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Spain, Pakistan relations excellent, says Manuel Duran

Armenian leadership abides by no moral rules: Hikmat Hajiyeve

Shibli hails role of Tiger Force in curbing inflation

Briefs

Shafqat likely to be new Info Minister

NAVEED MIRAZ

ISLAMABAD: Shafqat Mahmood currently holding charge of the Education Minister is likely to be the new Information Minister while Yousaf Baig Mirza is likely to become SAPM on Information. According to details Asim Bajwa who has stepped down as SAPM, is likely to be replaced by Yousaf Baig Mirza. Shaikh Rasheed was also approached for the portfolio of Information Minister however he preferred to stay at the Railways Ministry. PM Imran relieved retired Lt Gen Asim Saleem Bajwa of his additional portfolio of special assistant to the prime minister on information and broadcasting.

Shibli hails Tiger Force

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Senator Shibli Faraz has said the government is working efficiently to ensure good governance, rule of law and to improve the living standard of common man. Talking to a private news channel in Islamabad on Monday, the minister said Prime Minister Imran Khan and his team is taking all possible measures to reduce the inflation in order to alleviate poverty in the country. He lauded the role of Tiger Force, working along with different administrators, to control the inflation.

Zardari admitted to ICU

ATHAR SUFI

KARACHI: Former president of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardari was shifted to an ICU of a private hospital in Karachi on Sunday evening and reportedly has a severe chest infection. According to his personal physician, Dr Asim Hussain, the former president's blood sugar level had also dropped drastically. According to reports, various medical experts are examining the former president and conducting various tests under the supervision of Dr Hussain.

Second wave of COVID-19 likely: PMA

“Unfortunately, the government’s response so far is limited to the issuance of notifications of SOPs”

ABID RAZA / DNA

LAHORE: Amid rising positivity rate in the country which has now crossed 2%, the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) has warned the authorities and the general public about the foreseeable second spike of coronavirus, which is likely to start from educational institutions as it happened in US, India and Iran. “Unfortunately, the government’s response so far is limited to the issuance of notifications of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), whose implementation is non-existent anywhere including schools,” said the PMA office-bearers while addressing a press conference here on Sunday. They said that the winter has arrived and schools have opened, and any carelessness on part of the government and the public might trigger a second spike of coronavirus in the country. “However, the situation on the ground is entirely opposite as no precautions were being observed in schools, which were opened in congested buildings,” they regretted.

They said PMA was concerned about the situation that might lead to a second spike of coronavirus and demanded of the government to act beyond lip-service and ensure implementation of SOPs.

Asad Umar concerned

SHUJAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar expressed concerns over the rising number of COVID-19 cases, saying that the government has started imposing smart lockdown again to contain the spread of the pandemic. In a tweet, Asad Umar who also chairs the meeting of National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) on coronavirus, said that during previous six weeks, the average positivity ratio of COVID was under 2%, however, in the outgoing week, the positivity rate went above 2% that was a matter of concern.

Minister, Iraqi Commander discuss defense issues

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Commander Iraqi Air Force Lt. Gen Shahab Jahid Ali Al Shakarchi called on Minister for Defence Production Zubaida Jalal in Rawalpindi on Monday. Matters pertaining to defence production and mutual interest discussed during the meeting. The Minister, on the occasion, also presented a shield to Commander of Iraqi Air Force. Last month, Hamid Abbas Lafta, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Islamabad, had met with the Minister of Defence Production, Zubaida Jalal, at the Ministry’s headquarters.



At the beginning of the meeting, the Minister thanked the Ambassador for his interest and follow-up on the common related to the military side, while praising the courage and bravery of the Iraqi military establishment in defeating the terrorism.

World no longer buying India’s narrative: FM

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi on Monday defended the government’s foreign policy performance under his watch, saying the world was no longer “blindly” buying the Indian narrative due to Islamabad’s successful efforts to counter negative perceptions. Addressing an event titled ‘Vision FO’ in Islamabad, he said a Strategic Communications Division was set up at the Foreign Office to carry out narrative building to fight the “global battle of perception”.

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HRW report exposed Indian atrocities: FO

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Spokesman, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri has said that the latest report of Human Rights watch has exposed Indian atrocities in IIOJK and discriminatory attitude towards the minorities in India. The prevailing situation in IIOJK is worsening day by day and since August 5 last year Indian forces have been using every brutal tool against the Kashmiris, he highlighted while speaking to a Radio Pakistan’s current affairs program. He said at the time, the condemnation of Indian policies has been observed across the globe, adding, UNSC held three meetings over Kashmir dispute in two years and the Kashmir issue is being discussed in parliaments of various countries.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Imran Khan. – DNA

Spain, Pak relations excellent: Manuel Duran Spanish national day not celebrated this year due to pandemic

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Spain Manuel Duran said October 12 is the Spanish national day however this year due to COVID 19 pandemic, unfortunately the national day shall not be celebrated in a festive manner. In a Tweet Ambassador Duran said nevertheless there is something to celebrate and that is great friendship between Spain and Pakistan. It may be mentioned there that usually the Spanish national day is a highly festive event participated by all segments of society. The national day reception always takes place at the lush green lawns of the Spanish residence.

Motorway case: Prime suspect arrested

DNA

FAISALABAD: The prime suspect in the Lahore motorway rape case, Abid Malhi, has been arrested from Faisalabad, according to police. Police said that Abid is being brought to Lahore from Faisalabad where his DNA test will be taken. The other suspect who allegedly raped the woman, Shafqat, is in jail on judicial remand. The Intelligence Bureau (IB), Special Branch of the police and other agencies had done a recce of the suspect and tipped off Punjab Police about the whereabouts of Malhi.

Govt decides to allow PDM to hold rallies

The opposition will be bound by coronavirus SOPs at meetings, while the district administration will ensure adherence to SOPs in opposition rallies

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The government on Monday decided to allow the opposition to hold anti-government rallies across the country. The decision to allow the 11-party opposition alliance Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) to hold rallies across the country was taken in a meeting presided over by Prime Minister Imran Khan. The government will issue No Objection Certificates (NOC) to the opposition for organizing rallies.

Continued on Page 06

Remittances rise to \$2.3 bn in Sept

FIJAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: PM Imran Khan Monday said there is more good news for Pakistan’s economy despite COVID-19 as remittances from overseas Pakistanis rose to \$2.3 billion in September 2020. The premier tweeted that the remittances were 31 percent higher than last September and 9% higher than August 2020. This marks the fourth consecutive month that the remittances have remained above \$2 billion, he added. It is pertinent here to mention that the remittances sent by overseas Pakistanis reached to \$2.095 billion during month of August 2020, showing 24.4 percent increase over same month of last year.

SC issues notice to PM for attending political event

“The prime minister cannot support any one particular group as he is the premier of the entire country”

STAFF REPORT / DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Monday issued a notice to Prime Minister Imran Khan for attending an event of the Insaf Lawyers Forum and for the alleged misuse of public funds to arrange the party’s legal wing. The event of the party’s legal wing was held on October 9 in the federal capital’s Jinnah Convention Centre. Speaking at the Insaf Lawyers Forum, (ILF) the premier fired a fresh salvo against former premier Nawaz Sharif, claiming that the PML-N supreme had ended up in a feud with every army chief because he wanted to “turn the military into Punjab police”. “The prime minister cannot support any one particular group as he is the premier of the entire country,” said Justice Qazi Faez Isa during a hearing. The court also directed the in-charge of the convention centre to inform who paid for the expenses of the event. Notices were also issued to the attorney general, Punjab advocate general, convention centre in-charge and concerned ministries. The court also referred the matter to Chief Justice of Pakistan Gulzar Ahmed for the constitution of a bench. The apex court judge added that the premier participated in the event in his personal capacity and the premier can not align himself with any particular group. “The premier supported a particular group by attending the ceremony,” said Justice Isa. Additional Advocate General Punjab Qasim Chauhan, replying to the judge’s remarks, said every political party can have a wing under Article 17 of the Constitution.

PM lauds Australia’s COVID-19 response



AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan had a telephonic conversation with Prime Minister of Australia, Scott Morrison on Monday and discussed bilateral matters and international issues of mutual interest. The prime minister appreciated Australia’s impressive management of COVID-19 situation and highlighted the unprecedented global health and economic challenges posed by the pandemic. He noted that his government’s emphasis had been on saving lives, securing livelihoods, and stimulating the economy. The “smart lockdown” strategy and other measures taken by the government had led to significant containment of the pandemic in Pakistan, he added.

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Amb. Khokhar presents credentials to UNIDO DG



DNA

VIENNA: Ambassador Af-tab Ahmad Khokhar presented his credentials as Pakistan’s Permanent Representative to the United

Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) based in Vienna to Mr. Li Yong, Director General. Ambassador Khokhar and Director General Li Yong had a detailed exchange of views on the mutually ben-

eficial cooperation between Pakistan and UNIDO. Director General Li Yong appreciated Pakistan’s long standing support to UNIDO and assured of UNIDO’s full cooperation for sustainable and inclusive industrial development of Pakistan. Ambassador Khokhar acknowledged the support of UNIDO for implementing many projects in Pakistan aimed at indigenous capacity building and technical assistance in various sectors. UNIDO has assisted Pakistan for increasing competitiveness of industrial products through testing, monitoring, standardization and certification for conformity assessment.

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Briefs

PM decision to appoint Gohar as SAPM backed

DNA

KARACHI: Senior Vice Chairman of Businessmen Panel of FPCCI and Chief of FPCCI Standing Committee on FBR, Public Utilities and Fairs and Exhibitions and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Monday supported the decision of the Prime Minister Imran Khan to appoint Tabish Gohar as Special Assistant to PM on energy. Mr. Gohar is a foreign qualified and globally known energy expert and has a lot on his credit including bringing K-Electric to profit therefore the business community is pinning high hopes on him, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that putting the power sector back on track will be a challenge for him and the business community will fully cooperate with him. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said notorious power sector circular debt has jumped to Rs2.28 trillion by September and it is increasing at a worrying pace of Rs1.5 trillion per day. The IMF programme which was suspended in January cannot be resumed unless the issue of circular debt is settled according to the wishes of the lender by increasing power tariff to unsustainable levels which is being resisted by the government. He said that presently many old and inefficient power stations are being operated in the country adding to the debt, power production is more than consumption while government is bound to pay for it, heavy capacity charges are hitting power sector while the faulty transmission system is unable to transmit power generated by the power plants.

SHC stays execution of Baldia factory fire case convicts

DNA

KARACHI: Sindh High Court (SHC) on Monday admitted for hearing appeals of five convicts challenging their sentences in the Baldia factory fire case. According to details, SHC has sought the complete record of the case from the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) that handed down the September 22 verdict sentencing Zubair Chariya and Abdul Rehman to death for their role in the deaths of over 260 people in the 2012 Baldia factory fire. Earlier, the two MQM workers along with other convicts approached the Sindh High Court (SHC) to challenge their conviction in the high-profile Baldia factory fire case. The appeal argued that the ATC ignored important evidence while pronouncing its verdict. They have asked the high court to overturn the ATC's verdict. Lawyers of factory workers who were handed over prison time argued that police declared their clients innocent in its investigation and no witnesses record statements against watchmen Fazal Muhammad and Ali Muhammad. Earlier, on September 22, anti-terrorism court in its verdict in the high-profile Baldia factory fire case sentenced Rehman Bhola and Zubair Chariya to death.

Court extends interim bail of Rana Sana, others

DNA

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Monday extended interim bail of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leaders Rana Sanaullah and others till October 15 in Lahore NAB office clash case. ATC Judge Arshad Hussain Bhutta conducted the case proceedings wherein Rana Sanaullah and 28 others appeared before the court. A counsel on behalf of Capt (ret'd) Muhammad Safdar, son-in-law of former prime minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, submitted an application for a one-time exemption from personal appearance. The counsel pleaded with the court to allow the application. At this, the court allowed the application and granted exemption from personal appearance to Capt (ret'd) Safdar and extended interim bail of all accused till October 15 while adjourning further hearing. The investigation officer also submitted a report during the proceedings.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan chairs meeting of National Coordination committee on COVID-19. – DNA

PMC decision to hold MDCAT this year perplexes students

PMC President Dr Arshad Taqi said that students' anxiety was natural, as it is difficult to digest change. He said students should not worry, adding there would not be any complications with the MDCAT and the council was determined to address issues

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Medical Commission's (PMC) decision to hold a single medical and dental colleges admissions test (MDCAT) across the country has put students in limbo, as the PMC Act states that the commission will hold the national MDCAT in 2021. Students have asked why the PMC is planning to hold the MDCAT in violation of its act, which also states that the test will be held according to recommendations by an academic board that has yet to be established. A faculty member has

also asked how the PMC, which has directed colleges to propose their annual fees by Oct 20, will assess the infrastructure, faculty, facilities and quality of education of 172 colleges in a week – the length of time that the PMC will take to approve the fees. PMC President Dr Arshad Taqi said that students' anxiety was natural, as it is difficult to digest change. He said students should not worry, adding there would not be any complications with the MDCAT and the council was determined to address issues. A few days ago, students from the Rawalpindi Medical University met

with Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Health Services Dr Faisal Sultan and asked why students were not being given an appropriate amount of time before the introduction of the MDCAT and the National Licensing Exam (NLE). They argued that the United Kingdom decided to introduce the UK Medical Licensing Examination in 2015, but it will not be implemented until 2023. They also said that if the MDCAT is being introduced in 2020, the NLE – an exit exam – should be held in 2025 for the same batch that will sit for the MDCAT this year. They said that with separate pre-medical

curriculums across Pakistan, it was impossible for all students to appear in a single MDCAT. Dr Sultan told the students that the decision to form the PMC and introduce the MDCAT was made in students' best interest and would ensure education quality. A faculty member at a medical college who asked to remain anonymous said there was no precedent across the world for an immediate implementation of policies. He said: "The USMLE was announced in 1980s and was implemented in 1990s. Same was the case in UK. In Pakistan, it is clearly mentioned in the PMC Act that the MDCAT will

be held in 2021 but the PMC has announced it in year 2020. Moreover, it is mentioned in section 13 of Act that the academic board, which is yet to be established, will set the standard of MDCAT but test has been announced." On its website, the PMC has directed medical and dental colleges to propose their annual fees by Oct 20, which the commission will then take seven days to approve after an evaluation. "It is impossible to evaluate as many as 172 colleges within seven days. It means that the fees will be decided through negotiations and students will have to pay the exorbitant fees," he said.

UNODC hands-over crime scene vehicles to Gujranwala police

DNA

GUJRANWALA: A ground-breaking ceremony of handing over state-of-the-art purpose-built Crime Scene Vehicles to Gujranwala Police concludes among a lot of applause at the Gujranwala Police Lines on 12 October 2020. It brought together a cross-section of criminal justice sector stakeholders, including district police Gujranwala, Punjab Police and key representatives from UNODC. The event was appreciated as one of the milestones among a stream of transformative activities supported by the partnership between the Punjab Police and UNODC with the generous support of the Government of Norway. Speaking on the occasion, Jeremy Milsom, Representative, UNODC Country Office in Pakistan stressed the importance of equipping first responders with technology that helps to minimize the potential contamination of evidence in crime scene investigation. As the first-ever intervention of its kind

for the Gujranwala Police, Milsom mentioned that this will go a long way in modeling investigation techniques and skills of front-line police personnel through access to state-of-the-art crime scene vehicles. He further affirmed UNODC's commitment towards delivering peace and justice to the people of Pakistan. Through the Crime Scene Vehicles, Gujranwala Police will have the means to deploy better support in the gathering and processing of physical and forensic evidence in line with international standards. The ceremony was well-represented by senior representatives of Gujranwala Police. The participants appreciated the intervention as a refreshing and long-awaited step towards modernizing a speedy and efficient gathering of evidence in crime scene investigations. The intervention is part of the four-year project, "Enhanced Capacities of Criminal Justice Actors in Punjab, Pakistan supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is expected to conclude in 2021.

Artificial inflation will not be tolerated: CM Buzdar

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Usman Buzdar here on Monday has summoned a meeting of the Price Control Committee to review the situation of inflation in the province.

Concerned authorities will brief the CM about the steps being taken by them to control over increasing inflation. Usman Buzdar in his statement said that artificial inflation cannot be tolerated at any cost. "Will utilize every possible way to provide relief to the

masses." He directed the concerned authorities for strict monitoring of prices of the daily use items in the market. Earlier, Prime Minister Imran Khan had directed the volunteers of the Tiger Force to regularly check prices of basic commodities like Flour,

Sugar, Ghee and lentils in their localities. In a tweet, he asked the volunteers to post the prices on Tiger Force Portal. The Prime Minister said he will meet with the Tiger Force volunteers on Saturday next at Convention Center in Islamabad.



MULATAN: Managing Director Pakistan Bait-ul-Amal, Aon Abbas Buppi talking with a child after cochlear implant surgery in Mukhar A Sheikh hospital. – APP

Halal market fastest growing segment of trade

Presence of Trillion-Dollar Halal Food Market Being the largest segment in the halal industry; the increasing demand for halal food is evident with total spending of \$ 1.13 trillion on halal Food and Beverages

DNA

The global halal market is the emerging and fastest-growing consumer segment of the international trade which is estimated at \$ 3 trillion at present, growing from \$635 billion in 2010, and is forecast to reach \$ 3.2 trillion by 2023. According to the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC), the overall spending on the halal sector in the world remained at about \$3.15 trillion in 2014 (as per latest available figures) representing 2.6% market share of total spending in the world. The industry is largely dominated by the consumer items ranging from processed foods and beverages to the pharmaceuticals, fashion and cosmetics. Among halal goods, halal food has

grabbed the largest market share of about 36% in the overall halal industry, reflecting its upward trend in the world. Presence of Trillion-Dollar Halal Food Market Being the largest segment in the halal industry; the increasing demand for halal food is evident with total spending of \$ 1.13 trillion on halal Food and Beverages (F&B) out of global spending of \$ 6.75 trillion on the Food and Beverages during 2014; representing its market share of 16.7%. The Muslims are expected to make around 26% of the world's population by 2020, thus their spending on halal F&B is projected to be at \$ 1.59 trillion occupying 16.9% of the market share. The augmented demand for halal food has made it a lucrative business activity to invest and earn profits. Livestock experts believe that Pakistan can



earn Rs50 billion foreign exchange annually by exporting halal meat and Rs40 billion by exporting sacrificial animals on Hajj. The overall volume of exports of halal meat is more than \$3 billion and Pakistan has nearly six per cent share in it. To take advantage of such a big po-

tential market, Pakistan needs to mobilize all the institutions working for trade and export development to focus on those markets which have large population and higher meat consumption rates to enhance halal meat exports from Pakistan. China, Turkey, Malaysia, Indonesia, Central Asian States and other such countries which have a large population and considered as heavy importers of meat and meat products from around the world should be targeted instead of targeting only Arab countries. For these purposes, commercial officers posted in the above-mentioned countries should be given annual targets of growing exports while meat exporters and processors should be supported to participate in business exhibitions and fairs. Pakistan as an Islamic country has all

the potential to become a leader in this sector with special emphasis on Halal and processed meat. Nevertheless, despite all these facts, meat exporters of Pakistan are facing furious competition from their counterparts like India, Brazil and Africa. Governmental support for meat export sector is scarce, even the procedures to handle meat exports are troublesome. The government should pay attention to these hiccups besides arranging repatriation of money of livestock exporters stuck abroad due to the default of certain buyers. To make room in the trillions of dollars halal products market, practice of allocating Live Animal Export Special Quotas should be abolished and only value-added products of livestock should be allowed to export.

Air Vice Marshal Zafar Aslam calls on CM

DNA

LAHORE: Air Officer Commanding, Central Air Command Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Lahore, Air Vice Marshal Zafar Aslam called on Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar in his office on Monday.

The CM paid tributes to the valiant role played by PAF for defending the country and stated the whole nation was proud of the air force. He said the whole world had also recognized the professional skills and capabilities of the PAF, says a handout. It was satisfying that PAF was also active in the social sector and full cooperation would be extended to it in every social sector including education, he said. The CM assured that the government was striving for early completion of the cadet college project in Fort Munroe and more resources would be provided. The Punjab government and PAF would continue collaboration in the health and education sectors, he added.

KP Govt plans to strengthen hospitals

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has planned to strengthen 283 hospitals and 988 dispensaries to provide better health-care facilities to patients. To minimize load of patients at public sectors hospitals in Peshawar, all these hospitals would be equipped with latest equipment, specialist doctors and paramedics. As per development plan, wheelchairs, stretchers and others facilities to all districts and tehsil headquarters hospitals would be provided.

Officials in KP Health Department told APP on Monday that out of 1,279 hospitals in Pakistan, 283 were existed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa having 12.33 percent share. Similarly, the number of dispensaries in the country has increased to 7,671 including 988 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with 12.88 percent share besides 747 mother and child hospitals in the country including 151 in KP with 20.21 share to provide quality healthcare services to newborn and pregnant mothers. To address shortage of doctors in remote and far flung hospitals, the official said consultant doctors including Trainee Medical Officers (TMOs) were hired on contract basis for provision of quick medical services to patients at district and tehsil level and would continue services until arrival of doctors recommended by KP Public Service Commission. The number of doctors in all hospitals of Pakistan has mounted to 220,829 including 7,849 in KP besides 108,474 nurses in the country including 5885 in KP with 5.43 share.

Referring to a Bureau of Statistics, Planning and Development Department KP report 2019, one hospital, a dispensary besides one bed was available for 1,608 persons in the country and 1,721 persons in KP besides one doctor for 963 persons in the country and 4603 persons in KP. To provide best health-care facilities to patients besides vaccination services to children and food supplement to lactating mothers, the official said 19,910 lady health workers in Pakistan including 1,481 in KP were performing duties with 7.44 percent share. – APP

Sharaqपुरi moves for legal action against PML-N leaders

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) disgruntled leader Mian Jaleel Ahmed Sharaqपुरi has submitted an application in the Punjab Assembly secretary and requested the speaker to take legal action against leaders of his party for misbehaving with him in the provincial assembly. Mian Jaleel Ahmed has demanded action against Mian Abdul Rauf, Mirza Javed and other PML-N members, maintaining that Mian Abdul Rauf initiated the misconduct and was later joined by Mirza Javed. The applicant said the PML-N leaders tried to take his resignation forcefully and put a lota [plastic vessel] on his turban. Mian Jaleel Ahmed requested to take action against the PML-N leaders for holding an assembly member hostage.

Briefs

DHA launches helpline about measles

DNA

RAWALPINDI: District Health Authority (DHA) Rawalpindi has launched a public awareness helpline for treatment and information about measles here on Monday. According to health authority spokesman, If any child has symptoms of measles including fever, rash, runny nose, cough and red eyes can contact 03219397639 from 9 am to 3 pm. He said that measles was a contagious and dangerous disease for children, the complications including diarrhoea, pneumonia, meningitis can be fatal for a child. The spokesman informed that the government has included immunization against measles at the age of 9 months to 15 months in its immunization schedule. He urged the parents to complete the immunization course for their children and if any symptoms of measles found in the child, contact immediately to the health authority so that a blood sample can be taken from the affected child and treatment facilities could be provided.

T-20 matches; alternate route advised

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi on Monday advised the citizens to use alternate route to avoid inconvenience as Double Road would remain closed particularly during cricket matches in Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. According to Deputy Superintendent Police, CTP, Malik Azhar, CTP were making all out efforts to regulate traffic in adjacent areas of the Cricket Stadium where the matches of T-20 Quid-e-Azam Trophy are being played. The CTP had issued a traffic plan for the cricket matches and facilitate the citizens, he said adding, the double road would remain closed for all kind of vehicular traffic from start to conclusion of the matches, scheduled to be played from Oct 9 to 18. He urged the road users to cooperate with the police personnel performing duties during the matches. The traffic coming from Rawal Dam, Islamabad towards Rawalpindi is being diverted to Expressway. The traffic could enter Rawalpindi via Dhoke Kala Khan, Khanna and Korali. The traffic from Rawalpindi to Islamabad would take U-turn in front of the Kidney Centre and use opposite side to enter Islamabad. The traffic coming from JIP Road and 9th Avenue Chowk towards Rawalpindi would take Pindora Chungi Katari, Carriage Factory, Pir Wadhai route to enter Rawalpindi instead of the Double Road. He said that heavy traffic would be strictly banned in the area around the stadium. He urged the cricket lovers to park their vehicles on designated points to avoid any inconvenience.

Rupee strengthens against dollar

ISLAMABAD: The exchange rate of Pakistani rupee strengthened by 2 paisas against US dollar in the interbank trading on Monday and closed at Rs163.81 against the previous day's closing of 163.83. Meanwhile, according to Forex Association of Pakistan, the buying and selling rates of dollar in open market were recorded at Rs163.8 and Rs164.5 respectively. In interbank trading, the price of euro appreciated by 13 paisas and closed at Rs193.50 against the last day's trading of Rs193.37, State Bank of Pakistan reported. The Japanese Yen gained one paisa to close at Rs1.55, whereas an increase of Rs 1.37 was witnessed in the exchange rate of British Pound which was traded at Rs 213.49 as compared to its last closing of Rs212.12. The exchange rates of Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal decreased by 1 paisa each to close at Rs 44.59 and Rs 43.66 respectively. — APP

COMSATS-Afghanistan to strengthen cooperation

The meeting concluded on the note of establishing closer relations between Afghanistan and COMSATS Member States

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Afghanistan's support to COMSATS' mandate and willingness to benefit from the programmes and operations of the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) has been renewed. During his visit to COMSATS Secretariat on Monday, the Deputy Head of Mission/Chargé d'affaires, Embassy of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Islamabad, Ahmad Shakir Qarar, has welcomed the offer of scientific cooperation and explored the country's interests in becoming the organization's member. On the occasion, Executive Director COMSATS, Dr. S.M. Junaid Zaidi, expressed his strong resolve to create scientific and academic linkages between Afghanistan and COMSATS' member countries, including the host country, Pakistan.

Apart from a case built in favor of Afghanistan's membership to COMSATS, matters discussed during the meeting between the Afghan diplomat and senior officials of COMSATS included: COMSATS as an effective partner for regional and international cooperation in

S&T and development; possible cooperation in science and technology-led development; connections and synergies with institutions around the globe especially from countries having similar development challenges; academic and scientific exchanges among Afghanistan and COMSATS' Member States. Academic linkages through University of Nangarhar, Kabul University, and University of Herat of Afghanistan were encouraged and COMSATS Telehealth (CTH) was deemed a useful means to addressing the country's medical and healthcare needs. Mr. Qarar indicated that he would explore collaborations in context of the latter with Afghan health department back home in order to build synergies and to establish a viable health solution for the country. The meeting concluded on the note of establishing closer relations between Afghanistan and COMSATS Member States.



CPR training prevents risk of heart attack: PANAH

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH) General Secretary Sanaullah Ghuman on Monday said smoking, increased consumption of sweets and fats were leading causes of heart diseases. Addressing the participants of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) workshop organized by Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission General Hospital, he said unhealthy food and other factors causing heart diseases should be discouraged by sensitizing the citizens about their adverse impact. A large number of Atomic Energy Commission General Hospital Director Brigadier Junaid, CPR Director Dr. Shahnaz, senior and junior doctors, nurses and paramedics and other staff

were present more than 80 people trained during cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) workshop, said a press release. CPR Director (Panah) Dr. Shahnaz during the session trained the staff of more than 80 and also made practical observations to show how human lives can be saved by giving first aid. Training has been declared necessary for every public and special individual. Panah General Secretary Sanaullah Ghuman said that saving human lives means saving the whole of humanity. Asylum was founded in 1984, the purpose of which was to make the general public aware about heart diseases, not to ignore heart diseases. You may be surprised to learn that in the first 10 minutes, then 6 minutes and now a minute and a half later, a

human life is being lost due to a heart attack. We need to make exercise a routine with a healthy natural diet to avoid serious heart diseases, avoid heart-damaging factors, smoking, sugary drinks and fats. On the occasion, Brigadier Junaid, Director, Pak Atomic Energy Commission General Hospital, lauded the efforts of Panah and said that Panah has always provided awareness to protect people from heart disease, for which we are grateful. Conducting workshops to save lives which is welcome, basic awareness is essential for every individual, so that human lives can be saved. The participants termed the one-day workshop as very effective and said that such information workshops should be held in future also. Can also be helpful in saving precious lives.

Int'l Day of Rural Women being marked

ISLAMABAD: Like other parts of the globe, International Day of Rural Women is being marked today on October 15 across the globe including Pakistan to honor the role of rural women. Women and girls are disadvantaged in this pandemic, a problem aggravated in rural areas. Rural women already face specific previous struggles in their daily lives. Now, since COVID-19 and their unique health needs in remote areas, they are less likely to have access to quality health services, essential medicines, and vaccines. We need to advocate for sufficient services (water, health, electricity, etc.) to support women's productive and unpaid care and domestic work, which is exacerbated by the crisis. At the same time, paid work has an even wider gender wage gap and disadvantages than in urban areas. — APP

Pervaiz Ashraf's pleas adjourned

Ashraf's lawyer Arshad Tabraiz adopted the stance that his client had not taken any kind of kickbacks in the projects

ISLAMABAD: An Accountability Court (AC) on Monday adjourned hearing till October 27, on acquittal pleas of former prime minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf in references pertaining to Reshman and Gulf rental projects. AC-III Judge Syed Asghar Ali conducted hearing on acquittal pleas of PPP's stalwart Raja Pervaiz Ashraf and other accused in above references moved by National Accountability Bureau (NAB). At the outset of hearing, NAB Prosecutor Waseem Javed opposed the acquittal pleas of the accused and adopted the stance that the former prime minister had filed the cases under amendments in NAB Ordinance. He said that an identical case was pending before the IHC and prayed the court to postpone arguments on it till the judgment. Ashraf's lawyer Arshad Tabraiz adopted the stance that his client had not taken any kind of kickbacks in the projects. The former prime minister couldn't be indicted in this case in accordance of the law, he said. After hearing arguments, the court adjourned hearing of the case till next date.

Huge cache of arms recovered, 24 held

RAWALPINDI: Police have seized a huge cache of arms and ammunition in the jurisdiction of Police Station Chuntra and held 24 outlaws, informed police spokesman here on Monday. The arms and ammunition captured by police included 16 Kalashnikov, 1 rifle 7MM, 1 rifle 223 bore, 3 pistols 30 bore and bullets from their possession. Police have registered separate cases against all of them. City Police Officer CPO Muhammad Ahsan Younas has appreciated the performance of police team adding that strict action must be taken against anti social elements. He made it clear that exhibition of arms and to keep illegal weapons would not be tolerated. — APP

Dacoit gang busted; three arrested

RAWALPINDI: Pirwadhai police have busted a dacoit gang identified as King gang and arrested its three members besides recovering cash, mobile phones and weapons. According to a police spokesman, a police team was constituted under the supervision of Station House Officer, Pirwadhai Police Station which after hectic efforts managed to net three criminals namely Haseeb, Mansoor and Abid Ullah who were dacoit gang members and allegedly involved in number of dacoities and street crimes in different areas. The gang members confessed to have committed dacoities, cash, mobile snatching and other crimes in different areas. The police also recovered Rs 41,500 cash, mobile phones and weapons from their possession. A case has been registered against them. — APP

Worker's remittances surge 31.2

ISLAMABAD: The workers' remittances sent by the overseas Pakistanis surged by 31.2 percent to \$2.3 billion in September against same month of last year. The remittances stood at above \$2 billion for fourth consecutive month in September, said a statement issued by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). On month on month basis, the remittances also witnessed an increase of 9 percent in September when compared to the inflow of \$2.095 billion recorded during August this year. The average inflow during first quarter of current fiscal year July-Sept (2020-21) also witnessed a sharp increase of 31.1 percent as it rose to \$7.1 billion against \$5.45 billion in same period of previous year. The statement added that the level of remittances in September was slightly higher than SBP's projections of \$2 billion. Efforts under the Pakistan Remittances Initiative (PRI) and the gradual re-opening of major host destinations such as Middle East, Europe and United States contributed to the sustained increase in workers' remittances. The details show that in September, the worker's inflow from USA stood at \$180.35 million, while an amount of \$289.3 million was sent from United Kingdom. — APP

Railways upgrade 620 coaches

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has upgraded as many as 620 coaches from its own resources to increase revenue of the department and facilitate its passengers for comfortable travel during the last three years. Giving the year wise breakup of the upgraded coaches, an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP that 168 coaches were upgraded in 2016-17, 192 in 2017-18 and 260 coaches in 2018-19. Regarding the availability of coaches, he said that at present around 472 coaches were out of service or non-functional, which needed heavy or light repair. Giving details about the repair, the official said that 39 coaches of Pakistan Railways under survey of condemnations being over-aged and beyond economical repair. The official said that 205 coaches were available in workshops under periodical overhauling and nominated repair. Around 228 coaches available in Lahore division and in Carriage Factory and C&W Shops held up since long for repairs. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Col Yamamoto Hidetaka (Defence Attaché), Embassy of Japan Pakistan being presented a gift during Pak Japan Bilateral Counter Narcotics Meeting. — DNA

ANF seizes 1.951 tons drugs, arrests 46

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan has seized 1.951 tons narcotics worth US\$ 73.297 million in international market, arrested 46 accused including seven females and six foreigners besides impounding 20 vehicles while conducting 40 counter-narcotic strikes across the country. According to an ANF spokesman on Monday, the seized drugs comprised of 1815.3 kg Hashish, 45.96 kg Heroin, 18.455 kg Methamphetamine (Ice), 61.155 kg Opium, 2300x Al-prazolam tabs and 10 kg suspected powder. ANF KP, Police Station ANF Peshawar intercepted a car at University Road Peshawar and recovered 6.000 kg Opium & 9.600 kg Hashish besides arresting Khan Alam resident of Khyber Agency. In another operation, ANF Pe-

shawar conducted an intelligence based operation at Ring Road Peshawar and intercepted a car and recovered 13.050 kg Heroin. In third operation, the staff of Police Station ANF Mansehra intercepted a car at Township Market, Mansehra and recovered 7.200 kg Hashish. Three accused namely Muhammad Ismail Syed, Muhammad Aslam and Siraj Muhammad all r/o Peshawar were arrested. In fourth operation, the staff of Police Station ANF Peshawar intercepted a van at Motorway Toll Plaza Peshawar and recovered 16.800 kg Hashish. Three persons onboard including a female namely Mustaqeem Khan r/o Nowshera, Ijaz Khan and Shaila Niazi both r/o Swat were arrested. In fifth operation, ANF Peshawar arrested an accused namely Haroon ur Rasheed r/o Mardan at Motorway Toll Plaza, Peshawar and recovered 1.200 kgs Hashish. In sixth operation,

ANF Peshawar staff intercepted a car at University Road, Peshawar and recovered 14.000 kg Heroin. An accused namely Gul Khan r/o Afghanistan was arrested. In seventh operation, ANF D.I Khan conducted an intelligence based operation at Sheikh Yousuf, D.I Khan, intercepted a car and recovered 200 grams Methamphetamine and 1.200 kg Hashish. Accused namely Gul Khan r/o D.I Khan was arrested. In eighth operation, ANF apprehended an accused during naka near Motorway Toll Plaza Peshawar and recovered 1.200 kg Hashish from arrested accused Mumtaz Ali r/o Swabi. The staff of Police Station ANF Islamabad intercepted a pickup near Islamabad Toll Plaza (M1 Exit Point) Islamabad and recovered 4.000 kg Heroin and 10.000 kg suspected powder and arrested two accused namely Siraj Muhammad r/o Mardan and Naeem Akhtar

r/o Karachi. In another operation, ANF Rawalpindi established a naka at link road Exit Point of Motorway, Islamabad and intercepted a car and recovered 3.600 kg Hashish & 850 grams Opium. Two accused namely Noor Alam and a lady accomplice namely Aneela r/o Peshawar were arrested. In third operation, ANF Rawalpindi intercepted a car at Old Motorway Toll Plaza, Islamabad and recovered 3.600 kg Hashish. In fourth operation, ANF Attock established naka near Iqbal Shaheed Toll Plaza GT Road Attock and recovered 1.200 kgs Hashish from arrested accused Hazrat Bilal r/o Peshawar. In fifth operation, ANF Attock established a naka near Iqbal Shaheed Toll Plaza, G.T Road, Attock and recovered 740 grams Heroin (Brown) from a female, Shaheen r/o Nowshera. In sixth operation, ANF Rawalpindi intercepted a Netherland bound

suspected consignment from a private cargo office located at Rawalpindi and recovered 5.300 kg Heroin which was tactfully concealed in a photo album. In seventh operation, ANF Rawalpindi arrested five American national accused namely Muhammad Iqbal Khan, Zubair Iqbal Khan, Zahid Bibi, Mukhtiar Khan and Resham Jan, all residents of Attock at Islamabad International Airport and recovered 2300 Al-Prazolam Tabs (0.434 Kg) from their possession. In eighth operation, 900 grams Hashish was recovered from personal possession Jamroz Khan r/o Khyber Agency. In ninth operation, 1.010 kg methamphetamine was recovered from a consignment from an international cargo office located at I-8 Islamabad. 2.745 kg methamphetamine was also recovered for a suspected consignment from international cargo office located at Aabpara Market.

IRSA releases 117,300 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 117,300 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 75,700 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1532.20 feet, which was 146.20 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 42,400 cusecs and outflow as 58,000 cusecs. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1221.40 feet, which was 181.40 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 9,000 cusecs and 35,000 cusecs respectively. — APP

Briefs

PD directed to expedite work on recoveries

ISLAMABAD: Sub-Committee of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Monday directed Power Division to expedite work on recoveries on account of sale of energy and market fees from DISCOs. The committee met here at Parliament House in chair of MNA Raja Riaz Ahmad, convener of the committee. The members of the committee MNA Noor Alam Khan and MNA Shahid Akhtar Ali also attended the meeting. MNA Hina Rabbani Khar joined the meeting through video conference. Senior officials of Power Division and attached departments also attended the meeting.

The committee examined the audit report for the year 2018-19 of Power Division and its attached entities. The committee was informed that after necessary allocation of Government loans to DISCOs, government equity adjustment, tariff rationalization surcharge and receivable from Karachi Electric, the net amount is 336.172 Billion. The amount have been recovered from DISCOs except TESCO, QESCO, HESCO and SEPCO. The committee pended the audit para and directed the management to submit its report to committee within two months. The committee also observed that power division should induct more staff and expressed concerns over the deficiency of staff in various circles. — APP

Power transmission capacity enhanced

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Like bringing reforms on power generation side, the government has also equally focused on the transmission side and enhanced capacity by 5500 MW during the last two years. Officials sources told APP here that earlier, the system could only transmit 18,000 MW electricity but now owing to up-gradation 25,000 MW could easily be transmitted. They said over 23,000 MW electricity was successfully transmitted during the peak summer. They said in past the NTDC 500 kV and 220 kV always witnessed frequent tripping particularly in winter season, however, not a single tripping incident occurred after up-gradating the transmission system. Similarly, the incumbent government has devised an integrated plan to generate 100,000 MW by 2047 through indigenous resources to ensure energy security and boost industries. Under the devised plan, share of indigenous energy would be enhanced to 80 per cent to get rid of expensive energy based on imported fuel. Renewable Energy (RE) policy had already been approved with the consultation of all stakeholders. Sindh and Balochistan would be major beneficiaries as many solar and wind projects would be set up in these provinces, they said. The energy projects would be set up in areas under the integrated programme, they said.

Car sale up 8.57 % in September

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The sale of cars in September 2020 rose to 11,860 units against the sale of 10,923 units in same month of the preceding year, showing an increase of 8.57 percent. During first quarter (July-September) of the current fiscal year, the auto sale also increased to 31,868 units against 31,017 units in July-Sept (2019-20), showing an increase of 2.7 percent, a data released by Pakistan Automotive Manufacturing Association (PAMA) said on Monday. According to break up figures, the sale of Honda cars (Civic and City) sharply increased by 67 percent to 2,293 units in September from 1,368 units in the corresponding period of last year. The sale of Toyota Corolla, however, registered a decrease of 32 percent as it went down from 1,795 units in the corresponding month of last year to 1,219 units in same month of 2020. During the month, the sale of Suzuki Swift increased by 35 percent to 252 units against the sale of 186 units in same month of the preceding year.



CDA urged to address key issues of business community on priority

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that due to some issues between CDA and MCI for distribution of resources, no development work was done in any market of Islamabad for the past several years

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Monday urged Capital Development Authority (CDA) to focus on addressing issues faced by business community on priority to facilitate the growth of business activities. Addressing a delegation of CDA Mazdoor Union that visited the Chamber led by its Secretary General Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin to congratulate the newly elected Office Bearers, President ICCI Sardar

Yasir Ilyas Khan said that most of the issues of business community in Islamabad were related to CDA. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that due to some issues between CDA and MCI for distribution of resources, no development work was done in any market of Islamabad for the past several years. However, now some departments have been returned from MCI to CDA and hoped that CDA would accelerate efforts for resolving pending issues of the business community. He urged the CDA to take ICCI on board to address

problems including improvement in the face of capital and expediting the approval process of commercial buildings plans. He said that cooperation of CDA Mazdoor Union was also important in resolving problems of trade and industry and assured that ICCI would support the protection of genuine rights of CDA employees. Mian Akram Farid, Chairman Founder Group said that CDA employees were making useful contributions towards promoting the greenery in Islamabad and addressing issues of citizens including the business community. He

hoped that CDA employees would work more hard to facilitate citizens by addressing their major issues and make Islamabad one of the most beautiful capitals of the world. He said that lack of parking was a major problem in markets and commercial and CDA should take urgent measures to address it. He said that Pakistan could earn billions of dollars by exporting trained and skilled manpower and urged the department concerned should take strong policy measures to achieve this goal. Speaking at the occasion, Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin, Sec-

tary General, CDA Mazdoor Union said that the business community was the backbone of local economy and CDA Mazdoor Union would cooperate in resolving its burning issues. He said that ICCI members were playing an important role in developing the city and creating jobs and their problems needed urgent redress. He said that the CDA Union was supportive of the inclusion of sitting President ICCI in the CDA Board. It was agreed that both sides should join hands and work together for the development of the city and growth of business activities.

SC issues notice to NAB in former DG Parks bail plea

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Monday issued notice to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in Former Director General Parks Sindh Liaqat Ali Khan Qaimkhani's bail plea. A three-member bench of the apex court headed by Justice Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Munib Akhtar and Justice Sayeed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi heard the case. The NAB said that the petitioner being D.G (Parks & Horticulture) was the custodian of amenity land of Bagh Ibn-e-Qasim. He intentionally and willfully failed to safeguard the land as it was illegally grabbed by the accused persons. During the

course of proceedings, Advocate Khawaja Harris said that the NAB did not arrest Malik Riaz and other accused in the case. He said that KDA had never claimed Icon Tower land. Justice Bandial asked the counsel that the NAB's case against his client could be strong. It was also not good for the NAB to pick up and arrest everyone, he added. He said that extraordinary circumstances were going on at the moment. He asked was this case related to Dr. Dinshaw's case? The NAB Prosecutor General said that this case was similar with Dr. Dinshaw's case. Later, hearing of the case was adjourned till date in office. — APP

IHC extends stay order in SECP inquiry case

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday extended its stay order on inquiry against an Additional Director Security Exchange Commission of Pakistan Arslan Zafar in a case pertaining to data leak. Chief Justice Athar Minallah conducted hearing on a petition filed by Arslan Zafar on a departmental inquiry against him. During the course of proceeding,

the counsel for SECP prayed the court to grant more time for submission of preparation and file comments against the above petition. The chief justice remarked that this information supposed to be public in accordance of law and asked the SECP to submit comments in line of this question. The petitioner's lawyer informed the court that he was informed by the human resource department of his office regarding an inquiry against him.

Inflation control remains biggest challenge, says Ali Muhammad

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Ali Muhammad Khan Monday assured that the Prime Minister Imran Khan showed strong determination to push down inflation and directed to provide immediate relief to the masses in this regard. Talking to a private news channel, he admitted that the price hike was indeed a biggest challenge to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government and the people of the country as well.

"Prime Minister Imran Khan has taken notice of rising inflation and directed to take strict action against profiteers," the minister said. He said that the prime minister was more concerned over the prevailing price hike situation, adding, profiteers and hoarders are responsible for increasing inflation in the country but they would be dealt with an iron hand. PM Imran Khan in weekly cabinet meetings also

sought out suggestions from various ministries to bring down the prices of essential items of daily use, he added. He said that corrupt mafias are behind inflation in the country with a planned effort to malign the government but they will be frustrated. Alif further elaborated that the organized mafia was trying to foil the reforms agenda of the prime minister but he would not step back an inch from the promises he made with the

people of the country. He emphasized that no society can survive without justice. The minister said Prime Minister Imran Khan and his team are taking all out sincere efforts to reduce the inflation in order to alleviate poverty in the country. He also lauded the role of Tiger Force, working along with different administrators, to control the inflation and asked the opposition to avoid politics on Tiger force role. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Hamza Shafiqat inspecting eatables at sabzi mandi. — DNA

IGP reviews measures for community policing, effective patrolling

IGP expressed satisfaction over these new initiatives and said that all Zonal SPs would personally monitor the performance of these units and to compile report about their performance on daily basis

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfiqar on Monday reviewed new patrolling measures and plan for community policing introduced in the city to combat crime with the support of the citizens. Deputy Inspector General of Police (Operations) Waqar Uddin Syed gave a formal briefing to the IGP in a meeting about future strategy of Islamabad police which was attended by all AIGs, SSPs and Zonal SPs. It is to mention that Islamabad police have introduced 'street watch system' with an objective to enhance cooperation between police and public and curb crime. The streets watchers would be deputated at streets and sub-sectors which would assist police in its efforts to curb crime.

They would inform police in case of any suspicious activity in their respective area and keep a vigilant eye on security guards and domestic servants. Moreover, Street

Patrol Units/Contingents and Air Petrol Unit have been constituted to ensure protection to curb crime. The IGP expressed satisfaction over these new initiatives and said

that all Zonal SPs would personally monitor the performance of these units and to compile report about their performance on daily basis. He asked all SPs to conduct meet-

ings with notables in their relevant sectors and convince them to install at least one surveillance camera in each street so that vigilant eye could be maintained against suspicious elements. SP (City Zone) informed the meeting that a total of 500 volunteers have been registered as 'street watchers' and this initiative is being lauded. The IGP directed to have monitoring against suspects through drone cameras on daily basis and personnel of Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) should be affiliated with the system for timely action against car thieves, street criminals and purse snatchers. IGP Islamabad said that Islamabad police is utilizing all resources to ensure protection to the lives and property of the citizens and adopting modern techniques for effective policing. He hoped that these steps would help a lot to overcome crime and ensure safety to people.



IHC expresses displeasure with FIA

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday expressed displeasure with Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on raiding a citizen's house and said the court would not allow any violation of basic human rights. The bench ordered the FIA to include the petitioner in investigation and submit its report within ten-days. IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah conducted the hearing on a petition moved by a journalist Rana Arshad challenging the FIA's raid at his house. He said why the FIA had issued a suspect notice to the citizen. The court noted that no date and reason of summons was mentioned by the FIA on its notice. Justice Minallah said the FIA had violated the law and basic human rights of the citizen. Under what law and permission, the FIA had raided the house of the petitioner, the bench questioned. The FIA's officials adopted the stance that the investigation was started on directives of a deputy director, adding that the officials visited the citizen's address just for the sake of verification. To this, the bench said the court would not allow violation of human rights, adding that the FIA conduct must be in accordance of the law. The court ordered FIA to include the petitioner into the investigation and submit reply within ten days.

Lawmakers urged for assets' submission requirement

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has drawn attention of members of the Parliament and provincial assemblies towards mandatory requirement under Section 137 of the Elections Act, 2017 on submission of yearly statements of assets and liabilities. According to ECP, all parliamentarians have to submit to the ECP by December 31st, 2020, yearly statements of assets and liabilities including their spouse and dependent children as on the preceding 30th day of June on Form-B. It added as per reproduced requirement, every member of an assembly and Senate will submit to the Commission, on or before December 31st each year, a copy of statement of assets and liabilities including assets and liabilities of his spouse and dependent children as on the preceding thirtieth day of June on Form B. The commission, on the first day of January each year through a press release, will publish the names of members who failed to submit the requisite statement of assets and liabilities within the period specified under sub-section (1). The Commission will, on the sixteenth day of January, by an order suspend the membership of a member of an assembly and Senate who fails to submit the statement of assets and liabilities by the fifteenth day of January and such member will cease to function till he or she files the statement of assets and liabilities.

Capital 'Panahgahs' to be transformed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) is striving to transform all the five shelter homes (Panahgah) of federal capital into model facilities by the month-end, said its spokesman on Monday. "The PBM has taken the charge of five 'Panahgahs' and vigorously implementing its rehabilitation and remodeling plan by following the instruction of Prime Minister Imran Khan," the PBM spokesman told APP. The prime minister has recently handed over the administrative control of five 'Panahgahs' of Islamabad to the PBM for providing safe, secure and conducive environment to the daily wage earners through its up-gradation at par with one-star hotel. Currently, 'Panahgahs' are operational in five areas of Islamabad including Peshawar Morr, Sabzi Mandi (Sector I-11), Tariq and Bara Kahu. He said an integrated system was being installed in all the shelter homes to provide food, stay and proper hygiene to the 'Panahgah' dwellers under one umbrella. Close-Circuit Television (CCTV) Cameras would be installed to ensure safe and secure environment at the facilities.

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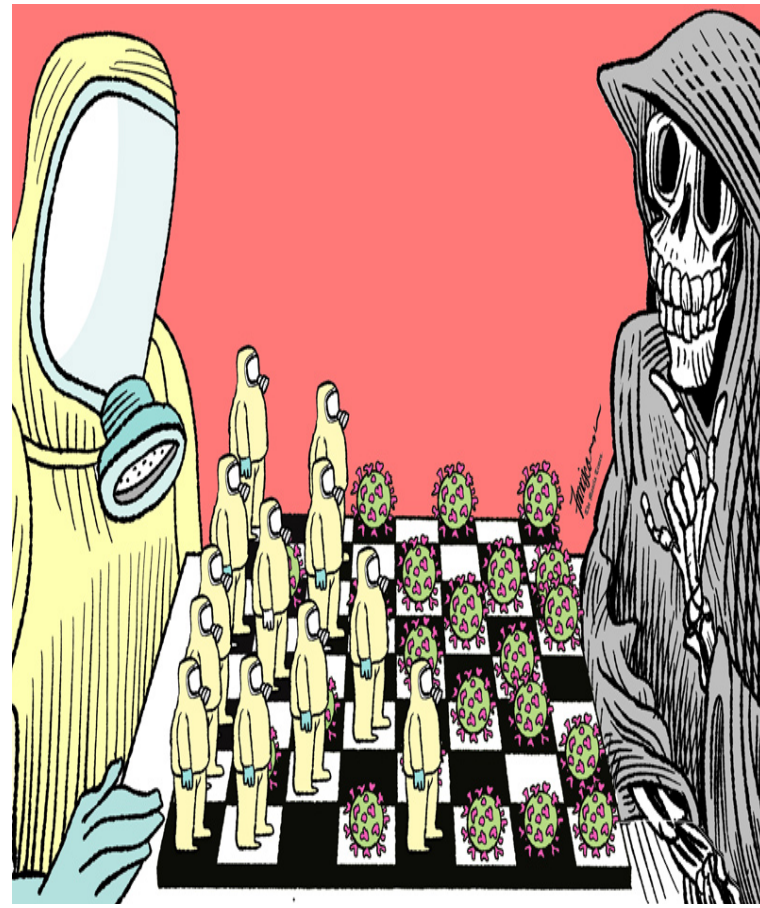
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Islamabad's needs

THE government has decided to spend 54 billion rupees to beautify Islamabad. Renovating the federal territory is a good idea. However, Islamabad is already beautiful. While this is a worthwhile venture, Islamabad needs improvement in its infrastructure as well. The Capital Development Authority (CDA) must pay attention to the overall condition of the deteriorating public services of the city. For the last four years or so, Islamabad has seen little to no development. No major repair or maintenance services have been carried out during this time even though the city is Pakistan's capital.

The CDA has indeed ensured that the city master plan is adhered to so that issues related to urbanisations do not aggravate. However, there are still some infrastructural developments to be made. For instance, the roads across the city demand significant repairs. One has to look no further than one of its main arteries, the Islamabad Expressway, which turns into a bottleneck when approaching close to Rawalpindi. Last time the roads were repaired was almost four years ago. Even after spending one billion rupees, the condition of the roads did not improve.

Similarly, the sewerage and drainage system of the city must be taken care of. The system is under stress due to rapid urbanisation. Therefore, the officials should consider its remodelling according to present-day requirements. Another issue that the residents of the city face is the distribution of water. The water distribution system in the federal capital is deteriorating with every passing day. The overhauling of the city's sanitation system must be prioritised so that people get water for their daily consumption. Islamabad must not be allowed to get to the level of Karachi, where tanker vehicles are the only source of usable water for many citizens. It would be wise if the CDA utilise these funds in such a manner that promotes sustainable development instead of cosmetic beautification of the city.



Mental health and Pakistan

MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

THE human mind is a mysterious organ. While it controls the body and helps in cognitive pursuits, it must be taken care of. Recently, the youth of Pakistan and those belonging to the 35 to 45 age bracket have been experiencing depression. This is caused by several factors. The sense of belonging and to be loved, overprotective parenting, excessive expectations are to name a few. Unfortunately, mental health problems are not taken seriously in Pakistan. The advice that people receive includes getting married, going on a vacation, or in some cases, "not thinking about it." This attitude needs to be changed.

If someone is facing a mental health problem, it must be addressed. Such problems include depression, suicidal thoughts, obsessive-compulsive disorder, paranoia, etc. People in our society consider a person having a mental health issue to be a gone case. They are sent to the psychiatrist and the society does not stop making fun of them. They must be advised to see a psychologist. Where a psychiatrist uses medicine to treat a problem, psychologists use talk therapy and have a conversation with the person to share whatever is on their mind. This proves helpful in many ways. The person may not be able to share innate thoughts with anyone and once they do it with the psychologist, proper remedies can be suggested that do not involve taking medication. In Pakistan, resident psychologists are needed in corporations to guide professionals when they are facing depression. Such psychologists are also needed in schools, colleges, and universities. Students do study under immense pressure to earn grades. Their parents' expectations turn them into robots who rote learn subjects and a grade lesser than their parents' expectations results in scolding and beating. Mental health issues are to be taken seriously and special steps must be developed to ease such problems.

Fighting for Palestine

Mark Muhannad Ayyash

For imperial allies led by the UK and then the US, the Israeli settler-colonial state, and Arab states that largely have been quick to acquiesce and serve imperial interests, Palestine has always been posed as a "problem" which must be dissolved. If only those who render Palestine a "problem" would have the courage, they would ask Palestinians what they really intend to ask: how does it feel to have the world wish that it did not have to deal with you? How does it feel to be entirely unwanted, unheard? How does it feel to be entirely instrumental for others in your very being and non-being?

IN the last few years, Israel has further cemented its grip on Palestine. The list of Palestinian losses is depressing: the marked movement towards international recognition of Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel, official annexation of Palestinian land, an increase in the number of settlers and the development of settlements on Palestinian lands, the horrific besiegement of Gaza and the world's participation in the siege, the "de-development" of the Palestinian economy, uninhibited killing and maiming of Palestinians, suffocating restrictions on movement, gender-based violence in prisons and at checkpoints, continued demolitions of Palestinian homes, the stifling of Palestinian activism and speech for Palestinian rights in Western Europe and North America, and the rising tide of diplomatic normalcy between Israel and Arab states.

Add to the mix common social issues like patriarchal oppression, interpersonal conflict, crime, socioeconomic inequality, family feuds, and political corruption, combined with a lacklustre and largely handcuffed leadership, and you begin to get a picture of how remarkable Palestinian resistance really is. That Palestinians do not give up is precisely what is so historic and inspiring about their resistance. For more than 100 years, the Palestinian people have been resisting and fighting for Palestine, holding on to what they have left of it, clinging on to the hope of one day reclaiming what they have lost. Attention is often given to the armed resistance, but far more numerous, diverse, and long-standing is the unarmed Palestinian resistance. Labour strikes, boycotts, legal actions, political and community organising, demonstrations, marches, hunger strikes, passing the keys of demolished homes from one generation to the next, the formation of Palestinian societies and cultural groups in exile and refugee camps, lobbying politicians across the world, building creative local and sustainable economies, and everyday acts of resistance are all peppered throughout the history of the struggle. Resistance also comes in the form of cultural productions that narrate and communicate the suffering of Palestinians; intellectual and academic studies that illuminate the history and lived realities of Palestinians; the development of political manifestoes and ideologies that pave a path forward towards freedom and liberation. The Emirati and Bahraini political elites, for example, never register these lives when they proclaim their so-called peace deals with Israel. Many Palestinians, as well as common Bahrainis and Emiratis who have no say in the policies adopted by their rulers, have rightly labelled these agreements a betrayal of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian cause. Palestine is entirely absent from these "peace in the Middle East deals" not just in terms of Palestinian officials being excluded from negotiations and agreements, but

in the real tangible sense of erasing Palestinian lands, rights, freedoms, and lives from the geopolitical landscape and political grammar. These deals seek to constitute a new status quo in which it becomes normal to accept that Palestine does not exist and therefore deserves, or even has itself earned, its erasure.

We do not need to imagine how this normalisation of erasure would operate in the mainstream discourse of Western European and North American media. It has been happening for many years. For a recent example, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) despicably apologised for using the term Palestine on air just one day after one of its hosts dared to pronounce this apparently forbidden and offensive word.

The 'problem' of Palestine One of the mechanisms in which Palestine is erased in the two examples above is the casting of the question of Palestine as a "problem" in the sense of a nuisance to the peace and tranquillity of the world order, since Palestine does not fit the conventional categories through which the world order is made legible.

Thus, the very same categories that emerged in the colonial era in order to dispossess and/or rule over Indigenous peoples across the world, such as laws of property ownership, statehood, and sovereignty, are presented in the contemporary world as "natural" categories that simply describe how the world is "naturally" organised. In *The Souls of Black Folk*, published in 1903, WEB DuBois explored what it means to be continuously asked, directly and indirectly, "How does it feel to be a problem?" This question, which continues to be asked of Black Americans, reveals nothing about the struggles, aspirations, and lived realities of Black lives in America. Rather it tells us much more about the power structures in which Black Americans come to be constructed as a "problem". The question, in short, never probes the questioner's own role in rendering Black life as a "problem", or in creating the social, economic, cultural, and political conditions that oppress and suppress Black life. Similarly, Palestinians are cast as a "problem" in the international arena, shifting the burden of becoming unproblematic on the subject that has been produced as a "problem" – an impossible task whose sole purpose is really the eradication and erasure of the subject that has been constituted as a "problem".

For imperial allies led by the United Kingdom and then the United States, the Israeli settler-colonial state, and Arab states that largely have been quick to acquiesce and serve imperial interests, Palestine has always been posed as a "problem" which must be dissolved. If only those who render Palestine a "problem" would have the courage, they would ask Palestinians what they really intend to ask: how does it feel to have the world wish that it did not have to deal with you? How does it feel to

be entirely unwanted, unheard? How does it feel to be entirely instrumental for others in your very being and non-being?

These are precisely the kinds of rhetorical questions that the Gulf ruling elites are asking of Palestinians today. Palestine has seen its fair share of allies who appear to stand with Palestinians, only to move on and leave it behind. It is this sense of being left behind that haunts and seems to follow Palestinian resistance that I want to underscore. That in addition to facing all of those immense difficulties of erasure perpetrated by settler-colonial and imperial powers, of which the CBC and Canada are a part, there is also a more hurtful kind of erasure that can take place in the space where Palestinians join hands with others from the "Global South" seeking collective liberation.

If I repeat the term Palestine too much in this piece, it is because it needs to be affirmed and reaffirmed, continuously, forcefully, and vociferously. The effort to erase Palestine, of which the CBC and the UAE/Bahraini ruling class are but a small part, is not going away but is in fact gaining momentum. Whether the CBC or the Emirati and Bahraini authoritarian rulers are intentionally erasing Palestine is really irrelevant, what matters is the effect of their discourse, actions, and policies, which is the erasure of Palestine – a project that has reached an advanced stage.

In this sense, yes Palestine is so far a losing cause. It will likely continue to be a losing cause for the foreseeable future. But make no mistake, Palestine is not a lost cause. So long as the injustice continues unabated, Palestinians will fight for Palestine. And even if freedom remains beyond reach, Palestinians in Palestine and beyond will at least show the world that the violence of this settler-colonial, neocolonial, and post-colonial world order will never defeat the spirits of those who are being crushed at the bottom of this order.

Yes, in fighting, Palestine will be a nuisance, but in the sense of always reminding the powerful that they are not the "forces of the good" that the world order is neither orderly nor just. To register and release into the mainstream discourse, the essence of Palestinian actions of resistance is to realise that when Palestine does not fit into dominant categories, this is not because of a shortcoming of Palestine, it is because of the violent and oppressive purpose of those categories.

To register Palestinian lives is to realise that the creation of a Palestinian state, for example, is not an end in itself, an effort to join the rest of the world of nations through the category of statehood, but was always, at least for the countless lives that have fought and continue to fight for it, a means towards true liberation and freedom – towards a decolonised life.

– Courtesy: Al-Jazeera

Indian face painted with the blood of innocents!

Attiya Munawer



The UN has created a picture of helplessness. While the European Union and all other international organizations are playing the role of a silent spectator. The silence of international organizations makes sense that non-Muslims are in power there, but the indifference of the Muslim Ummah to the atrocities against Kashmiris is the most painful

NOT only Pakistan but all the countries in the region are now well aware of India's planning and sponsorship of terrorist activities, as everyone has direct experience of it. However, now a multi-published American magazine in its investigative report has called India the world's largest terrorist country and a threat to world peace. The report clearly states that India has repeatedly used global terrorist organizations to further its regional interests. The American magazine has repeated the same things that Pakistan has been saying to the world in a civilized manner for a long time, but the Indian alliance with Daish (ISIS) is definitely surprising to the world.

Pakistan has always exposed India's terrorist activities to the world with evidence, but the response has been disappointing. However, now that everything is coming out of the American magazine, the world's reaction may be slightly different. Now, India will try to link it with Pakistan and distort the facts, but no such attempt can succeed, because the face of India is painted with the blood of innocents.

It is clear that Pakistan has long been a victim of Indian terrorism. The arrest of Kulbhushan Jadeo is a great proof that Indian intelligence agencies are sponsoring terrorist organizations. The UN monitoring team confirmed that these organizations were involved in cross-border terrorist attacks against Pakistani military and civilian targets. Those who claimed responsibility for the terrorist attack that killed 142 children at Army Public School Peshawar had contacts with India. Pakistan submitted several pieces of evidence of Indian terrorism to the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee with these names, including Ajoy Mistry, Angara Appaji and Gobinda Pataik. India is also financing and organizing mercenary terrorist organizations to attack Pakistan and obstruct the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). India has used terrorism as a weapon against all its neighbors and especially Pakistan and its Muslim population as well as the citizens of occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

In this context, the world is well aware that India is the biggest terrorist of the present era. The world has been watching Indian terrorism for decades, but no one is being affected. The United Nations has created a picture of helplessness. While the European Union and all other international organizations are playing the role of a silent spectator. The silence of international organizations makes sense that non-Muslims are in power there, but the indifference of the Muslim Ummah to the atrocities against Kashmiris is the most painful.

This issue is condemned by Turkey and Malaysia, while other Muslim countries are silent on Indian atrocities. Pakistan raises its voice against atrocities against Kashmiris at all levels and is taking steps to keep the Kashmir issue alive. Prime Minister Imran Khan is also highlighting the Kashmir issue on all major platforms in the world. Pakistan is in favor of allowing Kashmiris to decide its future, while India is against giving Kashmiris the right

to self-determination. The love and emotional attachment of the Pakistan Army to Kashmir is unconditional. The position of Pakistan Army is that Kashmir runs like blood in our veins.

On the contrary, while India continues to carry out terrorist activities in Pakistan, including Kashmir, the list of Indian operations on the Line of Control is very long. So far, thousands of unarmed, innocent Pakistanis have fallen victim to Indian terrorism. Despite these actions, Pakistan has proved to be a peace-loving country and presented the facts to the world, but in view of the huge market and financial interests, the world has remained prudently silent. Even Muslim countries have preferred to remain silent rather than raise their voices over India's escalating actions. The international community seems to be reluctant to take legal action against Hindu-Indian civil and military personnel involved in state terrorism, war crimes and crimes against humanity in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

How big a threat Indian aggression is to the world and this threat will increase with each passing day. The American magazine has made it clear to the world, along with this American magazine has also exposed the nexus of the Indian government with terrorists. After the unveiling, the world will have to break its silence of interest and play its role in stopping the Indian aggression; otherwise, all the oppressed and exploited nations may resort to armed struggle for their protection.

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Briefs

Process for the election of ICC Chairperson underway

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The International Cricket Council (ICC) Board on Monday confirmed that the process for the election of its next Chairperson was underway and is expected to be concluded by early December. The process, which is being overseen by the Independent Chairman of the ICC Audit Committee, has commenced and the first stage was for the nominations of potential candidates to be made by current Board Directors by October 18, 2020, said a press release issued here. Any nominee would then need to be seconded by another Board Director to become a candidate in the election. As outlined in the ICC Constitution, to be eligible, potential candidates must be either a current or former ICC Director.

Libyan political dialogue to resume next month in Tunisia

FOREIGN DESK

TRIPOLI: The UN mission in Libya has announced a face-to-face dialogue between the country's rivals to be held early next month in neighboring Tunisia. Tunisia will host "the first face-to-face meeting" of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) "in early November, following preparatory virtual consultations," the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) said in a statement Saturday. The forum's aim is "to generate consensus on a unified governance framework and arrangements that will lead to the holding of national elections in the shortest possible timeframe."

Libya has endured almost a decade of violent chaos since the 2011 NATO-backed uprising that toppled and killed veteran dictator Muammar Gaddafi. The two main factions are the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA) and a parliament in the eastern city of Tobruk. Efforts to move the political process in Libya forward have been repeatedly interrupted since a deal signed in Morocco in December 2015. Hope for a solution to the crisis has risen, however, after the two main warring factions separately announced in August they would cease hostilities.

The move was followed by a series of UN-backed talks in Morocco, Egypt and Switzerland. UNSMIL said it "has made it a requirement for participants to the LPDF to recuse themselves from political and sovereign positions in any new executive arrangement... and to refrain from the use of hate speech and incitement to violence." Participants "will be drawn from key Libyan constituencies... and with a firm commitment to the meaningful participation of Libyan women and youth," the statement added.

Turkey to continue exploration in East Med

DNA

ANKARA: Turkey issued a new navigational telex or Navtex late Sunday for the area where its Oruc Reis seismic vessel will conduct research activities until Oct. 22. According to the announcement, the vessel's mission will last from Oct. 12 to Oct. 22. A Navtex is a maritime communications system that allows ships to inform other vessels about their presence in an area as well as other information.

The Oruc Reis will carry out seismic studies in the Eastern Mediterranean together with two other vessels, the Ataman and Cengiz Han. The research ship is capable of conducting all kinds of geological, geophysical, hydrographic and oceanographic surveys, especially of the continental shelf and natural resource searches. In August, Turkey resumed energy exploration in the Eastern Mediterranean after Greece and Egypt signed a controversial maritime delimitation deal, spurring Turkey's goodwill gesture in halting its search. Declaring the Greek-Egyptian deal "null and void," Turkey authorized the Oruc Reis to continue its activities in an area within Turkey's continental shelf.

Foreign diplomats eyewitness Armenian atrocities in Ganja

Nine civilians were killed and 37 others - among them four children - were injured as Armenia launched a missile attack in Azerbaijan's second largest city Ganja that is far from the conflict zone



DNA

BAKU: Heads of diplomatic missions in Azerbaijan, ambassadors, military attaches, and heads of representations of international organizations in Azerbaijan visited Ganja on October 12 following deadly Armenian missile attack on the city. Nine civilians were killed and 37 others - among them four children - were injured as Armenia launched a missile attack in Azerbaijan's second largest city Ganja that is far from the conflict zone. The attack was made on October 11, at 2 AM, less than 24 hours

after the Russian negotiated humanitarian truce entered force. The attacks on densely populated areas with "Tochka-U", "Smerch", "Scud" and other missiles is aimed at killing a large number of people. The missile attack to Ganja, the city located far from the line of contact, was launched from Vardenis region of Armenia. The diplomats were accompanied by Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev. The visit aimed to acquaint the diplomats with Armenia's reckless missile attacks against ci-

vilians and energy infrastructure. The diplomats were also informed that these actions by Armenia contradict the agreement on humanitarian ceasefire reached in Moscow. Although Azerbaijan complied with the humanitarian truce, Armenia has committed acts of vandalism against the civilian population. It was emphasized that international organizations must exert political pressure on Armenia, which commits war crimes and targets civilians. Forty-one Azerbaijani civilians have been killed in Armenian attacks on densely-populated areas so far. The diplomats will also visit the

Mingachevir city that houses the country's Hydroelectric Power Station and has come under Armenian missile attacks several times since September 27. It should be noted that since the truce on October 10, Armenian forces have also been shelling Azerbaijan's civilian areas in Goranboy, Tartar, Aghdam and Aghjabadi districts. Azerbaijan has destroyed three Armenian UAVs since October 11 - one near Mingachevir Hydro Power Plant, two near Aghdam and Tovuz regions. Armenian armed forces have also opened fire at a sanitary medical vehicle, clearly

marked with a white flag, that was collecting the bodies of Armenian soldiers in the area of Sugovushan. A medical worker was seriously injured as a result of the attack. Armenian armed forces launched a large-scale operation in the front-line zone on September 27 at 6 am, shelling the positions of the Azerbaijani army from large-calibre weapons, mortars, and artillery installations of various calibres. Azerbaijan has responded by liberating a number of villages, Jabrayil city and Hadrat town as well as important strategic heights.

SCO Expo delayed after new local COVID-19 cases

MONITORING DESK

BEIJING: The 2020 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) International Investment and Trade Expo scheduled to take place from October 16 has been postponed due to the need for COVID-19 epidemic prevention and control. Qingdao, the host city for the 2020 SCO Expo, in east China's Shandong Province, reported six new local COVID-19 cases on Monday, local media reported.

The event was originally scheduled to take place from October 16 to 18. The city of Qingdao has activated a plan to conduct a citywide nucleic acid testing for COVID-19 after new cases were reported. The National Health Com-

mission of China has also dispatched an expert team to Qingdao to guide virus prevention and control.

Qingdao has reported six new confirmed cases and six new asymptomatic cases of COVID-19 since fresh cases emerged in the city over the weekend, the municipal health commission said. Epidemiological investigations found that the cases were linked to the Qingdao Chest Hospital used to treat imported COVID-19 patients. The city will complete nucleic acid testing in five districts within the next three days, and testing will cover the whole city in five days, according to a notice issued by the municipal health commission, adding that the results will be released in a timely manner.

Armenian leadership abides by no moral rules, says Hikmat Hajiyev

If we take a look at the recent military operations in the world, we can see that firing a ballistic missile with great destructive power at a city with a population of more than 500,000 people is very unique

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijani Presidential Aide Hikmat Hajiyev has said that the recent missile attacks on Azerbaijan's densely-populated Ganja city shows that the Armenian leadership has no moral, ethical rules. "If we take a look at the recent military operations in the world, we can see that firing a ballistic missile with great destructive power at a city with a population of more than 500,000 people is very unique," Hajiyev said. Hajiyev said that the SCUD missile used in the attack is a medium-range ballistic missile capable of carrying nuclear warheads. "Doing this on purpose shows their



true essence... This testifies that for the Armenian leadership there are no moral, ethical rules, barriers inherent to the world civilization," Hajiyev said. Armenian forces fired missile at

tacks on Azerbaijan's second largest city Ganja on that killed nine civilians on the night leading to October 11, hours after the humanitarian truce negotiated by Russia. Armenia has also been shelling Azerbaijan's civilian areas in Goranboy, Tartar, Aghdam and Aghjabadi districts since October 10. Forty-one Azerbaijani civilians have been killed in Armenian attacks on Azerbaijan's densely-populated civilian areas since September 27. Armenian armed forces launched a large-scale operation in the front-line zone on September 27 at 6 am, shelling the positions of the Azerbaijani army from large-calibre weapons, mortars, and artillery installations of various calibres.

EU foreign ministers agree to sanction Russia

The 27 ministers had reached an agreement in a meeting in Luxembourg to start work preparing measures to correspond with the proposals made last week by France and Germany, which said Moscow was responsible for the poisoning of Navalny

MONITORING DESK

LUXEMBOURG: EU ministers have agreed to sanction Russia over the poisoning of opposition leader Alexei Navalny. The agreement comes at a meeting in Luxembourg where France and Germany were due to outline a proposal for sanctions. European Union foreign ministers on Monday agreed to sanction Russia over Moscow's involvement in the poisoning of opposition leader Alexei Navalny, according to diplomatic sources. The 27 ministers had reached an agreement in a meeting in Luxembourg to start work preparing measures to correspond

with the proposals made last week by France and Germany, which said Moscow was responsible for the poisoning of Navalny with the Soviet-developed nerve agent Novichok, French news agency media reported. Both Germany and France believe that Navalny's poisoning could only have happened with the involvement of Russian authorities. Berlin and Paris say they have not had a credible explanation from Moscow for what the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) said was the presence of Novichok in Navalny's body. The sanctions, however, are not expected to be approved immediately. Legal texts must first be

EU to sanction Lukashenko

MONITORING DESK

LUXEMBOURG: European Union foreign ministers agreed on Monday to sanction Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko and other senior officials over an Aug. 9 election the West says was rigged, citing worsening police violence against protesters. Lukashenko, who has been in power for 26 years, was not on the EU's sanctions list of 40 names agreed on Oct. 2, but the bloc now says his refusal to consider prepared before experts from the 27 EU states can give the green light. EU foreign ministers

er new elections as a way out of the crisis leaves it with no choice. "This is an answer to the evolving situation in Belarus," EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, who chaired the EU ministers' meeting in Luxembourg, told reporters. "There has not been any kind of signal from the Belarus authorities to engage in any kind of conversation," he said, citing a "complete lack of will" from Lukashenko to consider talks on holding a free and fair presidential election. The latest round backed the Franco-German plan on Monday to impose sanctions on Russians suspected of poison-

ing the Kremlin critic. German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas told reporters as he arrived at the EU

meeting that the poisoning of Navalny could not "remain without consequences". "France and Germany propose imposing sanctions on certain people that caught our eye in this respect," Maas said, without giving further details. EU diplomats said there was wide support among the 27 foreign ministers for asset freezes and travel bans on several Russian GRU military intelligence officials, Reuters reported. Earlier on Monday, Maas met with his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian and said the EU is also willing to impose more sanctions on those linked to a crackdown on protesters in Belarus, including the country's leader Alexander Lukashenko.

Xichang launch center to carry out 10 missions

DNA

XICHANG: Southwest China's Xichang Satellite Launch Center will carry out 10 space launches including the Chang'e-5 lunar probe by the end of March next year, a center official said on Monday. The center will carry out launch missions twice a month on average, with a minimum interval of five days, said Zhang Xueyu, director of the launch center. Country on Monday sent its new optical remote-sensing satellite, the Gaofen-13, into orbit from the center, marking the center's first launch since its ground system was upgraded. Cope with the needs of China's space launches, the center has made great efforts to strengthen sci-tech innovation and shorten project cycles by using domestically developed core technologies, laying the technical foundations for the country's subsequent intensive launch missions.

Govt decides to allow PDM to hold rallies

From Page 01

The opposition will be bound by coronavirus SOPs at meetings, while the district administration will ensure adherence to SOPs in opposition rallies. The government will not create hurdle in opposition rallies. Earlier, PTI had decided to give tough time to PDM protests by launching campaign across the Sindh under the supervision of Governor Imran Ismail and PTI leader Firdous Shamim Naqvi. Teams of members in National and provincial assemblies were also formed in this regard.

Previously, while announcing the new schedule of anti-govt rallies across the country, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Ahsan Iqbal said that the first public rally of the PDM will be held in Gujranwala on October 16 and the second rally will be held in Karachi on October 18. He said that third rally will be held in Quetta on October 25, while fourth public gathering will be held on November 22 in Peshawar and fifth rally will be held on November 30 in Multan.

World no longer buying India's narrative: FM

From Page 01

"Unless we counter this narrative, our international image cannot be corrected. And you saw that through narrative building, Pakistan achieved success," he noted. Qureshi said Pakistan had been able to convince the world that it had lost 70,000 lives to terrorism and thus it didn't merit being accused of sponsoring terrorism. "Today the international press is not buying the Indian narrative blindly. They question [instead]," he said, adding that this "doubt" was created due to Pakistan's counter-narrative. The minister also said Pakistan was previously perceived as the "problem" for every roadblock in Afghanistan.

Russia expels two Bulgarian diplomats

FOREIGN DESK

MOSCOW: Russia said on Monday it was expelling two Bulgarian diplomats in a tit-for-tat move after two Russians were ordered out of the EU country on accusations of spying for the military. The foreign ministry said in a statement that Bulgarian ambassador Atanas Krystin was summoned to be informed that the two Moscow-based diplomats had been declared "persona non gratae". "This step is a tit-for-tat 'retaliatory' response to an unwarranted decision of the Bulgarian authorities to expel from the country in September two representatives of Russia's trade mission in Sofia," the ministry said. In September, Bulgaria said it had expelled the two Russians on accusations of spying on the military. Moscow at the time said it viewed the decision as a "deliberate attempt to harm constructive Russia-Bulgaria cooperation". The Bulgarian public prosecutor alleged the Russians had been seeking out classified information on military modernisation plans since 2016.

Briefs

Eleven refugees dead after boat sinks off

DNA

TUNIS: At least 11 people died, including eight women and three children, and seven others were rescued when a boat carrying refugees sank off southern Tunisia, officials said late on Sunday.

A police source said the boat carrying 27 people, all African nationals, sank off the coast of the port city of Sfax. Countries in North Africa like Tunisia and Libya are seen as a starting point for migrants and refugees, many of them fleeing wars and hunger, who want to reach Europe via the Mediterranean Sea.

More than 620 people are feared to have drowned in the Mediterranean this year – a dangerous sea journey that has killed at least 20,000 since 2014, according to data gathered by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). In recent years, many European countries have hardened their immigration process, drawing condemnation from human rights groups and aid agencies, who have repeatedly pointed out the inadequate response by maritime authorities when alerted of people left adrift in rickety boats. About 17,000 people arrived in Italy and Malta this year by boat from Libya and Tunisia. While the number is a threefold increase compared with 2019, it is still drastically lower compared with the previous year.

Amnesty accuses Tanzania gov't of stifling dissent

DNA

DODOMA: Tanzanian President John Magufuli's government has built up a formidable arsenal of laws to stifle all forms of dissent ahead of this month's elections, rights group Amnesty International said in a new report on Monday. Authorities have effectively clamped down on the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, according to the report.

Security forces have arrested opposition candidates on bogus charges, stripping them of their right to freedom of assembly, association and movement in recent months, amnesty claimed. "Tanzania has weaponised the law to the point that no one really knows when they are on the right or wrong side of it," Deprose Muchena, Amnesty International's director for East and Southern Africa, said. "Politicians have been arrested for holding or attending meetings, media houses suspended and banned, online activism criminalised, and NGOs stifled with endless regulations," Muchena added. The East African country is heading to the polls on October 28. President Magufuli is seeking a second five-year term and is being challenged by 14 other candidates.

Earlier this month, authorities suspended the election campaign of leading opposition candidate Tundu Lissu for seven days over accusations of inciting violence in the run-up to the vote.

'Trump campaign ad twists my words on COVID-19'

MONITORING DESK

NEW YORK: US top government scientist Anthony Fauci said an advertisement aired by Donald Trump's re-election campaign was edited to make it seem like he endorsed the president's handling of the coronavirus pandemic. The 30-second campaign advertisement cites Trump's personal experience with the virus – "President Trump is recovering from the coronavirus, and so is America," it says – before including a brief clip in which Fauci appears to praise the president's response to the pandemic. "I can't imagine that anybody could be doing more," Fauci is shown as saying, creating the clear impression he is referring to Trump. But a complete clip of Fauci's comments, made during an interview in March with Fox News, shows the doctor saying: "I have been devoting almost full time on this. I'm down at the White House virtually every day with the task force. It's every single day. So, I can't imagine that under any circumstances that anybody could be doing more."

Eliminating terrorists a priority: Bashar al-Assad

The President added in an interview said that the US, Turkish presence on the Syrian territory is occupation that should be eliminated

DNA

DAMASCUS: President Bashar al-Assad has affirmed that the war against terrorism is not over as we have terrorists occupying some areas of our country and committing different kinds of crimes and assassinations.

The President added in an interview said that the US, Turkish presence on the Syrian territory is occupation that should be eliminated.

Question 1: Mr. President, thank you very much for giving us this opportunity to have this interview at these days when we remember that five years ago the Russian assistance came to Syria. So, after five years of the Russian military operation, nowadays can you say that the war in Syria now is over?

President Assad: No, definitely not. As long as you have terrorists occupying some areas of our country and committing different kinds of crimes and assassinations and other crimes, it's not over, and I think their supervisors are keen to make it continue for a long time. That's what we believe.

Question 2: And what moments of heroism of the Russians do you recall and keep in your heart? Which of them do you consider worth telling to your grandchildren, let's say?

President Assad: There are so many, and I remember some of them, of course. After five years of this cooperation between the Syrian and the Russian army in a vicious war, I think heroism is becoming a collective act; it's not individual, it's not only a few cases of heroism that you remember. For example, if you think about military aircraft pilots – the air force, Russian pilots kept flying over the terrorists on a daily basis, risking their lives, and



you had a few aircrafts that had been shot down by the terrorists. If you talk about the other officers, they are supporting the Syrian army not in the rear lines, but in the front lines and as a consequence you had martyrs. What I'm going to tell my grandchildren someday is not only about this heroism, but I'm also going to talk about these common values that we have in both our armies that made us brothers during this war; these noble values, faithful to their causes, defending civilians, defending the innocent. Many things to talk about in this war.

Question 3: And what moment does symbolize for you a turning point during this conflict, during this war?

President Assad: It's been now nearly ten years since the war started, so we have many turning points that I can mention, not only one. The first is in 2013 when we started liberating many

areas, especially the middle of Syria, from al-Nusra. Then in 2014, it was in the other direction when ISIS appeared suddenly with American support and they occupied a very important part of Syria and Iraq at the same time; this is when the terrorists started occupying other areas, because ISIS was able to distract the Syrian Army from fulfilling its mission in liberating the western part of Syria. Then the other turning point was when the Russians came to Syria in 2015 and we started liberating together many areas. In that stage, after the Russians came to Syria to support the Syrian Army, I'd say the turning point was to liberate the eastern part of Aleppo; this is where the liberation of other areas in Syria started from that point. It was important because of the importance of Aleppo, and because it was the beginning of the liberation – the large-scale

liberation, that continued later to Damascus, to the rest of Aleppo recently, and other areas in the eastern part of Syria and the southern part. So, these are the main turning points. If you put them together, all of them are strategic and all of them changed the course of this war. Question 4: I now will turn to some actual news, and we in Russia follow what now is happening in the region of the Armenian and Azerbaijanian conflict, and definitely Turkey plays a role there. Is it negative or positive, that is not for me to judge, but I would like to ask you about Turkey's and Erdogan's policies. So, in recent years, Turkey has been trying to maximize its international influence. We all see its presence in Libya, its intervention into Syria, territorial disputes with Greece, and the now open support to Azerbaijan. What do you think

about that kind of behavior of Ankara and Erdogan personally, and should the international community pay more attention to this sort of neo-Ottomanism.

President Assad: Let's be blunt and clear; Erdogan has supported terrorists in Syria, and he's been supporting terrorists in Libya, and he was the main instigator and initiator of the recent conflict that has been going on in Nagorno-Karabakh between Azerbaijan and Armenia. So, I would sum his behavior as dangerous, for different reasons. First of all, because it reflects the Muslim Brotherhood behavior; Muslim Brotherhood is a terrorist extremist group. Second, because he's creating war in different areas to distract his own public opinion in Turkey from focusing on his behavior inside Turkey, especially after his scandalous relations with ISIS in Syria; everybody knows that ISIS used to sell Syrian oil through Turkey under the umbrella of the American air forces and of course the involvement of the Turks in selling this oil. So, this is his goal, and this is dangerous. So, whether the international community should be aware or not, the word "international community" in reality is only a few countries: the great powers and rich countries, and let's call them the influencers on the political arena. The majority of this international community is complicit with Turkey in supporting the terrorists. So, they know what Turkey is doing, they are happy about what Turkey is doing, and Turkey is an arm for those countries in fulfilling their policies and dreams in this region. So, no, we cannot bet on the international community at all. You can bet on the international law, but it doesn't exist because there's no institution to implement the international law. So, we have to depend on ourselves in Syria and on the support of our friends.

Iran calls on Azerbaijan, Armenia to military escalations

FOREIGN DESK

TEHRAN: The Iranian Foreign Ministry on Monday called on Azerbaijan and Armenia to halt military escalations and abide by a ceasefire between the two countries. "Iran calls on the two parties to exercise more self-restraint, condemns the missile attacks on the vital infrastructure, the residential areas of cities, and the killing of civilians," ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said in a statement. Conveying condolences to the families of victims, Khatibzadeh called on the two sides to abide by the ceasefire, continue their negotiations in line with international law, adhere to the

territorial integrity of each other, and "evacuation of the occupied cities".

Khatibzadeh said that Iran was ready to help facilitate peace talks for achieving "permanent and sustainable peace and solution" in the region. Following meetings in Moscow on Oct. 10, Azerbaijan and Armenia agreed on a humanitarian ceasefire so that conflicting sides could retrieve bodies left on the battlefield in Karabakh, also known as Upper Nagorno-Karabakh, and hold prisoner exchange. Armenia's attacks continued despite the humanitarian truce. An Armenian missile attack hit Azerbaijan's second largest city of Ganja, violating a temporary ceasefire, at 2 a.m. local time on Sunday (2200GMT Saturday).

Bangladesh approves death penalty for rape cases

FOREIGN DESK

DHAKA: Bangladesh's government has approved an amendment that would allow for the death penalty in rape cases, as anger grows in the South Asian country over incidents of sexual assault. The amendment was approved at a weekly meeting of the council of ministers headed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, cabinet secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam told reporters in a news conference on Monday. Islam said the min-

isters approved the draft of the Women and Children Repression Prevention (Amendment) Bill, 2020 in the meeting held virtually due to the coronavirus pandemic. The bill says anyone convicted of rape will be punished with death or "rigorous imprisonment" for life. The existing provision stipulates a maximum of life in prison for rape. Law and Justice Minister Anisul Huq said a presidential declaration is expected on Tuesday for the new provision to come into effect.

Rahmon wins the presidential elections in Tajikistan

DNA

DUSHANBE: According to preliminary data from the Central Election Commission of Tajikistan, the current President of the country, Emomali Rahmon, won the presidential elections. "Rahmon received support from 90.92% of the total number of voters in the elections," said the chairman of the Central Commission for Elections and Referendums of the Republic,

Bakhtiyor Khudoyorzo. The CEC must announce the final results within 10 days from the election day. Thus, the president, who has ruled the country since 1992, is re-elected for the fifth time.

In addition to Rakhmon, the leaders of the Communist Party Miroj Abdulloev, who were supported by 1.17%, took part in the elections, the Socialist Party Abdulkhalim Gafforzoda with 1.49%, the Agrarian Party Rustam Latifzoda, who re-

ceived 3.03%, and the Party of Economic Reforms Rustam Rakhmatzoda, who was voted out for 2.15% of voters.

According to preliminary data, 4.2 million people took part in the elections, the turnout was 85.3%. Observers from the CIS, SCO, CSTO, OSCE, State Duma and Federation Council followed the elections. No violations were recorded. Meanwhile, by the end of October, the government of Tajikistan with its full

complement will resign. The current government of the country in full force will lay down its powers before the newly elected president of the republic, in accordance with the norms of the constitutional law of Tajikistan "On government". The government of Tajikistan consists of the Prime Minister, his first deputy and deputies, ministers, chairmen of state committees. In Tajikistan, the president is also the head of government.



KABUL: Ambassador of Pakistan to Afghanistan, Mansoor Khan calls on, leader of Hizb-e-Islami, Gulbadin Hekmayar. – DNA

Uzbekistan: A new system for working with women and youth defined

In recent years, Uzbekistan has created a vertical system for implementing state policy on women and youth issues up to the level of mahallas

DNA

TASHKENT: President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev chaired a videoconference on measures to increase the role of women and youth in society and ensure their employment. Women and youth make up a significant part of the population, and solving their problems is an essential part of social work. In recent years, Uzbekistan has created a vertical system for implementing state policy on women and youth issues up to the level of mahallas. To address youth issues in each district, a separate position of deputy hokim with a staff of up to 3 specialists was introduced, in each region – deputy hokim with a staff of 4 specialists, 3 and 11 staff units were allocated to the territorial departments of the Agency for Youth Affairs, respectively.

address women's issues at the mahalla level, a separate post of Deputy Chairman of the Mahalla has been introduced, at the district level – Deputy Head of the Department for Mahalla and Family Affairs, which is assigned 2 specialists, at the regional level up to 8 staff units have been allocated. In addition, People's Reception Offices of the President and trade unions are assigned to address issues of youth and women, respectively. However, the ability of these agencies and four local sectors to effectively organize the work in this area raises questions. In this regard, the introduction of a new system for working with women and youth has been determined. As is known, in order to provide social support to the population, Uzbekistan has started maintaining a list of families in need of financial assistance and support, also known as the

"iron notebook". Similarly, a "youth notebook" and a "women's notebook" will be formed in each mahalla, district, city and region. These lists will be kept separately from the "iron notebook". They

will include young people and women in need of social, legal and psychological support, as well as those seeking to acquire new knowledge and professions. As a result, systematic, targeted work

will be established with them. System of work with youth and women in the example of Khatirchi district and Yangiyev city was discussed at the meeting. Responsible persons were instructed to develop a standard model of this system and test it in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Tashkent city, one city and district of each region, in 28 territorial units. Heads of sectors and representatives of responsible agencies were instructed to study the situation in each mahalla, talk with each woman and young man, identify their interests and needs, and develop targeted measures on this basis. "From now on, we need to establish a system of employment of the unemployed by visiting people's homes. The situation will change where managers visit homes and resolve issues. The main goal is to move from the economic stability to efficiency".



Daraz boosts growth of Pakistan's Ecommerce

DNA

LAHORE: Daraz, the largest online shopping in Pakistan platform, is offering customers discounts on an assortment of 15 million products during the Dus-Pros sale 2020 "10.10 sale" which will be live to 16th October 2020. Over the past few months, as the rate of digital adoption in Pakistan has accelerated, Daraz has witnessed a significant increase in traffic and expects to receive a record-breaking number of orders during the sale. During this time the platform's assortment has grown to offer 5 million users across Pakistan access to 15 million products over 100+ categories.

In order to ensure that products are delivered swiftly to customers in a safe and secure manner, the company has optimized delivery routes, reduced delivery timelines and digitized its warehouses in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad.

Since 2018, Daraz has invested significantly on building an agile logistics ecosystem that complements a robust warehousing infrastructure. In turn, the platform has helped advance the growth of Pakistan's ecommerce landscape. The company operates 4 warehouses in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad that together cover a space of 200,000 sq. feet. Daraz is set to launch a fifth warehouse in Faisalabad in October.

UK bars, clubs challenge lockdown plan

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: The United Kingdom's hospitality industry is mounting a legal challenge to the government's lockdown restrictions, aiming to stop its plans to close pubs and other venues to tackle the rise in coronavirus cases. The Night Time Industries Association (NTIA), a UK trade body, told the Reuters News Agency late on Sunday that the industry has taken legal action to prevent lockdown measures from being imposed. The judicial review, reported earlier by the Financial Times, will argue that no evidence supports hospitality venues having contributed to the spread of COVID-19. "The industry has been left with no other option but to legally challenge the so called 'common sense' approach narrative from government, on the implementation of further restrictions across the North of England," NTIA CEO Michael Kill said in an email.

Briefs

Breast cancer awareness vital, says Begum Alvi

RAJA PERVAIZ

ISLAMABAD: First Lady Begum Samina Alvi on Monday said the awareness campaign about breast cancer was yielding results as now its severity was being realized and discussed by the masses. Addressing a breast cancer awareness function arranged by Raabta, Serena Hotels, the First Lady stressed that the barriers of social and cultural taboos should be broken and women should be encouraged to come forward for early screening.

The womenfolk should not feel shy or hesitation in discussing the issue as it was a curable disease, she said. "The early detection of this fatal disease can save many precious lives," she maintained. Begum Alvi further informed that they were making efforts to set up call centers to facilitate women often shy of discussing the health related issue with family members and friends. The First Lady observed that 50 per cent of the country's population comprised women, therefore, it was imperative to provide them health facilities. She urged the welfare and non-governmental organizations to join hands in the breast cancer campaign by providing health incentives and facilities especially to the under-privileged women of the country.

PM for unity against anti-state elements

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Monday said as the religious tolerance and inter-faith harmony was the need of hour, there was a need for all to get united to defeat the anti-state elements, who were striving to spread disarray in the society in the guise of religion. He hoped that the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) would play its effective role in that respect.

The prime minister was talking to a delegation of the NCM which led by its Chairman Chela Ram Kewani called on him here. The delegation comprised Minister for Religious Affairs Pir Noor ul Haq Qadri, Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabir Azad, Mufti Gulzar Ahmad Naemi, Jiapal Chhabria, Vishnu Raja Qawi, Dr Sarah Safdar, Archbishop Sebastian Frances Shaw, Albert David, Dr Mampal Singh, Sarup Singh, Roshan Khurshid Bharucha, Dawood Shah, Islamic Ideology Council Chairman Dr Qibla Ayaz, Parliamentary Secretary Shanila Rath and others. During the meeting matters relating to further strengthening the role of the NCM were discussed. — APP

PAF's morale second to none: CJCSC



DNA

RAWALPINDI: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS) General Naameem Raza visited an Operational Base of Pakistan Air Force on Monday. He was received by Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, Chief of the Air Staff Pakistan Air Force.

During his visit the Chairman witnessed combat readiness of the base, visited operational units and flew in a F 16 alongside the Air Chief in a formation. A simulated Air combat scenario was practiced during the sortie. While interacting with the Base personnel, the Chairman lauded professionalism and dedication of PAF's Air warriors. He reiterated the importance of inter services harmony & synergy for the operational success in modern warfare. He further added that PAF's cutting edge aside, what makes it second to none is the high morale and thorough professionalism of its personnel.



ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels arranged RABITA discussion to discuss breast cancer related issues. First Lady Mrs. Samina Arif Alvi attended the gathering as chief guest. She also participated in the discussion. CEO Serena Hotels and Mrs. Aziz Boolani earlier welcomed the chief guest. — DNA

NAB a tool to pressurize politicians, says Shahid

ATHAR SUFI

KARACHI: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Monday accused National Accountability Bureau (NAB) of one sided accountability and said that the bureau is being used to pressurize politicians. Talking to media after appearing before court in illegal appointment of MD PSO case, former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said that cases against us are not of corruption but of misuse of power. Pakistan cannot function as long as NAB is operating in the country, he added.

The PML-N leader said that treason cases have been registered against half of country's politicians. While criticizing Imran Khan, he said that if a case can be registered against opposition leaders, then a case can also be registered against Prime Minister. On the other hand, NAB court adjourned the hearing on the illegal appointment of MD PSO case till November 2.

Main suspect in Charsadda rape case arrested

DNA

CHARSADDA: Police have arrested the main suspect in the rape and murder of a minor girl in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Charsadda district, it emerged on Monday. The chief minister's adviser on information, Kamran Bangash, and provincial Law Minister Sultan Muhammad Khad confirmed the development at a press conference in Peshawar.

On Saturday, the body of a two-and-a-half-year-old girl, Zainab, was found in the fields in Daudzai area of Peshawar, close to Charsadda district. A medical report had confirmed that the minor was sexually assaulted before being stabbed to death. "It was a blind case and police resolved the case in a week by arresting the prime accused," Bangash told reporters. Police have identified the accused as the victim's 45-year-old neighbour. Bangash said the accused sexually assaulted the two-and-a-half-year-old before killing her and dumping her body in the fields at a distance of two kilometres from the village.

Corona kills 10 Pakistanis in one day

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has reported 10 deaths in last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 319,317. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 6,580, media reported on Monday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 385 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 140,294 coronavirus cases have been confirmed in Sindh, 100,764 in Punjab, 38,348 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 17,331 in Islamabad, 15,525 in Balochistan, 3,118 in Azad Kashmir and 3,937 in Gilgit-Baltistan.

SCO Expo delayed

BEIJING: The 2020 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) International Investment and Trade Expo scheduled to take place from October 16 has been postponed due to the need for COVID-19 epidemic prevention and control. Qingdao, the host city for the 2020 SCO Expo, in east China's Shandong Province, reported six new local COVID-19 cases on Monday, local media reported. The event was originally scheduled to take place from October 16 to 18. The city of Qingdao has activated a plan to conduct a citywide nucleic acid testing for COVID-19 after new cases were reported. — APP

Hafeez stresses for drastic measures to curb inflation

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue, Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh Monday urged upon all the stakeholders to take drastic measures to curb inflation. Chairing the meeting of National Price Monitoring Committee (NPMC) to review the prices of essential perishable commodities, the Adviser emphasized on the role of district market committees to curb price variation effectively. The Adviser also directed the

Chief Secretaries to minimize price disparity by streamlining the release of wheat at regular intervals to avoid profiteering. Among others, the NPMC meeting was attended by Minister for Food Security Syed Fakhar Imam, Adviser for Commerce Abdul Razaq Dawood, Adviser to PM on Institutional reforms Dr. Ishrat Hussain, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Revenue Dr. Waqar Masood, Secretary NFS&R, Secretary Planning, Secretary Ministry of Industries & Production, Chief Secretaries

from Punjab, Sindh, KPK and Balochistan, Chairperson, Competition Commission of Pakistan and representatives from Utility Stores and Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. The NPMC deliberated upon increase in the prices of wheat, sugar and perishable items namely Tomatoes, Onions, Potatoes and Chicken and discussed corrective measures to provide relief to the end consumers. It was stated by the concerned Ministries that the reasons behind the price hike include gap in supply and demand due to climatic

factors, upward trend in international prices and increased profit margin between wholesale & retailers, particularly in metropolitan areas. There was a general consensus that recent rains and COVID-19 have further aggravated the situation. NPMC also reviewed the time-line for import of wheat and sugar to meet domestic demand for the same.

The Adviser Finance was briefed that the total public sector procurement for wheat through government to government (G2G) and TCP is equal to 1.8 MT based

on the demand estimates provided by the Provinces and PASSCO. It was also stated that sufficient sugar stocks are available in the country till November, 2020.

Adviser Finance also directed Utility Stores to streamline the availability of essential items in order to provide maximum relief to the lowest strata of the society. The Adviser Finance expressed confidence that effective and well-coordinated actions by the Provincial Governments and the concerned Ministries will help in controlling the menace of inflation.

'Taliban consider ceasefire their political defeat'



KABUL: Afghanistan First Vice President Amrullah Saleh on Monday said that the Taliban consider the ceasefire a political defeat, believing they make people thirsty for the grave-kind of peace like the one in the 90s by incalculable killings. According to Saleh, the defeat of the Taliban is inevitable because it is not possible to impose their method by force on people and the pluralistic society of Afghanistan, nor do the Taliban have a political agenda the people can rely on. The main reason for the increase in the Taliban's "absurd and bloody" attacks on Afghan people is the group's fear and ignorance of political developments, he said. Saleh exclaimed the Taliban have underestimated the national will of the people; launched many attacks with a misconception of the peace process. He added that in many parts of the country, where violence has increased, the Taliban faced resistance by locals. Therefore, the Taliban will not reap any strategic or political benefits from the bloodshed; because violence as a political tool is hated and rejected. Unfortunately, we will experience another phase of the crisis to break this mentality that is based on murder, he further said. According to Saleh, the Taliban's claim is unattractive and all their attention and investment is to keeping the society in darkness and ignorance so they can secure their proxy rule. — DNA

Punjab reports 670 cases in first 11 days

DNA

LAHORE: After a significant decrease in the coronavirus cases in Punjab, the number has again started to creep gradually.

A report compiled by Punjab Primary and Secondary Health Department shows that as many as 670 cases of coronavirus were reported in the first 11 days of October. Earlier in the months of August and September, 25 cases were being reported daily basis in the province but now the number has jumped to 60/per day in the first 11 days of the month of October.

The report highlights that 16 critical patients of coronavirus are currently under treatment at the government hospitals of the province.

Chairman Corona Experts Advisory Group Punjab, Professor Mehmoond Shaikat said the number of cases is increasing due to non-compliance with the health-related guidelines designed by the provincial government to control over the spread of the pandemic. Weather change can result in the return of coronavirus, he feared.

Bilawal to kick start movement from Lalamusa

Nadim Kaira says PDM movement to prove last nail in the coffin of govt



STAFF REPORT

LALAMUSA: Senior PPP leader Nadim Asghar Kaira has said Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will start his movement from Lalamusa adding the PPP Chairman will arrive in Lalamusa for overnight stay at the Kaira House. The next day the Chairman will depart for Gujranwala where he will address the PDM rally. Nadim Kaira told this newspaper that

arrangements to welcome the PPP Chairman had already been made under the guidance and direction of PPP Punjab President and former Information Minister Qamar Zaman Kaira.

Nadim further told rousing welcome shall be accorded to Bilawal Bhutto upon arrival in Lalamusa. When asked about the security plans, Nadim said fool-proof security arrangements have already been devised.

He said the Lalamusa leadership was in touch with Central PPP leadership in order to finalise the security plans.

Nadim Kaira said the PDM movement shall fix last nail in the coffin of the incumbent government, which had miserably failed to heal wounds of those who voted them into power.

He added, price hike, lawlessness and faltering economy were already taking heavy toll on the masses. If this government is allowed to continue, the country would further be pushed towards precipice.

Nadim was of the view sooner we get rid of this govt better it would for the well-being of the country and people as well. He said people of Lalamusa were all set to welcome their leader.

Pak reaches out to FATF members for support

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD: Ahead of the crucial meeting of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Islamabad is reaching out to member states of Paris-based body to seek their support for acknowledging Pakistan's progress on 27-point action plan that may help it exit from the "grey list", officials familiar with the development said.

The global watchdog for curbing terror financing and money laundering will be holding its virtual plenary session from October 21 to 23. Among the agenda items include reviewing Pakistan's progress on the 27-point action plan. Last week Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi telephoned

his Saudi, Turkish and Malaysian counterparts to brief them about Pakistan's significant progress to implement the FATF plan of action, an official privy to the move said.

Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Malaysia are members of the 39-member FATF and their support is crucial for Pakistan to avert any adverse decision during the plenary.

The official statement issued after Qureshi's telephonic conversation with his counterparts from these three countries did not mention that FATF was the subject of discussions.

However, the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told media that one of the purposes of Qureshi's telephonic conversation with top diplomats

of these three countries was to seek their support at the upcoming FATF plenary. Pakistan is unlikely to be placed on the blacklist given that it has the support of at least three countries including China, Malaysia and Turkey to veto any such move. Islamabad needs three votes to avoid getting blacklisted.

But officials noted that Pakistan had been making efforts to ensure that it is removed from "grey list" and for that it needs the support of 12 countries out of 39 FATF members. Pakistan approached the friendly countries including Saudi Arabia to inform them that Islamabad's case needed to be reviewed objectively, the official said. "We are telling our friends that Pakistan's progress on the 27-point

action plan needs an acknowledgment," the official added.

Pakistan was placed on the grey list in June 2018 for failing to take adequate measures against money laundering and terror financing. It was then given a 27-point action plan with a warning that failing to implement it would lead to its blacklisting.

The official observed that Pakistan fully complied with or made significant progress on at least 21 points. When asked, the official refused to speculate the outcome of FATF plenary but was confident that Pakistan would not be placed on the blacklist.

While it is relatively easy to conclude that Pakistan will not be blacklisted, it is unclear if FATF would remove the country from

its grey list. To garner the support of 12 member countries, Pakistan needs the support of major players such as the United States.

The officials maintained that Pakistan had been in touch with the US on the issue and that the American authorities acknowledged Islamabad's progress but were yet to commit to support its case.

The US authorities, contrary to the perception that FATF was being used as political tool against Pakistan, insisted that Washington had no control over the FATF process as all members took decisions independently. Observers, however, believe that the US support for Pakistan would help strengthen its case at the FATF.