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- Ukraine could seize Crimea before year ends -

Ukraine rules out 'short truce' with Russia

- Poland's ban on FM's trip 'unprecedented'
- Germany warns against escalation between Russia and NATO
- Ukraine' top general asked to reduce public profile - FT
- British Prime Minister Sunak makes surprise visit to Kyiv

KIEV/MOSCOW: Russia is seeking a "short truce" - a proposal Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy vehemently dismissed as it would allow Moscow's forces to regain strength after suffering a series of battlefield defeats. Officials in Russia have repeatedly said they were ready to engage in peace talks without any conditions, but it is not clear if they have made a formal ceasefire offer as mentioned by Zelenskyy on Friday.

- Ukraine could capture Russia's region of Crimea by the end of this year, the Kiev's deputy defense minister, Vladimir Gavrillov, has said. In an interview with Sky News on Saturday, Gavrillov stated that what is known as a 'black swan' - or a sudden and unexpected event - could bring about victory. "I think Russia can face a black swan in their country, inside Russia, and this can contribute to [our] success with Crimea," he said, adding that there was "also a military option as well with some kind of combination of forces, resources and something else." "We can step into Crimea, for example, by the end of December. Possible? Possible. Not ruling out that it can be so," Gavrillov added.

When asked what type of a black swan event could happen in the coming months, Gavrillov suggested that Russian President Vladimir Putin could "disappear, for example, due to some reason, physical and political," or that the Russian public could become "disillusioned" with the situation on the battlefield. - Poland's decision to ban Moscow's top diplomat, Sergey Lavrov, from attending a ministerial meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Lodz next month is unacceptable and provocative, the Russian Foreign Ministry said on Saturday. The statement came the day after Warsaw confirmed that it would deny entry to EU-sanctioned Russian officials, including Lavrov.

- The West should do its best to prevent an escalation between Russia and NATO, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said on Saturday, while stressing that it is necessary to continue providing Ukraine with arms to fight Russia. Speaking at a conference of the Social Democratic Party in the southern German city of Friedrichshafen, Scholz admitted that many European citizens "are scared, and have reasons for

it." While highlighting the importance of supporting Ukraine militarily, he noted that Western countries should "be concerned that there is no escalation that could lead to a war between Russia and NATO."

- Ukraine's top military commander, General Valery Zaluzhny, has been told to tone down his public persona after rumors of tensions between him and President Vladimir Zelenskyy, the Financial Times reported on Friday, citing people familiar with the matter. The report stated that the chatter about a possible conflict has "swirled in recent months." "Both insist this is Russian disinformation intended to stoke tension within Kiev's leadership. But people familiar with the situation said Zaluzhny had been asked to ease off on building his public profile," the newspaper said. - British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak made an unannounced visit to the Kyiv, Ukraine where he met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Sunak reaffirmed the U.K.'s continued support for Ukraine, which has received nearly \$3 billion in military aid from Britain. *AGENCIES*

Malaysia's veteran politician Mahathir defeated at polls



Kuala Lumpur: Mahathir Mohamad, the 97-year-old elder statesman of Malaysian politics, lost his parliamentary seat in Saturday's polls, likely ending the career of one of Asia's most enduring politicians. Mahathir came in fourth in a five-way fight in his long-held constituency in the holiday resort island of Langkawi, the country's election commission said. It was his first electoral defeat in more than half a century. Mahathir held the Guinness World Record for being the "world's oldest current prime minister" when he became premier for a second time in 2018 just two months shy

of his 93rd birthday. Visibly slowed by age but still looking healthy, he ran this time around under his own Homeland Fighters' Party and had laughed off suggestions he should retire, telling reporters before the election he had a "good chance" of winning. "I'm still standing around and talking to you, I think, making reasonable answers," Mahathir said.

He added his party would not form any alliances with parties that are led by "crooks or jailbirds" -- an apparent reference to the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), the party of jailed former prime minister Najib Razak. *APP*

US to help Thailand develop small nuclear reactors

BANGKOK: The United States will help Thailand develop nuclear power through a new class of small reactors, part of a programme aimed at fighting climate change, Vice President Kamala Harris announced on a visit Saturday. The White House said the assistance was part of its Net Zero World Initiative, a project launched at last year's Glasgow climate summit in which the United States partners with the private sector and philanthropists to promote clean energy. Thailand does not have nuclear power, with the public mood on the issue souring after the 2011 Fukushima disaster in Japan. The White House said it would offer technical assistance to the Southeast Asian country to deploy the developing technology of small modular reactors, which are factory-built and portable. Such reactors are generally considered safer as they do not need human intervention to shut down in emergencies. A White House statement said that US experts would work with Thailand on deploying the



reactors, which will have the "highest standards of safety, security and nonproliferation" and boast a smaller land footprint than traditional nuclear plants. US rivals China and Russia, as well as Argentina, are also developing small modular reactors, the prototypes of which are in the design phase. The White House did not give a timeline but said it would support Thailand, which is highly vulnerable to climate change, in its goal of going carbon neutral by 2065. Harris is visiting the US ally for an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit and discussed climate efforts in a meeting with Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha. *APP*

N Korea warns of 'all-out' nuclear response to US 'aggression'

PYONGYANG: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has promised to use nuclear weapons to counter threats from the United States hours after test-firing an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICMB), the latest escalation as the UN Security Council prepares to convene an emergency session on Pyongyang's actions. The United Nations Security Council, at the behest of Japan, South Korea and the US will gather on Monday to discuss North Korea's latest missile launch. North Korea test-fired



what it said was a Hwasong-17 ICBM, which can travel up to 15,000 km

(9,320 miles), on Friday shortly after warning of "fiercer military responses" to Washington. KCNA said the Hwasong-17 launched on Friday was aimed at achieving "the most powerful and absolute nuclear deterrence" and described the missile as "the strongest strategic weapon in the world". North Korea has long defended its launch of ballistic missiles as a legitimate defence against what it calls a decades-old threat from US military forces and its allies in South Korea. *AGENCIES*

Iranian death threats against individuals in Canada being investigated: Canadian intelligence

Ottawa: The Canadian intelligence service said on Friday that it is investigating death threats from Iran against individuals inside Canada, according to the agency. "CSIS is actively investigating several threats to life emanating from the Islamic Republic of Iran based on credible intelligence," said Eric Balsam, spokesman for the Canadian Security Intelligence Service. "Ultimately, these hostile activities and foreign interference undermine the security of Canada and Canadians, as well as our democratic values and sovereignty." It is the first time the ser-

vice has confirmed that multiple investigations described as "lethal threats to Canadians and people located in Canada" were coming from Iran, CBC News reported. On Wednesday, Canada sanctioned Iran for the fifth time this year, targeting individuals responsible for human rights abuses and entities supporting the supply of drones to Russia for its war in Ukraine. The sanctioned company, Shahed Aviation, produces drones that have been used against civilians and infrastructure in Ukraine, said Canada's foreign ministry. The US also imposed

sanctions on the company on Tuesday. UK intelligence said this week that there had been at least ten threats by Iran to harm or kidnap British or UK-based individuals since the start of the year. In McCallum, director general of MI5, the UK's domestic security agency, said that Iran's "aggressive intelligence services" were projecting a threat to the UK. "The current wave of protests in Iran is asking fundamental questions of the totalitarian regime," McCallum said. "This could signal profound change, but the trajectory is uncertain." *AGENCIES*

Blue Diamond Affair: Saudi Thai diplomatic ties restored after three decades

Bangkok: Thailand's Prime Minister met with Saudi Crown Prince, Mohammed bin Salman, on Friday in Bangkok, signing agreements to expand diplomatic relations restored this year, more than three decades after Saudi Arabia downgraded ties over a jewelry theft. The two leaders presided over the signing of five agreements, pledging to increase trade and investment between the two countries, promote tourism and deepen cooperation in energy. Thailand is hoping that its improving relationship with Saudi Arabia could give it an economic boost. Prime Minister, Prayuth Chan-ocha held bilateral talks with the Crown Prince on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation



(APEC) summit in Bangkok. Saudi Arabia was invited as a guest of the APEC host country. The two countries restored full diplomatic ties in January when Prayuth visited the country at the invitation of the Crown Prince. Saudi Arabia downgraded diplomatic relations in 1989, following a row over the theft of around \$20 million

of jewels by a Thai janitor working in the palace of a Saudi Prince, in what became known as the "Blue Diamond Affair". A large number of the gems, including a rare blue diamond, were never recovered. The theft remains an unsolved mystery and was followed by the execution-style murder in Thailand of three Saudi diplomats. "The restoration of ties has mutual benefits for both countries," the Crown Prince said, adding that investment, infrastructure and public health were important areas. "Overcoming the Blue Diamond issue is a net positive for both countries," said Ben Kiatkwankul, partner at government affairs advisory, Maverick Consulting Group. *AGENCIES*

Twitter offices shut and employee access suspended

Twitter told its employees on Thursday that all office buildings will be temporarily closed and that badge access will be suspended, media reports say. According to an internal message seen by the BBC, workers were told the offices would reopen next Monday, although the company gave no reason for the closure. The message also asked workers to "continue to comply with company policy by refraining from discussing confidential company information on social media, with the press or elsewhere." Some suspect the move may be attributable to fears held by Elon Musk and his team that disgruntled employees may attempt to sabotage the company from within, according to Platformer managing editor Zoe Schiffer. The announcement comes amid growing tension in Twitter since Musk began making drastic changes to the company's operations, including laying off over 50% of the work-



force. Several hundred employees also resigned from Twitter after the billionaire allegedly told staff that they should prepare for "difficult times ahead," be ready to commit to longer working hours and be "extremely hardcore." According to the Washington Post, the memo added that those who refuse to sign up for these conditions would be terminated with three months of severance pay. Meanwhile, Musk tweeted that Twitter had hit "another all-time high" in traffic to the site. He dismissed concerns over the massive layoffs and resignations, stating that "the best people are staying." (APP)

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 KP Mahmood Khan calls for early election

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has said that the only way to steer the country out of political and economic crises is to immediately hold free and fair elections. The economy cannot prosper as long as the conglomerate of political goons stays in power and the miseries of ordinary citizens caused by inflation will further escalate. The only reason for placing corrupt politicians in power is to loot the national wealth and weaken the accountability mechanism. In a statement issued from the Chief Minister’s Secretariat here on Saturday, Mahmood Khan said that, under the leadership of PTI Chairman Imran Khan, the country will be freed from the clutches of imported rulers because they have brought the national economy to the brink of collapse. The imported government has damaged the national interest for their personal gains and benefits. The national assets are diminishing while the assets of this imported bunch are increasing with every passing day. Touching upon the ongoing Azadi



March, the Chief Minister said that the preparations for the real independence March are in full swing and when Imran Khan gives the call, people from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will leave to participate in the march without any delay. He stated that this is a battle for the true independence of the country and a bright future for the youth. The imported government is following the instructions of its foreign masters, the decisions of the country are being made by an irrelevant and fugitive person from London, which is totally unacceptable to the nation. The fate of the country will be decided by the public as they are the only stakeholders. Regarding the problems created by the

federal cabinet for the provincial government, the Chief Minister said that the imported government has adopted a biased attitude towards Khyber Pakhtunkhwa soon after coming into power. They are using various immoral tactics to sabotage the development initiatives in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and create economic hardships for the provincial government. In the first phase, the imported government excluded various development projects of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from the PSDP and is now involved in creating financial instability by withholding the due share of the province in the federal transfers and net hydel profit share. Currently, Rs 62 billion is outstanding with the federal government in lieu of NHP, he remarked. Funds allocated for the development of newly merged districts are not being released, which is not only fueling apprehensions of continued exploitation among tribal people but is tantamount to usurping the rights and resources of tribal people, he concluded. (PR)

Drug-free Peshawar campaign extended to Charsadda

PESHAWAR: The drug-free Peshawar campaign was extended to Charsadda on Saturday, for which a committee has been established under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner Relief and Hu-

man Rights Usman Jilani. According to a press release issued by Commissioner Peshawar Office, information in this regard has been sought from the private drug rehabilitation centres of Charsadda till November 21. A pri-

vate firm meeting the norms would be contracted to treat drug addicts in Charsadda whose families cannot afford medical treatment for them and in other districts of the province as well. *AGENCIES*

Training workshop on ‘crises reporting’ held

PESHAWAR: A three-day training workshop on ‘Crises Reporting’ started here on Saturday to enhance the capacity building of journalists during natural deserter reporting. The training was conducted by Tribal News Network (TNN) and renowned senior journalist Trainer Aurangzaib Khan who told the participants to carefully compile data before filing the story on any natural disaster. He said that a journalist can play an active role to aware people about precautionary mea-

sures and developing a liaison with humanitarian Partners in the future. He said that a journalist should work to make the federal, provincial departments, and humanitarian partners cognizant of the matter in order to minimize disaster risks, identify hazards, risks and resource mapping for minimizing disaster risks and ensuring a timely coordinated response. He said that during natural disasters people should be made aware to tackle and minimize the impact of natural calamities.

He further said that tools for data collection should be developed during filing of a news story including information regarding district and sector-specific hazards and vulnerability profile, hazard impact, damages, compensation paid, resource mapping, need assessment and coordination. He said that ongoing relief operations in the flood-affected districts and efforts to mitigate the suffering of victims should be highlighted. *AGENCIES*

34th KP Open Snooker Championship begins

PESHAWAR: The 34th KP Open Snooker Championship got underway here at Snooker Club on Main GT Road on Saturday wherein a total of 64 players are competing from all across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Director Finance in the Directorate General

Sports Amjad Aqbal was the chief guest on this occasion who formally inaugurated the Championship, which is the oldest one in the city. Associate Secretary Alam Khan, Muhammad Imad, Muhammad Farooq and other officials and champion players were present. In the Championship, the winners of 7 divisions and districts and merged districts are participating in the final round. The number of players in the final round is 64. The best four players will participate in the Championship to be held next month. In his address to the gathering, President KP Snooker and Billiard Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Zulfiqar Butt requested the DG Sports for restoration of the Snooker Academy in Peshawar Sports Complex. He said the Academy was closed down three-years earlier because of the construction work and despite completion of the construction work in Peshawar Sports Complex, the Academy was not restored. He said the academy is very important, a Sports Board’s coach should also be appointed for the Academy. Zulfiqar Butt said that the Academy had been contributing lot in promoting snooker in the country. He said that through the league, around 32

players would qualify for the final round. He said that the effort were to bring forward only the best players. Two players will be sent for the national competitions and after that they will have the World Championship for which the team will be selected from the national competitions, he added. Syed Aqil Shah and DG Sports Khalid Khan will be the chief guests who will distribute the prizes among the players at the final and prize distribution ceremony. He said that Muhammad Salman of Dera Ismail Khan, Saud Khan of Pir Payai and Owais of Mansehra were also performing well in these competitions. Saud Khan is also the champion of last year while Owais of Mansehra got the trophy in Abbottabad and is an U19 player, he told. He expressed the hope that the Academy would be restored soon. It is time to be determined and the best snooker players will be fully supported to participate in foreign competitions and they will be provided with other facilities including air tickets, he added. Later, chief guest Director Finance Amjad Iqbal, KP Sports Writers Association President Asim Shiraz and Shakeel-ur-Rahman were also awarded with souvenirs. *APP*

Trials of District Peshawar Games at UCs level from Sunday

PESHAWAR: District Sports Officer Peshawar Gul Rukh and Regional Sports Officer Zakirullah Saturday announced the schedule of sports trials in different constituencies at Union Council Level in three different Games Football, Volleyball and Cricket from November 20. The announcement of the trials schedule in all constituencies at the Union Council will continue till November 25, said Gul Rukh while talking to media men here. She said all arrangements in this connection have been made for the smooth conduct of the trials. The trials would continue from November 20-25. The first two trials will be held in Chaghazai Baba, Warsak Road and Peshawar Sports Complex for PK-66 and

PK-75 respectively on November 20, similarly three different trials would be held near Service Road, Motor Interchange for PK 68, Wazir Bagh Football Ground for PK-78 and Cricket Ground Hazar Khawani for PK-79 on November 21. On November 22, three different trials were held near Zangali, Jani Khawar, Masho Gagar for PK 71, Wali Abad Ground for PK-72, Tehmas Khan Football Stadium for PK-77. Gul Rukh said on November 23, the trials would be held at Badaber Khawar for PK-70, Hayatabad Sports Complex for PK-76, Tehmas Khan Football Stadium for PK-76 while the trials would be held for PK-67, PK-69, and PK-74 would be held on November 25 at Peshawar Sports Complex.. *APP*

Muqam condemns police baton charge against health technicians

PESHAWAR: Adviser to the Prime Minister and provincial President Pakistan Muslim League-N, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Engr Amir Muqam here Saturday strongly condemned the police baton charge and torture under the patronage of the provincial government against health technicians, who were peacefully protesting for their rights. In a statement here, the PML-N leader said that provincial government has all the financial resources for running of the helicopter like rickshaw and billions of rupees for spreading lies through social media but it has no funds in exchequer for salaries of its employees. He demanded immediate release of all the detained and arrested health technicians and restoration of services of over 1,000 health technicians besides

quick release of their year long stopped salaries. Muqam alleged that PTI Government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa after destroying the economy has started harassment of employees upon protesting for their genuine demands, adding statements of the PTI leaders and practical work were two separate things. He claimed that the province’s exchquer was empty and the provincial government was facing great problems to pay salaries to its employees despite taking heavy loans that showed its incompetence Muqam demanded KP Government to immediately stop torture and harassment of its employees. He said the torture against employees was an attempt of the PTI Government to hide its corruption and incompetence. *APP*

Rehabilitation, reopening of educational institutions directed

KOHAT: Commissioner Kohat Mehmood Aslam Wazir on Saturday directed for reopening of Girls College Dara Adamkhel and other schools in the division. He, while chairing a meeting, also directed the opening and rehabilitation of non-functional health facilities, and sought a complete report of the progress within one week. The meeting

also discussed the improvement of Kohat tunnel, the promotion of the agriculture sector and other development schemes. The meeting also stressed concerned authorities to develop a liaison for the purpose. Deputy Commissioner Kohat, District Police Officer and officers of concerned departments were present on the occasion. *APP*

105 policemen martyred in 151 militants’ attacks since January in KP,says report

PESHAWAR: As many as 105 police personnel were martyred in 151 militants’ attacks this year in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Inspector General of Police Moazzam Jah Ansari said that a total of 105 police personnel embraced martyrdom in 151 militants’ attacks since January 2022 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to a report issued by the office of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Inspector General of Police, here on Saturday, a total of 109 police jawans sustained injuries during

these attacks. It said the weapons were used against KP Police, which was left behind by US-led forces in Afghanistan. It said “these weapons were operated by those terrorists, who were released after the change of power in Afghanistan”. The report stated that 16 policemen were martyred in April and 19 injured in September. Police registered 151 cases in the first eleven months of this year. The easiest target of militants was police mobile vehicles, the report added. *AGENCIES*

AC seals 6 CNG stations for violating load shedding schedule

ABBOTTABAD: Assistant Commissioner Abbottabad Saqlain Saleem on Saturday sealed six Compress Natural Gas (CNG) filling stations those were filling vehicles during the gas load management time and warned others. According to sources, owing to low gas pressure Sui Northern Gas Pipe Lines Limited (SNGPL), Hazara region issued a load shedding schedule from 6am to 9am and 4pm to 9pm for CNG stations. Many CNG stations at Karakoram Highway (KKH), Mansehra Road, City areas and Chinar road were violating the schedule and were found filling the vehicles during the load shedding time. AC

Abbottabad sealed six of the CNG stations and warned others. At the occasion, Saqlain Saleem said that they would not spare the violator of the load-shedding schedule and would bound them to follow the rules and regulations. Earlier on, the AC also inspected various markets of the city and checked the prices of essential and food items, on the occasion, Saqlain Saleem sealed five shops at the main Bazar, Gurdwara Gali, Tanchi Chowk, Kutchery Chowk and other markets and imposed heavy fines on many shopkeepers for violating the price list issued by the district administration. *APP*

Pakistan to provide 4500 scholarships to Afghan students next year

PESHAWAR: The Government of Pakistan would provide more 4500 scholarships to the students of Afghanistan next year and already around 6000 Afghan students getting education from the top universities of Pakistan in different fields including medical, engineering and social sciences. This was stated by Ambassador (R) Muhammad Sadiq Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) and Special Representative for Afghanistan Affairs here on Saturday in the meeting of Afghanistan Inter-ministerial Coordination Cell (AICC). A high level delegation led by Health Minister of Afghanistan Dr Ibad met with Pakistani officials and discussed the Pak- Afghan relationship and Pakistan’s assistance for Afghan citizen in the sector of education and health. He said that Pakistan being provide Rs 1 billion financial assistance to Afghanistan in the health sector and up-grading three major hospitals in Afghanistan with addition next six department including Hemodialysis, urology, endoscopy, operation rooms, critical care centers and radiology.

The government of Pakistan would provide the salaries to the three hospital staff and up-gradation of these hospitals would be included in this financial package including Jinnah Hospital in Kabul, Naib Amin Hospital in Logar and Nishter Hospital in Jalalabad. Afghan health minister Dr Ibad hailed and thanked to the government of Pakistan efforts and support in this hardship time. He said that Pakistan have its vital role for the peace and development in Afghanistan. Dr Ibad said that Afghanistan is best place for Pakistanis investors and all unnecessary hardships would be removed very soon for smooth bilateral relationships in the education and health sectors. The meeting was attended by the Ambassador of Afghanistan in Pakistan Muhammad Shokaib, Senior officials from health ministry of Afghanistan and Dr Shaoib Shafee, President CPSP AICC, DG Health NESPAK, Dr Iqbal VC Shifa University, Dr Zia VC Khyber Medical University and MD NESPAK were attended the meeting. *AGENCIES*



Introductory talks on books held

LAHORE: Punjab University Library Book Club organized an introductory book talk programme and two books of the month were ‘Psychopolitics’ by Byung-Chul Han and an Oriental classic in Urdu Language ‘Kalila-wa-Dimna’. According to a PU spokesman here Saturday, Prof Dr Nasir Abbas Nayyer from Institute of Urdu Language and Literature talked on ‘Kalila-wa-Dimna’. He as

a literary critic presented historical and literary analysis of the oriental classic. He informed the audience about the literary and contextual importance of the book along with narrating extracts from the book for students interest. Department of Philosophy Assistant Professor Dr Muhammad Rasheed Arshad introduced the book “Psychopolitics”. He in a philosophical yet simple and in-

teresting manner presented the ideas discussed in the book. He explained the triviality of modern narratives of human freedom in both personal and social contexts. Chief Librarian Dr Muhammad Haroon Usmani thanked the speakers and audience for their lively contribution to the programme. A larger number of students and faculty member were also present. *APP*

CM expresses sorrow over death of Tariq Teddy

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi expressed a deep sense of sorrow and grief over the death of an eminent comedian, Tariq Teddy, and announced Rs 3,000,000 financial assistance for his family. In his condolence message on

Saturday, the CM vowed not to leave alone the family of Tariq Teddy in the hour of distress. The chief minister acknowledged that Tariq Teddy by amusing millions of people as a comedian performed par excellence services of art.*Agencies*

Seerat-un-Nabi (PBUH) conference held at Hailey College

LAHORE :Punjab University Hailey College of Banking and Finance (HCBF) organized Seerat-un-Nabi (PBUH) conference here on Saturday. Former chief justice Lahore High Court Justice (retd) Anwar-ul-Haq, former PU VC Prof Dr Muhammad Saleem Mazhar, Dr Ahmad Ali Badat from Jamia Asharfia, Dr Farah Naz Naqvi, Principal HCBF Prof Dr Mubbassher Munawar Khan, faculty members, employees and students attended the conference. The speakers emphasized the adoption of high moral values in lives as instructed by

the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH). They advised the students to learn to sacrifice for the deprived segments of society. Justice (retd) Anwar ul Haq expressed his concern over the weakening of family structure and stressed the need for the habit of forgiveness to strengthen family bonds and commitments. He said that social and cultural values flourish when society learned to forgive and forget. Dr Mubbsher Munawar Khan illuminated the audience with the teachings of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH). *Agencies*

Assets beyond means: court grants interim bail to Usman Buzdar

LAHORE: An accountability court on Saturday granted pre-arrest interim bail to former chief minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar till November 30 in assets beyond means inquiry launched by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB). The court ordered Usman Buzdar to submit surety bonds of Rs 500,000 for availing the relief of bail. Accountability Court Judge Sheikh Sajjad Ahmad heard the bail application filed by the former chief minister. Buzdar’s counsel argued before the court that the NAB had

launched investigations against his client in connection with assets beyond means. He submitted that it was feared that the bureau might arrest his client. He pleaded with the court to grant benefit of bail to his client. At this, the court granted interim bail to Usman Buzdar till November 30 and sought a report from the NAB investigation officer till the next date of hearing. It is pertinent to mention here that Usman Buzdar had also obtained pre-arrest interim bail till Nov 22 in illegal liquor licence case. *APP*

Qibla Ayaz expresses grief over demise of Mufti Muhammad Rafi Usmani

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Islamic Ideological Council Dr Qibla Ayaz on Saturday expressed grief and sorrow over the demise of the religious scholar and former member of the Islamic Ideological Council Mufti Muhammad Rafi Usmani. In the condolence message issued by his office termed Mufti Muhammad Rafi Usmani’s demise as a big loss for the country and said that today the country lost a great religious scholar and jurist. Mufti Muhammad

Rafi Usmani was a great thinker, leader, and a strong voice of Muslim Ummah whose social and educational services would always be remembered, he added. He said his institution Jamia Darul Uloom Karachi had a special identity in the country and abroad as he always taught his students and associates to keep themselves away from sectarianism. He prayed that may his soul rest in eternal peace and that his family has the strength to bear this loss. *APP*

10 injured in gas cylinder explosion

HYDERABAD: Atleast ten persons including children got injured due to explosion of a gas cylinder in a house in Shahi Bazaar area here on Saturday. According to police,

the reason of the explosion was not known so far but 10 persons had suffered mild to serious injuries. All the injured were shifted to the emergency ward of the LUH. *APP*

Traffic accidents reduced in Islamabad due to enforcement on traffic rules

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital police on Saturday said that fatal and non-fatal road accidents have declined in Islamabad during the current year due to awareness campaigns and enforcement on traffic rules. In a statement, police said that Islamabad Capital police is taking indiscriminate action on violations of traffic rules and making all possible efforts to ensure a coordinated traffic system in the city. Following the special directions of Inspector General of Police Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the spokesperson said that the

capital police was trying to provide convenient travel facilities to the road users in the federal capital. Under the supervision of Chief Traffic Officer Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer, he said that all possible measures are being taken to prevent accidents by acting indiscriminately against the violators of traffic rules. During the ongoing year, he said that 6,916 calls related to accident were received at Safe City and Pucar 15. A total of 68 fatal and 88 non-fatal accidents occurred, which is a significant decrease as compared to the year 2021. *APP*

SCBAP condemns murder of Razaullah Khan Advocate

ISLAMABAD: Abid S. Zuberi President and the 25th Executive Committee of Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan (SCBAP) on Saturday strongly condemned the brutal murder of Razaullah Khan Advocate, Member Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council. They prayed Allah Almighty to grant the departed soul highest rank in Jannat and give patience to his family to bear this irreparable

loss. The president called upon the law enforcement agencies and the provincial government to immediately apprehend the culprits who are involved in such heinous crime and should be brought to immediate justice and they be given exemplary punishment. He also called upon all the provincial governments /I.C.T to immediately enact the Lawyers Protection Act. (APP)

75 WASA connections of defaulters disconnected

MULTAN: Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) has disconnected connections of 75 defaulters during a special crackdown across the city on Saturday. In line with special directives of the Managing Director WASA Zahoor Ahmed Dogar, the Director Recovery WASA Mansoor Ahmed, the recovery staff under the supervision of Deputy Director Recovery Muhammad Arshad and special disconnection teams launched a crackdown against defaulters of domestic and commercial connections. The recovery teams disconnected the connections of 75 defaulters during the operation. The WASA administration has warned defaulters to pay their pending dues at the earliest otherwise their connections would be disconnected and they would also face legal action against them. However, the Director of Recovery WASA Mansoor Ahmed has directed recovery teams to continue the crackdown without any discrimination. *Agencies*

New vegetable & fruit market to be developed

SIALKOT: Deputy Commissioner Abdullah Khurram Niaz said on Saturday that new vegetable and fruit market in Sialkot was being developed with Rs 107.94 million. Addressing a luncheon here, he said construction of auction yard for various vegetables including potato, onion and tomato, boundary walls of the market, entrance and exit gates, toilets block, market committee office, security room and sewage drain as well as installation of streetlights and closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras were including in the development plan. The feast was arranged by Market Committee Chairman Chaudhry Zia for traders and farmers doing business in the new market. Members of Provincial Assembly (MPAs) Chaudhry Muhammad Akhlaq, Chaudhry Ahsan Saleem Baryar, Secretary Market Committee Malik Abdullah and members of the market committee were also present. The market committee chairman told the participants that tractors and front-end buckets had been purchased with Rs 42 lakh to improve cleanliness conditions at the market. *APP*

Lahore police arrested culprits involved in Rs 15 m theft

ISLAMABAD: Lahore police arrested the accused involved in Ravi Road fruit-market theft incident worth Rs 15 million rupees, police reported on Saturday. According to media reports, the theft incident took place in Shahzad’s shop last day, Iftikhar, the plaintiff’s brother-in-law, and Wilayat Ali and Nadeem, former employees of the shop, involved in the theft, were arrested. According to the police, the thieves broke the locks of the shop with the help of gas cylinder cutters and escaped after stealing cash. SP City Investigation Usman Tipu said that the accused have confessed the crime and the stolen money was recovered from their possession. *APP*

Cops with body cameras to be deployed in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have issued a security alert for the city’s entry and exit points and decided to deploy cops with body cameras there. Police said that officers equipped with body cameras would be stationed at the entry and exit points. The recording of body cameras can identify the elements involved in illegal activities. Body cameras will be used for the first time in Islamabad during the public order situation. *APP*

Children our most precious assets: Bilawal

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said, “Children are our most precious assets and it’s the core responsibility of the government and the society to provide the required facilities to them for maximum utilization of their potential for the greater good of future generations.” In his message on the Universal Children’s Day being observed under the United Nations on Sunday,

the PPP chairman said that education, health and clean and peaceful environment were the key requirements for their healthy grooming. “Today’s children are tomorrow’s leaders. Their minds need to be nurtured with tolerance and harmony. Every positive step taken in their interest will ultimately be a part of our generation’s message of love and affection to our children’s children,” he added. *APP*

UNDP, Islamic Relief sign MoU to support flood-affected communities in Sindh

ISLAMABAD: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Islamic Relief has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to support the flood-affected communities in Sindh. The partnership will create income opportunities for households affected by the floods and support the construction of community infrastructures, said a press release issued here. The devastating floods in Pakistan have affected 33 million people. Recently launched Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) highlighted that millions have become homeless, livelihoods are heavily impacted, and critical infrastructure has been wiped out. Estimates of total damages and losses are around \$30 billion. Floods

have particularly impacted the poorest and most vulnerable districts. The Poverty rates for many flood-affected districts in Sindh and Balochistan, two of the most impacted provinces, were even higher. Before the floods, households in calamity-hit communities showed an average poverty rate of more than 31 percent, well above the national average of 21.9 percent. In response, UNDP and Islamic Relief will help communities with cash for work opportunities. An initial target of 10,000 cash-for-work hours will be set, with an increased focus on the inclusion of women. Simultaneously, rehabilitation schemes will also be identified in the selected districts that can be started immediately. *APP*

WHO Country Head calls on Balochistan CM

QUETTA,: Country Head of World Health Organization in Pakistan Dr Palitha Gunarathna Mahipala called on Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo here on Saturday. Chief Secretary Abdul Aziz Uqaili and Health Secretary Hafiz Tahir were also present on the occasion. Dr Palitha said that the WHO acknowledged the services of the Balochistan government for providing assistance and health facilities to the flood victims in the affected areas of the province, adding that the efforts were commendable. He said that the chief minister played an active role in the flood-affected areas and provided immediate relief to the victims. The WHO would continue to provide full support to

control epidemics in flood-affected areas and meet the health and nutritional needs of mothers and children, he said. In the meeting, they agreed to increase the cooperation of the World Health Organization in the provision of health facilities in Balochistan. Dr Palitha also assured of extending co-operation to control polio-measles and other childhood diseases under EPI on behalf of the WHO. He said that more vaccination centres would be set up, CT Scan Ambulance and Motorcycles for Health Workers would be provided to the Health Department. Bizenjo thanked the WHO for providing valuable support. He also praised for the services of the WHO Country Head for Balochistan. *APP*

High salt intake increase stress levels, finds study

ISLAMABAD: A diet containing lots of salt can contribute to increased levels of stress, a new study has revealed. According to the study published in Cardiovascular Research, scientists found in studies of mice that a high-salt diet increased the levels of a stress hormone by 75 per cent. “We are what we eat and understanding how high-salt food changes our mental health is an important step to improving well-being,” said Matthew Bailey, Professor of Renal Physiology at the University of Edinburgh’s Centre for Cardiovascular Science. “We know that eating too much salt damages

our heart, blood vessels, and kidneys. This study now tells us that high salt in our food also changes the way our brain handles stress,” he added. The recommended daily salt intake for adults is less than six grams, but most people eat about nine grams, Medical Daily reported. This can lead to higher blood pressure, which increases the risks of heart attacks, strokes, and vascular dementia. Despite the well-established effects on the heart and circulatory system, little was known about how a high-salt diet affects a person’s behaviour, the study added. *Agencies*

RTA, Traffic Police inspect passenger vehicles, return extra fares to passenger

D.I.KHAN: The teams of Regional Transport Authority (RTA) and Traffic Police on Saturday conducted a joint inspection of passenger vehicles on the Ramak, Paroa and Bhakar roads. The inspection teams checked the route permits and fitness of the vehicles following the directions of Commissioner Dera Ismail Khan Division Amir Afaq, who is also the RTA chairman. During the inspection, the fine was imposed on

various vehicles which found overloaded and overcharging the passengers. The extra fares were collected from the transporters and returned to the passengers. The extra seats installed in the vehicles were also removed. Moreover, the commissioner instructed the RTA Secretary that the inspection of passenger vehicles on the roads should be enhanced to facilitate the common people. *APP*

English Department of Turbat University arranges farewell program

QUETTA: A colorful and enthralling farewell program was organized on Saturday by the Department of English, University of Turbat (UoT) in the honor of its second outgoing batch of BS in English. The presence of an overwhelming number of students and faculty members multiplied the beauty of the event. The hall was festooned with decorative graffiti. Besides, the farewell bash rocked the day for all the party attendees. The talented students of the English Department entertained the audience with melodious songs, inspirational speeches and comic plays. Furthermore, the students also per-

formed traditional Balochi Dochapi with unmatched skills. The dexterous performance of a variety of segments deeply amused the audience and the performers received enthusiastic applause from the audience. At the end of the event, Amjed Habib Chairman, Department of English, in his closing remarks advised the students to make laborious and relentless efforts in order to achieve their targets. Dr. Shah Mir Baloch, Assistant Professor delivered a highly motivational speech on the occasion. He stressed the significance and role of critical thinking in human life. *APP*

November 26 marks ‘the end’ of Imran’s “gimmickry”: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Saturday said Imran Khan’s “Tamasha” (politicalgimmickry) would come to an end on November 26. Marriyum, in a news statement, said the end of Imran Khan’s so-called ‘Haqeeqi Azadi March’ would not be different from his long march of 2014. “Imran Khan! It is over for you,” she said while indicating “the end” of Imran Khan’s politics. She said instead of urging his workers to reach Rawalpindi on November 26, Imran Khan should better have announced the date for filing cases in the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom over Toshakhana scandal. Instead of arriving in Islamabad or Rawalpindi, Imran Khan should book his flight either to



the UAE or UK, she added. Marriyum said November 26 would too pass and Imran Khan would not have any support “from any quarter”. She regretted that the “fake march” of “Haqeeqi Azadi” had claimed innocent lives, including journalists, and rendered children parentless. The minister lashed out at Imran Khan for allegedly playing with national interests and inflicting severe damage to foreign policy. *APP*

Sharjeel Inam inaugurated people bus service in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD: The Sindh Information and Transport Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon inaugurated here on Saturday the Peoples Bus Service saying that the service was provided for the citizens of Hyderabad by the leadership of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP). Talking to the media after inaugurating the bus service at Haider Chowk, the minister informed that the service would charge a nominal fare of between Rs20 to Rs50 from the passengers. “The people of Hyderabad can travel in the bus for free during the first three days after inauguration,” he announced. He urged the people to consider those buses as their own property and to protect those vehicles as they protect their own vehicles because the government had offered that transport facility to the

public from their own taxes. The minister said the service was a gift for the people of Hyderabad from the leadership of the PPP and added that soon the Peoples Bus Service would also be launched in Sukkur, Mirpurkhas and other cities.Memon said under the Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB) the exercise of lifting garbage from Latifabad had already started and soon all the parts of the district would be covered by the board. “The Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah has allocated billions of rupees for development of Hyderabad,” he said. Talking about the rain and flood affected people, the minister apprised that the provincial government would construct houses for millions of the affected people. *APP*

Annual international cultural gala held at Pakistan Embassy College Beijing

BEIJING: Around 27 countries set up their national stalls to exhibit their cultural handicrafts, products at the annual International Culture Day of the Pakistan Embassy College (PECB) held here on Saturday. This year’s event was dedicated to the celebrations of the 75-year of independence of Pakistan. A part of the proceeds collected during the event would also be donated to the flood victims of Pakistan. Ambassadors and senior diplomats, officials, media representatives, and students along with their families participated in this cultural gala. China, Iran, Egypt, Sudan, Bulgaria, Cuba, Bangladesh, Nepal, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and several other countries showcased their cultural handicrafts,

products, and traditional cuisine. Pakistan’s Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque visited stalls and exhibitions set up by students and their parents and appreciated them for representing handicrafts, foods, and culture of their respective countries. There were fun areas and a gaming zone for children. Cultural performances of various countries were also presented which were greatly enjoyed by the guests. In his address at the event, Ambassador Moin ul Haque appreciated the school management and the students for the successful organization of the event which had become PECB’s signature and popular event for the diplomatic and international community in China. *APP*

PACE Junior CEO Challenge 2022

Promoting inclusion, equality, enhancing creativity and problem-solving skills amidst the students PACE College of Advanced Studies organized Pakistan’s first Junior CEO Challenge an Inter School business idea generation competition in collaboration with Rotary Club of Educational Development and All Private School Management Association. More than 1500 Students from 100+ renowned schools of Karachi participated in this competition where top 16 qualifiers contested for Grand Finale of Junior CEO Challenge on 12th November 2022 at the Arts Council Karachi (venue Partner), celebrating Global Entrepreneurship Week. Mr. Adeel Durvesh Co-Founder PACE College of Advanced Studies focused on the need of building entrepreneurial mindsets amongst youth of Pakistan as the response for the second edition was overwhelming. Mr.Ejaz Khan Co-Founder PACE was overwhelmed to see the excitement amongst budding entrepreneurs specially girls sharing brilliant ideas. Project Lead Ms. Huma Jabeen said that we have created an opportunity for our youth to think out of the box and the Junior CEO Challenge is flourished as a brand in the entrepreneurship eco-system of Pakistan. Mr.Tariq Shah Chairman Rotary Club of Educational Development and APSMA shared that the innovative concept behind the challenge is so inviting and aligned with the ideology of Rotary & APSMA that made them the collaborating partners of this paradigm shift. Mr.Tariq Sultan CEO House of Habib, Dr. Shehzad

Jeeva CEO Aga Khan University Examination Board, Dr. Farha Essa, Ms. Sabina Khatri, Mr. Tauseef Lateef Mr. Hassan Daudpota , Ms. Rafia Mallah, Mr. Khusnood Aftab, Mr Asif Ismail, Mr.Shoaib Ibrahim, Mr. Haroon Qasim, Mr. Rizwan Jaffer, Dr. Hussain Habib and Mr.Taimur Beiram were amongst the keynote speakers and panelists who encouraged the top qualifiers to win the title of Junior CEO Challenge 2022. Speaking of the occasion Dr.Hussain Habib Director Salim Habib University said “This is a great initiative for students to unlock their true potential and develop their creative thinking. Our youth can only excel through an entrepreneurial mindset and by providing such platforms we can empower them and equip them for success in future”. PACE Advisors Mr. Azfar Hussain NIC Hyd, Ms. Shahbaz Aslam, Mr.Kapil Kumar, Mr. Sikandar Bazenjo, Mr.Prem Sagar and Mr. Asfayndyar also graced the occasion. The corporate hosts of the program were Ms. Zohra Umar and Ms. Huma Jabeen. Salim Habib University, Snapit/ RMPS, Pakola, J.fragnance, Lucky Cement, Dr. Essa Laboratories, Keys Productions, Premier Cables, Viper Technologies, Vouch 365, Igloo, Youngs food, Vital tea, Meezan Bank, Street food, NBP funds, PAK-Qatar Takaful, Almeezan investments, Runway Pakistan, FM88.6, Billboard, Memon News, KVTC, Tech Talks, IL-EAD, Mentoring Hub, EOP, AKUEB, NIC Hyderabad, SOUL Brothers, GEN were among the esteemed corporate partners for this grand event. *PR*

PR to hire highly qualified experts for ML-1 project

LAHORE: The Pakistan Railways will hire highly qualified experts from the private sector for the administrative matters of the Main Line 1 (ML-1) project. It was decided in a meeting presided over by Railways Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique held at the PR Headquarters here on Saturday. The participants of the meeting reviewed the optical fiber policy while the minister directed the technical committee to present its recommendations as soon as possible.



It was also directed by the minister to ensure decanting for safe transportation of petroleum products. The

minister directed to operate oil trains with full capacity to increase income of the railways and ordered to discuss with the administration of the Pakistan State Oil (PSO) for the reduction of running time of the oil trains. The PR administration was also directed to expedite work on train branding and provision of entertainment facilities in trains. The meeting also reviewed different suggestions about the Greenline train. *APP*

COAS’s appointment, a prerogative of PM: FM

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Saturday said that under relevant procedure and laws, the appointment of the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) was a prerogative of the incumbent prime minister whereas Imran Khan was trying to make the whole process controversial, which would not be allowed. Addressing a news conference here, the foreign minister said that Pakistan Tehreek-I-Insaf chief wanted to link his politics with the appointment process of the new army chief. Imran Khan thought about himself only and did not care for the entire country suffering from the consequences of his petty politics, Bilawal regretted. “Why did you choose Rawalpindi? Khan sahib let this decision (appointment of COAS) happen,” he said and suggested to PTI’s chief to postpone his long march for the time being. The foreign minister said the previous PTI’s gov-

ernment had damaged country’s foreign policy, economy and democratic set up and now Imran Khan only wanted to create political instability which would be strongly resisted. He said that during International Monetary Fund agreement, Imran Khan had attacked Islamabad, which was foiled. Now all the democratic forces in the country were united and the PTI chief would not be allowed playing such like past tactics, he added. The country and its people could no longer bear any crises, he maintained. The foreign minister said peaceful demonstration was a democratic right, but no unconstitutional or undemocratic tactics could be allowed and reiterated that Pakistan Peoples Party would play its democratic role as it had manifested in the past by resisting all the undemocratic moves. “Khan sahib wants to stop institutions playing their democratic role. He wants to make undemocratic moves, but we will not

allow him,” he added. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that the parliamentary parties had played a very democratic role to oust the government of Imran Khan through a vote of no confidence. The foreign minister said that Imran Khan had always carried out his politics on the shoulders of undemocratic forces. He said the future of a politician like Imran Khan was linked with making institutions controversial. If Imran Khan wanted real freedom, then why did he wait for this week for his political objectives? the foreign minister questioned. Bilawal said the appointment of the new army chief was an administrative decision and its completion would end the politics of Imran Khan.Bilawal said the entire world was facing economic disaster due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Imran Khan’s decisions had damaged Pakistan’s ties with the countries in the Middle East, Europe and the US, he added. *Agencies*

Encroachment near parks, green belts to be removed, says Chairman PHA

MULTAN: Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Chairman Ejaz Hussain Janjua said the encroachment along with parks and green belts would not go unnoticed at any cost and there would be zero tolerance policy against it. In a meeting of the officers of the PHA here on Saturday, the PHA chairman said encroachment not only affected the beauty of the city but also damaged the saplings which were planted at the green belts. He said that a special crackdown would be launched against the encroachment without any discrimination. He urged the masses to cooperate with the PHA administration to maintain cleanliness at parks and green belts of the city. Janjua directed the officers concerned to improve the security arrangements at the parks in order to provide a sense of security to the families. He said that special teams have been formed to prevent illegal constructions and encroachments around the parks and green belts, adding that different other initiatives were being taken to improve the beauty of the city. *APP*

Colorful puppet show entertains children,youth

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) here on Saturday organized a colorful puppet show here Saturday to entertain the children and students from various educational institutions of twin cities. The National Puppet Theater showcased the skills of its puppeteers featuring vibrant costumed puppets and presented Folk Tales, Skits, regional dances and national songs to provide infotainment for young minds to engage them in healthy activities. The show highlighted various issues like health, education and environment etc through stories with lessons. Children along with parents attended the show. The show is a regular feature of PNCA and National Heritage and Culture Division that promotes culture and traditions among the children with understanding of their folk legacies which is an important part of their training. Preservation and promotion of cultural heritage and traditional values maintain the identity of a nation and boosts the confidence of the young generation, said Director General, PNCA, Ayub Jamali. *APP*

Man dies in road accident

QUETTA: A man died in a collision between a coach and a motorbike at Qambarani Road near Kachibaig area of Quetta on Saturday. According to police sources, the victim identified as 20-year-old Shajhan. *Agencies*

Girl along with man arrested for killing husband

QUETTA: Levies force arrested a girl along with a young man involved in the killing of her husband after three days in Baghbana area of Khuzdar on Saturday. Giving the details, Deputy Commissioner Khuzdar Muhammad Ilyas Kabzai said that on November 16, an eighteen-year-old boy named Muhammad Irfan was shot in the head and seriously injured in Sub Tehsil Baghbana when he was riding a motorcycle with his newly married wife to invite a close relative. On the way, the injured youth was shifted to Karachi for treatment where he succumbed to his injuries. The DC said that the father of the vic-

tim Irfan had registered a case on the suspicion of robbery in Levies Station. He said that after the incident, a team was formed under the leadership of Lives Line Officer Noor Ahmed Zahri, On the basis of suspicion from different angles, the wife of the deceased was included in the investigation. The DC said that she revealed during the investigation that her alleged paramour Saeed Ahmed who had provided her with a pistol for the purpose of the killing of her husband Muhammad Irfan, after which she shot her husband in the head and later, he succumbed to his injuries. *Agencies*

Discussion on early elections is off the table:Atta Tarar

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) Attaullah Tarar on Saturday said the unconstitutional demand of early elections was not being discussed at any level, and it’s off the table. Talking to a private news channel, SAPM said that there was a working relationship with the President, which was necessary for the functioning of the state, the rest of the backdoor talks were mere gossips. Referring new army chief appointment, he said the appointment was not a political matter, nor should it be a matter of politics. It will be purely on merit remaining in the bonds of Constitution and rules of business, he asserted. Criticizing Imran Khan’s statements regarding the appointment of new army chief, Atta Tarar said that Imran Khan tried to make an issue out of it; he tried his best to make this



appointment controversial, but failed. Referring to Imran ousted from office, he said, Khan was unable to digest the end of his power after abandoning his allies. Imran was disappointed when his political management has failed, he added. Talking about Nawaz Sharif’s return, he said Nawaz Sharif’s return was irrevocable; there were some legal essentials on which our legal team was working. He will be here soon and would lead the party’s next election campaign, he added. *APP*

CPO directs for ensuring quality food served to cops on duty

RAWALPINDI: City Police Officer (CPO), Syed Shahzad Nadeem Bukhari on Saturday took notice of the complaint regarding the poor quality of food being provided to the force. The CPO has sought a report from SP headquarters about the food served to the police force serving at different stations, the Rawalpindi Police spokesperson told APP. The focal persons of SP HQs, and

unit heads were checking the quality of food themselves on a daily basis on the direction of the CPO. The CPO had directed that the officers should check the quality of food themselves before delivering food. He said there would be no compromise on the quality of food provided to the force, adding negligence would not be tolerated at any cost. *APP*

Ceremony for awarding Umrah tickets

LAHORE: A ceremony for awarding Umrah tickets to successful participants in the 43rd Ulema Academy refresher course was held here on Saturday under the auspices of Alhajver Foundation. Addressing the ceremony, Punjab Religious Affairs Director General Dr Tahir Raza Bukhari said ulema were a sources of knowledge and guidance in Pakistani society. Sheikh Muhammad Saeed and Tariq Mahmood Javed also addressed the ceremony participants. Maulana Mohammad



Safdar Shakir, Hafiz Mohammad Amin Zia and Syed Mahmood Javed, who received the Umrah tickets, thanked the foundation. They said such encouragement creates more passion to move forward in human life. *Agences*

Saudi Arabia and Thailand sign landmark agreements on energy

BANGKOK: Saudi Arabia and Thailand on Friday signed landmark agreements on energy cooperation and renewable power during Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's visit to Bangkok. The crown prince is a special guest of the Thai government at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation leaders' meeting in the city. The main agreement on energy cooperation was signed at a meeting between Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman and Thai Energy Minister Supattana Pongpunmeeaow. "It will be a framework to seek energy cooperation that will be beneficial to Thailand and Saudi Arabia in different dimensions such as petrochemical cooperation, hydrogen fuel, carbon capture and storage, circular economy develop-



ment, and low carbon technology, promoting energy innovation, exchanging useful information and experience regarding energy," Pongpunmeeaow said. Representatives of ACWA Power, who are part of the Saudi delegation in Bangkok, also signed a deal on renewable power development with Thailand's state-owned oil and gas company PTT and the state-owned power supplier

Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand. The agreement to develop a green hydrogen/ammonia project in Thailand would "expand cooperation in the energy sector," Pongpunmeeaow said. "Its objective is to push forward and develop hydrogen fuel in Thailand." A third agreement was signed by the Saudi Ministry of Investment and the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand to promote energy transition, the Thai minister said. Thailand's energy policy focuses on reducing dependence on natural gas and fossil fuels to enhance energy security and reach its ambitious target of supplying 30 percent of power from renewable sources by 2037. Its current power generation mix comprises only 14.9 percent renewables. *Agencies*

Pakistani traders keen to buy tea, coffee from Ethiopia

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani traders have expressed keen interest in buying tea and coffee from Ethiopia at affordable rates. "There is a huge demand of tea and coffee in Pakistan, but connectivity, quality control mechanisms and institutional linkages between the two countries are the need of the hour," said the members of a joint delegation of the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and Pakistan Tea Association in a meeting with Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Jemal Beker Abdula. The ambassador said work on establishing connectivity and institutional linkages between the two countries for social, economic, and political cooperation was underway intensively. The quality control was rigorous in Ethiopia and rest assured that there would be no compromise on export quality of tea and coffee from Ethiopia. He said confidence-building measures would also be taken for Pakistani traders so

that the bilateral trade between the two countries could go to the next level. The envoy said Ethiopia has surplus tea and coffee which could be exported to Pakistan at affordable rates. "Currently, Ethiopian tea is coming from other channels, but we are working on different agreements in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce of Pakistan to enable Pakistan and Ethiopia to boost their trade in diverse areas", he remarked. He said his government was opening up Ethiopia by taking legal, institutional and economic reforms that ensure security, ease of doing business and support environment for FDI. "The Ethiopian Airlines will start its operations in Karachi by the beginning of next year," the ambassador announced in the meeting. He said he had already announced visit of an inclusive business delegation of Pakistan to Ethiopia so they could understand business dynamics there and establish business-to-business ties. *APP*

Oranges' prices may surge by 50 percent due to low production

ISLAMABAD: The prices of oranges may rise this winter as the production recorded very low (50 percent) due to acute canal water scarcity and unexpected higher temperatures during the flowering stage of plants, Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) said. PBF Vice President Ahmad Jawad said 'kinnow' (orange) exports will resume from 1st week of December and the rate at farm price will be Rs. 2,000 per mound, according to the notification of the district administration due to less quantity. In order to facilitate exporters, the State Bank of Pakistan should properly facilitate them precisely for Iranian and Russian markets to issue timely E-forms and make special arrangements for banking channels, he urged. Jawad lamented that the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) could not open formal banking channels

both for Iranian and Russian markets for the last couple of years due to which their potential could not be tapped. He said that the Iranian market can absorb between 60,000 to 80,000 tons of kinnow, while the size of the Russian-Ukrainian-Belarus market (the largest citrus importer in the world) for Pakistani citrus fruit may be doubled from the present around 50,000 tons within no time provided the government establishes proper banking links with the two markets. PBF official also said that with an average annual harvest of 2.4 million tons, citrus contributes about 30 percent to total national fruit production which is increasing at an annual rate of 1.5 percent for the last two decades or so. During this period its export has expanded rapidly by 17 percent per annum. *APP*

Pakistan never defaults on its international payments, will fulfill its commitments: Dar

ISLAMABAD: Minister of Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar Saturday ruled out any prospects of Pakistan being on verge of default over its international payments and reiterated that it would will never come close to it as it was committed to making all its payments on time without any delay. In a video message, he strongly rejected the baseless and irresponsible statements and rumors about the country's economy, saying that the government had arranged all international payments for the next one year. The Finance Minister said that for the past few days, baseless and irresponsible rumors had been circulating about the country's economy just for the political objectives. When these rumors were spread through social media and various sources, it not only affected Pakistan's economy and economic interests, but also impacted the affairs and transactions with their bilateral and multilateral partners, he opined. The Finance Minister said that rumors were being spread that Pakistan would not be able to pay \$1 billion sovereign bond (sukuk) in December. "This is baseless and contrary to facts, Pakistan has never defaulted on its international payments and will never come close to it," he maintained. Rumors are also being spread about Pakistan's credit default swap, he said, adding that they had their own ambitions and formula with regard to credit de-

fault swap, this was a baseless thing and the speculations in this regard should be stopped. The Finance Minister said that rumors were making rounds about the petroleum products which were also fake. Pakistan has reserves of petroleum products according to the country's need and demand and there is no need for worry, he added. Apart from disturbing the public, such rumors also created concern in the financial and international institutions and they sent questions, which not only harmed the efforts for economic interests but also wasted time, he further said. Ishaq Dar said that there were still rumors about the current account deficit. The current accounts are being closely monitored, professionally managed and well managed, he told and added that the current account deficit was \$316 million in September, which was expected to be \$400 million in October. "That is, by the end of the financial year, the current account deficit is likely to be 5 to 6 billion dollars, while the target of this deficit for the current financial year is 12 billion dollars. The current account deficit is expected to remain below target," he added. The Finance Minister said that in the light of these facts, he appealed to all Pakistanis not to pay heed to any kind of rumors, as they accorded top priority to Pakistan and for the country's economy, they needed to work beyond political affiliations. *AGENCIES*

GIK Institute, HBL inks MoU to work mutually for promotion of science, technology

SWABI: Ghulam Ishaq Khan (GIK) Institute of Engineering and Habib Bank Limited has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to work mutually work for the promotion of science and technology. The MoU was signed by Chief Executive Officer HBL Muhammad Aurangzeb and Rector GIK Institute Professor Dr. Fazal Ahmad Khalid, said a press release issued here on Saturday. The MoU is aimed to bridge a gap between the academy and industrial sectors and to increase the capacity of GIK students through the inclusion of educational programs relating to the banking system in the existing curriculum. Both the signatories also agreed to hold sessions on the utility of digital banking tools; digitization; basic information of banking; logistics; career counseling; and internship of students. *APP*

Gold rates increase by Rs 100 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karats per tola gold witnessed an increase of Rs100 on Saturday as it was being sold at Rs 158,100. The price of 10 grams also increased by Rs 85 and was sold at Rs 135,545. The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$10 and was traded at \$1751 against its sale at \$1761 the previous day, the association reported. *APP*

Gold rates increase by Rs 100 per tola

ISLAMABAD: Türkiye and Pakistan enjoy heart-to-heart relations and Türkiye is keen to boost bilateral trade with Pakistan at least up to US\$ 5 billion in the next 2-3 years as the current volume of trade is not reflective of the actual potential of both countries. This was said by Dr. Mehmet Pacaci, Ambassador of Türkiye while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI). Nurettin Demir, Commercial Counsellor of Türkiye was also present at the occasion, said a press release issued here. The envoy said that he was assigned by his government to increase Türkiye-Pakistan bilateral trade to US\$ 5 billion in 3 years as a first step and added that both countries have the potential to go beyond this target. He said that Türkiye wants to enhance cooperation with Pakistan in trade, industry, investment, education, health and other fields. He said that the entrepreneurs of both countries should know each other more and work hard to expand trade and economic relations while he assured that his Embassy would fully cooperate in such efforts. Nurettin Demir, Commercial Counsellor of Türkiye gave a detailed presentation at the occasion about investment opportunities in Türkiye. Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, ICCI said that despite enjoying exemplary cordial relations. Pak-Türkiye bilateral trade is just around US\$ 1.2 billion and stressed that both countries should promote strong business linkages between their private sectors to improve trade volume. *AGENCIES*

Exxon Makes First Oil Discovery In Angola In 20Years

Luanda: Over the past five years, the United States' largest independent oil and gas company, Exxon Mobil (NYSE: XOM), has mostly focused its exploratory activities in South America. Exxon's exploits in Africa have been few and far between, with its last discovery on the continent coming nearly two decades ago. But Exxon has now announced that it has, together with its partners, discovered hydrocarbons in Block 15 off Angola in the Bavuca South prospect. This

was the block's 18th discovery, but the first since 2003. According to Exxon, the Valaris DS-9 drillship drilled the Bavuca South-1 well 365 km northwest from the coast at Luanda in 1,100 m (3,608 ft) of water, encountering 30 m (98 ft) of good-quality, hydrocarbon-bearing sandstone. Exxon owns a 36% interest in the block, with BP Exploration Angola (24%), ENI Angola Exploration (18%), Equinor Angola Block 15 (12%) and Sonangol P&P (10%) being its partners. *Agencies*

Former US billionaire sentenced to 11 years in jail

SAN JOSE: Elizabeth Holmes, the founder of US startup Theranos, which offered fast and low-cost blood tests, was found guilty of fraud and sentenced to more than 11 years in prison on Friday. According to media reports citing court documents, a court in San Jose, California found Holmes guilty of three counts of fraud and one count of conspiracy after she allegedly deceived investors about the presumed efficacy of her company's blood-testing technology. Holmes was also ordered to pay a \$400 million fine. "This is a fraud case where an exciting venture went forward with great expectations only to be dashed by untruths, misrepresentations, plain hubris and lies," the judge said while handing down the sentence, as cited by Reuters. Holmes founded Theranos, which produced instant blood testing devices, in 2003. The technology became popular, and by 2015, Theranos' market capitalization soared to around \$9 billion. Holmes became the world's youngest female billionaire, with Forbes estimating her fortune at \$4.5 billion. Shortly after the startup's launch, however, patients began to complain about errors in Theranos devices, and by 2015, reports of fraudulent activity at the company



started to appear in the media, with whistleblowers accusing it of deceiving investors and customers about the capabilities of the technology. Following the scandal, Theranos was forced to shut down in 2018. Prosecutors initially asked for Holmes to be sentenced to 15 years in prison and fined \$800 million, reports indicate. Her lawyers asked for the sentence to be lowered to 18 months. She will likely start serving her sentence in April next year, as she is currently expecting a child. Holmes' lawyers are now expected to file an appeal and ask the judge to allow her to remain free on bail during the appeal time. Forbes now estimates the value of Holmes' assets at \$0. Theranos' former operating chief, Ramesh 'Sunny' Balwani, was also found guilty of criminal fraud charges earlier this year. *Agencies*

Inflation in Japan highest since 1982

TOKYO: Japan's consumer price growth accelerated to a 40-year high in October, driven by a weak national currency and imported cost pressures, government data showed on Friday. According to the report, the nationwide core consumer price index (CPI) was up by 3.6% from a year earlier, showing the fastest pace of growth since 1982. Last month's jump exceeded the 3.5% rise expected by economists and the 3% gain seen in September. The rise in the index, which excludes volatile fresh food prices but includes oil products, confirmed that inflation remained above the 2% goal of the Bank of Japan (BOJ) for a seventh consecutive month. The report indicated that foreign supply constraints have driven up the prices of imported food, industrial commodities and manufacturing parts. A fall in the national currency yen, which in dollar terms is down by more than 20% this year, has added to the woes. Of the 522 items composing the CPI, 406 were more expensive in



October than a year earlier. In September, the figure was 385. Energy costs in the country soared by 15.2%, while food – excluding perishables – was up by 5.9%, the fastest rise in four decades. Among food items, 88% were more costly than a year before, led by alcoholic drinks, such as beer and sake. Prices of household durable goods surged by 11.8%, their biggest rise since March 1975. On Thursday, the regulator pledged to maintain monetary stimulus to achieve wage growth and sustainable and stable inflation. It will keep long-term interest rates around zero and short-term rates at minus 0.1%. *Agencies*

China-South Asia Expo opens in China's Yunnan

ISLAMABAD: The 6th China-South Asia Exposition and the 26th China Kunming Import and Export Fair opened Saturday in Kunming, southwest China's Yunnan Province. During the four-day session, held online and offline, people from 80 countries, regions, and international organizations will participate and discuss the theme of "New Opportunities for New Development." A total of 13 pavilions on green energy, modern agriculture with plateau characteristics, biomedicine and health, advanced manufac-

turing, and tourism culture, etc, have been set up, China Daily reported. The expo has become a platform for economic and trade cooperation and people-to-people exchanges. More than 200 projects will likely be signed at this year's expo, with investments expected to exceed 400 billion yuan (56.2 billion U.S. dollars) Since the first expo took place in 2013, 89 countries, regions, and international organizations have participated, and 2,770 domestic and foreign projects have been inked, statistics show *APP*

Petroleum products (Excl top NAPHTA) exports witness 66.01 percent increase

ISLAMABAD: Petroleum products (Excl top NSPHTA) exports during the first four month of fiscal year of 2022-23 increased by 66.01 percent as compared to the exports of the commodity during the corresponding period of last year. During the period from July 22 to October 22, Petroleum products (Excl top NSPHTA) worth US\$ 10,050,000 were exported as compared to the exports of US \$ 6,054,000 during the same period of last year. According to the data released by the

Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, the exports of Petroleum groups and coal increased by 11.38 percent, worth US\$ 65,051,000 as compared to exports of US\$ 58,406,000 during the same period of last year. Meanwhile, Petroleum crude exports also increased by 5.06 percent as the exports recorded during current fiscal year were US\$ 55,001,000 as compared to the exports during the same period of last year which were US\$ 52,352,000. *APP*

World Cup warm-up defeat a wake-up call for Belgium

DOHA: Belgium’s defeat to Egypt in Friday’s World Cup warm-up international was a wake up call before the tournament, said coach Roberto Martinez. The Belgians, second in the Fifa rankings and semifinalists at the last World Cup, looked flat and out of form as they were beaten 2-1 in Kuwait City by a Mohamed Salah-inspired Egypt, who are not going to the World Cup. “Mentally we were not ready for this match. We were not good in possession, there was too little pace, no offensive balance, we rarely got to the



second ball,” Martinez said as Belgium headed for their base at Salwa Beach in Qatar to prepare for their opening Group F game against Canada on Wednesday. “Egypt were simply better than us. It was as if a

lot of our guys just didn’t want to get hurt, while you saw with Egypt that they absolutely wanted to win this match.” But the Belgian coach looked to put a lid on any potential panic among supporters. “This group has been together for six years, it is not that there is suddenly nothing left. That is why we should see this match mainly as a wake-up call. This match was also useful in giving some players much-needed minutes. In that sense it was a real practice match, one from which you can learn a lot. (Agencies)

Binotto relaxed about his future with Ferrari

ABU DHABI: Ferrari Formula One boss Mattia Binotto said on Saturday he was relaxed about his future with the Maranello-based team and had discussed recent speculation that he was facing the sack with company chairman John Elkann. Ferrarri issued a statement earlier this week dismissing as “totally without foundation” media reports in Italy that Binotto was set to be replaced by Alfa Romeo team boss Fred Vasseur. Binotto said Ferrari s decision to respond to the reports was made by him and Elkann together. However, he stopped short of categorically stating he would be in his current job at the start of next year. “Obviously it s not down to me to decide but I m pretty relaxed,” Binotto told

reporters at the season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. “The reason why I m relaxed is that I always (have) open, frank and constructive discussions with my bosses, with my chairman, not only in the short term but the medium and the long term. “When these speculations were out, I had a chat with my chairman John Elkann. “We discussed openly what was the best way to move forward and we decided to release a statement was maybe the best way to close any speculation and clearly show that speculation is totally with no foundation.” Ferrari, whose drivers are Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz, returned to competitiveness this season after two years in the doldrums. (Agencies)

Ko runs out to 5-shot lead at CME group tour C’ship

NAPLES: Florida: Lydia Ko is in total control at the halfway mark of the CME Group Tour Championship. Total control of the season-long scoring and money races, too. Ko shot a 6-under 66 in Friday’s second round of the LPGA Tour’s season finale, pushing her to 13 under for the tournament and five shots clear of Hyo Joo Kim through 36 holes. Ko made four birdies in a six-hole stretch midway through her round, rolled in a testy 4-footer to save par on the par-4 13th to maintain what was then a four-shot lead, and hasn’t dropped a shot since her opening hole on Thursday. “I just wanted to focus on my game,” said Ko, who turned a one-shot lead entering Friday to a five-shot edge when it was over. “It was a pretty tight leaderboard. I shot a low one yesterday and that round, it can be anybody throughout the week.” Except right now, it’s not anybody else



going as low as Ko has. Ko’s 66 was the round of the day Friday; four other players shot 67’s. Through two rounds at Tiburon, there have been four scores of 66 or lower; Ko has two of them after an opening 65 on Thursday. Kim (69) made back-to-back birdies on 16 and 17 to get to 8 under, alone in second. World No. 1 Nelly Korda (69) is in a pack tied for third at 7 under, along with Japan’s Nasa Hataoka (67), Sweden’s Anna Nordqvist (69) and Scotland’s Gemma Dryburgh (70). (Agencies)

Russian MMA star lands \$1 million payday

MOSCOW: Russia’s Vadim Nemkov defended his light heavyweight title and landed a \$ 1 million prize in the process as he outpointed American rival Corey Anderson in their main bout at Bellator 288 in Chicago. Nemkov walked away with a 48-47, 49-46, 49-46 win on the scorecards to ensure he was crowned winner of Bellator’s light heavyweight grand prix. Nemkov, 30, had faced off against former UFC contender Anderson at Bellator 277 in April, but the fight ended in a no contest after an accidental clash of heads left the Russian with a severe gash. At Chicago’s Wintrust Arena on Friday, it

was Nemkov who dominated most of the action, stifling Anderson’s wrestling and dropping his opponent with a spinning wheel-kick at the end of the first round. Nemkov stuffed all 15 of the takedown attempts he faced from his opponent, shutting down the pressure consistently throughout the five rounds. Nemkov celebrated his payday inside the cage alongside Russian MMA icon and teammate Fedor Emelianenko, whose blockbuster retirement fight against Bellator heavyweight champion Ryan Bader was confirmed earlier in the day. (Agencies)

UAE and Brazil fighters shine on Day 8 of Abu Dhabi World Professional Jiu-Jitsu Championship

ABU DHABI: Purple, brown and black-belt competitions were the highlight of the eighth day of the Abu Dhabi World Professional Jiu-Jitsu Championship as professional category fighters took to the mat at the Jiu-Jitsu Arena in the UAE capital. Following the final competitions for purple and brown belt categories, the UAE’s Commando Group occupied the top place in the standings followed by Brazilian Gteam in second place and PSLPB Cicero Costha (Brazil) in third. The UAE’s Zayed Al-Kathiri and Omar Al-Fadhli have booked their spot in the black-belt finals on Saturday, which will be followed by the Abu Dhabi World Jiu-Jitsu Awards The competitions were attended by Abdul Moniem Al-Hashemi, chairman of the UAE Jiu-Jitsu Federation, president of



the Asian Ju-Jitsu Union and senior vice president of the Jiu-Jitsu International Federation, Mohammed Salem Al-Dhaheri, vice chairman of the UAE Jiu-Jitsu Federation, Jose Aguerro Avila, ambassador of Paraguay, Fabricio Satiro Oliveira, mayor of Balneario Camboriu city in Brazil, Saed Hijazi Salameh, general manager, sales, Jaguar Land Rover at Premier Motors and Fahad Ali Al Shamsi, secretary general of the UAEJJF. (Agencies)

Minister distributes Rs 23.6m cheques among 29 sports associations

LAHORE: Taking another revolutionary measure for the growth of sports culture in the Punjab province, Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Taimoor Masood distributed cheques of Rs 23.6 million grant money among 29 provincial sports associations here at the National Hockey Stadium on Saturday. Vice-Chairman Sports board Punjab (SBP) Malik Nadeem Abbas Bara, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Ehsan Bhutta, Commissioner Lahore/President Punjab Olympic Association Amir Jan, Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi, Director Admin Syed Umair Hassan, CEO Lahore Qalandars Atif Rana, former

Test cricketer Aqib Javed, Director Sports Chand Parveen, Deputy Director Tariq Wattoo, Assistant Director Zahoor Ahmed, Secretary Punjab Olympic Association Idris Haider Khawaja and presidents and secretaries of all provincial sports associations were also present on this occasion. The SBP vice-chairman also distributed grant money cheques among some provincial sports associations. Addressing the ceremony, the Punjab sport minister said that it is a historic day because on this day Sports Board Punjab is releasing grant-in-aid money to all provincial sports associations for the promotion of sports culture. (APP)

Medvedev looks to put ‘disaster’ finish to the year behind him

TURIN: Daniil Medvedev’s 2022 season came to an inauspicious conclusion yesterday with a stinging defeat at the hands of Novak Djokovic at the ATP Finals, but he vowed to bounce back next year. For the second consecutive match the Russian squandered a late third-set lead, falling 6-3, 6-7(5), 7-6(2) to the Serb to finish winless in his three group-stage matches at the prestigious year-end championships in Turin. “Super easy: I sucked,” Medvedev said bluntly when asked why

he was unable to serve out the match, which was a dead rubber with the undefeated Djokovic already through to the semifinals and Medvedev eliminated. “That’s what happened. It’s disaster. What I’m really happy is that this match didn’t count in going out of the group, otherwise I would have two matches where I lost serving for the match. “But, yeah, that’s awful. I’m going to try to be better next time. I have no other choice.” The 26-year-old Moscow native won his lone ma-

JOR title by beating Djokovic in the 2021 US Open final and rose to world number one in February. But he will finish the year outside the top five after winning just two titles this season, the bigger being the ATP 500 Vienna Open last month. Despite the dismal finish Medvedev said his performance in Vienna and earlier in October in Astana where he made the semifinals but was forced to retire from the match against Djokovic with a leg injury gave him hope. (Agencies)

Perez puts Red Bull on top in season’s final F1 practice

ABU DHABI: Mexican Sergio Perez pipped Red Bull teammate Max Verstappen to the fastest time in today’s final practice session for the Formula One season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. The 32-year-old Perez, hoping to wrap up second place in the overall standings behind world champion Verstappen on Sunday, lapped the 5.2-kilometre track in 1:24.982s, 0.152s quicker than the Dutchman. Lewis Hamilton was third, 0.240s adrift of Perez, and ahead of Brazilian Grand Prix-win-



ning Mercedes teammate George Russell. But the seven-times world champion, still hunting for his first

victory of the year to keep his record of winning a race every year intact, is under investigation for passing two cars under red-flag conditions. Lando Norris took fifth for McLaren ahead of Ferrari’s Charles Leclerc, who is level on points with Perez and the Mexican’s main rival for second in the overall standings. Carlos Sainz was seventh in the other Ferrari ahead of Daniel Ricciardo who finished his final practice session for McLaren in eighth. (Agencies)

Qatari emir praises Russia’s cooperation for World Cup

DOHA: Qatar’s emir yesterday praised Russia’s “cooperation” in preparing the World Cup in a call with President Vladimir Putin while US secretary of state Anthony Blinken is due in the Gulf state, official statements said. Russia was barred from international foot-

ball this year over its invasion of Ukraine and Qatar has criticised Russia’s annexation of Ukrainian territories, but Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani spoke with Putin, whose country organised the 2018 World Cup, two days before the tournament starts. Diplomats say

Russia has largely been frozen out of preparations since its February invasion. Russia took part in an international security exercise for the World Cup last year. A statement released by the emir’s office said Putin congratulated Qatar on the World Cup hosting. (Agencies)

DAILY HOROSCOPE: NOVEMBER 20 2022



– It’s a general reading which may differ from person to person because of time date and year.
– **ARIES:** The most important thing this weekend is that you don’t make claims you cannot back up with facts, or make promises you may not be able to keep. Friends and colleagues like you for who you are, so there’s no need to embellish the truth.
– **TAURUS:** You may be in a generous and forgiving mood at the moment but Mars in the money area of your chart, at odds with Neptune, planet of deception, means you cannot afford to take chances. Sometimes, like now, it’s okay to be a bit distrustful.
– **GEMINI:** Your sense of fair play will be offended over the next 48 hours but what can you do about it? If you are smart you won’t do anything, not while Mars in your sign is still moving retrograde. You’ll get the chance to rights some wrongs later on.
– **CANCER:** If a partner or loved one tries to make a big deal of something that you know is of no real importance you must let them know in the strongest possible terms that you are having none of it. This is not the time for playing silly games.
– **LEO:** Don’t be surprised if jealousy rears its ugly head this weekend. Both in your personal life and on the work front some people just cannot accept that you are head and shoulders above them in terms of ability. So you will

just have to show them you are.
– **VIRGO:** Nothing and no one must be allowed to deflect you from the path you have chosen to travel. It may be the right path, or it may be the wrong path, but the only thing that matters is that it is your path, so follow it with confidence.
– **LIBRA:** If a co-worker says something nasty about you this weekend you must defend yourself. There may be no truth in their claim but if you allow it to pass unchallenged it could harm your reputation. Choose your moment and hit back hard.
– **SCORPIO:** You have been pushing yourself extremely hard of late and another big effort this weekend and early next week will take you to within touching distance of your goal. After that though you may need to slow down a bit. Put your wellbeing first.
– **SAGITTARIUS:** You have so much going for you and so many opportunities to choose from that you may be feeling a bit confused. Today’s Mars-Neptune link warns you need to get your head together before taking any kind of risk. You don’t HAVE to make a big move.
– **CAPRICORN:** The most important thing this weekend is that you stay focused on your number one goal. There will be a number of distractions that could easily lead you astray, so ignore them and put all your time and energy into what is truly important.
– **ACQUARIUS:** The more you keep your feelings bottled up inside the bigger the explosion will be when eventually it all gets too much for you, and that moment may not be far away. Try getting physical this weekend. Sporting activities will help you relax.
– **PISCES:** Someone who possesses the proverbial pretty face will make a big impression on you this weekend but can you really trust them? If you have any doubts at all you must not let them influence the decisions you make. You may regret it if you do.

7th Thal Jeep Rally stock round Completed

MULTAN: Stock category of 7th Thal Jeep rally has been completed as Zuhaib Hassan remained top in A category of the stock round as he finished the distance in 2 hours 23 minutes 13 seconds. Mir Nawaz Dashti stood second and Ali Magsi bagged the third position. In the B category of the stock round, Sultan Bahadur stood first by covering the distance in 2 hours 26 minutes 10 seconds, Bismil stood second and Omar in the third place, in the C category of the stock round Falak took first position covering the distance in 2 hours 38 minutes 30 seconds. Rashid stood second and Jehanzaib Imrani third, in stock D category Jameel stood first by covering the distance in 2 hours 39 minutes 20 seconds. Hasnain got the second position and Osama obtained the third position. In the stock woman category, Rubab won the first position by covering the distance in one hour and 30 minutes. (APP)

Aibak Polo Cup: Three matches to be played today

LAHORE: Three important matches in the Coca-Cola Aibak Polo Cup 2022 will be played on Sunday, Nov 20, here at the historic Lahore Polo Club ground. According to Agha Murtaza Ali Khan, Secretary of Lahore Polo Club, the first match of the day would be played between Guard Rice and Master Paints Black at 12:30 pm, while the second match will be contested between Salam Polo and Remounts at 1:30 pm and the third match will be competed between Diamond Paints and Platinum Homes at 2:30 pm. Agha Murtaza said that the enthralling and interesting competitions are going on in the historic Aibak Polo Cup and the interest of the spectators is increasing in the tournament. He expressed special thanks to the title sponsor Coca-Cola and co-sponsor Century 99 of the Aibak Polo Cup. (APP)

Guterres for improving sanitation on ‘World Toilet Day’

ISLAMABAD: United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres on Saturday said that improving sanitation was a highly cost-effective way to transform people's lives adding the benefits of better sanitation go far beyond public health. In his message on ‘The World Toilet Day’, he said 3.6 billion people still suffer the indignity of living without a safe toilet. Every day, over 700 children die from diseases caused by poor sanitation, hygiene, and unsafe water. On this World Toilet Day, he said



we focus on the impact of inadequate sanitation systems on groundwater –

how they spread human waste into rivers, lakes, and soil, polluting the water resources under our feet. This issue has been neglected for too long because it happens out of sight – underground, and amidst the poorest communities. Today, let us shine a light on the vital role of safe toilets in all aspects of sustainable development – both visible and invisible. And let us act with urgency and ambition to deliver on the basic human right to water and sanitation for all people, everywhere, he added. *APP*

Seminar held regarding World Prematurity Day

QUETTA: A seminar was organized in a local hotel with the support of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and MNCH in connection World Prematurity Day (WPD) in Quetta. The seminar was attended by Secretary Health Balochistan Hafiz Muhammad Tahir, Provincial Coordinator Maternal, National & Child Health (MNCH) Dr. Ismail Mirwani, MS Civil Hospital Dr. Amin Khan Mandukhel, Chief Planning Officer Abdul Rasool Zehri, Planning Officer Ababkar Baloch, Department of Gynecology Professor Uzmi Sohail, Associate Professor Dr. Maryam Shoaib, Associate Professor Dr. Ruhana Islam, Deputy Director MNCH Dr. Sarmad Saeed Khan, Deputy Director MNCH Dr. Sadia Ali, UNICEF Dr. Aamir Akram, Account Officer Kamil Ahmed and IT Incharge Sikandar Zaib. Addressing the seminar, Secretary Health Balochistan Hafiz Muhammad Tahir said that World Prematurity Day

was observed every year on November 17 to raise awareness of the concerns of premature babies and their families around the world. About 15 million babies are born prematurely each year, which is about one in 10 of all babies born worldwide, he mentioned. The secretary said that in November we take a moment to express sympathy and support for those families who were facing the problem of premature birth. “Prematurity is one of the leading causes of death for children under 5 years of age as approximately 15 million children worldwide are born prematurely and approximately 1 million die from related complications,” he added. Provincial Coordinator MNCH Dr. Ismail Mirwani told the participants of the seminar that the five-year plan to reduce preterm birth and infant mortality due to complications related to collaboration between MNCH and Balochistan Health Department say-

ing that steps were being taken to implement because more than 100 newborns die every day in Balochistan province due to complications related to birth asphyxia, premature birth and sepsis.

“UNICEF is helping MNCH and Health Department Balochistan in this regard,” he said. MS Civil Hospital Dr. Amin Khan Mandukhel emphasized that “by ensuring high-quality care for every newborn, providing nursing care for the best start in life and empowering women and adolescent girls to improve their health. By empowering them to make decisions about birth, precious lives lost to preterm birth can be saved, he said.

He said that reductions in preterm births and infant mortality could be achieved by strengthening health policies and services that focus on maternal nutrition and improving access to care for mothers and infants could be made. *AGENCIES*

Special counsel appointment ‘political’ and ‘unfair’: Trump

Washington: Former US president Donald Trump on Friday slammed as “political” and “unfair” the appointment of a special counsel by the Justice Department to oversee criminal investigations into his conduct. “I have been going through this for six years -- for six years I have been going through this, and I am not going to go through it anymore,” Trump told Fox News Digital. “It is not acceptable. It is so unfair. It is so political.” Trump's remarks came shortly after Attorney General Merrick Garland named a former war crimes investigator as a special counsel to oversee two federal criminal probes into the former president. Trump, who announced this week that he would seek the White House again in 2024, said it is “not even believable that they're allowed to do this.

“This is the worst politicization of justice in our country,” he said. “And I hope the Republicans have the courage to fight this. “This is a disgrace and only happening because I am leading in every poll in both parties,” he said. *APP*

NASA Moon mission ‘exceeding’ expectations

Washington: On the third day after lifting off from Florida bound for the Moon, the Orion spacecraft is “exceeding performance expectations,” NASA officials said on Friday. The spacecraft is to take astronauts to the Moon in the coming years -- the first to set foot on its surface since the last Apollo mission in 1972. This first test flight, without a crew on board, aims to ensure that the vehicle is safe. “Today we met to review the Orion spacecraft performance... it is exceeding performance expectations,” said Mike Sarafin, head of the Artemis 1 mission. The spacecraft's four solar panels, about 13 feet (four meters) long, deployed correctly and are providing more energy than expected, said Jim Geffre, the Orion manager at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. It is from that control center in Texas that the spacecraft is being piloted. Orion is already some 200,000 miles (320,000 kilometers) from Earth and preparing to perform the first of four main thrusts scheduled during the mission using its engines. This maneuver, which will take place early Monday morning, will bring the spacecraft as close as 80 miles (130 kilometers) from the lunar surface, in order to take advantage of the Moon's gravitational force. *APP*

COAS pays farewell visit to Army Medical Corps’

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Saturday visited various setups of the Army Medical Corps as part of his farewell visits. Surgeon General Pakistan Army Lieutenant General Nigar Johar accompanied the COAS during the visit, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. The COAS visited Combined Military Hospital (CMH), Rawalpindi and was briefed by Commandant CMH Major General Muhammad Mohsin Qureshi regarding the most modern newly upgraded healthcare facilities.

The COAS was briefed that medical care has been planned as per the international best practices and patient care was the focus of hospital administration. Special counters have been established for facilitating civilian and non-entitled patients as well. It was further briefed that efforts were being made to provide a patient-friendly environment and provide allied facilities for patients' attendants. The COAS was also shown the newly established control room made to impart training to doctors through the live surgery process in the Academic Centre, designed and established to facilitate medical students for better understanding of surgical procedures.

The COAS appreciated the efforts of the Army Medical Corps that had been providing quality health care and latest rehabilitation services to members of the armed forces, their families and civilian patients. Amongst other facilities, Shuhada Families and veterans' Medical Fa-



cilitation Centre had been providing disruption-free basic healthcare facilities, including blood sampling, medicines and checkups to families of martyrs and senior veterans up to the age of 75 years.

The upgraded pharmacy was now entertaining 3,000 patients daily. The COAS also laid the foundation stone of a new training block of the Armed Forces Post Graduate Institute.

Later, the COAS visited newly constructed soldiers' guestrooms, the newly established Army Help Centre and the upgraded facilities of the Armed Forces Institute of Cardiology. He appreciated the doctors and healthcare professionals of AMC for their selfless devotion to duty and monumental work.

Lauding the immense improvements being incorporated in healthcare infrastructure, the COAS said quality healthcare for soldiers and their families was a cardinal feature of the army's welfare regime and critical for the morale of troops. Earlier on arrival at CMH, the COAS was received by Commander Rawalpindi Corps Lieutenant General Sahir Shamshad Mirza. *APP*

Imran asks party workers to reach Rawalpindi on Nov 26

RAWAT: Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan on Saturday asked his party leaders and supporters to reach Rawalpindi on November 26. In his video link address to the participants of the long march here, he said, “I am inviting the entire nation to reach Rawalpindi on November 26 (next Saturday). I will meet you there and announce the future course of action.” *APP*



Punjab cabinet committee reviews long march security

LAHORE: The Cabinet Committee on Law and Order held a meeting at the Civil Secretariat here on Saturday and discussed the arrival of the long march participants in Rawalpindi, security arrangements for the participants and their entry into Islamabad. The meeting, chaired by Provincial

Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Environment Protection and Cooperatives Mohammad Basharat Raja, decided that the Islamabad administration would be approached to discuss passing of the march participants through the limits of the federal capital territory. *APP*

Bangladesh U-19 team departs after completing Pak tour

MULTAN: Bangladesh U-19 team left for their country after completing the tour to Pakistan. Bangladesh U-19 team won the ODI series and the four-day match. The T20 series remained tied in the tour to Pakistan. Bangladesh captain Ahrar Amin said that they had learned a lot from Pakistan's tour. Bangladesh team manager Hanan Sarkar said that they were impressed by the hospitality of Pakistanis. *APP*

Comedian Tariq Teddy passes away



LAHORE: Popular theatre artist Tariq Teddy passed away here on Saturday. He was 46. The artist was admitted to Farooq Hospital due to liver problem. He is survived by a son and two daughters. His Namaz-e-Janaza was held at Shah Fareed Darbar in Sabzazar area after Asr prayers, in which artists and a large number of people from different walks of life participated. *APP*

PR recovers undelivered pension amount from banks

LAHORE: The Pakistan Railways successfully recovered an undelivered pension amount of Rs 1.42 billion from banks after mutual understanding and verification. According to the PR sources here on Saturday, Railways Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique appreciated the recovery team. The minister expressed his determination that each penny of the railways would be secured. *Agencies*

IWMB warns locals amid leopards' increased movement in winters

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) on Saturday warned the local population of Margalla Hills National Park to take special precautions due to increased presence of wild leopards during winter season. According to the IWMB official statement, the wild leopard were often seen near the rural population of the Margalla Hills National Park in winters. The statement further read that the local population and tourists should avoid unnecessary movement in the national park. Moreover, the local people should not send their cattle to the forest for grazing. The Wildlife Board advised the masses to keep livestock in a safe place within walled enclosures during the night hours. Likewise, the households near the forest should not leave small children, women and elderly people unnecessarily in the wild. The IWMB was of the view that disruption of the leopard's natural habitat could be harmful. It also cautioned that it was an offense to harm a leopard and persons found guilty of the crime would be fined as per the law. *APP*

LWMC to establish integrated solid waste management system:

LAHORE: Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Ali Anan Qamar said on Saturday that all measures were being taken to establish an integrated solid waste management system in the provincial capital. According to a spokesperson for LWMC, the company was utilising all resources to promote 3Rs -- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle -- strategy in provincial capital. The LWMC CEO visited company's compost plant at Mehmood Booti. Planning General Manager Dr Kamran and Compost Plant Manager Muhammad Yasir gave the CEO a briefing about the working of the plant. *APP*

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