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Editor: Omer Rizwan

Russian troops arrive in Belarus

- Saudi Arabia announces \$400 mn humanitarian aid for Ukraine
- US announces \$725 mn in new military assistance to Ukraine
- Nord Stream saboteurs plunged EU into 'energy poverty' - Moscow
- Russia trying to kill Starlink: Musk
- West prepping nuclear crisis plans

MOSCOW/KIEV: The first trains carrying Russian soldiers to Belarus have reached their destinations, the Belarusian Ministry of Defence said on Saturday. This comes after Moscow and Minsk agreed earlier this week to deploy a joint force in response to NATO's increased military activity on Belarus' frontier. The ministry said in a statement, "the decision to create a regional grouping of troops has been taken and is being implemented solely to defend" the borders of the Union State amid the "ongoing activity in the border areas." Founded in 1999, Union State is an organization which consists of Russia and Belarus and seeks to promote co-operation between the two countries. Russian troops have arrived in the neighboring country after President Alexander Lukashenko announced this week that Moscow and Minsk had agreed to deploy an allied force on Belarusian soil. The move, he said, came in response to increased aggression from Kiev and the West.

- RIYADH: Saudi Arabia on Saturday announced \$400 million in humanitarian aid for Ukraine, the official SPA news agency said, adding that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman had made a phone call to President Volodymyr Zelensky. The prince emphasised "the Kingdom's position of supporting



everything that will contribute to de-escalation, and the Kingdom's readiness to continue the efforts of mediation," SPA reported. Saudi Arabia last month played an unexpected role in facilitating a prisoner-of-war swap between Moscow and Kyiv. The war in Ukraine has, however, fuelled tensions between Saudi Arabia and the United States after the kingdom largely resisted pressure to ramp up oil production to ease the energy crisis resulting from the conflict.

- WASHINGTON: The United States will send an additional \$725 million in military assistance to

Ukraine, the State Department and Pentagon announced Friday. This newest package includes more ammunition for the HIMARS rocket system, the Department of Defense said in a separate statement. It brings the total US military assistance to Ukraine to \$18.3 billion.

- MOSCOW: The perpetrators of the attacks on the Nord Stream natural gas pipelines have destroyed the European Union's hope for a secure and sustainable energy supply, Deputy Prime Minister Aleksander Novak has explained on the sidelines of the Russian Energy Week forum. "Those who had

plotted and perpetrated this terrorist act have basically plunged Europe into an energy poverty, so to speak," Novak said on Friday, adding that the sabotage of the pipelines has all but "nullified the energy security" the EU has long sought to achieve. The former energy minister previously said Russia is still able to supply natural gas to the European Union through a string of Nord Stream 2 that remains intact. According to President Vladimir Putin, the ball is now in the EU's court on whether it will receive those imports.

-WASHINGTON: SpaceX CEO

Elon Musk has blamed Russia for working to disable his Starlink satellite service, which the Ukrainian forces are heavily reliant upon in the conflict between Moscow and Kiev. "Russia is actively trying to kill Starlink," Musk said in a tweet on Saturday. According to the tycoon, SpaceX, which operates the satellite service, has been allocating "massive resources" to protect it from jamming and cyberattacks. "Even so, Starlink may still die," he warned. Musk had donated \$80 million worth of Starlink terminals to Kiev at the beginning of the conflict in late February, with the system becoming the main communications tool for Ukraine's forces.

- LONDON: Western governments are drawing up plans to avoid panic among their citizens should a nuclear weapon be used in Ukraine, two major UK media outlets have reported. The alleged preparations come as NATO officials are fueling speculation about the possibility, and issuing repeated warnings that Moscow would face "severe consequences" if it deployed the bomb. Asked whether options and crisis plans were in place to address the aftermath of a nuclear detonation in Eastern Europe, an unnamed Western official confirmed that such plans were underway, according to reports in the Times and the Guardian. (Agencies)

Over 21,000 people affected by floods, landslides in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO: Two people have died while 21,888 people from 5,212 families have been affected by the floods and landslides in the last 48 hours in Sri Lanka, the Disaster Management Center (DMC) said on Saturday. Eleven districts have been affected, with about 120 houses damaged, by the floods and landslides triggered by heavy rains, according to the

DMC. The affected districts included Hambantota, Galle, Trincomalee, Kilinochchi, Gampaha, Colombo, Puttalam and Kandy. The DMC said 264 people were evacuated to temporary shelters for safety. The meteorological department has forecast heavy rains in many places in the South Asian country in the coming days. (Agencies)

UK's new finance minister admits taxes to rise as PM reels

LONDON: Britain's new finance minister Saturday warned of looming tax hikes as he admitted to "mistakes" made in a disastrous budget that still threatens to bring down Prime Minister Liz Truss. "Truss fights for survival," The Times newspaper headlined a day after she forced chancellor of the exchequer Kwasi Kwarteng

to carry the can for market turmoil sparked by their budget on September 23. The Times, Telegraph and other newspapers reported that senior Conservative members of parliament were still plotting to unseat Truss, possibly within days, aghast at the party's collapse in opinion polls since she replaced Boris Johnson on September 6. (Agencies)

Europe's police keep wary eye on threat from 3D-printed guns



Paris: A growing number of seizures of guns made at home from 3D-printed parts are raising alarm bells for European police over an emerging threat. For now, interest among far-right activists may be limited, say analysts -- and fears of a society awash with print-it-yourself weapons remain far-fetched. But homemade guns have become more widespread since 2013, when a US weapons enthusiast first showed off a mostly 3D-printed pistol and shared its design online. Only in September, Icelandic police said they had arrested four people suspected of planning a "terrorist attack", confiscating several 3D-printed semi-automatic weapons. The same

month, Spanish authorities discovered an illegal gun-making workshop of a man in his forties in the Basque Country. That find followed two other such cases in the country in 2021. Police in Spain's Canary Islands found white supremacist literature and manuals on urban guerrilla warfare alongside two 3D printers. And in the northwestern city of A Coruna, police discovered a man close to completing a scratch-built assault rifle. "Rapidly evolving advanced technology may cause this to emerge as a more significant threat in the near future," said Ina Mihaylova, a spokeswoman for European police agency Europol. (Agencies)

Pakistan summons US ambassador over Biden's nuclear remark

KARACHI: Pakistan's foreign minister on Saturday said the US ambassador to the country had been summoned after President Joe Biden said in a speech that Pakistan is "maybe one of the most dangerous nations in the world" as

it has "nuclear weapons without any cohesion." The minister, Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari said he was surprised by Biden's comments and a misunderstanding was created by a lack of engagement. Bhutto-Zardari said he didn't think

the decision to summon the US Ambassador will negatively affect relations with the United States. Biden made the remarks at a Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee reception on Thursday. (Agencies)

India says submarine-launched ballistic missile test a success

India has successfully tested a ballistic missile fired from its first indigenous nuclear-powered submarine, INS Arihant, the defence ministry said, in what is seen as a boost to the country's growing military capabilities. The launch was proof of "crew competency" and validated

the ballistic missile capability of Indian submarines, "a key element of India's nuclear deterrence capability", the ministry said in a statement on Friday. "All operational and technological parameters of the weapon system", which was launched from INS Arihant in the Bay of Bengal,

had been passed, the ministry added. India is now the sixth country, alongside China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States to have nuclear-powered submarines armed with ballistic missiles, the Times of India reported on Friday. (Agencies)

At least 40 killed, dozens trapped in Türkiye mine blast

ISTANBUL: Rescuers desperately searched for signs of life on Saturday after a methane blast at a coal mine in northern Turkey killed at least 40 people and trapped dozens of others hundreds of metres underground. Updating the death toll, Health Minister Fahrettin Koca also tweeted that 11 others pulled out alive were be-

ing treated in hospital after one of Turkey's deadliest industrial accidents in years struck Friday at sunset. "We are facing a truly regretful situation," Interior Minister Suleyman Soyulu told reporters earlier after urgently flying to the small coal mining town of Amasra on Turkey's Black Sea coast. (Agencies)

Kenya, Huawei partner to boost cyber security skills

NAIROBI: State-owned Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) and Chinese firm, Huawei said Friday they have partnered in order to scale up cyber security skills in the east African nation. Ezra Chiloba, Director-General of the CA said cyber security is critical since the future of Kenya's economy is going to be driv-

en by the digital space. "We are working with Huawei, who are bringing on board their expansive experience in this sector, and I want to encourage young people who are undertaking courses and are looking forward to participating in the digital economy to invest their time and resources in understanding the future of cyber security," (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.

GOLD PRICE IN PAK

Gold Rate	24K Gold	22K Gold	21K Gold	18K Gold
Per Tola Gold	Rs. 135200	Rs. 123932	Rs. 118300	Rs. 101400
Per 10 Gram	Rs. 115900	Rs. 106241	Rs. 101413	Rs. 86925
Per Gram Gold	Rs. 11590	Rs. 10624	Rs. 10141	Rs. 8693
Per Ounce	Rs. 328600	Rs. 301214	Rs. 287525	Rs. 246450

FOREX RATES

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	220.5	222.5
China Yuan	30.52	30.77
Japanese Yen	1.1	1.15
Saudi Riyal	59	59.6
U.A.E Dirham	61	61.6
UK Pound	250	253
Euro	217	219
Australian Dollar	137.44	138.69
Canadian Dollar	159.15	160.5

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
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Three killed,one injured in Peshawar firing

PESHAWAR: In a tragic incident, three died and one was injured due to firing in the provincial capital of KP on Thursday. As per police, the unknown accused opened fire on the vehicle near the area of Tarnab farm as a result three people were killed and one child was injured. In this regard, the police further said that the enmity of the victims was going on, weapons were also recovered from the vehicle, and the police have launched a further investigation over the matter. (APP)

DIG Aman Ullah memorial tennis from Nov 12

PESHAWAR: Senior Vice President of Provincial Tennis Association and well-known cardiac surgeon Professor Dr. Farhat Abbas Saturday announced to organize DIG Amanullah Khan Memorial Tennis Championship from November 12-17, 2022 here at the Synthetic Tennis Courts of the Qayyum Sports Complex. This he said while talking to media men here. He said like every year this year DIG Aman Ullah Khan Memorial Tennis Championship would be organized in befitting manners in order to pay rich tribute to late Aman Ullah who served KP sports a lot during his tenure as Police Officer. (APP)

ECP hands over election materials to staff for by-election in three NA constituencies

PESHAWAR: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Saturday handed over election materials to relevant staff and finalized arrangements for the by-election scheduled on October 16 (Sunday) on three vacant National Assembly seats from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The election materials were handed over to staff concerned for NA-31 at Nishter Hall Peshawar and also dispatched to district returning officers of Charsadda and Mardan. Provincial Election Commissioner (PEC), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Farid Khattak visited the material distribution places and issued instructions to District Returning Officers (DRO) and Returning Officers (ROs) for fair and transparent elections. He urged all the voters, particularly women to exercise their right to vote

by visiting polling stations without any fear or threat to perform their national duty. The constituencies wherein the by-election is scheduled include NA-22 Mardan, NA-24 Charsadda and NA-31 Peshawar-V. The total number of voters in these constituencies is over 1,450,000, out of which the number of men is over 850,000 while 642,000 are women. The polling will begin at 8:00 a.m. and will continue till 5:00 p.m. without any interval.

However, voters present inside the polling stations will be allowed to cast their votes despite the expiry of the time. A total of 16 candidates are contesting from these constituencies, four each from NA-22 Mardan and NA-24 Charsadda, while eight candidates are contesting from NA-31, Peshawar-V respectively. According to the spokesman

of the Provincial Election Commission, 979 polling stations have been established in all three NA constituencies including 429 polling stations for men and 351 for women, while 199 polling stations are for both men and women. Out of the 979 polling stations 745 have been declared as highly sensitive and 234 as sensitive. Strict security measures have been ensured.

For evolving election strategy, a meeting among all returning officers, district administration and officers concerned was also held to conduct this phase of the by-election in a smooth manner. Special training has also been imparted to all presiding officers and polling staff for compilation of election results. Media has been restricted from broadcasting any unofficial result. (APP)

Directives issued to ensure availability of fire extinguishing equipment in vehicles

PESHAWAR: The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has directed transport authorities of the province to ensure availability of fire extinguishing equipment in public transport for public safety. Chief Motor Vehicle Examiner has been directed to ensure that fire extinguishing equipment are installed in buses,

coaches and in vehicles used for transportation of goods. Directives have also been issued to remove iron bars from window of vehicles so that passenger could come out of vehicle by breaking panes and save their lives in case of emergencies. The transport authority and vehicle examiners have announced a

campaign to ensure compliance of these directives in which fitness and permit certificates of those vehicles, which do not meet the basic safety standards, will be cancelled. The motor vehicle examiners have also been directed to deny fitness certificates to vehicles that are without fire extinguishing gear. (APP)

6,000 police personnel to perform duties in NA-31 by-elections: CCPO

PESHAWAR: Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Mohammad Ijaz Khan here on Saturday said that at least 6000 police personnel have been deputed to perform security duties on 265 polling stations during by-elections NA-31, Peshawar-V on October 16. In a notification issued by CCPO office, all the 265 polling stations including 143 males and 120 for females were declared sensitive. He said Bomb Disposal Unit, Ababeel Squad and City Patrolling Squad have also been directed to thoroughly examine all the people

on entrance and exit points of the city, bus stands, and places adjacent to polling stations. Similarly, Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Abbass Majeed Marwat has also directed the traffic police to take strict measures for ensuring smooth flow of traffic on the roads of city during election's day. Meanwhile, District Police Officer, Charsadda, Sohail Khalid in a statement said that more than 3,000 police personnel have been deployed on election duties at 384 polling stations in NA-24, Charsadda. (APP)

Court awards life imprisonment to woman for killing a minor girl

PESHAWAR: The Special Court of Child Protection, Peshawar has awarded a woman life imprisonment and Rs 500,000 fine for murdering a 5-year-old girl in Kohat. The verdict was announced by Judge Farhana Tabsum on Saturday. According to the prosecution, 5-year-old Hareem Fatima was a resident of Khattak Colony, Kohat, who was brutally strangled to death by unknowns. An FIR of the incident was registered against unknown suspects in the Muhammad Riaz Shaheed Police Station. During

the initial investigations, the police took 40 suspects into custody and interrogated them. Meanwhile, the police also detained Rabia Jabeen, a local woman, who confessed her crime to the police. Later, the trial was started by presenting the challan of the case to the court and during the follow-up of the case, the judge of the special court of child protection found the accused guilty on the basis of the statements of all the eyewitnesses, the investigation process of the police and the evidence. (APP)

Doaba city becomes tehsil of district Hangu: Minister

PESHAWAR: Advisor to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Aqaf and Religious Affairs, Zahoor Shakir on Saturday said the status of third largest city of district Hangu 'Doaba' has been upgraded in to tehsil level. In a statement issued by KP Information Directorate, CM aide expressed these views while addressing a public gathering held at Doaba tehsil. He thanked Chief Minister KP Mahmood Khan for fulfilling long standing demands of the people of the area. He said earlier Doaba tehsil was the part of

Tall tehsil; however, district Hangu has three tehsils now after the up-gradation of Doaba city into tehsil level. He said six union councils including Sarozai, Naryab, Zargari, Shanawari, Torowari, Karbogha Sharif were included in Doaba tehsil. Zahoor Shakir said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has taken concrete steps for the development of rural areas of the province and record uplift schemes have been initiated in all sectors such as health, education, tourism and local government. (APP)

NGO to hold all sports activities of Directorate General Sports KP

PESHAWAR: Surprisingly all sports activities of the Directorate General Sports Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would now be run and organized by a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) – Young Leaders Forum (YLF). The MoU was signed between the Young Leaders Forum (YLF) headed by Sajid Afridi and Director General Sports Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Khalid Khan. Assistant Director Account Amjad Iqbal, Deputy Director Sports Operations Jamshed Baloch, Administrator Peshawar Sports Complex Syed Jafar Shah and other officials were present on the occasion of signing. It is worth mentioning here

that there is a Director Operation – Aziz Ullah Jan, who is serving the Directorate from more than 35 years, Deputy Director Operation – Jamshed Baloch, more than two dozen handsome force of District Sports Officers, Assistant District Sports Officers, more than 50 coaches of various games and other working personals who held thousands of sporting activities over the years and having much experience of holding various sports activities but despite all facts, the Director General Sports Khalid Khan Saturday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NGO Young Leaders Forum (YLF). (APP)

WSSP marks global handwashing day

PESHAWAR: Water and Sanitation Services Peshawar (WSSP) on Saturday observed Global Handwashing Day by organizing awareness events at various educational institutions and community centers to promote washing hands. This year's theme, "Unite for Universal Hand Hygiene", calls on all to work together to promote hand hygiene and stand united to ensure universal access and practice of hand hygiene. WSSP's community outreach teams organized events in schools and houses and markets to promote hand hygiene. The events were organized in collaboration with UNICEF, Islamic Relief Pakistan, Norwegian Church Aid and Peace and Development Organization. Students in different schools presented tableaux showing how clean hands could keep them healthy and protect them from diseases. At an event, zonal manager Zone E, Engr Anwarul Haq urged parents and teachers to teach inculcate good practices in children and teach them that apart from personal hygiene they should also take care of their environment. He said that personal hygiene, as well as clean environment, was the only way to prevent diarrhea, malaria, dengue and other respiratory diseases. (APP)

Section 144 imposed in Abbottabad district

PESHAWAR: The district administration Abbottabad under section 144 has imposed ban on public gathering within limits of the district. Besides open sale of petroleum, the ban had also been imposed on sale of rallies, public meetings and car parking on undesignated places,

said a district administration spokesman, adding it had been imposed as part of enhancing security measures for a period of 15 days. The district administration also warned of strict action against those found guilty of flouting the order, he added. (APP)

KP opposition urges not to deduct salaries for flood relief fund

PESHAWAR: Opposition leaders in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Assembly filed an application against deduction from their salaries on account of contribution to the flood relief fund, ARY News reported on Saturday. According to details, all 51 opposition leaders in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Assembly have refused to help the flood victims, requesting the provincial government not to deduct their salaries for flood relief fund. The opposition leaders have filed an application in the KP assembly against deduction

from their salaries. It is pertinent to mention here that KP Chief Minister Mahmood Khan approved summary for deduction from monthly salary of parliamentarians and government servants for helping the flood-stricken people. The deducted amount would be contributed to KP Chief Minister's Fund. The deduction will be made at source and the order is applied to all the employees of provincial government including consultants, contract engineers and employees of projects. (Agencies)

KP Archaeology signs MoU for digital reconstruction of Buddhist heritage sites

PESHAWAR: Directorate of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Archaeology and Museums here on Saturday signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Arayawango, the Chief Abbot of Buddhist Monasteries from Thailand to work on the digital reconstruction of renowned Buddhist Heritage in Gandhara. Director KP Archaeology, Dr Abdul Samad welcomed the delegation comprising monks and other Buddhist people led by Arayawangso in Peshawar Museum. He briefed them about current situation of Buddhist Heritage in the province and assured full protection of these sites. According to MoU, the KP Ar-

chaeology and Museum Directorate would create virtual communication designs of Buddhist heritage existing in the province including Takht Bhai, Swat, Peshawar and other areas. The concerned universities of Thailand would support KP Archaeology and Museum Directorate for achieving the goal of digital reconstruction, Dr Samad said. Earlier, the Buddhist delegation visited their religious Buddhist-sites located in Takhtbhair tehsil of district Mardan. They offered their religious prayers and were given guided tours about promotion of religious tourism in the region.(APP)

Qaumi Watan party criticizes KP govt over worsening law & order situation

PESHAWAR: Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) Chairman Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao on Saturday expressed concern over the worsening law and order in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and asked the provincial government to implement the National Action Plan for restoring peace. Speaking at a press conference at Watan Kor here, he said the government should come up with a solid strategy to maintain law and order in the province. Mazdoor Kissan Party former provincial head Shakeel Waheedullah Khan announced joining the QWP along with his supporters and family members on this occasion. Aftab Sherpao said that the incidents of targeted killings, extortion and kidnapping for ransom had recorded a sharp

increase in recent months, which had created the sense of insecurity among the people of the province. He said that the militancy had resurfaced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa due to the negligence of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf led provincial government. He said the provincial government was busy making arrangements for the so-called long march of PTI leader Imran Khan instead of taking steps to bring the worsening law and order under control. The QWP leader said that the resources of the province were being spent on making arrangements for the PTI's long march towards Islamabad. He urged the government to take steps to improve the poor security situation in the province. (APP)





It should be clear that most of the Asian countries are highly populated and this situation is one of the main reasons for their major problems. CICA can help these countries to resolve food, economic and conflicts within amicably. The European Union has also solved many mutual problems through its common platform. The PM's message to the Indian government is about the prosperity of the two billion poor people of both countries.

— By Muhammad Omar Iftikhar

Elon Musk has been an active advocate of creating cities for humans on Mars. He is not the only one. The concept of colonizing Mars first appeared as a fictional narrative in the 1897 novel *Two Planets* by Kurd Lasswitz. The story is about Arctic explorers who find a Martian base. The Martians take some explorers to Mars. The novel was published 72 years before the first man landed on the Moon in 1969. Colonizing Mars has remained a concept for humans for eons. However, with advancements in science and technology, we are devising ways to journey to the Red Planet.

It is not the journey that excites us but the possibility of living there. Musk has time and again explained the idea of living on Mars. In 2019 Musk said that “It’s been almost half a century since humans were last on the moon. That’s too long, we need to get back there and have a permanent base on the moon — again, like a big permanently occupied base on the moon. And then build a city on Mars to become a spacefaring civilization, a multi-planet species.” No matter how thrilling the idea sounds, the logistical challenges will be monumental indeed. Imagine taking construction raw materials to Mars including objects ranging from nails and irons, beams, concrete and glass, to equipment and heavy machinery including bulldozers, front loaders, dump trucks, and cranes among others. Humans would have to build cities and towns on Mars from scratch. They would need to conduct soil sampling before erecting the foundations for their cities. Weather conditions including wind pressure and other climate changes will need to be

addressed.

Life on Mars will not be easy. Humans will need to create cities enclosed in glass or a concrete dome to maintain proper oxygen levels and perhaps to simulate day and night through artificial means. There needs to be a continuous supply of water to complete daily tasks. Electricity needs to be available round the clock to complete chores such as cooking and washing. The lifestyle on Mars will need to be different from the tried and tested environment on Earth. One wonders what economic model will the humans pursue on Mars. Will there be banking and investment? Will humans earn by doing jobs? If humans plan on earning on Mars, then the Earth's economic system would need to be implemented. Or, the banking and economic system would be extended to Mars. The humans on Mars will also need avenues to spend their salaries.

This will bring about the need to build shopping malls and departmental stores. The children on Mars should be taught to become thinkers, innovators, and inventors. They should be allowed to follow a discipline of their choosing. The learning activities at schools should be focused on improving intelligence. Colonising Mars will not be an easy task. It will require months and perhaps years of planning to send human and capital resources to Mars. Effective brainstorming and implementation of plans will be required to create an eco-friendly sustainable city that is suitable for animal and plant life.

Courtesy The Nation

Whenever and wherever any war begins in any corner of the world, the prices of everything, whether oil, food, or other commodities, rise. The Russo-Ukrainian War is no exception. Amid wars, the prices and demands for weapons also increase. Weapon industries across the world have made and are still making money from this war. Unsurprisingly, the USA has the largest share in the arms market and earns the most from it. Since the inception of the war, the trade of US arms-producing companies has become historic, breaking all the previous records. The Russia-Ukraine War should thus be assessed in terms of the economic interest of the largest arms-exporting countries through the Military-Industrial Complexes (MICs). In late February 2022, when the Russo-Ukrainian war started, it seemed like Russia could conquer Ukraine in a matter of a few days but surprisingly, Kyiv is yet to be conquered. Why is it taking so long for a big power like Russia to conquer Ukraine? What are the factors that keep Ukraine confident in its resistance against Russia?

A possible answer can be the support and provision of modern weapons by the USA to Ukraine. For instance, the most recent military aid of \$3 billion for Ukraine and its 18 neighbours alongside a package of \$675 million of ammunition, armoured vehicles, and heavy weaponry was provided to the country in September 2022. Another unanswered question is ‘who is winning this war?’ The answer may be neither Russia

— By Sakina

nor Ukraine, but the arms manufacturing companies. Between 2016 to 2022 the US, UK, China, Russia, France, and German arms industries exported 80 percent of the world's lethal weapons. These largest arms-exporting countries are also involved in exporting arms to Ukraine amidst the war. However, the USA dominates the global arms market. The share of the USA in the global arms market is 35 percent and it is the top exporter of major weapons producing hitech lethal arms, such as howitzers, anti-ship missiles, Stinger missiles, and Javelin anti-tank missiles. The top global US arms-producing companies are Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Northrop Grumman, General Dynamics, and Raytheon. These are the US-based arm manufacturing companies. Moreover, countries like the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and China have raised their defence budgets. Weapons are being sold like cupcakes and weapons industry shares are increasing steadily. For instance, the share of various mentioned arm-producing companies like General Dynamics rose about 12 percent, Raytheon by 8 percent, Lockheed Martin by 18 percent, and Northrop Grumman by 22 percent.

If by the same practice continues, states with a minimum budget for their self-defence will be in unending fear of war. Ultimately, it is the failure of assurances provided by the treaties signed by non-nuclear states for their safety and survival and international peace and security.

The arrival of military hitech weapons such as laser weapons, automatic rifles, and hypersonic missiles has made the world more insecure, urging the states to focus more on defence than human development. US President Dwight D. Eisenhower in his tenure (1953-61) rightly expressed his fear of the military-industrial complex.

He said, "Every gun that is made, every warship that is launched, and every rocket that is fired signifies in the final sense a theft from hunger that is not fed. Those who are cold and not clothed". The world's weapon producers will simply continue to exploit man's ability to fulfil their financial desires.

The international community should take effective and rational measures to bring a ceasefire not only to the Russo-Ukraine War but also to other war-torn countries of the world such as Yemen, Syria, Lebanon, and so on. Also, it should move towards the implementation of disarmament treaties in letter and spirit and should provide effective security assurances through confidence-building measures between those countries that feel threatened by each other.

Lastly, the objective of 'The New World Order', which was to ensure the smaller states' security, and not the major powers' national interests nor the monopoly of arms-producing industries, must be reintroduced and reemphasized.

Courtesy Pakistan Today

Time to revisit public policies mechanism

— By Hafiz Ahsaan Ahmad

PUBLIC policies can generally be defined as system of laws, regulatory measures, courses of action, and showing the funding priorities concerning a given topic promulgated by a governmental entity or its representatives for the welfare and betterment of their citizens with the best priorities and its time limit execution. Under the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Executive is responsible in their respective areas of jurisdiction at federal, provincial and local government levels for conceiving, formulation and development of public policies at different government levels and to ensure its implementation strategy for the wellbeing of citizens of Pakistan. However, there is a strong perception prevailing in Pakistan that the existing governance and administrative structure has not only failed to evolve and provide a national, provincial and local comprehensive institutional mechanism for making good, result-oriented and consistent policies but has also failed on implementation side both in areas of social and human development in Pakistan. This eventually has shown in the world map that Pakistan as a country has now lower ranking in many areas of governance, human & social development sectors, policy making, foreign direct investment and ease of doing business. There are many factors behind the general public policy failure in Pakistan which include weak government & lack of proper institutional legal framework & infrastructure, corruption, lack of visionary leadership & political will, absence of strong public oversight mechanism, insufficient or irrelevant financial allocations,

deploying incompetent inefficient human resource, lack of continuity in successive government policies, overlapping in government functioning, lack of centralized approach to implementation and last but not the least the poor policy towards preparation, evaluation and monitoring system at different levels. It is an established fact that poor governance and failure in public policies in a number of ways have increased non-transparency in government affairs, increased unbridled discretion of government officials which has finally led to corruption, favouritism and huge drainage of public resources.

A sound public policy-making process is always founded in high-quality decisions at top government level and then to have strong follow-up with a time-bound implementation strategy. The salient features of a successful public policy always require empowerment, accuracy, openness, public participation, transparency, legitimacy and proper time limit execution. There is no question in a prudent mind that not only good governance and formulation of public policies are very important for the welfare of citizens but implementing these with a transparent mechanism simultaneously are very important for their better results. Potential financial and human resources of a country could be used in a better way if there is consistency and prescribed time limit with good productive output while drafting and in implementation of public policies.

There is also an urgent need to review the whole process of policy making in Pakistan and to identify as well the areas of policy prepara-

tion, efficiency and effectiveness at all levels i. e. federal, provincial and local government levels with a strong implementation plan. The planning Commission of Pakistan and the relevant agencies in provinces should take lead on the subject. Training to legislatures and the executives are also very important in areas of formulation and implementation of successful public policies in Pakistan. It is also important and crucial for a vibrant, citizens oriented and successful public policies in Pakistan that governments at all levels in addition to their own capacities must utilize the potential of relevant professionals and to adopt best international practices during all stages of public policies. There is also a need to take action in the best interest of country and for the success of public policies that to have well home work by state institutions before formulation of public policies with considering future impacts, to increase the role of public participation, to get proper professional consultation for proper fixation and utilization of public resources and to enhance the government institutional structure and capacities at all levels of government starts from conceiving the ideas, drafting, preparation, evaluation and execution of public policies with the time-bounded factors of implementation. All these steps can provide best results and would improve Pakistan's ranking in governance and policy making among community of world, which ultimately would promote the utilization of resources in best way for the citizens of Pakistan.

Courtesy Pakistan Observer

Letters to the Editor

Out of school

If anyone wants to see what a failed state looks like, they should visit the main gate of the University of Karachi, which is the biggest university of Karachi. Tens of school-going children stand outside

the gate under the scorching sun to beg for money. These children are the future of the country, and they must be inside their classrooms. This shows that Pakistan's future is in danger and that our state has failed in fulfilling its responsibility. The government should provide

free education to these children. They deserve to live a better life. Only through education can these children uplift their standard of living.

– Sumaira Iqbal
Karachi

15 public schools, five hospitals to be inaugurated soon in Balochistan: Sajid Turi

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Sajid Hus-sain Turi has said that fifteen public schools and five hospitals for workers shall be inaugurated soon in Balochistan province. An official source told APP, Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) offices and schools would soon be opened in various cities of Balochistan including Gwadar. The Ministry was making all efforts to provide maximum educational facilities and a friendly environment to children. He said, "Facilitation centers have

already been opened in NADRA and police stations for overseas Pakistanis, adding, the pension of senior citizens is going to increase soon." All workers employed in mines and other private factories would be registered. The registration of each mine and industry is subject to their registration with EOBI. He said that Ministry for Overseas and Human Resource Development is obliged to provide facilities and privileges to workers in accordance with ILO and international laws, he added. Overseas Pakistanis are the country's greatest asset and the govern-

ment would facilitate them in every respect, he added. He directed the concerned departments to work out further incentives to improve the performance of the Overseas Employment Corporation in Balochistan. "Overseas migration is a multidimensional phenomenon that requires effective cooperation among different ministries and sectors. To improve the recruitment process for overseas employment in Balochistan, the skill levels of the overall labor force, particularly of intending emigrants, will be further developed and enhanced." (APP)

Over 70,000 candidates expected to compete for 2,075 seats in MDCAT for NUMS for MBBS/BDS admission

RAWALPINDI: National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS) will simultaneously hold its Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) across the country and overseas in Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates for admission in MBBS/BDS programmes on October 16 (Sunday). MDCAT for NUMS is being held for admission in 13 medical and Dental colleges. The students seeking admission in these colleges this year are no longer required to sit any other test as per the decision of Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) last month. The nomenclature of NUMS Entry Test (NET) has been changed to MDCAT for NUMS 2022. All the candidates for MBBS and BDS will have to secure 55% and 45 % passing marks respectively to be successful in the

test, said the University Registrar Brig Muhammed Azhar (Retd) here on Saturday. Over 70,000 candidates having Pakistani nationality will be taking the test at their respective Exam Centers to compete for 2075 (two thousand seventy-five) seats. Of all the contesting candidates, 46,582 girls and 23,641 boys have applied for admission. The result of MDCAT for NUMS is expected to be announced within two to three weeks, said the Registrar. MDCAT for NUMS MBBS/BDS Session 2022 will take place at the Examination Centers, set up in 20 different cities including the Federal Capital Islamabad, in four provincial capitals, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and NUMS centers in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. (APP)

Int'l day of rural women marked

ISLAMABAD: International Day of Rural Women marked on October 15 (Saturday) across the globe including Pakistan which celebrates and honors the role of rural women including indigenous women, in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty. The theme for the "International Day of Rural Women" this year titled "Rural Women Cultivating Good Food for All", highlights the essential role that rural women and girls play in the food systems of the world. It recognizes rural women's importance in enhancing agricultural and rural development worldwide. Television, radio, and print media will broadcast or publish

special features to promote the day. Panel discussions, research papers, and conferences are also held to review and analyze rural women's role in society, particularly in areas such as economic improvement and agricultural development. Other activities and events held to promote the day included Global exchange programs for women in agriculture. The launch of fundraising projects is to support rural women. Expos and workshops are showcasing rural women's contribution to their societies. Strategic meetings to present issues on topics, such as empowering women farmers, are also held to convince policymakers on the role of rural women. (APP)

Newly appointed Director PUCAR Sargodha assumes charge

SARGODHA: Newly appointed director Punjab Council of the Arts Sargodha division Zahid Iqbal on Saturday took the charge of his office. Assistant director PUCAR Adnan Khaliq Bhatti and other staff welcomed the new director by

presenting him a bouquet of flowers. PUCAR director Zahid Iqbal reiterated the council's full focus on encouraging art and artist and said that all resources would be utilized for further improvement of the council. (APP)

Suddle urges Christian youth to give top priority to education

ISLAMABAD: Chairman One-Man Commission on Minority Rights at Supreme Court of Pakistan Dr Shoaib Suddle has urged the Christian youth to give top priority to education, so that they can render their services for the betterment of the country. "I hope and wish that Christian youth will get higher education and be appointed on good positions and render their services for betterment of the country. In this regard, quota has also been allocated for Christian students in colleges and universities," he said while addressing a ceremony held in honor of former Federal minister

and Christian leader Julius Salik at St. John's Paul Church, H-9/2. He said the Commission was always there for the protection of the rights of the minorities. "After the unfortunate attack on Peshawar Church, all-out efforts were made to ensure no such incident should occur at any worship place in the future, he added. Salik's services for the Christian community and democracy were known to all. Being nominated for the United Nations World Peace Award in 1999 for his efforts for the Christian community "is a clear proof of his services", Suddle highlighted. (APP)

Wheat smuggling bid foiled, 1,600 wheat bags recovered

MULTAN: The Food department on Saturday foiled a wheat smuggling bid and recovered over 1,600 bags of wheat. District Food Controller (DFC) Ahmad Javed raided and seized three trailers of wheat at Jalalpur interchange as wheat was being smuggled to Sindh. According to a spokesman of the food department, three cases have been registered against the wheat brokers and

legal action has started. Secretary Food Punjab Nadir Chatha said that strict blockade of the districts was being ensured to control wheat smuggling. The seized wheat would be provided to citizens on government rates and license of flour mills would be cancelled over embezzlement in government flour quota, he assured. (APP)

Two bids to smuggle wheat flour foiled

RAWALPINDI: The Food Department Rawalpindi and district police while foiling two bids to smuggle wheat flour seized 110 bags here on Saturday. According to a district administration spokesman, the authorities of the food department along with Taxila police conducted raids in different areas and rounded up two drivers namely Rahat and Akram, who were trying to illegally ship out wheat flour out of Rawalpindi division. He said, the Food Department Rawalpindi and district police on the directives of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi were strictly monitoring all the exit points of Rawalpindi district to foil wheat and flour smuggling bids. (APP)

DDC approves eight schemes of FESCO

SARGODHA: District Development Committee (DDC) on Saturday approved eight schemes of Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) worth Rs 105.2 million in the district. In this regard, a meeting of DDC was held with Deputy Commissioner Capt (retired) Nadeem Nasir in the chair. The DC said that under the Prime Minister's Special Development Programme Phase-III, FESCO would complete 7 schemes in tehsil Sillwanali and one scheme in tehsil Sargodha. He directed officials concerned to complete the schemes on time. (APP)

One killed, one hurt in road mishap

MUZAFFARGARH: A person was killed while another sustained injuries due to collision between over speeding truck, car and motorcycle near Noor Shah Talai road Tehsil Kot Addu. According to Rescue officials, an over speeding truck hit a car and motorcycle near Noor Shah Talai road in which car rider sustained serious injuries and died on the spot. The motorcycle rider sustained minor injuries which was provided first aid on the spot. Rescue 1122 shifted the body to Tehsil headquarters hospital Kot Addu. (APP)

Brick kiln, two bakeries fined

SARGODHA: A brick kiln and two bakeries were fined for violation here on Saturday. According to official sources, Assistant Commissioner, Sargodha, Mudassir Mumtaz along with his team inspected various brick kilns at Sargodha-Sillwanali road and found Awan brick kiln in Chak No 86-NB being run without zigzag technology. The AC imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 on the brick kiln owner. (APP)

3 Labourers fell unconscious at work

MULTAN: As many as three labourers fell unconscious during work at a well at Chah Umar Darazwala in Ta-aypur, a suburban area of Multan. According to Rescue-1122, three labourers namely Ali Umar (25), Shan Ali (30) and Hamaad Umar were working at a well when they fell unconscious during repair of a motor. Rescue-1122 rescued and shifted them to Nishtar hospital. Two labourers were fully unconscious, however, one was less unconscious, said Rescue-1122 officials. (APP)

All set for by-elections in 11 constituencies on Sunday

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has finalised all arrangements for holding by-elections in 11 constituencies eight of National Assembly and three of Punjab Assembly on Sunday in an impartial atmosphere. The by-polls are being held in three provinces Punjab, where three seats of National and three of the provincial assembly are vacant; Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where it will be held for three NA seats, and Sindh, where candidates will compete for two NA seats. A total of 101 candidates from different political parties and independents are taking part in the vote: 52 in Punjab, 33 in Sindh and 16 in KP. In Punjab, 1,434 polling stations are established, 979 in KP and 340 in Karachi. Pakistan Tehreek-e-In-

saf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan, is trying his luck in seven seats out of eight National Assembly constituencies. The Polling staff, polling material, ballot papers, polling bags are being delivered to their respective polling stations on Saturday with complete security. All Presiding Officers will arrive at their polling stations and set up polling booths by Saturday evening. The concerned officers in Karachi, Lahore, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad are monitoring the process of delivery of polling materials from Control Room. Separate special control rooms have been established at central and provincial levels to promptly resolve election related complaints and hurdles in the conduct of impartial elections. (APP)

10.9 m indigenous plants to be installed in South Punjab: Sarfraz Magasi

MULTAN: Secretary Forest, Fisheries and Wildlife (South Punjab) Sarfraz Magasi said that 10.9 million indigenous plants were being installed across south Punjab under the 10 billion Tsunami project during the monsoon campaign. Talking to APP, Sarfraz Magasi observed that the Forest department owned six lac acres in south Punjab and most of the plants were being installed at the Forest land and these would help improve natural habitat not only for birds but also help promote greenery and clean atmosphere. The forest land is available along

roads, banks of canals, deserts and some other areas. Till now, the department had installed 20 million plants under the 10-Billion Tsunami project, he hinted. He remarked that the Forest department established special nurseries to provide plants to the general public against subsidized rates. Each plant is being given against Rs two, Magasi added. The plants are also given to schools, government offices. The role of armed forces in tree plantations is also important as a huge number of plants were installed in forces' offices, Magasi hinted. (APP)

By-polls: LEAs to exercise powers of magistrate to ensure fair elections

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday issued a notification giving first class magisterial powers to authorised officers of law enforcement agencies (LEAs) aiming to ensure conducting of the elections in free, fair and impartial atmosphere. The by elections in eight Constituencies of National and three of Punjab assembly would be held on Sunday. The ECP has al-

ready deployed army, rangers and Frontier Corps (FC) in the constituencies from Saturday to Monday where by-elections are going to be held. The Election Commission said that the concerned security in-charge magistrate can use the authority of magistrate, if the presiding officer does not take action against any anomaly. (APP)

NA 157 Bye Elections: Tough contest likely between Ali Musa Gilani & Mahr Bano Qureshi

MULTAN: About 462,205 voters will exercise their right to vote in bye elections NA 157 wherein a tough contest is likely between Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) candidate Syed Ali Musa Gillani (son of Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani) and Pakistan Tehreek Insaf candidate Mehar Bano Qureshi (daughter of Shah Mahmood Qureshi). According to official sources, the number of male and female voters are 247,920 and 214,285 respectively. A total of 264 polling stations are

established for smooth conduct of the elections. Overall, eight candidates are contesting elections in the constituency. During Elections 2018, Makhdoom Zain Hussain had won the national assembly by securing 77,373 votes. However, Syed Ali Musa Gillani and Abdul Ghaffar Dogar (PML N) remained at second position and third position by achieving 70,778 and 62,082 votes respectively. Now, Syed Ali Musa Gilani is a candidate of PDM. (APP)

RCB's board meeting reviews progress on different schemes

RAWALPINDI: The monthly board meeting of Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) was held here on Saturday, which was presided over by its president Brig. Salman Nazar. The meeting was attended by RCB's Executive Officer Imran Gulzar, Vice President Malik Maneer Ahmed, elected members, Hafiz Hussain Ahmed, Rashid Ahmed Khan, Malik Tahir Ayub, Haji Zafar Iqbal, Malik Mansoor Afsar, Ch. Shakoor Ahmed, Malik Saghir Ahmed, minority member

Khurram Shehzad Gul and others. The meeting besides discussing in detail the agenda items, reviewed the overall progress on different schemes. The meeting also discussed income and expenditures of the RCB and approved purchase of Phaco Cutter Pulsar-2 Optik machine for Cantonment General Hospital, store goods and several other agenda items. To a question the RCB Spokesman said that RCB's anti-encroachment drive was in full swing in the Cantt area. (APP)

WASA allowed to sign agreement with SWIT for operation, maintenance of 128 filtration plants

RAWALPINDI: The Governing Body of Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) has allowed Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Rawalpindi to sign an agreement with a Non-Government Organization (NGO) 'Saylani Welfare International Trust' (SWIT) for operation and maintenance of 128 filtration plants in the town. According to Director General (DG) RDA, Muhammad Saif Anwar Jappa, WASA was facing financial problems in operation and maintenance of filtration plants as well as other infrastructure. The Gov-

erning Body of RDA had approved signing of an agreement with 'Saylani Welfare International Trust' for operations and maintenance of 128 filtration plants across the city, he added. According to RDA spokesman, initially the Trust would undertake the up-gradation and operation of 30 filtration plants in Rawalpindi city areas. He further said that it would be sponsored initially for five years, which would be extendable on the basis of mutual understanding in the interest of the people. (APP)

China Gezhouba Group donates RMB 300,000 for relief of flood victims in Pakistan

BEIJING: China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC), a long-standing partner of Pakistan in hydropower generation, has donated RMB 300,000.00 in Prime Minister’s Flood Relief Fund for the relief and rehabilitation of flood victims in Pakistan. President of CGGC International, Zhang Jun presented the donation cheque to Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin Ul Haque during a ceremony held at the Embassy. Sharing his grief and con-

lences with the bereaved families, President Zhang Jun said his company would continue to support the people of Pakistan in this difficult time. He expressed his good wishes for Pakistan government’s efforts for the post-flood rehabilitation and infrastructure development in the affected areas. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Moin conveyed sincere gratitude of the government and the people of Pakistan

to the company’s leadership for the generous assistance. Recalling that the two countries have always stood together in difficult times. “Chinese assistance to Pakistan for flood victims rehabilitation has once again proven the unique nature of fraternal ties between the two countries”, he added. The ambassador also presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Zhang Jun for the CGGC’s generous donation. (APP)

Measures being taken for provision of quality,affordable food

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: The Phar-pur Tehsil administration is taking solid measures to provide quality food items to people at affordable prices. As part of such efforts, Assistant Commissioner Aneeq Anwar paid a surprise visit to the bazaar and checked prices and quality of various food commodities at several shops. The inspection was conducted on the directives of Deputy Commis-

sioner Nasrullah Khan in order to check artificial price hike and ensure availability of quality food items to the citizens. The AC directed the shopkeepers to display price lists at prominent places of their shops and provide quality items at officially-prescribed rates. He warned shopkeepers against overcharging and added that strict action would be taken against profiteers. (APP)

PHA reducing air pollution through plantation:DG

LAHORE: The Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) is taking practical steps to reduce air pollution and smog by planting maximum trees and saplings in the provincial capital. This was stated by PHA Director General (DG) Zeeshan Javeed during a plantation activity, carried out at Gulshan-e-Iqbal Garden, here on Saturday. He said that promotion of plantation was essential and need of the hour to make environment eco-friendly, adding that the PHA was carrying out tree plantation in parks and plain areas with the support of public and private sectors. All-out efforts should be made for beautification of all public parks of the city, he added. Every citizen should participate in the plantation campaign of the department to turn city into lush-green, he said and added that the PHA was planting large-sized trees in the public parks, green-belts and empty spaces of the city so that green areas could be increased and pollution could be lessened. (APP)

Two arrested on violation of marriage laws

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested two accused involved in fireworks and aerial firing at marriage party here Saturday, informed police spokesman. Police have also recovered weapons from their possession. Taxila police conducted a raid and arrested Noor Khan and Ifthikar setting off fireworks during the wedding ceremony. Police have registered separate cases against both of them and further investigation was in progress. SP Potohar Tariq Mehboob appreciated the performance of police team said that actions will continue against such criminals who endanger the lives of citizens through aerial firing and fireworks.(APP)

FESCO issues shutdown programme for Monday

FAISALABAD: The Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) has issued shutdown programme for Monday for necessary repair, maintenance and expansion of electricity lines. According to the programme, power supply from all feeders linked with 132-KV Sitara Chemical grid station will remain suspended from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. while new Interloop, Interloop-5, MSC Textile, MKB, Five Start Foods, HAR Textile, MJ Gohar, Phalahiwala and It-tehad feeders connected with 132-KV Chak No.103-RB grid station, Bibi Jan, Habib Haseeb (SEL), Asim Textile, Johal (SEL), Faisal Spinning and al-Zamin attached with 132-KV Bandala grid station will observe shutdown from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday (October 17).(APP)

IRSA releases 99,200 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: The Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Saturday released 99,200 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 75,600 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1536.45 feet and was 138.45 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 40,000 cusecs while outflow as 35,000 cusecs. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1179.09 feet, which was 129.09 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 9,400 cusecs and 38,000 cusecs respectively.(APP)

Economic stability must for international recognition: Governor Baligh



BAHAWALPUR: Governor Punjab Engr. Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rahman Saturday said that economic stability was necessary to give the country a dignified place in the ranks of nations. In this era of globalization, the role of higher education institutions was of utmost importance for the development of the knowledge-based economy. Governor Punjab expressed these views while addressing the 18th convocation of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur. In the convocation, 1857 students of 2016-20 will be awarded degrees and medals, including 8 Ph.D., 71 MPhil, 67 gold, and 54 silver medalists. They were awarded the degrees of BS, BSc, and MS, MSc. Engr. Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rahman said that our educational institutions should produce graduates who have full access to their studies and who have high moral values. The region of Bahawalpur was full of the universal message of peace and love to the humanity of Hazrat Khwaja Ghulam Farid. The Islamia University of Bahawalpur was a great asset to the region which was established by Nawabin of Bahawalpur to continue the knowledge legacy of the region. On this occasion, at the chancellor’s request, all the students stood up and paid tribute to their parents and teachers. The role of Nawab of Bahawalpur in the establishment of Pakistan and its contribution to stability would always be remem-

bered he said. He asked the students to devote their energies and skills to the country and the nation. High character was important for success. The consortium for the Islamia University of Bahawalpur has done significant work on climate change. In the recently held Vice Chancellor’s Conference in Murree, it was decided that this consortium would be headed by the Islamia University of Bahawalpur. It was a matter of satisfaction that the Islamia University of Bahawalpur was making significant progress in all fields under the leadership of Vice Chancellor Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob. Baligh said the provision of bus service of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur within a radius of 100 kilometers was a commendable initiative for the welfare of students. The Islamia University of Bahawalpur has become the first hepatitis-free university in the country. The flood relief campaign and donation provided by the Islamia University of Bahawalpur in recent floods is a very commendable initiative. Addressing the convocation, Vice Chancellor of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob welcomed Chancellor Engr. Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rahman, senior officials, members of parliament, dignitaries from the city and civil society representatives, media, students, and their parents in the 18th convocation. (APP)

Tank police intensify crackdown against narcotics dealers,anti-social elements

TANK: The district police have launched a crackdown against anti-social elements and narcotics across the district, arresting several outlaws besides recovering arms and narcotics on Saturday. According to police, a police party-led by Station House Officer(SHO) of Shaheed Mureed Akbar Gul Wali Khan conducted a strike and search operation in the area and arrested two proclaimed offenders who were allegedly involved in narcotics and theft-related cases. The outlaws were identified as Ahmed Alias Madu and Rifatullah Alias Patu. During the ongoing drive against narcotics, the Police and Narcotics

Eradication Team apprehended Bostan and recovered 1150 gram hashish and 30 gram ice-drug from his possession. The police also arrested Muhammad Arsalan and recovered one pistol and six cartridges from his possession. Separately a police team of Mulazai police station-led by SHO Noor Aslam Khan conducted search and strike operations at various areas, arresting three proclaimed offenders including Noor Gul and Sahib Noor and Wakeel Shah besides another accused Hameedullah. The police recovered two kalashnikovs, one pistol and over 100 cartridges from their possession.(APP)

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

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)

Dengue surges in Punjab, 496 cases reported on Saturday

LAHORE: Cases of dengue virus in the province surged on Saturday and 496 new cases were reported; however, no death was reported due to the virus during the last 24 hours. According to the Health Department, a total of 10,915 cases of dengue virus had been reported in the ongoing year so far, while 13 people died of the virus and 1,030 patients were under treatment in different hospitals of the province. The Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department reported 220 cases of dengue in Lahore

with highest number in the province, while 96 cases were reported in Rawalpindi, 67 in Gujranwala, 43 in Multan, 11 in Faisalabad, seven in Kasur, six each in Rahim Yar Khan and Khanewal, five in Sheikhupura, three each in Hafizabad, Okara, Attock, and Muzaffargarh, four in Sialkot, two each in Sargodha, Dera Ghazi Khan, Narowal and Jhelum, one each in Sahiwal, Mianwali, Chakwal, Lodhran, Toba Tek Singh, Layyah, Bhakkar, Mandi Bahauddin and Chiniot during the last 24 hours. (APP)

DC asks doctors,staff to observe duty timing in hospitals strictly

SIALKOT: Deputy Commissioner Abdullah Khurram Niazi called upon doctors and other staff to reach both the teaching hospitals in Sialkot city on time and observe their duty timing strictly to facilitate patients and medical students. He visited Allama Iqbal Teaching Hospital on Saturday and inspected various sections of the health facility. Principal Khwaja Safdar Medical College Professor Dr. Abdul Sattar, Medical Superintendent (MS) Dr Azam Ibrahim, MS Sardar Begum Hospital Dr. Asif, social worker Zain Ali and other were present. The DC

remained in hospital from 10am to 12:30pm, visited the operation theatre, emergency ward, cardiology, gynecology, and children ward, etc. He asked about the problems being faced by patients and their families during their hospital visit. While checking the patient’s record in the Cardiology Ward, the deputy commissioner expressed his displeasure at a patient being tested by a private laboratory. He directed the MS Allama Iqbal Teaching Hospital that in future there would be strict ban on prescribing tests for private laboratories.(APP)

505,186 voters to cast votes in NA-108 by-election on Sunday

FAISALABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has completed all necessary arrangements for by-election in National Assembly constituency NA-108 (Faisalabad-VIII), scheduled to be held here on Sunday, October 16. A spokesman for the ECP Faisalabad said here on Saturday that 505,186 voters would cast their votes during by-election in NA-108. He said that 354 polling stations and 1,084 polling booths had been established across the constituency to facilitate voters. He said that 167 polling stations were set up for men, 162 for women and 25 combined stations were also established in the constit-

uency. Similarly, 558 polling booths were set up for men and 526 booths were established for women in NA-108. He said that 372 presiding officers, 1138 assistant presiding officers, 1138 polling officers and 372 Naib Qasid were deputed for by-election in NA-108 which was also divided into two zones, eight sectors and 16 sub-sectors to make tight security arrangements. He said that more than 8,000 police officials including four superintendents of police (SPs), 13 DSPs, 17 Inspectors, 384 sub-inspectors, 436 assistant sub-inspectors and 5,342 constables would perform security duty.(APP)

PPP leader flays large size of Punjab cabinet

LAHORE: Pakistan People’s Party Central Punjab Secretary General Syed Hassan Murtaza said on Saturday that the provincial cabinet had become a burden on the exchequer with 21 ministers and 48 advisers. In a statement issued here, he said that the Punjab government was fooling people in the name of austerity and simplicity. He alleged that guards and vehicles were being given to the cabinet members in viola-

tion of the Constitution. He said that the government employees in Punjab were on roads for acceptance of their demands while the chief minister was busy in nepotism. Murtaza alleged that the public money was being spent only in Mandi Bahaudin and Gujrat and rest of the province was being neglected. He said he would expose illegal steps of the incumbent provincial government on the assembly floor. (APP)

LUMHS organizes pediatrics symposium

HYDERABAD: The Department of Pediatrics, Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS) Jamshoro Saturday organized a pediatric symposium with the theme ‘Barriers in achieving excellence for preventive and therapeutic aspects of child health.’ LUMHS Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Ikram Din Ujjan who was the chief guest of the event said research showed that unhealthy children grow up to be unhealthy adults. Poor health and low income go hand in hand, he said and added that the magnitudes of both poverty and poor health strained public resources. In view of such facts, he said that improving children’s health was important for improving the population’s health. The policies to prevent health issues among children were important investments, therefore, the policymakers should formulate and implement policies and

programmes, focusing child health, he added. The vice chancellor said that prevention and therapeutic innovation in the management of infant, child and adolescent health had increasingly acquired global importance for their direct effects on the lifelong health and well-being of population. If appropriately implemented, they had the potential to positively impact various areas of the public health sector, generating beneficial outcomes, he added. Responding to emerging preventive and health promotion needs of infants, children, and adolescents has become a priority for pediatrics I, he said. Earlier, Chairperson Organizing Committee Prof. Dr Shazia Memon highlighted the importance of collaboration among the stakeholders to achieve excellence in child health, especially in the preventive and therapeutic aspect. (APP)

No haircuts, Pakistan seeks rescheduling of \$27 bln bilateral debt: Dar

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Mohammad Ishaq Dar said that Pakistan would seek rescheduling of some \$27 billion worth of non-Paris Club debt largely owed to China, but will not pursue haircuts as part of any restructuring. In an interview with British News Agency, Reuters, the minister ruled out the possibility of a default on Pakistan's debt, an extension of the maturity date on bonds due in December or a renegotiation of Pakistan's current International Monetary Fund (IMF) program. He said multilateral development banks and international donors have been "quite flexible" with ways to meet Pakistan's external financing needs esti-

mated at about \$32 billion after devastating floods. Some of this may come from reallocating funds from previously approved, slower-disbursing development loans, he added. Dar, who is participating in the IMF and World Bank (WB) annual meetings, said that Pakistan will seek restructuring on equal terms for all bilateral creditors. On currency, the finance minister said Pakistan has not engaged in physical intervention in the currency, which has been battered this year by a strong U.S. dollar, but which has rallied some 10% since his appointment. Dar said that he views the "true value" of the rupee at a level under 200 to the dollar. It last traded at 219. "I am for a stable currency, I

am for a realistic rate. I am for market-based, but not subject to a currency being taken hostage" and making speculators billions of dollars, he added. To a question on whether he discussed with IMF officials the possibility of borrowing from the Fund's new Resilience and Sustainability Trust for middle-income countries, Dar said, "We have discussed all options". He said IMF's new emergency "food shock" borrowing window may also be a good fit for the country, which has lost crops due to devastating floods and may need to import up to half million of tons of wheat in the next year. "In this scenario, we have the possibility to approaching and accessing this facility," he said. (APP)

PIA cuts fare for students, other passengers on flights from Pakistan to China

BEIJING: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has further cut down its fare in order to facilitate students and other passengers travelling from Pakistan to China with immediate effect. "Now, ex-Pakistan fare for students with taxes will be around Rs 248,000 while ex-Pakistan fare for other passengers will be around RMB 10,000," said official sources here on Saturday. Last month, the national flag carrier had offered a discount from 10 percent to 15 percent and an additional seven percent discount on surcharge for students wishing to travel between Pakistan and China. Currently, PIA is operating two weekly flights on Islamabad-Chengdu-Islamabad and Islamabad-Xian-Beijing-Islamabad routes. Pakistani students who wish



to join their studies at Chinese educational institutes and other passengers planning to travel to China can benefit from the new discount. A large number of Pakistani students enrolled in Chinese universities could not return to China following Covid-19 travel restrictions. They are planning to come back to China to join offline classes as the Chinese authorities have allowed them to return. On June 20, a special PIA plane

brought the first batch of Pakistani students from Islamabad to Xian. These students were stuck in their home country because of the travel restriction under the Covid-19 pandemic. Talking to APP, Tehsin Ahmad, a Pakistani student, said that the discount would greatly facilitate Pakistani students who are planning to return and start their offline education. He said a large number of students could now avail the offer of discounted fares and return to their respective universities in China. Abdul Karim, a Pakistani living in the Chinese capital, also expressed pleasure over reduction offered by PIA in its fare for travellers between Pakistan and China, adding, "now people could more frequently travel between the two countries". (APP)

Australian gov't announces plan to expand paid parental leave to boost economy

CANBERRA: Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has announced a plan to increase paid parental leave (PPL) entitlements up to six months. Albanese on Saturday revealed the policy in a speech to a Labor Party conference, declaring the move would boost productivity. Currently, parents are entitled to 18 weeks of parental leave paid at the same rate as the minimum wage. The government's proposal would add weeks to the entitlement until parents with a new baby can access 26 weeks of paid leave from July 2026. Albanese

said increasing PPL was one of the most frequent proposals raised by participants at the Jobs and Skills Summit in September. The government believed that this reform "has a significant benefit" to families and is an investment in women's economic equality and in the broader Australian economy. The new scheme will maintain "use it or lose it" weeks to encourage more dads and partners to access PPL, so that both parents can share the caring responsibilities more equally. "We know that investing in parental leave benefits our

economy. It is good for productivity and participation, it's good for families and it's good for our country as a whole," Albanese said. Amanda Rishworth, Minister for Social Services, said boosting women's workforce participation and encouraging more dads to take parental leave is a priority for the government. "This will benefit mums, it will benefit dads, it's good for children and it will be a huge boost to the economy," Rishworth said. Further details will be revealed when the government hands down the federal budget on Oct. 25. (APP)

Experts urge following current COVID-19 control measures to curb new Omicron variant

BEIJING: Chinese health experts have stressed the importance of adhering to current COVID-19 prevention and control measures, as the Omicron BF.7 subvariant has recently been detected for the first time on the Chinese mainland. Dong Xiaoping, a virologist from the Chinese Center for Disease

Control and Prevention, said the Omicron BF.7 subvariant, which was reported on Oct. 1 in Hohhot, North China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, has no obvious change in pathogenicity but shows strong transmission ability. "Initial progress has been achieved in China's COVID-19 prevention

and control work," said Liang Wanjian, head of the COVID-19 response expert panel under the National Health Commission. Liang noted that implementing the ninth set of COVID-19 containment protocols is of vital importance as the virus continues to evolve. (Agencies)

Rupee continues strong recovery against USD

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani Rupee continued upward trend against US dollar during the week ending on October 14 as it gained Rs 1.96 or 0.89% to close at Rs 217.96 on Friday compared to the close of Rs 219.92 on the last working day of previous week. After hitting the all-time high of Rs 239.71 against the greenback on September 22, 2022, the Pak rupee has showed strong recovery of around 9% and has so far

gained Rs 21.75. The analysts say that the robust gain was due to the sentiments ignited by the return of Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Ishaq Dar, who, after taking over the charge of the ministry, had repeatedly expressed the hope that the rupee value against dollar would come down under Rs 200. The analysts also pointed out that the retreat of dollar index against the major international currencies also contrib-

uted to the strength of Pak rupee. While comparing with other major international currencies, the Pak rupee also appreciated by 1.02% against Euro and gained Rs 2.2 to close at Rs 213.27 on Friday against the last week's close of Rs 215.47. Similarly, Pak Rupee also recovered 2.44% or 4 paise against the Japanese Yen to close at Rs 1.4807 compared to the last Friday's close of Rs 1.5178. (APP)

Yen hits new 32-year low of 148 under pressure from strong dollar

TOKYO: Japan's currency weakened past 148 yen to the dollar during New York trading Friday, hitting a fresh 32-year low as traders look to the prospect of further aggressive interest rate hikes by the U.S. Federal Reserve. The yen slipped to the high 148 range after breaking the 147 level the day before. September U.S. retail sales data on Friday fell within market expectations, providing a boost for an already strong dol-

lar. The currency's continued sell-off raises the possibility of further intervention, but Tokyo is keeping its cards close to its vest. Speaking to a news conference at the International Monetary Fund headquarters in Washington, U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen signaled the U.S. would have no intention of joining a coordinated intervention to rein in the dollar. Yellen said that "market-determined exchange rates are

the best regime for the dollar, that's what we're supportive of." Japan's government and the Bank of Japan intervened in the foreign-exchange market on Sept. 22 to prop up the yen for the first time in decades, pointing to concerns over its rapid movement. Uncertainty over what pace of decline would trigger another intervention from Japan has left traders looking to the market for signals. (Agencies)

Beijing says China remains driving force for global economy's growth

BEIJING: China's economy remains viable, despite the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and the difficult international situation, and continues to be a driving force for the growth of the global economy, Sun Yeli, a spokesperson for the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, said on Saturday.

"Everyone is interested in China's economic development. According to statistics, from 2013 to 2021, China's GDP grew by an average of 6.6% per year, which was higher than the average global growth rate of 2.6% and 3.7% in developing countries over the same period, China's contribution to global economic growth was

more than 30%," Sun said at a press conference on the eve of the opening of the Congress. According to the spokesperson, China continues to be a driving force for the growth of the global economy. "China is still an important stabilizer and a source of driving force for the growth of the global economy. (Agencies)

U.S. stocks fall amid inflation fears

NEW YORK: U.S. stocks dropped on Friday as investors worried that persistent inflation would force the Federal Reserve to continue aggressive tightening. The Dow Jones Industrial Average slid 403.89 points, or 1.34 percent, to 29,634.83. The S&P 500 fell 86.84 points, or 2.37 percent, to 3,583.07. The Nasdaq Composite Index shed 327.76 points, or 3.08 percent, to 10,321.39. All the 11 primary S&P 500 sectors ended in red, with consumer discretionary and energy down 3.88 percent and 3.71 percent, respectively, leading the losses. The market weakness came af-

ter the University of Michigan's preliminary consumer sentiment results for October released on Friday showed an uptick in U.S. inflation expectations. Consumer expectations for inflation over the next year rose to 5.1 percent from September's one-year low of 4.7 percent, while expectations for inflation over the next five years ticked up to 2.9 percent from 2.7 percent last month, the survey found. On Thursday, the U.S. Labor Department reported that the country's consumer price index came in hotter than expected in September. (APP)

U.S. agricultural futures fall

CHICAGO: Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) agricultural futures fell across the board on Friday, led by wheat. The most active corn contract for December delivery fell 8 cents, or 1.15 percent, to settle at 6.8975 U.S. dollars per bushel. December wheat plunged 32.5 cents, or 3.64 percent, to settle at 8.5975 dollars per bushel. November soybean lost 12 cents, or 0.86 percent, to settle at 13.8375 dollars per bushel. CBOT grain futures were lower on strong U.S. dollar and as traders fear an aggressive U.S. central bank rate hike in early November. The U.S. Mississippi River flow will continue to decline over the next



two to three weeks. Barge costs will stay historically high which in turn pressures domestic cash basis bids. U.S. corn and wheat export demand is horrible. If weather in Brazil is favorable and CBOT soybean rallies fail, Chicago-based research company AgResource looks to sell CBOT corn, soybean and wheat rallies amid strong economic headwinds. (APP)

China pickup truck sales rise in September

BEIJING: China's pickup truck market continued robust growth in September, with sales rising 9.4 percent month on month, industry data shows. A total of 44,000 pickup trucks were sold in China last month, according to the China Passenger Car Association. In the first nine months of 2022, some 385,000

units of these trucks were sold in the country, down 2.4 percent from the same period last year. Relying on strong growth in exports, the production and sales of pickup trucks performed much better than the rest of the truck market, according to the association. (APP)

Electric fans exports witness 31.96pc increase

ISLAMABAD: Electric fans exports during the second month of fiscal year of 2022-23 increased by 31.96 percent as compared to the exports of the commodity during the corresponding period of last year. During the period from July 22-August 22, electric fans worth US\$ 5,843,000 were exported as compared to the exports of US \$ 4,428,000 during the same period of last year. According to the data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, the exports of engineering goods increased by 20.03 percent, worth US\$ 45,461,000

as compared to exports of US\$ 37,874,000 during the same period of last year. Meanwhile, transport equipment exports also increased by 9.53 percent as the exports recorded during current fiscal year were US\$ 1,781,000 as compared to the exports during the same period of last year which were US\$ 1,626,000. During the period under review, other electrical machinery exports increased by 41.23 percent, worth US\$ 7,474,000 in current fiscal year, as compared to the exports of US\$ 5,292,000 during the same period of last year. (APP)

REAPPAS urge govt to devise RE policy, abolish sales tax on RE products

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Renewable Energy Association of Pakistan (REAP) Nasir A Latif and Vice President Pakistan Solar Association (PSA) Muhammad Faheem Ashraf on Saturday urged the government to devise a clear policy about Renewable Energy (RE), abolish sales tax on all RE products and give priority to local companies in the projects to save the country's solar industry from collapse. Addressing a joint press conference here, they requested the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Minister for Power Division Khurram Dastgir to remove code of solar panels and inverters from prior permission list of State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), immediately release all containers

at port besides waiving off fine on the products. Nasir Lateef said solar products were put in a list for which special SBP clearance was required for its imports. He claimed that hundreds of such containers were stuck at the ports due to non clearance of the SBP. The importers of solar energy products were not only bearing heavy fine but also had to pay daily \$ 120 per container to international shipping companies as charges. He requested the government to allow the shifting of RE products stuck at port, to a bonded warehouse so precious foreign reserves spent on charges could be saved. He said about 30 per cent industry was already closed and the people were losing their jobs. (APP)

European regulators visit Washington to discuss possible reduction in gas prices

MOSCOW: European energy regulators arrived in Washington to discuss the energy crisis and a possible reduction in the price of gas imported from the United States, the Euractiv news portal reported. The portal said that representatives of 10 European regulators, including from France and Germany, arrived in the US on Wednesday. The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER), however, denied that the regulators went to Washington to "negotiate lower prices for shale imported from the United States," Euractiv said. "Rather, ACER and CEER (Council of European Energy Regulators) are meeting with

their US counterparts, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), as part of a regular EU-US regulatory dialogue," a spokesperson for ACER, Una Shortall, told the portal. The start of hostilities in Ukraine in February exacerbated the energy crisis that has been unfolding in Europe over the past year. Disruptions in logistical and financial operations due to the crisis and Western sanctions against Russia have undermined supply chains and led to a spike in energy prices worldwide, pushing Europe to search for alternatives. (APP)

Record-breaking Martin takes pole for Australian MotoGP

PHILLIP ISLAND: Jorge Martin smashed the nine-year-old Phillip Island lap record Saturday to grab pole position for the Australian MotoGP, with world champion Fabio Quartararo coming in fifth. In dry and partly cloudy conditions, the Spaniard ensured he will start at the front of the grid on Sunday with a blistering lap of one minute and 27.767 seconds. It shattered the 1:27.899 mark held by Jorge Lorenzo since 2013 and, incredibly, came with the Ducati-Pramac rider having never driven the picturesque waterfront circuit before this week-



end. “It’s time to beat those records because the bikes are faster now,” said Martin. “Yesterday I struggled a bit because I was a bit lost, it is my first time here and I had to take the measurement (of the track).

But finally today I had good pace. “I thought I could be competitive, but not this competitive. Making 1:27 is amazing. Hopefully we can fight till the end tomorrow,” he added. Six-time world champion Marc Marquez amazingly saved a crash when he lost the front end of his Honda and spun at turn 10 on his first lap, but recovered to take second, 0.013 behind, also under Lorenzo’s time. “I’m not a little bit happy, I’m a lot,” said Marquez, who is a three-time winner at Phillip Island and only recently back from yet another bad injury. (Agencies)

Braves,Dodgers pushed to the brink in MLB playoffs

NEW YORK: Defending champion Atlanta and the Los Angeles Dodgers were pushed to the brink of elimination from the Major League Baseball playoffs after road losses on Friday. Philadelphia’s Rhys Hoskins and Bryce Harper blasted home runs to power the Phillies over Atlanta 9-1 while Trent Grisham’s solo homer for San Diego was the difference in a 2-1 triumph over the Dodgers. “It was a big turning point,” said Grisham of his fourth-inning blast. “You feel how important it is to the city and your teammates and to be able

to do it is really important to me.” The Padres and Phillies each seized a 2-1 lead in their best-of-five National League division series match-up and can advance with another home triumph Saturday. “We’re excited about that opportunity,” Harper said. “We can’t wait. Excited to be back home. We want to be able to do this for the next two weeks.” San Diego has not reached the NL championship series since 1998 while the Phillies, in their first postseason appearance since 2011, haven’t gone that far since 2010. (Agencies)

No.1 Swiatek rips Gauff to reach WTA San Diego semis

SAN DIEGO: World number one Iga Swiatek, seeking her eighth WTA title of the year, cruised over eighth-ranked CoCo Gauff on Friday to reach the San Diego Open semi-finals. In a rematch of the French Open women’s final, the 21-year-old Polish star rolled over 18-year-old American Gauff 6-0, 6-3 in 65 minutes. Three-time Grand Slam champion Swiatek advanced to a Saturday semi-final against sixth-ranked Jessica Pegula, who defeated 18th-ranked US compatriot Madison Keys 6-4, 7-5. Croatia’s Donna Vekic made the semi-finals by ousting fifth-ranked Aryna Sabalenka 6-4, 6-7 (5/7), 6-1. Vekic,



ranked 77th, will next face the winner of a later match between Spain’s fourth-ranked Paula Badosa and 19th-ranked American Danielle Collins. Swiatek won her WTA-best 62nd match triumph of the year in her tour-best 12th quarter-final of the season.(Agencies)

Neymar goes on trial in Barcelona ahead of World Cup

Barcelona: A month before the World Cup begins in Qatar, Brazilian superstar Neymar goes on trial in Spain over alleged irregularities in his transfer to Barcelona nearly a decade ago. The trial opens in Barcelona on Monday following a years-long legal saga over his 2013 transfer from the Brazilian club Santos, with the 30-year-old star

in the dock as well as his parents, whose company manages his affairs. All three are facing charges of business corruption. Investigators began probing the transaction after a 2015 complaint filed by DIS, a Brazilian company that owned 40 percent of the player’s sporting rights when he was at Santos. Barcelona said the transfer cost

57.1 million euros, but prosecutors believe it cost at least 83 million euros. The club said it paid 40 million euros to N&N, a company owned by the Neymar family, and 17.1 million to Santos, of which 6.8 million was given to DIS. But DIS alleges that Neymar, Barcelona and the Brazilian club colluded to mask the true cost of the deal. (Agencies)

Qatari Sheikh hopes Champions Day gives students taste for racing

Newmarket: Sheikh Fahad Al-Thani, the driving force behind British Champions Day at Ascot, was a student when he fell in love with racing and it is students who he and his brothers see as the future lifeblood of the sport, Qatar Racing’s manager David Redvers told AFP. Around 26,000 spectators -- including 600 students who pay

15 pounds (\$17) -- are expected to attend Champions Day on Saturday with the headline attraction Baaeed bidding to end his career unbeaten with an 11th win in 11 races. That is a far cry from the 32,000 who were on parade when another super horse Frankel bowed out in 2012 with his 14th win in 14 races. The number of students is well down on

the 3,000 that attended in the past and whilst the straight-talking Redvers praises the work done by Great British Racing -- racing’s official marketing and promotional body -- he admits “more could be done” to boost the figures. The crowd will be more than attended Europe’s most prestigious race the Prix de l’Arc de Triomphe earlier. (Agencies)

DAILY HOROSCOPE: OCTOBER 16, 2022



– It’s a general reading which may differ from person to person because of time date and year.
– ARIES: Creative activities are under excellent stars this weekend but you must make sure what you are working on is for your own personal and financial benefit rather than for the benefit of other people. Don’t allow lesser types to take advantage of your talents.
– TAURUS: There will be times over the next 48 hours when you find it hard to control your feelings, be they good or bad, about the people you deal with. But you must make the effort, because extreme emotions of any kind are unlikely to work in your favor.
– GEMINI: This is a busy time for you and it will get busier still this weekend as you take on extra work both for yourself and other people. The planets warn there is a real danger you could burn yourself out if you do too much. So do less!
– CANCER: Your resources have been stretched a bit thin in recent weeks and you need to make changes. The very first change you must make is to your social life. You have been spending too much time, and money, on people who are not really your friends.
– LEO: There will be times this weekend when you wish that life was a bit more relaxed. But what’s stopping you from making it more relaxed? The only reason you feel stretched is

because you don’t like to say “No”. It’s a useful word to master.
– VIRGO: You may think the world is against you at the moment but deep down you know that’s not true. No one is ganging up on you and no one is plotting your downfall, so be positive and start acting in ways that get you smiling again.
– LIBRA: The Sun in your sign endows you with no end of courage and confidence but those attributes alone won’t be enough to bring the success that you crave. You will also need a long-term plan and a large dose of common sense, at the very least.
– SCORPIO: Cosmic activity in the most sensitive area of your chart may be clouding your vision and making it difficult to focus at the moment, but that’s okay. A week or so from now you will be pursuing your dreams with laser-like intensity again.
– SAGITTARIUS: What occurs over the next 48 hours will give your confidence a boost and before you know it you will be out there in the world challenging your rivals for the Number One slot on numerous levels. You will win because you are better than they are.
– CAPRICORN: Common sense should tell you that your problems are unlikely to disappear just because you choose to ignore them. The message of the stars this weekend is that the only way you will overcome your fears is by attacking them head-on. Start now.
– AQUARIUS: Some of the people you encounter this weekend, both socially and at work, will be hugely demanding but you must not let them treat you like a door mat. You are more likely to earn their respect if you stand up for your rights, loudly and forcefully.
– PISCES: In the greater scheme of things coincidences do not exist, so make it your business this weekend to find out how and why certain events came about.

Italy’s Ganna storms to fifth world pursuit gold in record time

Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines: Italy’s Filippo Ganna set a new world record time on his way to a fifth gold in the men’s individual pursuit at the Track World Cycling Championships in France on Friday. Ganna won gold ahead of compatriot Jonathan Milan, to add to the titles he won in 2016 and from 2018 to 2020, after finishing third last year in Roubaix. The 2020 and 2021 road time-trial world champion crowned his triumph by setting a new world record of 3min 59.636sec at the Saint Quentin en Yvelines velodrome outside Paris. The Olympic team pursuit champion had arrived at these worlds on the back of another world mark, breaking the mythical one-hour record, with 56.792km at the Grenchen track in Switzerland last Saturday. (Agencies)

Giga Kick upsets Nature Strip to win turf’s biggest prize

Sydney: Outsider Giga Kick, ridden by veteran Craig Williams, stunned star sprinter and red-hot favourite Nature Strip to win the world’s richest turf race, The Everest, in Sydney on Saturday. The Clayton Douglas-trained gelding surged past Chris Waller’s wonder horse in the final 100 metres at Royal Randwick to collect a whopping Aus\$6.2 million (US\$4.6 million) for barely a one-minute dash. Private Eye, winner of the Epsom Handicap last year and with Brenton Avdulla in the saddle, came second. Nature Strip was initially called third but Mazu took the placing in a photo finish, leaving the shortest priced favourite in the race’s history fourth with Jacquinot fifth. In a shock hours before the race, second favourite Lost And Running — who finished fourth last year -- was scratched with a fetlock injury. (Agencies)

Phillies push Braves to the brink and Yankees fall in MLB playoffs

NEW YORK: Rhys Hoskins and Bryce Harper blasted home runs Friday to power the Philadelphia Phillies over Atlanta 9-1, pushing the defending champion Braves to the brink of Major League Baseball play-off elimination. The Phillies, in their first post-season appearance since 2011, took a 2-1 lead over the Braves in their best-of-five National League division series and can advance with another home victory on Saturday. “It was just a good night overall offensively,” Phillies manager Rob Thomson said. “We just kept adding on.” The Phillies haven’t reached the NL Championship Series since 2010, haven’t reached the World Series since 2009 and haven’t won the World Series since 2008. The Los An-

geles Dodgers visited San Diego in a later NL division series contest with that matchup level 1-1. In an American League game postponed from Thursday by rain, Oscar Gonzalez drove in one 10th-inning run and scored another to lift visiting Cleveland over the New York Yankees 4-2 and level the series 1-1 with games the next two days in Cleveland. “We’re excited to go back home to our fans,” Guardians slugger Josh Naylor said. “We’re going to bring the same energy we bring every day.” At Philadelphia, Bryson Stott smacked a run-scoring double in the fourth and Hoskins followed two batters later with a three-run homer to give the Phillies a 4-0 lead. (Agencies)

7th Thal Desert Jeep Rally to start from Nov 17

MULTAN: The four-day 7th Thal Desert Jeep Rally organized by the Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab (TDCP) would commence from November 17. TDCP Event Manager Muhammad Nouman, while holding a press conference along with MCCI Vice President Sheikh Muhammad Asim and other office bearers, said that the jeep rally would cover a track of about 200 km passing through two districts Muzaffargarh and Layyah. The starting point for the rally was Changa Manga Head Muhammad Wala and mid-break of the track was Chobara Tehsil Layyah. He said that 14 check posts had been established at the rally track where Rescue 1122 ambulances, recovery vehicles and other facilities would be available to the rally participants. The TDCP official further said, “Around 100 drivers will participate in the Thal Desert Jeep Rally”. “The TDCP is going to launch two categories for women including stock and prepared category with the consultation of women drivers as in the past there was only stock category



for women”, he added. Registration, technical inspection of vehicles, tagging, medical check-up of the drivers and navigators and drivers conference and draws will be held on November 17. Qualifying round of stock and modified will be held on November 18, while stock vehicles category race would take place on November 19. Likewise, modified vehicles and women category race and dirt bike race will be held on November 20. The prize distribution ceremony will be conducted on concluding day at gymnasium hall, Faisal stadium, Muzaffargarh. He said that the steps would be taken to attract foreigners for participation in Jeep Rally. (Agencies)



PM expresses sadness at loss of lives in Türkiye coal mine blast

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Saturday expressed profound grief at the loss of precious lives in an explosion at a coal mine in Türkiye.

In a tweet on his Twitter handle, he said, "I express our profound sad-

ness at the loss of precious lives in an explosion at a coal mine in Türkiye's Bartın province." "Our thoughts & prayers are with the bereaved families & the Turkish people. May those still trapped be rescued at the earliest." (APP)

Thousands throng Hazratbal to have glimpse of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)'s Holy Relic

ISLAMABAD: Thousands of people from across the territory of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) on Friday visited the Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar to have a glimpse of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)'s Holy Relic.

People, including women and children came from all across the IIOJK to attend the congregational Friday prayers at the Hazratbal shrine, following the Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) which was observed last Sunday. The shrine houses the holy relic of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Hundreds of devotees also

participated in night-long prayers and had the glimpse of the holy relic which was displayed after every prayer, according to a press release. People in large numbers also offered prayers at Jenab Sahab Soura and Kalashpora in Srinagar where 'Moi-e-Muqadas' of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was displayed after the Friday prayers. Meanwhile, several seminars and Seerat Conferences were held across the territory while the Islamic clerics shed light on the life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) during the Friday sermons. (APP)

Death toll in Cambodia's boat sinking rises to 11: officials

PHNOM PENH: The death toll in an overloaded boat accident in southern Cambodia's Kandal province on Thursday night had risen to 11, and the rescue mission has completed, officials said on Saturday. Kun Kim, first vice president of the National Committee for Disaster Management, who led the rescue operation, said the rescue efforts ended at 6:15 a.m. local time after the last body was founded. The accident happened in the Mekong River

when the motorized boat, with 15 people aboard, including two boat crew members and 13 students, sank about 50 meters off the shore in Kandal province's Leuk Daek district.

Kandal's provincial police chief Chhoeun Sochet said the 11 deceased students were eight males and three females, aged between 12 and 14, while the four people rescued alive are two boat crew members and two students. (Agencies)

El Salvador police arrest 55,000 suspected gang members

SAN SALVADOR: Police in El Salvador have arrested more than 55,000 alleged gang members since President Nayib Bukele declared a "war" on criminal groups seven months ago, authorities said on Friday. "There have been more than 55,000 captures" of alleged gang members since March, when the government was handed emergency powers to arrest such suspects without a warrant, said Gustavo Villatoro, the country's minister of justice. The number of arrests comes on top of 16,000 that had already been

made before the emergency powers were granted. The wave of detentions is unprecedented in the country of 6.5 million people, which has suffered decades of violent crime driven by powerful gangs such as Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) and Barrio 18. "We are winning the war (against organized crime) and we will continue to deploy thousands of police and soldiers every day to arrest these terrorists," Villatoro said as he sought the seventh extension of the emergency powers. (Agencies)

Immigrant tale 'Riceboy Sleeps' charms in native South Korea

Busan: A Korean-Canadian filmmaker's poignant coming-of-age story has charmed audiences at Asia's top film festival, with the director telling AFP he made the movie to help people like him feel "a little bit less alone". "Riceboy Sleeps" won a prestigious prize at last month's Toronto International Film Festival, but Anthony Shim's movie about growing up as a Korean immigrant in majority-white Vancouver has also proved a hit in his native South Korea. It won the Flash Forward Audience Award at the re-

cently concluded Busan International Film Festival and is set to screen nationwide in South Korea. The film follows hot on the heels of critically acclaimed film "Minari" and TV series "Pachinko", which also tackle stories of the Korean diaspora, but Shim offers a unique portrait of a life caught between two worlds. Inspired by his own experiences, the film, set in the 1990s, follows a South Korean single mother who moves to Canada with her young son, and the difficulties they encounter. (Agencies)

IMF sympathizes with Pakistan on flood damages, assures support

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has sympathized with Pakistan for the losses caused by the recent floods across the country and assured of fund's support. The assurance was made by IMF's Director of the Middle East and Central Asia Department Jihad Azour in his meeting with Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Mohammad Ishaq Dar. They also discussed the implementation of the IMF programme, according to press statement received here on Saturday. Meanwhile, the finance minister also met with United Kingdom's Minister of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Ms. Vicky Ford and thanked her government for financial

support and assistance to meet the challenges posed by floods. He also appreciated the trade concessions afforded to Pakistan and other developing countries under the Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS). Minister Vicky Ford assured of the United Kingdom's continued support for Pakistan during this difficult period. The two sides discussed ways to further deepen bilateral development cooperation. Dar led Pakistan's delegation to the high level round table on Pakistan's floods - impact and response, co-chaired by Vice President World Bank, Martin Raiser and UK Prime Minister's Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Nigel Casey. (APP)

PM holds PTI responsible for economic difficulties of people

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Saturday held the previous government of Pakistan Tehreek I Insaf (PTI) responsible for the economic difficulties of the common man and expressed determination to take Pakistan out of economic hardship. Addressing Mufti Mehmood conference here, he said the previous government violated the agreement with International Monetary Fund (IMF), creating difficult economic situation for his incoming government. Chief of Jamiat Ulema Islam Maulana Fazlur Rehman organized the conference here in memory of his father and former chief minister of North West Frontier Province

Mufti Mehmood. The prime minister said when his coalition partners gave him the responsibility to lead the country as prime minister, Pakistan's economy was in dire straits and the country was on the verge of default. Referring to Imran Khan, he said a person wanted Pakistan to default and become another Sri Lanka. He said under the guidance of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Maulana Fazlur Rehman, the coalition government went through a difficult time, however, it succeeded in taking steps for the progress of Pakistan.

"If our intentions are good, we fear Allah, then Allah removes all difficulties and opens new paths." (APP)

On peace push, US envoy holds talks in Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA: US special envoy Mike Hammer was in Addis Ababa on Friday as part of a push to try to end the nearly two-year war between Ethiopian government forces and Tigrayan rebels. Hammer has been on a regional tour as international efforts intensify to try to bring peace to northern Ethiopia after fighting resumed in late August, rupturing a five-month truce. Western powers including the US had on Wednesday urged Ethiopia's government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) to start African Union-led peace talks, and called on neighboring Eritrea to withdraw its troops from the battlefield.

Hammer held talks in Addis with

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen, who "reaffirmed the government's commitment to a peaceful resolution of the conflict in the northern part of the country," Ethiopia's foreign ministry tweeted. Secretary of State Antony Blinken repeated the United States' position in a statement Friday evening, saying the country is "deeply concerned" over the violence in northern Ethiopia, especially the "indiscriminate targeting of civilians". "We reiterate that the government of Ethiopia and Tigray regional authorities should immediately cease all hostilities and participate seriously in the forthcoming African Union-led peace talks," Blinken said. (Agencies)

Pakistan embassy wins People's Choice Award at Chef Challenge in Washington

WASHINGTON: Pakistan won second place for the People's Choice Award at the 2022 Embassy Chef Challenge held at Smithsonian Museum here. The event was part of the 2022 Events DC International City Food Festival organized to celebrate food, culture and entertainment highlighting the diverse communities in the capital city of the United States. Food critics and Washingtonians were introduced to Pakistan's street food featuring samosa, chicken tikka, Ghulab Jaman, Firni and Karak Chai. Chef Muhammad Asghar, Executive Chef at Shinwari Restaurant represented the embassy at the event. "This is the third time that Pakistan has joined the Embassy's Chef Challenge and it's a great opportunity to celebrate

our cuisine, bridge cultural differences and foster international understanding as well as showcase Pakistani products," said ambassador Masood Khan. "Winning a place among top three People's Choice Awards depicts our cuisine's strong international appeal to international palates and we hope to bring our culinary diplomacy to even greater heights", he added. As one of Washington's leading international culinary events, the Embassy Chef Challenge brought together chefs representing different embassies to prepare their country-specific cuisine and compete for the Judges' Choice and People's Awards. In the latter category, guests at the event select the winner after food tasting. (Agencies)

Bilawal writes to President UNSC, SG UNGA on alarming situation in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has addressed a letter to the President of the United Nations Security Council and the UN Secretary General drawing attention to the alarming situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), especially India's ongoing unlawful measures to change the demographic structure of the occupied territory. In his letter, the Foreign Minister regretted India's continued denial of the right of self-determination to the people of IIOJK. He recalled that the unilateral measures undertaken by India since 5 August 2019 in IIOJK, including the ongoing systematic efforts to change the demographic structure of the occupied territory, were in blatant violation

of international law, including the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the Fourth Geneva Convention.

He underscored that the Indian government was making expeditious moves to register as many as 2.5 million new voters in IIOJK before the upcoming local elections in the region, to meddle with and further alter the demographic makeup of the occupied territory. The Foreign Minister reiterated that the only legal basis for the resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute was the implementation of the relevant Security Council Resolutions stipulating final disposition of the state through a free and impartial plebiscite under the auspices of the United Nations. (Agencies)

CJP expresses condolence over assassination of ex-chief justice Balochistan

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Umar Ata Bandial and other judges of the top court on Saturday expressed condolence over the assassination of former chief justice Balochistan High Court and Federal Shariat Court Justice Muhammad Noor Meskanzai. "We are deeply grieved by the shocking assassination of our dear brother Jus-

tice Muhammad Noor Meskanzai," they said in their condolence messages. As a victim of a terrorist attack on a mosque, Justice Meskanzai attained the 'darjat of a Shaheed'. "May Almighty Allah bless his soul with the highest place in Jannah and grant the bereaved members of his family strength and fortitude to bear the irreparable loss." (APP)

World Food Day to be marked tomorrow

ISLAMABAD: World Food Day will be marked on October 16 (Sunday) across the globe including Pakistan which aims to raise people's awareness of problems in food supply and distribution. On and around the day, a wide-ranging programme is organized at the FAO's headquarters in Rome, Italy. The program is aimed at leaders of political and non-political organizations at all levels and at increasing press attention on topical issues around food supply. Other UN organizations and universities around the world organize symposia, conferences, workshops and presentations of particular issues around food production, distribution and security. In addition, special initiatives, such as the "International Year of Rice" in 2004 and the "International Year of the Potato" in 2008 were launched. Across the globe, many different events are organized to raise awareness of problems in food supply and distribution and to raise money for supporting projects to aid in the cultivation of food plants and the distribution of food. (APP)

Six dead in fire in Philippine capital

MANILA: Six people died in a blaze that ripped through a house in a residential area in the Philippine capital before dawn on Saturday, the Bureau of Fire Protection said. The bureau said the fire broke out before 2:00 a.m. local time in Quezon City suburb. Firefighters put out the fire around 3:20 a.m. The fatalities include a 79-year-old man, a 30-year-old woman, her children aged 12, seven and two, and another male, the bureau added. The bureau said the family members suffocated after they were trapped inside the burning house. An investigation is underway to determine the cause of the fire. (Agencies)

Govt reduces electricity price by Rs 4.25: Marriyum



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Saturday said electricity price had been reduced by Rs 4.25 in October on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. "The prices have been reduced in terms of fuel charges adjustment," she said in a news statement. The minister said it was a "big relief" for the public from PM Shehbaz Sharif. She said it had been decided to continue the same quarterly adjustment which was charged in the electricity bills for September. The initiative was taken keeping in view the burden of rising prices of electricity on public, she added. The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority announced the decision regarding fourth quarterly adjustment for the fiscal year 2021-22 on October 14, 2022. (APP)

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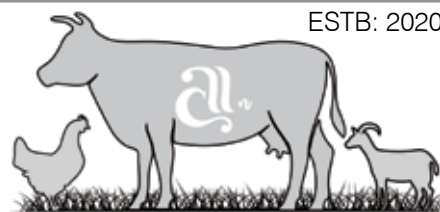
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