of a defeat. Northern had begun the tournament with a dominating 10-wicket win. After Sindh had made 457 for eight, Umar Amin and Faizan Riaz scored solid centuries and Nauman Ali made 65 that lifted them to 417. Their young all-rounder Mubasir Khan, who was player of the tournament in the last season, is the joint leading wicket-taker with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s Arshad Iqbal with nine scalps. He took four wickets in an innings in the last match. (APP)

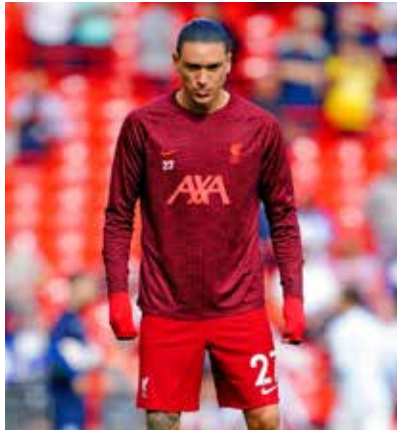
Japanese siblings grab 2 golds on second day of Judo World Championships

TASHKENT: Japan’s Hifumi Abe and his sister Uta Abe triumphed in the men’s -66kg and women’s -52kg respectively on day two of the 2022 Judo World Championships on Friday. In women’s -52kg, Tokyo Olympic champion Uta defeated Chelsie Giles of Britain in the final, which marked her third world title. Bronze medals went to Kosovo’s Distria Krasniqi and France’s Amandine Bucharard. Chinese female judoka

Liu Ben lost to Gefen Primo from Israel by anippon in the round of 16. In men’s -66kg final, Hifumi toppled his teammate Joshiro Maruyama to win gold. Denis Vieru of Moldova and South Korea’s An Baul bagged bronze medals in the category. Japan bagged four golds to top the medal tally currently, followed by Mongolia while Britain and Germany shared third. The Judo World Championships runs from Oct. 6 to 13. (APP)

Klopp says Nunez needs to ‘calm down’ in front of goal

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp has backed forward Darwin Nunez to find his goalscoring touch, urging the Uruguay international to show composure while finishing off chances. Nunez has had a slow start at Liverpool, scoring two goals and getting one assist in the eight games he has played since joining the club from Benfica for an initial fee of €75 million in the close season. The 23-year-old also served a three-game suspension after he was sent off for an apparent headbutt on his home debut. “I think he said himself he feels the pressure,” Klopp told reporters yesterday. “He has to calm himself down. “You can see the movements are exceptional and if you would see him finishing in training you would think, ‘My God.’ But in the games obviously (he is) then a bit in a rush. “He needs to calm down just in the



moment to use his full range of finishing but it’s not something – as a striker you just have to feel that. Then it will go from there. So, not to change, just to keep going actually.” Liverpool are ninth in the Premier League on 10 points after seven games. (Agencies)



## Deal reached for civil aviation to try for net-zero emissions by 2050

MONTREAL: UN aviation agency members on Friday set the year 2050 as their goal for achieving net-zero carbon emissions for air travel -- an industry often criticized for its outsized role in climate change. The assembly, which brought together representatives from 193 nations at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) headquarters in Montreal, reached a “historic agreement on a collective long-term aspirational goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050!” the United Nations agency said on Twitter. It added that it “continues to advocate for much more ambition and investment by states to ensure aviation is fully decarbonized by 2050 or earlier.” “It’s an excellent result,” a diplo-



matic source told AFP, revealing that only four countries -- including China, the main thrust of global growth in air travel -- “had expressed reservations.” The agreement, however, was far from satisfying for some non-governmental organizations expressing regret it didn’t go far enough and was not legally binding. The air transportation industry has faced growing pressure to deal with its outsized role in the climate crisis. (Agencies)

## Austrian mountaineer who died after being hit by snow avalanche shift to Gilgit from Shimshal

GILGIT: An Austrian national who died after being hit by a snow avalanche in Ghuvzhraav area of Shimshal Valley district Hunza, has been airlifted today, along with his Austrian female companion and their local guide.

According to information shared by a Gulmit Police official, Austrian mountaineer Feineler Elias lost his

life after reportedly being hit by a snow avalanche in Ghuvzhraav Valley of Shimshal.

Another Austrian citizen Kerber Ramona was also involved in the accident but remained unhurt, according to Rescue 1122 officials. The injured local guide, Shah Daulat, was also airlifted and shifted to Gilgit for further treatment. (APP)

## Israeli forces kill 2 Palestinians in West Bank: Palestinian health ministry

RAMALLAH: Israeli forces on Friday shot dead two Palestinians including a 14-year-old in separate incidents in the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian health ministry said. Fourteen-year-old Adel Dawoud “succumbed to a critical wound sustained by live occupation (Israeli) fire to the head” in Qalqilya, in the northern West Bank, the health min-

istry said. Another Palestinian was shot dead near the city of Ramallah, the ministry said in a statement. Palestinians gather each Friday in parts of the West Bank to protest Israel’s occupation of the territory since the 1967 Six-Day War. Dozens of Palestinians have also been killed in recent months during Israeli military raids in the West Bank. (APP)

## Court adjourns hearing of case against PM Shehbaz, Hamza till 11th

LAHORE: A special court on Saturday adjourned hearing of a case, registered by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) against Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, his son Hamza Shehbaz and others, till October 11. Special Court (Central-1) Judge Ijaz Hassan Awan conducted the case proceedings, wherein the prime minister also appeared. At the start of proceedings, Hamza Shehbaz’s counsel submitted that his client had back pain and an application had been submitted for his exemption from personal appearance for one-day, adding that a medical certificate had also been attached with it. Advocate Amjad Pervaiz advanced his arguments on the application, filed by the premier for his acquittal in the case. He submitted that the agency had removed charges of Rs 9 billion from the challan. He submitted that the amount was transacted through

five accounts, but these accounts were not associated with Suleman, Hamza or the Sharif Group. He submitted that the accounts belonged to Mushtaq Cheeni, but the agency had not yet initiated any inquiry against him. He submitted that the kickbacks and bribes mentioned in the FIR were just tales, which had not been made part of the challan. He submitted that the Lahore High Court (LHC) recently quashed an identical case against Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) leader Moonis Elahi.

The court questioned whether the detailed judgment of Moonis Elahi case had been issued. Amjad Pervaiz submitted that the judgement had been issued and its verified copy would be presented in the court shortly, adding that indictment in the current case was not possible nor could it continue any further. (APP)

## Traders demand Parking Plaza in Aabpara Market

ISLAMABAD: President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari on Saturday urged the Capital Development Authority for constructing a parking plaza in Aabpara Market in order to address parking issues, besides maintaining traffic flow to facilitate the commuters. He said that the Aabpara Market is the oldest market of Islamabad, which is playing important role in improving the economy by promoting trade activities and stressed the CDA to

develop it as a model market of the Capital. He said that foreign diplomats and many other dignitaries often visit Aabpara market, therefore, CDA should construct a monument in the chowk of the market and focus on its further beautification to bring it at par with international standards. He said that ICCI would work with CDA, FBR, ICT Administration, police and other relevant departments of the government to resolve the issues of the business community. (APP)

## ACP organizes Breast Cancer awareness programme

KARACHI: Arts Council of Pakistan (ACP) Karachi organized a session about Breast Cancer awareness here at the ACP The Talk Show Committee of the ACP conducted this session at to create awareness about the breast cancer, in which the Vice Chairper-

son of the talk show committee, Dr. Hina Ambreen Tariq, and the women members of Arts Council participated in the session. The ACP will also organize a breast cancer awareness session and clinic every Saturday in the month of October. (APP)

## IMF releases \$1.3 bn in emergency aid for Ukraine

WASHINGTON: The International Monetary Fund announced Friday it will provide \$1.3 billion in emergency aid to Ukraine through its new food crisis assistance program. The package will help meet Ukraine’s “urgent balance of payment needs... while playing a catalytic role for future financial support from Ukraine’s creditors and donors,” the IMF said in a statement. “The scale and intensity of Russia’s war against Ukraine that started more than seven months ago have caused tremendous human suffering and economic pain. Real GDP is projected to contract by 35 percent in 2022 relative to 2021 and financing needs remain very large.” Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky had unveiled the IMF’s aid earlier Friday. “The money will go to Ukraine today,”



he said on Twitter, thanking the crisis lender’s managing director Kristalina Georgieva and its executive board. The IMF also said Ukrainian authorities “deserve considerable credit for having maintained an important degree of macro-financial stability in these extremely challenging circumstances.” For her part, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said that key policies have been geared toward safeguarding priority expenditures and preserving financial stability. (Agencies)

## US unveils new Arctic strategy

WASHINGTON: The policy document emphasizes challenges from Russia, stating that regional cooperation with Moscow is now “virtually impossible.” The administration of US President Joe Biden released its ten-year National Strategy for the Arctic on Friday, which has a heavy focus on the challenges Russia supposedly poses to American influence in the region. The policy document, which had not been updated since 2013, outlines “four mutually reinforcing pillars” meant to guarantee that the region remains “peaceful, stable, prosperous, and cooperative.” The US intends to achieve this by deterring threats, building resilience to climate change, enabling sustainable economic development, and engaging with its partners and allies. Meanwhile, the strategy also claims that “Russia’s aggression in Ukraine” has complicated cooperation in the

Arctic in general, adding that under the current circumstances regional engagement with Moscow has become “virtually impossible.” Staying on the subject of Russia, a major regional player, the document says that Moscow “has invested significantly” in its military presence in the Arctic by modernizing its military bases, deploying new defense systems and submarines, as well as ramping up military exercises in the area. It also states that Russia is developing new economic infrastructure in the region to extract its abundant resources while accusing Moscow of “attempting to constrain freedom of navigation” along the Northern Sea Route. In light of this, the US intends to maintain and advance its military presence in the Arctic “in support of our homeland defense, global military and power projection, and deterrence goals.” (Agencies)

## China renews orange alert for droughts

BEIJING: The national observatory on Saturday renewed an orange alert for droughts in vast parts of China. Parts of Zhejiang, Anhui, Hubei, Fujian, Jiangxi, Hunan, Guizhou, Guangdong, Guangxi and Chongqing have experienced moderate to severe droughts, according to the National Meteorological Center. Some areas of Zhejiang, Fujian, Jiangxi and Hunan have witnessed extreme droughts, the center said. Over the next three days, moderate to heavy rains are forecast for some parts of Henan, Hubei, Anhui, Jiangsu and Chongqing. These rains will help relieve the droughts, according to the center. However, other parts of the drought areas will continue experiencing little rain and droughts will persist, it said. It advised local authorities to utilize



emergency water sources and all available water sources within their regions to ensure continued supply, particularly for residents and livestock. It also suggested promoting strict water conservation measures and producing artificial rainfall when necessary. China has a four-tier, color-coded weather warning system, with red representing the most severe warning, followed by orange, yellow and blue. (APP)

## Missile launches legitimate defence against US: North Korea

SEOUL: North Korea on Saturday defended its recent flurry of missile tests as a legitimate counter to US military threats. The reclusive communist country has conducted six sanctions-busting launches in less than two weeks, the latest coming Thursday with the firing of a pair of ballistic missiles. The reclusive communist country has conducted six sanctions-busting launches in less than two weeks, the latest coming Thursday with the firing of a pair of ballistic missiles. On Tuesday, it fired an intermediate-range ballistic missile over Japan, prompting an alert for people in affected areas underneath to take cover.

“The missile test launch by the DPRK is a regular and planned self-defensive step for defending the country’s security and the regional peace from the US direct military threats that have lasted for more than half a century,” North Korea’s civil aviation agency said, without specifying which launch, according to state-run news agency KCNA. The government agency issued the statement after the International Civil Aviation Organization, holding its annual assembly in Montreal, on Friday condemned North Korea’s missile tests of recent months and called them a danger to civil aviation. (Agencies)

## Over 80,000 vehicles travel on Chinese-invested 1st expressway in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH: More than 80,000 vehicles had traveled on Cambodia’s first-ever expressway in the first week of its trial operation, according to data released by the freeway operator on Saturday. “From Oct. 1 to 7, the total

traffic volume on the Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville Expressway was 80,231,” data from the Cambodian PPSHV Expressway Company showed. “On average, the daily traffic volume was about 11,460.” (Agencies)

## Seven killed in Ireland petrol station blast: police

DUBLIN: Seven people have been killed in an explosion at a petrol station in County Donegal in Ireland’s northwest, police said on Saturday. The Garda Siochana police force said eight people had hospitalized as “the search and recovery for further fatalities continues” at the site in the village of Creeslough. Rescue efforts by Ireland’s emergency services went on through the night at the scene where on Friday afternoon an explosion had ripped through a petrol station forecourt and the facade of a nearby apartment complex. Ireland’s police, fire, ambulance service and coast guard and the air ambulance service from Northern Ireland as well as a specialist team from the UK-run province were in attendance. Letterkenny University Hospital, 24 kilometers (15 miles) from the explosion was placed on an emergency footing as it said in a statement it was dealing with “multiple injuries”. Ireland’s premier Micheal Martin said his “thoughts and prayers are today with those who have lost their lives, and those injured in the devastating explosion”. (Agencies)

## Personal data of a million Facebook users may be compromised



Some 400 apps on Android and Apple have been stealing login information, the platform’s owner says. The personal data of at least 1 million Facebook users could have been stolen by certain apps on Apple and Android, the platform’s owner, Meta, has warned. Around 400 malicious applications, distributed through Google Play and the App Store, have been stealing people’s login information, the company’s security team said on Friday. They posed as harmless tools such as photo editors, games, VPN services, and other things to lure users into downloading them. The apps then asked people to ‘log in with Facebook’ and forwarded their usernames and passwords to the perpetrators as soon as they were entered. This data could potentially be used by the attackers to gain full access to people’s accounts and send messages to their friends lists or obtain private information. Meta has said it was not aware of the exact number of users affected, as this information is known to Apple and Google. The company is “being kind of deliberately overcautious and notifying about 1 million users across our entire platform that they may have been exposed to applications like this,” Meta’s director of threat disruption, David Agranovich, stated. “That doesn’t mean that they were compromised, just that we think that they may have been exposed to one of these applications,” he added. Google and Apple say they have already removed the apps mentioned in Meta’s report. (Agencies)

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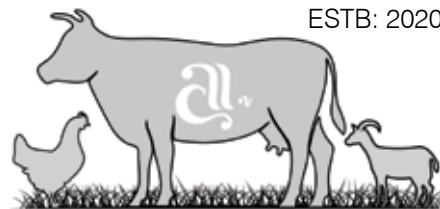
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