



# Islamabad POST

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Armenians are today hopeless and desperate on the battlefield

NA speaker Asad Qasier lauds EU help for parliamentary ties

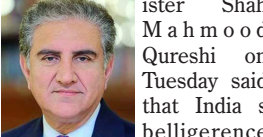
Sedition FIR filed by PML-N workers: Shibli

## Briefs

### India's aggression threat to peace: FM

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Tuesday said that India's belligerence poses a serious threat to peace in the region. Addressing the virtual meeting of Conservative Friends of Pakistan, the minister said he has written a number of letters to the UN Secretary General and the President of the Security Council on the Indian posture. Referring to Indian blatant HR violations in IIOJ&K, FM Qureshi said that on the 5th of August last year, New Delhi illegally attempted to alter the disputed status of the territory.

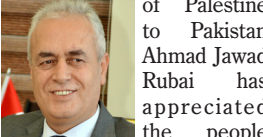


ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Palestine to Pakistan Ahmad Jawad Rubai has appreciated the people and Government of Pakistan (GoP) for their support to his country and their just cause. He was speaking at a seminar organized by the Embassy of the State of Palestine. The ambassador particularly referred to the Pakistani position about Palestine as reflected in the speeches of President Dr. Arif Alvi and PM Imran Khan. He said prime minister Imran Khan, in his address to the UN General Assembly, stressed the necessity of establishing a Palestinian state with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

### Palestinian envoy lauds Pakistani support

DNA

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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Shibli Faraz clarified on Tuesday that the government has not...

### Sheikh Anser Aziz resigns

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Mayor Sheikh Anser Aziz Tuesday resigned from his post, four months ahead of the end of his tenure. The mayor forwarded his resignation from coveted post to Chief Election Commissioner M J Sikandar Sultan Raja for further action. He shared a copy of resignation on his official twitter handle. "I Sheikh Anser Aziz hereby resign as Mayor, Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad with immediate effect," the copy of resignation letter read.



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## Bulgarian President issues orders; envoy found guilty Bulgarian Ambassador's services terminated

The Bulgarian Council of Ministers proposed to the President to terminate the diplomatic assignment of the Ambassador of the Republic Bulgaria in Pakistan; action also taken against Pakistani officials

EXCLUSIVE

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The President of Republic of Bulgaria has terminated services of Aleksandar Borisov Parashkevov the Bulgarian ambassador to Pakistan after it was confirmed that the ambassador was involved in corruption and had accepted huge bribes to allow his diplomatic status to be misused. The ambassador after reports was called back to Sofia and an inquiry against him was ordered. Daily Islamabad POST had published news on October 5, 2020 that the Ambassador had made huge money by allowing his diplomatic status to be misused by certain Pakistanis. The ambassador imported a luxurious car on his behalf but actually for his Pakistani collaborators. In return he accepted handsome amount. The Bulgaria Ministry of Foreign Affairs, upon getting the news thoroughly investigated the matter. It also wrote a letter to the Pakistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs asking it for details about the shady deal. The Pakistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs con-

firmed that the ambassador was involved in practices, which were not incommensurate with his status and stature.

The Bulgarian Council of Ministers then proposed to the President to terminate the diplomatic assignment of the Ambassador of the Republic Bulgaria in Pakistan.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ekaterina Zaharieva also endorsed the suggestion and thus Ambassador's services have been terminated.

When this scribe contacted the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Press Officer not only confirmed the news but also shared more details. The Press Officer said that the reasons to terminate services of the Ambassador were multiple. She added a number of disturbing facts that had been established in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the behavior of Ambassador Parashkevov, which were confirmed after an inspection ordered by Foreign Minister Zaharieva. "The collected data, confirmed by a note of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, were sent to the Prosecutor General of the



Ambassador of Bulgaria Aleksandar Borisov Parashkevov whose services have been terminated on corruption charges

Republic of Bulgaria. The Presidential Administration was also notified in a timely manner", the Press Officer Tatiana Tchipeva added. It is pertinent to mention here that some officials of Pakistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs were also found involved in this nasty business because without the consent of Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs such things can

never take place. Sources confided to this newspaper that a few officials have been removed from the posts while action against others is also on the cards.

Bulgaria is not the only case where diplomatic status has been misused, rather there are a number of other embassies and in some cases Ambassadors also who have bestowed such bounties on their Pakistani collaborators, ostensibly for financial gains.

It is also interesting to note that a few Pakistani missions abroad have also been involved in such practices. For example in October 2018, Pakistan had recalled its Ambassador to Bulgaria along with an accounts official after receiving reports of huge financial embezzlement at the Pakistan Embassy in Sofia. After initial inquiry, the accountant was recalled at the Foreign Office in Islamabad and asked to deposit the money to which he said he did not have such a huge amount. Foreign Office Spokesman Dr Faisal had confirmed that an audit of the embassy had been ordered and the accountant had been recalled along with Ambassador.

This newspaper had already published a news regarding misuse

of diplomatic status by some of the diplomats and diplomatic missions. This newspaper wrote on September 03, 2020 that foreign diplomats have continuously been misusing their privileges available under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and selling duty-free imported luxury vehicles to local businessmen, official documents have revealed.

Pakistan Customs seized nine very expensive vehicles that were imported by foreign diplomats but were in the use of private persons.

This has not only caused a Rs250-million revenue loss in nine cases but also put the security of other diplomats at risk due to the use of fake or duplicate diplomatic number plates. The report further stated that in 2019 Pakistan Customs confiscated at least 16 very expensive vehicles, including nine in July alone that were imported in the names of diplomats but had been in the possession of private persons, according to the FBR official record. At the prevailing taxes and duty rates, the estimated tax evasion in the 16 cases is Rs444.6 million, which also indicates how pricey the vehicles were.

## Pakistan's coronavirus recoveries top 300,000

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has reported 6 deaths in last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 315,727. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 6,523, media reported on Tuesday.

According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 467 persons have been tested positive for COVID-19 in 24 hours. The pandemic claimed lives of 06 more people during the last twenty-four hours.

28,280 tests were conducted over the last twenty-four hours. There are now 8,588 active cases in the country. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pandemic in terms of cases followed by Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad.

Till now 138,593 coronavirus cases have been confirmed in Sindh, 100,033 in Punjab, 38,105 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 16,845 in Islamabad, 15,420 in Balochistan, 2,874 in Azad Kashmir and 3,857 in Gilgit-Baltistan.

The infection rate in Pakistan has significantly dropped in recent weeks, compared to an average of 5,000 daily cases in May and June.

## 'Sedition FIR filed by PML-N workers'



ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Shibli Faraz clarified on Tuesday that the government has not...

ing to do with the sedition case filed against PML-N leadership. He raised the question that is PM Imran Khan supposed to have knowledge of all cases filed with the police? He said that we are not the ones famous for issuing certificates of treason.

The Information Minister was briefing the media after Tuesday's federal cabinet meeting. He said that Nawaz Sharif used corruption to create wealth abroad which he does not want to bring back to Pakistan. On the other hand, Imran Khan, who has all his assets in Pakistan and will never come under any pressure. Shibli Faraz said that the FIR may have been filed by PML-N's own workers, the Punjab government will investigate this matter further.

Continued on Page 06

## Wife of Sharjah's ruler pledges grant for hospital

Around 2,500 cancer patients will benefit from access to a wide range of high-quality surgical treatment

DNA

DUBAI: Sheikhah Jawaher Bint Mohammed Al Qasimi, Wife of His Highness the Ruler of Sharjah, announces Dhs4.4 million grant for Peshawar cancer hospital. Following the directives of Her Highness Sheikhah Jawaher Bint Mohammed Al Qasimi, Wife of His Highness the Ruler of Sharjah, Chairperson of The Big Heart Foundation

(TBHF), and Founder and Royal Patron of the Friends Of Cancer Patients (FOCP), the Ameerah Fund, a global fund run collaboratively by FOCP and TBHF, has announced the allocation of Dhs4.4 million for the procurement of state-of-the-art medical equipment to facilitate the commencement of surgical oncology services at the Shaikat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (SKMCH&RC) in Peshawar, Pakistan. Around 2,500 cancer patients will benefit from access to a wide range of high-quality surgical treatment options at two fully equipped operating rooms fitted out with financial assistance from the Ameerah Fund. The contribution aims to support the leading humanitarian efforts of the Shaikat Khanum Hospital & Research Center in Peshawar by helping to

Continued on Page 06

## COAS lauds Jawans' high morale at LOC

DNA

GILGIT: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Qamar Javed Bajwa visited Skardu and Gilgit on Tuesday. On arrival at Skardu, COAS was briefed on latest situation and operational preparedness of FCNA troops deployed along LOC.

Interacting with officers and men, COAS appreciated their high morale, operational readiness under challenging environment and harsh weather conditions. COAS emphasised to ensure highest levels of



readiness for effectively responding to emerging threats. Later, COAS visited Gilgit and inaugurated state of the art Software Technology Park, an initiative of Special Communication Organisation (SCO). The facility will help create environment for research

and innovation in the fields of IT and defence communication by honing and harnessing the skills of our brilliant youth. It will serve as a trigger for development of cyber industry in the area.

Acknowledging efforts of SCO, COAS said that establishment of IT clusters in remote areas will have a great effect by encouraging innovation and digitisation.

Earlier, on arrival at Skardu, COAS was received by Commander Rawalpindi Corps Lieutenant General Azhar Abbas.

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## Briefs

Five killed  
in Bolan  
district

DNA

SIBI: At least five people were killed and two others suffered injuries when two rival groups opened fire at each other in Bolan district of Balochistan province on Tuesday. According to Dadh tehsildar, the deceased and the injured were shifted to Civil Hospital. There was no immediate word on the identification of those killed and injured in the armed clash. On getting information, heavy contingents of security forces reached the scene and cordoned off the area to control the situation. Ambulances shifted the injured and the deceased to Civil Hospital. Earlier this year, at least eight tribesmen were killed and several injured when a deadly clash broke out between the two heavily armed tribes in Balochistan's Chagai district. Levies official had confirmed that the land dispute in Baracha, an area close to Pak-Afghan border in Chagai district, resulted in the bloody clash, leaving eight people dead.

Ex LG  
Secretary  
files bail plea

DNA

KARACHI: A bench of Sindh High Court on Tuesday sent the bail plea of former local government secretary Roshan Ali Shaikh to the chief justice. Roshan Ali Shaikh was earlier arrested by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) after his earlier bail plea was rejected in illegal land allotment case by a bench of the high court. A single bench comprised of Justice Iqbal Kalhoro sent the bail plea to the chief justice and adjourned the hearing till October 13. A NAB reference pertaining to illegal allotment of state land in Landhi being heard by an accountability court against Shaikh and other accused. NAB had arrested Sindh Local Government Secretary Roshan Ali Shaikh in case on August 24 after the Sindh High Court rejected his bail petition. Shaikh and nine other suspects in the case had filed bail pleas in the high court.

NKATI new  
office bearers  
assume charge

DNA

KARACHI: Newly elected President Faisal Moiz Khan, Senior Vice President Shabbir Ismail and Vice President Naem Haider have assumed their new responsibilities for the year 2020-21 in the annual general body meeting and pledged to address the issues facing the industrialists on a priority basis. Faisal Moiz Khan, newly elected President NKATI, said on the occasion that he was grateful to the members for giving the opportunity to serve, also thanked for supporting his panel, so he would do his best to meet the trust and expectations of the honorable members and by using all available resources, will play an important role to continue uninterrupted productive activities with a teamwork. NKATI president assured the participants that elected office bearers and the Executive Committee members would work as a team and will put in all the efforts to uplift the image of the North Karachi Industrial Area and promote the interests of Associations members. "The North Karachi Association was founded by my late father Capt. A Moiz Khan with the aim of making the North Karachi Industrial Area a modern industrial area and he will surely fulfill his dream", he opened. Faisal Moiz Khan invited opposition members to come forward and take an active part in Association's activities for the betterment of the Area, said that elections have been over now to deliver best services to the members rather than just opposing each other. I hope the opposition comes forward and advises us positively.

## Role of youth vital to spread awareness against the COVID-19

DNA

PESHAWAR: October 06, 2020: Pakistan Development Foundation (PDF) and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University Peshawar (SBBWU) collaboratively organized a two-day webinar on Pre & Post COVID-19 Lockdown, that aimed at preparing teachers and students to live in the 'new normal' and to understand and co-operate with each other. The two-day webinar also focused on preparing the young people towards playing a positive role during the pandemics and untoward incidents. Chairman Council of Islamic Ideology (CII), Dr Qibla Ayaz, Vice Chancellor SBBWU, Dr Razia Sultana, Chairman PDF, Muhammad Bilal Sethi, known psychologist, Prof. Dr Khalid Mufti, Chairman National Technology Council Government of Pakistan Engr. Syed Imtiaz Hussain Gilani and Secretary-General Pakistan China Friendship Association (PCFA) Khyber Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani addressed the participants. Driven by Prof Beenish Asmat Ullah and Mrs. Tashfeen Zia, the webinar had plenty of students of the varsity itself and affiliated government colleges on first day and a large number of principals and teaching faculty on the second day in attendance. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman of the CII, Prof. Dr. Qibla Ayaz said that our spirit should be conveying our feelings to each other for which physical interaction is not the only way. He added that the youth can play a role of paramount importance in spread of awareness against the COVID-19. The Vice Chancellor SBBWU, Razia Sultana said that opening of



universities is a challenging situation but her team is determined to take this challenge and get through it in a spic and span manner. She said that the lockdown strengthened the institution of family. It also enabled us to know our weaknesses and strengths and enabled us to perform certain works by our own selves. She called for youth to read books during the situations like lockdown. Similarly, the Chairman of the PDF, Muhammad Bilal Sethi expressed that due to prolonged lockdown the students and faculty members have developed

psychological changes. He added that the lockdown had also disturbed their daily routines, however, upon abrupt opening of institutions, it must be difficult for them to adopt with each other. This process will take quite some time. Sethi laid his emphasis on organizing training sessions for them towards preparing them to adopt with each other in less time. He assured out all his organization's support in this endeavor as his organization works on promotion of education, he remarked. He urged the youth to play its roles for the betterment of the low-

ermiddle class who was affected by corona the most. He also announced to donate books to the libraries of 04 participant colleges. Speaking to participants, Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani appreciated the initiative and called for universities to arrange more webinars of the kind in the times to come. He also shared that we should also learn from experiences of China in post Covid-19 scenario in order to counter these new challenges. Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University Peshawar (SBBWU) and Pakistan Development Foundation

(PDF) collaboratively organized a two-day webinar on Pre & Post COVID-19 Lockdown. Group Photo taken on the occasion shows (L-R) Ms. Tasheen Zia, Prof. Dr Khalid Mufti, Vice Chancellor SBBWU, Dr Razia Sultana, Chairman National Technology Council Government of Pakistan Engr. Syed Imtiaz Hussain Gilani, Secretary-General Pakistan China Friendship Association (PCFA) Khyber Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani, Chairman PDF Muhammad Bilal Sethi and Prof. Beenish Asmatullah.

Boxer girl  
arrested for  
motorbike  
lifting

DNA

KARACHI: Police has arrested an 18-year old girl allegedly involved in motorbike lifting from the city's Mauripur area. Police arrested Beenish alias Kattu, who is also a boxer, from Mauripur Road's 'P' bus stop, officials said. Accused 18-year old, was used to lift motorbikes with two other accomplices, while dressing like a boy, police said.

She used to don a cap and boy's dress while committing a crime, according to police. Police has recovered a stolen motorbike from her possession, while her two accomplices have escaped, officials further said. The girl has disclosed that Wasit alias Dada and Chhotu 14, have been other two members of her gang of three, officials said. Only Wasit has been above 20 years of age in the gang. "The gang after snatching or stealing a motorbike used to take it to Balochistan," according to police. "The gang preferred to steal new bikes of year 2020," officials further said. Beenish alias Kattu also learns boxing at a boxing club in Lyari, according to police. Arrested girl has been shifted to Saddar area's women police station.

## 'No locust found in country'

ISLAMABAD: The National Locust Control Center (NLCC) has achieved a milestone on Tuesday as no locust was found in any of the provinces.

According to press statement issued by the Ministry of National Food Security on Tuesday, no locust was found in provinces of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Sindh during a survey. The NLCC surveyed around 129,072 hectares area of land during the past twenty-four hours however presence of swarms of locust was not found in any area, according to the statement. During the past 6 months, the locust control operations carried out on 11,34,161 hectares of land across the country. Earlier, the NLCC had announced that Sindh, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces have been cleared of the swarms of locusts.

Swarms of the pest posing threat to Pakistan's food security still present in Balochistan, the NLCC said. The swarms of locust had effected 61 districts in four provinces of the country, the NLCC stated. In Jun last year, swarms of locusts attacked cotton fields in Khairpur, Sukkur, and Ghotki in Sindh. Farmers had to bear losses of hundreds of thousands of rupees due to crop loss in the attack. Crops were affected in Khairpur's Naoro, Chondko, Thari Meerwah, Sukkur's Saleh Pat, Thikrato, Mubarakpur and Ghotki's Khanpur Mahar, and Khangarh.

Daycare  
centre  
inaugurated at  
NAB Lahore

LAHORE: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Lahore, with the collaboration of the Punjab Daycare Association, has established a daycare centre at the NAB Lahore offices. Provincial Minister for Women Development Ms Ashifa Riaz Fityana inaugurated the daycare centre. The basic purpose of establishment of the daycare centres was to facilitate working women, so they could perform their professional duties with full dedication. The director general, by establishing the daycare centre at NAB Lahore offices, had facilitated the female officers and officials. The centre comprises of four rooms, one kitchen, two bathrooms and a main hall. Well educated and experienced staff has been hired for the daycare centre who would look after children of female officers and officials during their duty hours. Provincial Minister Ashifa Riaz Fityana appreciated the efforts of DG NAB Lahore for recognising the importance and needs of working women by establishing a dedicated daycare centre and said that the government was providing resources for establishment of daycare centres at maximum level.

Court sends  
man assaulting  
traffic cop to jail

KARACHI: A Karachi court on Tuesday sent a man arrested for threatening and assaulting a traffic sergeant in the port city's Gulshan-e-Iqbal area to jail on judicial remand. The judicial magistrate (East) directed the investigation officer of the case to furnish a charge-sheet after completion of investigation against the accused, named Faraz. The IO presented in court a viral video clip of the accused showing him assaulting the traffic sergeant. He told the court that the accused not only extended threats of dire consequences but also beat up the traffic cop. The man had parked his vehicle in the no parking zone in Gulshan e Iqbal area of Karachi despite traffic police's insistence not to. The car, parked in the no-parking site, reportedly hindered the traffic flow as well added misery to people riding on through the road. - DNA

CGSS, Sialkot University  
sign MoU for cooperation

DNA

SIALKOT: CGSS team headed by Lt Col Khalid Taimur Akram (Retd), Executive Director, CGSS visited University of Sialkot and met Prof. Dr. Saeed Ul Hasan Chishti, Vice Chancellor, University of Sialkot. During the meeting, it was decided that CGSS and University of Sialkot will collaboratively work in the field of research and other activities related to the Eurasian region. Furthermore, cooperation in academic and industrial research will also be initiated. Prof. Dr. Saeed Ul Hasan Chishti, Vice Chancellor and Prof. Dr. Naem Ahmed Chaudhry, Pro-Vice



Chancellor, University of Sialkot appreciated the active role of CGSS in enhancing regional connectivity and promoting the positive and national interest of Pakistan. During the meeting a Memorandum of Understanding was also signed between both institutions in which they agreed to facilitate cooperation in the areas of mutual interest to explore opportunities to involve the academia in the multilateral fields. Lt Col Khalid Taimur Akram (Retd), Executive Director, CGSS and Prof. Dr. Saeed Ul Hasan Chishti, Vice Chancellor, University of Sialkot signed the MoU on behalf of their institutions.

AJK govt committed to managing  
population growth: Sardar Masood

DNA

MUZAFFARABAD: October 6: A high-level led by the UN Fund for Population Affairs (UNFPA) Country Representative Lina Mousa called on the AJK President Sardar Masood

Khan at Aiwan-e-Sadr here on Tuesday, and discussed in detail with him various issues including population control as well as mother-child health-care-related problems. The AJK Health Minister Dr Najib Naqvi, Minister for Population Welfare Dr Mustafa Bashir Ab-



basi and Secretary Population Welfare Raja Mohammad Razaq were also present during the meeting. On this occasion, the AJK president assured the visiting UN delegation that the state population welfare department and the health department were fully prepared to work jointly with the UNFPA and other UN agencies. He maintained that to ensure population welfare, family planning, reproductive health through training of lady health workers and to reduce the mortality rate of newborn and their mothers were among the priorities of the state government, the cooperation and the technical support of the UNFPA in this regard would be highly appreciated.

Yasmin  
Rashid warns  
to re-impose  
lockdown

ISLAMABAD: Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid Tuesday warned that the provincial government may have to reimpose lockdown in case of surge in the Covid-19 cases in the province during upcoming winter season. Talking to a private news channel, she highlighted the strategy of smart lockdowns, contact tracing while stressing on following the health protocols as it was essential to control spread of the virus in winter season. Punjab Minister said that the province was enhancing its capacity of conducting 10,000 coronavirus diagnostic tests everyday as new labs in different districts were made functional. - APP

ATC extends  
interim bail of Rana  
Sana and others

DNA

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday extended interim bail of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Rana Sanaullah and others till October 12 in Lahore NAB office clash case. The court also granted a one-time exemption from personal appearance to Capt (R) Saifdar, son-in-law of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif. ATC Judge Arshad Hussain Bhutta conducted the case proceedings wherein Rana Sanaullah and 28 others appeared before the court. A counsel on behalf of Capt (R)

Saifdar submitted an application for a one-time exemption from personal appearance. The counsel pleaded with the court to allow the application on medical grounds. At this, the court allowed the application and granted exemption from personal appearance to Capt (R) Saifdar and extended interim bails of all accused till October 12 while adjourning further hearing. The Punjab police had registered a case against PML-N leadership, including Maryam Nawaz, and party workers under section 147, 149, 290, 291, 440, 109, 353 and 186 of Criminal Procedure Code and ATA sections over clash.

Cabinet approves amendments in  
Punjab local government Act-19

The meeting approved to de-notify the gazette notification dated March 16, 2016, about allotment of land to South Punjab Forest Company and further decided to transfer the assets of South Punjab Forest Company

DNA

LAHORE: The Punjab Cabinet on Tuesday decided to abolish the local governments' licensing fee for professionals and approved necessary amendments in Punjab Local Government Act 2019 for bringing necessary changes in licensing regime to ensure ease of doing business. The Punjab Cabinet meeting was held at CM Office with Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar in the chair. It also approved the import of 300,000 tonne sugar through Trading Corporation of Pakistan along with allowing the food department to enter into an agreement with TCP for purchasing imported sugar. Amendment in Sugar Factories Control Act 1950 was granted to authorize the Punjab government to fix zone-wise dates for starting the crushing season. The meeting

constituted the ministerial committee to submit recommendations within three days for fixing sugarcane price. The meeting decided to remove Section 4 of Punjab Privatization Board Act 2010 so that divisional commissioners could supervise the auction process of state lands. Amendment in policy for granting proprietary rights in lease schemes for temporary farming was approved and the farmers can submit their applications up to December 31. The meeting also approved to declare smog as calamity and further decided to include it in Punjab Calamities Act 1958. The meeting approved to de-notify the gazette notification dated March 16, 2016, about allotment of land to South Punjab Forest Company and further decided to transfer the assets of South Punjab Forest Company. In-principle approval

was granted to ease the policies for the provision of state lands for Naya Pakistan Housing Programme along with the approval of Punjab Housing and Town Planning Agency Affordable Housing Scheme Rules 2020. Meanwhile, the appointment of MD and COO of Punjab Safe City Authority Lahore was approved along with the approval of the proposed amendment in Punjab Board of Technical Education Ordinance 1962 for promotion of students without exams. The meeting approved posting of Member Punjab Environmental Tribunal Lahore and also gave approval to amendments in Act of Department of Tourist Services Punjab for transfer of six government guest and rest houses in Murree, Kotli Sattian and Chakwal. Approval of financial aid for the affectees of a suicide attack at Dhok Ghumman Basal Road Attock was granted as well. The meeting approved a half-year-

ly monitoring report of implementation on NFC Award for the period January to June 2018, July 2018 to December 2018 and January to June 2019. Auditor General of Pakistan's audit reports about Punjab government accounts for 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 were approved along with the approval of annual performance reports of Punjab Curriculum & Textbook Board Lahore for the financial year 2018-19 and Punjab Daanish Schools & Centres of Excellence Authority for 2019-20. The meeting decided to introduce the role of Infrastructure Development Authority Punjab as an executive agency. It also approved extension in the lease of state land to Sultan Foundation in TT Singh, extension in the employment of MD Punjab Mineral Development Corporation Shahzad Rafi and approval of terms and conditions for the appointment of Rashid

Aziz as Chairman Ravi Riverfront Urban Development Authority. Decisions made in the 35th cabinet meeting as well as taken in the special cabinet meeting on the completion of two years of Punjab government were endorsed along with the endorsement of decisions made in the 30th, 31st and 32nd meetings of the standing committee for legislation and 40th meeting of the standing committee for finance and development. During the meeting, the CM directed indiscriminate crackdown against hoarders and profiteers and directed the provisional price control committee and administrative officers to take indiscriminate action against the violators of law and provision of items at notified rates be ensured. No leniency would be shown to those selling items at exorbitant rates and lip-service would not help any more, he warned.

**Briefs****NA body summons Chairman, MD PTV**

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Standing Committee on Government Assurances on Tuesday summoned Chairman Pakistan Television (PTV) and Managing Director (MD) PTV in the next meeting. The Committee was informed that PTV was not paying honorarium to the employees as per announcement made by the Minister for Finance on the floor of the august House during his budget speech of 2018.

Moreover, PTV is denying to pay honorarium to some of the employees on the basis of their seniority. Whereas, the Government did not discriminate between the seniors and juniors.

Similarly, the Committee was informed that struggles were being made to grant honorarium to those employees of PTV who did not serve in the Budget Sessions of National Assembly. The Standing Committee directed that the list employees served during the budget session must be verified from original record of PTV and in case of any discrepancy the responsible should be dealt with as per law.

The Standing Committee directed that all genuine and rightful employees be given honorarium without further delay. The Committee also discussed the matter of lack of facilities of restaurant by NHA on M-4, due to which the travelers were facing serious problems. — APP

**Shehbaz traded lavish gifts, reveals NAB**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) investigating PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif and his family over alleged money laundering and assets beyond means revealed on Tuesday that he gave and received lavish gifts worth hundreds of millions of rupees. The corruption watchdog's documents say he gave away presents worth over Rs242 million to his wife and children and received more than Rs42.6 million worth of gifts from his sons.

Shehbaz Sharif, who is also Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly, gifted a piece of land measuring 749 kanal to his wife Nusrat Shehbaz. He received 867 kanal and 18 marla land from his mother and 748 kanal and 19 marla land from his father as gifts. He gave a sum of Rs171.2 million to his son Salman Shehbaz in tax year 2011-12, and Rs10.7 million to Hamza in 2013. He gave a present of Rs24 million worth of plot in DHA to his wife Tehmina Durrani in 2015 in addition to buying her Rs16.3 million worth of a cottage and a villa in Haripur in the same year.

**Commissioner directs for completion of KKH**

ABBOTTABAD: Commissioner Hazara Division Riaz Khan Mahsood Tuesday directed the National Highways Authority (NHA) and provincial authorities to immediately start construction of Karakoram Highway (KKH) from Fawara Chowk to Ayub Medical College Abbottabad. He said this while chairing a meeting regarding the KKH reconstruction project at his office.

Riaz Khan ordered all concerned departments to take concrete measures for the timely completion of the project. He also directed to make a comprehensive plan to protect the road from flash flood and also construct a sewerage system on both sides of the roads. Commissioner directed departments prohibit overloading, identify encroachment on either side of the KKH and remove it immediately, also remove electricity and PTCL poles, water supply and sui gas pipelines, creating hurdles in traffic flow. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Palestine Ahmed Rabei in a group photo with members of the tiger force who visited the embassy. — DNA

**Pakistan to oppose India's claim of Basmati rice**

Abdul Razak Dawood categorically stated that Pakistan will vehemently oppose India's application in the European Union and restrain India from obtaining exclusive GI tag of basmati rice

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has decided to oppose India's claim of Geographical Indication (GI) tag to basmati rice in the European Union (EU).

A Pakistani legal team will file its formal opposition with the EU with proof that Indian claims did not have solid grounds.

This was decided during a meeting chaired by Abdul Razak Dawood, Adviser for Prime Minister on Commerce.

The meeting was attended by sec-

retary commerce, chairman Intellectual Property Organisation (IPO-Pakistan), representatives of Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP) and legal fraternity. During the meeting, REAP representatives were of the view that Pakistan is a major grower and producer of basmati rice and India's claim for exclusivity is unjustified.

Abdul Razak Dawood categorically stated that Pakistan will vehemently oppose India's application in the European Union and restrain India from obtaining exclusive GI tag of basmati rice.

Abdul Razak Dawood supported the concerns of REAP and relevant stakeholders and ensured that their claim for basmati rice as GI will be protected.

It is pertinent to mention that India submitted an application with the European Union claiming sole ownership of basmati rice, falsely misrepresenting its exclusivity.

Official sources said that India had applied for GI Tag in EU for basmati rice under article 50(2) (a) of EU Regulations No. 1151/2012 of the European Parliament and of the council on

quality scheme for agriculture products on September 11. India in its application had falsely claimed basmati rice as an Indian origin despite the fact that the same rice is largely produced in Pakistan. Pakistan exports 500,000 to 700,000 tons of basmati rice to different parts of the world out of which 200,000 to 250,000 tons are being shipped to EU countries.

It is also a fact that EU Regulation No 972/2006 of June 29, 2006 laying down special rules for import of basmati rice for determining their origin had recog-

nised basmati as a joint product of Pakistan and India.

But now India was making claims of exclusivity on basmati rice in the EU. According to laid down rules and procedures, any country can oppose the application for registration of an AME pursuant to Article 10 and Article 50(2)(a) of the regulation number 1151 (2012).

There is a time limit of three months to file an application against it, so now Pakistan has decided to file an application for opposing the right of exclusivity of India on basmati rice GI tag.

**Excise, Taxation dept digitizes tax system**

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Excise and Taxation (E&T) Department Tuesday launched an online payment system, aimed at enabling the vehicle owners to pay their token tax, registration and transfer fees from any part of the country through e-banking and other digital mode of transactions.

Talking to media, E&T Director Bilal Azam said, "This is a step forward for converting the E&T operations into one-window facility by 2021 under Prime Minister Imran Khan's 'Digital Pakistan' vision."

Bilal said, "From onwards, around 1.1 million vehicles' owners need not to visit the E&T office as they can submit their token tax, registration and transfer fees through ATM (automated teller machine), debit cards and e-banking after registering themselves at the 'City Islamabad App'.

The director said on the very first day, more than 100 vehicle owners had made their vehicles related payments through multiple financial institutions such as Allied Bank, Askari Bank, First Micro Finance Bank, Habib Bank Limited, Meezan Bank and others. — APP

**PPP becomes party in Cynthia's case**

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday accepted the petition of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) to become a party in a case moved by American blogger Cynthia Dawn Ritchie against her possible repatriation on expiry of her visa.

IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah conducted the hearing and subsequently accepted the petition.

The court served the notice to the PPP leader Chaudhary Iftikhar and ordered to submit the comments till the next date of hearing. — APP

**RCCI, UK Business Council vow to enhance trade activities**

FIAZ CHAUDHRY

RAWALPINDI: Khurshid Barlas, President, UK Pakistan Business Council Pakistan Chapter, accompanied by General Secretary UK Pakistan Business Council Ata-ul-Haq, who is visiting Pakistan, visited the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry. He congratulated the newly elected President of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry Nasir Mirza and other executive members on assuming their responsibilities and briefed them on the activities of UK Pakistan Business Council. Group Leader Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and

Industry Sohail Altaf on behalf of UK Pakistan Business Council Cooperation and Exhibition welcomed the proposals to promote trade activities by holding conferences & Exhibitions. He also said that there was a need to take full advantage of the opportunities for trade cooperation.

The atmosphere is very conducive for traders and the introduction of Pakistani products could increase Pakistan's exports. President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry Nasir Mirza said that business conferences and exhibitions would be held in Pakistan and the UK in collaboration with the UK Pakistan Business Council.



RAWALPINDI: President UK Pakistan Business Council (Pakistan Chapter), Khurshid Barlas and President RCCI Nasir Mirza signing MoU. — DNA

**ITP urged to expand driving license services**

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Traffic Police's (ITP) current practice of offering limited driving license services to the motorists in the wake of coronavirus pandemic causes inconvenience to the visitors as they have to wait for several hours outside the office in a hope of getting a chance of entry into the office, located at in sector F-8 at the area dedicated for green belt.

The visitors, especially people from the outskirts areas of Federal Capital passion-

ately called upon the ITP management to accommodate maximum number of the citizens by issuing more than 250 tokens every day. The ITP have recently resumed driving license services after a hiatus of over six months with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) standard operating procedures (SOPs) to keep virus at the bay.

Akhtar Sharif, whose license expired in May and has to wait for another day, said the ITP should increase the

number of tokens as he had been working in a private organization and especially took a leave to visit the office for license issuance.

"Unfortunately, I could not reach the ITP office early in the morning to get the token and now I am standing in a hope that I may be called inside the office for license issuance." He said he was not the only one expecting the call from inside of the office as there were a number of people, especially who had come from rural areas. — APP

**FIA unearths benami accounts**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) investigations in money laundering case have entered final stage as over two dozen benami accounts of Salman Shehbaz have been unearthed by the agency.

According to sources, about 10.5 billion rupees were sent to benami accounts in the names of Salman's employees and others. Investigation against Jahangir Tareen and Ali Tareen are also underway, sources claimed.

**Police net 858 criminals during Sept**

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Police in their ongoing operation against drug peddlers, bootleggers, lawbreakers and Proclaimed Offenders (POs) managed to net 858 criminals including 197 for holding illegal weapons, 299 drug peddlers and bootleggers during September.

According to a police spokesman, police under the supervision of Superintendents of Police (SPs) Potohar, Rawal and Suddar Divisions on the directives of City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi Muhammad Ahsan Younas conducted raids against lawbreakers in different areas of the district.

He said police netted 197 persons and registered 192 cases against them for possessing illegal weapons.

Police also recovered seven Kalashnikov, 14 guns/rifles, 167 pistols, three revolvers and five daggers from their possession during the period. Potohar Division police also registered 297 cases against drug peddlers and bootleggers and arrested 299 accused besides seizing over 133 kg charras, 10 kg heroin and 1488 liters liquor during last month. — APP

**Naseem Sheikh honored**

RAWALPINDI: First annual Mushaira in honor of renowned poet Naseem Sheikh arranged with the collaboration of Nayab Adabi Forum of Punjab Council of the Arts. The annual poetry recital was presided over by the country's renowned poet, critic and columnist Naseem Shehar.

Mr. Naseem Sheikh, a renowned poet of the country, was awarded the "Rare Literary Award" by the Nayab Adabi Forum for his outstanding literary services. Naseem Shehar, President of the Mushaira appreciated the literary services of the Forum and hoped to hold similar programs in the future as well.

All the esteemed poets congratulated Nusrat Yab Nusrat, the chairman of the Rare Literary Forum, for organizing his wonderful annual poetry recital.

Waqar Ahmed said that, Poetry is the soul of virtual spirit.

The Council had strive to promote young poets by giving them ample opportunity to show their work to the world. A number of people from different walks of life attend the mushaira. — APP

**FBR start tax awareness education campaign**

Secretary FATE Sonia Anwar, delivered a very informative and easy to understand presentation to the students on the structure of tax system and the significance in nation building

ISLAMABAD: Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has started holding tax educational awareness sessions in different educational institutes of Islamabad.

Under the Letter of Understanding (LoU) signed between FBR and Federal Directorate of Education (FDE), said a statement issued by FBR here on Tuesday. The part of bilateral LoU, the series of tax awareness educational session held in IMCG G-10/4 here.

Facilitation and Taxpayers Education Wing (FATE) of FBR held the first Educational Awareness Session in Islamabad Model College for Girls G-10/4.

In line with the vision of Prime Minister to promote the tax culture and under the directions of Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Shafiqat Mahmood and Chairman FBR Muhammad Javed Ghani, series of Awareness Educational Sessions

will be carried out by FATE Wing in collaboration with FDE in different educational institutes of Islamabad. The Chief (FATE), FBR Aisha Farooq and DG FDE Zia Batool, were the Chief Guests on the occasion.

DG, FDE welcomed the officers of FBR and thanked the administration of both FBR and FDE to make this session successful. She hoped that such sessions would increase the knowledge of students about taxes and its signifi-

cance in the economic progress. Chief FATE Aisha Farooq, said that the purpose of holding these sessions was to promote the tax culture. She further said that students would learn about the significance of paying taxes in their initial years through these sessions which would help them make responsible taxpayers in their later years. "The students would help spread the message of paying taxes," she added.

Secretary FATE Sonia Anwar, de-

livered a very informative and easy to understand presentation to the students on the structure of tax system and the significance in nation building.

The students delivered speeches on the 'importance of taxes' during the event. The winning students were given prizes. In the end, the Principal of the college Rakhshanda Manzoor thanked FBR for holding this informative session.

## Briefs

## World Post Day to be held virtually

DNA

ISLAMABAD (APP): For the very first time, the celebrations for World Post Day will be held virtually here on Friday (October 9) due to COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose to celebrate World Post Day was to bring awareness to the Post's role in the everyday lives of people and businesses, as well as its contribution to global social and economic development. World Post Day will be marked across the globe on Oct 9 with an aim to pay tribute to Universal Postal Union member countries, postal operators, postal workers and everyone else involved in delivering the mail. The Day was celebrated each year on 9 October, the event was declared by the 1969 Universal Postal Congress in Tokyo as a means to mark the anniversary of the Universal Postal Union's (UPU) creation in 1874. As a result, the UPU's member countries were encouraged to organize their own national activities to celebrate the event, including everything from the introduction or promotion of new postal products and services, to the organization of open days at post offices, mail centres and postal museums. Pakistan Post would also organize special functions at Directorate of General of Pakistan Post and all Circles and provinces to celebrate the day.

## Motor cars imports reduced by 31.40%

ISLAMABAD: Motor Cars imports during first two months of current fiscal year reduced by 31.40 per cent as compared the corresponding period of the last year. According to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) on Tuesday, the Motor Cars imports came down from US \$122,953 thousand in FY 2019-20 of last financial year to US \$84,343 thousand of the same period of current financial year. During the period from July-Aug 20 this year, imports of Buses, Trucks and Oth. Heavy vehicles reduced by 42.20%, worth \$26,999 thousand as compared the imports valuing \$46,710 thousand of same period of last year, it added. Meanwhile, Motor Cycles imports decreased by 49.57%, worth \$6,726 thousand as compared the imports of valuing \$13,337 thousand of the corresponding period of last year. During the period under review, Parts and Accessories imports also came down by 39.81%, valuing \$37,710 thousand imported as compared the imports worth \$62,653 thousand of same period of last year. - APP

## IRSA releases 149,500 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 149,500 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 85,400 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1538.82 feet, which was 152.82 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 47,600 cusecs and outflow as 82,000 cusecs. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1226.05 feet, which was 186.05 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 10,300 cusecs and 40,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 86,000, 84,800 and 15,000 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 9,800 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 5,000 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala. - APP

## ICCI calls for furniture mall in Islamabad to boost exports

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that the global furniture market was of billions of dollars, but Pakistan's share in it was quite nominal and stressed that the government should develop furniture cities across the country to promote this industry and boost its exports

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry has called upon the government to allocate land for establishing a Furniture Mall in Islamabad in order to boost furniture industry and enhance its exports. He said that Pakistan has huge potential to promote trade and exports of furniture products and the government should address key issues of this industry for its better growth. He said this while addressing a delegation of Islamabad Furniture Manufacturers Association that visited ICCI led

by President Farhan Khan to congratulate the newly elected Office Bearers of ICCI. Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI, Ajmal Baloch All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajir, Former Senior Vice President ICCI Khalid Chaudhry, Executive Member Aslam Khokhar and Chairman All Pakistan Furniture Association Zahid Hussain were also present at the occasion. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that the global furniture market was of billions of dollars, but Pakistan's share in it was quite nominal and stressed that the government should develop furniture cities across the country to promote this industry and boost its exports. He said that ICCI would try for



the establishment of an industrial zone in Islamabad and furniture industry would also be given space in it for better growth. He assured to extend all possible cooperation to the Furniture Association to modernize the furniture industry and help resolve its

key issues. Speaking at the occasion, Farhan Khan, President, Islamabad Furniture Association congratulated Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan and his team and hoped that they would play a positive role in resolving the problems of the furniture sector business community. He said that the foam manufacturing companies have unanimously increased the prices of foam which was badly affecting the business of the furniture industry and urged that the government should take action against this cartel. Ajmal Baloch, President, All Pakistan Traders Association said that there was an urgent need to build a Display Center

or Furniture Mall to promote the furniture industry, so the government should cooperate in this regard. Furniture Association Chairman Wali Khan, Patron Chaudhry Mumtaz, All Pakistan Furniture Association Chairman Zahid Hussain, Senior Vice President Rana Mujahid, Vice President Haji Ijaz, General Secretary Muhammad Imran, Additional General Secretary Ahmed Habib and Finance Secretary Nisar Khan also congratulated the newly elected Office Bearers of ICCI and assured them of their cooperation to their efforts aimed at resolving the issues of business community.



RAWALPINDI: President people trader cell, tariq Waheed Butt, General secretary Navid Kanwal, Pervaiz Chudhary, Manzer Aalam, are presenting bouquet to group leader Sohail Altaf and newly elected president of RCCI, Nasir Mirza. - DNA

## Govt committed to control malnutrition: Sania Nishtar

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection (PASSD) Dr. Sania Nishtar Tuesday assured federal government's commitment to work with its provincial stakeholders to control malnutrition and stunting in children. Talking in a current affairs programme

aired on Radio Pakistan, she said the federal government has decided to work with the provincial stockholders to address the very serious challenge of stunting in children. She said that the government under visionary leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan is fully committed to combat the issue of malnutrition in Pakistan. She said the federal government would play role of a facilitator along with the provincial governments to deal with the challenge of malnutrition. Sania said first meeting of Pakistan National Nutrition Coordination Council (PNNCC) was held the other day with Prime Minister Imran Khan in the chair. There were eight other ministers of the cabinet as council members, she said, adding, the foremost objective and vision of the Prime Minister is to work for the wellbeing of the common people of Paki-

stan. She assured that with proactive and continuous support and participation of provincial partners and complementing efforts they can succeed in bringing about a positive change in the current state of affairs concerning nutrition and stunting. Sania Nishtar stressed the need for a comprehensive approach to address the issue of malnutrition and also through raising awareness among the people.

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## CII issues 20-point code of conduct to promote harmony

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A 20-point code of conduct has been prepared in a meeting of religious scholars chaired by Minister for Religious Affairs Pir Noor-ul-Haq to promote harmony among all sects. The 20-point code of conduct has the signatures of scholars from all sects. The meeting was attended by Chairman Islamic Ideological Council Qibla Ayaz, Mufti Taqi Usmani, Mufti Muneeb-ur-Rehman, Prof Sajid Mir, Maulana Muhammad Hanif Jalandhari, Dr Ragheb Naemi and other religious personalities. The Unified Code of Conduct states that all citizens have a

duty to recognize the Constitution of Pakistan. All citizens should fulfill their oath of allegiance with the state. The Islamic structure of the Constitution of Pakistan and the laws of Pakistan will be protected. According to the code of conduct, citizens have the right to peacefully fight for the implementation of Sharia. All forms of armed action, violence and anarchy will be considered rebellion. In addition, it has been said that no one has the right to declare government, armed forces and other security personnel as infidels. Scholars and leaders should support the state and the armed forces to end the violence.

## 260 traffic policemen to perform duties on Chehllum procession

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As many as 260 traffic policemen would perform duties during procession on eve of Chehllum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) and to ensure smooth flow of traffic in the city. According to details, 260 policemen including one SP, one DSP and 10 Inspectors of Islamabad Traffic police (ITP) force would perform

security duties. The traffic plan has been finalized by Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Farrukh Rasheed in a meeting here on Tuesday which was also attended by SP (Traffic) Ch. Khalid Rashied, DSPs and Inspectors of four zones. The traffic would be diverted on alternate routes from 8 am till culmination of procession while ITP FM Radio 92.4 will also guide road users about situation on roads.

## SC acquits 2 in explosive recovery case

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has acquitted two accused in including Khalid Mehmood and Amanullah in explosive recovery case who had been pronounced 14 years imprisonment by a trial court and 10 years. Justice Manzoor Ahmad Malik heard the petition filed by the accused persons to challenge the verdict for their imprisonment in explosive recovery case. The petitioner's counsel told the top court that no evidence has proved his clients' connection with any outlawed organisation. Justice Manzoor Ahmad Malik questioned whether the accused person was a government employee or not. Khalid's brother-in-law told the court that he is an employee of a psychiatric hospital in Lahore and father of five children who had been imprisoned for five years without committing any crime. He continued that hat is the reason for acting against the country where you are residing. Justice Malik questioned the reason for possessing arms and ammunition besides being associated with outlawed outfits and its members.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of UK-Pakistan Business Council visited ISE Towers and met Mr Zahid Latif Khan, Chairman ISE RMC. Prominent among them were Mr Khurshid Barlas, President Pakistan Chapter and Mr Ata Ul Haq, Secretary General UKPBC International and Mr Abdul Kareem VP, Karachi Chapter. Mr Khan briefed them about Real Estate Investment Trust and new initiative of Roshan Pakistan Digital Account. - DNA

## Pakistan Railways to restore old system of KCR

About the restoration of first phase, the official said the rehabilitation work of the track from Karachi City to Orangi Station was in full swing. So far, 12 kilometer track from Karachi City to Manghopir has been completely restored

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Railways would restore old system of Karachi Circular Railways (KCR) with a cost of Rs 1.8 billion and around 16,000 passengers would travel on 32 passenger trains daily. The distance from the starting point to the last destination would be covered in only half an hour, an official in the Ministry of Railways said Tuesday. He said that Pakistan Railways was go-

ing to restore historic project of KCR on the orders given by the Supreme Court in which role and cooperation of the Sindh government would be required. The official said 44 kilometers KCR track will include 30 km loop and 14 km mainline. The KCR has total 20 stations, out of which 15 are on the loop and five on the mainline, while there are 24 level crossings on the entire track. He said the KCR project would be restored in three phases. In the first phase 14 kilometers from Karachi City to Orangi Station would be revived, in the second phase seven kilometers from Orangi Station to Gilani Station will be restored while in the third and final phase nine kilometers from Gilani Station to Drug Colony track would be completely restored. About the restoration of first phase, the official said the rehabilitation work of the track from Karachi City to

Orangi Station was in full swing. So far, 12 kilometer track from Karachi City to Manghopir has been completely restored. He said that Rs152.5 million for repair of nine stations, platforms and 15 level crossings was restored in the first phase while tenders of Rs 50 million for electrical signal and telecommunication have been issued in July of the current financial year. The official said presently ten locomotives and 40

coaches for the KCR project had been handed over to Carriage Factory Islamabad for repair and renovation. He said Minister for Railways Sheikh Rashid Ahmed has also announced to have a ready-made coach at Cantonment Station on the occasion of his recent visit to Shah Abdul Latif Station. To a question, he said that Pakistan Railways would upgrade the KCR project in the second phase Rs 8.705 billion would require for its rehabilitation work.

After the upgradation of KCR, the number of passenger trains would be increased from 32 to 48 and passenger capacity would also be increased from 16,000 to 24,000 passengers while the total journey duration would be reduced from 30 minutes to 19 minutes. In the third and last phase, the official the project would be upgraded to a modern urban mass transit system under public-private partnership.

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## KP bar council observes strike

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council on Tuesday observed a strike, boycotting court proceedings to protest a clash that occurred during the oath taking ceremony of Bajaur Bar Council the other day. According to KP Bar Council, the lawyers were told not to attend any court proceedings across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. A clash had taken place among participants of a function at Bajaur district, held to administer oath to elected representatives of Bajaur Bar Council on Monday last. The license of Advocated Misbahuddin who was allegedly involved in the incident has also been suspended. - APP

## Theater Wallay to hold qawali night

ISLAMABAD: The Art School, Theater Wallay will hold a Qawali night to pay tribute to legendary Qawal Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan along with providing a soulful evening to citizens of twin cities on October 17. The event is being organized to celebrate the Birthday of timeless legend Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan and to promote the virtues of peace and harmony to rekindle the Qawali music. According to the organizers, well known Bakhshe Brothers would entertain the audience with soulful musical performances decorated with famous qawalis of Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan besides their own musical pieces. "Bakhshe Brothers will take you on a journey of soulful devotion with their renditions of some of Qawwali's most timeless classics", he stated. Families as well as singles are invited to enjoy themselves with the best organized setting arrangement and peaceful atmosphere. He stated that he participants will also be entertained by various food stalls and all necessary precautions will be taken along with Hand Sanitizers and complimentary masks. - APP

## IHC orders to provide copy of death sentence

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday ordered to provide a copy of decision to the petitioner about his death sentence awarded by a military court. IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah conducted the hearing on an appeal moved by former naval officer Arsalan Nazeer Satti against his death sentence decision. The petition was moved by Inamur Raheem advocate on behalf of ex-navy-officer. The petitioner's lawyer adopted the stance that his client had been announced death penalty by a military court, adding that his appeal against the decision had also been dismissed but he was not shared its copy so far. The representative of Pakistan Navy pleaded that the record of the judgment was classified and sensitive due to which it could not be shared with the convict person. However, the court ordered to share the record with the petitioner and adjourned the hearing of the case for two weeks.

## Reshuffle in police dept, 6 SHOs replaced

RAWALPINDI: City Police Officer (CPO) Muhammad Ahsan Younas has notified reshuffle in Rawalpindi police apparently as a move to control the surge in street crime. As per notifications, issued from CPO office, Inspector Yasir Matloob Rawat, SI Yasir Abbas Wah Cantt, SI Muhammad Gultaj Taxila, SI Ghazanfar Abbas Kalar Syedan, SI Habeeb ur Rehman Wastridge and SI Asim Rasheed Morgah has been replaced with the SI Waqas Safer, SI Zohaib Arif, SI Hassan Raza, Inspector Ijaz Qurashi and Inspector Mehr Mumtaz has been close to Police Line. CPO Muhammad Ahsan Younas directed all the newly appointed SHOs to take charge and control the crime in the limits of their respective beats.

## The dangerous game

**A**FTER having exhausted its narrative of PML-N leaders' corruption without creating a dent in the party's following as revealed by opinion surveys, the PM says he is hundred percent sure that India is helping Mian Nawaz Sharif. An FIR has been registered against the former Prime Minister and a number of PMLN leaders for 'conspiring' against Pakistan and state institutions. A Special Assistant to PM told media that Ms Maryam Nawaz had met an Indian at Khokhar Palace. The charge was promptly denied by the owner of the venue. Treason cases have been initiated against Captain (rtd) Safdar and PML-N MPA Usman Khalid Butt for defaming army and inciting hate only because they were organizing a public meeting in Gujranwala. Besides hoping that the allegations would reduce the PML-N's following, the PTI also wants to divert its ongoing fight with the PML-N into a fight between the army and the PML-N. The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) is targeting the government for its abysmal performance. The government's lack of competence has made life difficult for millions of people. The wheat price continues to increase because the government failed to control the hoarders who smuggled the commodity to neighbouring countries. The government then delayed the import of wheat. Soon there are going to be gas shortages because the PTI government did not take the required measures to improve the gas supply for more than two years. As winter approaches there will be power shut downs and increase in electricity charges. Madr-e-Millat Fatima Jinnah, Bacha Khan, GM Syed, and Benazir Bhutto have all been called traitors and security risks by the pigmies in power and their sycophants. Those who leveled these charges hoped that the system they were building by jailing the opponents, denying the people's basic rights, and curbing the media would last long. It didn't. Stigma remains attached to their names. Those they maligned by calling into question their patriotism continue to be respected.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

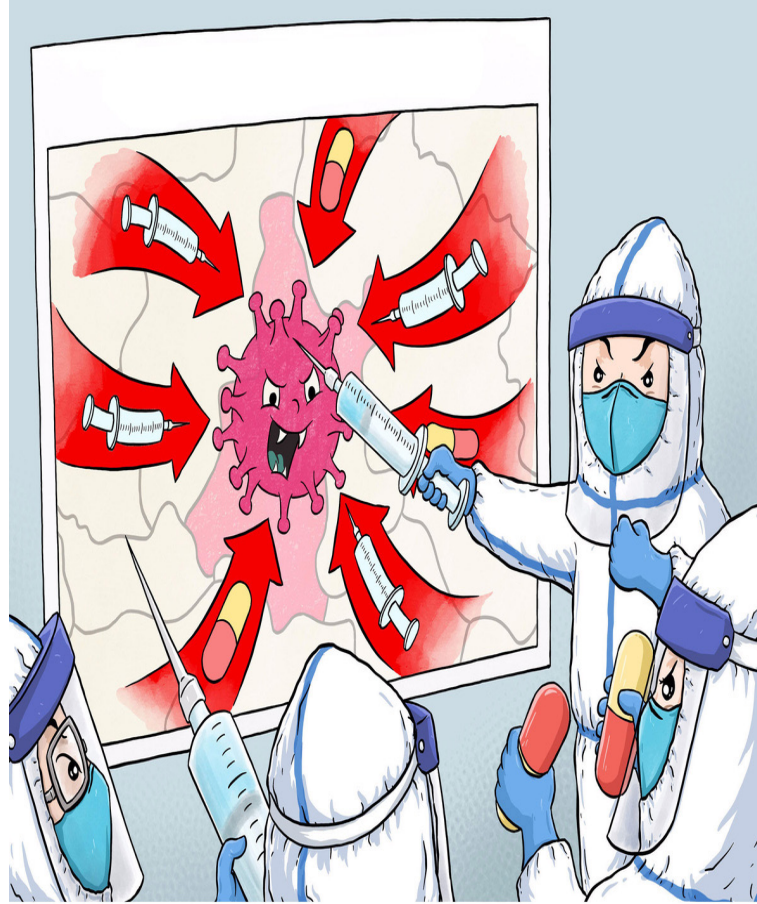
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## FATF meeting

**W**ITH a little over two weeks left till the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) meeting to review the progress made by Pakistan in countering money laundering and terrorism funding, the government can go into the meeting with confidence. A lot of ground has been covered in terms of legal amendments. The meeting was originally supposed to be held in June, but the pandemic offered us some extra time, which was utilised fully by the government. Out of the 27 points in the action plan put forth by FATF, Pakistan had already ensured compliance on 14 by February this year. We have amended 15 more laws to adhere to the remaining 13 points. This in itself should satisfy any independent or neutral body that was looking to strengthen the financial framework to prevent terrorist facilitation and unscrupulous dealings. Pakistan is still the only country to take the fight to the terrorists in the way we did after the APS tragedy. This struggle has moved into the second dimension in the last couple of years; by blocking financial channels, our progress has become more comprehensive. By all accounts, Pakistan's legal set-up should not be a cause for concern for FATF or the international community any longer either. This makes us one of the only countries to comprehensively take on the scourge of terrorism without leaving any room for compromise. The ball is now in FATF's court. There is no doubt that India's diplomatic weight in the past was a contributing factor to our name being included in the FATF grey list. With the eastern neighbour quickly losing all credibility on the matter of terrorism and human rights, it is hoped that political considerations are cast aside and Pakistan's case is judged on merit. We have done exactly what was needed and it is time to move past this constant axe over our heads.

## North and South united for COVID-19 collaboration

Erna Solberg  
Cyril Ramaphosa

The ACT-Accelerator has shown us the potential for an exit from this crisis, but a gear change in funding is necessary if we are to reach that door. To date, just \$2.7 billion has been given to its work – enough to ensure a robust start-up phase, but this covers less than 10% of the overall needs. To meet the goal of producing and delivering 2 billion vaccine doses, 245 million treatments and 500 million diagnostic tests, world leaders must use the window of opportunity to scale-up the initiative over the next three months. The investment case is compelling

**I**N the battle against COVID-19, we all have a common goal: to save lives, reopen our societies and rebuild our economies. New diagnostic tests, treatments and vaccines offer the best hope of achieving this – but only if they are deployed when and where they are needed most. This is not just the right thing to do; it is the smart thing to do. Against a foe that respects no borders, national solutions are bound to fall short. This week, global leaders are meeting at the United Nations General Assembly to discuss the global solution that is here for the taking. We call on world leaders to use significant moments like UNGA to commit investment in - and cooperation with - the ACT-Accelerator programme, a global push to develop COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines. By doing so we are leading our people and the world directly towards the exit of this crisis by replacing fear with hope. Our two countries, Norway and South Africa, may lie at different ends of the planet – and stand on different rungs of the economic ladder – but we have a long-standing relationship and we rely on each other to escape from this crisis. The same is true for every country on Earth. Countries that only focus on ensuring supplies of vaccines, drugs and diagnostics for their own populations must wake up to the fact that they risk delaying the end of the pandemic for everyone. The pandemic transcends national borders – our efforts should be aligned to fight this pandemic collectively. Vaccines, drugs and diagnostics must be made available for all in need. If not, we risk delaying the end of the pandemic for everyone. In our shared desire for a rapid global solution, earlier this month we co-chaired the inaugural meeting of the ACT-Accelerator Facilitation Council with over 30 heads of state and ministers, economic cooperation groups, international partners and civil society. Launched in April by the World Health Organization with the European Commission, G20 countries and other partners, the ACT-Accelerator offers a joint exit strategy from the COVID crisis based on global cooperation and equitable access. Crucially, it promises excellent value for money.

The unprecedented speed at which ACT-Accelerator is accelerating the development and rollout of new tools is testament to the incredible advances in science and technology of recent years and shows what can be achieved when we work together. These tools play an equally important role in ending the pandemic. Diagnostics are the eyes and ears of the COVID response – and are essential to limit the spread of the virus. Better, more effective treatments for all stages of disease are essential to prevent death and serious illness. A safe and effective vaccine will protect populations, in particular high risk and vulnerable groups. As the world awaits the results of large-scale clinical trials on vaccines and therapeutics, it is vital that we take the opportunity to ensure that they will be used to maximum effect. Immunising people in a limited number of high-income countries will not fix the problem. In fact, new research suggests that unequal distribution of vaccines could result in almost twice as many COVID-19 deaths than if the same volume of vaccines were shared out equitably. That has grave implications for countries at all income levels in both North and South alike. In an inter-connected world, tackling the virus everywhere is our best chance not only of saving the largest number of lives but also of restoring social and economic activity globally and nationally. Until the threat of COVID-19 recedes, the global economy will continue to suffer, supply chains will remain broken and travel will be disrupted. What is more, we risk losing decades of development progress, with 100 million more people around the world facing the possibility of being driven into poverty, millions of children in low-and middle-income countries lacking access to schooling, and healthcare systems across resource-poor regions in danger of being overwhelmed. Resurgences of the virus now evident in many countries underscore the precarious state of affairs. With up to 95% of the global population still at risk of catching the virus, there is a continuing danger that COVID-19 will flow back to countries

currently under control – whatever unilateral steps they may have taken to suppress transmission – creating more economic uncertainty and shocks. In just five months, the ACT-Accelerator and its four pillars have built an unrivalled research and development portfolio of tests, treatments and vaccines, alongside an advance purchasing system to get them to the places they are needed, and a global distribution network to get them to the people who require them. It is the ideal mechanism to deliver a coordinated global response by bringing together governments, health bodies, scientists, businesses, civil society and philanthropists. The ACT-Accelerator has shown us the potential for an exit from this crisis, but a gear change in funding is necessary if we are to reach that door. To date, just \$2.7 billion has been given to its work – enough to ensure a robust start-up phase, but this covers less than 10% of the overall needs. To meet the goal of producing and delivering 2 billion vaccine doses, 245 million treatments and 500 million diagnostic tests, world leaders must use the window of opportunity to scale-up the initiative over the next three months. The investment case is compelling. With the global economy expected to contract by \$7 trillion in 2020 alone, fully financing the remaining \$35 billion needed by partners of the ACT-Accelerator to shorten the duration of the crisis would pay for itself in just 36 hours once global travel and trade alone are restored. The alternative path of "vaccine nationalism", and a lack of innovation for and access to effective tests and treatments, would hold up the recovery of all countries. We must confront one of the most serious healthcare crises to hit the world in recent times as a global challenge, together, not as individual countries. The case for united action has never been stronger. Nor has it been more urgent. **Prime Minister Erna Solberg of Norway and President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa are co-chairs of the ACT-Accelerator Facilitation Council.**

## Nawaz's agenda: Survival or supremacy of democracy?

Mehr Tarar

The Islamabad High Court, on September 1, lambasted Sharif for his refusal to return to Pakistan. It is understood that his self-inspired return would have honoured his party's leadership's guarantee to the government. The court stated: "The accused [Nawaz Sharif] knows that he went abroad after defeating the system. He must be laughing at the system while sitting abroad. It is a shameful conduct by the accused." The PDM – the latest alliance for restoration of civilian and democratic supremacy – is tight-lipped on Islamabad High Court's categorical statement on the conduct of three-time prime minister of Pakistan

**I**T is the season of statements. Big, uncensored, unfiltered, ominous statements. Some are beamed through video links on giant screens. Some are made in conferences. Some are uttered in TV shows. Some are surrations in private gatherings. Some are hissed in WhatsApp chats. Some are bellowed in press conferences. Some are in the form of tweets that despite their careful wording pulsate with a palpable nervousness. The most noticeable aspect of these statements is the threat of war against the incumbent government. What I hear is an echo of the drum rolls of the last forty-three years. Notwithstanding the apparent loftiness of the trumpeted intentions and the end-goal, not much changes in Pakistan, not even the placement of words in a statement. As the scorching days of summer whimper into the placidness of the fall of 2020, there is a déjà vu of 1977, 1990, 1993, 1996, 1999, 2012 and 2017 in the political landscape of Pakistan. Mian Nawaz Sharif, in London, and his alliance of eleven opposition parties, in Pakistan, entitled Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), have announced their war against Prime Minister Imran Khan. From making pious statements to verbose speeches to announcing a plan of action spanning over several months, the agenda of the PDM for "restoration of civilian supremacy" – quotation marks mine – is a blueprint of the... **Your guess is as good as mine.** In a democracy, there is absolutely nothing wrong with the opposition – one party, many parties, a coalition-joining hands in repudiation of the incumbent government's short and long-term policies and their implementation. A formidable opposition is imperative for a fully functioning democratic system. A robust opposition is the right kind of opposition. An honest opposition is the force that ensures governmental transparency of strategy and action. A vigilant opposition is an adherent of the principle of checks and balances to keep the government on its toes. An opposition dedicated to the fundamental principle of the wellbeing of the people acts as the conscience of a government. Is the current political opposition of Pakistan all this and more? I leave the question unanswered. The reality of the issues of the political opposition is far from the beatific revolutionary zeal that the latest speeches of Nawaz Sharif seem to espouse. Nawaz Sharif, three-time prime minister of Pakistan, is in a self-imposed exile in London. In November 2019, he went to the UK for treatment after teams of his personal and government doctors declared his condition to be critical, his family insisting that his treatment only possible in London where he had undergone heart surgery in 2016. Media took up the case with all its noisy preachiness and didn't rest until Sharif was seated in a chartered plane, as his opponents in government and others exclaimed, looking anything but critically ill. Sharif was

supposed to return after his treatment, but despite various sightings of him in and from London – walking, having coffee, chairing party meetings, giving media statements, speaking via video links to PMD's first All-Parties Conference on September 20, and addressing his party's CEC and CWC meetings on September 30 and October 1, respectively – his party, currently invested in making an announcement every few hours, has refused to give a deadline for his return. Their single stance is that his return is connected to his full convalescence, and that remains uncertain, as due to coronavirus even life-saving surgeries have been postponed in London since March. Their stance, not mine. The Islamabad High Court, on September 1, lambasted Sharif for his refusal to return to Pakistan. It is understood that his self-inspired return would have honoured his party's leadership's guarantee to the government. The court stated: "The accused [Nawaz Sharif] knows that he went abroad after defeating the system. He must be laughing at the system while sitting abroad. It is a shameful conduct by the accused." The PDM – the latest alliance for restoration of civilian and democratic supremacy – is tight-lipped on Islamabad High Court's categorical statement on the conduct of three-time prime minister of Pakistan. The latest trigger for the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) is the NAB's arrest of Shehbaz Sharif, younger brother of Nawaz Sharif, President of PML-N, and Leader of the Opposition in National Assembly, after the Lahore High Court's rejection of his plea for bail in a money laundering case. Instead of responding to the arrest with rational arguments – that PML-N will fight the case in court, all allegations will be answered, and evidence to prove his innocence will be incontestable – PML-N's sole reaction is labelling the process of accountability a political witch-hunt. The war has begun. The PDM demands the resignation of Prime Minister Imran Khan. They say that he was brought in by the establishment through a rigged election in 2018, robbing the traditional power holders, PML-N and PPP, of their right to formation of government in the centre. Sharif and his PML-N and its current leader Maryam Nawaz say that it is time to take Pakistan back from the clutches of the establishment. That there should be a clear delineation of the separation of power in Pakistan: military establishment must not interfere in civilian matters. That all elections must be fair and transparent without any pressure from the men in uniform. Prime Minister Imran Khan says that his party won the mandate of the public, and no one [but the voter] has the power to remove him from his position until the next elections in 2023. Khan is also categorical that the army is an institution of government and not vice versa. The PDM's plan is to hold rallies in provincial capitals,

and then nationwide, demanding the resignation of an "inefficient" prime minister and his government, citing their inability to control prices of commodities, tariffs and availability of electricity and domestic and commercial-use gas, and unemployment, among other issues. In 2020, when millions of Pakistanis are still suffering the financial aftermath of the COVID-19-necessitated lockdown while facing inflation and unemployment, trying to arrange three meals for their families, they are being asked by the new champions of democracy to come on roads to unseat a democratically elected prime minister. What were the accusations on the governments of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in 1977, Benazir Bhutto in 1990, Nawaz Sharif in 1993, Benazir Bhutto in 1996, and Nawaz Sharif in 1999 when they were ousted through military coups and/or presidential or judicial decrees? What were the reasons given for the dismissal of Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani in 2012 and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in 2017? Today, the PDM's war slogan is the elimination of the detrimental political and power dynamics prevalent in Pakistan for decades. Redundant it is to point out that it is the system endorsed and enabled and exploited by most of them for their own benefit and/or to harm other political parties, including some that are part of the PDM today. Today, their strategy is the achievement of the same end-goal that they have been ostensibly fighting against for decades: ouster of a democratically elected prime minister, on one pretext or the other. Mind boggling, isn't it? Despite the dismissal of the last two prime ministers, the silver lining in the convoluted system of power in Pakistan in the last decade has been the completion of the terms of the two democratically elected governments, one of PPP, one of PML-N. Those were hugely important milestones that all advocates of democracy justifiably celebrated. Now both these parties are in cahoots to demand through protests and rallies and a long march the ouster of a democratically elected government. Sense defying, isn't it? In 2020, all rational, all democratic Pakistanis – including Prime Minister Khan who proudly calls himself a democrat, and the leadership of the armed forces and intelligence agencies – support the constitutional delineation of civilian-military power. Pakistan is a democracy in which there must not be any blatant or overt interference of the establishment in an electoral process, and/or the running of the country. Prime Minister Imran Khan, the civilian leader, is uncompromising about this demarcation. Chief of Army Staff Qamar Javed Bajwa, the military leader, is also unambiguous about this delineation. Now which credo of democracy Sharif and his party and their alliance wish to strengthen through their plan of the ouster of Prime Minister Imran Khan?

– Courtesy: Gulf News

## Briefs

## Malaysia issues inter-state travel ban

DNA

KUALA LAMPUR: Malaysia on Tuesday issued a 14-day travel ban from the state of Sabah located in the northern Borneo island to other parts of the country due to spike in coronavirus cases, local media reported.

Security Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob said in a statement that exemption will be given to special cases like emergency cases, deaths, essential services, and others, which will require permission from the Health Ministry. "Those who receive permission must also undergo COVID-19 screening by the Health Ministry as soon as they arrive at the entry points of their destinations," said Yaakob.

On Monday, the National Security Council announced that Kota Kinabalu, Penampang, and Putatan districts will go under lockdown from Wednesday. Malaysia has emerged as one of the new hotspots in Southeast Asia for novel coronavirus transmission after Health Ministry authorities recorded the highest daily jump on Tuesday with 691 cases in 24 hours, bringing the total to 13,504. Health Director-General Noor Hisham Abdullah said Kedah was the worst-affected state with 397 cases, followed by Sabah with 219 cases.

## Top envoys of Japan, US, India, Australia meet in Tokyo

DNA

TOKYO: The top diplomats of Japan, the US, Australia and India met in Tokyo on Tuesday agreeing to work for peace in the Indo-Pacific region. According to Japan's Kyodo News Agency, the foreign ministers of the four nations - which form the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue group or QUAD - agreed "to work toward peace in Indo-Pacific". Japan's Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi hosted US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Australia Foreign Minister Marise Payne and Indian counterpart S. Jaishankar for a quadrilateral meeting. QUAD is an informal strategic forum among the four countries that is maintained by semi-regular summits, information exchanges and military drills between the member countries. The meeting assumes significance amid the ongoing US-China trade war and the COVID-19 backlash that Beijing is facing, and is seen as a counter measure to the China's assertive role in the region. Earlier, Japan's new Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga called for a "free and open Indo-Pacific". Reaffirming the strength of the bilateral alliance under Suga, Motegi told media: "I look forward to Japan and the US taking the lead in enforcing and realizing a free and open Indo-Pacific."

## Shaheen becomes highest wicket-taker

DNA

KARACHI: Continuing his superb form, Pakistan's young pace sensation Shaheen Shah Afridi has surpassed Afghanistan's Rashid Khan as leading T20 wicket-taker in the ongoing calendar year, 2020. Afridi achieved this feat on Monday during his domestic side KP's National T20 Cup match against Sindh. Shaheen finished with 5 for 21. This takes his T20 wickets tally in the year to 36, three more than Afghanistan's spinner Rashid Khan. With Rashid remains in action during Indian Premier League and Shaheen's business in National T20 continues, the race between these two is likely to pace up in days to come. Pakistan's Harris Rauf and Shadab Khan, both with 31 wickets each, are following Rashid Khan on the table. The 5-for against Sindh on Monday was his career's 4th 5-wicket haul. Only Lasith Malinga has more T20 5-fers. The Sri Lankan fast bowler has five 5-wicket hauls to his credit.



MULTAN: October 06 - A view of the cricket match between Central Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa teams during National T20 Cup played at Multan Cricket Stadium. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa team won the match by 29 runs. - DNA

## President Donald Trump faces criticism as he leaves hospital

Trump's message alarmed infectious disease experts and suggested the president's own illness had not caused him to rethink his often-cavalier attitude toward the disease

DNA

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump staged a dramatic return to the White House after leaving the military hospital where he was receiving an unprecedented level of care for Covid-19. He immediately ignited a new controversy by declaring that despite his illness the nation should not fear the virus that has killed more than 210,000 Americans and then he entered the White House without a protective mask.

"If the President bounces back

onto the campaign trail, he will be an invincible hero, who not only survived every dirty trick the Democrats threw at him, but the Chinese virus as well," he wrote on Twitter. Trump's message alarmed infectious disease experts and suggested the president's own illness had not caused him to rethink his often-cavalier attitude toward the disease, which has also infected the first lady and several White House aides, including new cases revealed on Monday. Landing on Monday night at the White House on Marine One, Trump gingerly climbed the South



Portico steps, removed his mask and declared: "I feel good". He gave a double thumbs-up to the departing helicopter from the portico terrace, where aides had ar-

infected the highest levels of the US government is still being uncovered. Still, just a month before the election and anxious to project strength, Trump tweeted before leaving the hospital, "Will be back on the campaign trail soon!!!" And in case anyone missed his don't-worry message earlier, he rushed out a new video from the White House. "Don't be afraid of it," Trump said of the virus. "You're going to beat it. We have the best medical equipment, we have the best medicines." His remarks were strong, but he was taking deeper breaths than usual as he delivered them.

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## Afghan Cricketer Najeeb Tarakai dies in car accident



DNA

KABUL: Afghanistan's top-order batsman, Najeeb Tarakai, succumbed to his injuries following a car accident last week, the country's cricket board confirmed on Tuesday. "ACB and Afghanistan cricket loving nation mourns the heart breaking and grievous loss of its aggressive opening batsman & a very fine human

being Najeeb Tarakai (29) who lost his life to a tragic traffic accident leaving us all shocked," Afghanistan Cricket Board said on Twitter. The 29-year old cricketer had played in one T20I and 12 ODIs for Afghanistan, primarily as an opening batsman. His T20I best of 90 came against Ireland in 2017. According to the details given on International Cricket Council's website, Tarakai averaged a healthy 47.20 in first-class cricket, including a career-high 200 and had six centuries against his name. After being the top scorer for Speen Ghar Tigers in the Shpageeza Cricket League last year, he joined Mis Ainak Knights squad in their run to the finals last month.

## Trio win Nobel Physics Prize for black hole research

DNA

ANKARA: Three scientists are sharing the 2020 Nobel Prize in Physics for their groundbreaking discoveries about the exotic objects known as black holes, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announced Tuesday. One half of the monetary award is going to Roger Penrose of Oxford University for the "discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity," the academy said in a press

release. "His groundbreaking [1965] article is still regarded as the most important contribution to the general theory of relativity since [Albert] Einstein," the theory's original author, it added. The other half is being jointly awarded to Reinhard Genzel, the director of Germany's Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics, and Andrea Ghez, an astronomer and physicist at the University of California, Los Angeles, for "the discovery of a supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy."

## Kuwait's cabinet hands in resignation

KUWAIT: Kuwait's new emir has asked the Gulf state's cabinet to carry on its duties and prepare for parliamentary elections due this year after the prime minister handed in his government's resignation, state news agency KUNA reported on Tuesday. Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah AlKhalid AlSabah met Emir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, who assumed power last Wednesday, and as per the country's constitution "submitted his resignation and that of his government to ensure ministerial responsibilities." - DNA

## 'Hearts of 83M people in Turkey beat with Azerbaijan'

DNA

ANKARA: Turkey's main opposition leader on Tuesday voiced support for Azerbaijan's righteous cause in Upper Karabakh. "In clashes [with Armenia], the hearts of 83 million [Turkish people] beat with Azerbaijan," Kemal Kilicdaroglu, leader of the Republican People's Party (CHP), told his party's parliamentary group in the capital Ankara. Azerbaijan has the advantage of being justified on the Upper Karabakh issue under interna-

national law, Kilicdaroglu noted. "We must back this righteous cause," he said. Kilicdaroglu also called on Armenia to end the occupation in the Upper Karabakh region. The ongoing clashes began on Sept. 27, when Armenian forces targeted civilian Azerbaijani settlements and military positions in the region, leading to casualties. Relations between the two former Soviet republics have been tense since 1991, when the Armenian military occupied Upper Karabakh or Nagorno-Karabakh, an internationally recognized

territory of Azerbaijan. Multiple UN resolutions, as well as many international organizations, demand the withdrawal of the invading forces. The OSCE Minsk Group - co-chaired by France, Russia, and the US - was formed in 1992 to find a peaceful solution to the conflict, but to no avail. A cease-fire, however, was reached in 1994. Many world powers, including Russia, France, and the US, have urged an immediate cease-fire. Turkey, meanwhile, has supported Baku's right to self-defense.



ISLAMABAD: Professional boxing got a major breakthrough in the country when on Tuesday Pakistan Professional Boxing League (PPBL) introduced the first ever pro belt in Pakistan. - DNA

## US urges Afghans to grab opportunity for peace

The US special representative for Afghanistan reconciliation added that Washington supports an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned process, and remains ready to assist. "We call on all nations, especially the neighbors and other key players, to do the same," Khalilzad emphasized.

DNA

NEW YORK: The top US envoy for Afghanistan urged the Afghan president to not let the opportunity for peace "slip away." Zalmay Khalilzad met Ashraf Ghani in Qatar's capital Doha on Monday as crucial intra-Afghan peace talks between representatives of the Kabul government and the Taliban. "I told the President [Ghani] Af-

ghans should not let the opportunity for peace to slip away," Khalilzad said in a series of tweets. He said he supports the Islamic republic negotiators doing their work as long as it takes. "I'm encouraged by what I heard from all sides, including the two teams' commitment to peace," he added. The US special representative for Afghanistan reconciliation added that Washington supports an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned process, and remains ready to assist.

"We call on all nations, especially the neighbors and other key players, to do the same," Khalilzad emphasized. Ghani's office in Kabul issued a statement saying the two sides discussed efforts for peace and stressed upon the need for a cease-fire in Afghanistan. "Violence is too high, and too many Afghans are dying. We are pressing for a significant reduction in violence that will lead to a permanent and comprehensive cease-fire," Khalilzad said.

He called for a significant reduction in violence to save lives, increase trust, broaden support for peace and help the negotiating teams make progress at a faster pace. The Afghan president Monday led a high-ranking government delegation to Kuwait to pay homage to the late Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Later in the day, the Afghan leader visited Doha where he met Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, Prime

Minister Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdul Aziz al-Thani, and a number of other senior officials of the country to discuss efforts for deepening Afghanistan-Qatar bilateral relations and mutual cooperation in various areas. Ghani's visit came as representatives of the Afghan government and the Taliban continue to engage in agenda-setting talks for the landmark intra-Afghan talks in the Gulf country since Sep. 12.

## 'We are learning from S. Korea's coronavirus response'

DNA

TASHKENT: On October 6, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev held a telephone conversation with the President of the Republic of Korea Moon Jae-in.

The President of Uzbekistan on behalf of the multi-ethnic people of Uzbekistan and on his own behalf cordially congratulated President Moon Jae-in and friendly Korean people on the National Foundation Day and traditional Chuseok holiday, expressing warm wishes for peace, well-being and prosperity. Leaders of Uzbekistan and South Korea discussed in detail the state and prospects for further development of bilateral relations of special strategic partnership, as well as exchanged views on the current issues of international politics.

The importance of continuing active interaction and regular productive dialogue at different levels to minimize the consequences of the global spread of coronavirus for Uzbekistan - Korea multifaceted cooperation was noted. The President of Uzbekistan also sincerely thanked his colleague for practical assistance provided by South Korea in organizing an effective fight against the pandemic and introducing best practices in prevention and treatment of this disease. An agreement was reached on further close coordination at the level of ministries of health and other relevant organizations, including in improving treatment methods, developing and ensuring access to vaccines. Special attention was paid to the preparation of the agenda for the upcoming high-level meetings. The Presidents considered trade, economic and investment cooperation issues, creating favorable conditions for the growth of trade turnover and strengthening cooperation, including expanding the necessary legal framework and promoting business initiatives.

## 'Sedition FIR filed by PML-N workers'

From Page 01

The Prime Minister does not have the time to go around filing cases against his opponents, he added. Shibli Faraz said the three-time elected prime minister has violated the law, does it not apply to him? His only reply to being inquired about his illegal wealth is that he has been the Prime Minister thrice. Senator Shibli Faraz said Prime Minister instructed his cabinet to formulate a strategy for bringing down inflation and prices of food items with the aim to provide relief to the public. He said Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar briefed the cabinet on the economic indicators. The situation was now better from the time when the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government took charge with foreign reserves only enough to pay six weeks of import bill, Shibli Faraz said. The minister said the wheat and sugar stocks were according to the requirements despite the fact that the Sindh government was not releasing its wheat stocks and the staple crop was damaged in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said during the coronavirus pandemic, Pakistan's economy performed better than other countries, whose economies were in far worse condition. Shibli said Pakistan was a nuclear power, and had strong institutions and armed forces. The opposition was using different means to create chaos and economic instability in the country, he noted.

## Wife of Sharjah's ruler pledges grant for hospital

From Page 01

enhance the facility's overall capacity to offer specialised care to more patients, especially in the surgical field, and further the hospital's goal of offering financial support to 75 per cent of its patients. The collaboration follows Her Highness Sheikha Jawaher's visit to Pakistan in February this year when she met with several humanitarian organisations including the SKM-CH&RC in Lahore.

Briefs

US Senate announces hearing for SC pick

**DNA**  
WASHINGTON: The US Senate Judiciary Committee announced on Monday that it would open a confirmation hearing for President Donald Trump's Supreme Court nominee, Amy Coney Barrett, on October 12, making clear that an outbreak of COVID-19 will not interfere with the schedule. Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, the committee's chairman, announced that the hearing would start at 9am EDT (13:00 GMT) on October 12. Opening the Senate on Monday, Republican Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said the hearing would be in a hybrid format – with some members connecting remotely – because of the coronavirus. "We are going ahead with the full, thorough and timely confirmation process that Judge Barrett and the court deserve," McConnell said. Two committee members, Republicans Thom Tillis and Mike Lee, tested positive for COVID-19 in recent days. Both were at the White House on September 26 when Trump introduced Barrett as his nominee to replace Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died last month. Other attendees at that event – many of whom did not wear protective face coverings – have also tested positive.

Maduro gov't scores legal victory

**DNA**  
LONDON: A legal battle over \$1bn worth of Venezuelan gold stored at the Bank of England (BoE) took a fresh twist on Monday after a British appeals court ruled in favour of the government of Nicolas Maduro by overturning an earlier High Court judgement in the case. The Court of Appeal granted the Maduro-backed Banco Central de Venezuela's (BCV) appeal and set aside July's High Court judgement, which had found that the United Kingdom's recognition of opposition leader Juan Guaido as "constitutional interim president of Venezuela" was conclusive. The BCV sued the Bank of England in May to recover control of the gold, which it says it will sell to finance Venezuela's response to the coronavirus pandemic. The BoE has refused to release the gold, however, after the British government in early 2019 joined dozens of nations in backing Guaido on the basis that Maduro's election win the previous year had been rigged. Monday's decision means the case now goes back to the High Court for it to determine more definitively which of the two rival leaders is in charge. Monday's judgement said it was necessary to determine whether "(1) the UK government recognises Mr Guaido as President of Venezuela for all purposes and therefore does not recognise Mr Maduro as President for any purpose.

Maldives ex-VP sentenced to 20 years

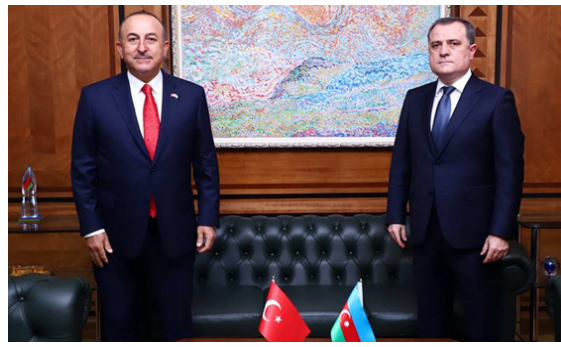
**DNA**  
A court in the Maldives has sentenced former Vice President Ahmed Adebbe to 20 years in prison for corruption charges related to leasing tropical islands for hotel development. The 38-year-old, who pleaded guilty last month under a plea bargain, was also fined \$129,892 on Monday. The Maldives Criminal Court charged Adebbe with embezzlement, money laundering and misuse of government authority among other offences, according to an order of Judge Hassan Saeed. According to an asset recovery commission formed by the current government, the islands in the popular holiday destination were sold below-market prices. As a result, the government lost nearly \$259m. In his statement to the court, Adebbe said he was ready to cooperate to recover the missing money. Last year, Maldivian police arrested Adebbe after he fled the Indian Ocean archipelago and sought asylum in India.

Armenian assaults on civilians a sign of desperation: Turkey

Azerbaijan Foreign Minister Ceyhun Bayramov also criticized Armenia, saying it has "a terrorist mentality" with no scruples over achieving its goals

**DNA**  
BAKU: Armenia's attacks on civilian settlements in Azerbaijan are not only a "crime against humanity" but also "a sign of the desperation" that the country fell into, said Turkey's foreign minister on Tuesday. "We will [continue to] support the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, just as we did with Georgia, Ukraine, Syria, and Iraq's territorial integrity," Mevlut Cavusoglu told a

joint press conference with his Azerbaijani counterpart in Baku, Azerbaijan's capital. Cavusoglu also criticized the Minsk Group's neutral stance on the conflict, saying that victimized Azerbaijan cannot be considered the same as Armenia, which is the occupying country. Calling on the international community to also support Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, he stressed that Turkey's "sister nation Azerbaijan is showing that there cannot be, should not



Separately, Azerbaijan Foreign Minister Ceyhun Bayramov also criticized Armenia, saying it has "a terrorist mentality" with no scruples over achieving its goals. The ongoing clashes began on Sept. 27, when Armenian forces targeted civilian Azerbaijan settlements and military positions in the region, leading to casualties. Relations between the two former Soviet republics have been tense since 1991, when the Armenian military occupied Upper Karabakh, an internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan. Multiple UN

resolutions, as well as many international organizations, demand the withdrawal of the invading forces. The OSCE Minsk Group – co-chaired by France, Russia, and the US – was formed in 1992 to find a peaceful solution to the conflict, but to no avail. A cease-fire, however, was reached in 1994. Many world powers, including Russia, France, and the US, have urged an immediate cease-fire. Turkey, meanwhile, has supported Baku's right to self-defense.

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Greece ready for dialogue with Turkey

**DNA**  
ATHENS: Greece welcomes Turkey's first step towards de-escalating tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean and is "always ready for dialogue", Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said on Tuesday. Mitsotakis met NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg in Athens to discuss the latest developments in the Eastern Mediterranean and de-conflicting mechanism to reduce tensions between the two NATO allies. "We have obviously discussed everything that has happened in recent months in the Eastern Mediterranean, things that threaten the peace, stability, and the cohesion of NATO itself," Mitsotakis said at a joint news conference at the Maximos Mansion, the office of the Prime Ministry. "It's not a bilateral issue. It concerns all the partners of the North Atlantic pact and is a challenge to Europe as a whole," the prime minister said. Greece "is committed to abstaining from any threat or use of force" as laid out in the founding treaty signed in Washington, he added. "We expect an immediate start for the start of exploratory contacts with the sole issue of settling the zones in the Aegean and the Eastern Mediterranean" Mitsotakis also said, stressing that it was decided to establish a direct 24-hour line of communication between military staffs of the two countries.



**JAKARTA:** The Charge d'Affaires Mr. Sajjad haider Khan held a meeting with a Business Delegation comprising Senior Officials from three different Indonesian Companies. The Minister (Trade & Investment) Mrs. Fouzia P. Chaudhry, and Second Secretary Mr. Jamal Nasir were also present during the meeting. – DNA

Turkey blasts Canada's suspension of weapons sales

**DNA**  
ISTANBUL: Turkey on Tuesday slammed Canada's decision to suspend arms exports to the country, accusing Ottawa of "double standards." Canada's announcement on Monday comes as it investigates the alleged use of Turkey's military technologies in the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. "We expect Canada to pursue a policy far from double standards and to act without

influence from anti-Turkey circles in the country," the foreign ministry said in a statement. "While Canada does not see harm in exporting arms to countries militarily involved in the Yemen crisis... and presents the sales as a contribution to regional security, there cannot be any other explanation for its prevention of arms exports to its NATO ally," it added. Ottawa announced in October 2019 a freeze on the issuing of export permits for military shipments to

Turkey, after its incursions against Kurdish militia forces in Syria deemed as "militants" by Ankara. It was lifted in May. Turkey is backing its longtime ally Baku in the fighting over Nagorno-Karabakh, an ethnic Armenian province that broke away from Azerbaijan in a bitterly fought war in the 1990s. Armenia and Azerbaijan have been locked in a simmering conflict for decades over the region and the new fighting has killed at least 260 people.

McAfee arrested for tax evasion

**DNA**  
NEW YORK: Elusive cybersecurity pioneer John McAfee was arrested in Spain for tax evasion in the U.S., the Justice Department in Washington said. McAfee is accused of failing to file U.S. tax returns from 2014 to 2018 and hiding assets including real estate, a vehicle and a yacht in the name of others, prosecutors said. An indictment returned in June was unsealed on Tuesday after he was taken into custody.

'Armenians are today desperate on the battlefield'

We are all mobilized today. We all have the same goal, which is to liberate our lands that are under occupation. Armenians are hopeless and desperate on the battlefield. We assess the situation as a military and

**DNA**  
BAKU: "Armenians are today left hopeless and helpless on the battlefield," Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev has told a press-conference. "We are all mobilized today. We all have the same goal, which is to liberate our lands that are under occupation. Armenians are hopeless and desperate on the battlefield. We assess the situation as a military and



political provocation. Armenians are trying to involve third parties into the conflict. The Azerbaijani side is well aware of this, and has informed international organizations and countries about this," the President's Assistant added.

Brazil GDP decline set to 5.8%

**WASHINGTON:** Brazil's economy is set to shrink by 5.8 percent in 2020, the International Monetary Fund said Monday, revising up an earlier forecast but warning the country faced "exceptionally high" risks. "The economy is projected to shrink by 5.8 percent in 2020, followed by a partial recovery to 2.8 percent in 2021," the IMF said in its annual report on Latin America's largest economy. The report released Monday revised upwards the more pessimistic forecast of a 9.1 percent contraction in June. It praised the right-wing government of President Jair Bolsonaro for its "swift and substantial" response to the economic crisis prompted by the coronavirus pandemic. The government increased health spending, boosted financial support for state governments, extended state-backed credit lines and introduced employment retention schemes, which helped protect formal jobs during lockdown. "The strong policy response averted a deeper economic downturn, stabilized financial markets, and cushioned the effects of the pandemic on the poor and vulnerable." However, it warned that given a sharp rise in primary fiscal deficit, gross public debt is projected to jump to around 100 percent of GDP in 2020, remaining high over the medium term. – APP

Libya's future is at stake: UN chief

**DNA**  
NEW YORK: Libya's future "is at stake" and world powers and those with interests in its long-running civil war should stop sending arms to the country's rival governments and keep working towards a lasting ceasefire, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said. Guterres explored those at a virtual ministerial meeting on Monday, co-hosted by the UN and Germany, to support peace efforts "not only in words but in actions", including immediately backing a widely violated UN arms embargo against Libya. "The violations of the embargo are a scandal and call into question the basic commitment to peace of all involved," he said. "Foreign deliveries of weapons and other military support must stop immediately."

Germany, which has been trying to act as an intermediary, said the virtual meeting was a chance to review what has been achieved since Berlin hosted a summit on Libya in January at which participants from both sides agreed to respect an arms embargo and push Libya's warring parties to reach a full ceasefire. That agreement has been repeatedly violated. A summary of the ministerial meeting by the co-chairs said participants reaffirmed their commitment to the conclusions of the Berlin conference, strongly welcomed the planned resumption of talks between the rival Libyan parties, and "stressed the need to immediately stop foreign intervention in Libya". "There was broad agreement that repeated violations of the United Nations arms embargo had to stop immediately," the co-chairs said.



**BANGKOK:** Ambassador of Pakistan to Thailand Asim Iftekhar Ahmad after a meeting on business collaboration with Khun Salinla at TESCO Lotus. – DNA

Kyrgyzstan: Election body annuls parliamentary polls

**DNA**  
BISHKEK: Kyrgyzstan's election commission on Tuesday announced it is annulling the results of the parliamentary elections after protests erupted in the country. In a statement by the Central Election Commission, the parliamentary elections that took place on Oct. 4 have been declared invalid. The decision came shortly after the country's President Sooronbay Jeenbekov called on all political parties to obey the rule of law and place the fate of the country above political ambitions. Jeenbekov had said he has ordered the Central Election Commission to thoroughly investigate the violations and to annul the election results if necessary. On Monday, Kyrgyzstan's election body announced the first official results of elections held Sunday to choose 120 new members of parliament. According to the pre-

'One killed' amid protests in Kyrgyzstan

BISHKEK: At least one person was killed and 590 wounded in Kyrgyzstan in unrest overnight, the embattled government has said, as protests grip the country following controversial parliamentary elections. There were no further details on the government's claim of casualties, which Al Jazeera is attempting to independently verify. Local media said Kyrgyzstan's central election commission on Tuesday annulled the results of the October 4 parliamentary election – something the opposition had been calling for. The vote had handed victory to two establishment parties. "The move follows claims by the opposition that it has seized power. Burned-out cars littered Bishkek on Tuesday morning after protesters took control of the main government building, known as the White House, which briefly caught fire before emergency services put out the blaze. On Tuesday, President Sooronbay Jeenbekov appealed for calm and said the country, which hosts a Russian airbase and a large Canadian-controlled gold mine, was facing an attempted coup d'etat.

liminary results, voter turnout was around 55% and four political parties out of 16 passed the 7% threshold to enter parliament: the Birimdik (Unity) Party, Mekenim Kyrgyzstan (Homeland Kyrgyzstan) Party, Kyrgyzstan Party and Butun (All) Kyrgyzstan Party. Supporters of 12 political parties that reportedly failed to exceed the 7% threshold set by the Central Election Commission for entry into parliament staged a protest in Ala-Too Square in the capital, demanding that the election results be canceled. Riot police reportedly used tear gas, water cannons and stun grenades to disperse the crowd of over 5,000 protesters. Demonstrators drove trucks toward the police, who retreated, and occupied the presidential palace and interior of the parliament building. While one person died amid the ongoing protests, nearly 600 people have reportedly been injured.

However, he ordered security forces against opening fire on protesters. The opposition said it had freed Almazbek Atambayev, a former president jailed on corruption charges, and was already discussing the lineup of a provisional government. It was not clear what role, if any, Atambayev would receive, and Jeenbekov showed no immediate signs of relinquishing power. Debris from inside, including government papers, and office furniture, was strewn outside after protesters ransacked parts of the building. Interior Minister Kashkar Junushaliyev did not show up for work on Tuesday, a ministry spokesman said, saying that Kursan Asanov, an opposition politician and a former senior security official, had taken over as acting interior minister. Police had been ordered to ensure citizens' safety and prevent clashes and looting, the spokesman said. Protesters also freed several former senior officials jailed under Jeenbekov, including ex-Prime Minister Sapar Isakov and Atambayev's former chief of staff Farid Niyazov. – DNA

Germany to present report on extremism in police

BERLIN: Germany will publish a much-anticipated report on right-wing extremism in its security forces on Tuesday after a string of scandals over far-right networks in the police and military. Several regional German police forces have been caught up in far-right scandals in recent months, and a unit of the country's elite KSK commando force was dissolved in July over neo-Nazi allegations. Conservative Interior Minister Horst Seehofer will on Tuesday reveal an estimate of the number of right-wing extremists in the police and other security services, including the BfV domestic intelligence agency. Around 300,000 members of the security forces were asked to fill out anonymous questionnaires for the report in the hope of breaking what unions and experts have called a culture of silence. According to initial figures unveiled in September by the daily Die Welt covering the period from January 2017 to March 2020, Germany's police and intelligence services could be harbouring "more than 350 suspected cases" of extremism. – APP

