



# Islamabad POST

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Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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**No scientific evidence to support death penalty, says EU Ambassador**

**Amb. Paudyal made Nepal Foreign Secy**



**British Ambassador visits Northern areas of Pakistan**



## Briefs

**Unity need of the hour: Dr Arif Alvi**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has strongly condemned the target killing of Maulana Adil Khan of Jamia Farooqia in Karachi. In a condolence message, he said that enemies of country will not succeed in their nefarious designs against Pakistan and the killers will soon be brought to justice. He said that unity and harmony are the need of the hour. Expressing deep sorrow and grief over the incident and sympathy with family, the President prayed for high ranks to the departed soul and strength of family to bear the irreparable loss.

**Cleric murder work of enemies**

ABID RAZA

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa strongly condemned Maulana Adil Khan's assassination, terming it "an attempt to foment unrest by Pakistan's enemies". In a tweet on Sunday, the DG ISPR tweeted that the army chief had expressed grief over the killing and had directed all-out support to civil administration to bring the criminals to justice. "Expressing grief on assassination of renowned religious scholar Maulana Adil in Karachi, #COAS strongly condemned the incident and termed it an

Continued on Page 06

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Pakistan condemns unabated Indian state terrorism in IIOJK - Page 02

Cotton crop can contribute significantly to progress - Page 03

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Is it worth investing in Armenia? - Page 05

Pakistan, UK can increase trade, says Sardar Tanvir - Page 06

Tajikistan vote seen as easy win for strongman - Page 07

Pakistan appreciates China for repaid development in Xinjiang - Page 08

# PM finalizes plan against inflation

Govt has decided to use all resources against inflation in the country

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan is likely to announce his plan of action and other important decisions against rising inflation in the country today. According to details, government has decided to use all resources against inflation in the country. PM Imran Khan has decided to once again use services of volunteers of Tiger Force for identification of hoarders and consultations with Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Youth Affairs (SAPM) Usman Dar have been completed in this regard. Earlier, Prime Minister Imran Khan Saturday announced that, starting next week, his government will use all the resources at disposal of the state to bring down skyrocketing prices of essential food items in the country. "Starting Monday in the coming week, our government will use all resources at the disposal of the state to bring food prices down," PM Imran Khan tweeted. The PM said the government is already examining the reasons behind the recent hike in the prices of food items. He said the government is investigating if there is a genuine supply shortage, hoarding by mafias, smuggling or a rise in international prices.

## 'Tiger force to check prices'

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Sunday asked the volunteers of the Prime Minister's Tiger Force to regularly check the prices of eatables and post on their portal for discussion on upcoming Saturday. On Twitter, the prime minister said that he would be meeting the volunteers on coming Saturday at Convention Center. "From now till then I want our Tiger Force to regularly check prices of daal, atta, sugar, ghee in their localities & post on Tiger Force portal," he said also sharing the portal link accessible at <http://tigerforce.gov.pk>. He said he would be discussing with them the matter of eatables' prices on Saturday (Oct 17). Earlier, in another tweet on Saturday (Oct 10), the prime minister had resolved that his government would use all the resources at state's disposal to bring down food prices. He said from next week, the government would have its strategy in place and action would begin using all state organisations and resources to bring down food prices.

# Govt raises concerns over growing cases

NIHAL MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar has expressed concerns over rising cases of COVID-19, saying that the government has started imposing smart lock down again to contain spread of the pandemic. In a tweet on Sunday, he said during previous six weeks, the average positivity ratio of COVID was under two percent, however in the outgoing week, the positivity rate went above two percent. Asad Umar said in order to avoid the increase in coronavirus cases in the country, [Continued on Page 06](#)

## 86 fresh cases in Islamabad

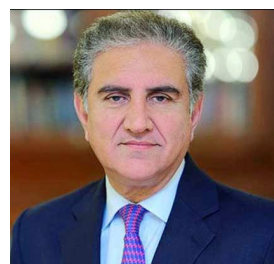
STAFF REPORT / DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) on Coronavirus Sunday said that 86 new COVID-19 cases were reported from the federal capital during last 24 hours. According to an official of NCOC, as many as 88 cases were reported last day while so far total 17,296 cases were reported from the federal capital. He said that 188 deaths were reported from Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) while 16,319 patients had been recovered completely. Meanwhile, sources from Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) confirmed reporting of corona cases in doctors and other supporting medical staff of the hospital. They added the hospital administration had directed its staff to strictly follow SOPs.

# Opp should not bring political instability: FM

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has impressed upon the opposition parties to avoid attempts to bring political instability in the country pleading that it will benefit none. Addressing the inaugural ceremonies of different projects in Multan, he said the elements who are criticizing the national institutions will not serve the purpose of protecting the national interests. The Foreign Minister said these elements are making



anti-Pakistan forces happy through their unwise approach and statements. Shah Mahmood Qureshi said we are proud of our institutions and their performance. He said we are also proud of Pakistan armed forces. He said that government had invited the opposition to jointly thrash out proposals for free, fair and transparent elections in Gilgit Baltistan, but they refused. Turning to Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Switzerland Bénédicte de Cerjat presenting credentials to President of Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani. Ambassador Benedict is Swiss ambassador to Pakistan as well. DNA

## Ambassador Paudyal made Nepal Foreign Secy



ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Bharat Raj Paudyal a former Nepal ambassador to Pakistan and senior diplomat has been appointed as the Foreign Secretary of Nepal. Mr. Paudyal served in Pakistan as ambassador for almost four years. From Pakistan he went back to Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Director General. Now he has been made the Foreign Secretary. Ambassador Paudyal left Pakistan in April 2016. While leaving Pakistan he had termed his stay excellent and found Pakistan a great place to live and work. Due to his benign nature he made a lot of friends in Pakistan.

## 'FATF should blacklist India'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former Interior Minister Senator Rehman Malik has said that there are ISIS camps in the Indian cities of Karnataka and Kerala. He said that 40 banks in India were involved in money laundering, is this not visible to FATF. Talking to media in Islamabad, Rehman Malik said that the agents of Indian intelligence agency "RAW" have been talking a lot against me on social media since yesterday. Rehman Malik demanded that the FATF should blacklist India. The world has also confirmed that India and Modi government was financing ISIS. He advised the government that there was ample of evidence against India and it should go to FATF against India, silence won't do anything.

# 'Armenia violating ceasefire accord'

Immediately after the establishment of a humanitarian ceasefire, the Armenian forces fired on Aghdam and Tartar regions of Azerbaijan

DNA / NEWS DESK

## Pak lauds Azerbaijan-Armenia ceasefire

NAVEED MIRAJ / DNA

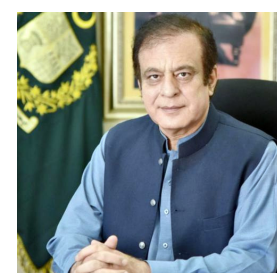
BAKU: Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry has issued a statement on Armenia's violating the agreement on a humanitarian ceasefire. "Despite the agreement reached during the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia in Moscow with the mediation of the Russian Federation, to observe a humanitarian ceasefire from 12:00 pm on

ISLAMABAD: The recently announced ceasefire between Azerbaijan and Armenia is a positive development for peace and stability. We hope that the humanitarian conditions agreed upon by the parties would be honoured. Pakistan believes that sustainable peace between the two parties would depend on the complete and comprehensive implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions and withdrawal of Armenian forces from Azerbaijani territories. In this endeavor, Pakistan will continue to stand by the brotherly nation of Azerbaijan.

# Govt heading towards right direction: Shibli

The minister said that the previous governments had left redundant system

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Senator Shibli Faraz Sunday said the government was taking all-possible measures to alleviate the inflation in order to reduce poverty. "Prime Minister Imran Khan and his team were working efficiently to ensure good governance, rule of law, improve the living standard of common man and to streamline the system for getting desired results," he expressed these views while talking to a private news channel. The minister said that the previous governments had left redundant system, fragile economy by taking huge foreign loans and given subsidy to mafia on wheat, sugar etc which put the country downward.



After getting the status of elected government, he said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government had cleaned up all of the corruption-related mess and initiated its work from zero. "Now all of the things heading towards right direction," he said. He lauded the role of Tiger Force, working along with different administrators, to control the inflation. - APP

# PML-N candidates for GB elections

FIAZ CH.

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) has announced 18 candidates for Gilgit-Baltistan elections. The announcement was made by PML-N Central General Secretary Ahsan Iqbal. 18 party candidates will contest in Gilgit-Baltistan elections. Hafeez-ur-Rehman from Constituency-2 Gilgit-2, Zulfiqar from Constituency-3 Gilgit-3 and Engineer Arif from Constituency-4 Nagar will be the candidates. Besides, Sajjad from Constituency 5 Nagar 2, Rehan Shah from Constituency 6 Hunza, Akbar Taban from Constituency 7 Skardu, Engineer Shabbir from Constituency 11 Khurramang, Tahir Shugri from Constituency 12 Shigar and Farman Ali from Constituency 13 Astor One. Abdul Wajid from Constituency 15 Diamer One, Anwar from Constituency 16 Diamer Two, Saddar Alam from Constituency 17 Diamer Three. [Continued on Page 06](#)

# No scientific evidence to support death penalty, says EU envoy

Ambassador Androulla Kaminara says call for death penalty might come from an impulse

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: European Union (EU) Ambassador Androulla Kaminara has said the European Union (EU) had a principled position against the death penalty in all the circumstances and for all the cases that it was unnecessary. Addressing an event on the eve of world day against the death penalty, she said, "There is no valid scientific evidence to support that the death penalty deters crime more effectively than other punishments. Instead, it is the certainty of being caught and punished that serves as a deterrent and of course actions to prevent such crimes from happening in the first place. The EU ambassador said, "The call

for the death penalty might come from an impulse in reaction to a horrific crime. But as a society, we



need to reflect deeper on what justice really means and what needs to be done for such crimes not to happen again. The performance that premiered today invites us to enter this discussion." Meanwhile, Federal Minister for Law and Justice Barrister Dr Muhammad Farogh Naseem said implementing the law regarding criminal justice system in Pakistan was a complicated issue due to some cultural and social taboos and needed improvement. The people in general were not satisfied and had expectations from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government to bring changes in the law so that the accused should not get scot-free, he said while speaking as a chief guest. [Continued on Page 06](#)

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11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza, G-8 Markaz, ISLAMABAD-PAKISAN Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165



## Briefs

Rs 1.4bln  
disbursed  
under KJP

ISLAMABAD: The government has so far disbursed soft loans amounting to Rs 1.4 billion among qualified entrepreneurs under the Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES) of Prime Minister's Kamyab Jawan Programme. Out of the total disbursed loans, at least 30 per cent were given to women and the male entrepreneurs received around 70 per cent, an official of the office of Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Youth Affairs Muhammad Usman Dar told APP on Sunday. He said Prime Minister Imran Khan had recently directed the banks for expediting the loans' disbursement process so that the youth could play their due role in the national development. The official said the 'YES' had been playing a critical role in promoting small businesses in the country. Besides, it helped spur economic activities and jobs creation, especially in times of the coronavirus pandemic. The 'YES' was launched under the banner of Kamyab Jawan Programme in October last year with the seed allocation of Rs 100 billion and a two-tier disbursement mechanism for the loans, under which Rs 100,000 to Rs 500,000 and Rs 0.5 million to Rs 5 million were given to each successful applicant. He said the mark-up rates on the initial two tiers had also been halved from six per cent and eight per cent to three per cent and four per cent respectively. — APP

38% construction  
work of Mangi  
Dam completed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Around 38 percent of the construction work of Mangi Dam at a cost of Rs 9334 million has done to ensure the provision of drinking water in the areas of Balochistan. The feasibility report of Burj Aziz Khan Dam, Babar Kachh Dam and Halak Storage Dam projects is being prepared which would provide clean drinking water to Quetta city and surrounding areas. Talking to APP, an official of the Balochistan government said the government had allocated Rs 14,467 million for the execution of 98 ongoing projects of PHE department while 491 new projects costing Rs 8151 million were also included in the current year's Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP). He said these schemes included Kahchi Plain Water Supply Scheme Phase II, CDWA Project with Solar System Phase II, Solarization of 250 Water Supply Schemes, Collection of Bills and Establishment of Software and Computer Cell for Consumer Database, Drinking Water Feasibility study for construction of small and medium sized dams, completion of Quetta Water Supply and Environment Project scheme, installation of water supply scheme and filtration plants and establishment of water quality and surveillance system.

Tandoor  
owners  
likely to hike  
roti price

DNA

LAHORE: The owners of tandoors have started planning to increase the price of Roti and have taken a stand that they are suffering from severe financial crisis due to the flour crisis. According to sources, the United Nan-Roti Association has called an emergency meeting in this regard on Monday. Tandoor owners said that a bag of 20kg flour for Rs860 is not available anywhere. Mill owners have also increased the rates of fine flour and sack is available at Rs 6,000. Tandoor owners have said that they cannot sell Roti at Rs8 in such circumstances. The government should allow the sale of Roti at reasonable rates. Meanwhile, a meeting was held at the Chief Secretary's Office under the chairmanship of Provincial Minister for Industries Mian Aslam Iqbal in which the prices of flour and sugar, availability and performance of price control magistrates were reviewed.

Pakistan condemns unabated  
Indian state terrorism in IIOJK

The spokespersons aid the indigenous resistance movement of the Kashmiris for their inalienable right to self-determination, as enshrined in the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, would only become stronger in the face of Indian state-terrorism

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Sunday strongly condemned unabated Indian state-terrorism and extra-judicial killings of innocent Kashmiris in fake "encounters" and so-called "cordon-and-search" operations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). According to Foreign Office spokesperson, over three hundred Kashmiris, including women and children, had been mar-

tyred by the Indian occupation forces during the last one year. "Four more young Kashmiris were martyred in Kulgam and Pulwama districts in IIOJK yesterday. A 14-year old boy was seriously injured in the illegal and inhuman military crackdown," he added. He said India must realise that use of brutal force against Kashmiri people, including extra-judicial killings, custodial torture and deaths, forced disappearances, incarceration of Kashmiri leadership and youth,



use of pellet guns, destruction of houses to inflict 'collective punishment' on the Kashmiri communities, and other meth-

ods of subjugation have failed in the past and would not succeed in the future. The spokespersons aid the indigenous resistance movement of the Kashmiris for their inalienable right to self-determination, as enshrined in the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, would only become stronger in the face of Indian state-terrorism. "Pakistan calls upon the international community, including the United Nations, human rights organizations and the

global media, to take full cognizance of the consistently aggravating situation in IIOJK and hold India accountable for egregious human rights violations and war crimes in the occupied territory," he said. He also urged the world community to work for peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UNSC Resolutions and wishes of the Kashmiri people for durable peace and stability of the region.



LAHORE: Special Assiatnt to Prime Minister on religious harmony, Maulana Tahir Ashrafi addressing a press conference. — DNA

Unresolved Kashmir dispute  
threat to world peace: Naqash

He said the illegal and forced subjugation and unabated oppression unleashed by India was a dangerous situation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Islamic Political Party, Mohammad Yousuf Naqash has said that unresolved Kashmir dispute was a threat to the global peace. He said the illegal and forced subjugation and unabated oppression unleashed by India was a dangerous situation and can have disastrous repercussions on the world peace, Kashmir Media Service report-

ed. He said the Kashmir dispute, which is human and political in nature, continued to unleash miseries and death and destruction for the subjugated people of the territory under a well-hatched plan by India to deny and suppress the inalienable right to self determination of the people. Yousuf Naqash said the dispute, hindering the peace and development prospects in South Asia, was not a border issue but about determining the future of IIOJK and India's arrogance,

No action  
against PML-N  
leaders in  
sedation case

LAHORE: Investigation of case number 3033/20 registered against Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leadership has been started by the special investigation team set up on orders of IG Punjab Inam Ghani. Investigating according to its TORs, the Special Investigation Team firstly recorded the statement of the plaintiff. In view of the FIR and the statement of the plaintiff, the Special Investigation Team has expunged sections 121A, 123A, 124 and 153A for being inconsistent with the text of the FIR. The Special Investigation Team, taking the plaintiff's statement, two video statements and the FIR into account, decided not to take further action against those accused of supporting the two speeches due to lack of evidence. — DNA

India using Afghan  
land against  
Pakistan: Ashrafi

DNA

LAHORE: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Inter-faith Harmony Maulana Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi has said that India is using Afghanistan land against Pakistan and the ulema. Addressing a press conference here on Sunday, he condemned the murder of renowned religious scholar Maulana Adil Khan. He said that 90 per cent anti-Pakistan social media activists were originating from India from where they were running social media trends against Pakistan. He said that anti-state elements attempted to manage riots in

Pakistan before Muharram, but the Ulema had failed their nefarious plan, adding that some people had been arrested who were trying to target Ulema on India's dictation. He said that the Sindh government should have provided security to Maulana Adil Khan. Ashrafi said that the current situation and future strategy was discussed in a meeting with Interior Minister Brigadier (Retd) Ijaz Ahmad Shah on Sunday. He said that Ulema board had decided 106 castes so far, adding that people should stand against those who deliver sectarian speeches. He said that a delegation of ulema of all sects was going to Karachi on Monday.

Second OIC Summit  
on S&T in December

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The next Science and Technology (S&T) Summit of the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) would be held online in early December due to the continuing pandemic situation and organized by the Government of the United Arab Emirates. This was revealed by the Assistant Secretary General (S&T) of the OIC, Ambassador Askar Mussinov while addressing the Steering Committee for Implementation of the OIC Science and Technology Agenda comprising the Heads of 12 OIC organs in an online meeting organized by COMSTEC. He stated that the Summit would provide an opportunity for the member States to

reaffirm their national commitments towards cooperation in science and technology and for strengthening actions at the science-policy interface. The Coordinator General of COMSTEC, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, shared with the members that the 1st Summit was held in 2017 in Astana, Kazakhstan, and had approved a vision and broad plans for a ten-year agenda of scientific and technological development of the OIC member states. This Agenda, known as the STI Agenda 2026, has been developed further by COMSTEC as a series of action programs and initiatives for major priority areas such as food security, health and medicine, skilled manpower development, and frontier areas of science and technology etc.

Olive cultivation: A  
key to strengthen  
economy

PESHAWAR: Blessed with varieties of soils, ecological zones and climate conditions, Pakistan is a unique country with over 4.4 million hectares of suitable land for plantation of olive trees. If utilized properly, it can prove a harbinger to make Pakistan self-sufficient in edible oil's production. "The most suitable climate conditions, quality soil and ecological diversity have made Pakistan an attractive country for commercial cultivation of olives on about 4.4 million hectares areas in Punjab, KP, Balochistan and Erstwhile Fata," said Muhammad Tariq, National Project Director, Promotion of Olive Trees Cultivation on Commercial Scale (POTCCS),

Pakistan Agriculture and Research Center (PARC), Ministry of Food Security and Research, Islamabad while talking to APP. Olive trees' plantation has been restarted at large-scale in Potohar region of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, erstwhile Fata, Balochistan, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan after substantial decrease of coronavirus cases, he said. The country's political dispensation came to realize to reclaim vast unutilized land through the plantation of over three million olive trees in five years auguring well to overcome the looming threats of food security and poverty especially in rural areas, which are largely dependent on agriculture. — APP



RAWALPINDI. President ICCI Yasir Ilyas presenting a souvenir to Station Commander Rawalpindi, Brig. Ijaz Qamar. — DNA

Nausheen urges public to take part in  
3rd phase Covid-19 vaccine trials

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary, National Health Services Regulations and Coordination Nausheen Hamid Sunday said over 10,000 people would be volunteered to take part in COVID-19 vaccine trials in country thus helping to speed up efforts to discover a safe and effective vaccine. Talking to PTV news channel, she urged the general public to take part in third phase Covid-19 vaccine clinical trials which is continued in Shifa International Hospital in Islamabad. She said getting 100,000

volunteers on board is a great start but we need many more people from many different backgrounds that we can call on for future studies if we are to find a vaccine quickly to protect those who need it against coronavirus. The third phase vaccine trials are free of charge for any citizen living in country, she added. She further explained that the Pakistan has already started stage three clinical trials of a China-made vaccine for COVID-19 with the assistance of China and this vaccine will be administered to 8,000 to 10,000 volunteers across the country and its final results are

expected to come out in about six months. She said the trial of the vaccine is a vital step for Pakistan because it will help in the capacity building of the country to prepare vaccines against other viral diseases, adding, within few days these clinical trails will further expand to other cities. Replying to a question, she urged the nation to wear face masks in public to avoid a spike in coronavirus infections, saying there were concerns that "onset of winter" could result in a second wave. She said the number of active Covid-19 cases has been increasing in the country, adding,

public cooperation is imperative to stop the spread of coronavirus and people will have to be more cautious because they can remain safe from this virus by following the necessary precautions. She said that the administration would be left with no option but to seal more localities if the violations of standard operating procedures (SOPs) devised to control the pandemic were not stopped. Answering another question, she said Pakistan is rapidly increasing its capacity to strengthen the health sector to cope with coronavirus pandemic by setting up 150 new labs, manufacturing local ventilators, testing kits and protective

kits. She said it is appreciable that now we are making our own personal protective equipment (PPE) in Pakistan. She also appreciated the help of Chinese government that the Chinese support reaffirms that being Iron brothers and all-weather friends, Pakistan and China have always helped each other in times of need. She expressed disappointment over people's ignoring protective measures after the government eased restrictions, and once again urged them to follow the SOPs to curb rising Covid-19 cases, because failure to do so would prompt the government to reimpose lockdown.

'Govt to  
purchase 8  
lakh tons of  
wheat'

DNA

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information Kamran Khan Bangash has said the government has decided to purchase eight-hundred thousand tons of wheat to ensure provision of the commodity to the masses. Speaking at a news briefing in Peshawar, the Special Assistant said concerned departments are working to ensure wheat is available to people at government rates. He said provincial government is taking concrete steps for the revival of the historic glory of Peshawar and Chief Minister Mahmood Khan is personally monitoring the 'Peshawar Revival Plan' to preserve ancient sites of the city to their original status.

The Special Assistant said the government is also putting in efforts to develop the tribal districts to bring them at par with the settled districts and speedy work is being carried out on several projects there.

PTI to launch  
campaign in  
Sindh

DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government has decided to give tough time to Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) protests by launching campaign across the Sindh. The campaign will be launched in Karachi and other parts of the province, sources said and added that PTI is also considering holding public gatherings in bigger cities of Sindh. Governor Sindh Imran Ismail and Opposition Leader in Sindh Assembly Firdous Shamim Naqvi will lead the campaign, sources privy to the development said. Teams of members in National and provincial assemblies have also been formed in this regard. On Wednesday, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Vice President Maryam Nawaz had said that the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) — a multiparty alliance of the opposition will hold its first rally in Gujranwala on October 16. Talking to media along with the JUI-F delegation, who called the PML-N leaders here in Jati Umra, Maryam Nawaz had said that the opposition parties first rally would be held in Gujranwala and she would also extend an invitation to Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to attend the rally.

Four shot  
dead over 'old  
enmity' in  
Kohat

DNA

KOHAT: Four people were gunned down on Sunday in Kohat over what police believe was "old enmity". According to police, four persons died on the spot when unknown suspects fired shots at their vehicle in Gambit's Nakhund area. Upon receiving word of the incident, the police rushed to the spot. The bodies were shifted to Civil Hospital in Gambat. Police said that an initial probe showed that the murder was carried out "due to old enmity". They added that the search for the culprits is underway.

PPP busy in  
conspiracies:  
Khurram  
Sher

DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Karachi president Khurram Sher Zaman on Sunday has said that Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) is busy in doing conspiracies. While talking to media, the PTI leader said that hatred against the federal government is being spread in the hearts of the people. Its the responsibility of provincial governments to control the prices, he added. Khurram Sher Zaman further alleged Sindh government of hiding the wheat to create artificial need.



## Briefs

## Breast Cancer awareness stressed

ISLAMABAD: Radiologist and President of Pink Pakistan Trust Dr Zubaida Qazi Sunday stressed the need to create more awareness among women for early diagnosis then timely treatment of 'Breast Cancer' thus save precious lives in the country. Talking to private news channel, in connection with month-long awareness drive for Breast Cancer Dr Zubaida said this breast cancer is one of the most common types of cancer among women not just in our country but globally, but if it is diagnosed at an early stage, there is good chance it can be successfully treated. Month of October is internationally celebrated as Breast Cancer Awareness Month and like other countries Pakistan also celebrate it as PINKtober, she added. She said every woman above the age of 20 should have a medical examination every three years and examine themselves every month, adding women above 40 should also have a mammogram along with a medical examination. Dr Zubaida said people in their 40s have a higher risk of getting breast cancer than someone in their 20s. She further explained that almost 90,000 breast cancer cases being annually reported in the country and over 40,000 deaths caused by it. — APP

## DIG imposes ban on celebratory firing

ABBOTTABAD: Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Hazara police, Qazi Jameel ur Rehman Sunday directed the police to take strict action against people involved in aerial firing which takes the lives of many people every year. He further said that we would not let anybody play with the lives of innocent people and to create fear amongst the masses. Qazi Jameel also directed the District Police Officers (DPOs) to start a massive drive on social media about the ban on aerial firing, aware people not to take part in the celebratory firing and if they found any other involved inform the police. DPOs and SHO should send written instructions to any celebrations or wedding ceremony about the ban on aerial firing in their respective areas, despite restriction if police found violators take strict action against them according to the law, the DIG said. He said that in the urban areas of the division, the police should implement the ban forcefully while SDPOs and SHOs should start a campaign on social media and other platforms and take strict action against the violators. — APP

## Aviation Division gets Rs 548.890 funds

ISLAMABAD: The government has released funds amounting to Rs 548.890 million during first quarter of the current fiscal year to execute 15 aviation projects under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP 2020-21) against the total allocation of Rs1,320.879 million. According to the official data, the government has authorized/distributed an amount of Rs 548.890 as of October 5. As per the PSDP details, an amount of Rs61.923 million would be utilized during the fiscal year for construction of double storey ladies hostel/barrack with provision of third storey along with mess, recreation hall and allied facilities at Allama Iqbal International Airport Lahore. Similarly, Rs90 million would be spent for construction of double storey barrack with provision of third storey for corporal to inspectors and assistant director along with separate mess, and allied facilities recreation hall at Quetta airport. Funds amounting to Rs50 million and Rs69.756 million have been reserved for construction of Airport Security Force (ASF) Camp at Islamabad International Airport and building barrack accommodation for ASF personnel along with mess and allied facilities respectively.

## Afghan Peace Process: Spoilers will be the biggest losers

Ammara Durrani was of the view that international media and academia does not give much space to Pakistani perspective in geopolitics and there are hardly any Pakistani commentators visible. Pakistan must make use of its diplomats and train them to help set Pakistani narrative through mainstream and social media at the global stage

ADNAN YOUSAF

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador (retd) Salman Bashir, Pakistan's former Foreign Secretary has warned that the international and regional spoilers conspiring against Afghan peace process would themselves be the biggest losers in the end game. He was addressing the launch of Pakistan's former ambassador to Afghanistan, Ambassador (retd) Syed Abrar Hussain's book Afghanistan: Mulla Umer se Ashraf Ghani Tak recently published by IPS Press – the publishing arm of Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad – which also included a roundtable discussion on the recent developments on Afghanistan after 19 years of US invasion. Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain has served as a Pakistani representative in Afghanistan on more than one occasions, whereas his services in the Foreign Ministry also had a lot to do with the country's affairs. The writer witnessed history being made during all this time, while having an opportunity to observe various landmark events very closely. Personal accounts of historic events from Mulla Umar's era and during Ashraf Ghani's time, a rich commentary on the history of Pak-Afghan relations and also insights into the Afghan peace process are key features of the fascinating memoirs. The author has also presented an admissible strategy at the end of the publication for the amelioration of Pak-Afghan relations,



which should be looked at by the policy circles of both sides with sincerity and honesty. The given recommendations not only have the potential to improve bilateral relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan, but can also pave way for achieving sustainable, long-lasting peace in the region. Chaired and hosted by Khalid Rahman, executive president, IPS, the session was addressed, among others, by Ambassador (r) Abdul Basit, Ambassador (r) Ayaz Wazir, Brig (r) Said Nazir Mohmand, Air Cdr (r) Khalid Iqbal, Ammara Durrani, senior research fellow, Jinnah Institute, Afghan scholars Professor Haroon

Khatibi and Naseer Ahmed Naveedi from Center for Strategic and Regional Studies (CSRS), Kabul, Dr Adnan Sarwar Khan, former dean, Peshawar University, and senior journalists Faizullah Khan (ARY) and Naimat Khan (Arab News).

Ammara Durrani was of the view that international media and academia does not give much space to Pakistani perspective in geopolitics and there are hardly any Pakistani commentators visible. Pakistan must make use of its diplomats and train them to help set Pakistani narrative through mainstream and social media at the global stage. Commending

the book she said that such efforts need to be amplified so that the generations of today in Afghanistan and Pakistan should know the pre-9/11 history of both the nations. Ambassador (r) Basit stated that Taliban claim themselves as "Islamic Emirate" and as an ideological movement their strength did not lie in democracy as any such move would only break their organization and end their clout. They may never become part of any democratic government in a republican Afghanistan. He feared that there may not be any intra-Afghan reconciliation in the end and the development may only prove to be an effort to buy

or consume some time. Pakistan on the other hand should stay prepared for any such scenarios, and instead of taking credit for the peace process and taking the burden of more responsibilities in the process, should try to carve out a backup strategy as well, bringing all stakeholders on one page, developing a consistent policy and they propagating effectively through a well-formed narrative. The speakers in general were unanimous that as much as it was essential for Pakistani narrative to reach out to the world outside. It was rued that there are many books available by Indian authors and researchers on the topic of Afghanistan, but any presentable work by a Pakistani author on the subject was hard to find. The experts underscored the need for utilizing the wealth of knowledge Pakistan's foreign policy practitioners possessed, suggesting that the training of Pakistan's former high commissioners and ambassadors on efficient use of conventional and social media for indigenous knowledge production could be a useful tool to further the country's foreign policy objectives. Abrar Hussain's publication, they viewed, could be seen as a valuable resource in this regard. It was also stressed that alongside taking on-ground steps, Pakistan should also focus on effectively propagating its narrative internationally by apprising the world what the country has done for Afghanistan and regional peace so far and where it will be headed to in the future.

## Air patrol unit becomes operational in Capital



KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Air Patrol Unit has started functioning in Islamabad and policemen along with drone

cameras have started patrolling in various sectors. Initially, this unit started working in sectors F-6, F-10 and F-11 which would help police to overcome Street crime. Drone cameras would be used during rescue

operation, ensure protection to the tourists at walking trails and guide those forgetting their ways. Citizens have lauded this initiative of Islamabad police and hoped effective policing through it.

## Criminals taking advantage of face masks to hide identity

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As wearing face mask at public places has become a new normal in pandemic era, the criminals are misusing this precaution to conceal their identity. Before the COVID-19, the people at shops or bank counters used to be on alert seeing a person with covered face, but in current scenario, it has become a troubling reality for the people as well as the law enforcement agencies. The criminals easily blend in with the typical customers at the malls or banks and also easily hide their identity in CCTV footage after the crime. "If it were a pre-COVID time, I could have averted the happening by finding veiled people chasing me. But now it is normal. They looted me and sped away. One had face mask while other wore a helmet," said APP senior reporter Ishtiaq Ahmed who was robbed of Rs 800,000 in I-8/1 on September 23 in broad daylight. He said the mask provided a perfect cover to the robbers. They can hold up any bank or

shop with their covered faces and escape unhindered as the police seldom bother to impound the bikes carrying no or non-standard number plates. In another robbery of Rs 1.5 million in I-8 Markaz on September 30, a masked man was seen inside a bank who apparently intimidated his accomplices on phone having witnessed a man leaving the bank with cash bag. "Earlier the bandanna or mask was a dicey proposition for criminals. Now a day it is normal but scary too. We can't distinguish between customers and criminals," said a bank employee anonymously for being unauthorized to speak to media. Talking to state run official media, a senior police officer, who did not want to be named, said though the crime increase had nothing to do with face mask however, it made it easier for the criminals to blend in. He agreed that under anti-COVID SOPs, a provision could be created to allow security staff outside the banks or malls to ask the visitors remove face mask at entrance to allow the cameras capture the face.

## Micro lockdown imposed in several sectors

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Local administration has clamped micro lockdown in several sectors in view of the rising cases of novel coronavirus. The district administration has imposed micro lockdown in sectors of the capital city on recommendation of the district health authorities. Authorities have sealed street number 38 and street 44 to 48 in Sector G-10 (iv) after emergence of COVID-19 cases in the area. In Sector I-8 (ii), street number 25 and 29 have been sealed, while in Sector G-9 (iv) two streets number 85 and 89 have been sealed after coronavirus cases surfaced in the area. The district health authorities had recommended imposing a mi-

cro lockdown in these areas in view of the increasing cases of the disease. The scores of health officials in Pakistan have expressed their concern over surge in COVID-19 cases in the country. Special Assistant to Prime Minister on health Dr Faisal Sultan stated on Saturday that the number of COVID-19 cases have surged in the recent few weeks. Present in the talk show Sawal Yeh Hai, however, maintained that unlike in other countries the resurfacing of the cases has not been as worse. He said taking only the past few days into account, it is true that the cases have surged. Pakistan on Sunday reported 12 more coronavirus-related deaths during the past 24 hours, pushing the overall death toll from the disease to 6,570.



ISLAMABAD: Abdul Rauf Mukhtar, former VP and regional chairman Punjab FPPCI, Mian Mehmood Chairman Pak Saudia Joint Chamber, Malik Sohail Hussain Chief Coordinator UBG FPPCI and Waleed Ahmad called on Gen. Asim Saleem Bajwa Chairman CPEC and Advisor to PM in Information and Broadcasting. — DNA

## Govt paying special focus on rural areas

"After handing over four key departments from MCI to CDA, repair and maintenance works have started to fix traffic street lights, lane markings, road patch work, cleaning green belts and parks, he said

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Capital Development Authority Affairs Ali Nawaz Awan Sunday said that the government was taking solid steps to fulfill the promises made with the people of Islamabad city as some projects had already been completed while work on others was in progress. Talking to PTV news channel, he assured the government was paying due focus on development of rural areas of Islamabad and directed the

officials concerned to ensure timely completion of ongoing development projects. He explained that for improvement of the supply of water in the city, management of sewage and better sanitation, an authority along the lines of Wasa will be created in the federal capital. He said government had decided to set up a water and sanitation agency (WASA) in the federal capital along the lines similar agencies are operating in major metropolitan areas of the Punjab and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) provinces. Replying to a question, he said as the citizens were



suffering because of dilapidated condition of roads and streets now the authority concerned is going to

undertake a major project for carpeting of major roads in the city. He said CDA is now working on a comprehensive strategy to uplift overall infrastructure in Islamabad. Ali Nawaz said that billions of rupees amount have been allocated for the development of rural areas of the federal capital. "After handing over four key departments from MCI to CDA, repair and maintenance works have started to fix traffic street lights, lane markings, road patch work, cleaning green belts and parks, he said. He said we will return its beauty

to Islamabad soon adding recently transferred departments include environment wing, Water, sewerage, sanitation and engineering in order to ensure smooth and effective service delivery in the capital city to ease the difficulties being faced by its citizens, he added. He said CDA has also started solid waste management projects in many non sector areas of the city as well. The CDA has also started the up gradation of IJP Road with inauguration of two new additional lanes and three flyovers were also required to ensure smooth traffic flow, he said.

## Qawali night on Oct 17

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Art School, Theater Wallay will hold a Qawali night to pay tribute to legendary Qawali 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 Bakshish Brothers would entertain the audience with soulful musical performances decorated with famous qawalis of Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan besides their own musical pieces. "Bakshish Brothers will take you on a journey of soulful devotion with their renditions of some of Qawali's most timeless classics," he stated. Families as well as singles would be invited to enjoy themselves with the best organized setting arrangement and peaceful atmosphere. He stated that the participants will also be entertained by various food stalls and all necessary precautions will be taken along with hand sanitizers and complimentary masks.

## Only 250 licenses a day irks motorists

ISLAMABAD: The issuance of a limited number of driving licenses a day by Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) have irked the motorists, who are compelled to wait outside the office in hot and humid weather under the open sky in a hope of getting a chance of entry. Located in Sector F-8, the office of ITP does not permit the visitors to enter the office except those who manage to get a token in the early morning. The ITP has recently resumed driving license services after a hiatus of over six months, issuing only 250 tokens a day to ensure social distancing within the vicinity. The visitors, especially people from the outskirts areas of Federal Capital, passionately called upon the ITP management to accommodate maximum number of the citizens by issuing more than 250 tokens every day. 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. — APP

## Minorities urged for scholarship applications

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony has asked the deserving minority students to submit applications for scholarship before October 19. Orphans, destitute, needy, handicapped and poor minority students, having good educational record were eligible for scholarships for the financial year 2020-21, a ministry official said. The primary to professional level minority students of various government institutions can submit their applications to the ministry's office located at Green Trust Tower, Eighth Storey, Blue Area, Islamabad. According to the criteria, the regular students of Hindu, Sikh, Christian, Buddhists, and other communities, of government institutions, having at least 50 percent marks in their last annual examination were eligible for the scholarships. Also, the monthly income of parent/guardian of school level applicants must not exceed from Rs 35,000 per month. Students of private institutes were not eligible. The heads of the educational institutions of the applicants have been directed to forward the applications after checking the veracity of documents of the guardian/parent of the student. The attested marks sheet, progress report must be attached with the application form. In case of semester system attested copies of marks sheet for last two semesters and father/guardian's parent original income certificate. Mark sheet on plain paper would be rejected. The applications must be submitted on new prescribed performa, duly supported with attested copies of last examination.

## New world global terrorism

**T**ERRORISTS from the Fergana Valley, that consists of Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, and India are now the new face of global terrorism, according to an op-ed in renowned American news publication Foreign Policy. It contends that while much of the conversation over extremism has shifted towards white nationalism and racism-driven Islamophobia and anti-Semitism in the West, there has been some realignment in the formation of the once prominent Islamic State that is reemerging with an updated composition. The article draws focus towards the fact that though India's heritage of jihadism is quite old, it being the birthplace of the Deobandi movement, the country has historically not had a prominent presence in major terrorist hotspots, but that has changed of late and Syria made it possible. While many Indians flocked to join IS in Syria, they were mistreated by the Arabs due to their race, eventually forcing them to land in Afghanistan, fighting alongside the ISKP. The recent attack on Jalalabad prison, carried out by a death squad of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant - Khurasan Province (ISKP) where 29 people were killed, included Indians and Tajiks among others.

All this is in the backdrop of a divided India where Prime Minister Narendra Modi is actively pursuing an ultra-nationalistic Hindutva agenda, persecuting Muslims, who happen to be the third-largest community of Muslims in the world. Perhaps the worst example of this is the condition of Indian Occupied Kashmir that has been under a state-imposed security lockdown and communications blackout since the revocation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir via scrapping of Article 370 of the Indian Constitution in August of last year. Within India, anti-Muslim legislation has been passed in the shape of the Citizenship Amendment Bill, while deadly rhetoric from BJP ministers has encouraged lynch mobs to target Muslims in the country. India can no longer claim any of its secular credentials nor can it nonchalantly accuse others of 'exporting terrorism'. The country is fast becoming a breeding ground for radical jihadists and it has only itself to blame.

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Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti  
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

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Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



## Punishment of death

**T**HE issue of capital punishment has been debated for years, indeed for decades or centuries. The debate was revisited again on Saturday, as the World Death Penalty Day, was observed. The day is intended to draw attention to the pros and cons of the death penalty, a punishment that has been eradicated by two-thirds of the world's countries, but still remains in place in many others. Those who favour the death penalty, either for religious reasons, or for reasons of preventing crime, hold that it deters others from committing the same crime. Logically speaking, this indeed should be the case. Who would wish to walk to the gallows after committing a murder, if others have done so, before him. But human nature is strange. Data from the various states of the US show that there is no decline in murder in states that have banned the death penalty compared to others, which retain it. Similar figures are available from the Scandinavian countries and other parts of the world. Indeed, it seems, the death penalty appears to increase the sense of brutality or violence in society and therefore, contribute to the idea that it is all right to kill. This is the argument put forward by those who oppose it.

Even if the moralistic argument against the widespread use of the death penalty does not convince everyone, the state of our justice system should give us all pause. Essentially, in an overwhelming majority of cases where capital punishment has been handed down, the apex court has found that mistakes were made either in the gathering of evidence or in the verdicts reached by judges in lower courts. Clearly reform is needed in all aspects of our justice system. If we insist on keeping the death penalty, it should be a punishment of the last resort, used only for very few crimes. There should absolutely be no question about the person's guilt and death row prisoners have to be given access to competent legal help. Right now, the state is failing on all counts.

## Is it worth investing in Armenia?!

Lt. Col. (R) Khalid Taimur Akram



Global spread of false information about Armenia's good performance in order to attract foreign financial resources and implementation of extensive propaganda campaigns may attract the interest of foreign investors. However, drawing attention to the facts and realities, the question arises: "Is it worth investing in Armenia?!"

**A**RMENIA'S macroeconomic prospects do not bode well for investors

General economic indicators, high external debt, current account deficit lead to disruption of economic stability in the country, which, in its turn, jeopardizes the return on investment.

It is no coincidence that the influential international rating agency Fitch has downgraded the Long-Term Foreign-Currency Issuer Default Rating (IDR) of Armenia from BB- to B+. This indicates that the country's solvency on obligations is extremely sensitive to the deterioration of the economic and business environment and indicates the presence of a default risk. According to the agency's forecasts, by the end of 2020, the Armenian economy will shrink to 6.2%, and the ratio of total public debt to GDP will rise to 6.9% and will reach 65.6% by the end of 2021. In addition, according to the Doing Business report of the World Bank, Armenia has established itself at the lowest position (47) in the region.

**Armenia is the country with the most limited logistic opportunities in the region.**

The lack of direct access to the sea, remoteness from international logistic projects and, at the same time, closed borders with two neighboring countries due to the occupation policy towards Azerbaijan, further exacerbate these restrictions and increase transport costs.

**Armenia has low investment potential**

In Armenia, the main indicators that are taken into account to when making direct foreign investments are very low. So, Armenia does not meet such requirements as an indicator of investment efficiency, the availability of resources, the volume of strategic assets, the availability of a specialized workforce, and the availability of opportunities to enter foreign markets. The negative macroeconomic environment of this country, which is very poor in terms of resources, and the low level of strategic assets are sufficient to prevent adequate investors from choosing it. In addition, the problems with access to foreign markets due to logistical constraints, a low quantity of labor force due to depopulation and a high rate of emigration have a negative impact on the efficiency of investments in Armenia.

The small amount of land suitable for agriculture and the remoteness of export markets also reduce the country's potential in this area.

**Included in the list of top 25 countries for the ineffective fight against coronavirus, Armenia once again proved the limitedness of its institutional resources**

By being unable to combat the COVID-19 coronavirus effectively, Armenia has brought the country's economy face to face with great damage in various areas. This country has the highest level of infection and deaths in the region, and this situation continues. Thus, Armenia ranks 23 with the number of COVID-19 deaths per million people (337.09 per million). It ranks first among the post-Soviet countries. Today, the number of infected is increasing as well.

**Unstable political environment in Armenia also increases investment risks**

The political instability in the country, government's multidirectional and inadequate foreign policy, as well as the direct impact of this policy on companies investing in Armenia, make it difficult to predict the long-term risks of investment activities carried out in this country.

**Mono-nationalistic inclinations of the Armenian people make it difficult for foreign citizens to work in the country**

While other countries in the region are multinational, Armenians make the majority of the Armenia's population, and that proves the mono-nationalistic inclination of the Armenians. The Armenian people often do not show tolerance towards investors and create obstacles for their activities. In its turn, the government avoids protecting the rights of investors. The deliberate harassment of investors coming from certain countries and the application of various sanctions against them is also part of the biased policy of the Armenian government. Thus, due to the pressure exerted on it and various obstacles created against its activities, "Lydian International", operating in Armenia, lost activity and faced the suspension of the sale of shares on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

**Investments made in Armenia finance its aggressive occupation policy**

The occupation policy of Armenia against Azerbaijan contradicts all international acts and norms. Settlement, mining, and economic activity in various spheres in the territories that are internationally proved (UN Security Council Resolutions on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict No. 822, 853, 874, 884)

to belong to the Republic of Azerbaijan without the consent of the Azerbaijan's government bring government of Armenia as well as private companies involved in this activity to legal responsibility. As a result, investors investing for profit are put at risk of paying compensations. In other words, because of high risk/reward ratio the investments in the territories occupied by Armenia is not a rational step. At the same time, the attempts of Armenia to propagate groundless false information met counterarguments proved by facts, and that made the country lose its influence in the international arena. It also confirmed that the country is not reliable for cooperation in various fields.

Coming to moral and humane approach, by pursuing an aggressive policy for many years, inflicting damage on the civilian population and settlements with its military equipment, Armenia continues the conflict that can be resolved peacefully. Moreover, we should emphasize that Armenians also launched unexpected strikes not on the areas of hostilities, but on civilian targets located in other regions not related to these battles. At the same time, by using long-range cluster missiles banned throughout the world to engage civilian targets Armenia also violated the Geneva Conventions. 27 civilians killed and 141 wounded within only 10 days because of attacks of Armenian army proves how far it is from humanism.

Armenia's government forcibly draws its citizens to war and does not take into account the population's desire for peace, the lack of food, and the difficult living conditions in the country. In parallel, Azerbaijan has repeatedly offered and is still offering an easy peaceful solution to the conflict without losses. Not caring about the social well-being of its citizens, Armenia resorts to large external borrowings and directs the financial resources flowing into the country to its aggressive policy. Investments made in Armenia, taxes and fees paid to the state budget, support the policy of economic militarism of this country. From this point of view, even if not taking into account the other listed risks, investments made in the Armenian state are considered at least inhuman and directed against society.

**That is why we call every investor to think seriously before investing in Armenia.**

— *The writer is Executive Director of Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad*

## Azerbaijan demands its territorial integrity

Shahin Abdullayev



"Karabakh is Azerbaijani territory. We must return, and we will return," he said in a televised address, adding that Azerbaijan had waited 30 years to recover its lands. "Baku's repeated calls for sanctions on Armenia went unheard," the president said, as he noted his country demands to know why OSCE and the EU did not punish Armenia for its crimes

**O**N Sept. 27 the armed forces of Armenia, blatantly violating the cease-fire, launched another aggression against Azerbaijan – for the third time this year – by intensively shelling the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan along the frontline.

The bombardment by Armenian armed forces of densely populated civilian areas and installations along the frontline has been deliberate and targeted. To prevent further military aggression by Armenia and provide for the security of civilian residential areas, the armed forces of Azerbaijan undertook counter-offensive measures within the right of self-defense and in full compliance with international law.

This new act of aggression by Armenia is a continuation of the latest provocations, including the attempted armed attack in the direction of Tovuz region on July 12-16, the sabotage-reconnaissance group's provocation in the direction of Goranboy region, the illegal settlement policy in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, as well as the provocative statements and activities of the Armenian leadership.

The clashes are the worst since the 1990s, when some 30,000 people were killed, and are spreading beyond the Nagorno-Karabakh region. By constantly violating the cease-fire achieved in 1994, Armenia tries to consolidate the existing status quo. Azerbaijan has repeatedly stated that Armenia's continuing military aggression and the presence of its armed forces in Azerbaijani territories remain a significant threat to regional peace and security.

For the past two years, a chain of provocations by the new government of Armenia in both word and deed has undermined the negotiation process for settlement of the conflict. Armenia has continued to provoke and violate the cease-fire. Armenia's defense minister even went so far as to call on the country to prepare for the pursuit of a "new war for new territories."

Nagorno-Karabakh was made an autonomous region within Azerbaijan by the Soviet Union in the 1920s. During the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, this autonomous region declared a so-called independence that is not recognized by any country including Armenia but is recognized as a part of Azerbaijan by the international community.

In the intervening decades, the one constant has been the Armenian occupation of almost all of Azerbaijan's

autonomous territory of Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding regions of Azerbaijan, which together form about 20 percent of the country's total territory. Armenia conducted a policy of ethnic cleansing against Azerbaijanis.

The cultural heritage of the Azerbaijani people and 63 of 67 mosques in the territory of today's Armenia have been demolished and plundered. Armenia also destroyed all Azerbaijani historical and religious monuments in the occupied territories.

It is not the issue of dispute that these lands are occupied illegally and must be returned. Four UN Security Council resolutions and various OSCE documents directly related to the conflict make this clear, as do the formal positions of all the major powers, not to mention the rest of the world. The fact that Armenia has cleansed the occupied lands of its pre-war ethnic-Azerbaijani population has obviously not helped its claim of victimhood. Neither has its present campaign to indiscriminately shell civilian targets such as marketplaces or key pieces of infrastructure such as hydro-power plants and dams deep in Azerbaijan.

So, irrespective of ancient grievances, a convoluted historical record and whatever other vagarious claims have been put forward, the situation is unambiguous. The outcome of the conflict requires the end of Yerevan's military occupation of these lands and the return of more than one million Azerbaijani civilians to their homes. The mediators – the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (Russia, France and the US) – are at fault. There was a formal negotiation process launched in 1992, which has produced no concrete results on the ground, in the sense that the occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh and the seven surrounding regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan has not come to an end, Azerbaijani refugees and IDPs have been prevented from exercising their right of return, and so on. In other words, for nearly three decades the Minsk Group led negotiations whose objectives were clearly and unambiguously set down on paper.

The co-chairs gave themselves the responsibility to lead a defined process to achieve a defined result, and yet the conflict has remained frozen since a 1994 cease-fire was put into effect. None of the Minsk Group's defined objectives have been achieved – not even close.

Last week Armenian armed forces launched missile attacks on the densely populated civilian areas in Ganja, Mingachevir, Barda, Beylagan and some other cities of Azerbaijan. As a result of Armenia's artillery and missile attacks, more than 30 Azerbaijani civilians were killed, more than 150 injured, and more than 500 residential buildings and civilian objects destroyed (as of Oct. 7).

In his speech to the 75th General Assembly of the UN, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev warned that the situation was escalating as a result of Armenia's actions and that there was increased military activity by Armenian troops along the line of contact.

Our president has demanded that Armenia set up a timetable to withdraw from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, to recognize the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and to apologize to the Azerbaijani people. On Oct. 4, President Aliyev stressed Baku's determination to liberate Nagorno-Karabakh from Armenian occupation, as he criticized the international community for failing to take any action against Yerevan's aggression.

"Karabakh is Azerbaijani territory. We must return, and we will return," he said in a televised address, adding that Azerbaijan had waited 30 years to recover its lands. "Baku's repeated calls for sanctions on Armenia went unheard," the president said, as he noted his country demands to know why OSCE and the EU did not punish Armenia for its crimes. He said that Armenia must accept that Karabakh did not belong to it and set a timetable for the withdrawal of its occupation forces.

Our country needs political support from the Islamic world and the Arab world. They must have a firm position on Azerbaijan. The world must not equate the aggressor and the victim.

Azerbaijan has a strong army, and reports that foreigners are fighting alongside Azerbaijani troops do not reflect the truth. On the contrary, Armenia recruits and uses mercenaries and terrorists from other countries against Azerbaijan. The Armenian government is using the conflict to divert attention from its economic problems and to influence public opinion in the country. It should be once more stressed that peace and stability in the South Caucasus will be restored only after the liberation of all occupied Azerbaijani territories.

— *Courtesy: Arab News*

## Briefs

## India coronavirus cases cross 7 million

NEW DELHI: India's coronavirus cases surged past seven million on Sunday, taking it ever closer to overtaking the United States as the world's most infected country. Health ministry data showed a rise of almost 75,000 cases on Sunday, taking the total to 7.05 million, second only to the US which has recorded 7.67 million infections. — APP

## Polish GM ends Carlsen's undefeated run

OSLO: World chess champion Magnus Carlsen has suffered his first defeat in more than two years and a record 125 games, while playing a tournament in his native Norway. The world number one resigned after when he was a bishop down in the endgame against Polish grandmaster Jan-Krzysztof Duda, who is ranked a relatively humble number 15 in the world. But on Saturday evening, 22-year-old Duda managed to do what no one — including the world's top 10 players — had managed to do since July 2018. It was Duda's only win of the tournament in Stavanger so far and, as he told Chess 24 afterwards, "I didn't expect to win this game." But he was, he said "extremely happy, obviously". Carlsen, who is often tough on himself in post-game analysis, offered no excuses. "Extremely disappointing", he said: "Completely unforgivable". — APP

## 'Armenia violating ceasefire accord'

From Page 01  
October 10, 2020, the Armenian armed forces continue to grossly violate the agreement. Immediately after the establishment of a humanitarian ceasefire, the Armenian armed forces fired on Aghdam and Tartar regions of Azerbaijan. A few hours later, Armenian armed forces tried to attack in the direction of Hadrut and Jabrayil. A medical worker was seriously injured as a result of the shooting by the Armenian armed forces of a sanitary medical vehicle, clearly marked with a white flag, collecting the bodies of Armenian soldiers in the area of Sugovshan. On the night of October 11, Ganja, the second largest city in Azerbaijan and far beyond the frontline, came under rocket fire by the Armenian armed forces. The attack killed seven civilians and injured 39 others, including minors. The shelling of civilians and cities by the Armenian armed forces after the humanitarian ceasefire agreement is another clear example of barbarism and shows that the ceasefire calls of the Armenian leadership are nothing but hypocrisy. Armenia's deliberate firing on civilians, homes, civilian objects and medical personnel as part of its aggressive policy against Azerbaijan once again demonstrates the country's disregard for fundamental norms and principles of international law, including international humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions, as well as shows that it is clearly violating its obligations and is far from the principles of humanism.

## PML-N candidates for GB elections

From Page 01  
Atif Salman from Ghizer Constituency 19, Ghulam Hussain from Constituency 23 Ganchha Two and Manzoor Hussain from Constituency 24 Ganchha Three will contest in the elections. More than 700,000 voters will elect 24 candidates in general elections to the third Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly (GBLA) to be held on November 15. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) had swept the previous polls held five years ago when it was also in power at the federal level. How the party will perform in the forthcoming elections under very different circumstances will be a matter of great public interest.



## Pakistan, UK can increase trade, says Sardar Tanvir

He said this while talking to Khurshid Barlas, President of UK Pakistan Business Council Pakistan Chapter, General Secretary UK Pakistan Business Council and other members of the delegation who met him in Islamabad

FIJAZ CH.

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Punjab Board Investment and Trade Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has said that Pakistan and the United Kingdom can significantly increase bilateral trade. He said this while talking to Khurshid

Barlas, President of UK Pakistan Business Council Pakistan Chapter, General Secretary UK Pakistan Business Council and other members of the delegation who met him in Islamabad. Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan said that in line with the vision of the Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan, all possible steps are

being taken to increase the exports of Pakistani products and the establishment of new industrial zones in Punjab under the leadership of Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar. Programs are being implemented to create maximum convenience for the business community. The role of UK Pakistan Business

Council for trade development in Pakistan and UK and said that despite the Corona epidemic, a platform of communication was provided to traders and industrialists of both the countries. On the occasion, Khurshid Barlas said that the purpose of setting up the council was only to enhance trade cooperation be-

tween Pakistan and the United Kingdom and the Punjab Board of Investment could play an important role in this regard. Ata Ul haq said that Pakistani businessmen and industrialists and investors will be arranged in the UK. Urdu businessmen want relations with the UK in Pakistan.

## Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal eye history

DNA

PARIS: Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal meet for the 56th time on Sunday in a Roland Garros final blockbuster with history on the line for both men. World number one Djokovic is chasing an 18th Grand Slam title and a second French Open which would make him the first man in half a century to win all four Slams twice. Defending champion Nadal, the world number two, can win a 13th Roland Garros and 20th major which would tie the all-time men's record

held by Roger Federer. Victory on Sunday would also give the 34-year-old Spaniard a 100th match win in Paris against just two defeats in 15 years. One of those losses came against Djokovic in the 2015 quarter-finals, the last time the pair clashed on the crushed red brick surface of Court Philippe Chatrier. The Serb has won 37 matches in 2020 with his one defeat self-inflicted via his infamous default at the US Open. Stefanos Tsitsipas, who pushed Djokovic to five sets in a breathless semi-final, sees few flaws in the top seed's game.

## Danish Aziz' fifty guides Sindh to win

RAWALPINDI: Former Pakistan U19 batsman Danish Aziz saved Sindh's blushes with a half-century that also overshadowed Central Punjab's Babar Azam's second successive half-century and spirited bowling performance from Waqas Ahmed in the 18th match of the PKR 9million National T20 Cup at the Pindi Cricket Stadium on Saturday evening. Danish clubbed five fours and three sixes in a 32-ball 59 not out as Sindh, chasing 171 for victory and after slipping to 16 for two and then 53 for four, romped to victory with three wickets and five balls to spare. Danish had walked out to bat after Khur-

ram Manzoor (six), Sharjeel Khan (six), Sarfaraz Ahmed (10) and Asad Shafiq (11) had returned to the hut. He added 44 runs for the fifth wicket with Azam Khan, who dominated the stand with a 23-ball 32. The 24-year-old then put on 57 crucial runs for the sixth wicket with Hassan Khan (36 off 15 balls, 2x4, 4x6) to bring Sindh within touching distance. And although Hassan and Anwar Ali departed with nine runs still required, Danish kept his cool as a Waqas Maqsood wide bouncer earned Sindh their second win in six matches and handed Central Punjab their fifth loss in seven matches. — APP

## Tokyo opens Olympics Pride House

DNA

TOKYO: Tokyo on Sunday opened its first major community hub for LGBTQ people this month, part of a pre-Olympics project that campaigners hope will tackle stigma and raise awareness of discrimination. Pride House Tokyo is based on similar inclusive pop-up sites set up at past Olympics, but will offer a permanent meeting space and information centre, seeking to educate

the public about sexual diversity and offer refuge to those suffering harassment or discrimination. While Japan has some protections for sexual minorities, it remains the only G7 country that does not recognise same-sex unions, and many couples say they can struggle to rent apartments together and are even barred from hospital visits. Those challenges mean spaces like Pride House, set up in coordination with Tokyo 2020 Olympic organisers,

are sorely needed in Japan, activists say. "Japan, not just in sporting circles but society as a whole — including schools and workplaces — is not friendly to LGBTQ people, and it is hard to come out," Gon Matsunaka, who heads the project behind Pride House, told AFP. While the centre is being set up under a recent Olympic tradition, the project is officially named "Pride House Tokyo Legacy", and activists hope its influence will extend beyond the

Games. The venue "will be a landmark that could change the landscape for LGBTQ people in Japanese society," Matsunaka said. The International Olympic Committee echoed hopes for a lasting legacy. "In sport, we are all equal," IOC President Thomas Bach said in a statement released Sunday. "We therefore welcome that Tokyo 2020 has embedded diversity and inclusion in the Olympic Games model," he said, wishing "the Pride House Tokyo success".



SAN JOSE: Players battling for the possession of the ball during a match between Panama and Costa Rica. — DNA

## Trump 'no longer considered a transmission risk'

Tests showed there was "no longer evidence of actively replicating virus," and that Trump's viral load was "decreasing," Conley continued — though he did not state that the president is now virus-free

DNA

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump is no longer contagious, nine days after being stopped in his tracks by Covid-19, his physician said in a statement released late Saturday. "I am happy to report that in addition to the President meeting CDC criteria for the safe discontinuation of isolation, this morning's COVID PCR sample demonstrates, by currently rec-

ognized standards, he is no longer considered a transmission risk to others," Sean Conley said in the statement. Conley, who has been accused of a lack of transparency with the public, said it had been 10 days since Trump first began showing symptoms of the new coronavirus. Tests showed there was "no longer evidence of actively replicating virus," and that Trump's viral load was "decreasing," Conley continued — though he did not

state that the president is now virus-free. Although it is proba-

bly the case that people with low levels of the virus are no longer

contagious, a cutoff figure has not been established by the medical community. Conley said Trump is fever-free and symptoms have "improved," adding that he would continue to monitor the president as he "returns to an active schedule." The president was hospitalized on October 2, and stayed there for three days before returning to the White House. Guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

say that for people who had mild or moderate Covid-19, isolation and precautions can be discontinued 10 days after symptom onset, and once they have been fever-free for 24 hours. For more severe cases, the guidelines say it is up to 20 days after symptom onset — but the intensity of Trump's case has not been confirmed. But top government scientist Anthony Fauci has said he had faith the president's medical team would not let him go out while still infectious.



## UK, Kenya to co-host fundraising summit

DNA

LONDON: Britain and Kenya said Sunday they would co-host a summit next year to raise funds for children's schooling in poorer countries, warning that the coronavirus pandemic risked depriving many millions of an education.

The summit is scheduled to take place in Britain in mid-2021 under the UK's presidency of the G7 club of developed nations, and will be co-chaired by Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta. Johnson said the goal was to raise at least \$5 billion for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), an initiative launched in 2002 which counts the singer Rihanna as a global ambassador.

"I urge the global community to come together, dig deep and ensure we fund their vital work to give every child the chance at an education," the British leader said in a statement.

He said that due to school closures during the pandemic, some 1.3 billion children including 650 million girls have lost out on months of education, and many may never return because of the economic havoc caused by Covid-19. "It is a toll of wasted potential and missed opportunity that is a tragedy not just for those children, but for each and every one of us," Johnson said.

Kenyatta said the GPE had been a "key partner" in helping Kenya invest in education, especially for girls. "We must use the opportunity of GPE's financing conference to make ambitious pledges to invest in quality education so our children and young people have the skills and knowledge they need to seize the opportunities of the 21st century," he said. The GPE has helped get 160 million more children into school and doubled the enrolment of girls in the countries where it works, Kenyatta noted.

## 'No scientific evidence to support death penalty'

From Page 01  
Farogh Naseem briefed the audience in detail about the reforms measures taken by the present government in the justice system, like early adjudication of civil cases, transfer of inheritance, ensuring rights of women in inherited properties, and provision of legal assistance from the state to the weaker and poorer segments. On the occasion, an art performance titled 'Before The Sun Comes Up' was screened to highlight the miseries of a death row prisoner and his sentiments. Ambassadors from the EU countries, representatives of civil society and government officials attended the function.

## Govt raises concerns over growing cases

From Page 01  
The government has already imposed mini smart lock down in Islamabad, Karachi, and Azad Kashmir. He said the administration has also been directed to ensure protective measures across the country. The minister urged people to cooperate with government in eradication of the pandemic because success is not possible without cooperation of the public. Meanwhile commenting on the situation, an official of Ministry of National Health Services said that several local level administrative decisions were made to control the disease.

## Cleric murder work of enemies

From Page 01  
attempt to foment unrest by Pakistan's enemies. COAS directed all out support to civil administration to bring the criminals to justice," tweeted the DG ISPR. The prominent religious scholar, along with his driver, was shot dead on Saturday in Karachi's Shah Faisal area, with Prime Minister Imran Khan chalking it up as "an attempt by India to create sectarian conflict across the country".

## Briefs

## Police station targeted in fireworks attack

PARIS: Around 40 people staged an hour-long fireworks attack against a police station outside Paris early Sunday, authorities said, the latest in a string of incidents targeting security forces in recent months.

Two officers were on a cigarette break outside the station in Champigny-sur-Marne, around 12 kilometers (8 miles) east of the capital, when the assailants, some carrying steel bars, suddenly arrived shortly before midnight. The officers barely managed to barricade themselves inside when the crowd began attacking the entrance and several police vehicles, but nobody was injured during the raid. The city's mayor, Laurent Jeanne, told AFP the police might have been targeted in retaliation for a recent scooter accident allegedly caused by police, "which has not been proven". Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin tweeted that "these little dealers don't scare anyone, and will not discourage our anti-drug work", though police officials did not identify the attackers. No arrests have been made, but prosecutors said Sunday that surveillance cameras were being reviewed for clues.

Jeanne acknowledged that drug trafficking was a problem in the Bois-L'Abbe neighbourhood, where the station is located. But police union officials said the attack underscored a growing threat against law enforcement in depressed suburbs of Paris and other large cities. Several other police stations across France have been targeted in similar fireworks attacks this year, and the Champigny-sur-Marne station had already been hit by youths wielding fireworks, most recently last April.

"This was something totally different - they wanted to physically injure these two officers," he said. - APP

## Cambodian farmers deploy scarecrows to ward off virus

DNA  
KAMPONG CHAM, CAMBODIA: Armed with a stick, a floral-shirted scarecrow with a plastic pot for a head stands guard in front of a rural Cambodian home - a sentry erected by superstitious farmers to ward off the coronavirus.

Known as "Ting Mong" in Khmer, the creatively rendered scarecrows often pop up in villages that have been hard-hit by infectious diseases like dengue or water-borne diarrhoea. This time, "I've set up the Ting Mong to prevent the coronavirus from threatening my family," says farmer Sok Chany, 45. She has two posted in front of her wooden stilt home in Kampong Cham province, about 110 kilometres (70 miles) north-east of the capital Phnom Penh. The other is dressed in camo-green and has a stick propped like a rifle across its hay-stuffed chest.

## 20 killed in bus, train collision

DNA  
BANGKOK: A bus heading to a Buddhist temple collided with a train in central Thailand on Sunday, killing at least 20 people dead and injuring 30, authorities said. The accident took place at 8:05 a.m. (0105 GMT) near the Khlong Kwaeng Klan railway station 63 km (40 miles) east of Bangkok, said Maitree Tritilanon, governor of Chachoengsao province, where the crash occurred.

A tour bus carrying some 60 factory workers on their way to a Buddhist ceremony at a temple was crossing a railway track when it was hit by a freight train headed to the capital from the east of the country. The bus was flipped on its side and the top ripped off, with debris and metal scattered around the accident area, images from rescue workers showed. The train remained on the rails. Governor Maitree said the crossing has an alarm but no barrier to block traffic when a train is coming. He said the province will install speed bumps and barriers as well as cut down trees near the crossing to improve visibility.



KABUL: Ambassador of Switzerland to Afghanistan Benedict Cerjat, meeting with M. Hanif Atmar, Minister of Foreign Affairs in Storai Palace. Ambassador Benedict is Ambassador to Pakistan also. He traveled to to Kabul to present his credentials to the Afghan President. - DNA

## Tajikistan vote seen as easy win for strongman

Rakhmon faces four other candidates, all of whom are viewed as token opponents, in his bid for a fresh seven-year term

DNA  
DUSHANBE: Central Asian Tajikistan goes to the polls Sunday in a presidential election expected to make incumbent Emomali Rakhmon the longest-ruling strongman in the former Soviet space. Few are anticipating any hiccups for Rakhmon as he closes in on three decades in power and looks to overtake Kazakhstan's recently retired Nursultan Nazarbayev in the regional longevity stakes. Rakhmon faces four other candidates, all of whom are viewed as token opponents, in his bid for a fresh seven-year term. Polling stations opened at 6 am local (0100 GMT) and will close at 8 pm (1500 GMT), with results expected the following morning. Voters in the capital Dushanbe interviewed by AFP overwhelmingly stated their intention to cast their ballot for Rakhmon - and struggled to name the other candidates. Student Abdukholik Faizov said

that this was to be expected and predicted with a smile that "the one who always wins will win again." "It is obvious! We are still waiting for free elections," Faizov explained. While disput-



ed votes in neighbouring Kyrgyzstan and fellow former Soviet republic Belarus have triggered massive upheavals in those countries, similar developments appear unlikely in Tajikistan. Rakhmon is portrayed by state media as bringing stability to the country following a civil war during the 1990s that pitted government forces against a diverse opposition including Islamist fighters. Constitutional changes passed in 2016 allowed the "Founder Of Peace and National Unity, Leader of the Nation", as Rakhmon is officially known, to run for office an unlimited number of times. Saida Rakhimova, the director of a state kindergarten, said that she hoped that Rakhmon would continue to rule for a long time yet. "We believe him, we trust him," she said. She said that the government should raise miserly salaries and pensions for educators and carers in the poorest of former Soviet republics.

## Virus, inequality top agenda as Lithuania votes

DNA  
VILNIUS: Lithuanians vote Sunday in the first round of a general election overshadowed by a record spike in coronavirus cases, with the ruling centre-left coalition defending its handling of the pandemic in a tight race with opposition conservatives. The rivals are also focused on bridging the economic and educational gulf between rural and urban residents in the Baltic eurozone state of 2.8 million people. All major parties share a pro-EU and NATO platform, and back Vilnius's drive to rally support within the EU for neighbouring Belarus's democratic opposition after a disputed presidential election. Opinion polls show a tight race, with Prime Minister Saulius Skvernelis' centre-left Farmers and Greens Union and the conservative Homeland Union-Lithuanian Christian Dem-

ocrats both garnering around 15 percent. If reelected, Skvernelis, who is more popular among lower-income rural voters, promises to set up state-owned pharmacies nationwide and introduce an annual "13th pension" cash bonus for the elderly. More popular among urbanites, his conservative rival ex-finance minister Ingrida Simonyte has slammed Skvernelis - a former national chief of police - as running a chaotic and populist administration. Drive-in voting has been made available for the first time as part of pandemic safety measures. Masks and social distancing are mandatory in polling stations. Despite the recent record surge in cases, Lithuania's coronavirus related-deaths are well below the EU average while finance ministry forecasts suggest the economy will contract just 1.5 percent this year, among the best outlooks in the eurozone.

## Turkish Cypriots vote for new leader

NICOSIA: The self-proclaimed Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus started a vote Sunday for a new leader amid heightened tensions on the divided island and in the wider eastern Mediterranean region. The election in the breakaway TRNC that is recognised only by Ankara comes three days after Turkish troops controversially reopened access to the seaside ghost town of Varosha for the first time in decades. That move sparked anger in the majority Greek-speaking Republic of Cyprus, which exercises its authority over the southern two thirds of the island and has been a member of the European Union since 2004. TRNC authorities opened 738 polling stations at 8:00am (0500 GMT) for what they call a presidential election, and voting was to close at 6:00 pm (1500 GMT). If no candidate obtains at least 50 percent of the vote, the two leading candidates will face off in a second round on October 18. Residents, masked and some wearing their own gloves amid the Covid-19 pandemic, began casting their ballots at a school in north Nicosia, AFP journalists reported. - APP

## Kim throws down gauntlet with huge new ICBM

It was "much cheaper for North Korea to add warheads than for the US to add interceptors", he added on Twitter

DNA  
SEOUL: The gargantuan new missile North Korea put on show at a military parade is an explicit threat to US defences and an implicit challenge to both the current and next American president, analysts say, warning Pyongyang could test the weapon next year. Leader Kim Jong Un watched the intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) roll through Kim Il Sung square - named after his grandfather - in Pyongyang at the climax of an unprecedented night-time parade on Saturday. A consensus rapidly emerged among analysts that it was the largest road-mobile, liquid-fuelled missile anywhere in the world, and was highly likely to be designed to carry multiple warheads in independent re-entry vehicles (MIRVs). Jeffrey Lewis of the Middlebury

Institute of International Studies said it was "clearly aimed at overwhelming the US missile defense system in Alaska". It was "much cheaper for North Korea to add warheads than for the US to add interceptors", he added on Twitter. If the ICBM carried three or four warheads, he explained, the US would need to spend around \$1 billion on 12-16 interceptors for each missile. "At that cost, I am pretty sure North Korea can add warheads faster than we can add interceptors." The missile was estimated at 24 metres long and 2.5 metres in diameter, which specialist Markus Schiller said was big enough to carry 100 tonnes of fuel, which would take hours to load. It was so big and heavy that it was practically unusable, he added: "You can't move this thing fuelled, and you can't fill it at the launch site. This thing makes absolutely no sense at all, except for threat equation games, like sending the message of 'we now have a mobile ICBM with MIRVs, be very afraid'." North Korea watchers regularly caution that the devices Pyongyang puts on show at its parades may be mock-ups or models, and there is no proof they work until they are tested. But the missile was carried on an enormous and previously unseen 11-axle transporter-erector-launcher, far larger than the eight-axle Chinese-made vehicles the North has employed so far. "The truck may be a scarier story than the missile," said Melissa Hanham of the Open Nuclear Network. "If the DPRK is indigenously producing their own chassis, then there is less of a constraint on the number of ICBMs they can launch."

## Residents inspect destroyed homes in Karabakh

DNA  
STEPANAKERT: Guenadi Avanesian had a big two-storey house at 28 Saroyan Street, with a wooden terrace and vines laden with dark grapes. But his comfortable middle-class home in a well-off street in the capital of war-hit Nagorno-Karabakh region has been smashed to pieces during the conflict between neighbouring Azerbaijan and Armenia. "I spent two years renovating this

house with my own hands, and (Azerbaijani president) Aliyev destroyed it in two seconds with his bombs," Avanesian rages to anyone who will listen from behind his moustache. With a blue hat on his head, the 70-something clammers onto the huge heap of debris that is all that remains after the gutted house collapsed in on itself. With a shovel, he searches through the twisted sheet metal, bits and pieces of the home's structure and traces of

## Armenian shelling leaves seven dead

DNA  
BAKU: Azerbaijan said Sunday that shelling by Armenian forces on the country's second largest city had left seven people dead, one day after a ceasefire between his former life. Azerbaijani forces bombed the area a week ago, and it is the first time Avanesian has returned. He is looking to

scrape together whatever can be salvaged during a lull in the fighting after a ceasefire came into force on Saturday at noon. "I was here when the rocket came down. I heard a whistle and I rushed into the cellar. I was two seconds away from being killed," he recalls. His son-in-law, also in the house that day, got away with an injury - a minor miracle given the total destruction visited on the house. "It's a Smerch rocket that did this," Avanesian says, referring to the Soviet-era "Tornado" projectiles that have been falling throughout Karabakh's largest city during the past week of fighting

over the ethnic Armenian breakaway territory. "Where will I live now? Under the stars, under the rain? I had everything and now I have nothing left, I can't find anything. Everything's blown apart. The only thing I could find was a suitcase with children's clothes," he laments, showing off the battered, ancient bag. "How can one man do this to another? Aliyev, you say that Karabakh is Azerbaijan. If I live in Azerbaijan, why have you bombed my house?" asks Avanesian.

## SEZ to be established along Motorway

DNA  
SIALKOT: Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI) president Qaisar Iqbal Baryar said on Sunday that Special Economic Zone (SEZ) would be established along Sialkot-Lahore Motorway. Talking to APP, he said the SEZ would be of high significance to explore the business potential of region which would be helpful in accelerating the economic development. The SEZ would open up a new era of development and provide employment opportunities in golden triangle (Sialkot, Gujranwala and Gujrat), he added. He said that Sialkot exporters were contributing to strengthen the national economy by earning foreign exchange of US \$ 2.5 billion annually. The SCCI president said that adequate efforts were being made to resolve the problems of Sialkot business community on top priority.

## Kyrgyz PM expects president to step down

DNA  
BISHKEK: Kyrgyzstan's parliament on Saturday made a populist politician recently freed from jail prime minister, with Sadyr Japarov immediately saying he expected the country's embattled president to step down. Hundreds of Japarov's supporters took to the streets of capital Bishkek to celebrate, after a week that saw opposition supporters demonstrate and clash with police over a contested election on Sunday. At least one person has died and over 1,000 have been injured in Kyrgyzstan, a Central Asian country with close ties to Russia. The violence also saw shots fired as groups of rival supporters clashed on Friday. Japarov was made acting prime minister after a majority of lawmakers supported his candidacy at an extraordinary session of parliament. He said he expected President Sooronbay Jeenbekov to resign "in two to three days" in comments at his confirmation on Saturday. "I met with (Jeenbekov) here at the state residency. He said that after confirming the cabinet and government structures, he would resign," Japarov said at his confirmation. A deputy speaker at the extraordinary session on Saturday noted that Japarov would become acting president if Jeenbekov resigned.

The speaker of parliament would normally step in, but the post is currently unfilled. Two sources in the parliament, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AFP that they expected Jeenbekov to honour his pledge to step down.

## Denver: Demonstrator shot during rival rallies

DNA  
DENVER: Police have arrested a security guard after a man was shot dead during rival right- and left-wing protests in the US city of Denver. Reports said the dead man had been taking part in a so-called "Patriot Rally" of right-wing demonstrators. Police said the suspect was not linked to the counter-demonstrators. A Denver TV station said it had hired the suspect to protect its crew. However, police have not confirmed this. The "Patriot Rally" taking place in Denver was met by counter-protests by several groups who said they were holding a "Black Lives Matter-Antifa Soup Drive". The shooting took place in a courtyard of the Denver Art Museum.

**Briefs**

**India trying to create sectarian rift: Imran Khan**

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan while strongly condemning the target killing of Maulana Adil Khan of Jamia Farooqia in Karachi has said that India is attempting to target Ulema to fan sectarian rift in the country. In his series of tweets, the Prime Minister stressed upon the Ulema from all sects that they must ensure that people did not fall prey to nefarious Indian design to destabilize Pakistan by fueling a sectarian conflict. Imran Khan said we have prevented a number of such attempts preemptively in last few months. He said that our intelligence organizations and law enforcement agencies will nab culprits of this murder also.

**Sindh govt bans pillion riding**

ATHAR SUFI

KARACHI: The Sindh government on Sunday imposed a ban in Karachi on pillion riding for 30 days, citing reports that targeted killings in the city may rise and further deteriorate law and order.

According to a notification released by the home department, the ban has been imposed with immediate effect. "The additional IG Karachi has conveyed that there are some reports that miscreants and disgruntled elements may disturb the peace and create law and order problem in Karachi," read the notification. It added that miscreants may carry out target killings and the ban was also imposed as "very recently a few incidents of hand grenade lobbing and targeted killings of personnel of law enforcing and religious scholars have been reported in the city". The home department said that the ban will not be applicable to women, children below the age of 12 years, senior citizens, personnel of Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs)/security agencies in uniform, employees of essential services and journalists subject to showing their press card/service card.

**'PDM movement will fuel sectarianism'**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhry Sunday said that opposition's movement will give rise to sectarian tensions in the country. Fawad Chaudhry, in a tweet, said that primary challenge state faces by opposition's anti-government movement is use of religious card by the protestors. He said that processions of students of religious schools armed with sticks is an attempt to ignite religious sentiments. The federal minister said that any sensible analyst will consider the movement chaotic and violent.

**Heatwave alert for Karachi**

ATHAR SUFI

KARACHI: A heat wave alert was issued by the meteorological on Sunday, warning people from venturing out unnecessarily during the next week or so unnecessarily and during peak hours when the a person is most exposed to the sun. The Meteorological department on Sunday forecast that a heat wave would prevail over Karachi during the next six to eight days with the temperature rising up to 40-42°C during the daytime. The Met office in the weather forecast stated that a high pressure area formed over central Asia inducing wind flow from North to Northwest over Sindh including Karachi may generate heat wave conditions in the city in the coming days.

**ITALIAN HOSPITALITY**



**ISLAMABAD:** Ambassador of Italy Andreas Ferrarese hosted a dinner for Daily Islamabad POST and CENTRELINE magazine at his residence. He also invited Gen @ Masood, Imtiaz Gul, Amir Rana, Maria Sultan, Naveed Miraj and head of Press Section Italian embassy. Full coverage of the event in the coming issue of CENTRELINE. – DNA

**Pakistan appreciates China for repaid development in Xinjiang**

STAFF REPORT / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan highly appreciates China for its consistent policy carrying out repaid development and promoting social stability in Xinjiang region, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday quoting senior officials. Pakistan believes its Iron Brother China has brought Xinjiang at par with its other regions in contrast to the western countries propaganda. China's development strategy towards Xinjiang is highly successful. "If someone visits Xinjiang, he will see it is not behind China's major cities. The Chinese government and people live like one unit and as one nation. Islamabad is happy with the development of the region that was once under-developed. "In fact we are learning from them (China) to

develop our neglected areas. Xinjiang is an example (of fast development)," the officials added. Some countries were raising Xinjiang and Hong Kong issues just to demonstrate animosity towards China. "This propaganda won't work. China has developed fast and is carrying each of its region with the major cities. Pakistan is convinced (that) China is the future of the world," they argued, citing Prime Minister Imran Khan's policy. Overall statistics show that China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region has seen a positive trend in economic development and people's livelihoods have significantly improved. Noting that development is an important foundation for lasting peace and stability in Xinjiang, Chinese President Xi Jinping recently at the third central symposium on work related to Xinjiang

underlined the need to fully and faithfully implement the CPC's policies on governing Xinjiang for the new era. Xi demanded law-based governance and long-term efforts to develop Xinjiang into a region that is united, harmonious, prosperous, and culturally advanced, with healthy ecosystems and people living and working in contentment. Xinjiang's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has increased from less than \$147 billion in 2014 to \$205 billion by 2019, with an average yearly increase of 7.2 percent. In mid-September, China's State Council Information Office published a white paper titled "Employment and Labor Rights in Xinjiang", which said that through proactive labour and employment policies, Xinjiang had continuously improved people's lives and guaranteed and developed their

human rights in every field. Jan Achakzai, a geopolitical analyst and a politician from Balochistan, said western media will hardly report great strides of China's success in development, grass root transformation and poverty alleviation of its once most underdeveloped Xinjiang. "China has done marvels over the last decades by reducing poverty lifting over 100 million people out of misery. The governance has delivered in terms of creating an enabling environment through special focus on infrastructure development, energy self-sufficiency, and human development. And it matters for Pakistan," he said. He added, "For Pakistan, particularly Balochistan, the Chinese success in poverty alleviation and improving under developed areas is a role model. Being the poorest of Pakistan's

provinces, Balochistan's poverty level, according to UNDP estimates, is around 70%. As Islamabad is prioritizing fundamental pillars of the economic take off, investment in infrastructure, energy and human development, a development-led governance model should be adopted in smaller provinces like Balochistan." He said another field where Pakistan can learn from the Chinese experience in Xinjiang was tourism promotion. "Tourism could be lucrative for Balochistan as it boasts best places to attract tourists from the world. China has particularly focused on this sector in Xinjiang. According to one statistic, more than 100 million tourists spent around 182 billion (\$ 26 billion) last year in the region, boosting per capita income massively," he remarked.

**Punjab: highest virus cases in almost 2 months**

*The number of corona cases started increasing after schools, colleges and educational institutions were reopened in a phased manner from September 15*

ABID RAZA / DNA

LAHORE: The number of coronavirus cases in Punjab has been on the rise and on October 10, data from the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) revealed that 203 people contracted the coronavirus, the highest number of people who tested positive for the infection in a single day, in almost two months. A look at the data shows COVID-19 cases are steadily rising in October. Out of the first 10 days of the month, in seven days more than 100 cases of the virus were reported in the province. On October 9, Punjab reported 154 cases of the infection in a single day, the second-highest tally of the month so far. On Saturday, October 10, 203 people tested positive for the virus – the highest number of persons contracting the virus since the last two months – and the highest tally of the month so far as well. The number of coronavirus cases started increasing after schools, colleges and educational institutions were reopened in a phased manner from September 15 in the province and around the country. On September 26, 187 new cases of the virus were reported throughout the province, making it the month's highest tally in a single day for Punjab.

**Corona kills 12 in one day**

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan has reported 12 deaths in last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 318,932. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 6,570, media reported on Sunday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 666 persons have been tested positive for COVID-19 in 24 hours. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pandemic in terms of cases followed by Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad. Till now 140,131 coronavirus cases have been confirmed in Sindh, 100,687 in Punjab, 38,329 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 17,296 in Islamabad, 15,520 in Balochistan, 3,045 in Azad Kashmir and 3,924 in Gilgit-Baltistan.

**Construction of two lanes of N-55 starts**



DNA

ISLAMABAD: The addition of two lanes to NA-55 National road (Ratodero-Shikarpur) was formally kicked off this week, Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday. The project is owned by National Highways Authority (NHA), and contracted by a Chinese enterprise, TIEC (Shaaxi Construction Engineering Group Corporation Limite), one of the top 250 global contractors of ENR in 2020. Located in Shikarpur,

Sindh, N-55 is about 43.4 km long. It is the first road infrastructure project in Sindh during the epidemic and the first project to be implemented by the NHA in 2020. Meanwhile, it is reckoned as an important part of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) plan. At the end of August, TIEC won the bid for this project, and it is expected to be completed in 24 months. Xu Wei, the manager of TIEC, said earlier in an interview that during the construction period of this project.

**Pilgrims returning from Iran kidnapped**

DNA

PANJGOR: Unidentified men have abducted six pilgrims returning from Iran in Isa Zai area of Balochistan's Panjgur district, an official confirmed Sunday. Amjad Soomro, the assistant commissioner in Panjgur, told a private television channel that the abductors had left two women behind and taken six men to an undisclosed location in a double cabin vehicle. According to Soomro, that the abductees are the residents of Karachi's Malir district and they illegally entered Balochistan from Iran. The two women, who were left behind by the abductors, were allowed to leave by the local administration, said the assistant commissioner. He added that the law enforcement agencies have launched an operation to recover the abductees.

**DNA tests conducted in Charsadda rape case**

DNA

CHARSADDA: Samples of more 65 suspects were taken for DNA tests in the rape-cum-murder case of two-and-a-half-year-old girl. Sources said police are investigating the arrested suspects but have not yet been able to find a clue about the culprits behind the felony. A police official said the police were taking the investigation forward on the basis of evidence collected from the crime scene. The police said they have not yet received a DNA report of the minor girl. Sources said that they will present the suspects before the court after receiving DNA report of the suspects. The medical report of the body of the minor victim has confirmed that she was sexually assaulted before being stabbed to death. Earlier, on October 6, the mutilated body of Zainab was found dumped in the fields in the Daudzai area of Peshawar, close to Charsadda. The incident has sparked an outcry in the area with the family of the victim demanding immediate arrest of the culprits. The Charsadda police have registered a case under abduction, sexual assault and murder sections.

**First direct flight of British Airways today**

DNA

KARACHI: The British Airways is all set to operate its first direct flight to Lahore from London tomorrow (Monday). As per details, a flight carrying 300 passengers on board will fly for Lahore from London's Heathrow airport. The flight will land at Lahore airport Tuesday morning. Arrangements at the Lahore airport have been finalised, whereas UK diplomatic staff and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) officials will welcome passengers of the flight. Flight will fly for Lahore from London's Heathrow airport and reach provincial capital of Punjab Tuesday morning. UK diplomatic staff and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) officials will welcome passengers of the flight. According to a schedule, the airline will operate direct flights from Lahore, Pakistan to London four days a week. All flights will be operated by a Boeing 787-8 departing from Heathrow Terminal 5, landing into Lahore's International Airport, according to British Airways airline. It is pertinent to mention here that British Airways resumed flight operations to Pakistan in June 2019. Flight operations that were suspended again due to the coronavirus pandemic resumed in August. The airline already flies from Islamabad.

**TikTok approaches PTA for negotiations**

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Just two days after a ban was imposed on the Chinese video-sharing application in Pakistan, TikTok officials have approached Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and agreed on an effective mechanism for negotiations that would curb "immoral or indecent content". PTA spokesperson Khuram Mehran said while there may be other reasons for a ban on the application in other countries, the reason it was banned in Pakistan was the "sharing of immoral content" due to the "absence of proactive moderation of unlawful online content". According to a tweet from TikTok officials, the company is working to restore services in Pakistan. The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) had blocked Chinese-owned video-sharing app TikTok after the company "failed to fully comply" with its instructions for "development of an effective mechanism for proactive moderation of unlawful online content".

**British High Commissioner visits Northern areas**

DNA / STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The British High Commissioner Christian Turner travelled to Chitral, Hunza and Gilgit this week in his first visit to the North of Pakistan. The visit was part of a joint effort with the Canadian High Commission and the Aga Khan Foundation. During the visit, the British High Commissioner stressed the potential for sustainable tourism in northern Pakistan to create jobs and support local communities. He also saw the impacts of climate change on local communities. Pakistan is the 5th most vulnerable country to climate change, and has more glacial ice than any country in

the world outside the Polar Regions, since 2015, the number of lakes caused by melting glaciers in Pakistan has increased from 30 to 150. He highlighted UK's support for Pakistan's drive to find nature-based solutions to climate change, in advance of the UK-hosted COP26 international climate negotiations in 2021. British High Commissioner Christian Turner CMG said: "In my first visit to the North of Pakistan I was blown away by its natural beauty. But the potential for sustainable tourism and its communities are at risk from climate change. As part of our preparations for hosting the 2021 COP26 climate negotiations, the UK will do more to help vulnerable communities in



Pakistan deal with the impact of climate change and protect these magnificent landscapes. Our world is our responsibility". The High Commissioner visited UK funded climate-re-



silience activities in central Garam Chashma. UK plans to invest £13 million in Pakistan this year on tackling climate change. This will include supporting vulnerable communities adapt to climate change, improve resilience through emergency

disaster planning and helping to increase the use of renewable energy. The visit also focused on girl's education and support for gender equality. The UK is committed to ensuring every girl gets 12 years of quality education,

and has supported nearly 8 million girls in Pakistan to attend primary and secondary school. The High Commissioner visited Government Girls School in Hunza, the Chitral Women Sports Club and met inspiring women entrepreneurs who are leading the way on achieving Pakistan's potential and delivering inclusive prosperity in their communities. At Karakorum International University, the High Commissioner awarded Scottish Pakistan Scholarships to students; and learned about their experience and future ambitions. The Scotland Pakistan Scholarship for Young Women and Girls aims to make higher education more accessible to underprivileged girls across Pakistan.