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Editor: Omer Rizwan

- Russia and US holding secret talks in Ankara. - Ukraine bans US and UK media outlets from Kherson.

Zelensky calls liberation of Kherson 'beginning of the end'

- NATO says up to Ukraine what terms for talks with Russia are acceptable. - New Zealand to train more Ukrainian troops, extends intelligence support.

- Russian war crimes documented in Kherson - Zelensky. - Kremlin says grain talks with UN last week were 'constructive.'

- Netherlands to allocate \$25.7m to support Ukraine. - UK PM labels Russia 'rogue state'. - Ukrainians tie 'collaborators' to poles in Kherson.



KIEV/MOSCOW: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky hailed the Russian withdrawal from Kherson as the "beginning of the end of the war" on Monday, as he lauded soldiers and took selfies with them in the recently liberated southern city Kherson. "We are moving forward," he told troops standing in formation in front of the administration building in the city's main square. "We are ready for peace, peace for all our country." Zelensky thanked Nato and other allies for their support in the war against Russia and said the delivery of high mobility artillery rocket systems (Himars) from the US had made a big difference for Kyiv. There are reports in Russian media about secret US-Russian talks being hosted by Türkiye. The Kremlin would neither confirm nor deny the claim. The undeclared meeting is allegedly being held on Monday in the Turkish capital Ankara, the business daily Kommersant reported. Its source said that Moscow is represented by Sergey Naryshkin, the director of Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service, or SVR, but would not offer any other details, the outlet said.

The Ukrainian military says it has removed the accreditation of several foreign and local journalists for reporting without permission from the city of Kherson, from where Russian forces were withdrawn last week. Staff with CNN and Sky News are among those affected, a local NGO told the Ukrainska Pravda news website. "Recently, some media representatives... carried out professional activities in the city of Kherson even before the completion of stabilization measures," Ukraine's General Staff said in a Facebook post on Sunday. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said it is up to Ukraine to decide what terms are acceptable for negotiations to bring an end to the war Russia is waging against the country, adding NATO's role was to support Kyiv. "It is for Ukraine to decide what kind of terms are acceptable. It is for us to support them," he said during a press conference with members of the Dutch government in The Hague. "We should not make the mistake of underestimating Russia. They still control large parts of Ukraine. New Zealand said on Monday it

would send a further 66 defense force personnel to the United Kingdom to help train Ukrainian soldiers as the Russian invasion grinds on for a ninth month. New Zealand currently has a team of 120 New Zealand Defense Force (NZDF) personnel training Ukrainians in the United Kingdom but this deployment was due to end. The new deployment will run from November 30 through until July 2023, a government statement said. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has accused Russian soldiers of committing war crimes and killing civilians in Kherson, parts of which were retaken by Ukraine's army last week after Russia pulled out. "Investigators have already documented more than 400 Russian war crimes. Bodies of dead civilians and servicemen have been found," Mr Zelensky said in his nightly video address last night. "The Russian army left behind the same savagery it did in other regions of the country it entered," he said. The Kremlin said on Monday that work to renew the Black Sea grain export deal is ongoing and talks with the United Nations last week were

"fairly constructive". "We are actually still a week away from the extension date (Nov. 19), so work is ongoing," the Kremlin said. Senior U.N. officials met a Russian delegation in Geneva on Friday to discuss Moscow's grievances about the grains export initiative, which aims to ensure safe passage of grain from Ukrainian ports despite the conflict in Ukraine. Netherlands will allocate 25 million Euros (\$25.7 million) to support the Ukrainian military, Dutch Foreign Minister Wopke Hoekstra said on Monday. "In total, we contribute 25 million euros to support Ukraine's armed forces with combat food rations, first aid kits, ambulances, fuel trucks and drone jammers," Hoekstra at a joint press conference with Dutch Defense Minister Kajsa Ollongren and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg in the Hague. Russia's President Vladimir Putin is making no "attempt to explain his actions" in Ukraine, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak wrote in a statement for The Telegraph on Sunday, ahead of his trip to Bali to participate in the G20 summit. Sunak demanded that "lead-

ers take responsibility" and "show up," denouncing Putin for refusing to personally attend the summit "to face his peers" and for sending Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov instead. The British PM went on to praise Ukraine and its leader Vladimir Zelensky, and outlined a five-part action plan intended to offer more support to Kiev and combat Russia's "weaponization of food," and its alleged attempts to "asphyxiate the global economy." Kherson residents suspected of collaborating with Russia allegedly face public punishment, as seen in photographs released by The Associated Press (AP). Ukrainian forces took over the city last week, after the withdrawal of Russian troops. The news agency published pictures of two individuals tied to posts. A group of civilians and at least one soldier can be seen next to them. According to the AP description, the people were "alleged collaborators." It didn't explain how the punishment had come about. Pillorying is not part of the Ukrainian legal system but has been used by nationalists in the country in recent years. (Agencies)

Biden, Xi clash over Taiwan, but military action seen as unlikely

BALI: US President Joe Biden said he told his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping on Monday that the United States would enhance its security position in Asia if Beijing is unable to rein in North Korea's weapons development programs. Biden told a news conference after his first face-to-face talks with Xi since taking power that they had blunt talks over a wide array of issues that are contributing to the worst US-Chinese ties in decades. In a statement after their meeting, Xi called Taiwan



the "first red line" that must not be crossed in US-China relations, Chinese state media said. Biden said he sought to assure Xi that US policy

on Taiwan has not changed, seeking to lower tensions over the self-ruled island. "I do not think there's any imminent attempt on the part of China to invade Taiwan," he told reporters. He said if Beijing is not able to rein in North Korea, the United States would move to further protect US allies in the region. The two sides had set up a mechanism for more frequent communications and Secretary of State Antony Blinken will travel to China to follow-up on discussions, he said. (Agencies)

Afghan supreme leader orders full enforcement of Islamic law

KABUL: Afghanistan's supreme leader has ordered judges to fully enforce full enforcement of Islamic law, the Taliban's chief spokesman said. Zabihullah Mujahid tweeted late Sunday that the "obligatory" command by Hibatullah Akhundzada came after the secretive leader met with a group of judges. Akhundzada, who has not been filmed or photographed in public since the

Taliban returned to power in August last year, rules by decree from Kandahar, the movement's birthplace and spiritual heartland. "Carefully examine the files of thieves, kidnappers and seditionists," Mujahid quoted Akhundzada as saying. "Those files in which all the sharia (Islamic law) conditions of hudud and qisas have been fulfilled, you are obliged to implement. (APP)

Pakistan will be among first to receive G7 'Global Shield' climate funding



SHARM EL-SHEIKH: Pakistan, Ghana and Bangladesh will be among the first recipients of funding from a G7 'Global Shield' initiative to provide funding to countries suffering climate disasters, the programme announced on Monday at the COP27 summit in Egypt. The Global Shield, coordinated by G7 president Germany, aims to provide rapid access for climate-vulnerable countries to insurance and disaster protection funding after floods or drought. It is being developed in collaboration with the 'V20' group of 58 climate vulnerable economies. A statement issued by Germany on Monday listed Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Fiji, Ghana, Pakistan, the Philippines and Senegal as some of the initial recipients of Global Shield packages. (Agencies)

Decision of snap polls being made in London, claims Imran Khan

MANDI BAHAUDDIN: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan on Monday claimed that the decision over the snap polls is being made in London. Addressing the participants of the long march via video link, the former prime minister said, "I hope that the Chief Justice of Pakistan will hear the case of an assassination attempt on him. Today our lawmakers appeared before the SC to file an application over an assassination attempt on him. The country has to be headed towards the path of rule of law as this is the decisive moment." Lashing out at Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif over the Daily Mail case, the PTI chief said, "Shehbaz was fined by the London's court as the court empha-

sized that everyone is equal in terms of the law. In Britain, the rule of law very much exists. Questioning how could be it possible that PM Shehbaz Sharif consults the absconder [Nawaz Sharif] over important decisions of the country like the Army Chief's appointment and snap elections as this is a violation of the Official Secret Act. Imran lamented that he could not register the FIR over an assassination attempt on him, being the country's former premier, adding that is important to establish a system of justice to make the county prosperous. Saying that in the Riyasat-e-Madina, the system of justice was established first, Imran added that the countries where the rule of law and justice prevail are prosperous. (Agencies)

Israel demolishes Palestinian village of Al-Araqueeb for 209th time

WEST BANK: Aziz Al-Turi, a member of the Local Committee for the Defence of Al-Araqueeb, said that the Israeli forces raided the village and demolished its homes for the 29th time. Al-Turi stressed that the people of the village "will rebuild their village". The last time that the Israeli authorities demolished the homes in the village was in late October. The homes in Al-Araqueeb are built of wood, plastic and tin, in which 22 families live. The Israeli authorities first demolished the village in July 2010 and, since then, they have been returning to demolish the homes every time the residents rebuild them. The Israeli government does not recognise Al-Araqueeb, but its residents insist on remaining on their



land despite the repeated demolition of their homes. In a past report, Zochrot, an organisation of Israeli Jewish and Arab activists which documents the Palestinian Nakba of 1948, said that Al-Araqueeb was built for the first time during the Ottoman period on land purchased by the residents. The organisation says that the authorities are working to expel the residents of the village in order to control their land. (Agencies)

Trump set to officially launch 2024 comeback bid

WASHINGTON: Former US president Donald Trump is expected to officially launch another White House bid on Tuesday, refusing calls from within his own Republican party to fade away after his loyalists underperformed in this year's midterm elections. The 76-year-old billionaire, whose 2016 win shocked America and the world, has summoned the press to his Florida mansion for a "very big announcement" at 9:00 PM Tuesday (0200 GMT Wednesday). "President Trump is going to announce on Tuesday that he's running for president," said one of his advisors, Jason Miller, who predicts the speech will be "very professional, very buttoned up." Known for his unpredictability, Trump could still change his mind at the last minute, but for months he has barely hidden his desire to vie for the presidency again in 2024. Delaying the announcement now, as some of his advisors have reportedly suggested to him, would be highly awkward for Trump because he has billed it as "perhaps be the most important speech given in the history of the USA." (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.

CM approves“Center of Excellence on CounteringViolent Extremism Rules 2022”

– Staff Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has, in principle, approved the “Center of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism Rules 2022” for placement before the provincial cabinet for formal approval. The decision was taken in the third Board of Governors meeting held here at the Chief Minister’s House with the Chief Minister Mahmood Khan in the chair.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Higher Education Kamran Bangash, MPA Dr Asia Asad, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Amjad Ali Khan, administrative secretaries of relevant departments and CEO of the Center of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister directed the concerned to ensure prompt release of funds for functionalization of the excellence center along with approving the provision of required vehicles from the existing pool.

With regards to the human resources, the Board was informed that an advertisement for the required staff has already been floated and the recruitment process will be completed soon to ensure prompt and complete functionalization of the



center.

It is pertinent to mention here that the center has been established with the purpose of working as a research-based institute on countering violent extremism in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and coping with the emerging issues and challenges springing from terrorism, subversive activities against the Islamic Republic of Pakistan through narratives of hatred, extremism, radicalization, intolerance, abusing charities, funds generation for entities of concern, glorification of terrorism, terrorists organizations and also diagnose the root causes.

The vision behind establishing this

center is to create a society free of violent extremism and terrorism. It is a unique initiative of its kind not only in Pakistan but across Asia. The Chief Minister maintained that the provincial government is taking every possible step to create a peaceful and violence-free society, adding that establishment of the proposed center of excellence was also a part of this struggle. It was anticipated by members of the board that the Centre of Excellence would play an important role in creating a peaceful society by using evidence-based innovative approaches and worldwide research to prevent and combat violent extremism in the province.

Anti-polio drive to start from Nov 28 in Peshawar

PESHAWAR: The seven-day anti-polio campaign will start in the provincial capital from November 28 during which children under the age of five year will be administered polio drops. In this regard, a meeting was held which was chaired by Deputy Commissioner Shafiullah Khan. The meeting reviewed the preparations for the drive during which as many as 866,603 children will be administered polio drops. The meeting was also attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (Relief) Muhammad Imran Khan, Administrative Officers, District Health Officer Dr. Mohammad Idris, Deputy District Polio Officer

Dr. Naveed Khurshid, Deputy District Polio Officer Dr. Saifullah and other concerned officers. The meeting discussed various aspects of anti-polio campaign and was informed that 2,496 teams have been formed to immunize anti-polio drops to 866,603 children. The meeting was further informed about security arrangements for the safety of polio teams. Deputy Commissioner, Shafiullah Khan appealed to the parents to give their children anti-polio drops to save them from permanent disability and to co-operate with the anti-polio teams so that the polio virus can be eradicated from provincial metropolitan. (APP)

Increase in street crimes worries Peshawarites

PESHAWAR: There is an increase in the street crimes in the city, especially during the evening hours. A general survey has revealed that from the start of evening hours, people avoid going outside unnecessarily due to fear of being robbed. In order to control the increasing incidents of street crimes, the police have enhanced patrolling and snap checking in various

localities of the provincial metropolis. According to data released for the month of October, three incidents of kidnapping for ransom, four abduction, 94 dacoities, 17 car lifting, 2 car snatching, 20 motorcycle theft, six motorcycle snatching, 56 inflicting injuries, 71 attempted murders and 55 incidents of murders were reported in Peshawar district. (APP)

PIA flight skids off at BKIA after landing

PESHAWAR: A passenger plane slipped off the runway while landing at Bacha Khan International Airport in Pakistan on Monday, a spokesperson for the country’s civil aviation authority said. The flight of Pakistan International Airlines was coming from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, when the accident took place at Bacha Khan International Airport, Saifullah Khan, the spokesperson, told media. He said

that it was a minor accident, as all passengers and crew were safe. The incident caused a temporary disruption of flight operations at the airport until the plane was cleared from the runway, he said, adding that two flights were diverted to Islamabad during the disruption of the operation. Sources at the airport said that heavy rains that made the runway slippery caused the accident. Staff Report

Deworming campaign among ‘school going children’ starts in KP

PESHAWAR: The campaign to protect children from intestine related diseases by administering them deworming tablets has been initiated in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with a target of covering 7.8 million children. According to a press release issued here on Monday, Special Secretary P&D Abidullah Kakakhel inaugurated the campaign. During the campaign deworming tablets would be given to children in 25,000 schools, both private and public, besides students from religious seminaries in 22 districts of the province would also be administered tablets. School going children studying in class one to ten and out of school children in the age range of five to 14 years would be given deworming medicine till November 18. Speaking on the occasion, Special Secretary Abidullah Kakakhel said quality medicine would be given to target children during the campaign. Provision of medicine at school is a easy approach to target maximum number of children in protection of them from different

diseases of intestine by riding them of from helminths parasites such as roundworm, flukes and tapeworm. Additional Deputy Commissioner Peshawar Imran Yousafzai in his speech said according to World Health Organization (WHO) around 1.5 billion people in the world or one among in every four persons are faced with intestine related diseases. Out of these 1.5 billion infected people around 830 million children were in need of treatment, Imran Yousafzai added. These diseases usually occurs due to poor hygienic conditions and school going children are the most affectees. Focal Person for KP Deworming Programme Dr. Attaullah Khan said that according to a survey, around 170 children in Pakistan out of which around 7.8 million are in KP were found in need for treatment of intestinal diseases. The deworming campaign in KP is being supervised by a multi sectoral steering committee headed by Health Department of the province, Dr. Attaullah added. (APP)

Tirah, Swat, Dir receive winter’s first snowfall

PESHAWAR: The districts of Swat, Der Upper, and Khyber received the first snowfall of the winter, bringing down the mercury further and blanketing the hilly areas with white snow. According to the report, light snowfall continues in the Kukikhel and Maidan areas of the Tirah area of the Khyber district, meanwhile mercury has decreased further due to last night’s snowfall in the Malam

Jabba and Kalam areas of Swat. Light rain continued for hours in urban areas in Upper Dir. On the contrary, snowfall continues in the upper areas of the district including Oshirai Dara, Kumrat, Lowari Tunnel, Dog Dara Top, Jaaz Banda. In Kaghan, Naran and Babusar top, the mercury dropped below zero due to intermittent snowfall. (APP)

CS inspects Cactus Garden, Chinkara enclosures in Kohat Knowledge Park

PESHAWAR: Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dr Shehzad Khan Bangash on Monday visited ‘Creation of Knowledge Park’ in Kohat district and inspected the cactus garden and non-timber forest products being produced therein. The park has been established by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Forest Department to facilitate researchers, academia and entrepreneurs in their research work. Dr Bangash assured all possible support for making the project result-oriented and said that it would “help researchers in producing useful forest products” as per the requirements of climate change. He

appreciated the efforts of the KP Forest Department and said academia can get more information on avocado and beer archers, inspection hut and chinkara (deer) enclosure that was established in the park. On the occasion, Secretary Wildlife and Forest, Mohammad Abid Majeed, Conservator of Forest, Gulzar Rehman, Commissioner Kohat Mehmood Aslam Wazir, DPO Kohat Shafiullah Gandapur and other officers concerned were also present. Divisional Forest Officer Kohat, Muzafar Iqbal gave a detailed presentation on the goals, objectives and financial matters of the park. (APP)

Ulema play crucial role in spreading message of Islam: Maulana Hilal

PESHAWAR: Mohtamim Madrassa, Hilal bin Ummaya, Haryana Bala, Maulana Hilaluddin here on Monday said that Ulema had played an important role in spreading the message of Islam throughout the world. Addressing a Dastarbandi ceremony held on the premises of the seminary, he urged parents to educate their children in religious seminaries for their better future in this world and hereafter. He thanked all the guests and Ulema for attending the cere-

mony. A total of 33 students were awarded religious imamas (turbans) among which ten completed Hifz-e-Quran while the remaining 23 students finished their Nazera Quran. A large number of seminary students attended the ceremony while Maulana Abdul Mateen, Maulana Sajid Shah, Maulana Azizuddin, and Qari Ishaq also address the ceremony. The local leader of JUI, Tahir Khan accompanied by his accomplices was also present on the occasion. (APP)

MDCAT 2022 conducted at 13 centers of KP

PESHAWAR: The Medical Dental Colleges Admission Test (MDCAT) for admission to all public and private medical and dental colleges of the province was successfully conducted across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with participation of a total of 46,230 candidates, out of which 27,871 were male and 18,359 were female students. The test was managed by the Education, Testing & Evaluating Agency (ETEA) in nine different regions of the province including Peshawar, Abbottabad, Kohat, Malakand, Swat, Swabi, Mardan, Bannu, and Dera Ismail Khan, said a press release issued here on Monday. The official announcement of the test results will be made by the Pakistan Medical Commission on November 17, while the answer bubble sheet copy of the concerned students along with the key will be uploaded on the ETEA website within 24 hours from which the students can draw their own results. According to the details, 18,295 students in the Peshawar region, 4,614 in the Abbottabad region, 5,416 in the Swat region, 2,693 in DI Khan, 2,212 in Bannu, 5,305 in the Mardan region, 2,183 in the Swabi region, 2,399 in Kohat and 3,113 students

in Malakand region participated in the test. Speaking on the occasion, Secretary Higher Education Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Daud Khan said that due to the record increase in the number of male and female students this year, holding the test across the province was a big deal for KMU, ETEA, and the provincial government. “It was a great challenge in which by the grace of Allah we all succeeded and we are deeply grateful to all the institutions concerned and organizers for the peaceful conduction of the test,” he added. Meanwhile, in a statement vice chancellor of KMU, Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq expressed his gratitude to ETEA, KMU, all administrators, examination staff, civil administration, police, and especially students and their parents for the successful conduct of the test and expressed hope that all concerned would have the same feeling and enthusiasm to perform their duties with passion in the future. He said that the participation of such a “large number of students” in the test was a sign of confidence in the noble profession of medicine, which is a “source of encouragement and satisfaction for all of us”. (APP)

Gas Engineering Lab opened at UET, Peshawar

PESHAWAR: A Gas Engineering Laboratory was inaugurated at the Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Engineering and Technology (UET), Peshawar with a grant of Rs2.0 million by Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL). According to details, the lab was established as part of funding by Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) to sponsor a Chair on Gas Engineering at Department of Chemical Engineering, UET Peshawar. The project is sponsored by SNGPL through annual grant of Rs. 2.0 million whereas UET Peshawar provides expertise for research to find solutions to the technical problems faced by SNGPL, said in a statement issued here on Sunday. The Vice Chancellor University of Engineering and Technology, Peshawar Prof. Dr. Iftikhar Hussain inaugurated a well equipped Gas Engineering Lab at the Department of Chemical Engineering, UET Peshawar. Prof. Dr. Misbah Ullah, Chair-

man Department of Industrial Engineering, Dr. Khizar Azam Khan, Registrar UET Peshawar, Senior Faculty members and a large number of students were present on the occasion. Earlier, the department of Chemical UET Peshawar arranged an interactive session of students with the Vice Chancellor and other faculty members. The opening ceremony of Pakistan Institute of Chemical Engineers (PIChE-2022) was also held. The Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Iftikhar Hussain was the Chief Guest on the occasion. The Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Iftikhar Hussain in his address said, you owe a huge service to your parents and this country who have given you all opportunities to become successful in your career. The department of Chemical Engineering has produced eminent graduates who are serving the needs of the country. We provide you with the best facilities in our limited resource, he added. (Agencies)



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Pakistan's seven point recommendations

Pakistan has presented seven-point recommendations in the United Nation Human Rights Council (UNHRC) on Jammu and Kashmir, which included ejecting India's claim to declare Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh as its integral parts. Pakistan reminded India that as per Article 25 of the United Nations Charter, it should fulfill its commitment on Jammu and Kashmir. In Geneva, Pakistani Mission third Secretary Daniya Hasnain, while addressing the 4th Universal Periodic Review (UPR) meeting presented seven points recommendations of Pakistan asking India to implement them forthwith. Top of the seven points includes the demand that India must withdraw its illegal measures taken in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019 and stop the process of population change there as well. Other points say that an end to all human rights violations must be ensured, as well as imprisoned Kashmiri politicians, people, journalists and human rights activists should be released immediately. Pakistan's seven-point recommendations to the UNHRC is welcomed as India has been ignoring the UN and Security Council resolutions for the past 75 years. It is the responsibility of the UN to press India to implement and meet the promise it had made with the world regarding Jammu & Kashmir. The point regarding illegal action of India on August 5, 2019, the UN has so far held three emergency meetings on the matter but to no avail. No country influenced India to restore the constitutional status of Occupied Kashmir and that's why India does not take into account any international pressure on Kashmir, which gives the same indication that India has been given a free hand. The fate of Kashmiris could not be changed unless the UN and the Security Council force India to implement the resolutions as per its charter by ending illegal occupation of occupied Kashmir. Pakistan's seven points in UNHRC, it is now the responsibility of the UN to force India to implement each point of these recommendations.

Trusting the Pak Army

— By Ali Anwar

The way politics is being linked with the state institutions these days in Pakistan is really sad. Unfortunately, a conspiracy is being hatched to incite the political workers against the Pak Army. The nefarious design to create a rift between the people of Pakistan and its army will be foiled because there is a deep-rooted bond based on love between this nation and the armed forces. Our politicians should understand now that they must tackle their political affairs themselves. These dirty political games being played in the country just for petty political interests can prove to be the final death of political parties but it cannot decrease the respect and love between the people of Pakistan and the army. No military in the world can remain strong without the support of its people. Pakistan is a blessed country where its people have deep affection, love and care for its armed forces. The people of Pakistan consider its army just second to their religion and faith because this motherland witnessed the blood of our martyrs. The politicians are playing a dangerous game, which is part of the fifth-generation war. They are basically playing with the fire while supporting the narrative of enemy forces just to remain in power for some more days. I have frequently talked about this fifth-generation war in my columns. It is a war in which we have to face a hidden enemy. Social media is the main weapon of this war in which the hidden enemy captures your mind. The weapon of social media is used by the hidden enemy to target the raw minds. These targeted raw brains are later used against their own countries. The same fifth-generation war is being applied in Pakistan where trends are made against the army by using the weapon of social media. Attempts

are being made to portray the army in negative terms while politicians are being praised on social media. Fake and baseless propaganda against the military budget is the favourite subject of this negative campaign. It is all being controlled from outside Pakistan while the facilitators of enemy forces are here in the country to spread the nefarious design. The fifth-generation war starts from here when a raw mind appears on social media and becomes part of this game. A raw brain is influenced when he observes so much material on the subject and it is the very motive of enemy forces to capture that young mind. The way Imran Khan and his political party are levelling allegations against military officers is also part of the war. It is very unfortunate that he is accusing those officers who played a vital role in uprooting the menace of terrorism. These are the officers who unveiled the hidden network of the Indian intelligence agencies in Balochistan. Instead of praising such a hardworking intelligence officer, Imran Khan is levelling baseless allegations against him. Why are these politicians speaking the language of enemy forces? Why are they against their soldiers? The picture gets clear after connecting the dots that there is a deep conspiracy of India behind it. There is massive jubilation in India after the allegations of Imran Khan. In fact, the PTI isn't celebrating the accusations of Imran Khan the way India is celebrating. I have talked to numerous PTI leaders off-the-record and they don't agree with what Imran Khan is talking about these days. He is doing baseless propaganda against the Pak Army and some of his workers are also part of this fifth-generation war.

Courtesy Daily Times

IN political science, the term banana republic describes a politically unstable country with an economy dependent upon the export of natural resources. A country with so-called “hi-jacked and controlled Democracy” and a government which is corrupt to the core and cronies ruling with impunity. A state where Rule of Law is totally absent and substituted by “might and rich is right”. In a nutshell, a country where Kleptocracy, thievery, plutocracy, favoritism, nepotism and corruption are rampant. In 1904, the American author, O. Henry, coined the term “Banana Republic” to describe Honduras and neighboring countries under economic exploitation by U.S corporations. Typically, a Banana republic has a society of extremely stratified social classes, usually a large impoverished working class and a ruling class plutocracy, composed of the business, political, and “deep state” actors/ elites. The ruling class controls the primary sector of the economy by way of the exploitation of labor; thus, the term banana republic is a pejorative descriptor for a servile oligarchy that abets and supports kickbacks, the exploits large-scale plantation agriculture, especially banana cultivation, for their own good. A banana republic is a country with an economy of state capitalism, whereby the country is operated as a private commercial enterprise for the exclusive profit of the ruling class. Such exploitation is enabled by collusion between the state and favored economic monopolies, in which the profit, derived from the private exploitation of public lands, is private property, while the debts incurred thereby are the financial responsibility of the public treasury. Such an imbalanced economy remains limited by the uneven economic development of town and country and usually reduces the national currency into devalued banknotes (paper money), ren-

Banana republic?

— By Rashid A Mughal

dering the country ineligible for international development credit. Kleptocracy is a government whose corrupt leaders (kleptocrats) use political power to expropriate the wealth of the people and land they govern, typically by embezzling or misappropriating government funds at the expense of the wider population. Thievocracy, literally is the rule by thieves and is a term used synonymously to kleptocracy. One feature of political-based socio-economic thievery is that there is often no public announcement explaining or apologizing for misappropriations, nor any legal charges or punishment levied against the offenders. Kleptocracy is different from plutocracy (rule by the richest) and oligarchy (rule by a small elite). In a kleptocracy, corrupt politicians enrich themselves secretly outside the rule of law, through kickbacks, bribes, and special favors, or they simply direct state funds to themselves and their associates. Also, kleptocrats often export much of their profits to foreign countries, in anticipation of losing power. Kleptocracies are generally associated with autocratic and nepotistic governments in which external oversight is impossible or does not exist. This lack of oversight can be caused or exacerbated by the ability of the kleptocratic officials to control both the supply of public funds and the means of disbursement for those funds. Kleptocratic rulers often treat their country's treasury as a source of personal wealth, spending funds on luxury goods and extravagances as they deem fit. Kleptocracy is most common in developing countries and collapsing nations whose economies are reliant on the trade of natural resources and/or limited exports. Developing nations' reliance on export incomes constitute a form of economic rent and are easier to siphon off without causing the income to decrease. This leads to wealth accumulation for

the elites and corruption may serve a beneficial purpose by generating more wealth for the state. In a collapsing nation, reliance on imports from foreign countries becomes likely as the nation's internal resources become exhausted, thereby contractually obligating themselves to trading partners. According to some pundits, one reason governmental bodies subscribe to theft-prone policies is to lay the groundwork for the socialization of labor and property in an effort to permit thievocrats to make the populace "subservient to an institutionalized authority." Newspaper columnist Paul Greenberg, in writing against the idea of the United States sending large amounts of foreign aid to Poland in 1989, argued that Poland was emerging from "40 years of Communist Thievocracy that obliterated not only economic progress but also the idea of a modern economy." Contemporary studies have identified 21st century kleptocracy as a global financial system based on money laundering, which "depends on the services of the world's largest banks and expert financial professionals". The International Monetary Fund has suggested it could be a consensus of estimates, that money laundering made up 2-5 percent of the global economy in 1998. Kleptocrats engage in money laundering to obscure the corrupt origins of their wealth and safeguard it from domestic threats such as economic instability and predatory kleptocratic rivals. They are then able to secure this wealth in assets (usually Real Estate) and investments within more stable jurisdictions, where it can then be stored for personal use, returned to the country of origin to support the kleptocrat's domestic activities, or deployed elsewhere to protect and project the regime's interests overseas.

Courtesy Pakistan Observer

Neglected parenting

— By Muhammad Ali Falak

Neglected parenting: an essential ingredient to transform a child into a bad man. This is true even in the most privileged sections of our society. The state is juggling a plethora of problems and must realise that a neglected child today is a disturbed adult tomorrow. Sarah Inam's killing, just a year after Noor Mukadam met a similar fate is a further rot of the same chronic wound! We need to raise better men. Period. It is time to ask: What's the quality of parenting available to the kids in our country? How trends, traditions, societal pressures and customs in our society transform a child into an anxious adult leading to a potential offender inside and outside their households. According to the World Health Organisation, nearly 3 in 4 children - or 300 million children - aged 2-4 years regularly suffer maltreatment around the globe. What we see in men in our society is the manifestation of the treatment these men have been subjected to as a children - only the manifestation is sometimes exacerbated due to intoxication and the lack of rule of law. Studies show that more than seventy-eight percent of prisoners were abused as children. In Pakistan, with no training for the parents; children face sheer neglect and are subjected to severe corporal punishments and humiliation which result in them being disturbed during adulthood. "Every time I make a mistake; my dad will

lock me in the room for the whole night," said Salma, the 25 years old MBA graduate who still finds it hard to sleep alone in a room as she recalls her childhood traumas. Always dreaming of being locked and feeling suffocated her childhood traumas have qualified her roles as a mother and wife. With no one to go to for help and suffering continuously and in silence, such children grow into emotionally unbalanced adults and try to avenge the very society which failed them as a child. Another 22 year old student finds it hard to have eye contact with elders. Beaten into a pulp; the boy relives the memories of the torture he endured as a child. In a conservative, closed and vastly illiterate society like ours, matters take a grave turn when children are treated badly by their very own parents; either because the parents are not qualified enough or are also suffering from depression and anxiety. Most parents have reported mentioning that childbirth is a very stressful event for them. It's time we start addressing the root causes; mere politically motivated cosmetic antidotes might make us look better on the surface, but they will not halt the internal rot and degeneration which has started in our society. Else, the wounds will keep spitting blood out on our faces from time to time. Pakistan is ranked amongst the lowest countries in terms of child protection and safety. Children

of all ages are subjected to mental and physical traumas spanning over the years. According to the UNDP, in ninety per cent of the cases, the tormentors are a close relative or a trusted aid. This is even worse in the case of children with special needs as they are dependent on others for some of their needs and their parents are mostly too occupied to turn to their needs. Hence, they suffer in silence with no help in sight. Such incidents develop into traumas and chronic disorders as the child grows, turning him into a preparator in turn. The government in the past has been sensitizing the teachers about the harmful impacts of corporal punishment. It's time that projects for training potential and new parents must start where they can learn how to be better at raising a child into a valuable citizen of the country. Parenting like any other job and skill needs training. It's harder than starting walking as a child for which we all took help and training! With technology; it just requires willingness. Short interactive video courses in local languages generating certificates can immensely help and should be a must to get the birth certificate of the child. Technology is a friend, use it. Even politically, it will serve us better than tapping, bugging and chipping the opponents.

Courtesy The Nation

Letters to the Editor

How to solve inflation

It is quite obvious just how quickly the country's population is growing and how much more the population now requires in terms of food, fruit, clothing, and other necessities of daily living. However, our farms and factories are producing insufficient food and goods and are unable to meet the

population's expanding needs. In order to appease the people, the government is compelled to create additional currency notes, driving up the prices of items like sugar that are in limited supply. This is precisely the inflation that is occurring right now. The level of prices increases as a result of high government taxes and tariffs imposed

on domestically produced and imported items. The only solution to the giant problem of inflation is greater agricultural and industrial production, greater exports, and lighter taxation. In addition, control over population growth is also necessary.

Rimsha Noureen
- Karachi

Imran retracts from foreign conspiracy narrative after playing havoc with national interests: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Monday that the PTI Chairman Imran Khan after playing havoc with the national interests had now given up foreign conspiracy narrative. In her reaction to Imran Khan's interview with the Financial Times, she said, "Imran Khan could not be pardoned after retracting from his narrative and he will be held accountable." The minister said that on the basis of this narrative, chaos and lies were



spread throughout the country and now a simple withdrawal was not enough. "After terming the Parliament, the Pakistan Army, the nation-

al institutions as traitors, he can't be let off just by saying it's behind me and it's over, Marriyum added. The PTI head forced people at constitutional positions to violate the constitution for the sake of his concocted story, she remarked. Imran Khan, she said, had no other option but to surrender his fake rhetoric of the conspiracy, imported government and regime change. "Imran Khan put Pakistan's interests in grave danger for the lust for power," she added. (APP)

IRSA releases 86,700 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 86,700 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 60,900 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1520.82 feet and was 122.82 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 26,400 cusecs while outflow as 38,000 cusecs. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1147.10 feet, which was 97.10 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 12,800 cusecs and 27,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded 44,500, 37,300, 30,600 and 9,300 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 11,700 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 3,000 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

Growers urged to avoid burning of crop residue

LAHORE: Widespread burning of crops residue has become a major reason of pollution in winter and growers must avoid it, said Political Assistant to Chief Minister Punjab, Iftikhar Ahmed Buttar. While talking to APP here on Monday he said that this practice hugely affected the environment, as well as health of people. "There is an urgent need of initiating integrated management of crops residue including its use as fertilizer, cattle feed, bio-energy, substance for growing mushrooms and industrial use etc", he suggested. He regretted that burning of crop residue was a common practice in Pakistan, India and some other countries as well. Mere punitive actions were not enough to control the situation, he added. (APP)

PHA to restore lake, restaurant at Park

MULTAN: Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) has decided to restore the lake and restaurant at Shah Shams Park to provide recreation to citizens. According to official sources, the process of auction for the restoration of the lake and restaurant will be held in the ongoing month. Citizens appreciated the decision for restoration of the facilities in one of the largest parks. Director General PHA Syed Shafqat Raza said that the work was being done on an emergency basis. Shah Shams Park is one main recreation site. It will also help increase income of the PHA. The advertisement for installation of swings has also been given. The process for the renovation of the park is heading forward smoothly. (APP)

FESCO issues shutdown program

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) issued shutdown program for Tuesday due to necessary repair, maintenance and expansion of electricity lines. According to the program issued by the company here on Monday, power supply from Jhang Road feeder originating from 132-KV Chiniot grid station, new Awagat, Katchery Road, Ali Pur Bungalow, Islam Pura, Ashiq Ali Shaheed, PIDC Mill/Lyallpur Chemicals, CCP Mill, College Road, Canal Road and Crescent Jute Mill feeders linked with 132-KV Jaranwala grid station and Hamdard-1 attached with 132-KV Steam Power grid station will remain suspended from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (APP)

Minister ask Khan to dissolve KP, Punjab assemblies if he wants early elections

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education Rana Tanveer Husain Monday asked Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan to dissolve KP and Punjab assemblies if he is serious for early elections otherwise he was just politicizing irrelevant issues in public. Talking to a Private news channel, he also held Khan sahib responsible for Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud's postponed trip to Pakistan, adding, PTI leadership had now become a "security risk" for the country. Imran Khan wanted to get a date of early election through "blackmailing tactics", which is impossible as government would complete its term of period and elections

will be held on right time. He said that need of hour is that government should complete its term for the sack of better economy of the country, adding, almost 90% of development projects were completed under by PML-N government under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif in his tenures. Responding a question, he further lashed out that Imran Khan and his party leaders were misusing the resources of KPK, adding, a incredible person was ruling in the Punjab whom Khan sahib himself criticized and said thief. He also claimed that PML-N will deliver its best during the remaining time period of government and will get victory with majority seats in general elections 2023. (APP)

Gemstone market project to promote natural resources of region: CS GB

GILGIT: Gilgit Baltistan Chief Secretary Muhiudeen Wani on Monday said that the Gemstone Market project would promote the natural resources of the region. In a statement, he said that this market would encompass the best arti-

san and highest-grade gemstones from around the region. Chief Secretary said that the riverside state-of-the-art stalls decorated with precious stones shaded by tall trees would prove to be a nirvana for people from all walks of life. (APP)

Overseas minister leaves on 10-day visit abroad

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Sajid Hussain Turi on Monday left on a ten-day official visit to abroad in which he will meet with the authorities concerned and the Pakistani community there. The purpose of the foreign visit is to create new employment opportunities for Pakistanis in different countries, to discuss the problems of the Pakistani community with the authorities of the respective countries and to promote bilateral relations, said a press release. The minister will visit Switzerland, Romania, Greece, Portugal and to meet the Director General of the International Labor Organization in Geneva and discuss with him the rehabilitation and relief of the workers affected by the recent floods in Pakistan. It should be noted that the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, with the support of ILO, has already started a cash-for-work programme for the rehabilitation of flood-affected workers in Balochistan and Sindh, which will be extended to all affect-

ed areas of the country. Federal Minister Sajid Hussain Turi said in his statement before the departure that Romania, Portugal, Italy, Greece and other western countries are in need of large-scale manpower and we are ready to sign agreements to send Pakistani workers and professionals to these countries. He further said that he will talk to the authorities of the respective countries to facilitate the process of obtaining visas and immigration so that maximum Pakistani labour force and professionals can be sent to these countries in the shortest possible time. He added that due to overseas Pakistanis, and the country received record remittances of more than 31 billion dollars in FY22, which is a major part of the country's economy. He informed that his first priority is to provide maximum facilities to overseas Pakistanis and solve their problems immediately and in this regard he has issued orders to the community welfare attachés of respective countries to facilitate the people of Pakistan in best possible way. (Agencies)

NUMS trains staff for National Survey to collect reliable data on drug use in Pakistan

RAWALPINDI: The National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS) held a 3-day special training workshop at its PWD Campus for the training of trainers who will be conducting a six-week long national survey beginning on Nov 20, to gather reliable data on the use of drugs across the country. Dr. Zakia Bano, Head of Department of NUMS Clinical Psychology, who was one of the main trainers of the 3-day workshop on "Extent and Pattern of Drug use in Pakistan", said here on Thursday that NUMS was committed to playing an important role in checking harmful use of drugs and would extend all support to those working to achieve this objective. The trainers were Dr. Kamran Niaz from UNDO, Dr. Noor ul Zaman Rafique from PFRD and Dr. Salman Shahzad from the Institute of Clinical Psychology Karachi University, she added. The workshop was jointly organized by NUMS and of Phoenix Foundation for Research and Devel-

opment (FPRD), she added. The national survey was being carried out after 2011 which had put figure of drug users in Pakistan to 6.7 million. This survey will commence simultaneously from Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta and is expected to finish on Dec.31 and is targeting 116,000 people, said Chief Executive Officer of PFRD and one of the main trainers Dr. Noor ul Zaman Rafique. PFRD and with National Institute of Population Studies (NIPS) would jointly carry out the survey, he added. Dr. Zakia Bano said the training workshop was participated by 26 trainers who were trained on the latest methodology and techniques to be followed during this survey for gathering reliable data on the use of drugs across Pakistan. The trainers are being engaged by the National Institute of Population Studies (NIPS) and PFRD, Lahore. The workshop was held from Oct 27 to 29 at NUMS Campus, she added. (APP)

Solo show on traditional style, modern technique concludes

ISLAMABAD: A solo show of paintings by Muhammad Atif Khan concluded here Monday at Tanzara Art Gallery featuring traditional imagery made with modern techniques. The show titled "Tales of the Heart" served the art lovers with unique imagery that combined treat of art and creativity. Atif's work captured amalgamation of Islamic miniature painting with modern geometric designs and popular culture of Mughal-era figures. Through his work, the artist created mysterious narratives mandala-like landscapes, said curator

of the show. The artist has successfully got himself acknowledged at home and abroad. As a contemporary image maker, Atif pushes his artistic limits through varied creative thoughts and visual explorations of socio-political and cultural issues. He visualized stories to address the soul searching process. Atif's work is part of private and public collections worldwide. He got numerous prestigious international awards and also participated in workshops and residencies locally and globally. (APP)

IESCO for adopting precautionary measures

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Monday asked the general public to adopt precautionary to rainy spells as a little carelessness or negligence can lead to a fatal accident. The general public was advised to follow precautionary measures for the sake of saving life and important belongings, told IESCO spokesperson here. He said to keep a reasonable distance from electric poles, transformers and meters. Do not touch naked wire and get repaired defective wiring, use three pin plug along with proper earthing while using an iron, washing machine, refrigerator etc, put wooden pieces, flapper or 'dari' under your feet and also use rubber sole shoes, he further said. Use rope while drying clothes instead of elec-

trical wires and do not use a water pipe for it. Instruct children to avoid going near electricity installations while playing. Do not keep hold of the rope of cattle with poles or stay wire and remain at least a hundred feet away from high tension wires. It further advised that electrocuted person must be separated from the wire with a piece of wooden or dry cloth. Do not allow any person or animal to go near the broken electricity wires till the arrival of concerned IESCO staff. In case of any emergency, the consumers should contact the concerned areas' Complaint Office, SDOs or XENs. The consumers could register their complaints at helpline 118 or complaint office numbers 0519252933 and 0519252934 in case of any emergency. (APP)

CDA chairman holds meeting regarding intelligent traffic system

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) Captain (R) Muhammad Usman Younis on Monday held a meeting regarding the introduction of an intelligent traffic system in Islamabad to reduce traffic issues. The meeting was attended by Member Engineering, Member Planning, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, SSP Traffic and other officers of CDA. In the meeting, a presentation was given on the intelligent transportation system by the students of NUST University. It is pertinent to mention here that the video of NUST students regarding shifting traffic signals to automatic traffic system in Islamabad went viral on social media. Owing to the viral video, Chairman CDA called these students to CDA headquarters and asked them to present their idea so that the results can be reviewed and improved in real time. In this regard, Capt (R) Younis was briefed that this system would be camera-based and cameras would be installed at each signal which will automatically turn green or red by

monitoring the traffic volume with the help of these cameras. Similarly, when the traffic pressure is high, this system will automatically shift to green color so that more traffic can pass and citizens do not have to face problems like traffic jams. Students of NUST further informed that in this modern system, special tracking had been kept for the ambulances so that if an ambulance comes, it does not have to wait and passes through easily. All the issues would be monitored from a modern control room, they added. On this occasion, Chairman said that this intelligent transportation system should be introduced as a pilot project at a place in the capital city "where the volume of traffic is high and there are two or more signals" so that all the defects in the system could be removed and further improvements can be made. While issuing instructions to SSP Traffic Police, the chairman said that the options to link this system with Islamabad Safe City Project should also be considered. (APP)

AC killed in road accident

ISLAMABAD: Atleast two persons including Assistant Commissioner (AC) were killed while four others sustained critically injured when two cars collided near Pattoki Phool Nagar on early Monday morning. According to rescue sources, Assistant Commissioner Raja Muhammad Qasim Janjua

was coming from Lahore to Pattoki when the accident occurred, a private news channel reported. Rescue teams reached the spot soon after the incident and shifted the bodies and injured to Phool Nagar Hospital. Police have registered a case. Further probe was underway. (APP)

Pakistani-American activists to meet lawmakers to lobby for more funds for flood-hit Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: A five-member delegation of a prominent political group of Pakistani-American activists as well as community members is set to meet Congressional leaders in Washington this week to make a case for additional funds for flood-battered Pakistan, especially in the rehabilitation and reconstructions phase, according to the delegation sources. The delegation is led by Dr. Ijaz Ahmad, chairman of the American Pakistani Public Affairs Committee (APPAC). Other members are: Dr. Mahmood Alam, Faizan Haq, Asad Chaudhry and Imtiaz Rahi. On Wednesday, they will meet Chairman

of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, Bob Mendez, a Democrat; Lindsey Graham, a senior Republican Senator, and Senator Cory Booker, a Democrat. APPAC, an active advocacy group, has been working hard in raising funds of the flood-affected people. It has also hired a lobbying firm to work for securing "substantial" funding for Pakistan to enable the country to deal with the huge devastation left behind by the climate-induced floods. More than one third of Pakistan is under water and around 33 million people had been affected, with damages estimated at US\$ 40 billion. (APP)

Repair of century-old overhead Ratta-bridge urged

RAWALPINDI: The residents of Dhoke Ratta, Railways quarters and various other areas were suffering inconvenience due to the closure of the overhead railway bridge for light vehicles, near Transit Camp Chowk, which connects the city to the Rawal-

pindi Cantonment localities. Talking to APP, former Nazim Union Council Ratta Amral Nasir Mir said that due to the closure of a century-old bridge for past four months, the connection between the city and the Cantt areas had been cut off. (APP)

CPO holds ‘Khuli Kutchery’ to address grievances

RAWALPINDI :City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi Syed Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari under the Punjab government’s open door policy held a ‘Khuli Kutchery’ here on Monday in Police Lines Headquarters to address the grievances of the people. According to a police spokesman, the CPO issued directives to the officers concerned to take action and submit detailed reports on the complaints submitted by the citizens in ‘Khuli Kutchery’. He directed the Stations House Officers of the police stations to remain present for at least three hours from 3 pm to 6 pm in their respective police stations to hear public complaints. Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari said that

negligence on part of the officials concerned would not be tolerated. The CPO on the occasion said, the ‘Khuli Kutcheries’ were being held to provide the citizens immediate relief and address their complaints besides it also helped improve standards of policing. He issued orders to the officers to complete inquiries and send reports within the given time frame. All-out efforts were being made to ensure the dispensation of speedy justice purely on merit to the people and improve service delivery standards in the district, he added. The spokesman informed that the CPO was holding ‘Khuli Kutcheries’ here to provide relief to the citizens. (APP)

Despite cold weather tawa ice cream rolls in trend



ISLAMABAD: Despite the fall of mercury in the twin cities, ice cream lovers are enjoying tasty and colourful tawa ice cream rolls stating that ice cream mania can’t be put aside due to cold weather. Talking to APP, stall owner Muhammad Shahzad said that tawa ice cream is prepared on a locally manufactured machine that works on installing a metal sheet over a cooling compressor. He said the compressor of the refrigerator and air conditioner is used for preparing the ice cream and the price of the machine also depends on the type of compressor. He said the best-selling item of tawa ice cream is ‘roll meets soft serve’ which costs Rs450 while all-time favourite items are vanilla, caramel and peanut butter which cost Rs200. He explained that condensed milk and cream are the basic ingredients of tawa ice cream rolls while customers can get a lot of variety including chocolate and fruit flavours like a blue berry. Talking to APP, Nutritionist Rimsha Tehseen said that if a person is taking three times healthy meals daily then it is safe to consume ice cream once a week. She said con-

sumers should choose those ice cream spots which are clean and prepare the ice cream following the proper process of ice cream preparation. She said one serving of ice cream has 160 to 300 calories but ice cream is not a great source of Vitamin D and calcium. She said ice cream has a small amount of dietary fiber that gives a feeling of fullness. She said ice cream has a relatively higher rank on glimax index which means that glucose production would be higher in the human body with the consumption of ice cream. Talking to APP a customer at the tawa ice cream rolls stall said that process of making rolls is eye-catching and ice cream is loved by people of all ages even in cold weather. Another customer Hassan said that he enjoys ice cream with his family once a month and he always chooses the same flavour which makes him guess the quality of the ice cream by tasting single spoon. Health experts are of the view that consumers should prefer healthy dairy ice cream over low-quality ice cream that is cheaper. (APP)

Rains to have positive impact on wheat

ISLAMABAD: The ongoing rains would positively impact all seasonal major and minor crops, fruits and vegetables, agricultural experts said here Monday. They were of the view that the rains would particularly be most beneficial for wheat, which is major cash crop of the season and a mega source to fulfill the domestic requirements of staple food in the country. The rains would have positive impact on wheat sown in rainfed areas across the country as well as oil seeds including mustard and canola and it would act as supplement for seed germination, said Food Security Commissioner Dr Imtiaz Ali Gopang. Talking to APP here on Monday, he said that the second rain of current winter season would not only be ben-

eficial for rain-fed areas but it would also benefit irrigated areas of the country as it would increase water level in mega storage resources and bridge the deficiency of water for irrigation. He said due to these rains it was also expected that wheat sowing targets fixed for current season would also be achieved as sowing would gain further momentum in rain-fed areas across the country, particularly in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. He further informed that Sindh and Punjab provinces have also started supply of free seeds distributions for flood hit districts, adding that it would revive the agriculture activity in effected areas and would help in achieving sowing targets and producing surplus output. (APP)

PTI moves SC against Wazirabad gun attack FIR

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf on Monday filed petitions in different registries of the Supreme Court (SC) including Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, and Quetta seeking registration of an FIR of the Wazirabad gun attack as demanded by party Chairman Imran Khan challenging the decision of the Punjab police of not nominating the persons cited by the PTI Chairman in its FIR. The PTI petitions are also seeking the apex court’s involvement in the matters of Senator Azam Swati’s leaked video and murder of journalist Arshad Sharif in Kenya. In Lahore registry of the Supreme Court, the petition was filed by Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Usman Buzdar and other parliamentarians. Buzdar handed the petition to deputy registrar SC Ijaz Goraya. The petition stated that the PTI has requested to form a judicial commission. It implored the court to take action on these matters by taking suo motu notice. In SC’s Karachi registry, two applications

were submitted by 26 PTI lawmakers. In its petitions, the PTI demanded investigations into the gun attack on Imran Khan, Swati’s leaked video and Arshad Sharif’s murder. Similar petitions were submitted in Peshawar registry by Peshawar Assembly Deputy Speaker Mehmood Jan, Atif Khan, Shaukat Yousufzai, Kamran Bangish, Dr Amjad, Senator Usman Tarkai and others. The PTI wants to lodge an FIR of the Wazirabad gun attack against three government officials. The former premier is accusing the prime minister, interior minister and an intelligence agency officer of hatching a plot to kill him. But the Punjab police refused to nominate the intelligence officer in the FIR and they did not register the complaint of the case even after the lapse of four days of the incidence. However, the Supreme Court on Nov 7 directed the Punjab IG Police Faisal Shahkar to either register an FIR of the case within 24 hours or face suo motu notice. (Agencies)

Pakistan ‘performing well’ in checking cross-border crimes: EU Commissioner

ISLAMABAD: European Union Commissioner for Migration and Home Affairs Ylva Johansson on Monday lauded Pakistan’s role in controlling cross-border terrorism, smuggling, and trafficking and expressed the EU’s intent for “deeper cooperation” in the area of border management. At a joint press stakeout with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar, the EU official said Pakistan was “performing well” in checking cross-border crimes. Johansson, who arrived in Islamabad on Sunday on a two-day visit, held meetings with government representatives and authorities on matters pertaining to migration, mobility dialogue, and security cooperation. EU Commissioner Johansson said her meetings with the officials of Frontier Corps and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) during her visit to Peshawar focused on the fight against terrorism and organized crimes, and also on the border management activities along with the Pak-Afghan border. She mentioned that she was “impressed” by the steps taken by Pakistan’s border management authorities, which illustrated the country’s effective approach. Terming Pakistan a “very important and strategic partner”, she said the EU was committed to further building on the 60 years of relations in diverse areas including trade. The EU,

she said, intended to launch a comprehensive dialogue with Pakistan on issues pertaining to migration and mobility. “The EU and Pakistan have a good base and energy to cooperate not only on controlling illegal migration but to explore the possibilities for legalized migration of skilled workforce,” she said. She mentioned in this regard the EU’s “aging society” that needed a fresh workforce equipped with contemporary skills. On the Afghan refugees in Pakistan, Johansson lauded the generosity of the host country, adding that the EU was experiencing a similar challenge with four million Ukrainian migrants. She said the EU stood ready in extending its cooperation to deal with the Afghan refugees. To a question on the killing of Pakistani journalist Arshad Sharif in Kenya, she said the freedom of expression remained of utmost importance and fundamental to democracy. State Minister Khar said Pakistan gave high importance to a sustained engagement with the EU for a promised development, including the progress on GSP Plus. In her meeting with EU Commissioner, she said both sides agreed to work in the area of migration and mobility. Khar said Pakistan was working to minimize the possibility of illegal migration, however simultaneously required to “open doors for legalized

migration and an infrastructure for producing skilled workforce”. She said Pakistan with its 65 percent young population was well-placed today to provide the EU skilled workforce in various areas, including information technology. To a question, if Pakistan would consider extending the deadline for the stay of Afghan refugees, she said the matter needed a long-term policy, which was not dependent on approvals by the cabinet. Khar said Pakistan did not seek acknowledgment from the international community for its generosity in hosting over four million Afghan refugees. The act, she said, is being done out of sheer global responsibility. She stressed the need for the world to ‘parachute the Afghans towards safety’ and added that Pakistan was pursuing its objective of creating an environment of peace for the Afghan people. To a question on evidence collection in the Arshad Sharif case, she said following the “unfortunate incident”, an investigation team was immediately sent to Kenya. Also, Pakistan’s ambassador to Kenya put her best effort to facilitate the transportation of the journalist’s body to home, she said. Khar said it was not useful to cast aspersions at this stage, adding that “we will get to the bottom and the journalist community deserves the closure of the case”. (APP)

Rescue 1122 provides services to 102 patients

LAKKI MARWAT: The district’s emergency service rescue 1122 shifted and provided first medical aid to about 102 patients while tackling a total of 103 emergencies over the last week. Giving details, the spokesman said the rescue service under the leadership of District Emergency Officer Engr Fasihullah Khan responded to different kinds of emergencies over the week which include 84 medical, 12 road traffic accidents, one fire eruption, three fighting or bullet injuries and three recoveries. During these emergencies a total of 102 injured were provided with first medical aid promptly and subsequently shifted them to hospitals. He said a total of 1883 calls were received by the emergency service, but 1451 of them were irrelevant or fake calls which should be avoided, he added. (APP)

15-year-old girl abducted from Taxila

WAH CANTT: A teen-age girl was abducted by man from Pind Nowsheri in the limits of Taxila Police station on Monday. The victim’s father reported to Police that a man of same village by blackmailing and threatening had abducted his 15-year-old daughter and shifted her to unknown location. Taxila Police registered a case against the accused and started further investigation. (APP)

Youth murdered

SARGODHA: A young man was murdered over some business dispute here in Mid Ranjha police limits on Monday. Police sources said that Irfan Hassan, resident of chak 51 SB, had a dispute over some business matter with Irshad Ahmad of Naseerpur kala village. On the day of incident, they fought over the matter and in a fit of rage accused Irshad and his accomplices shot dead Irfan and fled from the scene. Deceased man was handed over to the heirs after postmortem. On the report of victim’s brother police registered case against the accused and started investigation. (APP)

Urs of Sakhi Jam Datar on Dec 05

NAWABSHAH: The 751st annual Urs of famous Saint Syed Ali Asghar Shah popularly known as Sakhi Jam Datar would be observed on December 5 at Jam Sahib town of Shaheed Benazirabad district. Chief Administrator Auqaf Sindh announced that wreaths on the Dargah and the Urs ceremonies would be observed with simplicity. (APP)

Diabetic awareness walk held

SIALKOT: The health department here on Monday staged an awareness walk to mark the World Diabetic Day. Led by district health officer Dr Waseem Mirza, the walk was held at Model Town which was participated by Director DHDC Dr. Waleed, Dr. Shahzad Iqbal, Dr. Shiraz Masood, EPI Focal Person Tanveer Ahmed and Dr Ali besides lady health supervisor, workers and EPI vaccinators. Addressing on the occasion, Dr Waseem Mirza said that every citizen in Pakistan consumes an average of 26kg of sugar annually, which was considered to be the main cause of diabetes, currently about 20 million people were suffering from diabetes in Pakistan. He said the trend of using sugar in tea and drinking cold drinks was increasing the trend of diabetes. Dr Waseem Mirza said the direct use of white sugar played a role

in increasing diabetes, diabetes was a chronic disease in which pancreas in the human body could not make the important hormone insulin, due to which the amount of glucose (sugar) in the blood could not be controlled. He said that glucose was the main source of energy for human cells. Symptoms of the disease include increased urination, increased appetite and thirst, he added. He said that diabetics often have to take lifelong insulin control pills and in more severe cases insulin injections. Diabetes affects the eyes, muscles, nerves, kidneys and hands and feet overtime, he added. Dr. Waseem Mirza said that diabetic patients keep checking their sugar regularly and as per doctor’s instructions, they can live a healthy life if they avoid sugary things in food and drink besides regular exercise. (APP)

HEC invites applications from PhD scholarship aspirants for GRE training

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC) has invited applications from Pakistani and Azad Jammu and Kashmir national students and non PhD faculty aspiring for PhD scholarship under US-Pak Knowledge Corridor for comprehensive online or physical GRE training. According to the official source, the applicants may apply for GRE training till December 10 and will be charged a concessional fee of Rs 2,500 for online training while Rs 5,000 will be charged for physical training however the remaining amount of training fee will be paid by HEC. The maximum 04 years bachelor’s degree is required for the applicants with no second or third division in entire academic career. The maximum age limit of the candidate till the closing date must be 33 years while in case of regular Government employees/ regular faculty members of public sector universities and Government colleges/ regular researchers of registered Research and Development organizations, the maximum age limit is 38 years. The eligible candidates must not be availing any other HEC scholarship and those who have previously availed this training opportunity are not eligible to apply. Earlier, in June 2015 the United States and Pakistan established an Education, Science and Technology Working Group (ESTWG) under the Bilateral Strategic Dialogue discussed the proposal during the meeting of Prime Minister of Pakistan and President of USA to establish US-Pakistan Knowledge Corridor. Both the dignitaries directed their respective governments to intensify their cooperation in this important framework to achieve the ambitious priority targets of developing high-level human capital envisioned in Pakistan’s policy document Vision 2025. According to the Plan, 10,000 Pakistani scholars will join US

universities in the next ten years as an effort of the Government of Pakistan to train its faculty resources in identified subject areas. Phase 1 of the plan approved by ECNEC on Jan 25, 2017, and revised later in August 2020 envisions to award 1000 Ph.D scholarships to outstanding Pakistani students in US Universities under the project titled “PhD Scholarships under US – Pak Knowledge Corridor-Phase -1 (Revised)”. The main objectives of the project include significantly increase the number and quality of faculty in Higher Education Institutions. It also aimed to enhance the research and academic capacity of the Higher Education Institutions of Pakistan by providing trained manpower who will improve the quality of instruction and innovative research. Under the project approximately 1,000 potential applicants will be trained annually for university entrance exams such as GRE and TOEFL/IELTS under the “Talent Farming component” of the project. The program will develop collaboration between Pakistani and renowned US institutions to transfer new research techniques focused on Pakistani needs. About the categories of scholarship, the official informed that there were two categories of scholarship being offered. The category-I include scholarship in the top 50 QS World Ranked US Universities for which the prospective applicants must have secured admission in any of these Universities, valid GRE – General Score (Minimum 300 in total) or HAT Score (Minimum 60% Score). The category II –Scholarship require applicants to have admission in the top 300 QS World Ranked US Universities for which applicants must have secured admission in top 300 QS World Ranked US University and have valid GRE- General Score (Minimum 300 in total). (APP)

China unveils sweeping measures to rescue property sector

BEIJING: Chinese authorities have unveiled sweeping measures to rescue struggling property sector, as regulators seek to offset years of harsh pandemic curbs and a real estate crackdown that have stalled the world's number-two economy. The banking regulator and central bank on Friday issued a 16-point set of internal directives to promote the "stable and healthy development" of the industry, which were verified by Chinese media on Monday. The measures include credit support for debt-laden housing developers, financial support to ensure completion and handover of projects to homeowners, and assistance for deferred-payment loans for homebuyers. That came on the same day the National Health Commission issued 20 rules for "optimising" Beijing's zero-Covid policy, where certain restrictions were relaxed to limit the policy's social and economic impact. "We view this as the most crucial pivot since Beijing significantly tightened financing of the property sector," wrote Ting Lu, chief China economist at Nomura, in a note. "We believe these measures demonstrate that Beijing is willing to reverse most of its financial tightening measures." Hong Kong stocks surged more than three percent Monday, extending Friday's more than seven percent rally, after the measures were unveiled. Beijing imposed widespread lending curbs on property developers in 2020, which exacerbated their liquid-

ity issues and caused several of the largest to default on bond payments. The knock-on effects on the massive real estate sector were severe, with cash-strapped developer Evergrande -- China's largest -- and others failing to compete projects, sparking mortgage boycotts and protests from homebuyers. The measures emphasised "guaranteeing the handover of buildings", and ordered development banks to provide "special loans" for the purpose, according to a copy circulating online. The document ordered financial institutions to treat state-owned and private real estate enterprises equally, as well as "actively cooperating with distressed real estate enterprises in risk management". The measures also included "extending the transition period arrangements... of real estate loans" for distressed developers, and support for "high-quality real estate enterprises to issue bond financing". "The plan includes financial stability measures that aim to prevent massive defaults and hence provide a 'soft landing'," ANZ analysts wrote in a note. But analysts cautioned that these changes -- alongside the limited loosening of zero-Covid measures -- would not cause an immediate recovery for the ailing sector. New home prices have been dropping for more than a year, while demand is struggling to pick up owing to ongoing strict pandemic controls that have dampened consumer confidence. (APP)

US president unveils investments in Indonesia carbon capture, transport

NUSA DUA: US President Joe Biden on Monday announced a number of investments in Indonesia spanning areas like climate and food security, including a US\$2.5 billion agreement between ExxonMobil and state-owned energy company Pertamina on carbon capture. ExxonMobil and Pertamina's agreement will further assess development of a regional carbon capture and sequestration hub in Indonesia, the White House said in a statement. The partnership "will enable key industry sectors to decarbonise" the statement said, citing the refining, chemicals, cement, and steel sectors. It said this would lower carbon emissions, ensure economic opportunities for Indonesian workers and help Indonesia achieve its net-zero ambitions in 2060 or sooner. A joint study by Pertamina and Exxonmobil had found a potential carbon storage capacity of one billion tonnes in Pertamina's oil and

gas fields, which could permanently store Indonesia's emissions for the next 16 years, Pertamina said in a separate statement on Sunday. Biden is visiting Indonesia to take part in a G20 summit this week in Bali and announced the investments in a meeting with Indonesian President Joko Widodo, where he described the Southeast Asian country as a "critical partner". The U.S. president also said the two countries would collaborate to "protect our people" from Covid-19. The United States and Indonesia also agreed to launch a US\$698 million Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) compact to help support development of climate-conscious transportation infrastructure in five Indonesian provinces and 'other development goals', the White House statement said. The funds include US\$649 million from the US and US\$49 million from Indonesia. (Agencies)

Oil prices rise on support from China demand hopes

SINGAPORE: Oil prices rose on Monday, extending gains from the previous session, after China eased some of its strict Covid-19 protocols, fuelling hopes of a recovery in economic activity and demand at the world's top crude importer. Contracts for Brent crude and US West Texas Intermediate edged up nearly 1% earlier in the session but later pared some gains. Brent crude futures were last up 31 cents, or 0.3%, to US\$96.30 a barrel by 0430 GMT after settling up 1.1% on Friday. US West Texas Intermediate crude futures were also up 23 cents, or 0.3%, at US\$89.19 a barrel after closing Friday's session 2.9% higher. Commodities prices rallied on Friday after China's National Health Commission adjusted its Covid prevention and control measures. But Covid cases climbed in China over the weekend. "The market was too optimistic. The virus

will spread faster in winter and the rapid growth of cases makes it impossible for the Chinese government to adjust the zero-Covid policy," said Leon Li, a Shanghai-based analyst at CMC Markets. "Moreover, it will take some time from the release of the policy to its implementation, so China's full liberalisation may have to wait until the first quarter of next year, which means that the rebound of oil prices last Friday is unsustainable." The easing curbs in China, the world's largest crude oil importer, included shortening quarantine times for close contacts of cases and inbound travellers by two days, as well as eliminating a penalty on airlines for bringing in infected passengers. China's demand for oil from world's top exporter, Saudi Arabia, also remained weak as several refiners have asked to lift less crude in December. (Agencies)

BioNTech to set up mRNA vaccine facility in Singapore

BERLIN: BioNTech SE, the German biotech that developed a widely used Covid-19 vaccine with Pfizer Inc, acquired a manufacturing facility in Singapore, its first in Asia, the company said on Monday. The facility, bought from a Novartis unit, will be its first messenger ribonucleic acid, or mRNA, facility in Singapore and support its vaccines production for the Asia Pacific region, BioNTech said in a statement, without disclosing financial details. MRNA vaccines, which scientists say trick the body into protecting itself against an illness by copying viral proteins,

are seen as a safe, speedy alternative to traditional vaccines -- especially during a pandemic -- since they involve no exposure to the illness. BioNTech said the facility, which will also double as its regional headquarters, will initially be used to make a range of mRNA-based product candidates as well as authorised vaccines and therapeutics, which may include its Covid-19 vaccine. The aim is to eventually expand production to other drug classes such as cell therapies, said BioNTech, which also plans to set up research and manufacturing centres in Australia. (Agencies)

Asian markets mixed as global rally peters out

HONG KONG: Asian markets were mixed Monday as traders struggled to maintain momentum after a global surge, though the loosening of China's Covid rules and plans to help its property sector helped Hong Kong extend its rally. Equities rocketed last week and the dollar sank after data showed US price rises eased in October, providing the Federal Reserve with room to take its foot off the pedal in tightening monetary policy. The news led some commentators to suggest a feared recession in the world's top economy could be shallower than first feared, or might be averted entirely. The optimistic mood

was given an extra injection late Friday by news that Beijing would relax some of its strict Covid-19 restrictions, a day after officials vowed to stick to their zero-tolerance strategy that has hammered growth. Authorities have also reportedly unveiled a 16-point plan to support the beleaguered property sector, a major component of the country's sprawling economy. The industry has come under immense pressure since China imposed a number of restrictions in 2020 aimed at reeling in debt, with major developers teetering on the brink of collapse. The news indicates the leadership is beginning to focus

on supporting the economy, a crucial driver of global growth. "It's a meaningful easing," said Larry Hu of Macquarie Group. "It seems that the room for policy change has widened on various fronts after the Party Congress (last month), including for the two major headwinds to the Chinese economy: Covid Zero and property." Nomura's Lu Ting said the support for the developers was "the most crucial pivot since Beijing significantly tightened financing of the property sector". "We believe these measures demonstrate that Beijing is willing to reverse most of its financial tightening measures," he added. (APP)

Prime Minister to Inaugurate International Housing Expo next month

ISLAMABAD: First International Housing Expo to be jointly organized by the Federal Ministry of Housing and Works and Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry from December 08 to 12 this year. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will inaugurate the event as Chief Guest. A delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) led by its President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari held a meeting with Iftikhar Ali Shallwani, Secretary Ministry of Housing and Works here Monday. The two sides discuss and agreed to finalize the arrangements for organizing the first Inter-

national Housing Expo in Convention Centre, Islamabad. Speaking at the occasion, Iftikhar Ali Shallwani, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Works said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is keen to promote affordable housing in Pakistan and he will inaugurate the Expo as Chief Guest. He said that all the major international and national developers, builders and real estate enterprises would be invited to display their projects in the Expo. He said that the Expo will help in attracting local and foreign investment to Pakistan and revive the economic activities in the country. He said that the gov-

ernment plans to provide affordable housing to low income people and the Expo will make positive progress towards this goal. He said that sessions on housing needs (realities, options, action), low cost housing, funding and financing frameworks for housing, regulation for housing sector, rehabilitation, climate resilient housing, public-private partnership and other topics will also be organized on the sidelines of the Expo. He hoped that the collaboration between the Ministry and the ICCI for the forthcoming IHE-2022 would be helpful in making the Expo a landmark event. (APP)

Cap that symbolises French republic chosen as Olympics mascot



PARIS: The Phrygian cap, the symbol of the French republic but wearing sneakers as a nod to the present, was unveiled on Monday as the mascot for the 2024 Paris Olympics. The Paralympic mascot is different in that one of the legs is a runner's blade. Tony Estanguet, president of the Paris 2024 organising committee, hailed it as a "special day". The 44-year-old triple Olympic canoeing champion said the Phrygian cap was "known throughout the world" and was present "in art, in town halls and on stamps." The Paris Games organisers defended the fact that the toy replicas of the mascot are almost all made in China, "like the great majority of toys sold in France." In choosing the cap which adorns the head of Marianne, the personification of the French Revolution, the organising committee has once again recalled Republican and revolution-era history. One of the mascot's eyes is blue and one of the two is draped in two ribbons in the colours of the French flag, in the style of a cockade, or knot of ribbons, which was another symbol of republicanism during the Revolution. (Agencies)

PSX loses 242 points

ISLAMABAD: The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Monday witnessed a bearish trend, losing 242.12 points, a negative change of 0.56 percent, closing at 42,850.83 against 43,092.95 points on the last working day. A total of 185,537,940 shares were traded during the day as compared to 232,788,982 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 6.017 billion against Rs 7.625 billion on the last trading day. As many as 353 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 120 of them recorded gains and 211 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 22 companies remained unchanged. The three top-trading companies were Hascol Petrol with 26,558,500 shares at Rs 7.88 per share, PTCL with 12,833,000 shares at Rs 7.60 per share, and Lotte Chemical with 10,227,268 shares at Rs 30.76 per share. Gatron Industries witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 28.01 per share price, closing at Rs 430, whereas the runner-up was Reliance Cotton with a Rs 19 rise in its per share price to Rs 634. (APP)

Pakistan's cars sale drops 47pc in 4 months

ISLAMABAD: The sale of cars during the first four months of current fiscal year 2022-23, has dropped by 47.03 percent as compared to the same quarter of last year, a latest data released by Pakistan Automobile Manufacturing Association (PAMA) on Wednesday. According to the data, as many as 39,700 cars were sold during the period under review as opposed to 74,952 units in the same period of last year. The breakup figures showed that 6,416 units of Honda Civic and City were sold during the corresponding period of the year 2022-23 as compared to the sale of 10,444 units last year, thus showing a dip of 38.56 percent. Toyota Corolla and Yaris cars' sale also decreased by 57.04 percent as

it went down to 8,253 units current year from 19,214 units in the same period of previous year. However, Suzuki Swift's sale went up by 608.79 percent as its sale increased to 3,466 units from 489 units last year. Sale of Suzuki Cultus decreased to 2,952 units during current year, whereas during same period last year, the sale was recorded at 11,454 units while the sale of Suzuki WagonR also decreased to 2,181 units from 6,779 units in same period of last year. Suzuki Alto's sale also witnessed a sharp decline of 35.18 percent from 20,773 units to 13,464 units during the months under review, whereas the sale of Suzuki Bolan decreased to 1,469 units as opposed to sale of 4,012 units in same period of last year. (APP)

Chinese company to explore lithium resources

BEIJING: In a move to better investigate and research lithium reserves in Pakistan, a strategic agreement was signed between the China-Pakistan Joint Research Centre on Earth Sciences and Tianqi Lithium Co. at an international conference on lithium battery industry held in Sichuan China, as per a statement by the China-Pakistan Joint Research Centre on Earth Sciences. The strategic agreement says that both parties will collaborate on the research and application of lithium resources in Pakistan. Efforts will also go to personnel training and academic exchanges to develop joint research on lithium resources in the country, CEN reported. Lithium reserves have emerged

as an important source in the electronic vehicle (EV) industry around the world including Pakistan since the resources are the main raw material of EV battery, which takes up a sizeable portion of EV production cost. According to Volza's lithium imports data in Pakistan, Pakistan imports most of its lithium products including lithium primary cells and batteries from countries such as China, the United States and Germany. Last year, Pakistan devised the Automotive Industry Development and Export Plan (AIDEP 2021-26) with an aim to boost the local EV industry, bring related manufacturing locally and also reduce the use of fossil fuel. (APP)

IMF says global economic outlook getting 'gloomier', risks abound

WASHINGTON: The global economic outlook is even gloomier than projected last month, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Sunday, citing a steady worsening in purchasing manager surveys in recent months. It blamed the darker outlook on tightening monetary policy triggered by persistently high and broad-based inflation, weak growth momentum in China, and ongoing supply disruptions and food insecurity caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The global lender last month cut its global growth forecast for 2023 to 2.7% from a previous forecast of 2.9%. In a blog prepared for a summit of G20 leaders in Indonesia, the IMF said recent high-frequency indicators "confirm that the outlook is gloomier", particularly in Europe. It said recent purchasing manager indices that gauge manufacturing and services activity signalled weakness in most Group of 20 major economies, with economic activity set to contract while inflation remained

stubbornly high. "Readings for a growing share of G20 countries have fallen from expansionary territory earlier this year to levels that signal contraction," the IMF said, adding that global fragmentation added to "a confluence of downside risks." "The challenges that the global economy is facing are immense and weakening economic indicators point to further challenges ahead," the IMF said, adding that the current policy environment was "unusually uncertain". A worsening energy crisis in Europe would severely harm growth and raise inflation, while prolonged high inflation could prompt larger-than-anticipated policy interest hikes and further tightening of global financial conditions. That in turn posed "increasing risks of a sovereign debt crisis for vulnerable economies", the IMF said. Increasingly severe weather events would also harm growth across the globe, it said. (Agencies)

Embiid’s 59 points lead Sixers past Jazz, Garland’s 51 not enough for Cavs

LOS ANGELES: Joel Embiid scored 59 points to carry the Philadelphia 76ers to a 105-98 victory over Utah on Sunday, just one of two 50-point performances that lit up the NBA night. Cleveland guard Darius Garland scored 27 of his 51 points in the fourth quarter, but his heroics weren’t enough to prevent the Cavaliers from surrendering their first defeat on their home floor, 129-124 to the Minnesota Timberwolves. Embiid’s epic performance, which improved on his prior career best of 50 points, proved to be all the 76ers needed to hold off the tenacious Jazz. The Camer-

onian big man added 11 rebounds and eight assists along with seven blocked shots, all just a day after he scored 42 points in a victory over the Atlanta Hawks. “I’ve never seen a more dominating performance, when you combine defense and offense,” 76ers coach Doc Rivers said after Embiid became the first player in league history with 50 points, 10 rebounds, five assists and five blocks in a game since blocks became an official statistic in the 1973-74 season. With the Jazz pressing late, Embiid scored 26 of Philadelphia’s 27 points in the fourth quarter. (APP)

Two Pakistani players in most valuable team of ICC T20 World Cup

LAHORE: Two Pakistani players, Shadab Khan and Shaheen Shah Afridi are part of the most valuable team of ICC T20 World Cup. Players from six different teams have been named in the team, said a statement of the information cricket council here on Monday. Players from champions England, runners-up Pakistan, India, New Zealand, Zimbabwe and South Africa all feature in the team. England stars Jos Buttler, Alex Hales, Mark Wood and Player of the Tournament Sam Curran make the cut Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Sikandar Raza, Shaheen Shah Afridi and Anrich Nortje also selected by panel. Captain, wicket-keeper and opening batter Jos Buttler, fellow opener Alex Hales and seamer Sam Curran all make the

cut for England after helping steer their side to a second ICC Men’s T20 World Cup title. There are also spots for New Zealand star Glenn Phillips, India talisman Virat Kohli – the tournament’s leading run-scorer – Pakistan left-arm Shaheen Shah Afridi and Zimbabwe’s Sikandar Raza in the line-up. The side was pulled together by a selection panel featuring commentators, former international players and journalists Ian Bishop (Convener), Mel Jones (both commentators), Shivanine Chanderpaul (ICC Hall of Famer), Partha Bhaduri (Journalist, The Times of India), Wasim Khan (ICC General Manager of Cricket). The Upstox Most Valuable Team of the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup 2022. (Agencies)

Egypt bids to host the 2036 Olympic games

CAIRO: Egyptian Minister of Youth and Sports, Ashraf Sobhi, announced the approval of President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi of Egypt’s bid to host the 2036 Olympic Games. Youm7 newspaper said that there is more than one sports edifice in Egypt that is fully prepared to host the largest international sporting events, the most important of which is the Olympics. The most prominent of these edifices is Egypt’s International Olympic City in the New

Administrative Capital. The Egypt International Olympic City is established on an area of 450 acres and includes a football stadium, with a capacity of 90,000 spectators, a covered hall for 15,000 spectators, and another for 8,000 spectators, containing an Olympic swimming pool complex, tennis, squash and equestrian complexes, a sports medicine hospital, hotels, an open theater, open playgrounds, and archery and bow and arrow fields. (Agencies)

Huskies earn win, tie at home against Lakers

HOUGHTON: With just under six minutes left in regulation on Friday, the Michigan Tech Huskies hockey team gave up the game-tying goal. They came out of the night with just one point after the visiting Lake Superior State Lakers earned the extra point in the shootout of a game that went down as a 2-2 tie. Saturday, the Huskies (6-3-2 overall, 2-2-2 CCHA) made sure to keep all three available points by shutting out the Lakers, 2-0, at the MacInnes Student Ice Arena. For the Huskies, finishing the game Saturday was a focus for the team after Friday’s tie.

“They (Lake Superior) look kind of like us, of the past,” said Shawhan. “I think they’re a really good team, really well coached. I like the way they play, so I feel really fortunate. We’re very pleased we were able to come up with some success this weekend against them, because I have a lot of respect for their team.” Looking to get off on the right foot Saturday, the Huskies broke open a tightly-contested first period. From there, they added to their lead in the middle frame before shutting down the Lakers for the remainder of the contest. (Agencies)

Australia to host LIV Golf event next April in Adelaide

SYDNEY: LIV Golf announced a multi-year commitment to bring league events to Australia starting next April at The Grange Golf Club in Adelaide. The April 21-23 tournament at The Grange will be one of 14 events on LIV Golf League’s 2023 schedule and will give fans a chance to see reigning British Open champion Cameron Smith and fellow Australians Marc Leishman and Matt Jones in action. “This is an opportunity to grow the game with generations of Australians while connecting them with star players like Cameron Smith,” LIV Golf CEO Greg Norman said in a news

release. “There is massive potential for Australia to play a bigger role in this great sport, and I couldn’t be more excited to showcase Adelaide for our league’s debut year.” The Grange was the site of former world number one Norman’s first professional victory in 1976 and, among other events, hosted the Women’s Australian Open in 2019 and 2016. Consistent with the 2022 LIV Golf Invitational Series, which launched in June, LIV Golf League will feature simultaneous team and individual play, with golfers competing for an unprecedented \$405 million in prize purses. (Agencies)

Tyrus wins NWA Worlds Heavyweight Championship

NEW YORK: Tyrus is the new NWA worlds heavyweight champion, and he didn’t even need to use the heart punch to do it. Heading into Hard Times 3, Trevor Murdoch carried the NWA Worlds Heavyweight Championship in his possession. Murdoch was originally scheduled to wrestle Matt Cardona in singles action. Cardona was cashing in his promise from Billy Corgan for a title shot in exchange for peacefully relinquishing the title upon injury. Cardona was ready to reclaim the title he never lost. Tyrus entered the mix cashing

in the Lucky 7 rule as NWA television champion. Tyrus was so close to beating Murdoch for the gold at NWA 74 that he gave up his precious TV title in an effort to get another shot. Tyrus had the ultimate confidence in himself, and that belief paid off. Cardona entered first for the PPV main event. Tyrus was next, accompanied by BLK Jeez. Murdoch arrived in the champion slot. The referee treated it like a marquee attraction by discussing the rules with each competitor. Ring the bell! Murdoch requested that Tyrus step aside to give him 60 sec-

onds alone with pesky pest Cardona. Tyrus obliged out of respect. Cardona weaseled out of the ring, so Tyrus and Jeez forced him back inside. Murdoch packed a punch to pummel Cardona. After a body slam by Murdoch, Tyrus entered the fray. Murdoch surprised Tyrus with a quick flying bulldog finisher. Cardona was on the outside and used his wits to place Tyrus’ foot on the ropes to break the pin. The match progressed with a spinebuster from Murdoch to Cardona. Tyrus rammed Murdoch shoulder-first into the ring post. (Agencies)

Nadal falls to Fritz in ATP Finals opener

TURIN: Rafael Nadal suffered a disastrous start to his bid to win the ATP Finals for the first time after crashing to a 7-6 (7/3), 6-1 defeat to Taylor Fritz on Sunday. The year-ending Finals is the only major trophy missing from Tennis icon Nadal’s list of honours but his straight-sets LOSS means he will struggle to escape the

round-robin stage. The 36-year-old realistically needs to win both his remaining matches against Green Group opponents Casper Ruud and Felix Auger-Aliassime if he is to make the semi-finals. Fritz is at the Finals for the first time in his career after replacing injured world number one Carlos Alcaraz and gave Nadal a tor-

rid time with some aggressive tennis. “I did a good job, protecting my serve, holding my serve and I did very well in tie-breaker,” said Fritz on court. “Once I got through that I just wanted to do the same thing I was doing in the second set, protecting my serve and capitalise on break points when I got them.” (APP)

Emotional Russell pays tribute to family, team and Hamilton

Sao Paulo: George Russell paid emotional tribute to the generosity and support of his family, the Mercedes team and team-mate Lewis Hamilton on Sunday after a flawless drive to his maiden full victory at the Brazilian Grand Prix. The 24-year-old Briton, who had won Saturday’s sprint race to secure pole position for Sunday’s classic contest, dominated from lights to flag to finish 1.5 seconds clear of seven-time world champion Hamilton. It was the first one-two of the



season for the ‘silver arrows’ and a great triumph for the team after a challenging and disappointing start to the year when they struggled to cope

with the new ‘ground effect’ era in Formula One. Mercedes are now just 19 points behind Ferrari in their bid to finish second in the constructors’ championship, a position they felt was unlikely after struggling so badly in the first half of the season. A tearful Russell admitted he had been through an emotional rollercoaster as he and the team battled to recover their competitive form, having been team champions for the previous eight seasons. (APP)

First-ever Chief Commissioner Football tournament to kick-off from Nov 18

ISLAMABAD: The First-ever chief commissioner football tournament would start on November 18, at G-7 football ground and the final of the tournament is to be played on November 24. The pre-registration process has already started and more than 15 clubs have applied so far, the process would open till November 17 (Thursday), Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) spokesperson told APP. He

said that any club or team (11 members) can participate in the tournament, the pool matches would be played from 18th to 20th November at G-7 football ground Islamabad. “Chief commissioner hockey and cricket tournament are also next-in-line to boost sports athletes’ fervor and showcase their skill through ICT platform”, the spokesperson told APP. He said that under the com-

missioner’s cap a colorful martial arts event was organized earlier this month where top athletes across the twin cities participated. Prize money for the tournament winner is Rs 25,000 and 15,000 for the runner-up along with trophies, while man of the match and man of the tournament trophies, medals and certificates would be distributed among the best performers, he informed. (APP)

Nelly Korda wins Pelican Championship to regain No. 1 ranking

MIAMI: Nelly Korda fired seven birdies in a 6-under par 64 on Sunday to seize victory in the LPGA Pelican Women’s Championship and return to the top of the world rankings. The American’s storming last round saw her defend the title she won last year and lift her first trophy of what has been a tough 2022. Korda missed much of the first half of the season because of a blood clot in her arm that required surgery. She had taken the last five weeks off after missing back-to-back cuts at the NW Arkansas Championship and the Ascendant LPGA in Texas. “Honestly, amazing,” said Korda, who will rise



from fourth in the world to supplant Thai teenager Athaya Thitikul atop the rankings. “There has been more down than ups this year, and I think that that’s what makes this so much sweeter to me.” It will be Korda’s third stint atop the rankings, her

two previous runs there totalling 29 weeks. Belleair in her home state of Florida proved just the place to turn things around. “I had good memories on this golf course,” Korda said. “I was home. I had the comfort level of my parents being in the crowd, too, which plays a part.” Korda added that she was “just grateful” to be competing after her health concerns earlier in the year. Korda, who started the day two shots off the lead of Allizien Corpuz in the tournament shortened to 54 holes after a storm prevented play on Thursday, surged early with three birdies on the front nine at the first, seventh and eighth. (Agencies)

DAILY HOROSCOPE: NOVEMBER 15 2022



– It’s a general reading which may differ from person to person because of time date and year.
– **ARIES:** If there is something about your everyday routine that you have grown bored with now is the perfect time to make changes. However, before you make any kind of move, take into account that you won’t be able to change back again later on.
– **TAURUS:** Something will take you by surprise today but as it’s the sort of surprise you enjoy you won’t make a fuss over it. Others may not be quite so happy about it though, so be ready for a lot of moaning and groaning about how unfair life can be.
– **GEMINI:** No, you are not running out of time and, no, you do not have to do something drastic to get your life back on track. No matter what occurs over the next 24 hours it will come right in the end, so don’t put yourself under unnecessary pressure.
– **CANCER:** You must not allow other people’s overly cautious ways to hold you back over the coming week. The Sun in your fellow Water sign of Scorpio is still doing wonders for your courage and confidence, so do what feels right and do it extremely well.
– **LEO:** As a rule you don’t much like surprises but what happens next will not only surprise you but delight you too. If you are invited to a social event don’t turn it down because you’ve got too much work to do. On this occa-

sion, work can wait!
– **VIRGO:** Find a way to settle some kind of family dispute today, because if you allow it to drag on it could distract you from more important things later in the week. Even if you are the one who deserves an apology it will pay you to say sorry first.
– **LIBRA:** It is of the utmost importance that you let a certain person know that you’ve had enough of their childish ways and from now on will be putting some much-needed distance between you. And don’t just say it, mean it. This time they’ve gone too far.
– **SCORPIO:** If a friend or family member needs a helping hand today you must give it to them with no questions asked and with no expectation of thanks or repayment. You know they would do the same for you if the situation were to be reversed.
– **SAGITTARIUS:** You want to be dynamic and get things done but something seems to be holding you back. Don’t worry. Venus and Mercury move into your sign this week and the Sun does the same next week, so your fortunes are about to change for the better. Be patient.
– **CAPRICORN:** It may seem as if you have lost control of events but there is no reason to worry about it. Life moves in cycles and if you feel a bit down at the moment you can be sure you will be on the up again before long. Keep smiling.
– **ACQUARIUS:** All roads lead to your ultimate destination, so even if you think you are not making progress just keep walking and believe that you will get where you need to be in the end. That end may not be as far away as you think it is.
– **PISCES:** Be ready to take advantage of unexpected changes on the work front over the next few days. There are things going on behind the scenes that could result in you climbing at least one and maybe several rungs up the ladder of success, so stay sharp.

Thousands march in Mexico against proposed electoral reform

Mexico City: Tens of thousands of people demonstrated Sunday in Mexico City to denounce a proposed reform which they insist will undermine the independent body which organizes the country's elections. Protesters chanted "Hands off INE," or National Electoral Institute, as they made their way along Paseo de Reforma in the city center to oppose the change championed by President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador. "We are gathered here with one clear and important goal: to defend the electoral system that several generations of Mexicans built," former INE chairman Jose Woldenberg told the

crowd in a speech at the close of the procession. Lopez Obrador alleges that the INE endorsed fraud when he ran unsuccessfully for the presidency in 2006 and 2012, before winning in 2018. Under his proposal, the INE would be replaced by a new body with members chosen by voters instead of lawmakers and with a smaller budget. Political parties would also receive less money from the government for campaigning. Lopez Obrador's critics say he is damaging democratic checks and balances with his attacks on the INE and other institutions. His proposals, which involve amending the constitution, require

support from at least two-thirds of lower house lawmakers. Many of the demonstrators wore pink -- the color associated with the INE. Graciela Aberel, a 53 year old English teacher, said the proposed change amounts to letting the government organize elections, as was the case before INE was created in 1990. "What he wants is for all the elections to depend on the government, so as to manipulate them at his whim and be able to stay in power," said Aberel. The next presidential election is scheduled for 2024, when Lopez Obrador's six-year term ends. Presidents here can only serve one term. (APP)

Xi, Kishida set for talks in Thailand on thursday

TOKYO: Japanese prime minister Fumio Kishida will meet Chinese president Xi Jinping on Thursday, Japan's top government spokesman said, for talks that come as tensions in Asia rise over Taiwan and North Korea. "It's necessary to build constructive and stable Japan-China relations through the efforts of both Japan and China," chief cabinet secretary Hirokazu Matsuno told a regular news conference today. "We would like to hold a meeting to move forward with bilateral relations." Both leaders are in Indonesia for a G20 summit tomorrow and both will then travel to Thailand for an Apec summit later in the week, where they are due to meet, the Japanese government spokesman said. Sino-Japanese ties have long been plagued by a dispute over a group of tiny uninhabited East China Sea islets, a legacy of Japan's World War II aggression and regional rivalry. This year, their relations were strained further after China fired ballistic missiles into waters near Japan following US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan in August. (Agencies)

6.1-magnitude quake strikes off central Japan, no tsunami advisory

Tokyo: A 6.1-magnitude earthquake was detected off central Japan on Monday, shaking Tokyo and other cities, officials said, but no tsunami warning was issued. The quake struck at 5:09 pm (0809 GMT) off central Mie prefecture with a depth of about 350 kilometres (217 miles), the Japan Meteorological Agency said. There were no reports of damage or injuries and no abnormalities were detected at the Fukushima



nuclear plants, according to public broadcaster NHK. The US Geological Survey also measured the quake at a magnitude of 6.1. The Fukushima and Ibaraki prefectures, north of Tokyo, experienced stronger shaking on Japan's seismic scale, despite the regions being hundreds of kilometres from the epicentre. Shinkansen bullet trains and the Tokyo metro were halted briefly after the quake but have since resumed. (APP)

Iranian spy network busted in Azerbaijan

ISTANBUL: An illegal Iranian spy network was busted on Monday, Azerbaijan's State Security Service said. Five Azerbaijani citizens, who were part of the network were arrested for treason, the security service added in a statement. One of the citizens arrested worked as a captain in the country's oil fleet in the Caspian Sea. He "collected information about companies and representative offices of foreign countries operating in Azerbaijan, the place and time of exercises conducted by the Azerbaijani Naval Forces, and cargo transported to oil platforms." Two others reportedly took photos and videos of areas where oil and natural gas pipelines passed through, in addition to the location of various military equipment, and transferred them

to the Iranian intelligence. The fourth person who was arrested allegedly shared details about the "political and social processes in Azerbaijan," as well as information on the location, type and command level of Azerbaijani military units to the Iranian intelligence in exchange for money. The fifth person allegedly determined the location of Azerbaijani citizens hiding in Iran. The statement further said the closed WhatsApp groups operating "on the instructions of the Iranian special service" were exposed during the investigation conducted by the State Security Service. These WhatsApp groups were trying to propagate "radical and religious-extremist ideas ... aimed at the creation of a religious state in Azerbaijan." (APP)

Nearly 2 million pilgrims perform Umrah during current season

ISLAMABAD: Nearly two million pilgrims have so far arrived in Saudi Arabia from all parts of the world to perform the pilgrimage during the current Umrah season. The air, land, and sea ports in the Kingdom recorded the arrival of a total of 1,964,964 pilgrims from outside the Kingdom, since the beginning of the Umrah season on Muharram 1,1444 (July 30). The number of arrivals through airports reached 1,783,392 pilgrims, while the number of arrivals through land ports stood at 180,363, whereas the number of pilgrims arriving by sea accounted for 1,209 pilgrims. Pilgrims from Indonesia, the most populous Muslim nation, ranked first among the countries which had sent the highest number of pilgrims. A total of 551,410 Indonesian Umrah pilgrims arrived in the Kingdom during the current season, Saudi Gazette reported. Pakistan came second with 370,083 pilgrims, while India stood third with 230,794 pilgrims. followed by Iraq with 150,109 pilgrims and Egypt with 101,657 pilgrims. Bangladesh came last by sending 11,984 pilgrims. There are 470 Saudi companies and establishments that are licensed to provide services to the Umrah pilgrims and visitors during the 10-month Umrah season that will

end on Dhul Qaada 29, just before the annual pilgrimage of Hajj. Saudi Arabia has extended the Umrah visa period from one month to three months and the pilgrims are allowed to travel throughout the Kingdom during their visa period. The visa period will end before the three-month if it overlaps the Hajj season. The Ministry of Hajj and Umrah stressed the need for Umrah companies and establishments to commit to providing all the required service packages to the pilgrims with the aim of raising the quality of services in the sector and facilitating the journey of the pilgrims so as to achieve the goals of the Kingdom's Vision 2030. Meanwhile, the ministry said that the total number of beneficiaries of the "Nusk" application (Eatmarna app previously) reached more than 20 million and these include various types of permits, for performing Umrah and prayer in the Grand Mosque, visiting the Prophet's Mosque to greet the Prophet (peace be upon him), in addition to praying in the Rawdah Sharif. The number of beneficiaries of the services being extended by Enaya Centers in Makkah and Madinah, which are concerned with serving Umrah pilgrims coming from outside Saudi Arabia, reached more than 100,000 beneficiaries. (APP)

UN climate talks enter home stretch split over money

SHARM EL SHEIKH: COP27 entered its final week Monday with countries that grew rich burning fossil fuels and developing nations reeling from climate impacts at loggerheads over how to speed and fund reductions in carbon pollution. Somewhere in the middle, China — accounting for 30 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, by far the largest share is feeling pressure from both sides, not only to enhance its carbon cutting goals but to step up as a donor nation, negotiators and analysts say. At last year's UN climate summit in Glasgow, nearly 200 countries vowed to "keep alive" the Paris Agreement's aspirational goal of capping global warming at 1.5 de-

grees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Nearly 1.2C of warming so far has seen a cascade of increasingly severe climate disasters, such as the flooding that left a third of Pakistan under water this summer, claiming at least 1,700 lives and inflicting \$30 to \$40 billion in damage. The Glasgow Pact urged nations to ramp up their emissions reduction commitments ahead of this year's critical summit in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh. But with the exception of Australia and Mexico, only a handful of smaller economies heeded the call, leaving the world on track to hot up by about 2.5C enough, scientists say, to trigger dangerous tipping points in Earth's climate system. (Agencies)

France, Italy urge 'full cooperation' after migrant spat

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron and Italian counterpart Sergio Mattarella urged a return to "full cooperation" after last week's stand-off over migrants rescued in the Mediterranean, the French presidency said Monday. The two leaders talked by telephone after Italy's far-right government under Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni refused to allow the Ocean Viking migrant rescue ship disembark, leading France to take in the vessel on Friday. "Both confirmed the great importance of relations between France and Italy and under-

scored the need to re-establish the conditions for full cooperation in all areas, both at the bilateral level and within the European Union," the Elysee Palace said in a short statement. Their talks came after the French government on Sunday called on the EU to decide "very soon on the response" to Italy's refusal to allow the Ocean Viking, which had 234 rescued migrants aboard, into its ports. Meloni's government countered that it had already taken in hundreds of migrants last week from three NGO vessels. (APP)

Slovenia elects first female president

LJUBLJANA: Slovenian voters elected Natasa Pirc Musar, an independent candidate, as the first female president of the country. Musar will take office on Dec 23 when the second mandate of the incumbent president Borut Pahor expires, reported Xinhua. According to preliminary results after about 98 per cent of the votes were counted, Musar received 54 per cent of the votes against 46 per cent going to her rival Anze Logar, who is a former foreign minister and a member of the opposition centre-right Slovenian Democratic Party. In the first round of the presidential election

last month, Logar received the most votes among seven candidates with Musar clinching second place. The two best-positioned candidates competed in the second round. Musar, 54, is a lawyer, a former journalist and a former national Information Commissioner who oversees the security of personal data and general access to public information in the country. She ran as an independent candidate but was in the second round supported by Prime Minister Robert Golob's center-left Freedom Movement and one of its coalition partners, the Social Democrats. (Agencies)

Floods in Australia's southeast cut off inland towns

SYDNEY: Heavy rain triggered flash floods that cut off some inland towns in Australia's southeast on Monday, with fresh evacuation warnings issued for thousands of rural residents. The country's fourth major flooding this year saw wild weather pummel parts of southwest New South Wales (NSW) and northeast Victoria overnight, bursting river banks and piling on more pain for flood-weary residents. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Twitter the flash flooding was "creating dangerous conditions" and that the federal government was working closely with the states on

rescue efforts. In rural NSW, roads, bridges and farms were submerged. Molong, about 300 km (186 miles) northwest of Sydney and home to more than 2,000, was one of the towns hit by heavy flooding. Footage on social media showed a shipping container and household items floating down the town centre. "Almost every shop went under," Mayor Kevin Beatty told radio station 2GB. He said what appeared to be a shipping container or a caravan was stuck on the highway near the town, making it harder for emergency crews to reach Molong. (Agencies)

Macron for response to Iran crackdown on 'revolution'

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron called for international sanctions on Iranian officials in response to the regime's crackdown on the protest movement he again described as a "revolution", in an interview broadcast on Monday. Macron angered Iranian officials on Friday by hosting four prominent women who have strongly supported the two months of protests, which have become the biggest challenge for the Islamic republic since the 1979 ousting of the shah. "I am in favour of a strong diplomatic reaction and sanctions on the figures of the regime who have a responsibility in the repression of this revolution," Macron told France Inter radio, in an interview recorded after he met the dissidents on Friday. According to Norway-based organisation Iran Human Rights, at least 326 people have been killed by the security forces in a crackdown on the nationwide pro-

tests. Macron described the crackdown as "unprecedented". "We don't rule out any option," he said, noting that Iran's government was already the target of numerous sanctions. European Union foreign ministers are due to discuss new sanctions on Monday in Brussels. Macron repeatedly used the word "revolution" to describe what was happening in Iran. "It is women who launched this revolution," he said, adding, "The grandchildren of the (Islamic) revolution are making a revolution." "The most impressive thing in this movement, in this revolution, is it involves the young women and men who have never known anything other than this regime," Macron said. "They say, 'Stop. I don't want to wear the veil. I don't want this subjugation.'" Iran's foreign ministry called Macron's comments after the meeting with dissidents "regrettable and shameful". (Agencies)

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