



# Islamabad POST

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**Egyptian envoy for cooperation in energy sector**

**Misbah-ul-Haq steps down as chief selector**

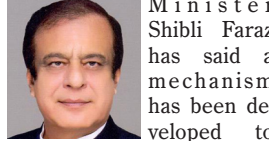


## Briefs

**Shibli for increased MIB, PEMRA linkup**

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Information



Minister Shibli Paraz has said a mechanism has been developed to enhance coordination between Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the PEMRA. Talking to the media persons in Islamabad on Wednesday, he said this will help us to learn from the strengths and experiences of the regulatory authority. The Information Minister said PEMRA has been playing a very important role in these times when the flow of information is fast and multiple platforms are available for it.

**Siraj demands new census for Karachi**

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami



Siraj-ul-Haq has demanded new census in Karachi and said that the population of the city with a population of 30 million has been shown as 15 million. According to details, Amir Jamaat-e-Islami addressed a rally in front of National Press Club in Karachi. Army Siraj-ul-Haq said that Karachi is a mini Pakistan and we will take away our right. He said that the population of Karachi has been halved due to deliberate plan so we demand a new census in Karachi. Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman, Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Karachi, said that everyone says sentences for Karachi but no one works.

**Bilawal supports employees**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Quaid-e-Jamhuriat



Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has extended support to the protesting employees of the Federal government including Lady Health workers and asked the PTI regime to accept all their genuine demands. In a statement on Wednesday, the PPP Chairman said that due to promotions, adequate pension and equal incentives were the genuine rights of the Federal government employees and PPP supports their democratic right of peaceful protest in Islamabad.

## No rallies if I give them NRO: PM

The Prime Minister also commended the role of the Foreign Office and Pakistan's missions abroad for another diplomatic achievement

NIHAL MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has once again given a clear message to the opposition that whether they stage sit-ins or hold rallies, they will never be given an NRO. The PM said this while meeting Senators Faisal Javed and Zeeshan Khanzada. The meeting reviewed various initiatives for the revival of Pakistan's film and drama industry, as well as producing feature films and dramas based on Islamic history nationally. The Prime Minister also called for increasing positive and constructive activities for the youth and said that he wants them to participate in constructive activities as much as possible. He said that he would address the youth at the Tiger Force Convention this week. The country's political situation and the opposition's anti-government movement were also discussed during the meeting. Earlier, Prime Minister Imran Khan has said Pakistan will continue its efforts towards consensus building and ensuring UN Human Rights Council's work as guided by principles of universality, impartiality, dialogue and cooperation.

Continued on Page 06

## 'Development of merged areas priority'

STAFF REPORT \ DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has said the government is determined for uninterrupted development of merged tribal areas and all financial resources will be provided for the purpose. He was chairing a high level meeting on the development needs of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, especially the merged areas, and Punjab in Islamabad on Wednesday. The Prime Minister said in past, a large chunk of government resources had been reserved for few areas, while keeping political priorities in view, which adversely impacted the development process in backward areas. Emphasizing on the Provincial Finance Award, Imran Khan said transparent and judicious distribution of revenue at district level is very vital for equal development.

## Pakistan elected to UN Human Rights Council

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has been re-elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) with an overwhelming majority securing 169 votes in the 193-member UN General Assembly. Elections were held in New York on Tuesday. Among the five candidates from the Asia-Pacific region vying for four seats, Pakistan secured the highest number of votes. Pakistan is currently serving on the HRC since 1 January 2018. With its re-election, Pakistan

Continued on Page 06

## An important diplomatic achievement: FM Qureshi

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Wednesday said that Pakistan's re-election to the United Nations Human Rights Council for a fifth time has provided a unique opportunity for highlighting the Kashmir issue. Speaking to the media, the foreign minister said that there was a communications blockade in the occupied valley while independent observers don't have access to the region. "So, this is a forum that can become the voice [of the Kashmiris]." In an earlier statement carried by Radio Pakistan, the minister had termed Pakistan's re-election an "important diplomatic achievement". He said that Pakistan was supported by every region in its re-election while influential and important countries had also backed the country's bid. He added that the vote vouched for Pakistan's performance in the council over the past three years, adding that the country's role was now being recognised by the world.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed and Senator Sitara Ayaz presenting a letter to Sri Lankan ambassador Mohan Wijewickrama on behalf of Chairman Senate for the speaker of Sri Lankan National Assembly. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan chairs a meeting on development initiatives. - DNA

## Soldier martyred in cross-border attack

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A Pakistani soldier was martyred at a military post in Bajur sector during firing by terrorists that originated in Afghanistan, the army's media wing said in a statement issued Wednesday. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Havaldar Tanveer embraced martyrdom while one soldier got injured due to the firing. Last month, Pakistan soldier sepoy Sabir Shah embraced martyrdom due to the firing from across the border on Pakistan Army post along the Pakistan-Afghanistan Border. ISPR in an earlier statement, said "Unfortunate rise in violent incidents on both sides of Pak-Afghan Border is meant to derail Afghanistan Peace Process. Pakistan earnestly believes that both countries deserve peace and progress. Together we will defeat all spoilers."

## 5m metric tons of wheat stocked

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Food Security Syed Fakhar Imam says the country has a stock of five million metric tons of wheat and one point seven million metric tons will arrive by January next year. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad on Wednesday, he said the private sector is likely to import 700,000 metric tons of wheat, whereas our total consumption is around six million tons. Speaking on this occasion, Minister for Industries Hammad Azhar said Trading Corporation of Pakistan has imported 150,000 tons of sugar, which will be released on controlled rate, while similar quantity is being procured by the private sector. He said it has been proposed to impose a fine of five million rupees on sugar mill, which fails to start crushing season well in time.

## PDM to hold 16 Oct rally on GT road

PDM will also hold public gathering and rallies on October 25 in Quetta and Nov 22 and 30 in Peshawar and Multan

DNA

GUJRANWALA: The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) has decided to hold a public rally on October 16 on GT Road in Gujranwala at all costs. Former premier Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said while addressing a press conference in Gujranwala on Wednesday that the government did not give permission to PDM to hold a rally in Jinnah Stadium, thus PDM will hold a rally on GT Road. "Neither the police nor the containers could stop them from holding rallies," said Khaqan Abbasi. He went on to say that the PTI government failed miserably to provide relief to the people. He highlighted that increasing inflation and un-

## Bilawal condemns govt's harassment tactics

IBRAR KHAN / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has condemned Punjab Police siege of village Bhagat of PPP leader and ticket-holder Asif Bashir Bhagat in Phalia Tehsil of Mandi Bahauddin and warned the Imran Niazi regime to desist from such tactics. In a statement Wednesday, the PPP Chairman said that PTI regime has gone astray following the announcement of PDM movement adding that such victimisation against

Continued on Page 06

maintained that PDM leaders' houses are being raided by police officials to pressurize them from holding rallies against the government. He added that people around the country will participate in the rally in large numbers despite all odds.

## Pak Army wins international military drill



AGENCIES

SANDHURST: The Pakistan Army has once again won the Pace Sticking Competition held at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, UK. This is the third consecutive win for Pakistan. Pakistan participated for the first time in the drill in 2018. High Commissioner Moazzam Ahmad Khan wished the army for winning the international military drill competition. He also commended the Pakistan Army's highest standards of professionalism and excel-

lence maintained by it. Every year, the military teams from around the world including Canada, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and Pakistan participate in the contest. The drill is done at a standard pace of 120 beats per minute with a 30-inch step and marching in slow time with the stick at 65 paces per minute, and transferring the stick from hand to hand while doing drill movements. The object was of this drill is to provide uniformity in the use of the stick and by the attainment of a high steadiness and cohesion among instructors.

## Japan provides JPY 471m grant for KPK

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Japan Wednesday agreed to provide grant assistance of 471 million Japanese Yen (JPY) to UN-Habitat for the project of "The Improvement of Disaster Resilient Schools Infrastructure" in KPK province, aiming to provide a safe and stable educational environment to the students as well as the teachers. According to a press release, notes to this effect were signed and exchanged between Matsuda Kuninori, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan and Koresawa Atsushi, Regional Representative, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of UN-Habitat in Fukuoka, Japan. The project would support reconstruction and retrofitting and repairing of 150 schools and construction of 12 new schools. Expressing his views at the signing of the project, Ambassador Matsuda has said that "This project will not only provide disaster-resistant infrastructure of schools in KPK province but will also prove a disaster prevention hub for the region".

## Pakistan reports 14 deaths

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Wednesday has reported 14 deaths in last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 320,463. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 6,601. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NOC) 615 persons have been tested positive for COVID-19 in 24 hours.

## Egyptian envoy for cooperation in energy sector

The minister gave an overview of Pakistan's energy sector, newly launched Alternative Renewable Energy policy, apprising the envoy about the government endeavors in reforming the sector

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Egyptian Ambassador to Pakistan, Tarek Dahrough Wednesday called on Minister for Energy Omar Ayub Khan and discussed ways and means to extend the existing co-operation between the two countries in the field of energy. During the meeting, the two sides discussed the potential areas of cooperation in the energy sector of Pakistan with special focus on exploring the business opportunities in the renewable energy projects, a petroleum division news release said. The minister gave an overview of Pakistan's energy sector, newly launched Alternative Renewable

Energy policy, apprising the envoy about the government endeavors in reforming the sector. "Hydel and Renewable Energy will be 60 percent of the Energy Mix

by 2030 thereby increasing the share of indigenous energy and reducing the outflow of foreign exchange for importing fuels for power generation," he said while

reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to the Green Energy. He foresaw that the share of renewable energy would increase by 20 percent by 2025 and 30 percent



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FBR asked to provide relief in taxes to small traders - Page 04

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World Bank approves \$12bn to increase COVID vaccine accessibility - Page 07

Azerbaijan-Pak friendship is eternal and invincible - Page 08



## Briefs

## 'Government determined to provide relief to people'

DNA

ATTOCK- Minister for Revenue Col (R) Malik Anwar Khan has said on Wednesday that PTI government is determined to provide every possible relief to the people in accordance with the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan and Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar steps are taken in this regard. The minister Malik Anwar Khan said Punjab government priorities health, education, energy sectors, clean drinking water, infrastructure and economic development. The Revenue Minister assured that PTI government will fulfill all its promises made with the people of the province. He said that our mission under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chief Minister Usman Buzdar is to serve the people of Punjab with dedication. The minister told that the objective of the PTI government is to create employment opportunities for the unemployed youth besides providing health and education facilities. Minister for Revenue Malik Anwar Khan said that the prime minister Imran Khan had promised to make Pakistan a country where equal justice would be available to both rich and poor.

## DC reviews anti-dengue activities

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: As many as 38 cases have been registered against persons so far this year for breeding of dengue larvae at different shops while indoor and outdoor surveillance is being carried out on a regular basis. This was informed to Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali during a meeting of the District Emergency Response Committee for Anti-Dengue. Deputy Commissioner said that the departments involved in anti-dengue surveillance activities should fulfill their responsibilities which should not be disrupted. He said that teams were seen working in the field and the process of checking them would continue. He warned some departments for not compliance and directed them to make their progress better. District Coordinator gave briefing on anti dengue surveillance.

## 'More IT parks to be setup in KP'

DNA

PESHAWAR: The department of Science and Technology Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with assistance of Pakistan Software Export Board will setup more technology parks in the province. Advisor to the Chief Minister on Science and Information Technology Ziaullah Bangash Wednesday visited office of Pakistan Software Export Board and got briefed by Pakistan Software Export Board Managing Director Osman Nasir about initiatives, positions for promotion of IT sector in Pakistan and registration of software companies. The meeting discussed and decided on other projects including setting up of IT zones, IT training programs, e-office programs, registration of software houses etc. The meeting decided to work together for the promotion of IT industry. The Pakistan Software Export Board Managing Director appreciated Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Technology Board's Initiatives for promotion and digitization of IT Sector and gave assurance of full support and assistance from the Pakistan Software Export Board in digitalization initiative of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Ziaullah Bangash thanked Pakistan Software Export Board for taking keen interest in IT projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and appreciated its initiatives for the promotion of IT sector in the country.

## Business sector need to be digitally integrated

New automation system for hospitality sector will be introduced to reduce tax compliance costs. Enterprises who will install KPRA point of sale system will be facilitated further. KPRA wants motivated workforce and has allowed performance based incentives

DNA

PESHAWAR: Ms. Azzah Attique, Entrepreneur and tourism sector expert said that tourism has been badly hit given the ongoing challenges. All sub-sectors including hospitality, transport, entertainment, have been affected and require a customized response. All sub-sectors need to be digitally integrated. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has 35 million population and majority is youth - many have stakes in local tourism. Not giving attention to this sector could give rise to unemployment. The government is not investing in hospitality education and skills. Covid-19 now provides re-skilling opportunities. Singapore is favouring stay-cations to revive the local hotel industry. We are bringing chefs from Pakistan to Singapore to introduce Pakistani food in Singapore. Need to teach our chefs international ways of working.

Mr. Bilal Farooq Khan, National Incubation Center, Peshawar said we have signed MOU with SECP which helps in registration of start-ups. However the process of physical

registration is still there and this needs to be brought online. The e-payment gateways are still not efficient. The start-ups do not qualify for government projects due to stringent eligibility requirements. Start-ups are in the process of pivoting but need help to become exporters of goods and services. Our start-ups are struggling to get certifications for exports. For example in electro surgical device start ups - DRAP certificate is required by this start up since long. The government should undertake an assessment of what are the certification and registration needs of businesses to become exporters. Mr. Fazal Amin Shah from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA) said we have never resorted to any harassment in enforcement of our measures. Our attitude is always very cooperative with tax payers. Our collection has increased by 65% in the last year. No coercive measures were taken. This is result of only voluntary compliance. We are focusing to expand tax payer education. This has improved compliance of tax payers in the province. We are regularly

looking to improve the tax policy aspects too. In Covid-19 times we have drastically reduced the sales tax rate. Rates have even been reduced for the informal sector as well. Despite this we understand that some sub-sectors are still under stress e.g. we are not seeing growth in hospitality industry. Marriage halls have not seen their business open fully. But IT sector and telecom has seen a boost in Covid times. Banks, insurance, and construction sector also show increased tax collection. New automation system for hospitality sector will be introduced to reduce tax compliance costs. Enterprises who will install KPRA point of sale system will be facilitated further. KPRA wants motivated workforce and has allowed performance based incentives. These incentives are subject to independent assessments by third-party. Ms. Misbah Faiz, Founder Khawateen Rozgar Services said that despite Covid-19 notices from tax authorities have not stopped rather increased. KPRA's online system is still not tax payer friendly. The micro and small businesses have

very less knowledge regarding fulfilling their tax liability - they need help to understand the online systems. The grants announced by the government in March 2020 to help SMEs have still not been disbursed. The loan applicants who have large collateral are being favoured. Women-led enterprises need tailored support and special grants. Firms in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are facing dearth of human resource. Firms have to bring labour from Punjab to scale up operations. Ahad Nazir, Head, SDPI's Center for Private Sector Engagement said the recovery from Covid-19 could take longer than expected. This implies that enterprises in the services sector will need policy and regulatory support of various kinds in the medium-term. The cities in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province rank low in the doing business rank which needs improvement to attract investment. A focus on development of newly merged districts is required. Dr. Vagar Ahmed, Joint Executive Director, SDPI while moderating the discussion said that the provincial governments have reduced tax rates for certain

services sectors however it still remains to be seen if this has improved chances of enterprise survival in the short term. It is encouraging to see that tax departments are undertaking perception surveys to assess the difficulties faced by genuine tax payers. However more efficient online compliant registration and follow-up mechanisms are need of the hour. Many tax payers do not hear back from the tax departments regarding the complaint filed. The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa should conduct a detailed assessment on why new exporting enterprises from the province are not emerging. Developing potential to export is important for integration of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa-based enterprises in global value chains. Such a study should also highlight how firms in the province can benefit from national-level reform of customs duties, export exemptions schemes, e-commerce, and export development fund. Many of the certification requirements faced by exporters have changed as a result of Covid-19 - an area where government support will be required.

## 11 dead, 875 injured in 838 accidents

DNA

LAHORE: At least 11 people were killed and 875 injured in 838 accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours. The analysis on the Rescue 1122 showed that 332 drivers, 25 underage drivers, 128 pedestrians, and 426 passengers were among the victims of the accidents. According to statistics that 219 accidents were reported in Lahore which affected 192 people placing the provincial capital at top of the list followed by 61 in Faisalabad with 76 victims and at third Multan with 48 accidents and 57 victims. According to data, 665 motorcycles, 118 auto-rickshaws, 97 motorcars, 41 vans, nine passenger buses, 35 trucks and 117 other types of auto vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in the accidents.

## 'Opposition wants NRO through agitation'

PESHAWAR: Minister for Labour and Culture, Shoukat Yousafzai on Wednesday said that alliance of corrupt mafia in their last ditch effort has restored to politics of agitation and targeting state institutions to save their skin from accountability process. He said government has made it clear from day first that no NRO would be given to opposition parties. Giving his reaction to the statement of the opposition parties that opposition tightened noose against the government, he said that Pakistan Muslim League (N) and Pakistan Peoples Party was lacking leadership that is why they were using each others shoulders to save their money earned through corrupt practices. Shoukat Yousafzai in a statement said that JUI (F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman is well aware of corruption of both Nawaz Sharif and Asif Ali Zardari in their previous tenures of power. He said Nawaz Sharif fled the country on the pretext of illness. - APP

## Field staff directed to launch crackdown

MULTAN: Additional Inspector General of Police South Punjab Zafar Iqbal said on Wednesday that field force had been directed to launch massive crackdown to control crimes across the South Punjab. He said that in first phase, the circle against big gangs, proclaimed offenders and drug peddlers was being tightened. A special operation launched in all the districts from ongoing month which yielded positive results. The AIG South clarified that there was no concession for the police personnel which found involved in immorality with citizen and obstruction of justice. He expressed these views while addressing police officers and various delegations of citizens during his visit to Bahawalpur Range. - APP



## Joblessness in Pakistan to reach 30-year peak in 2021

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistanis may face an unprecedented level of joblessness during the fiscal year 2021 (July 2020 to June 2021) as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) expects Pakistan's unemployment rate to rise to 5.1%. According to the World Bank data on Pakistan's unemployment rate, which is available since 1991, it will be the highest level the country has faced in its at least 30 years. The trend on the World Bank website shows that unemployment levels remained below 1% from at least 1991 to 2011. The IMF, in its latest report World Economic

Outlook, October 2020: A Long and Difficult Ascent, reported that the unemployment rate will increase from 4.1% and 4.5% in 2019 and 2020 respectively and to 5.1% in 2021. The main reason for the high unemployment rate is that Pakistan faced an economic contraction for the first time in 68 years, mainly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The economy contracted by -0.4% in 2020. The IMF report has also forecast that Pakistan's GDP would recover a slow pace of 1% in 2021. Meanwhile, the prices of consumer goods and services or inflation would decrease to 8.8% in 2021 from 2020's 10.7%, according to the report. Contrary to recent im-

provements Pakistan made to its current account balance when it recorded a surplus for four months during the previous fiscal year, the IMF predicts that the country would again record a higher current account deficit in 2021. A negative current account balance is called a current account deficit and a positive current account balance is called a current account surplus. The current account balance was improved to -1.1% in 2020 from -4.9% in 2019 after the government took several measures to halt imports during 2020. But the IMF forecasts that the country's current account balance will deteriorate again to -2.5% in 2021.

## 'No one would be allowed to damage govt properties'

LAHORE: Punjab Law Minister Raja Basharat on Wednesday reiterated that no one would be allowed to damage government properties during the protest of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM). This he said while chairing an emergency meeting to review the law and order situation of the province ahead of the oppositions' protest. Government has no issue with the peaceful protest of the opposition, but no one would be allowed to disturb the law and order situation, Basharat said. The meeting decided in principle not to allow protestors to vandalize government properties. Sources added that list of the active workers of the opposition parties' workers was also presented in the meeting. - DNA

## 674 schemes completed with Rs 3.82 billion

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: As many as 263 development Schemes had been completed with a cost of 2.2 billion in Faisalabad Division, under Community Development Program in Phase I and 287 schemes with a cost of 2300 million would be completed in phase II and WASA, Roads, Local Government and Public Health Engineering related schemes would be completed. In addition, in the first phase of the Sustainable Development Goals program, 411 schemes of public need would be completed with funds of Rs.1.9 billion and in second phase 531 schemes would be completed with a cost of 1821.279 million. This

was informed to Divisional Commissioner Ishrat Ali during a meeting in which the progress of implementation of ongoing schemes under various development programs in the four districts of the division was reviewed. Apart from Director Development Mehr Ramzan, officers of various departments were also present. The Divisional Commissioner reviewed in detail the progress of implementation of ongoing schemes in the four districts under the first and second phases of the Community Development Program Phase I and II, Sustainable Development Program and expedited the disbursement of funds available to the concerned departments in a transparent manner.

## FESCO directed to resolve staff issues

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) Eng. Arshad Munir has directed the FESCO administration to solve the problems including pension, medical cases, marriage and welfare grant of the FESCO staff on priority and any delay in this regard would not be tolerated, he was addressing a review meeting of HR and Admin Director at FESCO Headquarter. He also directed to clear the all pending disciplinary cases. He said that safety training should be a compulsory part of the departmental training of line staff and syllabus regarding safety measures should be included in promotion training. During

the training Deputy Director (Safety) has to deliver lecture on safety to the participants of every course. He also issued orders to conduct a survey of the vehicle being use in operation circles and repairing of out of order vehicles. He said that there is no room for elements who create hurdle in the welfare of staff and strict action would be initiated against such officers and officials. Director General (HR & A) Bahri Karam brief the CEO about performance of HR Directorate. The meeting was also attended by Add: DG (CM) Ather Ayub Ch, Deputy Director Security Muzaffar Qadir Malik, Deputy Director Transport, Kashif Bashir, Add: Director (PR) and staff officer Abid Rashid.

## BRT Peshawar service to resume from Oct 25: spokesperson

He said the parts of the buses are under warranty while the batteries and electric motors had 12 years

DNA

PESHAWAR: The Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) services would be resumed from October 25 on the recommendation of the bus service company, said a spokesperson of the trans-Peshawar on Wednesday. The bus manufacturing company's inspection team has submitted its report to the government on the recent fire incidents in BRT Peshawar project. According to the spokesperson of the Trans Peshawar, the service was suspended on the recommendation of the manufacturers to help them inspect all buses thoroughly to determine and fix the fault after fire incidents. He said the investigation team had found that the motor capacitors/ controllers in the buses were not work-

ing properly which are being replaced with new ones. The official said the report found that the installed capacitor was passing more electricity than needed which had led to fire eruption incidents. He said the parts of the buses are under warranty while the batteries and electric motors had 12 years or 1.2 million kilometres warranty. A team of 20 experts had reached from China to fix the issue of the buses of the BRT. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government had suspended the BRT service to review the technical performance of all the buses after the fire incidents. Five buses have been hit by fire or 'spark' incidents so far. The company claims that only two buses had caught fire while the other three were just sparks.

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## Briefs

### Wildlife ongoing survey covers 5 districts

ISLAMABAD: The wildlife current ongoing survey was being covering five districts of Punjab, Jhelum, Chakwal, Attock, Mianwali and Khushab said a climate change media spokesperson. The ongoing wildlife survey aimed to assess population of Punjab Urial in Punjab and develop 'National Red Data Book' of Pakistan, he explained. The 15-days survey would continue till October 25, 2020 which was rutting season of wildlife species while giving overview of wildlife species to be covered in the country's first Red Data Book. He also highlighted various challenges for the survival of the Punjab Uria, saying the habitat fragmentation, degradation and loss has caused due to livestock grazing, construction of roads, dams, encroachment of wild area due to cultivation and other developmental activities, illegal hunting for meat, trophies and poaching of lambs were among the key threats to the Punjab Urial and foremost causes of decline in its population. He pointed out that there was presently little baseline data available which hardly provide any understanding about current status of the Punjab Uria species and which was a main bottleneck to its conservation and protection. — APP

### Orientation ceremony held at PMAS-AAUR

RAWALPINDI: An orientation ceremony for the newly admitted students was held at the Pir Mehr Ali Shah, Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR), here on Wednesday, with an aim to familiarize them with the university's environment, its rules and regulations. Vice Chancellor, (VC) Prof. Dr. Qamar Zaman was the chief guest. While welcoming the new entrants, he congratulated them and highlighted the university's efforts for quality education. The Vice Chancellor stressed the post-graduate students to work hard and focus on research activities with an aim to lead the country towards progress with innovative ideas. On the occasion, Director Advanced Studies Dr. Muhammad Azam, Director Quality Enhancement Cell Dr. Riaz Ahmad, Dean Faculty of Crop and Food Sciences, Dr. Fayyaz ul Hassan Sahi, Dean Social Sciences Dr. Abdul Saboor, Deans/Directors of the Institutes/Divisions, Controller of Examination were also present. Dr. Muhammad Azam and Dr. Riaz Ahmad, informed the students about rules and regulations and provided guidelines. They also covered important academic, administrative rules, scholarships and introduction of various facilities available at the campus. — APP

### Crackdown against child labour in brick-kiln

RAWALPINDI: The child labour department launched a crackdown against child labour working in brick-kilns in different areas of the district on Wednesday. According to an official, the constituted teams conducted crackdown at 21 brick-kilns but no child was found working there. The owners of mills, factories, brick kilns, shops and workshops are directed to avoid it, otherwise department would take prompt action if child labour was found anywhere in the district including shops, workshops and markets, official said. He said child labour has been prohibited strictly under the law in Pakistan.

DNA

## Political stability vital for economic growth: SAARC CCI

Addressing members of core committee of United Business Group, Iftikhar Ali Malik, President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that politics of confrontation, agitation, violence and protest was not solution

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Iftikhar Ali Malik on Wednesday urged the need for maintaining political stability which was prerequisite for sustained economic growth to cope with the multiple challenges faced by the country. Addressing members of core committee of United Business Group in connection with forthcoming annual election of the federation

of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Iftikhar Ali Malik, President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that politics of confrontation, agitation, violence and protest was not solution. He said the time has changed as now the influential nations were paying more attention to financial warfare to continue their dominance. These countries were successfully using their weapons of economic destruction to weaken economics

of poor nations to achieve their unholy designs while Pakistan's economy is not strong enough to withstand economic terrorism. Iftikhar Ali Malik said it was indeed important to increase our exports and for that purpose we need to reduce our cost of doing business so that our products can remain competitive in the world markets. He further said trade facilitation was the key to promote industries and we need to remove all the obstacles and create the culture of

trade facilitation. "Our Country has tremendous potential as we have enormous talent. What we need is the consistency in the government policies and a clear roadmap to move forward," he added. He was of the view that all the sectors including the industrial sector should discharge their national obligations and play their key role in strengthening the economy while the government should introduce reforms and control the smuggling of raw material and finished goods.

Iftikhar Ali Malik who is also chairman UBG also urged the government to conduct market research to find out new foreign destinations for the Pakistani products which are best in the world as far as quality and price is concerned. He said that Pakistani missions abroad should be duty bound to introduce Pakistani products to the foreign buyers and also ensure dissemination of trade related information so that Pakistan entrepreneurs could avail trade opportunities to the maximum.



ISLAMABAD: The Honorable Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Gulzar Ahmed in a group photo with the delegation of Rawalpindi Bar Association in Supreme Court. — DNA

## Business leaders greet PFC for IP expo

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Top business leaders on Wednesday greeted Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) for holding successful first ever 3-day mega 12th Interiors Pakistan expo in Sialkot and termed it a positive step towards development interior industry. President Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Qaisar Iqbal Baryar while talking to Chief Executive Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Mian Kashif Ashfaq said that first time the people of Sialkot especially exporters were provided ample opportunities to see the best quality furniture products under one roof which increased the interests of the visitors. Pakistan's top interior designers and furniture manufacturers displayed their work to promote the local furniture industry, he added. Qaisar Iqbal Baryar said the government needs to streamline existing markets and identify new potential markets for 'Made-in-Pakistan' products in Far-East,

Central Asia Republics, Latin America and Russia. He urged the need for providing interest-free loans to furniture producers for five years for the import of new technology to improve overall infrastructure of the industry. Fazal Gilani Chairman Air Sial, Hassan Ali Bhatti, Chairman Pakistan Leather garments exporters association and Naeem Javed Chairman Board of Director of Sialkot Airport said that they were highly impressed with the best quality of hand made furniture when they twice visited the expo along with other galaxy of stars of Sialkot. They said that all stall products were remarkable which attracted crowd of buyers which speaks of the success of expo. Sialkot was an export hub and earning US\$ 2 billion through its exports and strengthening national exchequer despite certain problems, they said. Speaking on the occasion, PFC Chief Executive Mian Kashif Ashfaq said the expo created opportunities for interior designers and fur-

niture manufacturers to work together for the progress of the industry while giving young participants a chance to display their designs and products. He urged Sialkot tycoons and entrepreneurs to work extensively to promote the local furniture industry in Pakistan. "Pakistan is blessed with abundant resources and our people are equipped with the best skills that can help develop the country on modern lines." He said through these exhibitions the Pakistan Furniture Council has laid the groundwork for furniture related commerce to move forward effectively and expand their market and in turn serve the economy of Pakistan. He further said public and private joint efforts have to be made on modern lines to gain optimum access to international markets for locally manufactured furniture and accessories. He said the potential of the furniture industry here in Pakistan was enormous and that within 2-3 years, it could even be double if the government patronized this industry.

## CSA alumni's office bearers visit FBR

ISLAMABAD: The senior office bearers of Civil Service Academy (CSA) Alumni visited Headquarter of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on Wednesday and they were welcomed by Chairman FBR Muhammad Javed Ghani. The Patron CSA Alumni Javed Nisar enlightened the senior officers of FBR about the objectives of organization, said a press release issued by FBR here. He said that it was totally

apolitical which has the sole aim to provide the officers a single platform to strengthen their social connections. The Patron of Alumni informed that it was also working for the welfare activities on self-help basis. The officers appreciated the efforts of Alumni member Waseem Bajwa who worked tirelessly for the welfare of the officers. The Chairman FBR assured the Alumni office bearers of

FBR's full support. The Chairman FBR also accepted their request to become FBR patron for the Alumni. In the end, Chairman FBR presented shields to the senior office bearers of the Alumni Javed Nisar and Rao Tehsin Ali Khan. The Spokesperson FBR and Member Taxpayers' Audit Nadeem Hussain Rizvi presented bouquets to the Alumni office bearers. — APP

## Rescue 1122: 16 years of service to humanity

The Service started from city of Lahore has been expanded in all 36 districts of Punjab and is being replicated down to tehsil level and other provinces of Pakistan except Sindh Province

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Emergency Service, Rescue 1122 has been provided sense of safety to the citizens of Pakistan from October 2004 to 2020 till to date during 16 years of service to humanity. On Wednesday, the Rescue Service had completed 16 years of serving to humanity and this Service was necessitated after failure of repeated attempts to revitalize and modernize the old organizations mandated for emergency management. Recall the past memories, when there was no ambulance, fire and rescue services. People were suffering due to unavailability of timely and professional assistance in

emergencies, many lives and property loss was routine matter. This helplessness turned into strength after a comprehensive integrated emergency management system of Punjab Emergency Service with name Rescue 1122. Rescue Service gained public trust with several years of the continuous services to humanity and now a lot of achievements are on record. The Service was started by Dr. Rizwan Naseer with political ownership and support of then Chief Minister Ch. Pervaiz Elahi. The Punjab Emergency Service Act 2006 was also unanimously passed from Punjab Assembly to provide legal cover to the Emer-

gency Services. Now the Rescue Service has become the leading emergency service of South Asia after getting international certification from United Nations in the field of Search and Rescue. The Service started from city of Lahore has been expanded in all 36 districts of Punjab and is being replicated down to tehsil level and other provinces of Pakistan except Sindh Province. During this span of time, despite of all challenges over 8.6 million victims of emergencies were rescued, first modern Fire Rescue Service was established and responded over 150,000 fire

incidents, saved worth over 450 billion losses with timely emergency response and professional firefighting, Motorbike Ambulance Service set new standard of emergency response dealt over 600,00 emergencies in 9 divisional headquarters with average response time of 4 minutes. Patient Transfer Service was provided to over 800,000 patients from lower health facility to higher health facility. The Service established Community Emergency Response Teams in all Union Councils of Punjab and trained over one million first aiders to promote safety through volunteerism. The Rescue Ser-

vice is continuously striving to serve as per its mission statement "development of safer communities through establishment of an effective system for emergency preparedness, response and prevention". Citizens are being provided with the basic right to timely emergency care without any discrimination. As this was a unique initiative in 2004 so Emergency Services Academy was also established to develop train human resource. Pioneer team of Rescue Service Headquarters and districts burns their midnight oil to establish an exemplary model of Emergency Service in Punjab. — APP

## QAU, Pink Pakistan Trust join hands

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Pink Pakistan Trust with an aim to create awareness on breast cancer and its early detection. Both organizations will jointly organize awareness sessions, seminars, conferences and workshops for eradicating breast cancer from the country. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali, Vice Chancellor Quaid-i-Azam University and Dr. Zubaida Qazi, President, Pink Pakistan Trust signed the MoU. While addressing the ceremony, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali said awareness was incredibly important especially among young women for early detection to reduce the mortality rate. He assured the University's support and welcomed the efforts of collaboration. Both organizations also agreed to work towards the achievement of sustainable development goals (SDGs) for eradicating poverty, good health and wellbeing, gender equality, reduced inequalities, and economic growth in general. Dr. Wasim Qazi, Vice Chancellor, Iqra University, Prof. Dr. Zahid Asghar, Registrar QAU, Dr. Muhammad Ishraq Ali, Director Academics, Dr. Mariam Anees, Director Student Affairs, Murtaza Noor, Secretary General, QAU Alumni Association and senior faculty members also attended the meeting.

## Ulema demand arrest of Maulana Adil's Killers

RAWALPINDI: Mutihida Sunni Council Wednesday demanded the immediate arrest of those involved in target killing of eminent religious scholar Maulana Adil Khan of Jamia Farooqia in Karachi. Addressing a press conference here on Wednesday, the Ulemas including Maulana Qazi Abdul Rasheed, Maulana Zahoore Alvi, Maulana Ashraf Ali, Maulana Masood U Rehman Usmani and others termed the killing of Maulana Adil an attempt to destabilize religious harmony in the country. They said that Maulana Adil was an ambassador of Islam in the world who carried flag of peace and harmony and demanded of the authorities to arrest the culprits and give exemplary punishment to them. It is to be noted that Maulana Dr. Adil Khan and his driver were gunned down by unidentified armed men on October 10 in Karachi. — APP

## 'PML-N rigged NA-120 by elections'

LAHORE: Adviser to Prime Minister on Accountability and Interior Barrister Mirza Shahzad Akbar on Wednesday said that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leader Maryam Nawaz rigged the NA-120 by-elections in 2017 by distribution of Rs 2.5 billion under umbrella of development schemes, violating Election Commission of Pakistan's rules and regulations for by polls. Addressing a press conference along with Punjab Minister for Health Dr Yasmin Rashid at PID Office here, he said that Maryam Nawaz Sharif had managed funds of rupees 2.5 billion from then PML-N federal government and initiated various development schemes by TEPA in a bid to rig the NA-120 by elections, adding that Maryam Nawaz had violated the ECP's rules and regulations, pertaining to ban on development schemes besides allocation of funds for any purpose in the constituency during polls. Shehzad Akbar said that Maryam Nawaz along with Fawad Hassan Fawad had used the TEPA to disburse the funds for influencing the polls, adding that cash payments were made to the third party for completing development schemes and later the ground working including tendering and other formalities were completed. — APP

## FDE officials asked to work from home

ISLAMABAD: The FDE has directed all the officials to work from home except Directors for the next two working days (Thursday and Friday). According to an official source, the decision has been taken as a consequence of coronavirus positive cases spotted in FDE. The authority has advised the officials to keep their cellphones on and not leave the station and they must stay in touch through internet and cellphone facilities for discharge of their official duties. — APP

## Two killed, 3 injured in different incidents

DNA

ATTOCK: Two persons were killed and three others injured in three different incidents in various parts of district Attock. In first incident, a man was killed and other was injured as a speedy passenger van recklessly driven by unknown driver rammed into a truck on Rawalpindi-Patehjang road near Hattar patrolling post in limits of Patehjang Police station. The Police and rescue sources said that the man identified as 45 years old Iqbal Khan was died on the spot while another person on board passenger van identified as 55 years old Shubhat Ali got injured critically. In the second incident, a mobile shop owner was shot dead in mobile snatching incident in Mohallah Shed area in limits of Attock city police station. The Police sources said that three armed bandits riding on a motorcycle snatched mobile phone worth Rs 0.250 million and shot dead shopkeeper Ayat Ullah Khan over resistance. The culprits managed to escape from the scene successfully. In the third incident, two persons were injured in head on collision between a car and van on Attock-Sanjwal road near Arid university campus in limits of Attock Police station.

## Senate House committee postponed

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the Senate House Committee on Wednesday postponed due to absence of Capital Development Authority (CDA) officials. Chairman of the Committee Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, Senator Samina, Senator Kalsoom Parveen and Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi were present in the meeting. Initially the meeting started in chair of Senator Javed Abbasi and later joined by Chairman of the committee Saleem Mandviwalla. The committee unanimously decided to postpone the meeting due to absence of CDA officials. The committee was agenda to get briefing regarding non-responsive attitude of Chief Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad regarding their willingness to undertake maintenance work in Parliament lodges. The committee was also on agenda to discuss about the utilization-plan of 83 suites of the Senators in the Parliament Lodges and progress report regarding maintenance work of suites of senators. — APP

## AC Abbottabad inspects markets

ABBOTTABAD: Implementing the principles of price control and hygiene, Additional Assistant Commissioner Abbottabad Marvi Malik visited Supply Bazaar, Markets and Jinnahabad. Additional Assistant Commissioner-I, Marvi Malik Sher, on the special instructions of Deputy Commissioner Abbottabad Muhammad Maghis Sanaullah, ensured control of rising inflation and action against those responsible. During the inspection, she

finned Khyber Shinwari for selling meat / preparing food on increasing prices and violating hygiene principles. In addition, Kagan bakers and vegetable and fruit sellers were issued warnings and strict instructions for lack of cleanliness, price hikes and non-compliance with the rate list. Citizens are kindly requested to inform us of their grievances and valuable feedback at the District Control Room, she urged the citizens. — APP

## Per capita water availability dips to 1,000 m3 per annum

ISLAMABAD: The per capita water availability in the country has reduced to less than 1,000 m3 per annum per capita due to increasing population, which is the stage of water scarcity. Official sources told that per capita in Pakistan in 1951 was 5,260 m3 per annum, which was constantly decreasing. However, they said WAPDA has prepared a comprehensive plan to address the water scarcity issue by storing flood water during high flow season and utilize the same. They said in last decade, WAPDA has completed Mangla Dam Raising (2.88 MAF), Gomal Zam Dam (0.892 MAF), Satpara Dam (0.053 MAF) and Darawat Dam (0.089 MAF) to store water. Similarly, Diamer Basha Dam (6.4 MAF), Mohmand Dam (0.676 MAF) and Nai Gaj Dam (0.16 MAF) were at implementation stage, the sources said. They said WAPDA was also planning to construct Kurram Tangi Dam Stage-II (0.90 MAF), Sindh Barrage (2.00 MAF) to cope with the issues of water shortage in the country.



## Briefs

3rd member  
of car lifter  
gang held

RAWALPINDI: Westridge police on Wednesday arrested another member of the car lifter gang busted on Tuesday when its two members were rounded up after exchange of fire.

According to a police spokesman, Westridge police had arrested two car lifters wanted by police in several auto-theft cases and recovered a stolen car, weapons and other items from their possession but, third member of the gang namely Altamash managed to escape from the scene. He informed that Westridge police during their routine patrolling on Tuesday signaled to stop a suspected vehicle at School Road in Allahabad area following which three occupants started firing on the police party. Police team retaliated and managed to arrest two injured car lifters namely Sagheer Ahmed Shah and Karamat Ali Shah who were later shifted to hospital for medical treatment. An accomplice escaped from the scene. Mehran car recovered from Sadiqabad area, he added. Police started efforts to arrest the absconding criminal and managed to net the accused. A case has been registered against the car lifters while further investigations are underway, he added. City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi has appreciated performance of Westridge police and directed the police personnel to continue special efforts to completely check activities of car thieves. — APP

SOPs issued  
for CRTF  
convention

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The office of Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Youth Affairs Muhammad Usman Dar Wednesday issued the anti-coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the Corona Relief Tiger Force (CRTF) convention, scheduled to be held here on October 17 (Saturday). According to the SAPM's office, the SOPs were issued to contain the virus spread.

All the visiting CRTF volunteers were required to wear face mask and gloves and observe physical distancing during the convention, the guidelines said. The volunteers were informed to bring their identification cards with them for attending the convention. "Prime Minister Imran Khan will address to the 'brave soldiers' of tiger force on upcoming Saturday and inform them about their roles and responsibilities in controlling artificial inflation in the country," SAPM Usman Dar told the media the other day after reviewing the arrangements, made at the Convention Center Islamabad for the tiger force orientation on the price control mechanism. The government has recently decided to assign a new task to the tiger force volunteers which is to identify the hoarding and artificial price hike in their respective areas.

The tiger force was formed in March following Covid-19 outbreak in the country to aid the civil administration in carrying out coronavirus related activities.

Blasphemous  
content case:  
ATC adjourns  
hearing

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Wednesday adjourned the hearing in uploading of blasphemous material on social media case till October 16. ATC Judge Raja Jawad Abbas conducted the hearing against the four accused named in first information report. During the hearing, the defence lawyer adopted the stance that his client's one petition was pending before the Islamabad High Court (IHC) and prayed the court to adjourn the case until the decision on it. The petitioner Hafiz Ahtisham's lawyer informed the court that the IHC had given six weeks to conclude the trial in the case and requested the judge to continue proceedings. The judge said the court would continue its proceedings if the accused could not produce the IHC's order till the next date.

FBR asked to provide relief  
in taxes to small traders

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that during the lockdown, the business community did not lay off its employees and continued to pay them out of their own pocket, which has aggravated their problems

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that the five-months lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic has led to a great recession in the business activities and has badly hit the small traders due to which they were facing multiple problems including payment of shops rents. Therefore, it was the need of the hour that FBR should provide relief in taxes to small shopkeepers in order to alleviate their difficulties. He was addressing a delegation of Traders Welfare Association, Jinnah Super Market that visited ICCI led by its President Asad Aziz. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that during the lockdown, the business community did not lay off its employees and continued to pay them out of their own pocket, which has aggravated their problems while the businesses have not yet returned to their normal conditions. This situation demands that the government should consider announcing more relief packages for the business community instead of creating problems for them. He said that the business community was implementing the SOPs issued by the district administration but the customers were not following them due to which the shopkeepers were facing closures of shops. He said that in view of the current difficult busi-



ness conditions, FBR should provide tax relief to traders, simplify tax forms, develop them in Urdu, accept the last year's tax returns as submitted and review SROs issued after the announcement of the construction package as these SROs would reduce the usefulness of the package introduced by the Prime Minister. Asad Aziz President and Abdul

Rehman Siddiqui Secretary General, Traders Welfare Association Jinnah Supermarket Islamabad congratulated the newly elected Office Bearers of the Chamber and said that the businesses hit by the lockdown have not yet recovered while shops were being closed in the name of SOPs violation. They said that such tactics of the district administra-

tion were creating harassment in the trading community and demanded that the administration should refrain from unnecessarily harassing traders so that they could focus on promoting business activities. They further said that the threshold for CNIC condition in business transactions should be further increased from the current level of Rs.100,000/-

and the decision to install point of sale devices should be postponed for the time being as the traders have many reservations on installation of POS at shops. They said that before taking such decisions, the stakeholders should be fully taken into confidence as unilateral decisions always created difficulties for the business community.

Accountability to  
continue in police

Twelve policemen appeared for their transfer while seven others regarding their personnel issues

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police would continue accountability process to improve functioning of department and bringing transparency in policing affairs. DIG (Headquarters) Islamabad Muhammad Salaeem held weekly Ardal Room for 39 police officials as well jawans and reviewed their appeals and disciplinary action against them. After listening to the policemen, the police spokesman said that he restored the four lady constables ad two constables on service while change in penalty of 14 policemen was made. Twelve policemen appeared

for their transfer while seven others regarding their personnel issues. After listening to these policemen, transfers were made as per Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) while assurance was made to resolve the problems of cops. It is to mention that senior police officials including DIG (Headquarters) hold Ardal Room on weekly basis as per directions of IGP Islamabad and policemen serving in Capital police force get opportunity to highlight problems and issued faced by them. As per directions of IGP Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfikar, police spokesman said that accountability process would continue in the force.

DOPC  
meeting held

DNA

ATTOCK: Chairman District Overseas Pakistanis Committee Ch Adil Ali Khan chaired a meeting in Deputy Commissioner Office on Wednesday for Overseas Pakistanis Complaint Cell and reviewed the progress of Departments in connection with the resolution of complaints. Chairman District Overseas Pakistanis Committee Ch Adil Ali Khan said PTI government is committed to solve problems of Overseas Pakistanis. He expressed these views while addressing a meeting of the District Overseas committee. He said a large number of Overseas Pakistanis living abroad belong to attock. He said that the overseas Pakistanis were taking part in stabilizing the national economy and it was the government's priority to provide the maximum level of facilitation to them.

The rising illicit  
trade in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is one of the top markets for the illicit tobacco trade in Asia, and the market share of these illegal manufacturers have increased from 35pc to 42pc in the last three years. As per a survey conducted by Oxford Economics, in 2017, a total of 77.8 billion cigarette sticks was consumed in Pakistan, of which 11% cigarettes were illegally smuggled into the country, and 31% were locally manufactured tax-evading cigarettes. The local tax-evading manufacturers use a unique way of evading taxes. In the big markets of the country, these manufacturers do print the mandatory Graphical Health Warning (GHW) and the minimum regulated prices but are sold less than the printed price.

The minimum price regulated but the government is Rs62/pack but these local manufacturers sell at the price of Rs25-30/pack. They also under-declare their production to evade taxes. On the other hand, recently, the Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) held a survey in the Pakistani market and claimed that the presence of illegal cigarette in the country is the only 16pc. According to the details shared by the official of SPARC, the survey was conducted in 10 most populated cities by Studying Tobacco Users of Pakistan (STUP) and evaluated over 8,000 packets of cigarettes to know how many cigarettes are being smuggled or illegally sold and STUP found that almost 16% of cigarettes are being sold illegally but these re-

sults are less than the claims of the tobacco industry. The survey methodology that was used in this survey seems flawed as it only focuses on one element within illegal cigarettes i.e. smuggled cigarettes, which do not comply with the government's GHW mandate. The methodology does not take into account locally manufactured tax-evading cigarettes, because as per the survey methodology only those packets were considered which did not have the GHW and hence those with GHW were ignored. Ignoring the local illegal cigarettes packs being sold leaves behind only the smuggled cigarettes what only hold the 11pc of the market share while the 31pc of the market share still belongs to the illegal local manufacturers.

Delegation  
of RBA calls  
on CJP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A 17-member delegation of Rawalpindi Bar Association (RBA), headed by its President Syed Gulam Mustafa Kamal and comprising office bears called on Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Gulzar Ahmed here at Supreme Court.

Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed welcomed the delegation and said that bench and bar were integral part of same system, therefore the both should work hard for dispensation of justice so that aggrieved parties could get prompt relief. Legal profession was one of the respectable professions; therefore you people must uphold dignity, integrity, respect and honour of the profession, he added. The delegation discussed issues of mutual interest regarding the legal profession and informed that Rawalpindi Bar Association had played exemplary role to create harmony between bench and bar, extended due respect to honorable judges and always discouraged strikes. Moreover misconduct was not tolerated and dealt high-handedly, they added. The chief justice appreciated them that other bars would surely follow the footsteps of Rawalpindi bar association. The delegation thanked the chief justice for sparing time for them and presented bouquet of flowers and invited him to visit Rawalpindi bar association. The chief justice expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the delegation.

Bootlegger  
arrested; 86  
liquor bottles  
seized

RAWALPINDI: The police in crackdown against anti-social elements arrested a bootlegger and recovered 86 bottles of liquor from his possession, a police spokesman said on Wednesday. According to Station House Officer (SHO) Kalar Syedan Police Station, Ghazanfar Abbas, Kalar Syedan police team conducted a raid and arrested Gulam Rabbani alias Bani for possessing 86 bottles of liquor. A case has been registered against all the accused and police started further investigation. The SP appreciated the performance of police and directed them for high vigilance and monitoring against those involved in anti-social activities, the spokesman added.

Considering trade policy an important aspect in the promotion of trade activities at local and global level, the Senate Standing Committee on Commerce has sought a detailed briefing from the ministry of Commerce on Trade Policy besides the E-Commerce policy. The Committee is going to meet on 16th October, 2020 at the Parliament House. Chairman of the Committee Senator Mirza Muhammad Afridi observed that trade policy in the cornerstone of any economy and the committee is focussed on formulating recommendations to promote trade and commerce local, regional and globally.

PAL to hold  
25th meeting  
of Board of  
Governors

ISLAMABAD: The 25th meeting of the Board of Governors of the Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) will be held on October 15, 2020, at 10:30, am in the Committee Room of the PAL under the chairmanship of Dr. Yousuf Khushk, Chairman of the PAL and the Board of Governors of the PAL.

The agenda of the Board of Governors includes more than twenty-five projects for the promotion and development of Pakistani languages and literature of PAL and the welfare of the writers which will be submitted to the Board of Governors for approval. Mureed Rahmoon, Joint Secretary, National History and Culture Division, Raja Mohammad Akhtar Iqbal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Dr. Tariq Banuri, Chairman, Higher Education Commission, Hussam Hur, Dr. Sher Mohammad Mehrani, Gulam Hassan Hasnu, Abaseen Yousafzai, Dr. Muhammad Saif Awan, Dr. Pushpa Valabh, Khalid Masood, Haris Khaliq, Dr. Javed Hassan Chaudhri, Dr. Abdullah Jan Abid, Noor Khan Muhammad Hassani, Dr. Zeenat Sana Baloch, Ahmad Atta, Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahir, Dr. Naveed Shehzad, Dr. Fazal Khaliq and Qasim Naseem will attend the meeting. — DNA

Crackdown  
against child  
labour in  
brick-klin

RAWALPINDI: The child labour department launched a crackdown against child labour working in brick-kilns in different areas of the district on Wednesday. According to an official, the constituted teams conducted crackdown at 21 brick-kilns but no child was found working there. The owners of mills, factories, brick kilns, shops and workshops are directed to avoid it, otherwise department would take prompt action if child labour was found anywhere in the district including shops, workshops and markets, official said. He said child labour has been prohibited strictly under the law in Pakistan.8 — APP



ISLAMABAD: Senator Shibli Faraz, Federal Minister for Information visited PEMRA Headquarters today. Muhammad Saleem Baig, Chairman, briefed about Authority's working. Senior officers of Ministry & PEMRA were also present. — DNA

PTCL records highest Broadband  
customers in a month in the last 5 years

PTCL Group reported revenue of Rs 96 billion for the nine months ended September 2020; when normalized for the impact of Covid-19 and certain regulatory changes affecting Ufone, Group revenue is 4.2% higher than 2019 on a like-for-like basis

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL), the country's leading telecom and ICT services provider, has announced its financial results for the nine months ended September 30, 2020 at its Board of Directors' meeting held in Islamabad on October 14, 2020. PTCL Group reported revenue of Rs 96 billion for the nine months ended September 2020; when normalized for the impact of Covid-19 and certain regulatory changes affecting Ufone, Group revenue is 4.2% higher than 2019 on a like-for-like ba-

sis. UBank continued its growth momentum and has achieved a double digit growth in its revenue over last year. PTCL standalone revenue for the nine months period is 0.7% lower than last year; when normalized for the impact of Covid-19, the like-for-like revenue is 1.2% higher than the same period of last year. As the post-Covid situation got better and the markets opened up after the lockdowns, PTCL Group performance has shown signs of improvement. Group's Q3, 2020 revenue is higher by 3.4% over the same quarter of last year. The topline growth coupled with cost control initiatives translated into 167% and

356% improvement in Group's operating profit and net profit for the quarter respectively. During the 3rd Quarter, PTCL wireline segment showed positive trends. PTCL has recorded the highest ever sale in Broadband for any Quarter since Q4 2014. Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) continues to grow with consistent growth in subscriber base during the period with a promising outlook. The positive momentum in wireless (Charji) segment continued with subscriber base increasing by 21% on YoY basis. Retail business recorded 6% growth in revenue between Q3 2020 vs Q2 2020. Corporate and Wholesale busi-

nesses continued their growth momentum and have achieved a 6% overall revenue growth YoY. Similarly, international revenue has also shown 6% growth as compared to the same period last year. PTCL, in collaboration with SCO has successfully established strategic partnership to monetize CPEC cross border connectivity. PTCL has been successful to maintain its dominant position in the market with reference to IP bandwidth and managed capacity services. PTCL Customer Care continued its efforts to enhance customer experience through various initiatives taken during this period. Moreover, PTCL

undertook a comprehensive Coronavirus relief and support effort, through its various CSR initiatives, standing with the nation in these tough times. Also, PTCL is geared up to increase high-speed internet penetration in the country to support Prime Minister's vision for Digital Pakistan. Based on the financial strength and improved performance, VIS Credit Rating Company Limited (VIS) has reaffirmed entity ratings of PTCL at 'AAA/A-1+' (Triple A/A-One Plus). The medium to long term rating of 'AAA' denotes highest credit quality with negligible risk factors.



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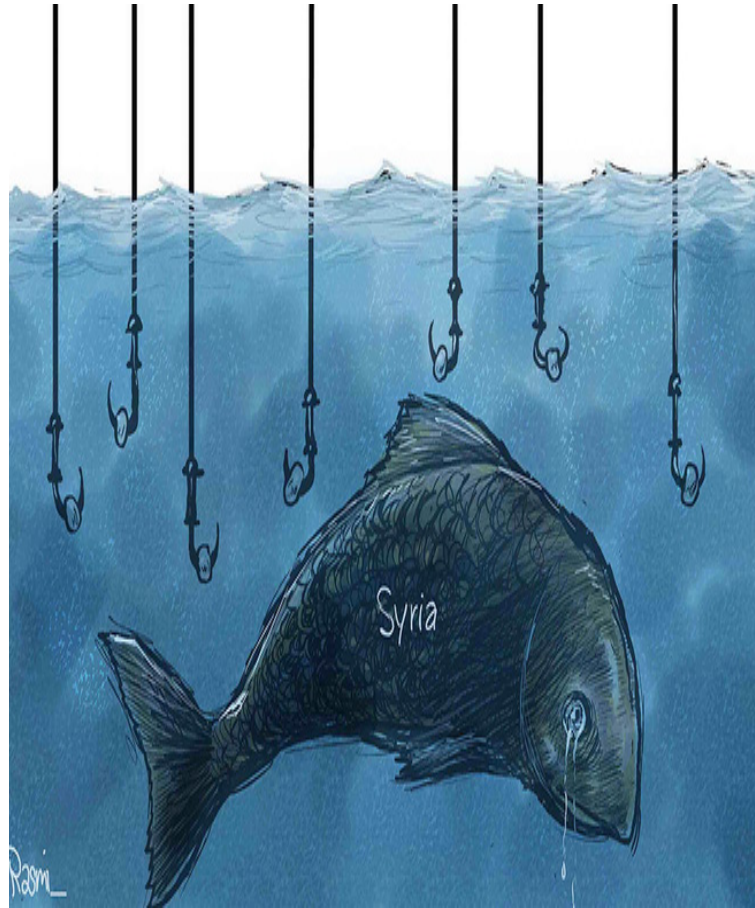
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## Showdown time

We appear close to what looks like a serious showdown between the combined opposition parties and the government. While Prime Minister Imran Khan and his team insist that the opposition will not and cannot be successful in weakening or dislodging the government in any way, the opposition fervently disagrees. The strongest disagreement comes from the PML-N, although the JUI-F with its street force factor will be a major player in the days ahead. The PML-N has said it will indeed be able to change the government – possibly even see defections from within the PTI itself. So far, while some PML-N MNAs have defected to the PTI, it is not clear if there is a group within the PTI disillusioned with the party itself, and willing to change over. What will also be crucial is the question of what tactics are adopted by the opposition. The government has said it will allow rallies to be held, but not the use of force or any illegal means. Will the opposition be able to muster enough people to stand out onto the streets? The PML-N has very little tradition of street power or street agitation. Whether there can be a change inside the House is even more questionable. So far the PPP has had a wishy-washy reaction to the issue of resignations. But we cannot say how things will go in the future. The government quite obviously will try to win allies from within the. The PPP is a very likely candidate for this. For now, the success or lack of it of the Oct 16 Gujranwala rally may determine things for the future. But this is clearly a test for the government. The crippling price inflation means people are angry. How angry they are will be reflected in the days ahead as the opposition movement begins in earnest and stages its rallies in cities across the country. There is also the question of how the government would meet this challenge. If it is able to do so, with dignity and grace, it will gain a lot. Any efforts to begin a process of negotiations or discussions have not really taken place. Maryam Nawaz in the PML-N and other key leaders of the party remain defiant. With two days to go, the opposition is neither mincing words nor shying away from public exposure. Will we see the government's confidence wane as the rallies grow closer?



## GB protests

Protesters in Gilgit-Baltistan, demanding the release of political prisoners imprisoned since 2011, called off their agitation on Saturday after the region's caretaker government assured them that the held individuals would be released. The protest, in Hunza's Aliabad area, lasted for six days and most of the region's political and religious parties, along with families of the incarcerated individuals, participated in large numbers. At the heart of the matter is a protest held in 2011, in the aftermath of the Attabad Lake incident, when locals started demonstrating against the administration for what they said were insufficient relief efforts. As a scuffle broke out between protesters and police in Aliabad, hundreds of activists, including Baba Jan, were rounded up by the authorities for 'rioting' and later given lengthy prison terms under the antiterrorism law. It is for the release of these men that the large, peaceful protests have been held in the northern region over the past few days. Along with Aliabad, activists held protests in other GB cities and towns in solidarity. With an election in the region due next month, the authorities need to handle the situation with care. Demonstrations have up till now been peaceful, but discontent is brewing, mainly due to the harsh penalties imposed on people exercising their democratic right to organise. The GB administration has said it will release the 14 political prisoners in a month and a half; this process needs to be expedited and those incarcerated simply for expressing their opinions must be given maximum relief under the law. But beyond the Aliabad incident, the leaders in Islamabad must ensure that an atmosphere of political freedom and a democratic culture are allowed to flourish in GB. Muzzling the people's opinions simply because they differ from the official line will have counterproductive results, and will add to discontent in a geopolitically sensitive region. We have seen the failure of this approach before – particularly in Balochistan. In that province, due to the mistakes of the establishment, alienation from the national mainstream grew; this was exploited by forces internal and external. The same mistake must not be made in GB. The educated, politically aware populace must be allowed to make informed decisions at the ballot box, while more needs to be done to give the region the same rights the rest of Pakistan enjoys. Heavy-handed tactics must be abandoned in favour of a democratic, inclusive approach.

# Peaceful Azerbaijan & fascist Armenia

Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan



Despite truce/ceasefire fascist Armenia did not stop its "bombardment" on various cities of Azerbaijan namely Ganja, Tartar, Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Agdam and Mingachvir and killed innocent people living far away from the point of ongoing contention/conflict which shows perpetual terrorist mentality of the "sick man" of South Caucasus prime minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan who always preferred "enmity" over "humanity"

Humanity is ashamed and fascist Armenia has once again indulged in targeting civilian settlements, medical hospitals, schools, colleges, markets and last but not least, residential areas in entire Azerbaijan through its air force, rockets, prohibited cluster munitions and missiles. But in this race of madness Azerbaijan "faith" is still dom-

inated over the Armenia "fascisms". Fortunately, the Republic of Azerbaijan has now successfully liberated one major city, one big settlement, many strategically important points (mountains) and more than 35 villages from Armenia. Holy "Adhan" has been aired which is indeed a grand moral victory over "atrocities" of Armenia. It has not been war between two different armies but two "distinctive" "philosophies" in which Azerbaijan represents pure "humanity" while Armenian carries "horrendous" crimes, Azerbaijan upholds spirits of national "dignity" while Armenian worshiper of "destruction", one stands for "development" while other always speaks about "demolition" and one always "follows" international law but other habitual of "fascism". So there is no comparison between the two armies because Azerbaijan stands for "concord" whereas Armenian stigmatizes for illegal "conjured" conquered. The recent Azerbaijan and Armenia war has also exposed "double" standard of so called "civilized" world which always stands with "aggressor". Moreover, it has also tried to divide the world into communal, racial and religious basis & brackets. Peter van Dalen, a Dutch Christian Democrat MEP termed it a "crusade" war where Azerbaijan and its support Turkey should be punished. Unfortunately, "genie" of "Islamophobia" has once again marched in the streets and palaces of the EU which seems not to be a "rational" approach to resolve the current conflict. Most recently, Armenian BM-30 Smerch and OTR-31 Tochka missiles badly hit to various residential areas of Ganja, the second largest city of Azerbaijan with population of 500,000 caused lots of casualties and collateral damages even after current temporary humanitarian ceasefire. According to Azerbaijan defence ministry (October 11, 2020) more than 35 civilian dead, 50 seriously injured and 80 families suffered from collateral damages after the current truce. But permanent human "generosity" of Azerbaijan is still swaying Armenian "genocide". Despite truce/ceasefire fascist Armenia did not stop its "bombardment" on various cities of Azerbaijan namely Ganja, Tartar, Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Agdam and Mingachvir and killed innocent people living far away from the point of ongoing contention/conflict which shows perpetual terrorist mentality of the "sick man" of South Caucasus prime minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan who always preferred "enmity" over "humanity". During ceasefire its various ministries are now busy in collecting more and more "ammunitions" by dogging peace initiators and observers. But Azerbaijan's "harmonious" stance of peace is still

destroying Armenia's horrendousness. Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan (October 11, 2020) shared latest information of true violation of Armenia by start rocket shelling to Mingachevir city where water reservoir and electric station are located. It is an industrial city of Azerbaijan which has strategic importance because of having largest water reservoir and power plant in the South Caucasus region. Any damage to this city and its strategic oriented installations could have serious environmental consequences for the whole South Caucasus region. In this connection, the Rio Declaration on "Environment and Development" (1992) provides protection for the environment in times of armed conflict and cooperate in its further development, as necessary. Moreover, the "Geneva Conventions of 1949" and their "Additional Protocols" prohibits attack on environment and threat to the environment. So, missile targeting Mingachevir reservoir and power block by Armenia severely violates the norms and principles of international law, including the norms of international humanitarian law too. Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic Turkey Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu discussed the current situation through a telephone call. During the telephone conversation, Minister Jeyhun Bayramov briefed his Turkish counterpart about the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia held in Moscow with the mediation of the Russian Foreign Minister. The Foreign Minister Bayramov noted that a temporary truce had been declared between Azerbaijan and Armenia for "humanitarian" purposes, and that the Armenian had been given one last chance to negotiate and withdraw Armenian troops from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Turkish FM Çavuşoğlu said that the truce declared to exchange prisoners and dead bodies was an important step, but it is not a permanent solution, and Turkey would only support solutions that Azerbaijan agrees with. Referring to the principled position of Azerbaijan, Minister Jeyhun Bayramov stressed the need to implement relevant UN Security Council resolutions to ensure peace in the region. While addressing the Non Alignment Movement (NAM), the Foreign Minister informed the participants about the fact that Armenia has been occupying the territories of our country for about 30 years in violation of the principles of international law and four relevant UN Security Council resolutions, and its illegal activities for the annexation of these territories.

So far, Armenian armed forces have continued to intensively fire at densely populated residential areas, social, cultural and strategic facilities with use of artillery weapons, rockets, military aircrafts and prohibited cluster munitions. Consequently, there are numerous dead and wounded among the civilian population, as well as the private houses, historical and cultural monuments, administrative buildings and other social objects were severely damaged. Despite temporary truce the march of Armenia "barbarism" is still going on producing "devastating" socio-economic, geopolitical and geostrategic implications and spillover ramifications for the region and beyond. While visiting Ganja city the foreign diplomats have witnessed Armenian martial brutality and cruelty against innocent civilian population. The city confronted huge loss and collateral damage but its human spirits are still unfading. Most recently, (October 11, 2020) the fascist Armenian armed forces subjected to fire Yevlakh district, which is densely populated and far from the conflict zone. Armenian has intentionally targeted the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan main export oil pipeline passing through this area, with cluster munitions. The cluster munitions rocket has missed the target of BTI pipeline by narrow margin. Fragments of more than 300 cluster bombs were scattered around, and this is a serious threat and danger to the life and health of the civilian population. The BTC main export oil pipeline has great strategic significance for Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey and the region as a whole, Europe and the world in general, in economic, political and energy security terms. So, "easy" and "smooth" supplies of energy has become "hostage" of Armenia "hegemonic" hang-over. It has now undermined regional as well as global energy security and caused serious environmental consequences for the entire region. Being a prominent regional expert of Azerbaijan & CIS I endorse "Karabakh is Azerbaijan". De-escalation, de-occupation of illegally occupied areas of Azerbaijan, diplomacy and dialogue should be the way forward because "martyrdom" never fades and "fascism" just vanishes with "vanguard" spirits of brave soldiers. Armenian should keep in its mind that false "propaganda" is always short lived whereas, peace remains permanent. "Genocide" is always a serious crime against helpless and naked humanity whereas, human "generosity" is everlasting trait. Martial power does not have "substance" whereas, peaceful "persuasion" dominates. Last but not least, "tanks" always achieve "tendentious" consequences whereas, "tenacious" spirits always become victor.

# Problems of medical education in Pakistan

Prof. Dr. Nusrat Majeed



Health system science and relevant technology enhanced learning should now be included as a pillar in the medical curricula of the twenty first century

Doctors and health care providers are looked upon by the society as highly respectable members of the society. Dealing with human lives is no small task. The

respect however has a price tag. With esteem comes responsibility. Medical profession is very sensitive and one error, no matter how minor or trivial can bring disaster. So it is imperative that medical graduates should have the requisite knowledge, skills and attitude to deal head on with the challenges that real life brings to them. Medical education needs to be constantly updated in response to our social needs and requirements of the medical practice. During the years preceeding 1910, the medical education was based mainly on a master apprentice model, the primary focus was on teaching and development of clinical skills. In 1910 Abraham Flexner submitted a highly influential report to the American medical authorities, recommending that all medical schools should be university based and medical education should have 2 pillars. 1-pre clinical phase to provide strong scientific foundation 2-clinical phase, conducted mainly in affiliated hospitals. This model persisted for many decades and remains so till today. However in order to optimize delivery of health care this must be viewed as ECHO SYSTEM taking it into account the practice setting both present and future. Educational institutions must now be re engineered to adapt to this transformation, otherwise there is risk of their becoming

obsolete. Health system science and relevant technology enhanced learning should now be included as a pillar in the medical curricula of the twenty first century. Inclusion of technology enhanced learning should not pose a problem, after all, the students of Today are considered by many as "DIGITAL NATIVES" Myriad factors some beyond the control of medical colleges influence the process by which a student evolves into a medical practitioners. However two factors are in control - quality of teaching faculty and the curriculum. Medical colleges should alter the criteria and the methods adopted for appointment of medical teachers by their human resource department and the selection committee. Present system of medical education in Pakistan has its roots in colonial era. Since 1947 there has been very little or almost no change at all, as a result of the rigid attitude of our policy makers, lots of problems have appeared, which need to be sorted out to address significant gaps in physician training and preparing new doctors to practice efficiently in 21st century. Even if the basic and clinical sciences are expertly learned and executed, without health system science, physicians cannot realize their full potential on patients health or on the population. Professional education has not kept pace with these challenges largely because of fragment-

ed, outdated and static curricula that produce ill equipped graduates. At the turn of century, however, alarm bells started to ring, the disruptive forces of change progressively made their impact on medical practice and include advances made in medical knowledge, science and technology. Fast changing demographics with increasing number of elderly individuals with chronic diseases, patients are now more aware of their problem due to easy access to internet, so communication skills are very important to satisfy the patients. Preferred lifestyles leading to obesity and its adverse effects on our heart and blood pressure. Similarly the hazardous effects of smoking on lungs resulting in various lung cancers and affecting cardiovascular system, leading to a very high incidence of high blood pressure and heart attacks. Life threatening emerging and re emerging of infections such as SARS, MERS [middle east respiratory syndrome], tuberculosis and now of course COVID-19. So our doctors should be well prepared to meet all these challenges. In Pakistan the mushroom growth of private medical colleges with inadequate training facilities is adding to the poor health care system of the country. The central mission of medical education is to improve the quality of health care delivered by the doctors. What doctors do and how they do it, depends on the quality of medical education. We must get it right.



## Briefs

## 2 more top EU officials go into self-isolation

## MONITORING DESK

BRUSSELS: After contact with people who tested COVID-19 positive, two more top EU officials have gone into self-isolation, they announced on Twitter. "I was informed this afternoon that a member of the delegation travelling with me and Janez Lenarcic to Ethiopia last week has tested positive for coronavirus. I tested negative upon my return on Sunday," EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell wrote on Twitter late Tuesday. "I am self-isolating" pending a second test, he added. Lenarcic, the European commissioner for crisis management, later tweeted that he was informed "a member of my team, who was not on a mission to Ethiopia end of last week," had tested positive, adding that he put himself into self-isolation and was working from home, with no symptoms. Lenarcic added that he had been tested before and after the Ethiopian visit and was negative both times. Seemingly addressing the contradiction over whether both officials had contracted the virus from a team member during the Ethiopian trip, Balazs Ujvari, another spokesman, later said Borrell and Lenarcic were two "distinct cases but same crucial precautions: self-isolation and tests." The European Commission has seen several COVID-19 cases recently, raising questions about officials' travel arrangements amid rising numbers around Europe. Over the weekend Mariya Gabriel, European commissioner for innovation, research, culture, education, youth, sport, also announced that she had tested positive. Other officials who previously self-isolated after contact with someone with COVID-19 include Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, enlargement chief Oliver Varhelyi, Executive Vice Presidents Frans Timmermans and Valdis Dombrovskis, Health Commissioner Stella Kyriakides, and European Council President Charles Michel.

## Bilawal condemns gov't tactics

From Page 01  
The Opposition workers won't stop the regime's fast-track reverse-counting. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that registration of cases against PPP and other workers of PDM parties, arrests and holding entire villages hostages should be stopped forthwith as the implosion of the castle of sand built through stealing the people's mandate and selectors' masonry was now a matter of days. He expressed solidarity with Asif Bashir Bhagat and all other PPP workers who have been taken hostage through a police siege in Mandi Bahauddin and warned Punjab Police to stop playing as a tool for the illegal and unconstitutional regime.

## Armenia is rogue state: AK party spokesman

ISTANBUL: Turkey's ruling party spokesman called on countries Tuesday not to apply a double standard in favor of Armenia regarding its recent clashes with Azerbaijan and a cease-fire agreement. "The ceasefire calls of those who do not raise their voices against Armenia, which is a rogue state, is to put the cruel and the suffering in the same equation, to view the occupying and the occupied [state] equally," Omer Celik, spokesman for the Justice and Development (AK) Party, said during a meeting of the Central Decision and Executive Board at party headquarters in the capital Ankara. "This is also a clear violation of the law," he added, underlining that this attitude shows a double standard. He stressed that the Minsk Group tries to manage the process by considering Armenia and Azerbaijan on equal levels, but there are no two equals in this issue. "The party that clearly violates international law, including the 1949 Geneva Convention, is the Armenian side," he said. —DNA



RAWALPINDI: A view of cricket match between Northern and Sindh teams during National T20 Cup at Pindi cricket stadium. — APP

## 'Poor are getting poorer': IMF warns of severe pandemic plight

The poor are getting poorer with over 90 million people expected to fall into extreme poverty just this year, policies for the next stage of the crisis must see lasting improvements and create a prosperous future for all

## FOREIGN DESK

WASHINGTON: The global economy is "coming back" the International Monetary Fund said on Tuesday, but warned that the road to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic will likely be long and uncertain with "uneven recoveries" in emerging and developing economies significantly worsening the prospects for redressing income inequality within and between nations. In its latest World Economic Outlook, the IMF revised its forecast for global growth to negative 4.4 percent this year — a less severe contraction than the negative 5.2 percent it had forecast in June, but still on track for the worst performance since the Great Depression. "We are projecting a somewhat less severe though still deep recession in 2020, relative to our June forecast," said chief economist Gita Gopinath in a foreword to the October revision of the World Economic Outlook. "The revision is driven by second-quarter GDP outturns in large advanced economies, which

were not as negative as we had projected," she added, citing China's stronger-than-expected return to growth as a key driver. But a lack of fiscal space and ballooning debt has left less wealthy countries — where most of the world's people live — in economic shambles. "The poor are getting poorer with over 90 million people expected to fall into extreme poverty just this year," said Gopinath during a virtual presentation on Tuesday. "Policies for the next stage of the crisis must see lasting improvements and create a prosperous future for all." Inequality within countries is growing as well, with low-skilled workers, women and young people being hit harder than others. Preventing the divergence will require ending the health crisis, said Gopinath, and getting countries to work together to ensure the rapid development of coronavirus treatments and vaccines. The IMF upgraded its economic outlook for the United States due to stronger than expected performance in the second and third quarters. "In the second quarter the recovery in the US came sooner

## IMF said governments should target scarce resources to new jobs

## FOREIGN DESK

WASHINGTON: As demands increase on their limited resources, governments will need to raise taxes on wealthier families and firms and target spending away from protecting "old jobs," the IMF said Wednesday. As countries continue to struggle with the economic damage inflicted by the Covid-19 pandemic, the IMF's Fiscal Monitor report also urges policymakers to invest in job-creating projects like infrastructure and green energy. Governments have injected a stunning \$12 trillion into the global economy since the start of the pandemic, but now "many countries will need to do more than expected [and] quarter three has been strong as well," despite a

with less, given increasingly tight budget constraints," Vitor Gaspar, head of the IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department, said in a blog post about the report. As the recovery continues, policymakers "should become more selective and avoid standing in the way of necessary sectoral reallocations as activity resumes," he and his coauthors said. "Support should shift gradually from protecting old jobs to getting people back to work," by reducing measures like wage subsidies in favor of training to give people skills to find new employment. With low interest rates making borrowing easier, boosting public investment — beginning with maintenance and ramping up projects — can create jobs and spur economic growth. "Resurge in coronavirus cases, Gopinath said, adding that the projection

still remains in negative territory of minus 4.3 percent. But even a partial recovery in the US economy has positive spillover to other parts of the world. Action taken by the US Central Bank, the Federal Reserve, early in the pandemic has helped stabilise the global market, she said. In sub-Saharan Africa, 20 million people are projected to fall into extreme poverty this year. These countries simply do not have the fiscal space and policies to deal with a crisis of such magnitude. India, where the hit on the economy has been large and broad based, is seeing a significant growth downgrade of minus 10.3 percent. "There's been some efforts to improve medium-term prospects with some progress on labour reform bills," Malhar Nabar, Division Chief at IMF Research, said during the virtual briefing. Extraordinary fiscal and monetary support is critical for least developed, developing and emerging economies in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East that rely heavily on tourism and oil exports, said the IMF officials.

## Misbah-ul-Haq steps down as Pakistan's chief selector



## SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Misbah-ul-Haq has on Wednesday stepped down as Pakistan national men's cricket team chief selector and will now serve only as the head coach. According to a PCB statement, Misbah-ul-Haq has decided to step down to concentrate and focus on the head coach's role of the men's national team. The new chief selector will begin his tenure from 1 December and until then, Misbah will continue to carry out selection responsibilities.

The decision means Misbah will announce the squads for the home series against Zimbabwe on 19 October and then for the away series against New Zealand. The first assignment of the new chief selector will be to select the squads for the January home series against South Africa, comprising two Tests and three Twenty20 Internationals. Misbah communicated his decision to PCB Chief Executive Wasim Khan in Islamabad last week during the National T20 Cup. Commenting on his decision, Misbah-ul-Haq said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed the dual roles but after reviewing the past 12 months and looking ahead at the workload in the next 24 months of my tenure, it is appropriate that I invest and dedicate all my time, energy and attention to one role from now on.

## Japan's damaged nuclear reactor set to reopen

## FOREIGN DESK

TOKYO: Japan's nuclear reactor hit by a 2011 earthquake in the northeastern Miyagi province will resume operations by the end of this year, according to officials, the local media reported on Wednesday. Miyagi Governor Yoshihiro Murai will formally announce his consent to restart the nuclear reactors at Onagawa complex by the end of the year, the Kyodo News agency said. Early this year, the 825,000-kilowatt reactor, operated by Tohoku Electric Power Company, won the approval of the country's Nuclear Regulation Authority. All the three reactors were shut down when the massive quake and a 13-meter tsunami hit northeastern Japan on March 11, 2011, flooding the underground floors of the No. 2 unit. Nearly 10,000 people lost their lives while over 4,000 others are still missing.

## Kyrgyzstan: Sadyr Zhaparov confirmed as new PM

Jeenbekov says he may consider stepping down after the political situation in the country stabilises

## FOREIGN DESK

Kyrgyzstan's parliament has named politician Sadyr Zhaparov prime minister in a repeat vote on Wednesday, a step that could help end a political crisis in the Central Asian nation. Parliament had to vote on the matter again after President Sooronbay Jeenbekov vetoed its previous decision due to proxy voting by some MPs in an October 10 session. Kyrgyzstan, a country of 6.5 million people located on the border with China, plunged into chaos last week after mass protests erupted the day after a parliamentary election appeared to show parties connected to the ruling elite winning. Protesters stormed and seized government buildings, looting some offices, and the Cen-



tral Election Commission responded by nullifying the October 4 balloting. As the unrest continued, opposition groups announced plans to form a new government and remove Jeenbekov, who faces calls from protesters to resign. Jeenbekov says he may consider stepping down after the political situation in the country stabilises. He has declared a state of emergency and deployed troops in the country's capital, Bishkek, in a bid to end the turmoil. The move eased tensions in the city, where residents feared a wave of looting that accompanied previous uprisings and began forming vigilante groups to protect their property. Zhaparov said on Wednesday he will discuss with Jeenbekov the latter's promise to resign after the confirmation of a new cabinet. The newly-appointed prime minister, who was freed from jail by supporters last week, had made several unsuccessful attempts to secure the post since unrest began over the parliamentary election. The turmoil marks the third time in 15 years that demonstrators have moved to overthrow a government in Kyrgyzstan, a Russia ally and one of the poorest nations to emerge from the former Soviet Union.

## Azerbaijan averts another Armenian attack on civilians: Hikmat Hajiyev

Apart from this Muslims in Burma and Kashmir are also victims of the aggressions. The best way to address these issues is to lie in unity and joint collaboration

## DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijan's armed forces have destroyed ready for launch ballistic missiles of Armenia in start position, averting Armenia's yet another attack on civilians, Presidential Aide Hikmat Hajiyev said in a Twitter post on October 14. "Yet another deliberate and targeted human catastrophe planned by Armenia was averted. Ready for launch ballistic missiles of Armenia destroyed in start position in border area of occupied Kalabajar region of Azerbaijan with Armenia. Lives of many civilians were saved," Hajiyev tweeted. Hajiyev said that at 1 AM, Armenian armed forces brought to start position the operative-ballistic missile



system in close proximity of Kalbajar. "Armenia intended to attack civilians and critical infrastructure in Ganja, Mingachevir and other cities with ballistic missiles. Launch area was empty field.

No civil/military infrastructure," Hajiyev said in another tweet. "As preventive act, with the aim of protecting lives of civilians, these missile systems were destroyed in launchpad like legitimate military targets," Hajiyev tweeted. Armenia launched an overnight missile attack on October 11 at apartment buildings in the central part of Ganja, the second largest city of Azerbaijan, located far from the frontline. Ten civilians, including four children, have been killed in the attack. More than 10 apartment buildings and above 100 different facilities have been severely damaged. The attack on Ganja comes hours after the humanitarian ceasefire signed between Azerbaijani and Armenian Foreign Ministers with Russia's medi-

ation on October 10. Ganja also came under Armenian missile attack on October 4 as one civilian was killed and several others were injured. 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. Armenia has been targeting Azerbaijan's densely populated areas and infrastructure projects. The Azerbaijani Army responded by counteroffensive to retake Azerbaijan's occupied territories. So far, a number of strategic heights, Madagiz village, Hadrut town a number of villages have been liberated from the Armenian occupation.

## 2nd KP Transgender Games end in Peshawar

PESHAWAR: The second edition of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Transgender Games concluded here at Peshawar Sports Complex on Wednesday with Ayan Ali allies Dolphin was declared as best player of the Games-2020 by winning a gold medal and a silver. Additional Secretary Sports Junaid Khan was the chief guest on this occasion who gave away trophies, medals and cash prizes to the position holders. Director Youth Affairs Dr. Irum Shaheen, Deputy Director Youth Saleem Jan, Director Female Games Miss Rashida Ghaznavi, Director General Sports KP Asfandyar Khan Khattak, District Sports Officer Tehsil Ullah Khan were also present. Talking to media persons, Ayan expressed her jubilation of winning gold and silver medal in the Games and urged upon the government to have such like activities on regular basis for the transgender. Being a Civil Engineer by profession, Ayan Ali bewildered fellow players by winning gold medal in Archery contest by securing 110 points by hitting two 10-pointers and won gold medal. Twenty with her 90 points including one 10-pointer got the silver medal and Sobia took third position. In the

## No rallies if I give them NRO: PM

## From Page 01

In a series of tweets, he commended the role of the Foreign Office and Pakistan's missions abroad for another diplomatic achievement, enhancing Pakistan's profile and recognition on the international stage. Imran Khan said he is pleased on Pakistan's re-election to UN Human Rights Council for another three year term. The Prime Minister said we remain committed to upholding human rights for all, prioritizing advancement of tolerance and constructive engagement. He said that we stand resolute against Islamophobia and in support of mutual respect. Imran Khan said Pakistan will continue to expose human rights violations committed with impunity by the Indian occupation forces in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

## Pakistan elected to UN Human Rights Council

## From Page 01

will continue as a member for another three-year term commencing on 1 January 2021. Since the HRC's establishment in 2006, this is the fifth time that Pakistan has been elected to the United Nations' premier body on Human Rights. The international community has once again reposed confidence in Pakistan, recognizing its contribution to the national and global human rights agenda and strong credentials as a consensus builder in the HRC. Pakistan remains firmly committed to upholding, promoting and safeguarding human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. Pakistan will sustain its efforts towards ensuring that the HRC's work is guided by the principles of universality, impartiality, dialogue and cooperation. In line with Pakistan's commitment, it will prioritize advancement of tolerance, respect and constructive engagement in the HRC. The HRC has been a prominent forum for discussing the gross and systematic human rights abuses being perpetrated in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The human rights violations committed with impunity by the Indian occupation forces in IIOJK have been extensively documented in the various reports of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the independent Special Procedure Mandate Holders. Pakistan will remain actively engaged with the Council as well as its related processes to continue to highlight the plight of Kashmiris and other oppressed people all over the world. The Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body based in Geneva within the United Nations system responsible for the promotion and protection of all human rights around the globe. It comprises 47 States and discusses all thematic human rights issues and specific situations requiring attention, such as those in IIOJK.



## Briefs

## Israel approves first occupied WB settler homes

DNA

JERUSALEM: Israel approved 2,166 new homes in settlements across the occupied West Bank on Wednesday, official figures sent to AFP showed, ending an eight-month lull in settlement expansion. The approvals came less than a month after the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain signed agreements to normalise relations with Israel, which in return pledged to freeze its plans to annex swaths of the West Bank.

NGO Peace Now says the settlement uptick signals Israel's rejection of Palestinian statehood and deals a blow to hopes of a wider Israeli-Arab peace.

It said that around 2,000 more homes were expected to be approved on Thursday. "Netanyahu is moving ahead at full steam toward solidifying the de facto annexation of the West Bank," it said in a statement ahead of Wednesday's decisions. US President Donald Trump sees the Gulf accords as part of his broader initiative for Middle East peace.

But a controversial plan he unveiled in January gave US blessing to Israeli annexation of large chunks of the West Bank, including the settlements, communities considered illegal under international law. Israel agreed to delay those plans under its normalisation deal with the UAE, something Emirati officials have cited in response to Arab and Muslim criticism. The two Gulf countries were only the third and fourth Arab states to normalise relations with Israel, following Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said he sees others following.

## China's average life expectancy reaches 77.3

DNA

BEIJING: Average life expectancy, a key gauge of a country's economic and social development, particularly in terms of its medical and health services, reached 77.3 years in China in 2019. That was up 0.96 years from 2015. The increase in China's average life expectancy, as seen in a statistical report from the National Health Commission, shows the steady improvement of China's medical and health system during the country's 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-2020). It is the result of China's continuous investment in maternal and child health care, and its efforts to implement health-related poverty reduction programs and promote a universal health security system. From 2016 to 2019, China's central government allocated more than 10 billion yuan (about 1.49 billion U.S. dollars) to support the development of 594 maternal and child care institutions. During the 13th Five-Year Plan period, the coverage rate of China's basic medical insurance program remained stable, covering more than 95 percent of the country's population.

## Russia behind cyberattack against Norway

MONITORING DESK

Russia was behind a cyberattack launched against the Norwegian parliament in August targeting the email system of the country's parliament, the Norwegian foreign minister said.

On September 1, the Norwegian parliament said it had sustained a cyberattack during the previous week and that the email accounts of several politicians and employees had been hacked. "Based on the information available to the government, it is our assessment that Russia stood behind this activity," Minister of Foreign Affairs Ine Eriksen Soride said in a statement on Tuesday. "The fact that we go out with an attribution is a strong signal... from Norwegian authorities," Soride told reporters outside the ministry. When they first announced the incident, Norwegian authorities did not say who they thought was behind the attack.

## World Bank approves \$12bn to increase COVID vaccine accessibility

World Bank COVID-19 emergency response programmes are already reaching 111 countries, with the new tranche of financing adding to its robustness

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: The World Bank has approved \$12bn in financing to help developing countries buy and distribute coronavirus vaccines, tests and treatments. The \$12bn "envelope" is part of a wider World Bank Group package of up to \$160bn to help developing countries fight the COVID-19 pandemic, the bank said in a statement late on Tuesday. Its implementation will be in support of efforts being led by the World Health Organization and COVAX, and will offer recipient countries a number of options

with regards to acquiring and delivering vaccines.

The World Bank said its new funding would help "signal to the research and pharmaceutical industry that citizens in developing countries also need access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines". "We are extending and expanding our fast-track approach to address the COVID emergency so that developing countries have fair and equal access to vaccines," the bank's president, David Malpass, said in the statement.

World Bank COVID-19 emergency response programmes are already reaching 111 countries,

## New lockdowns as vaccine trials stumble

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: As Europe imposed new restrictions to try to stall a surging second wave of the novel coronavirus, hopes for vaccines to rapidly provide relief suffered a blow with the suspension of two clinical trials in the United States. China rushed to test an

entire city of nine million within days after a minor coronavirus outbreak in the sprawling country and Europe struggled to tackle a new surge of infections. The virus is still spreading rapidly worldwide, with over one million deaths and 37 million infections. Many nations that suppressed their first outbreaks now face a second wave.

"Access to safe and effective vaccines and strengthened delivery

systems is key to alter the course of the pandemic and help countries experiencing catastrophic economic and fiscal impacts move toward a resilient recovery," Malpass said. The funding is meant to also help countries access tests and treatments and to support the management of supply chains and other logistics for vaccinations.

Development and deployment of vaccines is crucial to helping stem outbreaks of the coronavirus that has killed more than one million people and infected more than 38 million, while devastating economies and leaving millions jobless.

## Modern enterprise and new houses opened in Sardoba

FOREIGN DESK

TASHKENT: President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev got acquainted with the activities of Sardoba Oqsaroy Textile enterprise. The company, created by Oqsaroy Klaster LLC can produce fabrics and ready-made clothing worth \$3.5 million per year. The products are to be fully delivered abroad. Modern sewing machines and an energy-efficient cooling system from Turkey are installed here. 500 people were employed at the first stage of the project. The Head of the state congratulated the company's employees on their new homes and jobs.

"Some people lost confidence in the future in these hard days. Today I am happy to see this confidence in your eyes. Women are happy when they have a job. When women are in good

spirits, the upbringing of children is glorious, and all this has a beneficial effect on the family and society. That is why we are trying to create more jobs for women", noted Shavkat Mirziyoyev in an interview with the company's staff.

A presentation of projects to expand the production of textile products and create a value chain in the light industry was held. During the visit to Sardoba district on May 15, 2020, the Head of the state laid the first stone for construction of new houses in Dustlik mahalla. 37 five-storey buildings with 1,480 apartments were built here in a short time. Today, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev got acquainted with this modern neighborhood. Apartments in five-storey buildings consist of two and three rooms. Energy-saving materials were used in construction of housing.



KUALA LAMPUR: China and Malaysia have reached consensus on a wide range, said Chinese FM Wang Yi at a press conference with Malaysian FM Hishammuddin. Both countries have agreed to build an open world economy. China welcomes Malaysia to continue taking an active part in CAEXPO. - DNA

## Minsk Group to take immediate steps: Erdogan

DNA

ANKARA: Turning to the conflict in the Caucasus, Erdogan also called on the Minsk Group to take immediate steps to have occupied territories in the Upper Karabakh region returned to their rightful owner, Azerbaijan. "If there are human rights and democracy in the world, and if you have been responsible for solving this issue in the OSCE Minsk Group, the thing you have to do is to finish these negotiations and return these territories to their owner," Erdogan said. "Turkey will continue to stand by Azerbaijan with all our means and all our potential," he vowed.

## Oppo Pakistan to bring latest smartphones, says CEO

DNA

BEIJING: Oppo Pakistan will continue to bring the latest and best smartphones and accessories for the local users in the second half of the current year, said CEO, Gorge Long.

In the second half of 2020, in compliance with the SOPs required by the Pakistani government, "we will continue to bring the latest and best smartphones and smart devices to Pakistani users," he said in an interview.



The current clashes began on Sept. 27 when Armenian forces targeted civilian Azerbaijani settlements and military positions in the region, leading to casualties. Relations between the two former Soviet republics have been tense since 1991,

when the Armenian military occupied Upper Karabakh, or Nagorno-Karabakh, an internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan. For nearly three decades, some 20% of Azerbaijan's territory has remained under illegal Armenian occupation.

Many world powers, including Russia, France, and the US, have urged a new ceasefire. Turkey, meanwhile, has supported Baku's right to self-defense and demanded the withdrawal of Armenia's occupying forces. Four UN Security Council and two UN General Assembly resolutions, as well as many international organizations, demand the withdrawal of the occupying forces. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group - co-chaired by France, Russia, and the US - was formed in 1992 to find a peaceful solution to the conflict, but to no avail. A cease-fire, however, was agreed to in 1994.

## EU business groups urge post-Brexit deal

DNA

FRANKFURT: The chiefs of leading German, French and Italian business associations on Wednesday urged the European Union and Britain to do "everything in their power" to reach an agreement on post-Brexit trade. "The risk of a no deal is real," the presidents of Germany's BDI, France's Medef and Italy's Confindustria said.

"A brutal split between continental Europe and the UK would add further difficulties to the difficulties and would undermine tens of thousands of jobs and activities in all our countries." The groups called on negotiators either side of the Channel to "do their utmost to conclude an ambitious and comprehensive agreement in time to allow for ratification and entering into force by 1 January 2021". The comments come ahead of an EU summit that begins Thursday, where Brexit will be top of the agenda.

According to initial draft conclusions seen by AFP, EU leaders will express concern "that progress on

key issues of interest to the union is still not sufficient for an agreement to be reached." And they will invite EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier to "intensify negotiations" to strike and implement a trade deal before January 1, when Britain is due to crash out of the bloc's single market. If no deal is reached, Britain's international business arrangements will revert to bare-bones World Trade Organization rules, severely impacting major sectors such as the auto, aviation and finance industries.

## Lebanon, Israel launch talks over maritime border dispute

MONITORING DESK

BEIRUTE: Lebanon and Israel held a short opening round of indirect talks over their disputed maritime border on Wednesday, breaking up after an hour with Lebanese state media reporting a second round to be held on October 28. Wednesday's session was mediated by US officials and both sides issued the series of talks are purely technical and not a sign of any normalisation of ties. The opening round of discussions was held at the headquarters of UN peacekeeping force UNIFIL in the Lebanese border town of Naqoura. Lebanon's delegation head said he hopes the talks will resolve the maritime border dispute within a "reasonable time". The talks mark a "first step in the thousand-mile march towards the demarcation" of the maritime frontier, Brigadier General Bassam Yassin was quoted as saying in a statement issued after the session. "Based on the higher interests of our country, we are looking to achieve a pace of negotiations that would allow us to conclude this dossier within reasonable time." The talks came against the backdrop of Lebanon's spiralling economic crisis, the worst in its modern history, and following a wave of US sanctions that recently included two influential former cabinet ministers allied with the armed Hezbollah group. Israel, the US, as well

as some other Western and Arab countries consider the Iran-allied Hezbollah a terrorist organisation.

Israel has said that there will be "direct negotiations", something Lebanese officials have denied. Israel sent a six-member team, including the director-general of its energy ministry, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's foreign policy adviser and the head of the army's strategic division. Lebanon's four-member delegation comprised two army officers, a Lebanese oil official and a maritime border law expert. Hezbollah and its ally Amal criticised the delegation representing Lebanon at the talks. A statement from Lebanon's two main Shia parties, coming just hours before the meeting was due to start, called for reform of the negotiating team which they said must include only military officials, without any civilians or politicians. US has been engaged in intense diplomacy over recent years to get these two sides to the negotiating table. "It's significant because this is the first time since 1990 that the Israelis and the Lebanese are talking about the civilian matter," she said.

"Both sides have been saying that these talks are not about peace, normalising ties or recognising each other. But they are about a technical issue. Whether or not that is possible that is another question."

## People's mood is what pleases the most and adds strength: Uzbek President

From the first day we have chosen the satisfaction of people as our main motto, our main goal. To achieve this, of course, is difficult, but we do not stop working

DNA

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has held a meeting with representatives of Syrdarya region, residents affected by the floods. The Head of the state noted that he was glad to have the opportunity to meet with people in such a comfortable atmosphere, in high spirits. "Over the past five months, we have all passed the test of endurance. We worked hard shoulder to shoulder and restored conditions, built new houses and roads. It is very pleasant to see the results of this work today. But people's mood is exactly what pleases the

most and adds strength", said Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

The burst of Sardoba reservoir dam caused serious damage to residential buildings, social facilities and agricultural land. A government commission was created, all forces and means were used to eliminate the consequences of the disaster. Residents of the flooded mahallas were evacuated to safer areas, provided with shelter and food. The Ministry of Emergency Situations, the Ministry of Water Resources, the Ministry of Defense, law enforcement agencies, construction and repair organizations and local authorities acted in concert, thanks to



which, in a short time, life here returned to normal.

Three new neighborhoods were erected. Kindergartens and schools, colleges and medical institutions have been built and renovated. The affected areas have become much more beautiful. "From the first day we have chosen the satisfaction of people as our main motto, our main goal. To achieve this, of course, is difficult, but we do not stop working. The construction activities and changes in Syrdarya will not stop there, they will continue. We have big plans in this regard", said the President. Thereupon, the visit of the Head of the state to Syrdarya region has ended.

## KSA fails in bid for seat on UN HRC

MONITORING DESK

NEW YORK: Saudi Arabia failed in its attempt to become a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for the next three-year term starting on January 1, while China, Russia and Cuba were elected on Tuesday in a vote that caused an outcry among human rights defenders. Russia and Cuba ran unopposed in the UN General Assembly election. Saudi Arabia and China vied for membership in a five-nation race for four spots with Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Nepal. Pakistan received 169 votes, Uzbekistan 164, Nepal 150, China 139 and Saudi Arabia 90 votes - ending Riyadh's bid to again be a member of the UN's top human rights body. Fifteen countries were elected to the 47-nation council on Tuesday. Human Rights Watch has described China and Saudi Arabia as "two of the world's most abusive governments". The New York-based group also singled out numerous war crimes in the Syrian war as making Russia a highly problematic candidate. Experts say with a number of countries with questionable rights records being elected, the current system of entry to UNHRC is in serious need of reform.

## Sudan's PM sacks Kassala governor after unrest

FOREIGN DESK

KHARTOUM: A provincial governor in eastern Sudan has been fired after deadly inter-tribal unrest in the region and a blockade of the country's lifeline port, state news agency Suna said.

It said Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok fired the governor of Kassala state, Saleh Ammar, a civilian and member of the Beni Amr tribe on Tuesday. Ammar was named governor of Kassala in July, when Hamdok appointed civilian governors for the country's 18 provinces. The move was seen at the time as a key step forward in Sudan's transition to democracy.

His appointment led to protests and clashes with the rival Beja tribe. He was barred from entering Kassala and remained in the capital, Khartoum, before the protests escalated in August leaving at least three dead and dozens more injured. Tensions have since been running high in the region. Port Sudan on the Red Sea port reopened last week after a three-day blockade by Beja protesters about an October 3 peace deal in which they said their tribe was sidelined. The deal, ratified in the South Sudanese capital, Juba, was focused on resolving conflicts in the western Darfur region and southern states of Blue Nile and South Kordofan.

Groups from other regions also signed, but some in the east said the two factions that participated in the "eastern track" of the peace process do not represent political forces on the ground. According to the Beja, the region's representatives who signed the deal between rebel groups, political movements and the government came from the Beni Amer.

## US plans to sell more drones, missiles to Taiwan

MONITORING DESK

NEW YORK: The White House is moving forward with more sales of sophisticated military equipment to Taiwan as Beijing intensifies pressure on the democratic island it claims as its own. Officials told Congress on Tuesday that the Trump administration was planning to sell MQ-9 drones and a coastal defensive missile system to Taipei, sources familiar with the situation told Reuters. The possible sales follow three other notifications on Monday that drew a rebuke from China. One of the eight sources said that in total the sales were valued at approximately \$5bn. Very often figures from the United States' foreign military sales include costs for training, spares and fees making the values difficult to pinpoint.



**Briefs**

**Pakistan, UK consult on arms control**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the United Kingdom on Tuesday held the fifth round of their bilateral consultations on arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament. During the talks, Director-General Arms Control and Disarmament at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mohammad Kamran Akhtar represented Pakistan while UK Director-General and International Security Samantha Job represented the kingdom. In addition to arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament, both sides also discussed issues related to global and regional security and stability in a cordial and constructive environment. Officials from both sides expressed their countries' commitment to further enhance coordination on various multilateral forums. Both countries also appreciated the continuation of the arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament consultations. Pakistan and the UK agreed to hold the following meeting next year on a mutually agreed date.

**SOPs for gatherings issued**

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Control Centre (NCC) has issued guidelines for public gatherings to prevent the spread of the coronavirus that it said were prepared with the input of provinces. The guidelines will apply to all cultural events, political gatherings, religious gatherings, parties or other similar events but not to marriages or sports, for which separate SOPs have been prepared. For indoor events, the NCC has advised that participation be limited to 500 persons or 50 per cent of capacity, whichever is less; events' duration should not exceed three hours; all persons should be seated; and there should be a three-foot distance between seats. For outdoor events, the NCC says the density of participants should be controlled; organisers should ensure wearing of masks and social distancing; all persons should remain seated; events' duration should not exceed three hours; rallies or gatherings on roads and other "ill-defined places" be avoided; no gatherings to be held in cities where positivity ratio is consistently high (6-9pc or more). - APP

**ITP license operation halt irks citizens**

ISLAMABAD: The motorists plying their vehicles on the Federal Capital roads with expiry driving licenses are at their wits' end after the Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) have once again closed its office due to the coronavirus uptick. They urged the ITP to start an online mechanism for the renewal of driving licenses as various public and private sectors departments had already adopted digitization to provide services to its clientele through online system. Amir Khichi, a resident of G-13, said the traffic department should develop an application like the 'city Islamabad app' for providing services to the citizens at their door steps. He said the complete elimination of coronavirus was not in sight so far, so the e-governance model had become indispensable in such situation. Shahid Raja, a resident of Sector G-7/4, said it was not difficult for the ITP to develop a new application for renewal of licenses on the pattern of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration, which had been offering many services at one-click. He said the ITP could collaborate with the district administration for addition of license renewal option in the 'city Islamabad app', which already had license verification feature. Shahid said the initiative would not only ease the burden of the police that received a large number of visitors in their working days, but also provide a huge relief to the citizens, who had to visit the office and face a day-long renewal procedure. - APP

**Azerbaijan-Pak friendship is eternal and invincible**

Dr.Fouzia Saeed, DG of Pakistan National Council of Artssaid that the coronavirus pandemic has led to new ideas and projects in people; gives awards to the winners of the competition

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Ali Alizada has expressed satisfaction with the high-level relations between Azerbaijan and Pakistan adding that Armenian aggression and provocations against Azerbaijan, its attacks on innocent people have always been condemned by the Pakistani people, society, and youth. The Ambassador stressed that Pakistan has always stood by Azerbaijan in difficult times and thanked to the Government and people of Pakistan for their continued support and solidarity. He expressed these views during an Award Ceremony for the winners of the Art Competition on "Azerbaijan-Pakistan Friendship is eternal and invincible" dedicated to the National Day of Azerbaijan, which was held in May-June of this year through the Embassy's social network profiles. Dr.Fouzia Saeed, Director-General of Pakistan National Council of Arts, public and media representatives of this country, participants of the Art Competition and the Embassy staff attended the event. Sharing views on Azerbaijan-Pakistan friendship the ambassador stated that the purpose of the competition is to promote the affection, religious,cultural and



heritage similarities of the two brotherly countriesamong Pakistani youth, strengthen people to people contacts and cooperation with youth as well as encourage their competences. Ali Alizada noted that holding of the ceremony on the eve of the Anniversary of the restoration of Independence Day of Azerbaijan - October 18, under the motto "Azerbaijan-Pakistan Friendship is eternal and invincible" is a stimulus for strong unity of youth of

the both countries and congratulated the winners and participants and wished them success. Expressing her good impressions on the event, Dr.Fouzia Saeed, Director-General of Pakistan National Council of Artssaid that the coronavirus pandemic has led to new ideas and projects in people. Speaking about the similarities between the two countries, the Director-General thanked the Embassy of Azerbaijanfor its contribution to further

strengthening the Azerbaijan-Pakistan friendship through such projects.Dr. Fouzia Saeed also stressed the necessity to further deepening relations between the two countries, which have always supported each other. At first, an exhibition of paintings of the Art Competition participants was viewed and a video was watched about Azerbaijan. about the competition, mentioning about the real eternity and invincibility friendship between



our countries and peoples, they emphasized that Pakistani people will always stand by Azerbaijan and strongly condemn the Armenian aggression and attacks against Azerbaijan. At the end of the event, participants and winners of the competition were presented cash prizes, certificates and gifts.

**Chinese company donates Rs 6.2 mln**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chinese company, OPPO has donated Rs. 6.2 million to Pakistani PM's COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Fund. According to Gwadar Pro on Wednesday, this is the first mobile phone brand to donate funds for the pandemic in Pakistan. Meanwhile, the company successfully launched the first-ever Game Show of OPPO F17 Pro. "We are wholeheartedly committed to the sustainable development of the whole market. In the second half of 2020, in compliance with the SOPs required by the Pakistani government. The company will continue to bring the latest and best smartphones and smart de-

vices to Pakistani users." said Gorge Long Company's CEO Pakistan in an interview with Gwadar Pro. OPPO F17 Pro is now available for pre-order for Rs.51,999. 7.48 mm ultra-sleek design, 30W VOOC charge, and 6 AI cameras experience in the new dimension of Magic Blue and Matte Black colors. "OPPO's main strategy for its products is to meet user needs. Through a survey of the younger generation in Pakistan, we found young users' demand for smartphones is to make them stand out in the crowd, the ability to take high-quality photos and a stylish and lightweight appearance design is also the core considerations, as the F17 Pro caters to all of these preferences in addition

to its other advantages. He further mentioned that 5G has not yet landed in Pakistan currently, but OPPO has been watching the progress of 5G in the Pakistani market. "In order to build a better intelligent ecosystem, we continue to enhance the ability of software and hardware development, and are committed to innovation and technology, with a view to bringing breakthrough performance and the ultimate user experience to the consumers. OPPO, together with Qualcomm, Ericsson, and other well-known companies, has been promoting the marketization of 5G mobile phones and has contributed to the establishment of 5G standards." he added.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Qatar Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani met with the Iranian Ambassador Seyd Mohammad Ali Hosseini to discuss bilateral ties and other issues of common interest. HE the Iranian Ambassador congratulated HE Qatari Ambassador on appointment as Ambassador assuring him all his support, wishing him success in his duties. - DNA

**ECC approves funds for various programs**

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh chaired the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet here at the Cabinet Division. The meeting was attended by Minister for Food Security, Syed Fakhar Imam, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar, Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Hammad Azhar, Adviser for Commerce, Abdul Razaq Dawood, Minister for Railways Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, Adviser to the PM

on Institutional Reforms and Austerity Dr. Ishrat Hussain, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Revenue Dr. Waqar Masood Khan and Minister for Power Omar Ayub Khan. The SAPM on Petroleum Nadeem Babar and Governor State Bank, Syed Baqar Raza participated through video link. On the summary moved by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for allocation of additional funds for the payment of media campaigns launched on 5th August (Kashmir Siege Day), ECC decided that Ministry of Information and Broadcasting may meet the immediate

fund requirement through re-appropriation from its budget allocated for the financial year 2021 and any shortfall due to re-appropriation of the funds would be met through technical supplementary grant towards the end of the current financial year. Ministry of Energy requested ECC to give directions for the settlement of a loan of about Rs. 7.6 billion and its associated costs from NBP in relation to advance payment for Karkey Karandeniz Elektrik Uretim (KARKEY). ECC decided that Finance division should engage with the National Bank of Pakistan for the settlement of the loan.

**Govt decides to import tomatoes from Iran**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The government has decided to import tomatoes from Iran due to high prices in the country, media reported on Wednesday. A spokesperson for the Ministry of National Food Security said that the government has decided to import tomatoes and onions from Iran due to high prices in Pakistan, and the federal government has given a green signal in this regard. Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday announced that his government will take action against the rising food prices from his week.

**President rejects PIMS representation**

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday rejected an instant representation of PIMS against an order of Wafaqi Mohtasib regarding violation of transparency and merit in appointment of a Draftsman (BS-14). The President ordered two reports, pertaining to an internal inquiry into the case of appointment and also on the structure of interview process at PIMS, required to be submitted to Wafaqi Mohtasib within 45 days. The candidate Asim Hanif, who had applied for the post of Draftsman against the vacancies advertised by PIMS, topped the list while obtaining 63 marks in written examination, but was not selected finally after the Interview Committee awarded him six (06) marks out of 30. Feeling aggrieved, the candidate had approached the learned Wafaqi Mohtasib and the hearing of the case was held on September 30,2020 with Dr. Minhaj us Siraj, Joint Executive Director along with Jameel Shirazi, Deputy Director appearing on behalf of PIMS, while Asim Hanif appeared in-person. The perusal of record revealed that the educational qualification of candidate Asim Hanif was B-Tech (Hons) along with Diploma of Associate Engineer. On the other hand, the selected candidate, who was a matriculate with a Diploma of Associate Engineer, got 48 marks in written examination while 25 out of 30 marks were awarded to her by the Interview Committee. The Wafaqi Mohtasib, in its earlier order, had held that "During hearing it was revealed that the complainant has been put on disadvantage position by pulling him down in the merit given him only 6 marks in Interview, although he had topped in the initial screening test. - DNA

**CAA issues new travel advisory for passengers**

DNA

KARACHI: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) on Wednesday has issued a new travel advisory for the passengers, in a move to contain coronavirus spread. According to a travel advisory issued by the CAA authorities, the passengers reaching Pakistan from abroad have been divided into two categories. As many as 30 countries including, China, Japan, New Zealand, Turkey, Saudi Arabia have been placed in 'A' category and passengers travelling from this category are not bound to go through PCR test for coronavirus while travelling to Pakistan. Meanwhile, coronavirus test has been declared mandatory for the passengers travelling from the countries, who are placed in 'B' category by the CAA before 96 hours. The passengers reaching Pakistan from abroad are bound to fill health declaration form.

**Seven injured in Quetta grenade attack**

DNA

QUETTA: At least seven people were injured after unidentified men threw a hand grenade on Quetta's Samungli Road, police said on Wednesday. According to DIG Quetta, the police are investigating the intensity of the explosion. Rescue sources said that the injured include two children and five labourers, adding that they have been shifted to the hospital.

**Pakistan for int'l cooperation to counter TOCs**

Ambassador Aftab Khokher said that the increased complexity of TOCs warranted comprehensive and effective international response through finding durable solutions and promoting international co-operation and collaboration

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher delivered a statement at the 10th Conference of Parties of UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crimes (UNTOC). He said that Transnational Organized Crimes (TOCs) pose serious challenges to the international community as they undermined rule of law, threatened peace and security, violate human rights and impeded sustainable development

in varying degrees in different countries across the globe. Ambassador Aftab Khokher said that the increased complexity of TOCs warranted comprehensive and effective international response through finding durable solutions and promoting international co-operation and collaboration. He called for efforts at national, regional and international levels to implement the objective and purposes of the UNTOC. Ambassador Aftab Khokher highlighted Pakistan's efforts and actions to control human trafficking



and migrant smuggling as well as to address the issue of money-laundering. In this context, he informed that the Parliament of Pakistan had passed a number of legislations namely: prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2018; prevention of Smuggling of Migrant act, 2018; the Anti-Money Laundering (Second amendment Act, 2020); and the Anti-Terrorism Act (Amendment) Act, 2020. Ambassador Aftab Khokher also said that corruption and money-laundering were the ills affecting the whole world, particularly the developing world. He added that the proceeds of these crimes

were used by organized criminal groups in enhancing their scope of activities including inhumane acts of terrorism. Recalling Prime Minister Imran Khan's address at the High-Level Panel FACTI on the sidelines of the 75th UNGA, Ambassador Khokher reiterated Prime Minister Imran Khan's call on the UN to set up a mechanism to coordinate and supervise the work of various official and non-official bodies dealing with illicit financial flows to ensure coherence, consistency and equity in their work.