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Editor: Omer Rizwan

In Toshakhana reference

Imran Khan disqualified

- PTI workers stage protests against ECP's verdict, burnt tyres, blocked roads, chanted slogans against ECP.
- Rangers, FC personnel deployed in Red Zone amid PTI protests. - Will challenge the verdict in IHC: Asad Umar.
- Rana Sanaullah calls on PML-N supporters to come out in solidarity with ECP.

ISLAMABAD: Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday disqualified Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan in Toshakhana case. A four-member bench headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja announced the unanimous decision. In the decision, it has been said that Imran Khan is no longer a member of the National Assembly, adding that he submitted a false affidavit and has been involved in corrupt practices. The electoral watchdog declared Imran Khan's National Assembly seat as vacant. ECP further added that Imran Khan is no longer 'Sadiq and Amin' and legal action should be initiated against him. On September 19, the ECP had reserved its verdict in the Toshakhana case moved by Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), seeking disqualification of Imran Khan for alleged foul play related to Toshakhana gifts. Barrister Ali Zafar and Barrister Gohar Ali Khan represented the PTI chairman as defence lawyers in the case hearing. A five-member ECP bench headed by the CEC heard arguments before reserving its decision. The Toshakhana case was brought before the electoral watchdog last year after the Pakistan Information Commission (PIC) had accepted an application on the matter and had directed the Cabinet Division to provide information about the gifts received by then-prime minister Imran Khan from foreign dignitaries.



PTI supporters poured onto streets across the country after the party's chairman and former prime minister, Imran Khan has been disqualified by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in the Toshakhana case. The PTI workers reacted to disqualification by blocking the main roads across the country to express their sympathy with the former premier. On the other side, on getting the call of the protest, the PTI leadership in Peshawar closed the Peshawar motorway (M-1)., while the PTI workers have blocked Zero Point Highway from Faizabad. The PTI supporters in Lahore, also started to stage protest. The PTI supporters also started to protest in Karachi, Multan, Gujranwala, Rahim Yar Khan, Sahiwal and other cities of the country. ormer planning minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Asad Umar said on Friday that the party will challenge the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) verdict in the Islamabad High Court "as soon as we receive the written order." Speaking to media outside Bani Gala in Islam-



abad, he said that the party will file a petition latest by tonight. "The verdict will be challenged in court. We are just waiting for the written order," he told media persons. Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Friday called on Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) associations and parliamentarians to come out to express solidarity with the members of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) who disqualified former premier Imran Khan in the Toshakhana case, Aaj News reported. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, Sanaullah said the ECP members have done a favour by "throwing Khan out of national politics." "He [Imran Khan] who used to call all his political opponents 'thieves' has been declared a 'certified thief' himself. He is such a petty thief that he sells out state gifts," the minister said. Sanaullah said that he was disappointed by the number of people who came out to protest against Imran Khan's disqualification, saying his self-proclaimed popularity among the masses was badly exposed. (Agencies)

In Toshakhana reference

ECP did justice: PM Shehbaz

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz says the Election Commission of Pakistan has done justice in the Toshakhana reference case. In a tweet on Friday, he said the nation witnessed that Prime Minister's office was used for personal income through corrupt practices. Shehbaz Sharif said so-called honest and righteous has badly exposed. He said Imran Khan should surrender before the law instead



of fighting with law, firing bullets, and going for hooliganism through armed gangs. He said nobody is above the law. (APP)

COAS Bajwa says he is retiring in five weeks

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa says he is retiring in five weeks and will not be seeking an extension, Geo News reported, citing sources. The sources quoted the COAS as saying that the Pakistan Army will play no role in Pakistani politics. Earlier, at a recent luncheon attended by the COAS at the Pakistan Embassy in Washington during his US trip, he had said the armed forces have distanced themselves from politics and want to stay out of it in future as well. Gen Bajwa also reiterated his resolve to leave after



the completion of his term as the army chief this November. "There could be no diplomacy without a strong economy," said the army chief adding that the nation could not achieve its targets without a strong economy. (Agencies)

FATF removes Pakistan from 'grey list'

PARIS: Pakistan has been removed from an international grey list that warrants increased surveillance for terrorism financing, the head of the international money laundering watchdog which makes the list said on Friday. The decision was taken at the end of a two-day meeting in Paris, Financial Action Task Force (FATF) president T Raja Kumar told a news conference. "Pakistan had addressed technical deficiencies to meet the commitments of its action plans regarding strategic deficiencies that



the FATF identified in June 2018 and June 2021," Kumar said in a summary speech. In a meeting in June, the FATF had said it was keeping Pakistan on the so-called "grey list", but said it might be removed after an on-site visit to verify progress. (Agencies)

Johnson, Sunak lead race to become UK's next PM

LONDON: Boris Johnson and former finance minister Rishi Sunak were leading the potential contenders to replace British prime minister Liz Truss today, with candidates canvassing support to become Conservative Party leader in a fast-tracked contest. After Truss quit yesterday, ending her six weeks in power, those who want to replace her were trying to find the 100 votes from Conservative lawmakers needed to run in a contest which the party hopes will reset its ailing fortunes. With the Conservatives all but facing a wipe out in the next national election according to opinion polls, the race is on to become the fifth British premier in six years. The winner will be announced on either Monday or Friday next week. In what



would be an extraordinary comeback, Johnson, who was ousted by lawmakers just over three months ago, was running high up the ranks alongside Sunak to be crowned the next prime minister. "I think he's got that proven track record to turn around things. He can turn it around again. And I'm sure my colleagues hear that message loud and clear," Conservative lawmaker Paul Bristow said of Johnson on LBC radio. (Agencies)

US, Japan to conduct 'Keen Sword' major military drill

TOKYO: Japan and the US will conduct a joint military exercise from Nov 10, the Japanese Defence Ministry said today, as countries in the region and beyond are increasingly wary of China's growing military might and assertiveness. The drill, dubbed Keen Sword, takes place biennially around Japan. Some 36,000 personnel, 30 vessels, and 370 aircraft from Japan's self-defence forces and the US military will participate in this year's exercise, which will run till Nov 19. "By demonstrating Japan's and the United States' strong will and coordination, we aim to contribute to defending Japan and securing peace and safety of the region," Japanese defence minister Yasukazu Hamada told reporters. Besides the two Pacific allies, Canada will be dispatching two vessels, while Australia and Britain will each send one warship to the drill, the ministry said. Locations of the field training include Japan's southwestern islands including Tokunoshima, which is closer to Taipei than to Tokyo. At a Communist Party meeting that started on Sunday, Chinese president Xi Jinping called for accelerating China's plans to build a world-class military and said his country would never renounce the right to use force to resolve the Taiwan issue. (Agencies)

Turkey has never used chemical weapons: Erdogan

ISTANBUL: President Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey's armed forces have never used chemical weapons and that legal action would be taken against those who make such allegations, broadcaster NTV reported on Friday. Media close to the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militant group published videos this week which it said showed chemical weapons being used by the Turkish army against the PKK in northern Iraq. "Our armed forces have not resorted to using chemical weapons to this day," NTV

quoted Erdogan as telling reporters on his plane returning from a trip to Azerbaijan. The defence ministry and top officials on Thursday also denied the armed forces had used chemical weapons in their operations against Kurdish militants. Turkish prosecutors on Thursday opened an investigation into the head of the Turkish Medical Association, Sebnem Korur Fincanci, after she said on television that footage indicated the use of toxic gases and called for an independent investigation. (APP)

Indonesia says child deaths from acute kidney injury rise to 133

JAKARTA: Indonesia's health minister said on Friday that the number of children who had died from acute kidney injury (AKI) rose to 133 from the previously reported 99. The deaths were among a total of 241 cases in 22 provinces, Budi Gunadi Sadikin said, adding that most patients were children under the age of five. Budi on Thurs-

day said some medicinal syrups available in Indonesia contained ethylene glycol and diethylene glycol, ingredients that have been linked to fatal AKI in children. Indonesia has temporarily banned sales and prescription of all syrup-based medications and formed an expert team comprised of local health and paediatrics officials and

World Health Organization (WHO) representatives to look into the AKI spike among children. The country's food and drug agency has also named five locally-made products which contained excessive levels of ethylene glycol and has ordered the producers to pull them out of circulation and destroy all remaining batches. (Agencies)

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

KP CM claims govt writ is in place not only in Swat but whole province

– Staff Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has reiterated his commitment not to compromise on law & order in the province and made it clear that peace and the writ of the government is in place not only in Swat but all over the province. He stated that everyone should stay satisfied to this effect; his physical presence amongst people in the far-flung hilly terrain of District Swat is evidence enough that peace and tranquility prevails in the area. Addressing locals and media persons at Gabin Jabba during his visit to district swat on Friday, Chief Minister Mahmood khan said that peace has been hard earned involving long



struggle and multiple sacrifices rendered by security personnel and citizens. He made it clear that we would not allow anyone to sabotage this peace or to politicize it under any circumstances. The Chief Minister regretted that he was criticized without any reason, but it should be clear to all that Mahmood Khan will never

compromise on the peace and security of his people. He categorically stated that maintaining peace and harmony across the province has been the top most priority of his government since the day one. Touching upon the self-centered policies of the incumbent federal government, the chief minister said that multiple issues have surfaced ever since the imported govt came into power and they have been involved in immoral politics at the cost of national interests; these people don't have any concern for the country and the nation; they have come into power through conspiracies with the only aim to protect their wealth obtained by loot and plunder in the past.

EC working in constitutional ambit, fully authorized to decide case: Asfandiyar

PESHAWAR: Central President Awami National Party (ANP), Asfandiyar Wali Khan Friday said that Election Commission (EC) had a constitution right to decide a case adhering to its working ambit and doors of courts were open if someone had any objection on verdict against Imran Khan in Tosha Khana case. In a statement issued from Bacha Khan Markaz here, the ANP chief said everyone was free to choose its course and could ap-

proach courts in case of any objection relating to EC verdict in Tosha Khana case. He said PTI leadership had a constitutional right to pursue its case in the courts. He said that a verdict could not be declared wrong or right on basis of personal interests and added at the critical juncture, the country could not afford new crisis. He urged the people to follow the norms of decency and mutual tolerance in politics. (APP)

Unity will helpful Pakistan as key to success: Mushtaq

PESHAWAR: Acting Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Speaker of Provincial Assembly Mushtaq Ahmed Ghani Friday has said that all institutions needed to be on the same page to make Pakistan prosperous and stable. “Unity is the key to the success and prosperity of the country,” he expressed these views while speaking at the Peshawar High Court Bar Abbottabad Bench. The acting governor said that If the country will be politically, administratively and eco-

nomically secure, its fruits will reach the people in the form of prosperity and if the country defaults then everyone will be affected. Mushtaq Ahmed Ghani also presented a check of Rs. 3 million rupees grant to the High Court Bar from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government. He said that whenever there is a moment of decision in the history of nations, lawyers used to provide guidance. it is necessary to look into the past and make decisions about the future, he said. (APP)

8540 motorists fined for violating no-parking zones

PESHAWAR: City Traffic Police (CTP) has challan 8540 motorists for violation of no-parking zones during the last month in the city. On the directives of the Chief Traffic Officer (CTO), Abbas Majeed Khan Marwat, the City Traffic Police under the supervision of SP Headquarters, Raheem Hussain carried out an operation against the parking of motorcars and motorcycles in no-parking zones, said a press release issued here on Friday. During the operation, hundreds of vehicles were lifted

through fork-lifters and impounded in the traffic police terminal while the owners of hundreds of vehicles were fined on the spot. Fine amounting to thousands of rupees imposed on violators has been deposited in the provincial exchequer. Out of the total 8540 vehicles, 1120 were motorcyclists. SP Traffic Headquarters, Raheem Hussain has urged people to avoid parking vehicles in no-parking zones, saying such acts cause a traffic jams and create problems for the general public. (APP)

Commissioner for removal of illegal speed breakers

PESHAWAR: Commissioner Peshawar Division, Riaz Khan Mehsud Friday directed the district administration to remove illegal speed breakers and oversize billboards from roadsides. Chairing a meeting of deputy commissioners to discuss performance, he also directed district administrations to constitute special squad and remove all illegal-

ly constructed speed breakers that were posing threat to human lives besides hindering smooth flow of traffic. He also directed conducting of raids on patwar houses, action against hoarders and measures to control dengue. The commissioner also directed deputy commissioners to hold regular open katcheries for public facilitation. (APP)

Polio eradication: A long way to achieve target

PESHAWAR: Being pushed on a wheelchair by his father, Abid Khan used to visit playground near his home on a daily basis to watch children playing different games to get amused but he could not play by himself as he fell prey to polio virus in his childhood and paralyzed for life. Whenever football or cricket balls come close to the wheelchair of Abid, a resident of village Dheri Ishaq in Nowshera district, he unintentionally tries to catch it but sometimes falls from in this effort and his father support him to settle down again in his chair. Sadden for his son, Abid's father Jamsheed Khan said that he feels so sorry for his 30-year-old son because he could not play like a normal child and always looks for others' support. “Polio virus affected my son at age of three-year, when he took him to doctor due to high fever, vomiting and constant pain where he was diagnosed with polio, he recalled. “The doctor said Abid could not walk for entire life as both of his legs were affected by polio virus,” the sadden father said, adding he had been

practicing to bring his son to the playground for the last 25 years on his request by leaving work in fields ahead of time. Like Abid, polio virus continued attacking the under five years children in the country where 20 kids were paralyzed this year for entire life. According to Emergency Operation Centre (EOC), KP Health Department, all these 20 positive cases were detected in KP's southern districts including 17 in North Waziristan, two in Lakki Marwat and one in South Waziristan. As many as 139 cases were reported during 2011 in Pakistan including 23 from KP, 33 from Sindh, 73 from Balochistan, one in Gilgit Baltistan (GB) and nine in Punjab. In 2012, polio cases were slashed to 38 including 27 in KP, four each in Sindh and Balochistan, one from GB, and two from Islamabad. Further reduction in cases had been witnessed during 2013 with 28 cases in Pakistan including 11 from KP, 10 from Sindh and seven from Punjab. The country had witnessed a sharp increase in polio cases in 2014 after deduction of 127 cases including 68 from KP, 30 from Sindh,

Imran found guilty of corrupt practice in Toshakhan case by ECP: Latif Afridi

PESHAWAR: Former President Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) and Peshawar High Court Bar Association (PHCBA) Abdul Latif Afridi Advocate here on Friday said that Pakistan Tahrik e Insaf Chairman Imran Khan was found guilty of corrupt practice in Tosha Khana case by a five member larger bench of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in its unanimous decision today. Talking to APP, he said that Imran Khan had failed to mention Tosha Khana's gifts in his nomination forms. He said gifts received by Imran Khan in the capacity of the Prime Minister should have been deposited in Tosha Khan rather than kept in personal possession. The constitutional expert said that Imran Khan had lost the National Assembly's seat after the ECP verdict in

the Tosha Khan case. Afridi said Imran Khan had raised slogans against corruption to get cheap popularity but today, he was proved guilty of corrupt practice in the Tosha Khana case and all his anti-corruption statements were proved wrong today. Following the disqualification of Imran Khan, he said that PTI was likely to split into different groups as there was no leader in PTI who was more popular in masses than Imran. As a result, electables would resign from PTI and join other political parties ahead of general elections. Awami National Party leader and former provincial minister Wajid Ali Khan said that Imran Khan was first declared a certified liar in the PTI foreign funding case and now found guilty of corrupt practice in the Tosha Khan case. (APP)

Improving Nigeria-Pak bilateral trade, economic relations need of time says diplomat

– Staff Report

PESHAWAR: Nigerian High Commissioner in Pakistan, Mr Mohammad Bello Abiyo said prospects are very high to further improve bilateral economic and trade cooperation between Nigeria and Pakistan, however, he underscored the need of removing bottlenecks in enhancing present bilateral trade volume between the countries. Mr Abiyo was addressing members of Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry during a meeting, chaired by the chamber's senior vice president Shahid Hussain here at SCCI's house on Friday. Ejaz Khan Afridi, vice president of the chamber, former senior vice president Imran Khan, former vice president Abdul

Jalil Jan, executive members Lala Badshah, Munawar Khurshid, Kashif Amin, Javed Ahmad Khan, and Ihsanullah, Shams Rahim, Rashid Iqbal Siddique, Naeem Qasmi, Zahoor Khan, Aftab Iqbal, Waris Khan Afridi, Faiz Rasool, Waqar Ahmad, Ayub Sethi, Ishtiaq Muhammad along with traders, industrialists, importers and exporters were present in a large number. The Nigerian High Commissioner who was accompanied by Chairman of the SCCI Standing Committee on Education, Saboor Sethi visited the chamber house during his address to members of the business community said Nigeria and Pakistan have cordially enjoyed political and diplomatic relationship.

Mayor assured cooperation to farmers of Mashookagar, Uch canal

PESHAWAR: Mayor Peshawar City, Haji Zabair Ali assured farmers of Mashookagar and Uch Canal of resolution their problems and said that they would be provided needed help to get irrigation water. He was talking to a delegation of farmers belonging to suburban areas of Peshawar including Mashookagar and Uch Canal here on Friday. Delegation informed mayor about their issued and said that thousands of acres of land have been left barren due to unavailability of irrigation

water, adding that situation is negatively impacting production and financial position of farmers. Speaking on the occasion, Haji Zubair said that problems faced by farmers would be resolved on priority basis. He also contacted irrigation authorities and apprised them about problems of farmers due to unavailability of water. He assured them cooperation in resolution of problems and said that their concerns would be conveyed to concerned authorities at the earliest. (APP)

PPP KP announces Ulema-Mashaikh Wing

PESHAWAR: Provincial president of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Najmuddin Khan on Friday announced the cabinet of Ulema-Mashaikh Wing of the party for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to a press release issued here on Friday, the cabinet has been formed after consultation with President Ulema-Mashaikh KP Pir Aftab Utmanzai and general secretary Abbas Ali Shah. Other members of the cabinet included Maula-

na Mufti Abdul Jabbar (SVP), Maulana Khayyam Khalid (VP), Qari Abdul Majeed (VP), Haji Nawazish Ali (Deputy General Secretary), Mufti Pir Imdadullah (Deputy General Secretary), Haji Qari Qasim Ali Shah (Secretary Information), Sajid Painda Khel (Deputy Information Secretary), Pir Mohammad Iqbal (Joint Secretary), Hafiz Salman (Finance Secretary) and Hafiz Mohammad Bilal as Office Secretary respectively. (APP)



Courtesy Daily Times

Courtesy The Express Tribune

the quantum of financial and capacity-building support received by them from the developed countries thereby reconciling the interests of both categories of countries. The challenges facing the Sharm El Sheikh climate conference are dire. Global carbon emissions and deforestation, the two main drivers of climate change, have never been higher. The world's temperature has already increased by more than 1.1 degrees Celsius and climate experts say that in a business as usual scenario it is likely to touch 1.5 C within a few years, the guardrail set in the Paris Agreement before the planet becomes too hot for humans and other species!

Courtesy The News

– Shakir H Shamim
Islamabad

President for accelerating efforts to improve Pak-Japan relations

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday stressed the need to accelerate efforts to further improve the existing bilateral relations between Pakistan and Japan, particularly focusing on economic, business ties and human resource development initiatives. The president said these remarks while talking to Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Japan, Raza Bashir Tarar, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. The president appreciated Japan's continuous support to Pakistan on the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) platform and

ask the envoy to convey his gratitude to the Government of Japan for its decision to suspend debt repayments due from Pakistan under the Debt Service Suspension Initiative. He said that bilateral trade between the two countries stood at around US\$ 2.56 billion, which needed to be improved with a greater focus on exports of Pakistani goods and products to Japan. While appreciating the development cooperation of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) with Pakistan, he directed the Ambassador-designate

to make efforts to take the bilateral relationship to a new and higher level of cooperation. He said that the avenues should be explored for creating cooperation between Japanese educational institutions and industry for the provision of services of Pakistani IT human resources online to Japan and seeking Japanese assistance for online training to our human resources in the fields of IT, digital technologies, artificial intelligence and other skills, which are needed by the industrial sector of Japan. (APP)

Pak to participate film festival of Turkiye: Marriyum

ISTANBUL: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb announced on Friday that Pakistan would participate in the upcoming film festival of Turkiye to showcase its best talent in the film industry. She made the announcement in a meeting with a delegation of the Turkish film industry. The minister was informed that the date of the film festival would be decided in a meeting being held next week in Turkiye in that regard. Marriyum said three new Pakistani movies could be screened at the film festival. During the meeting, both sides agreed to promote bilateral cooperation in the drama and film industry, and setting



up a film processing lab in Pakistan on modern lines. The Turkish film industry representatives said the best companies of the Netherlands and France based in their country could provide technical support in establishing the film processing lab in Pakistan. (APP)

KS-relief extends relief to flood victims

ISLAMABAD: The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KS-relief) continued its relief activities in Pakistan and distributed relief goods in flood-hit areas. To help the affected people cope with the devastation, Saudi Arabia's KS-relief has been busy providing emergency relief assistance in the flood-hit areas of Pakistan. KS-relief extends different land operations, including the provision and distribution of (50,000 Food Packages), (50,000 Mosquito Nets) and (5,000 Tents). These items were procured from Pakistan for humanitarian distribution in flood-affected areas across

Pakistan to meet the basic needs of the affected people in those areas, said a press release issued by Saudi Arabia Embassy on Friday. These 50,000-food packages comprise all necessary essential food items, each package weighing 62 kg, 40 kg of flour, 5 Liters of cooking oil, 5 kg of Sugar, 5 kg of Rice, 5 kg of yellow split pea (Daal Chana), 2 kg of dates and a packet of energy biscuits for children]. These food packages are sufficient for the family for a whole month. The distribution process of these packages is in full swing and will complete soon, it added. (APP)

NA passes resolution; demanding commission into blatant human right violations in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Friday passed a resolution unanimously to demand the formation of a Commission of Inquiry for investigation into blatant human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The resolution moved by Maulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali strongly denounced Indian state terrorism and violation of international laws and human

rights in the IIOJK. The resolution also rejected Indian illegal steps in IIOJK. Expressing solidarity with the Kashmiri brothers and sisters, the resolution reaffirmed Pakistan's moral, political and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people in their legitimate struggle for the right to self-determination enshrined in the United Nations Security Council Resolutions. (APP)

French ambassador visits CUI to bolster academic exchanges

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of France to Pakistan Nicholas Galey in meeting with the Rector COM-SATS University Islamabad Prof. Dr. Muhammad T. Afzal held here Friday explored possibilities of bolstering exchange between the CUI and universities in France as well as strengthening the engagements with the French Embassy. The ambassador was accompanied by the French Counsellor for Cultural Affairs, Mounir Slimani and French Scientific and Higher Education Attach Sabine Vermillard during his

visit to CUI. It is worth mentioning that this was the maiden visit of the incumbent French Ambassador to any university in Pakistan. Prof. Afzal along with officials, students and French alumni working at CUI welcomed the Ambassador on campus. Nicholas Galey was apprised about the engagements of COMSATS University with French universities including University of Nice, Sophia Antipolis, University of Cote d'Azur, school of Engineering and Chamber of Commerce in Paris. (APP)

IHC seeks details of FIRs against PTI lawmakers

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday sought details of all FIRs registered across the country against PTI's MNAs including Chaudhry Fawad Hussain with regard to Saudi Arabia incident. Chief Justice Athar Minallah heard the case regarding the above matter. PTI's lawyer Faisal Chaudhry Advocate adopted the stance that any arrested member of Parliament would have permission to attend the assembly session. Sher Afzal Murawat Advocate said that no Parliamentarian could be arrested without the permission of the Speaker National Assembly. The Chief Justice remarked that these are very appropriate rules. After the amendments in the rules now no constituency would be left without the representation in the House, he said. The court said that it

was expecting that the rules would be implemented in letter and spirit. The Chief Justice inquired that how the Federal government could stop the practice of registration of cases on political grounds. Justice Athar Minallah observed that allegations of disrespecting religion were leveled against Mir Shakil ur Rehman and cases were also registered against him. Similarly, how many cases were registered against MNA Ali Wazir, he asked and remarked that the Parliamentarians should raise voice against this practice. The Chief Justice inquired from the Secretary Interior that why the details of FIRs against lawmakers couldn't be produced yet. He remarked that the petitioners were MNAs until acceptance of their resignations. (APP)

Swati's post arrest bail approved

ISLAMABAD: An Islamabad court on Friday approved the post-arrest bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senator Azam Swati who was arrested for tweeting against the army chief and state institutions. Special Judge Central Raja Asif announced the verdict that the court had reserved on Thursday. The bail has been approved against the surety bond worth Rs1 million. The senator has also been ordered to surrender his passport. During the hearing on Thursday, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) prosecutor raised an objection to the jurisdiction of the court in the case. He said the case must be moved to a sessions court from the special court. The prosecutor said that the PTI senator leveled allegations against the army chief on the acquittal of suspects, adding that the army chief was not linked with the case in any way. He said that the suspect stated against the army chief and institutions on a public platform. The defendant's lawyer Babar Awan argued that Swati used his constitutional right to freedom of expression. He asked if Swati's statement incited mutiny in the armed forces. (APP)

PNCA to hold puppet show in Isb

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) will organise a 'Puppet Show' featuring folk dances, stories and skits for children on Saturday at 4 p.m. at gallery 12, PNCA. The purpose of show was to create awareness among community regarding rights and responsibilities of children and parents, help and support poor children and their families by providing equal opportunities for quality education of girls and boys, PNCA spokesman told APP. He said the show was aimed at highlighting the importance of provision of nutrition, clean water and clean environment for the healthy growth of children. Likewise, it also aimed at educating children on the danger of drugs, and how parents could protect their children from falling prey to such evil temptations. The shows were important for creating awareness among children on how they could protect themselves from sexual and physical abuse, and laborious work, he added. Such public messages, he said, would be presented through the stories of 'Meena Ki Kahani' (Meena's story) and 'Roshan Mustaqbil.' 'Meena ki Kahani' is a story of a village child girl who despite her desire to acquire education and go to school like her brother was denied so. Somehow, at a later stage her parents realize importance of education for girls and allow her go to school. (APP)

11 accused arrested by district city police

KARACHI: District City Police Karachi arrested seven wanted drug dealers and four motorcycle lifters while conducting various operations here. Over three kilograms of hashish, and two allegedly stolen motorcycles were recovered from the accused, said a police spokesperson on Friday. The alleged drug dealers were arrested from the limits of Kharadar, Kalakot, Napier, Chakiwara and Methadar while motorcycle lifters were from the area police station Kalakot. The accused are identified as Zafar Ali, Kashif, Ali Ahmed, Muhammad Arshad, Shafiq-ur-Rehman, Abdul Hameed, Mubasher, Saeed-ur-Rehman, Anwar Hayat, Naz and Abdul Wahab. (APP)

PDM hails ECP decision disqualifying Imran Khan

ISLAMABAD: The political leaders from ruling coalition Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) while hailing Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) decision in Tosha Khana case disqualifying former Prime Minister Imran Khan Friday said that former prime minister had initiated politics of disqualification and allegations and himself was proved guilty of theft. Talking to media persons after announcement of judgment in front of ECP, Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leader Barrister Mohsin Shahnawaz Ranjha said Khan had initiated politics of al-

legations and now was himself a proven thief resulting in disqualification from politics and still would have to be accountable for 2018 onward filled returns before ECP. The PML-N leader further said that Imran Khan was declared guilty of corrupt practices because he had sold gifts he acquired for pennies from Tosha Khana and made the nation fool by labeling allegations of corruption against his opponents. Speaking on the occasion, Jamiat-e-Ulema (F) leader, Maulana Salahuddin Ayubi said that today was a day of happiness for Pakistan and its people. (APP)

PTI rejects Imran's disqualification

ISLAMABAD: After the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announced the disqualification of former Prime Minister Imran Khan, the leadership of his party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has rejected the verdict and said that the people of Pakistan are with Imran Khan. While talking to media, PTI leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi said, "Today we all say that we do not accept the minus one" decision. Qureshi added that people of Pakistan are with Imran Khan as the masses had rejected the current rulers on July 17. He said that the rulers are mistaken

that if they can run the democracy with the PTI Chairman. Former Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry said that this is a wrong decision, ECP cannot de-seat Imran Khan. PTI leader Asad Umar said that the party will take this to the High Court and this verdict will not even stand for a few hours. While Shahbaz Gill added that this verdict has been written by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif. He said that this verdict has been signed by the "personal servant" of Nawaz Sharif and people reject this verdict. (APP)

Caught red handed Bilawal calls out Imran Khan after ECP verdict

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari while reacting on the verdict of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former Prime Minister Imran Khan, said that Imran Khan has been caught red handed. Taking to Twitter, Foreign Minister Bilawal said, "Election commission of Pakistan has found Imran Khan

guilty of corrupt practices. He now stands disqualified." While calling out the PTI Chairman, he added, "He who would spread lies about alleged corruption of his political opponents has been caught red handed." Earlier, a four-member bench headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikan-dar Sultan Raja announced the unanimous decision, in which the PTI chairman has been disqualified. (APP)

ECP decision reflect Imran Khan pushed country to verge of bankruptcy: Wasay

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Housing and Works Maulana Abdul Wasay Friday said that today's decision of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had proved that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chief Imran Khan played a major role in pushing the country to the verge of bankruptcy. Talking to the media persons here, he termed Imran Khan as Pakistan's first certified liar and thief, who was dis-

qualified by the ECP with irrefutable evidence of theft. The minister said Imran Khan and his wife (Bushra Bibi) looted the national exchequer during the last four years. Abdul Wasay said that it was the big theft from the Tosha Khana and the punishment should not end only with disqualification. The PTI chief should be arrested and brought before the law and the looted money should be recovered, he added. (APP)

Maryam welcomes ECP verdict

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz on Friday hailed the verdict of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan Niazi in the "Tosha Khana" reference. Maryam Nawaz, speaking to media persons outside her residence in London, said Imran Khan had been leveling baseless allegations against his political opponents and

today he himself was disqualified on the charges of corruption and theft for five years. Imran Khan, she said, was Pakistan's "first declared thief" and criminal proceedings against him should immediately be initiated as directed by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). The proverb 'as you sow, so shall you reap' exactly depicted the situation being faced by Imran Khan today, Maryam added. (APP)

DFC delegation calls on Khurram Dastgir

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of United States' International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) headed by Chief Climate Officer, Jake Levine called on Minister for Power Division Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan here on Friday. The minister apprised the delegation about the solar projects of the present government, said a press release issued here. The future policy outlook is based on the plans that all new electricity generation would be based on indigenous resources, he remarked. He said the policy

aimed to reduce the import of fuel and conservation of energy. The delegation appreciated the solar policy and declared it a win-win for climate considerations and soaring energy prices. The DFC will continue its engagement with Pakistan in renewable energy sector. Naz El-Khatib, deputy chief of staff policy was also part of the delegation. DFC has an investment portfolio of \$ 450 million in Pakistan. A considerable portion of the investment is being made in renewables energy. (APP)

Paradigm shift at policy level required to ensure national food security: Speakers

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a collaborative one-day seminar on "Water Scarcity, a Non-Conventional Security Threat" said that a paradigm shift at policy level is need of the time to ensure national food security through water security. The seminar was arranged by Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) and Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) here. The objective of the seminar was to discuss and chalk out some strategy for

sustainable water resource management in Pakistan. About 40 water professionals, experts, academicians and policy makers from various Federal and provincial stakeholder organizations participated in the event. In his opening remarks, Chairman, PCRWR Dr. Muhammad Ashraf briefed about water resources situation in Pakistan. He emphasized that water security is directly connected with food security as well as with national security. (APP)

Fazal congratulates nation on closure of Imran Khan’s political chapter

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman Friday congratulated the nation on the closure of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chief Imran Khan’s political chapter as he had been disqualified on the charges of misdeclaration in the Toshakhana case by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). Talking to media persons after the ECP’s verdict against the PTI chief, he observed Imran Khan was an

unnecessary element of the country’s politics and he was installed in the politics by the external forces. He said Imran Khan was not a reliable person as he kept on changing his statements time and again. “Imran Khan calls other people thieves but he himself has looted money from all over the world including America, Israel, and India. Today, his theft has been captured and Pakistan will get rid of such elements in the future,” he added.

Fazal categorically warned the elements backing Imran Khan in a bid to create anarchy in the country to be dealt with an iron hand. He proposed that the PTI workers should not create hurdles for the people adding that the JUI-F had carried out many a millions march, but did not disturb the social and commercial life of the people. He said the reaction, shown on the disqualification of Imran Khan by his unruly party workers. (APP)

AL to hold literature conference

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) has planned to organize a 3-day conference of Kid’s literature from October 31 here at its academy’s hall, said Doctor Sadia Kamal, a member. The conference titled as “Bachu ka Adab, Mazi, Hal aur Mustaqbil” (Kid’s literature in the contest of past, present and future), will be attended by eminent writers and scholars from all over the country, she added. (APP)

Vote awareness program held in Nawabshah

HYDERABAD: In order to create awareness among girls and boys students about the importance and entry of votes, Election Commission of Pakistan conducts awareness programs at different educational institutions throughout the country. In this regard District Election Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad organized an awareness programme about importance of vote and its entry at Government Boys High School Landhi. Addressing the participants, District Election Commissioner Pervez Ahmed Kalwar said that such awareness programs for girl and boys students were being organized on the directives of Election Commission of Pakistan. He said that the objective of the program was to provide information to general public about the entry of vote, any alteration or correction. He said for the purpose a ‘One Window Service Center’ was established at the office of District Election Commissioner. He said that citizens can ensure the entry of family vote and any changes in permanent of present address on National Identity Card. (APP)

IGP directs not to allow roads closure

LAHORE: Inspector General Police Punjab Faisal Shahkar on Friday directed the RPOs and DPOs not to allow blockage of roads in various cities across the province. IG Punjab while issuing the directive said that special measures should be taken to save people traveling on the main highways, especially families, while the motorway and inter-district roads should not be allowed to be blocked for traffic, he added. IG Punjab directed to take special measures to ensure the flow of traffic for ambulances and roads adjacent to hospitals. He emphasised upon field police officers, Traffic Police and Punjab Highway Patrol to arrange special measures so that the citizens do not face any problem. (APP)

Jashn-e-Multan today

MULTAN: Multan festival will be started with colorful traditional sports and cultural activities from today Oct-22 (Saturday). All the preparations have been completed at Government Servant Housing Colony for Jashan-e- Multan event. Cleanliness of all the routes leading to the venue of Jashan-e- Multan has been completed. Route from Chungi No. 9, Busan Road, Syedanwala Bypass to Matti Tal Chowk and route from Chowk Kumharnwala to Jashan-e- Multan via MA Jinnah Road have been decorated. Similarly, route from Nishtar Chowk to Sewra Chowk, Awan Chowk to Northern Bypass has also been beautified. Under the directions of CEO Multan Waste Management Company Muhammad Farooq Dogar, special cleanliness squad and workers from other sectors of the city were active to beautify the city. Sweeping, scraping and waste lifting work. (APP)

Hina Khar discusses ties with French minister

PARIS: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar met here on Friday with Thierry Pflimlin, President France-Pakistan business Council and Franois Bitouzet, Managing Director VivaTech. Khar delivered a talk at Paris school of International Affairs, Sciences Po University and met a delegation of Association of Grandes Ecoles and Campus France. In her meeting with Thierry Pflimlin, who is also CEO TOTAL Global Services, trade and economic relations between Pakistan and France as well as investment opportunities

in Pakistan came under discussion. During the meeting with Minister of State Franois Bitouzet, they discussed developing linkages between startup sectors of both the countries, and participation of Pakistan in next year’s Vivatech event. The talk to the students of Paris School of International Affairs, Sciences Po University was on the topic “Pakistan and the Emerging World Order”, which was followed by a Q&A session. She also exchanged views with the faculty of the university on education cooperation. (APP)

AJK PM hails SDF assistance for development

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan said that the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) had approved mega development projects worth billions of rupees with assistance from the Saudi Development Fund (SDF). Addressing a press conference here on Friday, the PM while giving details of the projects said that under the SDF Rs. 11.2743 billion had been earmarked for 48 MW Shounter hydropower project, 6.614 billion for

22 MW Jagran IV hydropower project, while 12 billion rupees had been sanctioned for the construction of 3.7KM tunnel from Kamsar to Kahori and 0.6 km long Chilpani tunnel on Muzaffarabad-Athmuqam Road. These mega development projects, he said, would prove to be significant milestones in the region’s development history. The provision of Saudi funds at this difficult time, he said, was no less than a breath of fresh air for the people of Azad Kashmir. (APP)

Ration bags distributed among 12,500 flood affected families: Sharjeel

KARACHI: Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon on Friday said that relief activities in flood affected areas of the province were still underway and ration bags were provided to 12,500 more families during the last 24 hours. The minister in a statement issued here said that 1,310 tents, 800 mosquito nets and 394 plastic tarpaulins were also distributed among the flood stricken families. Giving district wise details of distribution of ration bags he informed that 2,000 families in district Jaco-

abad, 4,000 in Qamber Shahdadkot and Shaheed Benazirabad each, 1,500 in Naushehro Feroze and 250 families in district Umerkot received ration bags during last 24 hours. Sharjeel Memon said that since start of relief operations in Sindh, a total of 1,879,095 ration bags, 628,786 tents, 542,830 plastic tarpaulins, 804,811 litres of mineral water and 182,023 cauldrons of cooked food besides other necessary items had been provided to the flood affected population across the province. (APP)

Annual Urs celebrations of Hazrat Miran Hussan Zanjani begin

LAHORE: The 1014th three-day annual urs celebrations of Hazrat Miran Hussain Zanjani began at his Astana here on Friday. Director General Religious Affairs Dr Tahir Raza Bokhari inaugurated while performing traditional chadar on the grave. Auqaf officers, ulema Mashiekh and a large number of devotees were present on the occasion. They offered special

dua for the development, progress and stability of the country. Auqaf department has allocated special grant for the holding urs celebrations. Renowned qawal and Naat Khawan will recite religious poetry during the urs days. Auqaf department and local police have made foolproof security arrangement for thesecurity of the visitors. (APP)

Court adjourns hearing of Rawalpindi Ring Road scam till Oct 28

LAHORE: An anti-corruption court on Friday adjourned the hearing of Rawalpindi Ring Road scam till October 28. Anti-Corruption Court Judge Mushtaq Elahi conducted the case proceedings, wherein former commissioner of Rawalpindi Capt (retd) Muhammad Mahmood and two other accused appeared and got their attendance marked. Three witnesses appeared before the court, during the proceedings, and got recorded their statements in the presence of defence counsel, who also cross-examined them. Subsequently, the court adjourned

further proceedings till October 28 and summoned more witnesses on the next date of hearing. The court had indicted the former commission and two others in the matter. The ACE Punjab had registered a case against the accused for their alleged involvement in the ring road scam after a detailed inquiry. It was alleged that the accused were guilty of corruption and they misuse their authority. They illegally changed the design of the project to add new interchanges and the length of the road was increased from 22 kms to 68 kms. (APP)

IUB to hold ‘Khawaja Farid’ conference on Oct 25

BAHAWALPUR: Islamia University Bahawalpur (IUB) will organize ‘Khawaja Farid’ conference on October, 25 to aware the students about the philosophy of the famous Sufi poet and scholar to build their character. Khawaja Ghulam Farid was a 19th century Sufi saint of Bahawalpur region whose mystic poems and religious teachings are much revered internationally. The University’s Khawaja Farid chair is working for promoting his poetry

and philosophy and had conducted many gatherings so for to disseminate his message to public at large. The National level conference will be attended by academia and scholars from all over the country. Dr. Sadia Kamal a senior journalist and Ph.D on Khawaja Farid, said that the conference would be beneficial to highlight the philosophy and message of the great Sufi poet for establishing a peaceful society in the country. (APP)

CPO holds 1st online open court

FAISALABAD: City Police Officer (CPO) Omar Saeed Malik organized first online open court here on Friday to hear public complaints against the police department. During court, Ghulam Fatima complained that the police was reluctant to lodge case on her complaint. Therefore, the CPO issued orders and immediately got her case registered. Similarly, a social activist Muhammad Ramzan complained that there were rampant

criminal activities in his locality and nearby areas and a police post in the area of Garh police station was required on urged basis. Therefore, the CPO directed the SP Sadar to visit area of Garh police station and submit a comprehensive report for establishment of police post to control criminal activities completely. Meanwhile, the CPO also censured DSP (Circle) Tandlianwala over delay in the investigation of a case. (APP)

Superintendent central jail Haripur organizes weekly parade to resolve the issues of inmates

HARIPUR: Superintendent Central Jail Haripur (CJH) Umair Khan on Friday organized a weekly parade to listen the grievances of the jail inmates and assured them to solve their issues as soon as possible. Most of the problems presented by the prisoners were related to their transfer to the jails of their native areas for which the necessary transfer roll would be sent to the Inspectorate Peshawar. Apart from this, the medical problems were

registered by the medical staff while the rest of the issues and overall condition were found satisfactory. Umair Khan said all the resources were being utilized for the welfare of the prisoners and to make the inmates a useful citizens after their release, all possible steps would be taken to solve their problems. On the occasion, Assistant Superintendent Muqaddis Khan Jadoon, Waqas Khan, Line Officer Saud Khan and other staff were also present. (APP)

Senate contributes Rs 17.95m to PM’s flood fund

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani called on the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif on Friday at Prime Minister’s Office. Chairman Senate handed over a cheque amounting to Rs. 11 million as a contribution towards Prime Ministers Flood Relief Fund, 2022. In addition to 11 million, Chairman and Deputy Chairman Sen-

ate contributed two months’ salary and the staff of the Senate Secretariat contributed two and three days’ salary which turns to an amount of Rs. 6.95 million and already contributed to Prime Ministers Flood Relief Fund, 2022 through AGPR, said a press releaseThe aggregate contribution from the Senate of Pakistan, thus, amounts to Rs. 17.95 million. (APP)

Ceremony held to pay tributes to polio workers

QUETTA: A ceremony in connection with the World Polio Day was held at Balochistan University of Information Technology Engineering and Management Sciences on Friday to pay tributes to the polio heroes of the province. Chief Secretary Balochistan Abdul Aziz Aqeeli was the chief guest of the event while Coordinator of Emergency Operation Center Balochistan Syed Zaid Shah, DG Health Dr. Noor Qazi, MPA Nasrullah Zairay, EPI Coordinator Dr. Akhtar Buledi, Maulana Anwar Haqqani, R. Dr. At-

ta-ul-Rehman, civil society representatives, scholars and journalists were also present. Chief Secretary Balochistan Abdul Aziz Aqeeli while addressing the gathering said that the time to rid the country of polio virus was near and the day was not far when Pakistan would join the polio-free countries. “Unfortunately, poliovirus still exists in Pakistan and Afghanistan,” he said adding that polio workers in the entire country, including Balochistan, had made sacrifices and their services were commendable. (APP)

PTI MNA, his guard along with weapon arrested from red zone

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MNA Saleh Muhammad Khan and his guard were arrested in Islamabad on Friday after the guard reportedly fired a shot outside the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). Tense scenes were witnessed outside the ECP building after the electoral watchdog disqualified PTI chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan as it announced its verdict in the Toshakhana (gift depository) reference. As soon as the verdict was announced, PTI supporters and party workers began protesting over the decision and workers present out-

side the ECP office shouted slogans in support of Imran Khan. Islamabad police reportedly detained firearms from a Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa policeman who was later reported to be the guard of PTI MNA Saleh. As the weapon was being recovered a shot was fired. The capital police claims the shot was fired by the K-P policeman who was arrested. The police later also arrested MNA Saleh. Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah said that the personnel of law enforcement agencies could not come into Red Zone with weapons and this matter was being investigated. (APP)

Court indicts accused in transgender acid attack case

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Friday indicted two accused in transgender acid attack case. ATC Judge Abher Gul Khan conducted the case proceedings, wherein the police produced the accused - Hamza Saleem and Sohail - amid strict security. The court framed charges against the accused. However, the accused pleaded ‘not guilty’ and opted to contest the trial.

The court directed the prosecution to produce its witnesses on the next date of hearing and adjourned the matter till Nov 12. The Racecourse police had filed a challan against the accused, wherein they were declared guilty of throwing acid on a transgender. The victim was waiting for a rickshaw near Basti Sayadan Shah when the accused threw acid on her face and fled. (APP)

FUUAST organizes seminar on World Food Day

KARACHI: Federal urdu University of Arts, Science and Technology (FUUAST) Department of Chemistry organized a seminar on food quality, safety and research and development on the occasion of “World Food Day”. Acting Vice Chancellor FUUAST Professor Dr. Muhammad Ziauddin participated in the seminar, said a statement on Friday. On this occasion, Acting Registrar of FUUAST, Professor Dr. Zareena Ali told the students that excessive use of pesticides in plants is polluting our daily food. She said that the students should improve their academic standards with honesty and punctuality in

practical life. Head of the Chemistry Department Prof. Dr. Abdul Majeed said that the chemicals used to preserve food are becoming harmful to health day by day. Speaker Azeem Dilawar informed the students about the preservation of food grains and its quality control while Dr. Saharish Zuberi shared details with the students regarding the testing of food grains and its method. In addition to FUUAST, the students of Sindh Madrasa-tul-Islam and Dr. Hashim Zuberi participated in the seminar. At the end of the ceremony, certificates and bouquets were presented to the guests. (APP)



ADB approves \$1.5b for Pakistan social protection, food security

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Friday approved \$1.5 billion in financing to help the Government of Pakistan provide social protection, promote food security, and support employment for its people amid devastating floods and global supply chain disruptions. The loan that is expected to release by next week, is provided under ADB's Building Resilience with Active Countercyclical Expenditures (BRACE) Program. The loan would help fund the government's \$2.3 billion countercyclical development expenditure program designed to cushion the impacts of external shocks, including the Russian invasion of Ukraine, a press release issued by the ADB said. Meanwhile Minister for Finance and Revenue Ishaq Dar said on his twitter han-

dle "AlhamdoLilah! Asian Development Bank's Board has approved today BRACE facility of US Dollars 1.5 Billion for Pakistan. Agreement signing and release of funds in the week beginning Monday 24th Oct 2022". "Pakistan's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic has been impeded by external shocks," said ADB Director General for Central and West Asia Yevgeniy Zhukov. "Increasing business costs and rising living expenses are affecting millions of Pakistanis, especially the poor and vulnerable. ADB's program will help the government manage the impacts of high prices, increasing food insecurity, slowing business activity, and reducing income for vulnerable groups, many of whom are also reeling from the devastating floods." (APP)

India fines Google US\$162m for abuse of Android platform

NEW DELHI: India's competition regulator on Thursday ordered Alphabet's Google to change its approach to its Android platform and fined the US tech company 13.38 billion rupees (US\$161.95 million) for anti-competitive practices. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) said Google leveraged its dominant position in markets such as online search and app store for Android, to protect the position of its apps like Chrome and YouTube in mobile web browsers and online video hosting. CCI also restricted Google from certain revenue-sharing agreements with smartphone makers, noting that such practices helped Google to secure exclusivity for its search services "to the total exclusion of competitors". Google



declined to comment on the order. "Markets should be allowed to compete on merits and the onus is on the dominant players (in the present case, Google) that its conduct does not impinge this competition on merits," CCI said in a statement. The US company is facing a series of antitrust cases and the tightening of existing tech-sector regulations in India. (Agencies)

Dubai Islamic Bank sets up green financing framework

DUBAI: Dubai Islamic Bank is planning to finance environmental and social projects under a new Sustainable Finance Framework published on Friday. The framework will allow the lender to issue green and sustainability-linked Islamic bonds and loans to fund projects in renewable energy, clean transport, green buildings and wastewater management as well as support job creation and affordable housing, a statement said. Investor demand for ESG-linked financing has surged and interest has picked up in the Gulf and wider Middle East, with increasing opportunities to invest in projects linked to sustainability and energy transition. The next two major climate change conferences, COP27 and COP28, will be held in Egypt and the United Arab Emirates respectively. Issuance of green bonds also allows borrowers from the region to diversify their investor base. (Agencies)

China iPhone production 'normal' despite Covid curbs

BEIJING: Taiwan's Foxconn said on Friday that production at its major China iPhone factory remains normal despite ongoing Covid restrictions. The electronics manufacturer said Covid curbs have had "little impact" on business at its Zhengzhou plant, in China's Henan province. The Zhengzhou campus, which assembles Apple Inc's iPhone and has about 300,000 workers, banned all dining in the plant and required workers to take their meals back to their dormitories on Wednesday, a notice posted on the factory's official WeChat account showed. The new measures follow Zhengzhou's latest outbreak recording a total of 196 Covid cases since October 8, and come as Foxconn's factory is ramping up production of the latest iPhone 14 models. Apple did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment. (Agencies)

Footwear exports increase 27.07pc in Q1 FY23

ISLAMABAD: The footwear exports witnessed an increase of 27.07 percent during the first quarter of fiscal year (2022-23) as compared to the exports of corresponding period of the last year. Pakistan exported footwear worth US \$48.972 million during July-September (2022-23) against the exports of \$38.540 million during July-September (2021-22), showing growth of 27.07 percent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). In terms of quantity, the exports of footwear also increased by 68.86 percent by going up from 4,052 thousand pairs to 6,842 thousand pairs, according to the data. Among the footwear products, the exports of leather footwear rose by 28.68 percent as it surged from \$32.185 million last year to \$41.417 million during the current year. The canvas footwear exports of the country stood at \$ 0.250 million during the current year against \$ 0.023 million during last year, showing an increase of 987.33 percent. (APP)

Asian fast-food giant Jollibee eyes doubling sales in 5 years

MANILA: Jollibee Foods aims to double its business in the next five years by aggressively growing in the US and China, the company's president and CEO told Nikkei Asia, as the Philippine fast-food group famous for its Chickenjoy and Jolly Spaghetti plots a post-pandemic expansion. Ernesto Tanmantiong said in an interview that one of Asia's most famous restaurant chains planned to have 10,000 branches in its network by 2027 compared with close to 6,300 as of end-June. The plan would come on top of further acquisitions that the company might make, Tanmantiong said. Over the past five years, Jollibee has taken over foreign chains such as Smashburger and The Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf in the US, and the Milksha bubble tea brand in Taiwan. (Agencies)

Oil falls as rate hike talk offsets fading China demand hopes

LONDON: Oil slipped on Friday and was heading for a second weekly decline as investors weighed the impact of sharp interest rate rises on energy consumption, offsetting hopes of higher Chinese demand and output cuts by OPEC and its allies. To fight inflation, the US Federal Reserve is trying to slow the economy and will keep raising its short-term rate target, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia President Patrick Harker said on Thurs-

day. Brent crude slipped \$1.16, or 1.3%, to \$91.22 a barrel by 0821 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate crude was down by 74 cents, or 0.9%, to \$83.77. "With several key Fed members taking turns at the hawk's pulpit this week arguing for even higher interest rates, it blunted optimism from China's reduced quarantine hopes," Stephen Innes, managing director at SPI Asset Management said in a note. (Agencies)

Pfizer expects to hike US Covid vaccine price to \$110-\$130 per dose

NEW YORK: Pfizer Inc. expects to roughly quadruple the price of its COVID-19 vaccine to about \$110 to \$130 per dose after the United States government's current purchase program expires, Pfizer executive Angela Lukin said on Thursday. Ms. Lukin said she expects the vaccine — currently provided for free to all by the government — will be made available at no cost to people who have private insurance or government paid insurance. Reuters earlier on Thursday reported that Wall Street was expecting such price hikes due to weak demand for coronavirus

disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccines, which meant vaccine makers would need to hike prices to meet revenue forecasts for 2023 and beyond. The US government currently pays around \$30 per dose to Pfizer and German partner BioNTech SE. In 2023, the market is expected to move to private insurance after the US public health emergency expires. "We are confident that the US price point of the COVID-19 vaccine reflects its overall cost effectiveness and ensures the price will not be a barrier for access for patients," Ms. Lukin said. (Agencies)

Azerbaijan, Moldova ink MoU on labor, employment, social protection

BAKU: Azerbaijan and Moldova have signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the labor, employment, and social protection sectors, Azernews reports. The memorandum was signed by Azerbaijani Labour and Social Security Minister Sahil Babayev and Moldovan Labour and Social Protection Minister Marcel Spatar. The document envisages the implementation of preventive measures to ensure safe and healthy working conditions in the workplace, improvement of control over compliance with relevant legislation

and the requirements of labor legislation in this field, employment and social protection of the population, organization of vocational training for the unemployed and job seekers, expanding employment opportunities for vulnerable groups, etc. After the signing of the document, the ministers expressed confidence that the newly signed memorandum will play an important role in the development of cooperation between the two countries in the labor, employment, and social protection sectors. (Agencies)

CAA officials brief EASA for revival of PIA flights to Europe

KARACHI: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) officials briefed the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) for the revival of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flights to Europe, ARY News reported, citing sources. EASA is responsible for ensuring safety and environmental protection in air transport in Europe. Sources say CAA officials had an eight-hour-long online session with the EASA officials in which they answered the regulator's queries. The Civil Aviation Authority officials briefed the EASA about licensing, registration, oversight and other departments. The European regulator will visit Pakistan if it is satisfied with the arrangements made by the CAA for the revival of PIA flights to the region, the source said. Read more: UK denies to lift ban on PIA flights Earlier, the Unit-



ed Kingdom (UK) refused to lift the ban on Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flights, expressing its safety reservations to the country's Civil Aviation Authority. Sources privy to the development said the Air Safety Unit of the British Department of Transport (DfT) had written a letter to the CAA to convey its concerns over the measures it had taken for flight dependability. The letter was received by CAA on September 8, 2022. (Agencies)

Toyota to cut production target over chips issue

TOKYO: Japan's Toyota Motor Corp will likely lower its production target for vehicles in this financial year due to the scarcity of microchips, the carmaker said on Friday. Toyota's existing forecast is for 9.7 million vehicles to be produced by March 2023, with a revised figure to be released once it has examined the impact on production. Toyota has slashed its global production target for the last financial year three times, from 9.3 million in May 2021 to 8.5 million this

February, ultimately producing about 8.6 million vehicles. The automaker said it planned to turn out about 800,000 vehicles worldwide next month, or about 100,000 short of the average monthly production plan for September to November released on September 22. The firm will also suspend 11 production lines at eight domestic factories next month, affecting the output of a wide variety of vehicles including the Corolla, RAV4 and Yaris, it added. (Agencies)

Russian rouble firms towards 61 vs dollar on tax payments support

MOSCOW: The rouble traded near 61 to the dollar on Friday and strengthened against the euro and yuan, supported by a favourable month-end tax period as geopolitics continued to hold sway over Russian markets. At 0753 GMT, the rouble was 0.1% stronger against the dollar at 61.31, having opened at 61.1125, its strongest point since Oct. 10. It had gained 0.6% to trade at 60.22 versus the euro and firmed 0.5% against the yuan to 8.40, earlier clipping a more than two-week high. "The Russian currency contin-

ues to consolidate on the back of the tax period," Veles Capital said in a note. The rouble is buttressed by a month-end tax period that usually sees export-focused firms convert foreign exchange revenues into roubles to pay domestic tax liabilities. The ever-present threat of more Western sanctions over Moscow's actions in Ukraine continues to hang over Russian markets, which remain susceptible to wild bouts of volatility. Investors are also looking ahead to next week's central bank rate decision. (Agencies)

UK shoppers cut their spending, government borrows more than expected

LONDON: British shoppers reined in their spending more sharply than expected in September as they felt the hit from rising prices, and a one-off bank holiday to mark the funeral of Queen Elizabeth also weighed on retail sales figures for the month. Separate official data showed Britain's borrowing grew by more than expected, underscoring the challenge facing new finance minister Jeremy Hunt and whoever succeeds Liz Truss as prime minister next week. Sales volumes fell by 1.4%

from August - almost three times the 0.5% fall in a Reuters poll of economists. Over the three months to September, sales were down 2.0%, the biggest fall since the first three months to September 2021. Sterling fell against the US dollar after the data was published, dropping from just over \$1.12 to as low as \$1.175. Consumers have been reining in their spending with inflation hitting 10%, adding to the strains on the economy which is expected to go into recession soon. (Agencies)

Indonesia to strike green energy deal with rich nations at G20 summit

KUALA LUMPUR: Indonesia is on track to secure a clean energy partnership with rich countries when it hosts a Group of Twenty major economies (G20) summit in November, obtaining international funding to cut its reliance on coal power and to implement a green and fair transition, energy analysts said. The multi-billion-dollar agreement is expected to help Indonesia retire coal-fired plants early and ramp up investment in renewables, backed by wealthy nations, development and private banks, and philanthropists. Fabby Tumiwa, head of the Indonesia-based Institute for Essential Services Reform, an energy and environmental think tank, said

the deal would be unveiled at the Bali gathering of leaders of the world's top 20 economies from Nov. 15-16. It has the potential to be "a big win for the presidency" of Indonesia's Joko Widodo, while serving as an example to other G20 and coal-producing nations that are planning a shift to cleaner energy, such as India and China, he added. At last year's COP26 climate summit, the United States, Britain, France, Germany and the European Union offered an \$8.5-billion package to help South Africa achieve a "just energy transition" away from coal, but progress has been slow due to disagreements over the type of funding and how to deploy it. (Agencies)

Dollar continues winning streak against PKR

KARACHI: The US dollar continues to gain ground against the Pakistani rupee on Friday after a recent appreciation. According to details, the local currency depreciated by 10 paisa against the greenback which is being traded at Rs221.5. It may be recalled that at the close of business last week, the value of the dollar increased marginally in the interbank market and the dollar rose by 5 pai-



sa to close at Rs218.43 paisa while in the open market it had risen by Rs4 to close at Rs226. (Agencies)

Adidas shoes going unsold as demand weakens

BERLIN: Adidas AG warned that unsold goods are piling up as consumer demand weakens across China and western markets, prompting a fresh profit warning from the sneaker maker. The German company lowered its forecast for this year's operating margin to 4% from 7%. Full-year revenue will grow at a mid-single-digit rather than mid to high-single-digit

rate, Adidas also said. The company's shares fell 6.6% in pre-market Frankfurt trading and are down by more than half this year. Shares of rival Puma SE fell 5.2%. The warning extends a run of bad news from Adidas as chief executive officer Kasper Rorsted prepares to step down in 2023 after a tumultuous six-year tenure. (Agencies)

Fury,Chisora to square off in trilogy fight

LONDON: Tyson Fury and Derek Chisora will square off on the 3rd of December in their trilogy bout at London's Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. Fury will make his third defence of the WBC heavyweight title against a foe he has previously defeated twice. In their fights against the Britons in 2014 and 2011, Fury easily prevailed. Negotiations between Fury's camp and Joshua's camp to fight in December fell through. While the 38-year-old Chisora is nearing the twilight of his career and has suffered three losses in his past four fights, the



world champion is unbeaten in 32 contests. In addition, British heavyweight Daniel Dubois will compete on the card to defend his WBA "Regular" championship against South African heavyweight Kevin Lerena. (Agencies)

Aaron-Wooi Yik sail into Denmark Open

KUALA LUMPUR: World champions Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik continued their brilliant run to advance to the quarterfinals of the Denmark Open in Odense today. The top national pair took 31 minutes to dispose of French duo of Lucas Corvee and Ronan Labar 21-13, 21-18 in a match held at Jyske Bank Arena. Aaron-Wooi Yik who are ranked fourth in the world, will meet Indian pair R Satwiksairaj and Chirag Shetty, the tournament's seven seeds, tomorrow. Also qualifying for the quarterfinals is men's singles shuttler Lee Zii Jia who crushed Kanta Tsuneyama of Japan 21-5, 21-

19 in the second round today. The world No 3 faces Indonesian Jonatan Christie next. Meanwhile, national mixed doubles pair Goh Soon Huat and Shevon Jemie Lai caused an upset by beating compatriots Tan Kian Meng and Lai Pei Jing 18-21, 24-22, 22-20. The duo, ranked 13th in the world, will take on second seeds Yuta Watanabe and Arisa Higashino of Japan next in the last eight. But top women's doubles team of Pearly Tan and M Thinaah were eliminated by tournament top seeds Chen Qingchen and Jia Yifan of China 21-18, 20-22, 21-17. (Agencies)

Kenya's Kipserem banned for three-year

NAIROBI: A third pacemaker who was part of Eliud Kipchoge's team in running the marathon below two hours has been banned for doping. The Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) handed Marius Kipserem of Kenya a three-year ban after prohibited substance recombinant erythropoietin (EPO) was found in a sample provided by the athlete in August. Kenyans Philemon Kacheran and Justus Kimutai are the other two pacemakers who were banned earlier. According to AIU, Kipserem denied doping charges twice before finally admitting to doing so October. The two-time Rotterdam marathon winner's ban was backdated to September 22, when he was provisionally suspended. (Agencies)

AstroTurfs to be installed in Hockey Grounds

ISLAMABAD: Artificial turfs have been laid in the hockey grounds of Islamabad and Quetta, while work is in progress to install the same in Peshawar, Abbottabad, Faisalabad, Muzaffarabad and Wah Cantonment. The initiative was aimed at reviving hockey in the country. This was disclosed by an official, who told APP on Thursday that the government was taking measures for the promotion of sports in the country. "It is introducing a new governance system and national sports policy for the overhauling of sports structure," he added. "The federal government through the Pakistan Sports board (PSB) provides administrative, technical and financial support to promote various sports, including hockey," he said. With respect to the revival of hockey, the government was taking several steps for the improvement of performance and international ranking of the national team, and a overhaul of the domestic hockey structure, the official mentioned. (APP)

Ronaldo not in Man Utd squad for Chelsea trip

LONDON: Manchester United forward Cristiano Ronaldo will not be in their squad for Saturday's Premier League game at Chelsea, the club said in a statement yesterday. Ronaldo, an unused substitute in Wednesday's 2-0 win over Tottenham Hotspur, walked down the tunnel with a few minutes of the match remaining after being left on the bench again by manager Erik ten Hag. "Cristiano Ronaldo will not be part of the Manchester United squad for this Saturday's Premier League game against Chelsea," United said. "The rest of the squad is fully focused on preparing for that fixture."



The 37-year-old Portugal international scored 24 goals in all competitions for United last season but has started only two league games this campaign. United are fifth in the league on 19 points, one behind fourth-placed Chelsea after 10 games. (Agencies)

Sohail,Akhter shine in Punjab Open Golf

LAHORE: On the first day of the four days 41st Punjab Open Golf Championship 2022 in progress here at the 18 holes, par 72 PAF Skyview Golf Course, the first day was committed for the Senior Professionals Event and Junior Professionals competition. And at the end of the first days 18 holes round, the senior professional who outshone his rival golfing mates was Mohammad Akhtar of Islamabad Golf Club. Akhter may be categorized as a senior professional, yet he exhibited good command over

his shot making and allied aspects of his game like chipping, putting, bunker shots and approach shots to the green and this command resulted in compiling a score of gross 70, two under par for the first round effort which is remarkable going for a senior golf professional. "I am very pleased with the way I met the golf course challenges and hope to finish off as the best one in the second round on Friday, as this competition for seniors is over two rounds and 36 holes". (Agencies)

FIFA Women's World Cup welcomed to New Zealand

AUCKLAND: The FIFA Women's World Cup 2023™ was officially welcomed to Aotearoa New Zealand today with a powhiri in Tamaki Makaurau, Auckland ahead of the Draw. Representatives from FIFA and the 39 qualified teams for the tournament and Play-Off Tournament were amongst the manuhiri at the powhiri, led by Ngati Whatua Orakei at Karanga Plaza. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's spokesperson for the FIFA Women's World Cup, Deputy Secretary, Chris Bunny says hosting the Draw in Tamaki Makaurau, Auckland presented a unique opportunity to formally welcome the tournament to Aotearoa New Zealand. "The Draw is the main event in the build up to the FIFA Women's World

Cup and is an internationally significant event in its own right, with millions watching on around the world," says Chris. "We wanted to use this opportunity to put our best foot forward and show FIFA, the teams and the rest of the world what they can expect of us as co-host of next year's tournament." The FIFA Women's World Cup is the largest women's sporting event on the planet, captivating an audience of more than one billion people across the globe and next year's event will be the biggest yet, with 32 teams competing for the first time. New Zealand Story Group CEO David Downs says there will be widespread benefits for Aotearoa New Zealand from hosting an event of this size and significance. (Agencies)

Verstappen focusing on the job as F1 spending row builds

AUSTIN: Double Formula One world champion Max Verstappen said he was just focusing on his job as rivals called on Thursday (Oct 20) for the governing FIA to come down hard on his Red Bull team for breaching last year's spending rules. Red Bull can seal their first constructors' world championship since 2013 at the US Grand Prix on Sunday but the achievement risks being overshadowed by the cost cap row. The governing FIA said on Oct 10 that Red Bull were guilty of a "mi-

nor overspend" last year, but gave no details. Media reports have indicated the team were US\$1.8 million over the US\$145 million cap, with McLaren boss Zak Brown saying this week that any team in breach were effectively cheating. The situation has become a major test for the FIA and the cap, which was introduced last year but risks being undermined if not effectively enforced. "Nothing has been confirmed yet but as a team we know what we have to deal with and I think we

were very clear with what we think was correct," Verstappen told Sky Sports television at the Circuit of the Americas. Verstappen, who won his second title a day before the breach was confirmed, suggested rivals who questioned Red Bull's performance were reacting to the team's success. "They try to slow us down in any way possible. That's how F1 works ... everyone is at the end of the day a bit hypocritical. I'm fine with that. We just have to focus on our job," he said. (Agencies)

NBA star Kevin Durant buys a professional pickleball team

NEW YORK: Basketball star Kevin Durant is purchasing a Major League Pickleball expansion team as the upstart sport expands and attracts new investors. Thirty Five Ventures, the investment firm run by Durant and Rich Kleiman, will own and operate a team full-time, running personnel, merchandise, sponsorships and marketing. The squad is set to first compete in the 2023 season. Financial terms weren't disclosed. The surging

popularity of pickleball, a paddle sport in which players hit a ball back and forth over a net on a much smaller court than in tennis, has been a boon for MLP, a new professional league that debuted last year. In recent months, the league has lured many new backers to join its ownership ranks. NBA stars LeBron James, Draymond Green and Kevin Love are now co-owners of a pickleball team, and hedge fund Knighthead Capital

Management leads a new ownership group that includes quarterback Tom Brady and former world No. 1 tennis player Kim Clijsters. Durant's venture firm has investments in other sports as well, including the National Women's Soccer League's Gotham FC, New York esports organization Andbox, the Athletes Unlimited network of women's leagues and the Premier Lacrosse League. (Agencies)

Two billion people watched 2022 Games,says IOC

BEIJING: Just over two billion people watched the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, according to the International Olympic Committee. Independent research conducted for the IOC found that was a 5% increase on the audience for the 2018 Games. The total minutes watched - 713 billion - were 18% up on Pyeongchang 2018. Those figures include "linear TV and

digital platforms" - with the evidence showing more people watched the events online than ever before. The IOC said: "In addition to the significant increases in digital viewing and consumption of broadcast coverage, the Olympics web and app platforms reached 68 million unique users during Beijing 2022 - more than double the reach achieved during the

Olympic Winter Games Pyeongchang 2018. "Almost half of the Beijing 2022 viewers surveyed said they wanted to watch more coverage of the Olympic Games in the future. This appetite is particularly strong amongst the youth demographic." The BBC was one of the IOC's media rights partners for the Games, which was held from 4-20 February. (Agencies)

Para-cycling Track World C'ships Great Britain win three golds on first day

PARIS: Great Britain won three gold medals on the opening day of the Para-cycling Track World Championships in France. Kadeena Cox took gold in the Women's C4 500m time trial and Fin Graham won the Men's C3 15km scratch race final. Britain then landed mixed tandem team sprint gold - with Libby Clegg piloted by Georgia Holt and James Ball piloted by Steffan Lloyd. These are the



first worlds since the Covid-19 pandemic and are taking place in Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines. Paralympic

gold medallist Cox said: "It's been three and a half years since I was last world champion. I've been injured. I've missed a lot of training. To come out and take the win was quite nice. "I surprised myself today. I always turn up on race day but I didn't expect to go so quickly. Actually a little bit of training and I might be in world record shape soon which is scary." (Agencies)

DAILY HOROSCOPE: OCTOBER 22, 2022



- It's a general reading which may differ from person to person because of time date and year.
- ARIES: The more others tell you it's time to cut your losses and give up on something you've been working on the more determined you must be to see it through to the end. If you hold out just a little longer you will see significant progress.
- TAURUS: Don't worry if you are forced to accept a supporting role today because it could actually work in your favor. If you let others put themselves at the head of a joint enterprise it will be they who have to take the flak if it goes wrong.
- GEMINI: Avoid taking on new duties and responsibilities today, no matter how tempting it may be to show what you can do. The Sun's change of signs at the weekend will add to your workload and you will need all your energy to deal with that alone.
- CANCER: You have so much to look forward to now but you still seem to be holding back from stepping out into the world and looking for adventure. The good news is that by the start of next week your attitude will be much more positive.
- LEO: Tif there is something you desperately need to tell a friend or loved one you are advised to do so right now. The Sun is coming to the end of its journey through the communications area of your chart, so get

it off your chest while you can.
- VIRGO: Money matters have taken up a lot of your time in recent weeks but soon you will have less to worry about financially. The more loose ends you can tie up today the more fun you will have when the Sun changes signs this weekend.
- LIBRA: You have achieved so much in recent weeks and the results of your creativity will continue to have a positive effect through to the end of the year. Soon though you will need to pay more attention to your cash-flow situation. Money is important too.
- SCORPIO: You must make sure you have a clear idea of what your long-term ambitions are going to be. The Sun moves into your sign at the weekend and a new solar year for you gets underway. You cannot afford to be vague about your aims.
- SAGITTARIUS: Try not to be too chatty over the next 24 hours. The planets warn if you let slip any personal information you could find it being used against you at a later date. Someone you thought was a friend could turn out to be a rival in disguise.
- CAPRICORN: You may not be rebellious by nature but you have your moments and one such moment will make itself felt today. Speak up and let people in positions of power know why you don't agree with what they are doing. Be a catalyst for change.
- ACQUARIUS: Make the most of the Sun's final two days in the most adventurous area of your chart to start something new and exciting. Come Monday morning you will most likely find yourself snowed under with new responsibilities, so have fun while you can.
- PISCES: You must get your financial affairs in order over the next 24 hours. If you need to cut costs or make savings now is the time to get serious about it. The longer you put it off the harder it will be to make ends meet later on.

Spain scraps 33 titles handed out by dictator Franco to family and aides

MADRID: Spain abolished 33 aristocratic titles handed out by dictator Francisco Franco and his successor to loyal lieutenants and family on Friday as a new “Democratic Memory” law took effect. The measure affects two of Franco’s grandchildren, as well as the descendants of several of his top generals, ministers and other high-ranking officials. Franco ruled Spain from 1939 to 1975 after leading a military coup against the Second Republic’s elected leftist Popular

Front government, which resulted in a three-year civil war that cost 500,000 lives. The law, which recently cleared its final parliamentary hurdle in the upper house, equates “glorifying perpetrators of crimes against humanity” with humiliating the Franco regime’s victims and strikes out titles that exalt the civil war and military dictatorship. While most titles were granted by Franco himself as a reward for loyalty, five people affected by the law were ennobled by his successor as head of

state, former King Juan Carlos I, in the first months of his reign following Franco’s death. Francisco Franco Martinez-Bordiu, the autocrat’s eldest male grandchild who inherited the lordship of Meiras from Franco’s widow, Carmen Polo, described abolition of the title as “nonsense without any practical effects” in a July interview with newspaper El Independiente. “I will continue to be Lord of Meiras even if the government doesn’t recognise it,” he said. (Agencies)

Cholera outbreak hits Syrian refugees camps

QUB ELIAS: Syrian refugees in displacement camps are falling victim to a cholera outbreak in Lebanon, already suffering from an economic meltdown that has slashed access to clean water and strained hospitals. Lebanon recorded its first cholera case in early October -- signalling the return of the bacteria for the first time in 30 years. It now counts at least 220 cases and five deaths. According to the World Health Organization, Lebanon is the latest phase of a rampaging outbreak that began in Afghanistan in June - then spread to Pakistan, Iran, Iraq and Syria. In Syria itself more than 13,000 suspected cases have been reported, including 60 deaths, according to the Syria office of Doctors Without Borders (MSF). Cholera is typically spread through contaminated water, food or sewage. It can cause severe diarrhoea and dehydration – which can kill if left untreated. Most cholera cases in Lebanon have been in the camps, among the roughly 1 million Syrians who have taken refuge over the past decade from the conflict in their homeland, according to caretaker Health Minister Firass Abiad. (Agencies)

Hungarians join teachers’ revolt over ‘humiliating’ pay

BUDAPEST: Hungary’s failing schools are becoming the focus of swelling protests, with pupils and parents backing teachers sacked for rebelling over “humiliating” low pay and years of government neglect. With supermarket cashiers paid more than most teachers, thousands have joined the protests since the beginning of September, with human chains formed around schools across the country. Last Friday students burned letters threatening teachers with dismissal near the interior ministry, which has been put in charge of education by nationalist premier Viktor Orban, who restricted the right to strike in February. Another mass protest is planned for Sunday. Budapest high school teacher Katalin Torley was sacked along with four of her colleagues last month for refusing to teach classes in protest at low pay and severe restrictions on the curriculum, which critics say is biased toward Orban’s conservative and nativist agenda. Torley, who has taught French for 23 years, told AFP her sacking had been “very painful teaching is the most important activity of my life. I am very attached to the pupils”. (Agencies)

US college creates video game to boost earthquake preparedness

NEW YORK: The Big One is coming. Would you know what to do if an earthquake hit? A new video game, released ahead of International ShakeOut Day on Oct 20, can help get you ready for an earthquake or other natural disaster. Concerned that people in the Pacific Northwest are underprepared for earthquakes, a team of researchers at Lewis & Clark College in Oregon brainstormed an alternative form of media to target young adults, who they found are often excluded from messaging campaigns. Cascadia 9.0 is designed to make earthquake preparation more enjoy-

able. The game’s name comes from the Cascadia Subduction Zone, a 600-mile fault off the Pacific coastline, which has the potential to produce a magnitude 9.0 earthquake. Inside the game, the player navigates urgent situations while travelling through a demolished city to find their dog, Tsu, who got loose after a massive earthquake. Along the way, the player must address the lack of clean drinking water, aftershocks and gas leaks. Initial results have shown gaming participants felt more confident about coping with some key earthquake-related challenges. (Agencies)

Indonesia demands skull, jewellery back from the Netherlands

AMSTERDAM: The Indonesian government is demanding artworks, natural historical objects, and complete collections back from the Netherlands. A Dutch newspaper has reported that a list has been sent to the Education, Culture, and Science Ministry in July. The objects on the list have been designated as looted art by Indonesia, thus the country is now demanding them be returned. It is not only individual masterpieces involved in the petition, but also en-

tire collections, such as the Dubois collection that is exhibited in Leiden’s Naturalis Museum. The collection consists of about 40,000 fossils. The masterpiece is a skull of the so-called Java man.L, excavated in 1891 by the Dutch researcher Eugène Dubois. The skull was of crucial scientific importance in researching human evolution. Indonesia also wants the reins of Diponegoro’s horse sent back to the country. Diponegoro led a Javanese revolt against Dutch colonial rule.

The Lombok Treasure is also on the list. According to the Rijksmuseum, most of it was returned in 1977 but Indonesia says the museum in Leiden still holds precious stones and gold and silver jewellery. A commission will determine whether the items on the list are defined as looted objects. The ministry has confirmed that it has received a request for restitution from Indonesia. An independent committee will now review the list of requests. (Agencies)

France to double police presence on streets by 2027

PARIS: France’s Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin said Friday that the government plans to double police presence on the streets across the country by 2027. “Under the leadership of the President of the Republic (Emmanuel Macron) and the Prime Minister (Élisabeth Borne), we have taken resolute measures against crime,” he said in a Twitter message in which he indicated that the presence of the Police and the Gendarmerie on French streets and public transport will be increased. Thus, he explained that about 8,500 positions will be created and recalled that robberies with

violence have decreased by 21 percent compared to September 2021, while violence in public transport has decreased by about 20 percent compared to the previous year. “I would like to point out the obvious, when a gendarme or a police officer asks a vehicle to stop, it should be done. My first trip as minister was to bury gendarme Mélanie Lemeé, hit by a driver in Lot-et-Garonne,” he lamented. The budget of France’s Interior Ministry has risen this year to more than 21 billion euros, so 10,000 jobs have been created for police and gendarmes, according to government data. (Agencies)

Swedish PM to visit Turkey to unblock NATO bid

BRUSSELS: Sweden’s new Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said Thursday he was ready to head to Ankara to urge Turkey to back bids by Sweden and Finland to join the NATO alliance. “I have already sent a signal to the Turkish government that we are prepared to go to Ankara immediately,” Kristersson said, as he arrived for an EU leaders’ summit three days after taking office. “I will do that as soon as it is suitable for them as well of course, so I’m very prepared for that.” Kristersson said he aimed to show Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan that Sweden and Finland “actually do what we promised” to fulfil a deal with

Ankara to clear their path into NATO. Sweden and Finland earlier this year tore up their long-standing policies of non-alignment in the face of Russia’s war on Ukraine and launched their bids to join the US-led military alliance. The move has received strong backing from the vast majority of the alliance’s members but Erdogan has stalled the process over accusations the Nordic neighbours are havens for Kurdish militants hostile to Ankara. Twenty-eight of NATO’s 30 allies have so far ratified the accession of Finland and Sweden – leaving only Turkey and Hungary to sign off before they officially join the group. (Agencies)

Rolls-Royce enters electric age with unveiling of Spectre model

LONDON: Rolls-Royce, the iconic luxury car maker, has accelerated into the electric age with the unveiling of the first non-petrol car in the company’s 120-year history. The first models of the all-electric Spectre, which has been years in the design, planning and testing stages, will be delivered to well-heeled customers toward the end of next year. The car will have a price tag in the \$350,000 range, but customization and special features could double the cost. Unveiling the car at the Rolls-Royce



headquarters in Goodwood, UK, Torsten Müller-Ötvös, the chief executive officer, said: “Spectre is not only an historic moment for Rolls-Royce, but also an historic moment for electrification with Spectre, the marque confirms that

the technology has reached a standard that can contain the Rolls-Royce experience.” Müller-Ötvös reaffirmed the company’s commitment to go fully electric by 2030 across all its car models, while continuing to sell petrol-fueled cars in the immediate future. The move to electric vehicles, or EV, by Rolls-Royce will add to the competition by global car manufacturers to ditch the petrol-fueled internal combustion engine under pressure from environmental regulators. (Agencies)

Rightist Meloni set to become Italy’s first woman PM

ROME: Rightist leader Giorgia Meloni is this afternoon expected to be asked to form Italy’s new government and become the country’s first woman prime minister, after she was summoned for talks by the president. Meloni, whose Brothers of Italy party won an election last month at the head of a coalition including Silvio Berlusconi’s Forza Italia and Matteo Salvini’s League, is due at the Quirinale palace in Rome at 2.30pm, President Sergio Mattarella’s office said in a statement. “We are ready to form

a government as quickly as possible,” Meloni said earlier today after an initial meeting between the coalition partners and Mattarella. The new government could be sworn in over the weekend and will be Italy’s most right-wing administration since World War II. It will also be Italy’s 68th government since 1946 and faces daunting challenges, including a looming recession and rising energy bills, as well as presenting a united front in its response to the war in Ukraine. (Agencies)

UK opposition MP resigns over sexual misconduct case

LONDON: British lawmaker Christian Matheson resigned today after an independent panel said he breached parliament’s sexual misconduct policy for making “unwanted and unwelcome” advances towards a junior staff member. The House of Commons’ Independent Expert Panel (IEP) said the complaint was made in May 2021 by a young woman from Matheson’s parliamentary team, who

alleged he had behaved inappropriately towards her on a number of occasions, each involving sexual misconduct. The report said Matheson, who belonged to the opposition Labour Party, accepted he had blurred the boundaries between employer and employee and been too ‘fatherly’ and ‘friendly’, but that he denied that he was sexually motivated at any time. (Agencies)

India tests next-generation Agni-prime ballistic missile

NEW DELHI: India successfully test-fired the next-generation Agni-Prime ballistic missile. The missile was test fired from a mobile launcher from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha. India successfully test-fired the next-generation Agni-Prime ballistic missile on October 21, 2022. The missile was test fired from a mobile launcher from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha. The strike range of the solid-fuelled canisterised missile is between 1,000 to 2,000 km and it has passed all mission parameters during the test. Its navigation was tracked and examined by radars and telemetry equipment positioned along several points. (Agencies)

Hundreds demonstrate in Iran’s Zahedan city

TEHRAN: Hundreds of demonstrators took to the streets of the south-eastern Iranian city of Zahedan, three weeks after dozens were killed in “Bloody Friday” protests, online videos showed. “Death to the dictator,” the protesters, mostly young men, chanted Friday in reference to Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei outside a police station, in footage widely shared on social media. Iranian security forces killed at least 93 people who had gathered at the same location on September 30, Oslo-based group Iran Human Rights said. Zahedan, the capital of Sistan-Baluchistan province, is one of the few Sunni-majority cities in predominantly Shia Iran. (Agencies)

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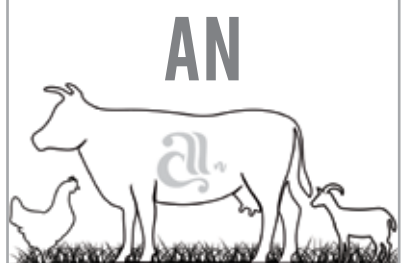
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