



Gen Asim Munir takes charge as Pakistan's 17th army chief



RAWALPINDI: Outgoing military chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa handed over command of the army to Chief of the Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir on Tuesday at the change of command ceremony at the Army Hockey Stadium, close to the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi, Tuesday. "He [Gen Asim] is talented and his appointment will prove positive for the army and the country. My association with General Asim Munir is 24 years old," outgoing

COAS Gen Bajwa said. "I am happy that I am retiring after handing over the command to a capable officer." Foreign dignitaries and federal cabinet members were among the people who attended the event. The ceremony started at 10:22am with the GHQ Military Band presenting the cultural tunes of the four provinces, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan. Senior military officials, ex-military leaders, federal secretaries, and senior civil leadership filled the seats.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori, were invited, alongside former army chief Raheel Sharif. In his speech, Gen Bajwa thanked God for giving him the opportunity to serve and lead the army. He added that the army personnel always responded to his command whether it was at the Line of Control (LoC), tackling terrorism in different areas, addressing law and order challenges, or coordinating efforts during natural disasters. "The army always responded to my call." "I am proud of my army which despite limited resources guards the geographical boundaries, from the ice-capped mountains of Siachen to the deserts of Thar. This army protects the people regardless of language, color, caste, or religion." He expressed the belief that the armed forces under the leadership of his successor would reach new heights of success. The outgoing military chief thanked his parent Unit, the 16 Baloch regiment. (Agencies)

Khar, Afghan Taliban discuss bilateral issues



KABUL: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar and Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi along with their respective delegations met in Kabul and discussed matters of bilateral importance. The meeting focused on political consultations between the two governments. Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Afghanistan Ambassador Mohammad Sadiq was also present. "A range of bilateral issues of common interest including cooperation in education, health, trade and investment, regional connectivity, people-to-people contacts, and socioeconomic projects [were discussed in the

meeting]," the Foreign Office said. Earlier on her arrival in the Afghan capital, Hina Rabbani Khar was received at the airport by Deputy Minister for Economy Abdul Latif Nazari and the Pakistan embassy's Head of Mission in Kabul Ubaidur Rahman Nizamani. Khar's visit came at a time when the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) called off a ceasefire agreed with Islamabad in June. This is the first visit by a senior Pakistani official since the change of government in April and is seen as significant given the fact that the delegation is headed by a woman minister. (Agencies)

Sunak says UK's 'golden era' with China is over



LONDON: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said on Monday that the so-called "golden era" of relations with China was over, saying Beijing's systemic challenge to Britain's interests and values was growing more acute. In his first major foreign policy speech, Sunak said Britain's approach to China needed to evolve and Beijing was "consciously competing for global influence using all the levers of state power". "Let's be clear, the so-called 'golden era' is over, along with the naive idea that trade would lead to social and political reform," Sunak said in London's financial district, a reference

to former finance minister George Osborne's description of Sino-British ties in 2015. Some in Sunak's Conservative Party have been critical, regarding him as less hawkish on China than his predecessor Liz Truss. Last year when he was finance minister, he called for a nuanced strategy on China to balance human rights concerns while expanding economic ties. However, a planned meeting between Sunak and China's president Xi Jinping at this month's G20 summit in Bali fell through, and last week London banned Chinese-made security cameras from sensitive government buildings. "We recognise China poses a systemic challenge to our values and interests, a challenge that grows more acute as it moves towards even greater authoritarianism," he said, referring to the BBC statement that one of its journalists had been assaulted by Chinese police. (Agencies)

Shehbaz, Zardari join heads over Punjab Assembly dissolution threat

ISLAMABAD: The leaders of the two major parties part of the ruling coalition on Tuesday put their heads together on finding a solution to the threat by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan to dissolve provincial assemblies. In this regard, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday called on Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) coalition partner Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister House in Islamabad on Tuesday afternoon. The two discussed matters pertaining to the evolving political situation in the country,

particularly the one evolving in Punjab where Imran has threatened to dissolve the provincial assembly in a bid to force early elections. The two deliberated on various options to foil Imran's plans, including moving confidence motions and dissolving the assembly. It was decided that attempts must be made to control the uncertainty in Punjab and to proceed through mutual understanding after evolving consensus. The meeting between senior leaders of the two coalition parties came after a similar meeting at the provincial level were held in Lahore earlier in the day. (Agencies)

India, US armies hold military exercises

AULI: Indian and U.S. troops on Tuesday participated in a high-altitude training exercise in a cold, mountainous terrain near India's disputed border with China, at a time both countries are trying to manage rising tensions with Beijing. During the exercise, Indian soldiers were dropped from helicopters to flush out gunmen from a house in a demonstration of unarmed combat skills. Other drills involved sniffer dogs and unmanned bomb-disposing vehicles, and trained kites were deployed to destroy small enemy drones. "Overall, it has been a great learning ex-

perience. There has been sharing of best practices between both the armies," said Brig. Pankaj Verma of the Indian Army. The annual drills took part around Auli, a hill station in the northern state of Uttarakhand. The U.S. troops came from the 2nd Brigade of the 11th Airborne Division, and their Indian counterparts were members of the army's Assam Regiment. India's Defence Ministry has said the exercise will focus on surveillance, mountain-warfare skills, casualty evacuation and combat medical aid in adverse terrain and climatic conditions. (Agencies)

Putin wants to use 'winter as weapon of war': NATO chief

BRUSSELS: NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg says the military alliance is committing to future Ukrainian membership into the security organisation. Russian President Vladimir Putin wants "to use winter as a weapon of war" in his campaign in Ukraine, NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg has said in Bucharest ahead of a meeting of the alliance's foreign ministers. "We have to be prepared for more refugees crossing into the rest of Europe, as

a result of Russia's deliberate attack on critical services, heating, light, water, gas in Ukraine," Stoltenberg said on Tuesday. Stoltenberg's remarks came as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and his NATO counterparts were gathered in Romania to drum up urgently needed support for Ukraine aimed at ensuring that Moscow fails to defeat the country as it bombards energy infrastructure. "NATO's door is open. Russia does not have a veto on countries

joining," Stoltenberg said in reference to the recent entry of North Macedonia and Montenegro into the security alliance. He said that Russian President Vladimir Putin "will get Finland and Sweden as NATO members" soon. The Nordic neighbours applied for membership in April, concerned that Russia might target them next. "We stand by that, too, on membership for Ukraine," the former Norwegian prime minister said. (Agencies)

China lockdown protests pause as police flood city streets

HONG KONG: With police out in force, there was no word of additional protests against strict government anti-pandemic measures Tuesday in Beijing, as temperatures fell well below freezing. Shanghai, Nanjing and other cities where online calls to gather had been issued were also reportedly quiet. Rallies against China's unusually strict antiviral measures spread to several cities over the weekend in the biggest show of opposition to the ruling Communist



Party in decades. Authorities eased some regulations, apparently to try to quell public anger, but the gov-

ernment showed no sign of backing down on its larger coronavirus strategy, and analysts expect authorities to quickly silence the dissent. Police were making random checks on phones at the People's Square subway station in Shanghai on Monday evening, an eyewitness said. The person declined to give his name out of fear of retribution, as he was en route to a planned protest near the station, which he did not find. (Agencies)

Biden, Macron ready to talk Ukraine, trade on state visit

WASHINGTON: French President Emmanuel Macron is traveling to Washington for the first state visit of the Joe Biden presidency — a revival of diplomatic pageantry that had been put on hold because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The relationship between Biden and Macron got off to a rocky start. Macron briefly recalled France's ambassador to the United States last year after the White House announced a deal to sell nuclear submarines to Australia, undermining a deal for France to



sell diesel-powered submarines. But the relationship has turned as Macron has emerged as one of Biden's most progressive European allies in the Western response to Russia's

invasion of Ukraine. This week's visit — which will include talks in the Oval Office, a glamorous dinner, a press conference and more — comes at a critical moment for both heads of state. Leaders have a long agenda for their meeting at the White House on Thursday, including Iran's nuclear program, China's increasing assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific and growing concerns about security and stability in Africa's Sahel, US and French officials said. (Agencies)

Pakistan, IMF begin talks on \$7b loan review

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have begun talks online on a ninth review of a \$7 billion loan program, the Finance Ministry said after a media outlet reported that the lender had asked the country to cut its expenses. The government has shared fiscal data, including for floods and related expenditures, with the IMF, and a team from the agency is expected to visit Islamabad soon, the ministry added. Under the IMF's Extended Fund Facility (EFF), Pa-

kistan secured a \$6 billion bailout in 2019 that was topped up with another \$1 billion earlier this year. "As part of the 9th review under the EFF, remote discussions continue between IMF staff and the Pakistani authorities over policies to re-prioritize and better target support toward humanitarian and rehabilitation needs," the lender's resident representative, Esther Pérez Ruiz, told Reuters in a statement. Pakistan has been reeling from floods this year that killed more than 1,700 people,

destroyed farmland and infrastructure and exacerbated an economic crisis marked by decades-high inflation and dwindling foreign exchange reserves. "The IMF understands that the floods have changed the macroeconomic assumptions on which the program was designed," the ministry told Reuters. "Detailed analysis is being conducted by their team using the data provided." Pakistan reserves stood at \$7.8 billion as of November 18, barely enough to cover imports for a month. (Agencies)

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

CM directs to ensure effective governance to facilitate public

Staff Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mahmood Khan on Tuesday chaired a meeting on good governance strategy and directed all departments to facilitate people by timely resolving their issues in. The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary, Dr. Shahzad Bangash IG Police Moazzam Jah Ansari, administrative secretaries, commissioners, deputy commissioners, and other concerned officials. The meeting was informed Khyber Pakhtunkhwa ranks first in the timely redressal of public complaints for the fourth consecutive year as per citizen portal data. On the occasion, the chief minister directed Inspector General Police to launch a decisive crackdown on street crimes and the Works Department was directed to prepare a report of corrupt employ-



ees within four days. He also instructed the district administration to keep a close eye on the performance of Patwaris and after every 15 days, the concerned departments and district administrations will present their performance reports for last year. He said that the results of all the reforms should be visible to facilitate people. He directed the district administration to launch a crackdown on hoarding, adulteration, and drug peddlers to purge society of all crimes. The chief

minister directed to include all concerned officers should be included in the dispute resolution committees(DRCs) to resolve public issues at the earliest. He said that regional police officers (RPOs) should also be directed to formulate a plan to deal with the chaotic traffic situation in big cities. To achieve the goal of good governance, he said that district administration should regularly hold open court and revenue court, besides strict monitoring of ongoing development work.

Digital veterinary’s service save hundreds of ailing pet animals in Peshawar

PESHAWAR: The online service by Digital Veterinary start-up has helped in saving hundreds of ailing pet animals in Peshawar by providing online guidance to owners besides visiting homes for treatment on nominal charges. Launched in 2020, in the name of `DIGIVET-PK`, to provide help to pet lovers in

treating their ailing animals during the corona lockdown, the digital start-up continued its service and is been approached by hundreds of pet lovers in the city. “During the last few months, we have provided services for the treatment of more than 60 cattle infected with prevailing lumpy skin disease and almost all were recovered,” said Dr Said Jamal head of DIGIVETPK. Apart from treatment, we also educate animal lovers and owners of livestock about preventive measures like maintaining proper hygiene, timely vaccination, fumigation and use of mosquito repellent, he went on to say. “DIGIVETPK is the first ever mobile veterinary service in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa having highly qualified veterinary doctors who provide online service to animal lovers and also visit homes for physical examination and treatment purposes,” informs Dr Said Jamal. The group was formed by a few dynamic

young veterinary doctors under the leadership of Dr Ameer Hamza who is now going abroad for further studies. A female vet was also part of the group who later went abroad for higher studies. The group now consists of six members working under the leadership of Dr Said Jamal, who joined it as a member and started providing treatment in Peshawar city. ”Our digital service rescued a large number of pet animals during the coronavirus lockdown” due to the closure of pet clinics and restriction on the movement of people, he recalled. There were around 10,000 pet animals in Peshawar and “the number of birds is greater than this which are kept at homes in captivity”. A number of animals and birds become sick due to different reasons mostly because of changes in weather or environment and need treatment from a qualified veterinarian, shared Dr Said. (APP)

PPP celebrating 55th foundation day anniversary

PESHAWAR: The 55th foundation day anniversary of Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) is being celebrated with enthusiasm and political spirit in all districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa tomorrow (Wednesday). According to a press release issued here on Tuesday, a major ceremony in this connection would be organized in the Hujra of the district president, Malik Tamash Khan at 2 PM while another similar function is scheduled on the same time under the auspices of City chapter of the party in the Hujra of Pir Mohammad at Nauthia. Similar functions are also scheduled at Charsadda, Nowshera and Mohmand by Akbar Ali Khan, Saeedullah Khan and Malik Israel Khan respectively. In his message issued here on Tuesday on the eve

of the 55th foundation day anniversary, former provincial president, Engineer Mohammad Hamayun Khan paid tributes to the struggle of the founders of the party for the welfare of the drown-trodden classes of the society. He said that the leadership and followers of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the founding chairman of PPP, stick to the principles of ideological politics. He said that a strong Pakistan was the dream of the martyred leadership and also the manifesto of the party. President, PPP Peshawar Division, Liaquat Shabab has also paid tributes to the founding chairman, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and expressed resolve to continue the struggle for the accomplishment of the mission set by the leadership of the party. (APP)

UET to hold Int’l conference on energy technologies from Dec 5

PESHAWAR: The US-Pakistan Center for Advanced Studies in Energy (USPCAS-E) UET Peshawar is holding the 4 th International Conference on “Sustainable Energy Technologies (ICSET-22)” from December 5 th - 6 th 2022 at USPCAS-E UET Peshawar. The conference will bring professionals from the industry, government officials, and researchers from academia for knowledge sharing, identification of industry-relevant problems, networking, and future collaborations for addressing the issues of the energy sector. Eminent professionals, researchers and academicians from across the world including Prof. Dr. Clark A Miller

(Arizona State University, USA), Prof. Dr. Adarsh Kumar Panday (Sunway University, Malaysia), Prof. Dr. Yasin Khan (King Saud University, Saudi Arabia) and Prof. Dr. Mohd Hafiz Dzarfan Othman (Universiti Teknologi, Malaysia) will present the keynote lectures. The conference is co- sponsored by Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, Higher Education Regulatory Authority, Pakistan Science Foundation and Center for Industrial and Building Energy Audits. USPCAS-E as a Professional Engineering Body (PEB) has credited the engineers to earn Continued Professional Development (CPD) points through this conference. (PR)

Dissolution of KP,Punjab assemblies by PTI will be irrational - Ikhtiyar Wali

PESHAWAR: The long march of Pakistan Tahrik e Insaf (PTI) that started from Liberty Chowk Lahore on October 28 and finally culminated at Rawalpindi on November 26 with an announcement by Imran Khan that PTI lawmakers would resign from both Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assemblies was termed immature and illogical by political and legal experts. This was stated by Pakistan Muslim

League-N spokesman and Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) while talking to APP here on Tuesday. PTI’s Rawalpindi public meeting where all eyes were fixed with people’s expectations for some decisive announcement regarding strengthening of democracy ended in dismay and great disappointment after Imran Khan’s again decided to turn to streets instead of adopting democratic solution to

Housing scheme on card for metropolitan employees

PESHAWAR: Mayor Peshawar, Haji Zubair Ali has said residential colony would be constructed for the employees of the Capital Metropolitan government. The mayor also directed Capital Metropolitan Government officers to visit various areas on November 1st to identify a suitable place for a residential colony, says a statement issued on Tuesday. The

Capital Metropolitan Government has devised a plan to calculate the area required for the colony according to several employees. Mayor Peshawar said that the colony would have all the amenities of life including a mosque, school, dispensary, tube well, and playground. He said that efforts would be made to materialize the project as soon as possible. (APP)

KP continues to be gripped by cold,dry weather

PESHAWAR: The Regional Meteorological Center Peshawar on Tuesday forecast mainly cold and dry weather in most districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, while very cold in hilly areas and upper parts of the province during the next 24 hours. Moderate to dense fog is likely to occur over Swabi, Mardan, Nowshera, Charsadda, Peshawar and D.I. Khan districts, as well as over Peshawar to Swabi Motorway during late night and morning hours. The Met office advised travellers to avoid unnecessary traveling on motorways and highways and adopt precau-

tionary measures during travelling. During the last 24 hours, cold and dry weather prevailed in the province, while very cold in hilly areas. The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded at different stations of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were as Peshawar City 24/05, Chitral 20/01, Timergara 23/05, Dir 22/01, Mirkhani 21/00, Kalam 19/2, Drosh 20/05, Saidu Sharif 23/02, Pattan 25/13, Malam Jabba 14/06, Takht Bhai 23/06, Kakul 22/04, Balakot 24/04, Parachinar 21/03, Bannu 27/07 , Cherat 19/07 and D.I. Khan 28/10. (APP)

WAPDA issues water position in rivers,barrages,dams

PESHAWAR: Water & Power Development Authority (WAPDA) released the position of the river inflows and outflows of water at Tarbela, Mangla and Chashma along with the reservoir’s levels and the barrages on Tuesday morning. According to a spokesman of the authority, inflows and outflows in the Indus River at Tarbela were recorded 23,500 cusecs and 42,000 cusecs respectively. Inflows and outflows in Kabul River at Nowshera both were recorded as 10,100 cusecs while in Khairabad Bridge, the inflows and outflows were 16,600 cusecs and 16,600 respectively. In Jhelum River at Mangla inflows and outflows were

9,500 cusecs and 22,000 cusecs respectively and in Chenab at Marala, inflow was 5,700 cusecs and outflow was 2,000 cusecs. In Jinnah Barrage (inflow 57,400 cusecs and outflow 51,400 cusecs and Chashma (inflow: 47,900 cusecs and outflows 51,000 cusecs), Taunsa (inflow 48,900 cusecs and outflow 39,700 cusecs), Guddu (inflow 37,800 cusecs and outflows 30,700 cusecs, Sukkur (inflow 29,800 cusecs and outflow 13,000 cusecs), Kotri (inflow 24,600 cusecs and outflows 11,300 cusecs), Trimmu (inflow 3,300 cusecs and outflow Nil cusecs while in Panjnad (inflow 4,700 cusecs and outflow was nil cusecs).(APP)

Three Bannu residents died in North Waziristan

PESHAWAR: At least three people including a jeweler and his two friends were shot dead by unknown assailants during late night hours near Mir Ali Bazaar in North Waziristan. A police spokesman on Tuesday said that unknown miscreants abducted three friends, hailing from Bannu district from a jeweler’s

shop in late night hours and later shot them dead. Police said motive behind the killing was not yet ascertained. Bodies of the deceased were recovered from fields near Mir Ali Bazaar in the morning, police said and added that a case has been registered further investigation was underway. (APP)

AC books 15 nanbais for profiteering

PESHAWAR: Assistant Commissioner University Town, Sayyeda Zainab Naqvi on Tuesday arrested 15 nanabis (bread makers) for selling bread at exorbitant prices. According to the district administration, Deputy Commissioner, Shafiullah Khan had received complaints regarding the sale of bread at the excessive rate in University Town. The DC directed AC Sayye-

da Zainab to take action against such nanbais on an urgent basis. The AC conducted a crackdown against nanbais in academy Town and arrested 15 nanbais for selling per roti at Rs 30. On the occasion, she warned the nanbais to mend their ways and sell bread at the prescribed rate otherwise further stern action would be initiated against the violators. (APP)

IGP calls on KP governor

PESHAWAR: Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Moazzam Jah Ansari called on Governor KP Haji Ghulam Ali at Governor House on Tuesday and discussed the current law and order situation in the province. In the meeting, the governor expressed deep concern over the increasing street crimes in Peshawar and terrorist incidents in other districts of the province. The governor emphasized the need to take practical steps to strengthen and improve the Safe City project to prevent street crimes. Ghulam Ali said in order to ensure peace, there should be a mechanism of effective communication between local government representatives

and the police department. He said that the investigation department of the police needs to be adapted to modern requirements. In the meeting, there was also a discussion about ending the hardships and feelings of deprivation of Khasadar and Levies police after the merger and including them in the police martyrs package. The Governor said that terrorism-affected youth of tribal districts should get special concessions regarding educational qualifications in police recruitment. Haji Ghulam Ali appreciated the sacrifices of the police in the fight against terrorism and the establishment of law and order. (APP)



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Pakistan stands by Palestine against Israeli oppression: President

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday reiterated Pakistan’s un-flagging support to the cause of Pal-estine against the tyranny and ille-gal occupation of the Israeli forces. “Pakistan has historically supported the legitimate struggle of Palestin-ians and shall continue to do so,” the president said in his message on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. President Alvi said collective voice and action could bring peace and security to



the Palestinians and expressed hope that justice and fairness would pre-vail over tyranny and oppression. He hoped that the conscience of the

world would triumph over narrow self-interests. He stressed that Paki-stand fully supported the Palestinian position and their readiness to ne-gotiate a peace accord based upon internationally recognized terms of reference and pre-1967 borders. The accord, he said, needed to be under international monitoring, holding accountable the parties and within a determined and binding timeframe, with East Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Palestine. (APP)

Pakistan, Malaysian agree to continue dialogue on cyber security, regulatory frameworks

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Malay-sian here on Tuesday agreed to con-tinue dialogue on mutual areas of collaboration particularly 5G, cyber security and regulatory frameworks. The agreement reached between the meeting of PTA Chairman Maj. Gen (Retd) Amir Azeem Bajwa and Inter-im Chairman of the Malaysian Com-munications and Multimedia Com-mission (MCMC), Tan Sri Mohamad Salim bin Fateh Din, said a news re-lease. During the meeting, Pakistan and Malaysia discussed the digital landscape including major initia-tives and future projects. Member

(Finance) PTA, Muhammad Naveed; Commission Member MCMC, Datuk Lim Thean Shiang and former High Commissioner of Pakistan to Ma-laysia, Lt. Gen. (R) Tahir Mehmood Qazi and other MCMC and PTA of-ficers were also present at the meet-ing. The phenomenal growth of the ICT sector in Pakistan was appreci-ated by the Chairman MCMC. The Malaysian delegation shared details of their landmark projects such as PEDi (digital empowerment of ru-ral communities) and their unique 5G model i.e. Single Wholesale Net-work. (APP)

Sheikh Rashid hints at shift in elections date

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League (AML) leader Sheikh Rashid on Tuesday said election date would change by January 30 as the “stick” has been changed. Taking to Twitter, former interior minister said no-motion movement and Governor rule in Punjab is not possible. Rashid added that the rulers and the people who brought them are regretting this decision. While criticizing JUI-F chief Fazlur Rehman, Rashid said his statement has humiliated him. Mentioning the importance of national security, he said, “The economy is national security on which no one can remain a silent spectator.” Rashid went

on to say that the PTI Chairman Imran Khan has single-handedly challenged the politics of 13 politi-cal parties. Rashid also added that the country neither has money for holding election twice in the same year nor planning. Attacking the 77 cabinet members, he said that they are a burden on the national treasure. While talking about the inflation, he took a jibe at the cur-rent government as well as the for-mer prime minister Nawaz Sharif, who is “enjoying New Year vaca-tion” in London. He also claimed the countdown of the current gov-ernment’s departure has started. (Agencies)

HEC announces Dec 15 deadline to apply for scholarships in Chinese universities

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Educa-tion Commission (HEC) Pakistan has announced December 15, 2022, as the deadline to apply for the scholarships 2023-24 in Chinese universities. According to official sources, HEC had invited applica-tions from Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Pakistani students to study and conduct research in various fields at the best universities in China. The Chinese Scholarship Council, Govt. of China is offering these scholarships with a view to enhanc-ing educational cooperation be-tween two neighboring countries. On behalf of Govt. of Pakistan, HEC is nominating the agency for these scholarships in the academic

year 2023-24. China Scholarship Council (CSC), entrusted by the Ministry of Education, People’s Republic of China, is responsible for the enrollment and administration of the Chinese Government Schol-arship Program. Qualified appli-cants can apply for scholarships for Undergraduate/Bachelor, Masters & Doctoral/Ph.D. programs in their respective fields of study. Desig-nated Chinese Universities offer a wide variety of academic programs in Science, Engineering, Agricul-ture, Medicine, Economics, Legal Studies, Management, Education, History, Literature, Philosophy and Fine Arts etc. for scholarship recip-ients at all levels. (APP)

Imran Niazi presented as fake ‘Mahatama’ and ‘saviour’ of nation: Saad Rafique

LAHORE: Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique said on Tues-day that PTI chairman Imran Khan was presented as ‘fake Mahatama’ and ‘saviour’ in front of the nation. In a statement on Twitter, Khawaja Saad Rafique while criticizing the PTI chairman explained that Imran Khan has been impersonating to be a pious leader under the ‘Proj-ect Imran’, which was an agenda of accusing the political leadership of corruption, incompetence and to

provoke hatred against them. He said PTI leadership and it’s facili-tators have thwarted the country’s progress and pushed it off the path of advancement. They have also weakened the hold of democracy, he added. The PML-N leader fur-ther stressed on the damages that PTI chairman has caused to the country. He termed Imran Khan to be a hurdle against the provision of all the essentials of a democratic and progressive state. (Agencies)

Murree admin issues high alert, sets up snow camps to avert another tragedy

MURREE: The Murree administra-tion on Tuesday issued high alert and established snow camps at dif-ferent spots around the hill station after last year’s tragedy that claimed 22 lives. The highway authority has also completed all their prepara-tions to maintain traffic flow during the snow season. Additional secu-rity personnel have been deployed in Murree to help visitors in case of any emergency. Earlier, the Murree administration said that the Pun-

jab government had decided to buy heavy machinery for clearing snow apart from enhancing the number of emergency responders deputed around the hill station. The Murree administration had allocated and passed a tender to purchase heavy machinery worth Rs1.3 billion. Last year due to the sheer negligence of the district administration, hun-dreds of vehicles were stranded on the narrow roads leading to the hill-station. (Agencies)

Birth anniversary of Bano Qudsia observed



ISLAMABAD: The 94th birth anniv-ersary of renowned Urdu novelist, short story writer and playwright Bano Qud-sia was observed on Monday. Qudsia was best known for her novel Raja Gidh. Qudsia also wrote for television and stage in both Urdu and Punjabi languages. Her novel Raja Gidh was one of the best Urdu novels ever writ-en. Her play Aadhi Baat has been called “a classic”. She was conferred Kamal-e-Fun Award in 2010 by the Pa-kistan Academy of Letters.(APP)

Two killed

FAISALABAD: Two persons were killed in collision between two dumper vehicles on Tandlianwala road near 426 ‘Adda’ here on Tues-day. Rescue 1122 said that 22-year-old Ghulam Mohiyyud Din and an unknown person (25) received se-rious injuries and died on the spot. The victims were shifted to Teh-sil Headquarters (THQ) Hospital. Saddar Tandlianwala police started investigation. (APP)

IRSA releases 79,600 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday re-leased 79,600 cusecs water from various rim stations with an inflow of 48,600 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1510.14 feet and was 112.14 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 23,500 cusecs while outflow was recorded as 42,000 cu-secs. The water level in River Jhel-um at Mangla Dam was 1137.60 feet, which was 87.60 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water were recorded 9,500 cusecs and 22,000 cusecs respectively. (APP)

14 food points fined

SARGODHA: The Punjab Food Au-thority (PFA) on Tuesday imposed a fine on 14 food points in the di- vision. According to PFA officials, teams headed by Deputy Director Muhammad Shehbaz Serwer con-ducted raids at hotels, bakeries, shops and food outlets, and imposed Rs 115,000 fine on 14 shopkeepers over poor cleanliness arrangements, incomplete medical certificate and adulteration. Meanwhile, the team wasted 39-kg unwholesome sweets while notices were issued to 89 ownersfor selling sub-standard and hygienic foods. The PFA team also stop three food points from working on temporary basis. (APP)

Police arrest PO

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Police here on Tuesday arrested a pro-claimed offender (PO) wanted in a murder and attempt to murder case registered in Kalar Syedan police station. According to a po-lice spokesman, police managed to arrest a PO namely Muham-mad Sajjad, wanted in a murder case registered at Kalar Syedan police station. The accused had allegedly killed a woman, Say-an Bibi, injured Najam ul Has-sain and Sajida Bibi over a land dispute in September this year. (APP)

Saidpur Village inhabited by Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs before 1947

Saidpur Village is a major tourist destination located in Islamabad. It hosts a wide array of religious and cultural heritage. The area was in-habited by Muslims, Hindus, and Sikhs before 1947. The village land was acquired by the Capital Devel-opment Authority (CDA) in the late ’70s. The major historical buildings on site are a Mandir, a Sikh temple, and a Dharamshala. During 2006-2008, the village went through a major renovation, with the aim of making Saidpur a “Model Tourist Village”. It is important to appreciate that this renovation played a major role in developing Saidpur village. It is now a highly popular tourist spot that has received visits from many officials such as the Prime Minis-ter, Army Chief, and various other

delegates and foreign diplomats. In recent years, there is not suffi-cient attention being given to tourist spots that hold great significance. Sites that hold religious importance for minority groups often suffer from a lack of correct resources or enough funds and recognition from the government. Saidpur Village is one of these sites. The area has not been properly restored for a while and remains poverty-ridden where locals lack access to jobs. The nat-ural beauty of Saidpur village serves as a major source of attraction for tourists. The site is situated on the slope of Margalla hills in the midst of a lot of greenery. Due to the rap-id increase in the population of the area, this natural beauty is slowly being lost. Large-scale deforestation

is being carried out to meet the en-ergy needs of the increasing popu-lation. As a result, air pollution has increased and the quality of life has declined. This environmental harm has caused the natural appeal of the area for tourists to be damaged. The renovation of Saidpur Village in 2006-2008 played a significant role in making it a highly visited tourist destination. However, since then the village has not been through any renovation or restoration. The ma-jority of the population lacks access to basic utilities such as electricity, water, and gas. Such utilities remain restricted to only a percentage of the population. Other infrastruc-tural problems include a lack of furniture to accommodate old or immobilized people. Pottery shops

are a major source of attraction and an integral part of the local culture. Many people used to make earn-ings through local arts and crafts shops. Some of this pottery is from pre-partition times and holds great historical importance. These shops have been pushed far away from the tourist attractions. Here, they lack a sufficient amount of space to dis-play pottery items such as mechan-ical clay trains and fountains. Shop owners need more exposed spaces that are accessible to tourists. Said-pur village was a place of fusion of three different cultures. Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs lived together in the area which is reflected in the liv-ing styles of the people. Even now, Saidpur village receives a diverse range of tourists. (APP)

World AIDS day to be marked on Dec 1

ISLAMABAD: World AIDS Day will be marked on December 1 (Thurs-day) across the globe including Paki-stand to honor AIDS victims and focus on issues surrounding the human im-munodeficiency virus (HIV) and ac-quired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). A simple red ribbon is one of the most widely recognized symbols of HIV and AIDS. World AIDS Day is the focal point of the World AIDS Campaign, which is active all year round. On December 1, there are many health education campaigns that promote the day. Anti-discrim-ination activities are also launched

on or around this date. Many people hold events on World AIDS Day to re-member people who died of AIDS-re-lated conditions. One example is an AIDS Memorial Quilt project, which allows friends and family members of a deceased AIDS sufferer to con-struct quilt panels, which are then ex-hibited throughout the United States. AIDS stands for “acquired immune deficiency syndrome” or “acquired immunodeficiency syndrome” and denotes a condition that results from the damage done by HIV (human im-munodeficiency virus) to the immune system.(APP)

International law winter school to start from Dec 6

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Policy Re-search Institute (IPRI) will hold the International Law Winter School with a special focus on issues relat-ed to international political and eco-nomic systems. The winter school will be held from December 6-7 in collaboration with the Research So-ciety of International Law (RSIL). The theme of the winter school will be “Reassessing Pakistan from an International Law Perspective”. The Winter School shall host a series of eminent international lawyers, ac-

ademics, and diplomats who will deliver lectures on pressing areas within the realm of International Law such as International Climate Change Law and International Water Law. There shall also be a special fo-cus on the issues within international political and economic systems and the way these issues converge with the intricacies of International Law. Moreover, Pakistan’s International Law perspective in relation to Kash-mir and India shall also be extensive-ly discussed.(APP)

SC reserves decision in Rekodiq reference

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Tuesday reserved its opinion regard-ing the presidential reference on the Rekodiq mining case. A five-member larger bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP), Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, and Justice Jamaal Khan Man-dokhel completed the hearing and re-served the verdict in the presidential reference. The president on the ad-vice of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had filed the reference to seek the top

court’s opinion on the Rekodiq settle-ment agreement. During the course of proceedings, the chief justice said that the court would be cautious on the is-sue of fundamental rights while giving an opinion on the presidential refer-ence. The President had asked for an opinion on the legal challenges of the Rekodiq agreement, he added. He said that the fine of several billion Dollars was on Pakistan in the Rekodiq case. The Federal government followed the constitution and the law in the Reko-diq agreement, he added. (APP)

Sindh to launch mobile app for HIV screening test

KARACHI: To maintain the privacy of patients, Sindh government an-nounced launching a mobile appli-cation for human immunodeficien-cy virus (HIV) screening test. While addressing an awareness session on HIV at Karachi Press Club, Head of Communicable Disease Control Pro-gram of Sindh Health Department, Dr Ershad Kazmi, said that there are people who want to get tested for HIV but want to keep their identity in a veil. So, this application is be-ing launched for such persons to get tested with secrecy, he added. Dr Er-shad also said that efforts are being made to highlight health issues in curriculum, so that people are pro-

tected from such fatal diseases and able to take preventive measures. According to UNAIDS report, the estimated number of HIV positive people in Pakistan is 0.21 million. However, Dr Ershad said that 19,766 of the 90,300 HIV positive people are registered in Sindh and getting free treatment by the government. He added that donors, unauthenticated blood banks, people using syringes and prostitutes are the cause of HIV spread. The process of HIV screen-ing had accelerated from thousands to millions, so that the patients get timely treatment in case of diagno-sis. (Agencies)

Pakistan to import products by Afghan women entrepreneurs: Khar

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar on Tuesday announced that Pakistan would give special preference to import of products from the businesses run by the women of Afghanistan. The State Minister expressed these views at a luncheon meeting hosted in her honour by Afghanistan's Women Chamber of Commerce in Kabul. Khar underlined the important role of women in the society and expressed Pakistan's keen interest in strengthening linkages between the women



entrepreneurs of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Meanwhile, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar and Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Mutaqqi along

with their respective delegations met in Kabul and discussed matters of bilateral importance. The meeting focused on political consultations between the two governments. Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Afghanistan Ambassador Mohammad Sadiq was also present. "A range of bilateral issues of common interest including cooperation in education, health, trade and investment, regional connectivity, people-to-people contacts, and socioeconomic projects," the Foreign Office said. (APP)

ECP rejects Imran Khan's appeal against fine slapped for breaching code

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday rejected Pakistan Tehreek-I-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's plea against the slapping of a fine on him for violating the election code of conduct ahead of NA 45 by-polls. Former prime minister Imran Khan had filed an appeal against the imposition of Rs 30,000 fine on him and others by district monitoring officer, Peshawar for violating code of conduct ahead of by polls in NA 45 Kurram, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The ECP announced its reserved verdict said that the former prime minister was required to challenge the decision of the monitoring of-

ficer within three days, but now the time has passed, therefore the plea stands rejected. According to the commission, Imran Khan and others used state resources ahead of by-elections in NA 45, Kurram. According to the ECP code of conduct, the public office-holders including president, prime minister, chairman/deputy chairman senate, speaker/deputy speaker of an assembly, Federal ministers, ministers of state, governors, chief ministers, provincial ministers, and advisers to the prime minister and the chief minister, mayor/chairman/Nazim, their deputies, cannot participate in the by-polls campaigns. (APP)

Environmental tribunal fines Rs 1m each on two projects of imaraat group

ISLAMABAD: The Environmental Protection Tribunal (EPT) of the Federal Capital on Tuesday imposed penalties of Rs 1 million each on two real estate projects of Imaraat Group of Companies for initiating development work without any environmental approval from the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency. The Tribunal headed by Adil Anwar (Chairperson) and Dr Muhammad Bashir Khan (Member Technical) passed important judgments against two of the projects of Imaraat Group of Companies namely Amazon Malls and Hotels and Builders Mall located at DHA-II G.T Road, Islamabad respectively, an official

told APP here while sharing the recent judgments. The Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA), the environmental watchdog had brought complaints against the above-mentioned projects for initiating them without any prior key environmental approvals including Initial Environmental Examination and Environmental Impact Assessment by the Federal Agency. During the course of proceedings and site visits, it was proved that Imarat Group of Companies had initiated both projects without environmental approvals and had pleaded that they had no knowledge of environmental rules. (APP)

PML-N says governor's rule can be imposed in Punjab

LAHORE: The PML-N has indicated about imposing governor's rule in Punjab in a bid to bar the PTI from dissolving the provincial assembly, the sources say. The development has taken place after PML-N and the PPP leaders' meeting in Lahore today. "The governor's rule could be imposed in Punjab," says PM's aide Attaullah Tarar, pointing out that the opposition parties in Punjab will share their strategy soon. He states that it will happen if the resolution comes from the National Assembly and the Senate and goes to the President. The coalition partners' decision came a week af-

ter PTI Chairman Imran Khan announced that the party doesn't want to be part of this "corrupt" system and will opt out of the assemblies. The Coalition partners started consultation after this announcement in a bid to foil the plan of Imran Khan. The latest reports say that PML-N senior leader Hamza Shehbaz and PPP parliamentary leader in Punjab Assembly Syed Hassan Murtaza held meeting along with other leaders at the PML-N secretariat in Model Town today. The PPP leader held meeting with Hamza on direction of former President Asif Ali Zardari. (APP)

MNA Asim Nazir inaugurates uplift schemes in NA-101

FAISALABAD: Member National Assembly (MNA) Chaudhry Asim Nazir Tuesday inaugurated different uplift schemes of provision of electricity and construction of roads costing Rs40.5 million in constituency NA-101 here. Addressing the ceremony, the MNA said that development of the area and bringing improvement in the living stan-

dard of the common man especially in rural areas was top priority. He said that now all villages would be electrified in the constituency, besides laying down a road network. He said that CM Punjab Parvez Elahi had always served the masses without any interest and added that all modern facilities would be ensured in remote areas also. (APP)

Arrangements inspected at station-22 of rescue 1122 Lakki Marwat

LAKKI MAWRAT: Emergency Officer of Rescue service 1122 Atif Sardar on Tuesday paid a visit to Station 22 Lakki city and inspected arrangements for tackling emergencies. During the visit, the emergency officer was briefed about matters pertaining to ongoing rescue activities and checked attendance of staff. He also inspected the uniform of

workers, the cleanliness condition of vehicles and its equipment used by the rescue service for coping with emergencies in the district. He inquired about the medical-related facilities including medicines for tackling and directed the rescuers to remain alert round the clock for providing prompt services to people during emergencies. (APP)

Urs of Hazrat Shah Ruknuddin Alam on Nov 30

MULTAN: The 709th Urs of great saint of sub-continent Hazrat Shah Ruknuddin Alam will commence on Wednesday (November 30). Central leader Pakistan Tehreek Insaf and "Sajadanashen" (Caretaker) of the shrine, Makhdoom Shah Mahmood

Qureshi will inaugurate the three-day ceremony by giving a traditional bath to the tomb. A good number of religious scholars and devotees from across the country including interior Sindh and neighbouring country would join the ceremonies. (APP)

Three IHC's additional judges approved

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi approved regularization of three additional judges of Islamabad High Court (IHC), the President House said Tuesday. The additional judges include Justice Sardar Ijaz Ishaq Khan, Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir and Justicr Saman Rafat Imtiaz. The president gave the approval under Article 175-A(13) of the Constitution. (APP)

Motorway M1 closed at different spots

RAWALPINDI: Motorway M1 has been closed from Peshawar Toll Plaza to Rashakai and Swat Expressway from Karnal Sher Khan to Ismaila for all traffic due to fog on Tuesday. National Highways and Motorway Police have requested the public to avoid unnecessary travel in foggy weather and use fog lights while travelling on this section of the Motorway. It has been advised that in the foggy season, keep the middle distance between the vehicles more than in normal conditions and before starting the journey, take advisory from help-line 130. (APP)

Two teens die

MULTAN: Two teenagers died and another was injured critically when their motorcycle collided with a mini-truck at a flyover near Aziz Hotel on Tuesday. Rescue 1122 sources said that the accident occurred when three teenagers were passing through the Yusuf Raza Gilani flyover today. They informed the dead were identified as M. Ali (16) and M. Tayyib (15) while Zain Ali received critical injuries. The rescuers shifted the bodies and injured to Nishtar Hpspital. (APP)

Two killed

SARGODHA: Two persons were killed in separate road mishaps here on Tuesday. Jhal Chakian police said that Muhammad Nawaz r/o chak 84 NB was heading towards Sargodha on his motorcycle when a speeding truck hit the two-wheeler near 84 adda, killing him on the spot. In another incident, a speeding truck hit to death motorcyclist Mumtaz (49) r/o Dharema. Police started investigation. (APP)

Clean-up drive continues in Sialkot

SIALKOT: Solid Waste Management Company (SWMC) Convener Chaudhry Shah Nawaz has said a clean-up campaign of the company in the city is going on successfully. He expressed these views during a meeting held at SWMC office on Tuesday. Operation Manager Agha Dawood, Qasim Ali Bajwa, Abdul Khaliq and others were also present. Conveners had been appointed in the union councils to work closely with supervisors to ensure cleanliness in each area, he said. (APP)

AIOU to launch english works

SLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is launching an English Works program in collaboration with the U.S. Department of State. The English Works is an intensive 6-month English language proficiency and skill enhancement program for underprivileged talented students aged 17-25, a press release on Tuesday said. (APP)

PTI ex-ministers still occupying official residences despite resignations from NA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-N Member National Assembly Khel Das Kohistani Tuesday criticized the announcement made by PTI chairman Imran Khan about the party's resignations from all assemblies and termed it 'frustrating drama' as despite resignation from the national assemblies his own ex-ministers were still occupying official residences. "Imran Khan will take a U-turn on his own statement as members of his own party will not support this move," he said while speaking to ptv news channel. He mentioned that ex-minister of

PTI Fawad Chaudhry who is active in pushing the PTI out of the political scene still living in Parliament Lodges and using all facilities even after his resignation from the NA. He said that PTI and its allies will split over the issue of resignation from the assemblies as a large number of members are not in favor of resigning from the assemblies. Replying to a question, he said that the people had rejected the 'face-saving show' of PTI in Rawalpindi, adding, the public would not take part in any campaign against the country and its institutions. (APP)

Anti-polio drive to target high-risk areas successfully continues

ISLAMABAD: A varied-duration anti-polio campaign is successfully underway in selected districts of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan. More than 13.5 million children under 5 years of age will be administered polio drops during the immunization campaign. Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SHC), Dr. Akhtar Malik talking to a private news channel said that complete coverage is being ensured in the anti-polio campaign and a report will be sent containing the authentic

data regarding the administration of polio vaccine to the missed children. There is a dire need for a collective effort for the complete eradication of polio and dengue-like diseases, he stressed. The government has almost eradicated this crippling disease from the country and we are determined to end the last few cases too with the cooperation of parents, he added. He further said this drive aims to ensure timely and repeated vaccination of eligible children, adding, high-risk districts are our top priority. (APP)

PR all set to operate green line train in Dec

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways is all set to operate Green Line Train during the month of December as a superior service to facilitate the passengers and generate revenues for the department. "The train is comprised of two AC Parlor, five AC business, six AC Standards and four to five economy class coaches," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. He said the decision was taken on the directives of Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique, who wanted the best arrangements for the Green Line Train for the travellers. The official

said that the minister also directed the official concerned for reducing the travel time of the Green Line from Lahore to Karachi to less than 20 hours which would restore the confidence of the passengers. "It is also decided to provide the best travel facilities in the Green Line train including the provision of high-quality food and keeping the ticket price at an affordable level. Besides, a separate LCD will be installed on each seat of the AC Parlor to let passengers enjoy favourite videos through headphones," he added. (APP)

Speakers urge for fisheries data collection through digital tools

KARACHI: Data collection through modern digital technology is key to managing and conserving fisheries resources in Pakistan. Standard data about fish stocks, their abundance, and diversity would help in informed decision-making and implementation of the fisheries policies in the Arabian sea. This was stated by the speakers during a training workshop titled 'Using Fisheries Data Collection mobile Application' at a local hotel on Tuesday. The speakers stressed the need for the collection

of fisheries data using the latest digital tools to develop evidence-based fisheries policies, plans, and strategies. The workshop was attended by 25 government officials from the Sindh Marine and Coastal Fisheries Development Department and Marine Fisheries Department (MFD). Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ali Muhammad Mastoi, Director General Sindh Marine and Coastal Fisheries Development Department, said that Pakistan is endowed with rich marine biodiversity. (APP)

Steps afoot to meet fertilizer's needs in country: SAPM

LAHORE: Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Industries and Production (SAPM) Tasneem Ahmed Qureshi on Tuesday said the government was putting in place effective measures to maintain demand and supply of fertilizers in the country as fertilizer was a basic and an important agricultural input to enhance per acre yield. He expressed these views after having a briefing on the working and performance of the National Fertilizer Marketing Limited (NFML) by its Managing Director Khalid Saleem here at the NFML office. Senior Manager Farooq Jilal, Assistant Manager Mudasar Aslam and Farhan ullah and others also attend-

ed the meeting. He said the NFML should evolve a mechanism under which farmers' interest could be safeguarded efficiently. In a way, credit goes to the NFML for making the Gawadar Port functional by wharfing 150 Urea vessels containing 5.3 million metric tons of imported urea. During the briefing, he was told that around 300 employees were working in the corporation on contract basis since the last 10 year. NFML Managing Director Kalid Selem presented a detailed presentation on the formation and development model of the company and briefed him about departmental history, current achievements and future goals. (APP)

BISE announces scholarships for Hafiz-e-Quran, special students

FAISALABAD: The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Faisalabad announced to provide scholarships to Hafiz Quran and students with disabilities on the basis of results of annual secondary school examinations 2022. According to a BISE spokesman, heads of schools and colleges in the division were informed that the education board would provide scholarships to Hafiz Quran and special students with disabilities when they would seek admission in first year. The scholarships would be provided purely on merit basis and in this connection, test of

Hafiz Quran students would also be arranged during February 2023 whereas special students with disabilities would be bound to submit their disability certificate issued by the Social Welfare Department, he added. He said that Hafiz Quran and special students with disabilities who had obtained 60 per cent or above marks in the matriculation annual exams 2022 were eligible to apply for scholarships if they got admission in first year and not received any other scholarship from Quaid-e-Azam Scholarship, Punjab Education Endowment Fund Scholarship. (APP)

Oil prices slide on concerns over China's demand

TOKYO: Oil prices dropped in early trade on Tuesday, weighed down by concerns about slowing fuel demand in top crude importer China amid strict Covid-19 curbs. Brent crude futures fell 45 cents, or 0.5%, to trade at US\$82.74 a barrel at 0113 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures dropped 51 cents, or 0.7%, to US\$76.73 a barrel. Brent settled down 0.5% the previous day, having slumped more than 3% to US\$80.61 earlier in the session to its lowest since Jan 4. WTI settled

up 1.3% on Monday, after earlier touching its lowest since December 2021. "Bearish moods toward oil prices are spreading in Asia due to concerns about a decline in China's demand while the rare protests over the weekend also raised fears over the impact on Chinese economy," said Toshitaka Tazawa, an analyst at Fujitomi Securities Co Ltd. The rare street protests that erupted in cities across China over the weekend were a vote against President Xi Jinping's zero-Covid policy and the strongest

public defiance during his political career, China analysts said. Beijing has stuck with the zero-Covid policy even as much of the world has lifted most restrictions. Investors also remained cautious ahead of a key meeting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and allies including Russia, known as OPEC+, on Dec 4. Analysts at Eurasia Group suggested in a note on Monday that weakened demand out of China could spur OPEC+ to cut output. (Agencies)

Wheat recovers from 3-month low, Black Sea supplies limit gains

SINGAPORE: Chicago wheat edged higher on Tuesday, after hitting a more than three-month low in the previous session, although ample supplies from the Black Sea region following an extension of the export corridor deal curbed gains. Soybeans climbed to a two-week high, while corn eased. The most-active wheat contract on the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) rose 0.5% to \$7.84-3/4 a bushel, as of 0434 GMT, after dropping on Monday to its lowest since Aug. 22 at \$7.73-1/4.



Soybeans added 0.3% to \$14.61-3/4 a bushel and corn was down 0.1% at \$6.70-1/2 a bushel. Cheap supplies from Russia and elsewhere in the Black Sea are leading to competi-

tion for US suppliers. Russian wheat prices rebounded slightly last week from a week earlier, when they fell on the extension of the Black Sea grain supply deal, analysts said on Monday. Prices for Russian wheat with 12.5% protein content and for supply from Black Sea ports in December were at \$317 a tonne free on board (FOB) on Friday evening, up \$3 from a week earlier, the IKAR agriculture consultancy said in a note. Soybean prices are being supported by dryness in Brazil. (Agencies)

Japan PM wants defence budget to reach 2pc of GDP by 2027

TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has told his cabinet to increase defence spending to 2% of GDP by 2027, up from a longstanding level of around 1%. Kishida announced the plan to his defence and finance ministers late Monday, as Japan overhauls its defence and security strategies to address growing threats from China as well as the changing geopolitical landscape after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. In August, the defence ministry submitted a \$40 billion budget request, but the figure will not be



finalised until the government completes updates to several defence policies. "We'll take budgetary measures to increase spending on defence and other outlays to 2% of current GDP

by 2027," Defence Minister Yasukazu Hamada told reporters after talks with Kishida. Japan's defence spending has been set at around 1% of GDP or less for decades, but Kishida's Liberal Democratic Party has signalled plans to boost that figure closer to the NATO standard of 2%. Growing pressure from China, including military exercises and the presence of boats around islands disputed with Japan, as well as Russia's invasion of its neighbour, have helped build support for increased spending. (Agencies)

Russia discusses 'gas union' with Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan

MOSCOW: Russia is discussing a possible "gas union" with Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan to support shipments between the three countries and to other energy buyers, including China, senior Russian officials said on Tuesday. Russian deputy prime minister Alexander Novak, who mentioned shipments to China, provided no details of the plan. Meanwhile, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the details of the agreement were yet to be discussed, but the key idea was coordinating supply plans. He cited the example of northern Kazakhstan which imports gas from Russia and where the Astana government is considering building a pipeline to provide the region with Kazakh gas. Russia, at the same time, is increasing production in nearby eastern Siberia, he said,

hinting that Kazakhstan could avoid spending "tens of billions of dollars" on pipelines by committing to Russian imports. Kazakh president Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's spokesman said on Tuesday Russian president Vladimir Putin proposed such an idea in a meeting with Tokayev on Monday. He provided no details. While Russia is a major natural gas exporter, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan produce roughly as much as they consume. The two countries are connected by a gas pipeline to Russia, and a separate pipeline crosses both on its way to China. However, both pipelines mostly pump gas from Turkmenistan, while Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan have never reported any transit shipments of Russian gas to China or any other countries. (Agencies)

Dubai's luxury homes world's highest price rise in 2023

ABU DHABI: Wealthy investors may have to pay extra for a luxury house in Dubai next year as prices are set to rise further and post the highest growth globally on the back of strong buyer interest and demand-supply imbalance in the segment, according to a new report. By the end of 2022, prices of premium apartments and villas in Dubai will be 50% higher than last year and increase further to post an average growth of 13.5% in 2023, the highest in the world, Knight Frank said in a report released on Tuesday. The city's mainstream residential market is forecast to register price increases of 5% to

7%. Dubai's prime market, which includes the neighbourhoods of The Palm Jumeirah, Emirates Hills and Jumeirah Island, has already witnessed record price growth this year. The growth has been driven by the city's safe-haven status, relatively affordable property prices, strong demand from international ultra-high-net-worth buyers and improved business sentiment. While Dubai's flats and villas have become pricier each year since the pandemic, the city's property prices remain one of the most affordable in the world, with rates trailing 2014 peak levels by 21.4%, according to Knight Frank. (Agencies)

Pakistan receives \$500m from AIIB: finance ministry

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has received \$500 million from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the Ministry of Finance stated on Tuesday. "Government of Pakistan has today received \$500 million from AIIB. The funds are deposited with the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and will augment our reserves," the ministry said in a post on its Twitter handle. Earlier, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar had said that Pakistan would receive \$500 million as co-financing for the BRACE development program from the AIIB. The BRACE (Building Resilience with Active Countercyclical Expenditures Program) is an Asian Development Bank financing programme to counter the social

fallouts of economic crisis. The development is crucial for the cash-strapped country, which has seen its foreign exchange reserves dwindle in recent months. The country's reserves stood at \$7.8 billion as of November 18, barely enough to cover imports for a month. At the same time, falling reserves have increased worries over Pakistan's ability to meet debt obligations, and increased perceived default risks. There has been growing uncertainty about the ability of Pakistan to meet external financing obligations with the country in the midst of an economic crisis and recovering from devastating floods that killed over 1,700 people. (Agencies)

Rupee slumps against US dollar

KARACHI: Pakistani rupee declined by 16 paisas to settle at Rs224.11 against the US dollar Tuesday during trading in the interbank market. On Monday, the value of the rupee fell by a paisa to Rs223.95 against the greenback. Meanwhile, the rupee's spot was seen to be dropping by two paisas on Friday. The rupee marked losses of around 11 paisas to Rs223.92 against the US dollar during interbank trading. The depreciation run for the rupee against the US dollar began on Wednesday, after experiencing a brief upswing a day before. With economic instability, the rupee has lost consecutively five sessions in the interbank market, but remained within the level of Rs223. (Agencies)

S&P Global lowers 2023 growth forecast

LONDON: S&P Global Ratings lowered its 2023 growth forecast for emerging economies on Tuesday, citing persistent pressures from the Russia-Ukraine conflict, a lingering Covid-19 pandemic and tight monetary policy conditions. The ratings agency now projects real gross domestic product growth of 3.8% next year, down from its previous forecast of a 4.1% expansion. "The downward revision to growth comes from all EMs (emerging markets) excluding China and Saudi Arabia, with most economies poised to expand below their longer-run trend rates," it said, adding that forecasts for 2024 and 2025 remain broadly unchanged, averaging at 4.3%. (Agencies)

Asian markets rise after calm night in China

BEIJING: Asian equities rose, and the dollar weakened Tuesday as China avoided another night of protests after a week-end of unrest across the country fuelled uncertainty in the world's number two economy. The gains were led by a rally in Hong Kong and Shanghai, with property firms enjoying a much-needed surge on the back of moves to ease funding restrictions on troubled developers. However, sentiment was tempered by warnings from top Federal Reserve policymakers that US interest rates would rise further and could go higher than initially thought to fight inflation. (Agencies)

Irish regulator fines Facebook €265m over data breach

DUBLIN: Ireland's data privacy regulator imposed a €265 million fine on social media giant Facebook today, bringing the total it has fined parent group Meta to almost €1 billion. The penalty resulted from an investigation, started last year, into the discovery of a collated set of personal data that had been scraped from Facebook between May 2018 and September 2019, and made available online. Facebook was also ordered to make a range of corrective measures. Meta said it had cooperated fully with the investigation by Ireland's data privacy commissioner (DPC) and made changes to its systems during the time in question, including removing the ability to scrape



its features in this way using phone numbers. Today's fine is the fourth the DPC has levied against one of Meta's companies. It is Meta's lead privacy regulator within the European Union, and has 13 more inquiries into the social media group outstanding. In September the watchdog hit its Instagram subsidiary with a record fine of €405 million, which Meta plans to appeal. (Agencies)

Cyber Monday set for record sales of US\$11.2b

LOS ANGELES: Spending on Cyber Monday, the biggest US online shopping day, is set to hit a record US\$11.2 billion, according to a report, as discounts on everything from clothes to TVs drive shoppers to click "add to cart" even as stubbornly high inflation persists. The Adobe Analytics report predicts spending on Cyber Monday to rise 5.2% as inflation-weary consumers have been putting off holiday shopping for weeks in the hopes of deep post-Thanksgiving markdowns. Adobe Analytics, which measures e-commerce by analysing transactions at websites, has access to data covering purchases at 85% of the top 100 internet retailers in the United States. Cyber Monday sales fell 1.4% last year as retailers spread out promotional

deals across weeks from as early as October to better manage inventories amid widespread product shortages. However, big single day shopping events appear to be back in vogue this year with major retailers including Target Corp, Macy's Inc and Best Buy Co Inc expecting a return to pre-pandemic shopping patterns. Target's website today advertised discounts of up to 40% on Hot Wheels toys and holiday decor, while Walmart Inc and Best Buy websites showed deals worth hundreds of dollars on high-end laptops and televisions. "With holiday promotions kicking off long before the Thanksgiving weekend, consumers have been shopping strategically for the season's best deals," said Mastercard chief US economist Michelle Meyer. (Agencies)

EasyJet flies into third straight annual loss

LONDON: British airline EasyJet on Tuesday confirmed a third annual loss in a row, which was however far less than during the worst of the Covid pandemic. The airline, which flies mainly across Europe, posted a loss after tax of £169 million (\$203 million) for its financial year to the end of September. That compared with a net loss of £858 million in 2020/21, EasyJet added in a statement. The Covid pandemic ravaged global aviation, grounding planes worldwide and forcing airlines to slash thousands

of jobs in 2020. Demand has recovered sharply after most lockdowns were lifted. However, airlines and airports are struggling to recruit sufficient staff after having axed so many positions. "EasyJet has achieved a record bounce back this summer," chief executive Johan Lundgren said in the statement. He added that during the current "tough" economic climate, consumers would still look to go on holiday but seek out value, helping the no-frills carrier to do better than more established rivals. (Agencies)

Argentina revives special 'soy dollar' to boost reserves

LIONEL MESSI: Argentinian soy farmers will be able to sell their product at a preferential exchange rate, as the country seeks to shore up its central bank reserves, according to a decree published Monday. Argentina is one of the world's largest exporters of soybeans and soy oil. However, with year-on-year inflation of 88 percent and constant fears of currency devaluation, farmers often hoard their supplies waiting for a better rate. The plan is to "increase reserves so that the economy reaches the end of the year with \$10 billion available,"

Secretary of Industry Jose de Mendiguren told Futurok radio. The incentive kicks off Monday and will last until December 30. Instead of selling soy products for the tightly-controlled official rate of around 166 pesos per dollar, producers will receive a much higher 230 pesos. A similar preferential soy rate was applied in September, when soybean sales earned the country almost \$8 billion. Argentina imposed a raft of exchange controls in 2019 in its constant battle to keep dollars in the country and fight low foreign exchange reserves. (Agencies)

Qatar to supply Germany with LNG under gas deal

DOHA: Qatar has agreed to send Germany two million tons of liquefied natural gas a year for at least 15 years, officials said Tuesday, as Europe's biggest economy scrambles for alternative supplies after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. With the long-awaited deal, Qatar aims to "contribute to efforts to support energy security in Germany and Europe," said Saad Sherida al-Kaabi, Qatar's energy minister and CEO of QatarEnergy. QatarEnergy's partner, US firm ConocoPhillips, will supply the gas from Qatar's North

Field East and South projects from 2026 to the Brunsbuttel LNG terminal being developed in northern Germany, Kaabi said. Asian countries led by China, Japan and South Korea are the main market for Qatar's gas, which has been increasingly sought by European countries since Russia's war on Ukraine threw supplies into doubt. Negotiations with European countries had previously struggled as Germany and others balked at signing the type of long-term deals made with Asian nations. (Agencies)

Egypt's currency flexibility still in doubt after huge selloff

CAIRO: Egypt's newly flexible currency is still too tame for a market that's bracing for more disruption ahead. Although Egypt has allowed the pound to slide more than almost every other currency in the world this quarter, investors are questioning whether authorities would completely loosen their grip if it comes under more pressure. They may not need to wait long for answers. Among developing

peers, Egypt is the economy most vulnerable to a currency crisis over the next 12 months, according to a Nomura Holdings Inc. gauge that's predicted past selloffs. HSBC Holdings Plc, which previously expected the pound to stabilize around 24 per dollar, now tentatively envisions a move toward 26, which implies a depreciation of around 5.5 percent from current levels. (Agencies)

Woods withdraws from Hero World Challenge

MIAMI: Tiger Woods has withdrawn from this week s Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas because of plantar fasciitis in his right foot, the 15-time major champion said on Twitter on Monday. Woods said he would focus on his hosting duties at the 20-man unofficial tournament at the Albany course, which benefits his charity TGR Foundation. It was to have been his first start since he missed the cut in the Open Championship at St. Andrews in July. “In preparation and practice for this week s Hero World Challenge, I ve developed plantar fasciitis in my



right foot, which is making it difficult to walk,” Woods said in a statement posted on social media. “After consulting with my doctors and trainers, I have decided to withdraw this week and focus on my hosting duties. My plan is still to compete in The Match and PNC Championship.” (Agencies)

South Africa ease past Pakistan in FIH Nations Cup

POTCHEFSTROOM: South Africa comprehensively defeated Pakistan 6-2 in the ongoing FIH Nations Cup. The home side dominated proceedings throughout the match, which resulted in victory by a big margin. Tyson Dlungwana gave the home side the lead in the eight minute of the match but that was cancelled out by Pakistan’s Rooman five minutes later. In the second quarter, Mustaphaa Cassiem and Samkelo Mvimbi scored two goals in the space of couple of minutes to put South Africa in the driving seat. Tevin Kok scored South Africa’s fourth goal

in the 40th minute with the home side maintaining their three-goal lead till the end of the third quarter. In the final quarter, Dayaan Cassiem scored South Africa’s fifth goal in the 45th minute. However, Pakistan’s Arshad Liaquat scored five minutes later to reduce the deficit. Although, Keenan Horne scored South Africa’s sixth goal and restored his side’s lead in the 56th minute of the match. Pakistan’s next match is on November 29 against Ireland, meanwhile their last pool game is against France on December 1. (Agencies)

Pakistani athletes shine in South Asian Karate C’ship

COLOMBO: Pakistani athletes shined in the 6th South Asian Cadet, Junior, U-21, and Senior Karate Championship, which is being held in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The national athletes made the whole country proud by winning seven gold medals so far in the South Asian event. Pakistan’s Arzoo won the gold medal after beating India’s Sham Baveer in the junior’s 59 kg plus category, taking the team’s tally to sixth. Meanwhile, Pakistan secured their seventh gold medal in the event after Mubarak Ali beat his Indian foe in the minus 84kg G class.



Moreover, Irshad Ali also clinched a gold medal in the U-21 category as he beat his Indian opponent to claim the honour. Overall, Pakistan secured seven gold medals, 11 silver medals and eight bronze medals. Earlier in August, Pakistan bagged eight medals in Commonwealth Games 2022. (Agencies)

Durant propels Nets past Magic, Pacers stun Lakers

NEW YROK: Kevin Durant scored a season-high 45 points to power Brooklyn to a 109-102 NBA victory over the Orlando Magic on Monday that kept the Nets trending in the right direction. Durant’s was just one of the 40-point performances on Monday as Devin Booker poured in 44 to lead the Phoenix Suns to a 122-117 victory over the Kings in Sacramento and Washington Wizards center Kristaps Porzingis scored a career-high 41 in a 142-127 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves. While the league-leading Boston Celtics romped to victory again, leading wire-to-wire in a 140-105 win over

the Charlotte Hornets, the Philadelphia 76ers erased a 16-point deficit to beat the Atlanta Hawks 104-101 in star center Joel Embiid’s return from injury. In Brooklyn, the Nets had their hands full early with the Magic, who led by 10 in the first quarter. The Nets were up by one at half-time, and Durant erupted in the third quarter, scoring 19 points, blocking two shots and coming up with a steal in the period as the Nets seized control. “Teammates set great screens for me, the paint was opened up because we were spaced off properly and I was able to knock some shots down,” Durant said after the game. (Agencies)

New Zealand golfer Ko returns to No. 1 in world

WELLINGTON: New Zealand’s Lydia Ko is atop the women’s golf world rankings for the third time in her career, regaining the number one spot on Monday a week after her LPGA Tour Championship triumph. Ko, who first reached number one in 2015, passed American Nelly Korda, who had moved atop the rankings on November 14 after a one-stroke victory at the Pelican Women’s Championship. “I’m very grateful to be world number one again,” Ko said in a statement. “To be honest, I wasn’t sure if I’d ever be back here again. “This wouldn’t have been possible without my family and team, thank you for your belief and love.” Ko be-

came the youngest world number one when she topped the rankings in 2015, holding the top spot from February 2 to June 14 for a total of 19 weeks. She then reigned as number one for 85 weeks from October 2015 to June 2017. The span of five years, five months and 17 days is the longest period between spells at number one -- Ko regaining the summit after a 2022 resurgence that started with a January victory at the LPGA at Boca Rio in Florida. She had ended a near three-year title drought -- during which she dropped as low as 59th in the world -- with a victory in the LOTTE Championship in Hawaii in 2021. (Agencies)

National Track Cycling C’ship 2022 concludes

LAHORE: Pakistan Wapda won the men’s and women’s titles in the 67th National Track Cycling Championship 2022, organized by Pakistan Cycling Federation (PCF), here at the Cycling Velodrome of Nishtar Park Sports Complex on Monday. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa finished runner-up in the men’s event while Punjab were runners-up in the women’s event. Aqib Shah and Rajiya Shabbir were adjudged as the best men and women cyclists respectively. Total nine teams from across the country participated in the three-day championship. In the men’s elite category, Pa-

kistan Wapda won the first position with 90 points. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa secured second while Punjab earned the third position. Balochistan stood fourth, POF Wah fifth and Sindh claimed sixth position. Pakistan Wapda’s Aqib Shah was adjudged as the best male cyclist of the championship with four gold medals. In women’s elite, Pakistan Wapda won the first position, Punjab secured second, KPK third and Gilgit-Baltistan fourth. Among women, Rajiya Shabbir of Pakistan Wapda was declared the best cyclist of the championship. (APP)

Brazil, Portugal join France in World Cup knockouts

DOHA: Five-time champions Brazil and Cristiano Ronaldo s Portugal joined France in the World Cup knockout rounds with a game to spare on a dramatic day of action in Qatar on Monday. Portugal s match against Uruguay, which they won 2-0, was briefly interrupted a pitch invader who carried a rainbow flag and wore messages of support for war-torn Ukraine and Iranian women. Manchester United playmaker Bruno Fernandes starred for Portugal, scoring with a cross-cum-shot early in the second half before con-



verting an injury-time penalty. Ronaldo wheeled away in celebration after the first goal but FIFA decided he had not touched the ball, denying him a ninth World Cup goal, which would have put him level with Portuguese great Eusebio. “It was

a well-deserved victory,” Portugal coach Fernando Santos said. “The first part is over, we are in a hurry. Now I will continue to work to improve what needs to improve.” Portugal top Group H with six points after two matches, three ahead of Ghana, who edged a five-goal thriller against Son Heung-min s South Korea. Man-of-the-match Mohammed Kudus, 22, one of the hottest properties in world football, caught the eye with two goals including the winner midway through the second half. (Agencies)

NZ golfer Lydia Ko returns to world’s No 1 position

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est, I wasn’t sure if I’d ever be back here again. “This wouldn’t have been possible without my family and team. Thank you for your belief

and love.” Ko became the youngest world No 1 when she topped the rankings in 2015, holding the top spot from Feb 2 to June 14 for a total of 19 weeks. She then reigned as No 1 for 85 weeks from October 2015 to June 2017. The span of five years, five months, and 17 days is the longest period between spells at No 1 – Ko regaining the summit after a 2022 resurgence that started with a January victory at the LPGA at Boca Rio in Florida. (Agencies)

Olympic hosts Paris to stage IFAF Congress next year

PARIS: Paris is set to host the International Federation of American Football (IFAF) Congress in the second half of next year. After joining forces with the National Football League (NFL) to promote flag football, the International Federation’s Congress at its headquarters will see a vote to add a representative from NFL to the IFAF Executive Board in a non-voting role. The initiative was

approved by the IFAF Board early this year. IFAF is set to participate in the IF Forum in Lausanne. President Pierre Trochet and managing director Andy Fuller will represent the body along with NFL’s head of Europe Brett Gosper. “We’re delighted to be bringing the IFAF Congress ‘home’ to Paris in 2023,” Trochet said. “This will be the most important edition in our federation’s history – the

culmination of a significant period of governance reform and strategic development. “The motion to add NFL representation to our board reflects the impact of our partnership, underpinned by shared values and the goal to drive our sport’s growth all around the world. “In this sense, Paris will provide a fitting stage as a city at the heart of global sport over the coming years.” (Agencies)

Recharged England face Pakistan challenge in long-awaited series

LONDON: A recharged England, playing swashbuckling cricket under skipper Ben Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum, will get their first taste of Pakistan conditions in 17 years when the first Test begins in Rawalpindi on Thursday. Under Stokes and former New Zealand great McCullum, England have remodelled their game – winning six of their last seven Tests at home

playing what has been dubbed “Bazball” after the coach’s nickname. That came after a dismal sequence of just one win in 17 Tests – including a 4-0 humiliation in the Ashes in Australia – resulting in head coach Chris Silverwood being sacked and Stokes taking over as skipper from Joe Root. But low and slow pitches in Pakistan – where England last played a Test in 2005 – pose a

different challenge, McCullum admits. Security issues have meant Pakistan have had to play most of their home Tests of the last two decades on neutral grounds, usually the United Arab Emirates. “We understand the size of the challenge in front of us – but that’s great, and that’s why you want to play the game,” McCullum told a press conference. (Agencies)

US apologizes after Iran flag scandal

DOHA: The head coach of the US men’s national soccer team, Gregg Berhalter, has apologized after a row involving an altered Iranian flag overshadowed the build-up to the two countries’ crucial World Cup meeting in Qatar. Iran reacted angrily at the weekend after a social media post from the official account of the US men’s national team (USMNT) featured the World Cup Group B standings and the flags of the respective nations – but with Iran’s flag missing the central emblem of the Islamic Republic. US soccer officials subsequently told the media that the gesture was a show of support for the protests which have broken out in Iran in recent weeks following the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in police custody. (Agencies)

Shoaib to take on Indonesian boxer

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan’s promising pugilist Muhammad Shoaib will fight against Hendrik Barongsay of Indonesia for the Asian Boxing Federation (ABF) lightweight (61kg) championship title in Bangkok, Thailand on Wednesday. “I have been training hard for the bout and feel myself fully fit to win the bout,” Shoaib told APP on phone from Bangkok on Tuesday. The 25-year-old Quetta-born pro boxer, who has won all his three previous fights, said he needed the nation’s prayers to pull off the win. Known as the “Coolest Boy”, Shoaib overpowered Thai boxer Sornram Sopakul in Bangkok in September this year to qualify for fighting for the Asian title. He said he wanted to make the nation proud by excelling in the boxing world. “My dream is to raise the green flag high in the world. “I know my opponent is a seasoned boxer but I’m sure I can outwit him. (Agencies)

DAILY HOROSCOPE: NOVEMBER 29 2022



– It’s a general reading which may differ from person to person because of time date and year.
– **ARIES**: Don’t let your suspicions about the motives of a co-worker stop you from getting things done today. They may be looking for a way to impress people in positions of power by that’s no crime. Just make sure you impress them even more.
– **TAURUS**: Be careful with cash today because if you act in haste you could make the kind of mistake that costs you a lot of money. As an Earth sign it should be no hardship for you to err on the side of caution, so embrace a pragmatic approach.
– **GEMINI**: No matter how clearly you spell out your message to friends and family members today some of them will still read it wrong. With Mercury, your ruler, at odds with Mars they can’t help but take some silly decisions, so make allowances for them.
– **CANCER**: Although you may struggle to stay on top of your workload today it won’t matter much because you will have plenty of time later in the week to catch up. This is one of those days when making too big an effort could prove to be counter-productive.
– **LEO**: Creatively and romantically this is one of the very best times of the year for you but don’t get carried away and start projects you might not be able to finish and relationships that might not stand the test of time. Ev-

everything in moderation.
– **VIRGO**: Today’s Mars-Mercury link cuts across one of the most powerful angles of your chart, so you must expect disruption of one sort or another today. Whatever else you do, you must keep your emotions in check. Nothing is worth getting too worked up about.
– **LIBRA**: By all means make travel and social plans for later in the week or for next weekend but keep things as they are for the time being. What seems like a good idea now may turn out to be the last thing you should actually be doing!
– **SCORPIO**: There may be times when you feel a bit out of your depth when dealing with people whose knowledge in certain areas is superior to your own, but don’t get an inferiority complex about it. You know as much as you need to know to be a success.
– **SAGITTARIUS**: It’s not like you to get emotional but if things don’t go your way today you may forget about thinking rationally and just howl at the sky in frustration. Once you’ve got it out of your system get back to the fight and find ways to win.
– **CAPRICORN**: You may not want to change your mind about something you recently signed up for but you have no choice. It seems you were not in possession of all the facts and now you are you can see how much you might lose if it goes wrong.
– **ACQUARIUS**: You don’t normally care if others disapprove of what you are doing, so why do you care now? It’s because you fear that on this occasion they may be right and you have bitten off more than you can chew. Could be time for a backtrack!
– **PISCES**: There is no way you will be able to control what occurs in your personal or professional space over the next 24 hours, so stay calm. Like it or not you are going to have to adapt to changing circumstances, because circumstances won’t change for you.

US rejects China's objections to South China Sea mission

BELJING: The U.S. Navy on Tuesday dismissed Beijing's protests against a "freedom of navigation operation" conducted near a Chinese-held island in the South China Sea. The latest incident drew renewed attention to one of the world's potential military hotspots. In an unusual move, China's Navy 7th Fleet refuted objections to Tuesday's mission, calling it "the latest in a long line of (Chinese) actions to misrepresent legitimate US naval operations and assert its excessive and illegitimate maritime claims." . South China Sea. China claims almost all of the territory. The Navy said China's far-reaching maritime claims pose a



serious threat to freedom of navigation and overflights, free trade and unhindered trade, and freedom of economic opportunity for South China Sea riparian countries. "As long as some countries continue to claim and enforce limitations on rights that exceed their authority under international law, the United States will continue

to defend the rights and freedoms of the sea guaranteed to all," it said. The Navy said Tuesday its guided missile cruiser USS Chancellorsville "asserted navigational rights and freedoms in the South China Sea near the Spratly Islands, consistent with international law." China called the action illegal and said it had mobilized naval and air forces to issue warnings and drive the ship away. "The actions of the US military have seriously violated China's sovereignty and security, which is another ironclad testimony to its pursuit of navigational hegemony and militarization of the South China Sea, (Agencies)

Three Palestinians killed by Israeli fire

JERUSALEM: Three Palestinian men were killed by Israeli fire during separate incidents in the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian Health Ministry said Tuesday. They were the latest deadly incidents in a mounting surge of Israeli-Palestinian violence and soaring tensions, less than a week after a bombing in Jerusalem killed two Israelis. The official Palestinian news agency Wafa reported that clashes erupted between Israeli forces and residents north of the city of Hebron in the West Bank. The Israeli military said soldiers shot at Palestinians who hurled rocks and improvised explosive devices at the forces operating in the town. The army said the Palestinians also shot at the troops, and two army vehicles got stuck due to mechanical issues. The Palestinian Health Ministry identified the man killed near Hebron as Mufid Khalil, 44, and said at least eight other people were wounded by live fire in the incident. (Agencies)

UAE's Moon mission ready for launch

ABU DHABI: The United Arab Emirates' Rashid Rover, the first Emirati mission to the moon surface, has been integrated onto a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket for its historic launch on Wednesday. The four-wheel rover has undergone its final integration process with the launch vehicle - the Hakuto-R Mission 1 lander - which will launch from a spaceport at the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida at 12:39 pm UAE time. Residents across the UAE will be able to watch the launch online which will be streamed live by SpaceX. It marks the UAE's first Moon mission, with more rovers to be developed in the future. The Rashid rover - built by Emirati engineers from the UAE's Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) - is to be sent to regions of the Moon unexplored by humans. (Agencies)

EU updates drone rules against malicious use

BRUSSELS: The European Commission today updated drone rules in a bid to boost a fast-growing commercial market while measures to tackle the malicious use of drones will be adopted in the near future. Drones are increasingly used in agriculture, environment, surveillance, urban planning, security and warfare, raising concerns about noise, safety and privacy. According to analysts, the United States, Israel, China and Turkey are the world's top four producers of drones. "We believe that if our strategy is implemented properly, the drone market could be worth €14.5 billion (RM21 billion) by 2030. It could also create 145,000 new jobs in the European Union," Transport Commissioner Adina Valean told a news conference. The Commission said measures to tackle the malicious use of drones are needed because they are vulnerable to hacking and misuse. (Agencies)

Number of Muslims in UK up 44% in a decade

LONDON: The Muslim population of the UK has risen 44 percent in a decade, according to the latest census figures published by the Office for National Statistics. Of the country's total population, 6.5 percent — 3.9 million people — are adherents of Islam. Meanwhile, the second most common ethnic group in the UK is now "Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh," making up 9.3 percent of the population. In figures showing that the UK has diversified apace since the last census in 2011, London is now two-thirds ethnic minority, while other major cities such as Leicester, Luton and Birmingham have become home to "minority majorities," driven by significant increases in Asian communities from Pakistan, Bangladesh, India and East Africa. The census is a survey of trends across the UK that is undertaken every 10 years to provide as accurate a picture of the makeup of the country as possible. (Agencies)

Smog engulfs New Delhi as winter pollution worsens

NEW DELHI: Thick smog engulfed India's capital New Delhi on Tuesday as air pollution worsened with the setting in of winter, shooting up concentrations of fine particles in the air three times above the acceptable limits. The world's most polluted capital city struggles to breathe easy every winter as cold temperatures and calm winds trap pollutants closer to the ground. "As the minimum temperature is dropping, gradual fog occurrence during early morning hours is likely to increase, leading to the deterioration of air quality index (AQI)," said

the federal government's System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) in a daily bulletin. The AQI in parts of the city shot up above 400 on Tuesday, which is classified as the 'severe' category of air pollution, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The level of fine particles measuring 2.5 micrograms or PM2.5 was 180 micrograms per cubic metre of air as of 10am in the Delhi National Capital Region, CPCB data showed, three times above the 24-hour acceptable limit of 60 micrograms per cubic metre of air. (Agencies)

Australia rejects Unesco endangered status for Barrier Reef

SYDNEY: Australia said Tuesday it plans to lobby against UN plans to add the Great Barrier Reef to a list of endangered Unesco World Heritage sites. Conservation experts working with the UN warned on Monday that the world's largest coral reef would be added to the list of endangered World Heritage sites. The Great Barrier Reef, on the northeastern coast of Australia, has been on Unesco's World Heritage List since 1981. But if the UN decides to designate the reef as endangered, it puts the Australian government on notice that the site could be removed from the



World Heritage list altogether. Australia's Environment Minister Tanya Pibersek said that there was "no need to single the Great Barrier Reef in this way" and that her government will lobby against adding the reef to an endangered list. (Agencies)

Temple in Thailand deserted due to drug use by monks

BANGKOK: A Buddhist temple in Thailand has been left without monks after the clerics who served there all tested positive for methamphetamine and were immediately defrocked, a local official said Tuesday. The four monks, including an abbot, from the temple in the rural district of Bung Sam Phan in the central province of Phetchabun were tested for drugs on Monday, with tests revealing the presence of methamphetamine, district official Boonlert Thintaphai told AFP. The monks have been sent to a clinic for drug treatment, the official said. "The temple is now empty of monks and nearby vil-

lagers are worried that they cannot perform merit ceremonies," he added. Merit-making involves devotees giving food to monks as a good deed. Boonlert Thintaphai said more monks would be sent to the temple to enable villagers to fulfil their religious obligations. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UN-ODC), Thailand is a major transit country for methamphetamine flowing from Shan State in Burma via Laos. On the street, pills are sold for less than 20 baht (about 50 euro cents). Authorities across Southeast Asia have made record methamphetamine seizures in recent years. (Agencies)

UK to alter internet rules plan after free speech outcry

LONDON: The British government has abandoned a plan to force tech firms to remove internet content that is harmful but legal, after the proposal drew strong criticism from lawmakers and civil liberties groups. The U.K. on Tuesday defended its decision to water down the Online Safety Bill, an ambitious but controversial attempt to crack down on online racism, sexual abuse, bullying, fraud and other harmful material. Similar efforts are underway in the European Union and the United States, but the U.K.'s was one of the most sweeping. In its original form, the bill gave regulators wide-ranging powers to sanction digital and social media companies like Google, Facebook, Twitter and TikTok.

Critics had expressed concern that a requirement for the biggest platforms to remove "legal but harmful" content could lead to censorship and undermine free speech. The Conservative government of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, who took office last month, has now dropped that part of the bill, saying it could "over-criminalize" online content. The government hopes the change will be enough to get the bill through Parliament, where it has languished for 18 months, by mid-2023. Digital Secretary Michelle Donelan said the change removed the risk that "tech firms or future governments could use the laws as a license to censor legitimate views." (Agencies)

Divorces drop, marriages rise after pandemic in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR: Marriages in Malaysia rebounded in 2021 as divorces fell further, indicating that Malaysian couples may be more hesitant about separating after the coronavirus pandemic. A total of 214,943 marriages were registered last year, a 15% increase compared to 186,297 in 2020 when marriage plans were disrupted by the pandemic, according to the Malaysian Department of Statistics. The total number of di-

vorces fell 7.1% to 43,934. Non-Muslim marriages declined 4.7%, with the number of inter-ethnic marriages increasing 11.7%, making up almost 8% of total marriages. Muslim divorces dropped 16.4%. Malaysia joined Australia and Singapore in the increasing trend of marriage rate last year, as brides increased to 47.4 per thousand from 44.6, with grooms rising to 45.8 per thousand. (Agencies)

Iran acknowledges 300 dead in unrest

TEHRAN: An Iranian general acknowledged that more than 300 people have been killed in the unrest surrounding nationwide protests, giving the first official word on casualties in two months. That estimate is considerably lower than the toll reported by Human Rights Activists in Iran, a U.S.-based group that has been closely tracking the protests since they erupted after the Sept. 16 death of a young woman being held by the country's morality police. The activist group says 451 protesters and 60 security forces have been killed since the start of the unrest and that more than 18,000 people have been detained. The protests were sparked by the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who was detained for allegedly violating the Islamic Republic's strict dress code. They quickly escalated into calls for the overthrow of Iran's theocracy and pose one of the most serious challenges to the ruling clerics since the 1979 revolution that brought them to power. (Agencies)

Suitcase murder suspect extradited to NZ

WELLINGTON: A 42-year-old woman has been extradited from South Korea to New Zealand, where she is to appear in court charged with murdering two children whose remains were found in suitcases sold at auction. New Zealand police said that "three police officers travelled to South Korea to transport the woman", who arrived at Auckland Airport in the afternoon and was taken to Manukau Police Station. Seoul's justice ministry said that key evidence in the case had also been handed to New Zealand officials. "We hope that the truth of this case, which has received worldwide attention, will be revealed through a fair and strict judicial process in New Zealand," said an official in Seoul. The suspect is due to appear in court on Wednesday, a police spokesperson said. "She will be held in custody overnight when she will then be expected to appear in the Manukau District Court on two charges of murder," police added. (Agencies)

World's largest volcano erupts in Hawaii

HAWAII: The world's largest active volcano burst into life for the first time in 40 years, spewing lava and hot ash Monday in a spectacular display of nature's fury by Mauna Loa in Hawaii. Rivers of molten rock could be seen high up on the volcano, venting huge clouds of steam and smoke at the summit on Big Island, and sparking warnings the situation could change rapidly. Pressure has been building at Mauna Loa for years, according to the United States Geological Survey, which reported the eruption could be seen from 45 miles (72 kilometers) away, in the town of Kona the west coast of Hawaii's main island. The eruption, which began shortly before midnight Sunday, was initially contained within the caldera—the concave area at the top of the volcano—but volcanologists said Monday lava was now escaping from cracks in its side. "The eruption of Mauna Loa has migrated from the summit to the Northeast Rift Zone where fissures are feeding several lava flows," the USGS said on its website. (Agencies)

CLASSIFIED

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