



Islamabad POST

Wednesday, October 21, 2020

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

UNICEF country rep lauds Pakistan's COVID-19 steps

Pakistan, Japan agree to further enhance ties

China lauds Moeed remarks about Xinjiang



Briefs

Abnormal increase in mortality rate

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Asad Umar Tuesday said that last week, the country witnessed surge in daily mortality rate by about 140 percent compared to the previous few weeks, and on average as many as 12 people died of COVID during last week. "We are collectively committing a blunder by recklessly ignoring all Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and the results have started to show," he said in a tweet. The minister who also chairs meeting of NCOC for corona virus warned that if the people do not follow the precautionary measures, the situation could again become worst.

Political actors staging drama

FIAZ CH

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz Tuesday said the political actors had staged a drama for the last few days with the aim to save their corruption done in the past tenures. In a tweet on social media platform Twitter, he said these people were national criminals as they had looted the national exchequer. They should know that Imran Khan will not come under any pressure and will hold them accountable for every penny.

UNICEF lauds Pak virus steps

ISLAMABAD: Country Representative for UNICEF Aida Girma Tuesday spoke high of Pakistan's initiatives to effectively mitigate social economic impacts of COVID-19 pandemic and tackle climate changes with formal launch of Clean and Green Index. Talking to APP, Aida Girma said it was imperative to protect and ensure healthy environment in order to groom and nurture a healthy and robust society. Replying to a question about Clean Green Index initiative, she said that it was definitely a motivating step towards raising standards of cleanliness and ensuring green environment.

FM QURESHI SAYS Pakistan fully supports Azerbaijan

FM Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi had talked to the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan, Jeyhun Bayramov; assured full support on Nagorno-Karabakh



A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi had a telephone conversation with the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan, Jeyhun Bayramov. The two Foreign Ministers discussed bilateral relations and the ongoing conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia on Nagorno-Karabakh region. The Foreign Minister expressed deep concern on the deteriorating security situation in Nagorno-Karabakh (NKB) and expressed



full solidarity with the brotherly nation of Azerbaijan and its people at this difficult time. He said that Pakistan believed in restoration of territorial integrity and sovereignty of Azerbaijan over NKB and Azerbaijan's occupied territories. He expressed deep concerns over the reprehensible targeting and killing of civilians by the Armenian forces and hoped for a peaceful resolution of the crisis, in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions. Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov appreciated Pakistan's support to Azer-

baijan and briefed on the latest situation. Foreign Minister Qureshi also recognized Azerbaijan's valuable support to Pakistan on Jammu and Kashmir dispute at various international fora, including the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir. He briefed his counterpart on the grave human rights violations and other repressive actions being perpetrated by the Indian occupation forces in the Indian illegally occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJ&K). The two Foreign Ministers expressed satisfaction at the state of bilateral relations and agreed to further strengthen cooperation in areas of mutual interest, including trade and economic, cultural and educational fields. They agreed to remain in close contact. Foreign Minister Qureshi reiterated his invitation to the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan to visit Pakistan.

Pakistan values its ties with Maldives: FS

The Foreign Secretary expressed these views in a meeting with High Commissioner of Maldives Farzana Zahir



ISLAMABAD: Maldives High Commissioner Farzana Tahir calls on Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood. – DNA

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood on Tuesday said Pakistan attached high importance to its ties with Maldives and wanted to explore cooperation in diverse areas. The Foreign Secretary expressed these views in a

meeting with High Commissioner of Pakistan Maldives Farzana Zahir, who called on him here at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Foreign Secretary underscored strengthening of bilateral cooperation with Maldives in all areas. During the meeting, matters of concern were also discussed.

He also extended his best wishes for the successful term of Maldivian High Commissioner. Earlier on Monday, Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood had reaffirmed Pakistan's support for Afghan peace process and commitment to foster close bilateral relations with Afghanistan. *Continued on Page 06*



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan and Gulbuddin Hekmatyar in a meeting. – DNA

PM Imran orders action against hoarders

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: Prime Minister Imran Khan Tuesday directed all the administrative officers to take strict action against hoarders and profiteers, and ensure ample availability of essential goods to the masses at approved prices. "I will not tolerate any kind of lapse in the provision of relief to the people," he added. The prime minister was presiding over a high-level meeting held here regarding the prices and availability of basic essential items in Punjab. Federal ministers Shibli Faraz and Syed Fakhar Imam, Advisor Shehzad Akbar, Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar and Finance Minister Makhdoom Hashim Jawan Bakht, Advisor to the CM Dr Salman Shah, Punjab Chief Secretary, *Continued on Page 06*

PM Imran, Hekmatyar discuss Afghan peace

Matters related to the Afghan peace process and fraternal relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan were discussed in the meeting

NAVEED MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: The leader of Hezb-e-Islami Afghanistan, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, along with a delegation has met Prime Minister Imran Khan in Islamabad, on Tuesday. PM Imran Khan and Gulbuddin Hekmatyar discussed matters related to the Afghan peace process and fraternal relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan in the meeting. Meanwhile the visiting dignitary while giving an interview to a foreign news agency said Afghan peace was a must for the regional peace and security. He added that he and his party would do their best to contribute to peace efforts being made by stakeholders.

Seminar on "Pak-Afghan trade"

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly of Pakistan will host "Pakistan-Afghanistan Trade and Investment Forum 2020" on October 26 & 27, 2020 in Islamabad. On the invitation of the Honourable Speaker NA Asad Qaiser 17-member, Afghan Parliamentary Delegation led by Speaker of the Wolsey Jirga Mir Rahman Rahmani would participate in the two days seminar. This two days seminar is the culmination of activities of Executive committee of Pakistan Afghanistan Parliamentary Friendship groups. – DNA

Army Chief takes notice of Karachi incident

– talks to Bilawal on phone



NAVEED MIRAJ

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa has ordered an inquiry into the recent "Karachi incident", a statement by the military's media wing said on Tuesday. According to Inter-Services Public Relations: "[Gen Bajwa] has directed Commander Karachi Corps to immediately inquire into the circumstances to determine the facts and report back as soon as possible." The statement by ISPR comes moments after PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari held a press conference at Bilawal House in Karachi and asked Gen Bajwa and DG ISI Lt Gen Faiz Hameed to hold an inquiry

into the incident involving retired Captain Safdar's arrest. It also comes shortly after reports that several senior officers of Sindh Police, including IG Sindh Mushtaq Mahar, have decided to go on leave citing demoralisation of the police force.

Peace to be ensured: COAS

RAWALPINDI: 236th Corps Commanders' Conference presided by General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) held at GHQ. Geo strategic, regional & national security environment discussed. *Continued on Page 06*

Shehbaz sent on judicial remand

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: An accountability court on Tuesday sent Opposition Leader in National Assembly Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to Kot Lakhpat Jail on judicial remand in money laundering and assets beyond means case. A National Accountability Bureau (NAB) team produced Shehbaz Sharif before Accountability Court Judge Syed Jawadul Hassan on expiry of his seven-day physical remand. The court was requested to extend physical remand for further investigations. However, the court questioned why the bureau required further physical remand. To which, a NAB prosecutor submitted that the bureau wanted to investigate as to how Shehbaz Sharif returned the loan obtained for purchasing flats in London. He submitted that Shehbaz Sharif was not cooperating in investigations.

4 wounded in bomb blast in Karachi

DNA

KARACHI: At least four people were injured when a bomb exploded in a passenger bus in Sheerin Jinnah Colony in the metropolis on Tuesday. As per the initial reports, the bomb exploded in a passenger bus near Sheerin Jinnah Colony, wounding at least four people. Soon after the blast, the area residents shifted the wounded people to local hospital for medical assistance. The South Zone police officials confirmed the blast was occurred due to explosive material as no piece of the gas cylinder was recovered from the blast site. The police officials said that the explosive material was likely to be planted at the gate of the bus terminal.

Pakistan, Japan agree to further boost ties

Acting Ambassador of Japan meets Shahzad Waseem Leader of the House in Senate; Senator Seemi Ezdi was also present during the meeting

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Acting Ambassador of Japan, Shindu Kuske called on leader of the House in the Senate Senator Shahzad Waseem at Parliament House on Tuesday. Leader of the House in Senate said that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Japan and desires to further expand the friendly ties in different sectors for mutual benefit of the people of two sides. He reiterated need to further strengthen the existing economic relations between Pakistan and Japan. He said that bilateral relations could be further cemented by increasing parliamentary exchanges. He said that excellent cooperation



has been witnessed at international fora and there is a need to further build cooperation by promoting people to people contacts and

exchange of Parliamentary delegations. The Acting Ambassador said that two countries have enjoyed historic relations and Japan

is keen to further boost cooperation in mutually beneficial sectors. He agreed with the views of Leader of the House in the Senate to

enhance cooperation and further strengthen bilateral ties. Senator Shahzad wasim said that prime minister Imran Khan vision is to promote Pakistani brand. He said that investment friendly policies have been introduced and environment is conducive for investment in Pakistan. He said there is huge scope for mutual collaboration in trade, tourism and other sectors. The Acting Ambassador appreciated the potential of skilled work force of Pakistan. He said that we are keen to benefit from the human resource in different fields. It is pertinent to mention here that Senator Dr. Shahzad Wasim is convener of Pakistan Japan friendship group in the Senate. Senator Seemi Ezdi was also present during the meeting.

Inside...

- 'Govt restructuring PIA to improve service delivery system' – Page 02
- Develop resilient food system to fight hunger, experts warn – Page 03
- Government asked to focus on women empowerment – Page 04
- Indonesia a wonderful place to live and visit – Page 05
- Pak reports India's reprisals against Kashmiris at UN – Page 06
- Armenia continues to target civilian population – Page 07
- China lauds Moeed Yousaf remarks about Xinjiang – Page 08

Briefs

DPOs should ensure all legal assistance

DNA

ABBOTTABAD: Deputy Inspector General of Police Hazara Region Qazi Jamil-ur-Rehman telephoned the plaintiffs of various cases in all the districts of Hazara under the Citizen Feedback System and asked them for police investigation and cooperation in their case. During the telephone calls, DIG Hazara told the plaintiffs that if you have any problem or concern regarding your case, you can talk by phone. In this regard, DIG Hazara said that the Citizen Feedback System is a good initiative through which the plaintiffs can send their complaints and suggestions regarding the cases to the higher authorities. They will be able to reach easily and people's trust in government departments will be restored and their problems will be solved by providing them timely assistance, DIG said. All DPOs across Hazara should strictly follow this and listen to the plaintiffs in their respective district cases by telephone under the feedback system and ensure all possible legal assistance, he added.

Provision of clean drinking water urged

DNA

SUKKUR: Administrator Sukkur Nisar Ahmed Memon on Tuesday said that clean water is pre-requisite for health and it is duty of the authority to provide clean drinking water to the residents. Speaking with officials of the Sukkur Municipal Administration, at his office here, he said all possible efforts will be made for this purpose and no laxity will be tolerated in this regard. He directed the completion of repair and maintenance work within a week. Sukkur Municipal authorities has outsourced the operation and maintenance of the various water filtration plants including change of filters and other components, water testing and presence of operators to contractors after completing all procedural formalities. He also directed to formulate Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for availability and quality assurance of water at every filtration plant. The SOP along with a checklist should be prominently displayed on every filtration plant while the operator at every plant should maintain a book having complete record and schedule for change of filters, he further directed. For ensuring quality water supply to people of the Sukkur city installed water plants, he further directed that daily visit by sub-engineer to filtration plants should be made compulsory. The report of visit should be submitted directly to MC's office daily for further strengthen the monitoring mechanism, he directed that the concerned TMO should visit the filtration plants on alternate days while twice a week visit by the concerned officer should also be made mandatory. The TMO should visit the water filtration plants once a week.

No compromise on cleanliness: Chairman

He expressed this while addressing the media persons while inspecting the cleanliness situation

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: It is the responsibility of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to keep the city



clean, people should also cooperate in this regard, said the Chairman CDA, Aamir Ali Ahmad here on Tuesday. He expressed this while addressing the media persons while in-

specting the cleanliness situation in Islamabad. He said that CDA is committed for providing the best cleanliness facilities across the capital. The role of citizens is very important in this regard. They should not throw waste in markets and in front of their homes. Islamabad is one of the beautiful cities of the world. CDA will take all the essential steps to enhance the beauty of the city, he further said. Chairman CDA lauded the performance of officers and workers and urged them to carry on the hard work. There will be no compromise on keeping the city clean, he added.



LAHORE: Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi being presented souvenir by Governor Punjab Ch Muhammad Sarwar. – DNA

'Government restructuring PIA to improve service delivery system'

SHUJAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD, Minister for Aviation Ghulam Sarwar Khan on Tuesday informed the Senate that the government was restructuring Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) to improve the service delivery system to satisfy the passengers. He, in a written reply, said all appropriate steps will

be taken with focus on maintaining the international standard of the organization. He said the COVID-19 pandemic has affected travel industry the most globally and Pakistan has been no exception. Travel restrictions placed during pandemic internationally and within Pakistan brought PIA flight operations to halt

in March, 2020. He added the operation was partially resumed in May, 2020 and number of flights has been increasing gradually since then where demand is building up. He said the same trend prevails for Multan, where PIA is now offering four international flights to Saudi Arabia and three to UAE while PIA is offering three weekly domes-

tic flights to Karachi and two to Islamabad in the current winter schedule. He said the PIA is closely monitoring the market and additional flights will be added with the improvement in demand. He said existing Pakistan-Saudi Arabia fares are Rs64,100 inclusive of all taxes like Rs 14,000. He added it is fact that the PIA had to increase its

fares from 16th September to 30th September from Pakistan to Saudi Arabia due to various reasons. He said as per Saudi authorities directives all those Pakistanis who were holding valid Aqama visa till 30th September, 2020 could travel back to Saudi Arabia within the given time period like 16th September to 30 September. He added in order to ac-

commodate the passengers whose visas were expiring on 30th September, PIA mounted extra section flights for which permission was granted by Saudi authorities with condition of maintaining social distancing by restricting aircraft capacity to 75 percent and all Saudi Arabia flights will be operated as ferry flights (Zero passengers load).

22 Sahulat bazaars made functional in Faisalabad

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: On the directions of the Punjab government, 22 Sahulat Bazaars have been made functional in the district to provide essential items to consumers at a controlled rate. In these bazaars sugar would sold at Rs 85 per kg, 10 kg bag of flour at Rs 420 and 20 kg bag at Rs 840 while fruits, vegetables and other standard groceries will also be available at discounted prices than open market. Divisional Commissioner Ishrat Ali and Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali paid a visit to the Sahulat Bazaars and checked the necessary arrangements. They visited bazar at Riaz Sha-

hid Chowk, Millat road, Model Bazaar Millat Chowk and other bazaars and checked the essential commodities available at there. Assistant Commissioner City Syed Ayub Bukhari also accompanied with them. The Divisional Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner inspected the availability of flour, sugar, pulses, fruits and checked the quality and prices of vegetables and other groceries and directed that there should be no interruption in the availability of groceries in these markets from morning till evening. They asked the in-charges of the bazaars to be present on the spot and keep a close eye on demand and high quality of commodities besides cleaning at all times.

PML-N changes date of PDM's rally in Rawalpindi

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) has changed the date for the upcoming rally of the opposition alliance, Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), scheduled on October 31 in Rawalpindi. The decision was taken in a party consultative session chaired by PML-N senior vice president Shahid Khaqan Abbasi in Rawalpindi Tuesday. The next rally of the opposition parties' alliance will be held on November 7 instead of October 31 in Rawalpindi. Shahid

Khaqan Abbasi chaired an emergency consultative session of the political party held at PML-N division office of Malik Abrar. Sources told a private television that PML-N leaders have also mulled over the strategy for organising a sit-in in the federal capital Islamabad. They also reviewed the situation after the recent PDM rallies in Gujranwala and Karachi besides discussing the registration of cases against PML-N leaders. The session was attended by PML-N central leaders, provincial and national lawmakers and other high-level office-bearers.

Pakistan Air Force marks White Cane Safety Day



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Air Force (PAF) on Tuesday marked the 'International White Cane Safety Day' and arranged a seminar at PAF Base, Nur Khan to emphasize need for rehabilitation and training of visually impaired persons with special needs (PSNs). Deputy Chief of the Air

Staff (Support), Pakistan Air Force Air Marshal Muhammad Haseeb Paracha attended the ceremony as the chief guest, said a PAF press release. Addressing the seminar the chief guest highlighted the importance of imparting training to visually impaired PSNs to make them useful members of the society. He also stressed on rehabilitation of PSNs in light of the Chief

& Independence Training Centre Islamabad (NM&ITC) gave presentations on various aspects of the White Cane Safety Day. Practical demonstration on safe use of white cane was also given during the seminar. Visually Impaired Persons with Special Needs and their parents attended the seminar, while participants from 10 Bases were also connected via live streaming.

of the Air Staff's vision. Interacting with the special children and their parents, the Air Marshal assured them redressal of their problems, paving way for making them confident and independent individuals who could contribute in the progress of country. A team of experts from National Institute of Special Education (NISE), Islamabad and National Mobility

260 sacks of sugar siezed

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Assistant Commissioner Tandlianwala Noman Ali seized 260 sacks of sugar and a large quantity of ghee and cooking oil from the warehouse of a shop in Mankanjan and sealed the warehouse. According to details, the Assistant Commissioner raided Aslam & Co after receiving information that a large quantity of sugar and ghee oil was stored in the warehouse which was not even recorded in the market committee and was collected for the purpose of artificial inflation. The goods were seized and sealed at the warehouse. AC said that the stored goods would be sold in the general market at a controlled rate.

COVID-19 cases surging due to negligence: Buzdar

DNA

LAHORE: The number of novel coronavirus patients increasing due to neglecting the standard operating procedures (SOPs) Punjab chief minister said on Tuesday. The active cases of coronavirus in province have increased to 2198 as 108 new infections were reported in past 24 hours, Chief Minister Usman Buzdar stated. In last 24 hours, 12 more patients of the disease died in the province and the overall death toll reached to 2310, he said. Chief Minister Usman Buzdar stated that the number of coronavirus patients was earlier dropped to a larger extent but in 20 days of October the tally of infections and casualties have increased. The chief minister appealed citizens to follow the precautionary measures in letter and spirit. The cooperation of citizens is necessary to avoid the second wave of the COVID-19, Buzdar said. "It will be in the best interest of general public to continue following precautionary measures," he said. "They should maintain social distancing for protection of their own lives," the chief minister further said.

FCCI welcomes revival of Khidmat Markaz

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD. Police-FCCI Khidmat Markaz has been revived to provide 14 police related facilities to the FCCI members in a most comfortable and congenial atmosphere. In a statement issued here Tuesday, Engineer Hafiz Ihtasham Javed, President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry has welcomed the operation of this Khidmat Markaz which was temporarily closed due to the Corona lockdown. He has thanked Captain (R) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhary City Police Officer for appointing competent police officials to facilitate the business community. He told that initially it will provide Police Character Certificate, General Police verification, Vehicle Verification, Mobile Phone Verification Service, Missing Report, Missing Children Report, Crime Report, Legal guidance for women, Copy of FIR, Tenancy registration, Registration of Private Employees, Provision of learners driving permit, renewal of Driving permits and Medico-Legal Reports etc.

OCTOBER 2020

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

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Briefs

HEC approves 54 Degrees of PMAS-AAUR

RAWALPINDI: The Quality Assurance Agency (CAA) of Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan has approved 54 degrees including three MS, one MSC, nine MSc (Hons), 18 MPhil and 23 PhD degrees of Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR).

The decision has been taken in light of the extensive review of the PMAS-AAUR Post Graduate Program conducted in February this year, during which the University submitted a series of compliance reports.

The HEC committee reviewed the files of the students, faculty along with allied documents & files of MS/MSc/MPhil/MSc (Hons) and PhD programs. The approved degrees fall under the programs of Agri Economics (MSc-Hons & PhD), Agri Engineering (MSc-Hons & PhD), Agri Extension (MSc-Hons & PhD), Animal Breeding & Genetics (MPhil & PhD), Animal Nutrition (MPhil), Biochemistry (MPhil), Biotechnology (MPhil), Biology (MPhil), Botany (MPhil & PhD), Computer Sciences (MS & PhD), Economics (MPhil & PhD), Education (MPhil & PhD), Entomology (MSc-Hons & PhD), Environmental Sciences (MPhil & PhD), Food Technology (MSc-Hons & PhD), Forestry (MPhil & PhD), Horticulture (MSc-Hons & PhD), Management Sciences (MBA-1.5 Year, MS, PhD), Plant Breeding & Genetics (MSc-Hons & PhD), Plant Pathology (MSc-Hons & PhD), Remote Sensing & GIS (MS, PhD), Sociology (MPhil), Soil Sciences (MS, PhD), Statistics (MPhil), Veterinary Medicine & Surgery (MPhil & PhD), Veterinary Microbiology (MPhil & PhD), Veterinary Pathology (MPhil & PhD), Wildlife (MPhil & PhD) and Zoology (MPhil & PhD). — APP

5 site offices of housing schemes sealed

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) Tuesday sealed five site offices of illegal housing schemes in various areas of the city and stopped construction work over violation of ICT zoning regulations 1992 (as amendment). The owners of the properties were carried out development work at the area, illegally, without approval of lay out plan (LOP) from the authority, Deputy Director Planning, Muhammad Arshad chohan told APP. "We have published public notices many times in newspapers, informing the general public that they should avoid investing in illegal projects as large number of housing societies were selling plots and started construction without obtaining no-objection certificates (NOCs)," he added. "Time to time we issue notices to such projects and finally they were sealed as CDA cannot allow illegal constructions in the federal capital. We suggest the citizens to consult the CDA before investing in such projects as the civic agency will not be responsible for their losses," he said. — APP

IRSA releases 108,300 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 108,300 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 62,200 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1526.61 feet, which was 140.61 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 36,500 cusecs and outflow as 58,000 cusecs. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1215.25 feet, which was 175.25 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 7,400 cusecs and 32,000 cusecs respectively. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Leader of Hezbe-Islami Afghanistan, Mr. Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, called on President Dr. Arif Alvi. — DNA

Develop resilient food system to fight hunger, experts warn

They warned that the food system is facing tremendous pressure from climate change causing the depleting natural resources, soil degradation, water shortage and increasing threat from invasive species of pests and diseases

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: The experts stressed the need of taking immediate actions to protect food system to produce enough food in quantity and quality. The COVID pandemic has already posed a serious threat to our food system; we need to develop resilient and holistic food system to fight hunger, the panelists urged, while addressing the COMSTech virtual seminar on World Food Day on the theme of "Grow, nourish and sustain together" organized in collaboration with UPSIGN and Pakistan Academy of Sciences. They warned that the food system is facing tremendous pressure

from climate change causing the depleting natural resources, soil degradation, water shortage and increasing threat from invasive species of pests and diseases.

It was noted that the new varieties have low update of trace elements and essential minerals that needs to be addressed.

Prof Ratan Lal, The World Food Prize Winner 2020, was the chief guest speaker. A panel of distinguished scholars and policy makers who participated in this seminar include Dr Tina Barsby OBE, Director and Chief Executive Officer, National Institute of Agricultural Botany (NIAB), UK, Dr Shahid Mansoor, National Institute for Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering (NIBGE),

Prof Iqra Ahmed Khan, former VC of University of Agriculture, Faisalabad.

The Hon. Ms. Shandana Gulzar Khan, Chairperson of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) network and chair of Agri products committee in National Assembly of Pakistan informed that the government of Pakistan is keen to develop a long-term strategy to protect its natural resources, especially soil and water for the coming generations in her closing remarks.

Prof. Lal stressed the need of teaching our young generation to protect our soil's health, which is living and improve organic contents, through restoration of soil health, we can improve the

human health. Resilient systems are those that can bounce back, we need to encourage urban agriculture. Good food is a good medicine, improving nutritional value. He quoted verses from the Holy Quran meaning "Eat lawful and what is good on earth".

Dr Tina Barsby said, "If the world is to grow enough food for the projected global population in 2050, agricultural productivity will have to rise by at least 60%, and may need to grow more than double. Maize, Rice, Wheat and Soybean are only increasing by about 0.9% to 1.6% a year. We need to increase it to 2.4% per year to double yield by 2050". Dr. Shahid Mansoor emphasized the need of adopting the speed

breeding technologies, which is a combination of red and blue lights to reduce generation time (5-6 generations in a year instead of one or two), reduce breeding time 2-3 years, adopting genomics/genomic selection and use of genetic markers to select desirable traits (such as yield, disease resistance, nutritional value, quality) both for crops and livestock.

Prof Iqra Khan alluded the need of soil stewardship schemes especially inclusion of legumes in the cropping system. Dr Khalid Mahmood thanked the speakers on behalf of UPSIGN, COMSTech and Pakistan Academy of Sciences. More than 100 participants across the globe attended this event.

Pak Post Foundation rejects misleading information

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Post Foundation (PPF) Logistic Division on Tuesday rejected the misleading information circulating on social media about the Digital Franchise Post Office (DFPO) program. According to PPF, "it has been reported that messages from individuals promoting the DFPO Program have been circulating on social media, which are spreading misleading information about this program. PPF Logistic Division is the custodian of DFPO Program duly mandated under license from Pakistan Post Office Department (PPOD). "All applications shall be submitted at the website dfpo.pk, which will be processed by the evaluation team at PPF (Logistics Division) based on the eligibility and feasibility criteria" the statement said. Franchise setup, shop acquisition, rental, utilities, employee salary and all other operational and maintenance expenses are sole responsibility of the Franchisee. Neither Pakistan

Post nor PPF (Logistics Division) shall pay any amount whatsoever in this regard. Pakistan Post or PPF (Logistics Division) does not collect up-front amount of Rs. 150,000 for franchise setup. This is an estimated amount that the franchisee shall require in order to procure the starter kit items specified by PPF (Logistics Division). The starter kit includes laptop, printer, barcode scanner and other peripherals for franchise operations and franchisee may purchase the specified equipment from market at its sole discretion. Franchise activation and mobilization charges may apply. Franchisees are entitled to commission on sale of Postal services, broken down into two parts; i.e. 10% commission is entitled for booking of postal products through the DFPO platform, whereas mail pickup from franchise and delivery to tagged post office shall be handled by PPF (Logistics Division) or its authorized transport agent. — APP

Art, Music classes at PNCA in full swing

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Art and Music classes at Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) continued to attract the aspirant in the supervision of maestros of Art and Music. Classes were in full swing which started from September 18 with new students coming to register themselves everyday. Master artisans and Music experts in different specialized art fields were imparting training to registered participants at PNCA, an official said on Tuesday. He said that these classes were an effort to promote crafts field along with polishing the creative skills of the young blood. He said that Director General PNCA Dr Fozia Saeed was taking keen interest in promoting arts through these classes among the youth of the country who was passionate about performing arts.

IGP lauds reconciliation committee's role

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police, Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfiqar Khan Tuesday lauded the role of reconciliation committee in resolving the public issues on priority basis. Addressing a ceremony held here at Central Police office (CPO), the IGP said the committees were set up to solve the issues such as family matters and social problems at their doorstep without the direct involvement of police. The Committees have also reduced the case load on the courts; he said and hoped that all the reconciliation committees would continue to work together with the coordination of federal capital police for the welfare of the people. Inspector General of Police underscored the need to increase the number of women in the reconciliation committees. He assured his cooperation to maintain law and order in the city and appealed the public to cooperate with police in controlling crime. He said "Pehle Salam Phir Kalam" initiative was not just a collection of words but a combination of determination to change the role of police in the society. All the zonal SPs of the city presented the performance report of reconciliation committees to the IG. SP sadder zone told the IG that in his area around 430 cases were received in six police stations out of which 236 were disposed off in the first week while 60 were referred to the courts. Similarly, SP city said 232 applications were received in its area police stations out of which 193 cases were disposed of by reconciliation committees with the consent of both the parties. Likewise, 90 applications were received in the Industrial Area zone out of which 83 were disposed of by reconciliation committees. DIG (Operations) Waqar Uddin Syed, All Zonal SPs, SP Legal and members of reconciliation committee were present on this occasion. — DNA



HEC will continue to facilitate university faculty

Scholarships are provided for PhD and Post-doctoral Fellowship, Interim Placement of Fresh PhDs and International Research Support Initiative Programme

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has been making all-out efforts to enhance opportunities and facilities available to the university faculty and has initiated a number of programmes for their higher studies, professional development as well as providing guidance to universities on streamlining the hiring and promotion processes. This was stated by Chairman HEC Tariq Banuri while addressing a press conference in Islamabad on Tuesday. There is no doubt that the most important factor that determines the quality of any educational institution is the quality of its fac-

ulty. This is the core objective of various scholarships, R&D and quality assurance policies of HEC. Scholarships are provided for PhD and Post-doctoral Fellowship, Interim Placement of Fresh PhDs and International Research Support Initiative Programme. HEC also provides research grants for individuals and institutions under different schemes. Finally HEC has set minimum standards for faculty appointments and promotion, and reviews appeals against any violation of the standards. The Tenure Track System (TTS) was introduced as part of a broader quality reform agenda aimed at enhancing performance and productivity and attracting capable and talented faculty. TTS system



seeks to creating a healthy competition, encouraging excellence in research and teaching. The total number of TTS faculty members in Pakistan has increased from 95 in 2005-06 to 3198 in 2018-19. So far, more than 105 public sector universities and degree awarding institutions have adopted this System for academic appointments.

The HEC's governing body has recently amended the Tenure Track Statutes, in order to reward faculty for superior performance, increase time frame to acquire tenure in line with international best practice, infuse data driven and transparent evaluation and management process, and above all, incentivize excellence by introducing 35% TTS Premium for TTS faculty. These improvements are aligned with the recommendations of the TTS review committee, and aimed at resolving tenure, promotion and recruitment issues on sustainable basis while ensuring credit for quality. Some individuals are trying to destroy the system by lowering its standards. They have demanded

that the publication requirements for TTS faculty members should be reduced and that they should be allowed to do other jobs.

This will ensure the demise of the TTS system. It will also be against the interest of students who deserve to be taught by the best professors. HEC has extended the maximum length of tenure to nine years for TTS faculty who are unable to complete eligibility requirements for promotion as Associate Professor within the already specified period of six years. Likewise, HEC has separately issued a notification to enable the TTS faculty to obtain valuable managerial experience by allowing the faculty to take up limited academic-cum-administrative responsibilities.

Rescue 1122 working for better medicare

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Emergency Service (PES), Rescue 1122 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". Talking to APP, informed by District Emergency Officer (DEO), Ali Hussain said that citizens are being provided with the basic right to timely emergency care without any discrimination with average response time of 7.05 minutes.

Nearly 272,118 victims of different emergencies while conducting 252,340 rescue operations in seven tehsils of the District since its inception in 2007 including 96,931 calls of road accidents, 1109,064 of medical emergencies, 9919 of fire incidents, 7674 of crime incidents, 184 of building collapsed, explosion / blast incident 200 and 284 drowning incidents and 18071 miscellaneous emergencies during the period, DEO said.

Above 76,613 injured persons were provided first aid on the spot, 183,398 patients besides 11,777 victims who lost their lives in accidents were shifted to nearby hospitals; he said adding PES also evacuated 314 flood victims.

Rescue 1122 has always tried to provide timely help to the citizens in a professional way to save precious lives and properties, he said. PES also launched the Service "First Aider at every home programme" in start of 2019 to impart first aid to every individual to ensure services by skilled first aiders at each and every house for timely provision of first aid to victims of emergencies and disasters, DEO said. — APP

Students face transport shortage issue

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Model Postgraduate College H-8, the oldest college of the city was unable to provide transportation facility to all of its students due to shortage of buses. The available transport facility at the college was insufficient to cater the needs of the increasing number of students who cannot afford to travel on local transport on daily basis which charge high fares. According to an official source, around 800 students apply for the college bus facility every year out of which 200 lucky students avail this facility while rest of 600 students are deprived of this facility. The college having only three buses in working condition cannot facilitate the remaining students.

FDE under the Prime Minister's Education Reform Program, distributed 200 buses among various schools and colleges during 2017-19 without ascertaining actual demand of the institutions. The source revealed that, due to unfair distribution, over 100 yellow buses were lying inoperative at the compounds of various schools of the city as the schools did not need these.

The buses lying at many of the institutions especially junior schools were useless as majority of the kids live nearby and they come to school on foot with their parents. The source informed that the schools have not been provided drivers and conductors to run the buses. The source said the directorate can resolve the issue by handing over idle buses (parked in various schools for over three years) to colleges like H-8 college which had the capacity to function these buses on its own. — APP

Two DSPs of Captial Police reshuffled

ISLAMABAD: Two Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs) of Islamabad police were reshuffled here on Tuesday following orders issued by the office of inspector General of Police. According to the orders, DSP Khalid Mahmood Awan serving as Sub-Divisional police Officer (SDPO) Sadder has been posted as SDPO Sabzi Mandi. DSP Syed Sajjad Haider Bukhari serving as DSP (Counter Terrorisms Department) has been given new assignment as SDPO Sadder. — APP

Briefs

Cement export increases 8.27% in Q1

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The exports of cement from the country witnessed an increase of 8.27 percent during the first quarter (Q1) of financial year (2020-21) as compared to the corresponding period of last fiscal year.

The country exported cement worth US \$72.296 million during July-September (2020-21) as against the exports of US \$66.773 million during July-September (2019-20), showing growth of 8.27 percent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). In terms of quantity, the exports of cement increased by 30.09 percent by going up from 2,196,835 metric tons to 1,688,687 metric tons, according to the data.

Meanwhile, on year-to-year basis, the exports of cement grew by 23.85 percent during the month of September 2020 as compared to the same month of last year. The exports of cement from the country during September 2020 were recorded at \$27.788 million against the exports of \$24.623 million in September 2019.

Ali Zaidi all praise for PTI social media team

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Ali Haider Zaidi on Tuesday highly praised Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) social media team and all of the PTI family volunteers. In a message on social media networking site, he said "salute to PTI social media team and all of the PTI family volunteers who exposed the real agenda of opposition parties and showed the real picture of their flop Jalsas". The minister said that Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) paid social media teams could not defeat the passion of PTI volunteers all over the globe. — APP

Policeman wounded, driver injured in firing

ISLAMABAD: A police constable was injured after being hit by a dumper while its driver got bullet injury when its crew whipped into weapon and another cop opened fire, police said.

According to details, a dumper hit two patrolling policemen in the area of Noon Police station which resulted critical injuries to one of them identified as Constable Pervaiz. Another policeman Haroon tried to stop the dumper but one of its crew member whipped out pistol following which policeman opened fire resulting bullet injury in the leg of driver. Both injured persons including policeman and driver have been admitted in hospital where their treatment is underway. The wounded driver is stated to be out of danger while injured policeman is struggling for his life. DIG (Operations) Waqar Uddin Syed has directed SP (Industrial Area) to investigate into the matter and take legal action after finding facts. — APP

IEEE Annual ICCWS 2020 held at Air University

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The opening ceremony of IEEE annual International Conference on Cyber Warfare and Security (ICCWS) 2020* was held at Air University Islamabad on Tuesday. National Centre for Cyber Security (NCCS) hosted the ceremony.

Federal Minister, Syed Ali Haider Zaidi graced the occasion as chief guest, said a press release. Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that confidence in security of our digital lives is more and more important, adding that Cyber Security is a prerequisite of a smart nation and a digital economy. He highlighted that a secure cyber domain contributes to a more stable society, a more stable democracy, and a more stable business environment. The two days' virtual conference will also feature prominent keynotes from USA, Turkey, Russia, Belgium, Estonia, and Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Women chamber members meeting with ICCI president Sardar Yasir Ilyas. — DNA

Government asked to focus on women empowerment

On receiving Deborah Lyons here at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Foreign Secretary emphasized that international community must remain economically engaged for reconstruction and development

FIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan has called upon the government to focus on the economic empowerment of women to achieve sustainable growth of the country. He said that women were over 50 percent of the total population of the country and bringing them into the mainstream of economy was very important to unleash their potential for better economic

development of Pakistan.

He said this while addressing a delegation of Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IWCCI) that visited ICCI led by Group Leader Ms. Samina Fazal. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that the government should open women counters in public dealing departments including NADRA, Police, Passport Office etc. for their facilitation. He said that ICCI would work for exploring employment opportunities for women in the

private sector so that they could contribute more effectively towards national development.

He said that ICCI in cooperation with IWCCI would try to organize training workshops and seminars for women entrepreneurs to polish their skills in entrepreneurship that would help them in promoting businesses. He said ICCI was planning to organize a large scale expo in which display booths for women entrepreneurs would be set up to showcase the potential of

their products. He assured that ICCI would fully cooperate with IWCCI in resolving key issues of businesswomen. Ms. Samina Fazal, Group Leader and other members of Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that women entrepreneurs were facing many hurdles in promoting businesses and the government should address their issues on priority to enable them to promote business activities more smoothly. She stressed that the govern-

ment should give representation to Women Chambers of Commerce and Industry in various Board of Directors of public sector organizations so that women represent the voice of women and work for protection for their rights in the policy making process of the government. Both sides discussed many areas of mutual cooperation to achieve the common objectives of promoting the business interests of their members with joint efforts.

Students can apply for Ehsaas Scholarships till Oct 30

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Only nine days were left in the closure date of the online portal for receiving fresh applications under the country's largest Ehsaas Undergraduate Scholarship program for the academic year 2020-21. According to an official, the aspiring eligible students can submit their applications through an online portal: <https://ehsaas.hec.gov.pk/> till October 30. All students with family income less than 45,000, studying in any year of an undergraduate program in any of the 119 public sector universities recognized by Higher Education Commission (HEC) are eligible to apply. The scholarship applications

will have to mention the universities to which they are applying. For the year 2019-20, scholarships worth Rs. 4.827 billion were awarded to 50,762 undergraduate students nationwide. The four-year Ehsaas undergraduate scholarship initiative was formally launched by the Prime Minister Imran Khan on Nov 4, 2019. Every year, 50,000 students from low-income families will be awarded scholarships for 4 to 5-year undergraduate degree programs. The official informed that around 200,000 undergraduate scholarships will be awarded on need and merit basis over the four years span with the budget of Rs. 24 billion and covering 100% of the tuition fee and a living stipend of 4,000 per month.

Rung school to hold acting course from Nov 2

ISLAMABAD: Rung School of Music and Arts will hold three months long Acting course titled "The Acting Class" to provide the students with practical experience about acting and enable them to understand and perform various roles from November 2. In collaboration with Art Group, Theater Wallay the acting classes would focus on the whole process of developing a play from the scratch. It will be a three months course that will cover all aspects of a theater performance, an organizer told on Tuesday. He said that students will

be presented with a detailed and unique study plan, culminating in a live performance as well as the opportunity to perform in a well publicized web-series. The Course will be conducted in a large open air space, following social distancing and other protocols, along with additional Online Classes if required. The course is designed specifically for furthering Career, Life and Creative Potential and this experience will help the students in their development in the area of their choice of a creative career on stage, screen or television. — APP

'Skilled manpower vital for socio-economic uplift'

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi on Tuesday said skilled manpower was vital for the socio-economic development of country. He expressed these views while chairing a meeting of Senate of National Skills University, here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. President Alvi asked the management of the university to take steps for the provision of skill-based technical education across the country. He urged the NSU to

expeditiously initiate academic programmes keeping in view the market demand for skilled manpower.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Federal Education Shaqat Mehmood, Secretary Federal Education Farah Hamid Khan, Member Higher Education Commission Fateh M. Marri, Vice-Chancellor NSU, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar, Chairperson National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) Prof. Dr. Mohammad Inayatullah Khan and other members of the NSU Senate.

Vice Chancellor NSU Prof. Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar briefed the meeting about the aims and proposed academic programmes to be offered by the University during 2021-2022. The meeting approved the minutes of the first meeting of the Senate of NSU held in August, 2020. The main objective of the country's first-ever National Skill University is to produce a substantial number of high-quality graduate and post-graduate technologists professional in a variety of current disciplines to meet the national demands.



ISLAMABAD: Foreign women attend a tree plantation function held at E-7 Park organized by the Hungarian embassy and Bio Lab. — DNA

Tiger Force to control inflation: Dar

He further mentioned that the Tiger Force, during the peak period of the pandemic, had done great work to ensure the implementation of anti-coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs) such as social distancing

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Youth Affairs Muhammad Usman Dar Tuesday said that the Prime Minister's tiger force was playing a pivotal role in controlling inflation aimed to serve the nation.

Talking to a private news channel, he assured that on the directions of Prime minister Imran Khan government with the help of tiger force was taking stern action against the 'mafias' involved in hiking the prices of essential items, especially flour and vege-

table prices. Dar explained that the "Tiger Force" would only identify the bad practices contributing to the inflation such as profiteering and artificial price hike, while actions would be taken by the concerned price control administrations.

Usman Dar said our national heroes 'Tiger Relief Force' was a non-political organization which was serving the nation, adding that it was working with full devotion, dedication and enthusiasm in the country so we should not criticized their positive role.



He hoped that Tiger force would not be discouraged by any criticisms and they will fulfill their given tasks with full devotion

and government would ramp up its efforts to tackle the price issue soon. Usman Dar also regretted that the opposition was targeting the volunteers, who had carried out various tasks responsibly without any greed and monetary gains during difficult times. He further mentioned that the Tiger Force, during the peak period of the pandemic, had done great work to ensure the implementation of anti-coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs) such as social distancing, and the "No Mask

No Service" campaign in hospitals, utility stores, mosques and Ehsaas emergency funds. While dismissing criticism from opposition parties, he appreciated the role of Tiger force and asked Tiger force to regularly check prices of food items in their localities and post on Tiger Force portal. Replying a Question, Usman Dar said youth were asset of the country and without their full participation, the journey towards development could not be completed. — APP

Street Watchers System underway

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Street Watchers System introduced in City Zone of Islamabad to ensure protection to the lives and property of citizens is successfully underway and only one dacoity incident has been reported in the area during the last week. It is to mention that Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfiqar directed to launch this new system for effective patrolling measures and involve community in policing affairs to combat crime with its support. The system was implemented by DIG (Operations) Waqar Uddin Syed and it is successfully underway in the City Zone area. The streets watchers were deputed at streets and sub-sectors who are assisting police in its efforts to curb crime. They are informing police in case of any suspicious activity in their respective area and keeping a vigilant eye on security guards and domestic servants. What's app group has been created to ensure effective coordination between policemen and community members. According to the feedback received from social media, what's app group and Rescue 15, only one incident was reported while police is ensuring for effective steps for safety to people. The citizens have also appreciated this effort and step of Islamabad police.

Senior citizens praise Panagah project

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Senior citizens of twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi on Tuesday highly praised the government initiative to establish Panagahs for the welfare of the poor segment of the society. Talking to APP, Ahmad Ali, a senior citizen said that he was residing in Panagah and it was first class services being given by the management, adding that he met people from the whole country particularly labour class staying in these Panagahs. Another senior citizen Muhammad Shafiq said that he was staying in Panagah and it was very helpful for him to get required facilities and shelter. He said that the food and facilities being provided were very good and commendable. A senior labour working at Peshawar More, said that he came from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and daily wage labour. He said that he also stay these days in Panagah, adding that this initiative has provided assistance to thousands of labour class particularly senior citizens. An official told APP, the ministry of Human Rights is committed to provide the fundamental rights of the citizen specially senior citizen, adding that in this regard necessary legislation was the top priority of the government. He said that maximum relief would be provided to the senior citizens.

CPO holds open court

DNA

RAWALPINDI: City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi, DIG, Muhammad Ahsan Younas on Tuesday held open court (Khuli Kutcheri) here at CPO office to solve public complaints.

The 'Khuli Kutcheri' was attended among others by a large number of citizens, while on this occasion, police officers' concerned were also present. 25 citizens on this occasion recorded their complaints and presented applications to City Police Officer. The CPO also listened the complaints of the citizens and issued orders on phone to the police officers' concerned. According to a police spokesman, the CPO was holding 'Khuli Kutcheri' on daily basis to provide relief to the citizens. The police officers had also been warned of strict action on negligence and directed to address complaints of the citizens particularly marked by the CPO within shortest possible time frame, he added.

A significant visit

VETERAN politician Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's three-day visit to Pakistan on Monday is yet another indication of the significance of facilitators such as Pakistan in the peace process. After the Doha agreement and direct discussions between the two sides—the Afghan government and Taliban—they are still having a hard time finding the middle ground on key issues such as the political future of the country and guaranteeing rights. This is where external mediators can step in and smooth out any creases where necessary. This visit will help in establishing Pakistan's role as one of the key proponents of peace in the region and Afghanistan specifically.

However, this is easier said than done. As mentioned above, there are a lot of things that the two sides have yet to find common ground on. The Taliban and the government are still poles apart on the dispensation of rights in the country. The power sharing formula is also not clear; will the Afghan state and the Taliban work in conjunction, or take specific demarcated roles going forward?

One thing that looks to be almost certain is that pulling out all US troops by the end of the year without an exit strategy in place is going to do more harm than good. The Taliban have already pointed towards the aerial strikes as a breach in the Doha Agreement, even though the government has also accused their opponents of upping the ante on civilian deaths.

Both sides are nowhere near where the other wants them to be. With so many differences it is difficult to see a conclusive solution by the end of the year. It is hoped that all stakeholders in Afghanistan know that there is a need to speed up talks where possible. Ultimately, this peace is needed urgently for civilians and their future; less so to ascertain who gets power and in what set up. If civilians are kept as the focal point in these discussions, we might just see a positive resolution being found a little more quickly.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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ABC CERTIFIED

Vol: 01 Issue: 178

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A green world for all

MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

GREEN spaces in Karachi and across the metropolitan cities of Pakistan need to be restored. According to international standards, 25% of every country needs to be covered with greenery. This includes forests, gardens, greenbelts, etc. In Pakistan, this ratio is less than 3%. This is an alarming situation, to say the least. The need of the hour is to plant trees today so they grow up to cover the city in the next twenty years. The urban jungle that has been growing with buildings and infrastructure has receded the greenspaces that once were abundantly present in the cities. A public-private partnership in this regard will be beneficial.

The government, especially the respective city governments of each city, should create plantation drives. Areas across the cities should be marked as safe zones for plantation where greenspaces should be developed. The habit of visiting parks by all age groups should be encouraged and for this to happen the parks should be developed and properly maintained. The concerned authorities should come up with innovative ideas to add greenery to the city landscape. Schools, colleges, and universities having space at their campus should plant as many trees as they can. Similarly, the corporate sector needs to chip in by adding value to the plantation projects.

They can cover the rooftops of their buildings with greenery. Companies can install vertical plantations covering the exterior of their buildings to make up the space that is not available because of the concrete structures erected across the city. A proper urban planning and horticulture committee must be developed with proficient experts comprising this committee. They need to put in their valuable experience, strategies, tactics, and insights into how to make this plan work. Bringing greenspaces to the city is now an imperative act. It will reduce pollution, decrease temperature during the summer season, and provide fresh air to the population. The government and the private sector need to collaborate in this regard for future generations.

Indonesia a wonderful place to live and visit

Ansar Mahmood Bhatti



Ansar Mahmood Bhatti delivered this speech during a function arranged by the Indonesian embassy for FAMTRIP participants, tour and travel industry. Here is the text of the speech

One is greatly touched by hospitality and humbleness of Indonesian people that, in my view, plays central role in their success in all spheres. We could see people walking around and saying "hello" and other greeting to us while we were either visiting a shopping place or a tourist destination. Even we came across people in civil dress but actually from the police department

WELL, first of all please forgive me if I make too many fumbles in my speech because frankly making a speech is an art and I do not know this art, at all. But, since I have been asked to share my experiences and thoughts about these trips so I am here to share with you what I have observed and seen during these trips. I had the honour of visiting Indonesia THREE TIMES. First time I went alone to take part in a conference in Bali and then in 2018 and 2019 I visited this wonderful country as part of FAMTRIP. Courtesy, the Indonesian embassy in Islamabad. The way the entire trip is executed right from the beginning to the end, is just amazing. I have participated in a number of such FAMTRIPs but the way this trip is organized is indeed praiseworthy. Everything is in order. Schedules are prepared and executed keeping in view the convenience of the participants, which seldom happens in such kind of trips.

We found people of Indonesia extremely warm though I often wonder why people who are otherwise so warm eat extremely cold food. But, then it was quite an experience of having cold food and now we are used to it. One is greatly touched by hospitality and humbleness of Indonesian people that, in my view, plays central role in their success in all spheres. We could see people walking around and saying "hello" and other greeting to us while we were either visiting a shopping place or a tourist destination. Even we came across people in civil dress but actually from the police department. They came to us asking about our nationalities and then revealing their identity that they were from the police and were here to protect tourists and visitors.

The idea of tourist police is unique and now in vogue in many countries. I first experienced this in Uzbekistan where tourist police has been taking care of tourists since 2017. The main task of this department is to monitor the tourists' safety, inform guests about potential threats in real time, as well as help in protecting their rights and interests. This I think is yet another feather in the cap of Indonesian tourism ministry when it comes to protecting visitors. Indonesian people too are keen to come to Pakistan for especially religious tourism purposes. It is now up to our side to reach out to them and invite them. It can be a major source of income for the government also. On way back from Umra or Hajj they can visit Pakistani places. Here the travel agents have a role to play.

EXPO
Since the FAMTRIP coincides with the TRADE EXPO. This is in fact a good idea because in this way participants can have knowledge about what Indonesia has to offer. The influx of potential buyers who attend this expo is a clear manifestation of its success and utility.

SUGGESTIONS
Frankly, I don't have anything particular to add when it comes to recommendations to further improve the program. The FAMTRIPs trips are always planned and conceived professionally and as per the SOPs devised by the FAMTRIP experts.

What I can add or suggest here is that since the purpose of such trips is to provide more and more information to the visitors about Indonesia therefore it would be ideal if more and more destinations can be covered during the stipulated period. Of course, it may be a bit hectic to move from one place to another in a short span of time but then that is perhaps the true spirit and purpose of such trips.

SELECTION OF ACCOMODATION

Then selection of accommodation is yet another area that can either make a guest happy or otherwise. Participants, especially media people would prefer an accommodation in the city center and fully equipped with communication tools such as Wifi etc. During my first visit in 2018, we had to experience some accommodation and communication issues maybe because that particular trip was outsourced to a third party. But in 2019, it was executed perfectly because this time officials from the tourism ministry were taken on board. I think this experience proved a success and may be continued for future trips.

AIR TRAVEL WITH LESS TRANSIT

Another important aspect that can contribute positively or negatively to a FAMTRIP happens to be the selection of air route. The shortest possible air route with convenient transit time can surely make a guest happy and thus trip starts on a positive note. The same may apply for return journeys as well. By and large, shortest possible routes are selected for Indonesia FAMTRIPS. However, last year due to some connection issues, the trip was organized thru Qatar and from there to Jakarta, which was obviously quite a long route. And participants had just a few hours before their first official meeting the same day. As we have been told that Lion Air, the budget airline of Indonesia, is planning to start its operations from Pakistan. I think it would be easy to get to Indonesia after start of direct flights.

BANGKOK ROUTE

There is another suggestion to make this trip more

interesting, at least from the participants' point of view. The group has a transit in Bangkok on both ways. Maybe on way back, a short stay of one or two nights can be arranged in Bangkok. Indonesian and Pakistani embassies in Bangkok may also be taken on board in order to make the short stay official also. This proposal can be given a try at least once. If it works, it may continue and if it does not, just forget about it.

But as I said the Indonesian FAMTRIPS are organized in professional manner that one can hardly find any shortcomings. I am sure thru such programs the Indonesian authorities have successfully projected a positive image of their country outside of Indonesia. Those who take part in such programs then serve as representatives and ambassadors of Indonesia in their respective countries, and I believe, that is the purpose a country would like to achieve through such an exercise.

Before I close my words, I have to recognize services of Ambassador Iwan S Amri, whose personal interest made these trips memorable. And Ambassador Amri could do all this through his executive arm which in this case happens to be Mr. Denny and his team. Of course, it was great team work that made the project of FAMTRIP a total success.

I wish and pray that this success story continues even in the coming days and I and my organizations are always there to fully support and encourage all such future endeavours".

- The writer is the Editor Daily Islamabad POST, CENTRELINE magazine and DNA News Agency. He can be reached at centrelinemag@gmail.com



ISLAMABAD: Charge d Affaires of Indonesian embassy Andi Bastari giving souvenir to Ansar Mahmood Bhatti after speech. – DNA

The world's shameful silence on Israel's new land grab

Yossi Mekelberg

There are 132 settlements in the West Bank officially sanctioned by the Israeli government; another 124 outposts built over the past three decades without official govt approval are illegal under Israeli law. Yet this is another of the lies and deceptions of the occupation. There have been hardly any attempts to remove these outposts, many of which enjoy utilities such as water and electricity

ISRAEL'S occupation of the West Bank has many facets, but it is the network of settlements that gives it a sense of permanence, an "in your face," tangible obstacle that also symbolizes Israel's insincerity about a two-state solution.

A quick glance at the map of settlements leaves an instant impression of the scale of the task of establishing a Palestinian state with any territorial contiguity. The recent approval of another 5,400 homes in dozens of settlements, many in remote and isolated parts of the West Bank, is therefore both a practical act of rendering a viable Palestinian state impossible, and one carried out in defiance of the international community, which sees all Jewish settlements in the West Bank as a breach of international law. However, the international community's silence on this issue is deafening. Over the summer, the generally welcomed normalization of relations between Israel and the UAE and Bahrain included an Israeli guarantee to abandon its illegal, ill-conceived and misguided plan to annex about a third of the West Bank, including the Jordan Valley. The decision to build thousands of new settlement homes in the West Bank, which will bring many more settlers to live on occupied Palestinian land, may not violate the letter of the normalization agreements, but is contrary to their spirit. It is a further provocation of the Palestinians, who see their dream of self-determination evaporating and their land becoming an extension of Israel, with or without formal annexation.

The ploy by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to annex the West Bank was only ever a smoke-and-mirrors deception to win over right-wing voters. It was neither a thought-through policy nor a strategy. For all intents and purposes, large parts of the West Bank are under the complete control of the occupying authorities, and although Israeli law doesn't officially apply there, Israel imposes its will as if it were the sovereign power.

Of the more than 3 million people who live in the West Bank, 86 percent are Palestinians, yet the entire occupation system is designed to serve the interests and the wellbeing of about 400,000 Jewish settlers and the estimated 300,000 Israelis in occupied East Jerusalem, which Israel has already officially annexed. Last year the Jewish population in the West Bank grew by 3.1 percent, while Israel's population rose by only 1.9 percent.

This growth is no coincidence, but part of a plan to ensure that under any political constellation in Israel or Palestine the vast majority of these settlers will stay put in the West Bank, and control its most important strategic areas and resources. And even if an independent Palestinian state were to materialize, Israel is working hard to ensure that it will be a weak one, barely in control of its territory and dependent on the mercy of the Jewish state for its survival. Needless to say, this is not a recipe for genuine peace and coexistence, but a strategy for the indefinite occupation and oppression of the Palestinian people, one that will result only in bloodshed.

There are 132 settlements in the West Bank officially sanctioned by the Israeli government; another 124 outposts built over the past three decades without official government approval are illegal under Israeli law. Yet this is another of the lies and deceptions of the occupation. There have been hardly any attempts to remove these outposts, many of which enjoy utilities such as water and electricity courtesy of the Israeli authority, not to mention the protection of the IDF. Since when do outlaws enjoy services so generously provided by government, unless both are in cahoots and aim to grab yet more land and settle yet more Jewish people on it? In many of these outposts, as well as in some of the "legal" settlements, there has developed a racist, apartheid-like subculture that hardly recognizes the Israeli authorities,

though paradoxically it receives their support. Such outposts enjoy separate roads and transport, and a quality of life that most Palestinians can only dream of. By their religious-messianic ideology these racist-chauvinist settlers perceive themselves as superior to the Palestinian population, and subject them to constant harassment, assaulting them and destroying their fields and olive groves. In a recent incident, the notorious settlement of Itzhak erected a sign that warned: "Entry For Arabs Is Dangerous!" Not only was it a vile and threatening act, it was also clearly illegal, and yet Israel took no action against the perpetrators of this incitement to racial hatred.

For Netanyahu, the expansion of settlements at this point is hardly ideological and more about keeping the settlers and their supporters in his court, at a time when he is clinging to power by the skin of his teeth. Meanwhile the silence of the international community is disturbing, despite the all-consuming challenge presented by the pandemic crisis. To not protest vehemently against the expansion of settlements makes the international community complicit in this illegal act and its consequences. A new peace initiative may not be just around the corner, but this is no excuse. Only a few years ago, with almost universal support, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 2334 which unequivocally condemned "all measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status of the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, including, inter alia, the construction and expansion of settlements, transfer of Israeli settlers, confiscation of land, demolition of homes and displacement of Palestinian civilians." But the deafening silence of the countries who supported this resolution is now enabling the destruction of any chance of peace. Such inaction is politically dangerous and morally reprehensible.

– Courtesy: Arab News

Briefs

Greece allows fans back to football stadiums

SPORTS DESK

ATHENS: Greek government health authorities on Monday gave permission for a limited number of football supporters to attend football matches starting this week, albeit under strict rules. Spectators had been banned since last March at the start of the coronavirus outbreak in the country.

The first match with a 10 percent capacity to be allowed will be on Wednesday when Olympiakos hosts French side Marseille for the Champions League group stage contest at the Karaiskaki Stadium in Piraeus, near Athens.

That will be followed by the Europa League group stage match between PAOK Thessaloniki and Omonia of Cyprus on Thursday.

In addition, one or two Greek Super League games will be allowed to take place with spectators this coming weekend. The government said that the matches will be a test to see whether the gates should be allowed open for other games in the future. UEFA has given the green light for matches to be held with spectators under strict health regulations and subject to the approval of that country's governments. Spectators must wear masks at all times, fans need to stay 1.5 metres apart and remain in their assigned seats. "Now, finally, the time has come for the gradual return of fans, initially to 10 percent of the capacity of the stands of each stadium and with a maximum number of 3,500 fans. Along with the gradual return of the fans comes the time for responsibility to 100 percent for all of us," the Super League announced. The league said that the success of the project "will be judged by the attitude of each of us in these unprecedented conditions that the pandemic has imposed on our society".

Peace to be ensured: COAS

From Page 01

Forum undertook comprehensive review of recent surge in terrorist incidents in the country particularly Tribal Districts & Balochistan. Paying glowing tribute to all civil and military Shuhada for their ultimate sacrifice, forum concluded that geographical / ideological frontiers of the country will be defended at all costs. We have paid a very heavy price to achieve this peace and stability and any attempt to destabilise the country will be responded firmly, COAS concluded.

Pakistan values its ties with Maldives: FS

From Page 01

He was talking to United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan News head Deborah Lyons in Islamabad. The Foreign Secretary underlined that international community must remain economically engaged for reconstruction and development.

Gul opens up about 2011 WC defeat against India

SPORT DESK

LAHORE: Former Pakistan fast-bowler Umar Gul has admitted that he regrets for not being able to put a match-winning performance in the 2011 International Cricket Council (ICC) World Cup semi-final against India in Mohali.

The 36-year-old recently retired from cricket after his side Balochistan were eliminated from the National T20 Cup on Friday. The right-arm returned with figures of 0-69 from eight overs in the high octane semi-finals against the arch-rivals nine years back where the Green Caps lost by 29 runs.

The Peshawar-born pacer, while talking to the local media as quoted by Cricket Next, said that the defeat still haunts him to this day.

"I will always regret that I couldn't perform in that match," said Gul. "That defeat hurts me, and will continue to hurt me."



LEEDS: Raul Jimenez celebrates after scoring a goal against Leeds at Elland Highway. – DNA

Pak reports India's reprisals against Kashmiris at UN

Major human rights organizations, including Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, have continued to express concerns about these systematic reprisals against human rights defenders in India and occupied Kashmir, the committee was told

DNA

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan has called on the United Nations to closely monitor the situation in the restive Indian Illegally Occupied Kashmir where reprisals and attacks against human rights defenders were growing amid a harsh security clampdown. "Acts of intimidation and reprisals against those who cooperate with the UN system undermine the

credibility and effectiveness of the UN as a whole, including its human rights machinery," Pakistani delegate Qasim Aziz Butt said during an Interactive Dialogue with the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, Mary Lawlor.

The dialogue took place in the General Assembly's Third Committee, which deals with social, cultural and humanitarian issues. Butt, a second secretary in the Pakistan Mission to the UN, said

the gravity and frequency of the reprisals had intensified. Thousands of Kashmiri youth, human rights defenders, journalists and lawyers were arbitrarily arrested, tortured and put into incommunicado detention.

Civil society organizations and international media had been denied access, as the fourteen-month digital and physical lockdown put the occupied territory into a communication and information blackout. The Pakistani delegate referred

to last month's "cold-blooded murder" of lawyer Babar Qadri, a renowned Kashmiri Human Rights Defender, by unidentified men, saying he joined the long list of critical voices who have been systematically eliminated through extra-judicial killings in occupied Kashmir.

"Similarly," he added, "activists like Khurram Pervez have been subjected to arbitrary travel bans and indefinite detention in relation to their cooperation with the

United Nations."

Major human rights organizations, including Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, have continued to express concerns about these systematic reprisals against human rights defenders in India and occupied Kashmir, the committee was told.

"Instead of responding to these concerns," he said, "the Indian government has embarked upon a witch hunt against those who dare to report these crimes."

'England's tour to Pak will be massive achievement'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: England's all-rounder Moeen Ali believes the English team's upcoming tour to Pakistan would be a massive achievement and a huge step towards revival of international cricket in the country.

The 33-year-old said Pakistan did a lot for the England Cricket Board (ECB) by coming for a tour in the summer while claiming that an eventual tour by the England team would be a massive achievement for Pakistan. "I think it will be a positive move, a great move for both parties. It would mainly be great for cricket in general. To have a team like England come to play cricket in Pakistan would be a massive achievement. It would be a massive step forward in terms of bringing cricket back to Pakistan. I think what Pakistan did for ECB and England, this summer, was massive. We all hope that something comes out of this. It will be a great place to go and play international cricket in for sure," cricketpakistan.com.pk quoted him as saying.

He also spoke about his experience of playing the fifth season of Pakistan Super League (PSL) in Pakistan, earlier this year. "I have spoken to teammates about the PSL. The experience was amazing. Not just the cricket and the fans but also things like the food, hotel and the security were put in place really well. I haven't officially spoken to the ECB in that regard but have been talking about the experience with the teammates," the Multan Sultans' all-rounder said. The all-rounder revealed that he might not be available to play the remaining matches of the event, which were scheduled to take place in November. "If I can visit, that would be amazing. I will have to check the schedule for next month before confirming for the PSL. I think we are going to go to South Africa with the ODI team so it might clash but we will see what happens over the course of the next couple of weeks. It is an amazing tournament and hopefully we can finish it off with a trophy," he said. Ali also named youngsters young batsman Haider Ali and pacer Naseem Shah as the bright prospects of Pakistan cricket going forward. "Haider Ali looked like a very good player. He was very brave on his debut. He looks like a great prospect looking forward. Obviously Naseem Shah is a very good bowler. They always have good players to be honest. They always produce fantastic players no matter what the situation is," he said.

'Overseas Pakistanis should invest in education, R&D'

DNA

TORONTO: High Commissioner for Pakistan to Canada Mr. Raza Bashir Tarar held an interactive session with a group of leading local businessmen and entrepreneurs representing Canada Pakistan Global Congress (CPGC), a non-profit Ontario-based organization dedicated to promotion of business relations and collaborations between Canada and Pakistan in the field of

business & trade, R&D and cultural activities.

During the meeting, the executive founding members of the CPGC, including Nadeem Younis, Zafar Choudhry and Usama Ejaz, briefed the High Commissioner on the activities of their organisation which, they said, was striving to bridge the gap between Canada and Pakistan in commerce and other business related fields and help potential entrepreneurs to tap into the right market through proper R&D

and help facilitate and create a prosperous business community. High Commissioner Raza Bashir Tarar called on the CPGC and other similar organisations of Pakistani diaspora in Canada and North America to come forward and invest greater time and resources in the fields of education, research and development and enhance their interaction and linkages with higher academic institutions through establishment of dedicated think tanks for



TORONTO: Ambassador Raza Bashir Tarar with the delegation of Canada Pakistan Global Congress (CPGC). – DNA

Soekarno-Hatta airport sets special lanes for Indonesia-Singapore travelers

They must then pass the immigration and customs counters before reaching the PCR testing area. If they test negative, they are allowed to continue their trip to Indonesia

DNA

JAKARTA: Soekarno-Hatta International Airport is providing special lanes for passengers traveling between Indonesia and Singapore as the two countries have agreed to establish a travel corridor to facilitate urgent diplomatic missions and essential business trips. The travel arrangement, called the Reciprocal Green Lane (RGL), will come into effect on Oct. 26. "We have provided several checkpoints for passengers traveling the Indonesia-Singapore route within the RGL scheme," state-owned airport operator PT Angkasa Pura II director Muhammad

Awaluddin said in a statement on Sunday as quoted by tribunnnews.com. He added that the arrangement would adhere to strict COVID-19 health protocols. Travelers using the special lanes will have to go through thermal scanners at terminals prior to stopping at a check-in counter, where they are required to show a negative polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test result that is valid for 72 hours. They must then verify their health through the electronic health alert card (e-HAC) application before they are allowed to board the plane. Meanwhile, for arriving travelers, Awaluddin said that as soon as they reached the arrival terminal, they would

have to pass check-in clearance through e-HAC, which they filled out upon departure. Read also: Bintan urges central government to reopen borders for Singaporean tourists. They must then pass the immigration and customs counters before reaching the PCR testing area. If they test negative, they are allowed to continue their trip to Indonesia. However, if the PCR test shows a positive result, the traveler would have to undergo quarantine. Previously, Foreign Affairs Minister Retno LP Marsudi said the travel corridor was limited to pressing diplomatic and business trips and did not cover tourism. According to the ministry, Indo-

nesian citizens seeking to enter Singapore via the corridor will be required to have official sponsors from Singaporean state agencies and enterprises, in addition to a safe travel pass. Likewise, Singaporean nationals traveling to Indonesia will be required to have official sponsors from Indonesian state departments and business entities, in addition to a visa. The agreement has established two routes for the travel corridor, one between Soekarno-Hatta International Airport and Changi International Airport and the other between the Batam Ferry Terminal and the Tanah Merah Ferry Terminal. The two countries have agreed to certain

procedures to ensure adherence to health protocols, Retno said. For instance, travelers are required to take two PCR tests – one within 72 hours before departure and one upon arriving at the airport or ferry terminal. "The predeparture test results are to be released by mutually recognized healthcare institutions," Retno added. The government previously established travel corridors with the United Arab Emirates and South Korea to grant leeway to state departments and businesses from both countries, allowing them to reconnect and resume projects that were halted as a result of the pandemic while still complying with health rules.

Zimbabwe cricket team arrives in Pakistan

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A 32-member Zimbabwe cricket squad arrived in Islamabad on Tuesday to play two limited-overs series against Pakistan.

Zimbabwe players will undergo a seven-day isolation period, starting from Wednesday before they commence training at the Pindi Cricket Stadium Rawalpindi from October 28. They will play three ODIs and as many T20Is against Pakistan. The ODI series is scheduled for October 30, November 1 and 3. Then the two teams will travel to Lahore for the T20 series - set for November 7, 8 and 10. The series is crucial for Pakistan as it will be launching its bid to qualify directly for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 by taking on Zimbabwe in the three ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League matches.

The ICC has introduced the Super League to provide context to ODI cricket and will serve as a qualification for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 with the hosts and other top seven sides automatically booking their spots for the India event. Featuring 13 teams, the 12 Test-playing countries and the Netherlands, the Super League will see each side play four home and four away three-match series. The three ODIs were originally scheduled for Multan, but have been moved to Rawalpindi due to logistical and operational challenges. The change in the ODI venue also changed the venue for the three Twenty20 Internationals as initially these were planned to take place in Rawalpindi. Zimbabwe last toured Pakistan in 2015 for three ODIs and two T20Is.

900 prisoners freed from DR Congo jail

WEB DESK

KINSHASA: Armed fighters freed about 900 prisoners from a jail in Beni in east Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in a coordinated attack that took place in the early hours of Tuesday. Only 100 out of more than 1,000 inmates remained following the simultaneous assault on the Kangbanyi central prison and on the military camp that provides security to it, said Modeste Bakwanama, the town's mayor, blaming a rebel group operating in the area for the attack. "Unfortunately, the attackers, who came in large numbers, managed to break the door with electrical equipment," Bakwanama told the Reuters news agency by phone.

Two inmates were shot dead during the raid, which started at about 4:30 a.m. local time, police said on Twitter. Police gave a higher figure for the number of inmates – 1,300 – saying a large number had disappeared. A similar number of inmates escaped when the jail was attacked in June 2017.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack but Bakwanama said: "We believe that it was the ADF who did this."

PM Imran orders action against hoarders

From Page 01

Additional Inspector General of Police (Special Branch), secretaries of provincial ministries, including Agriculture, Industries, Information, Finance, Local Government and Food, Cane Commissioner, Director Food, Commissioner Lahore and senior officers attended the meeting. The prime minister was briefed in detail about the prices and availability of essential goods and commodities.

The meeting was told that as the Forecast Cell continuously tabulated the demand of goods, Sahulat Bazaars were being established across the province where goods would be provided at low rates. It was further told that the secretaries and district administrations would monitor the hoarding and profiteering, and they would also be assisted by the Tiger Force. The Punjab Chief Secretary assured the meeting that there would be no shortage of wheat and flour in the province.

Briefs

EFP organizes sports awareness seminar

DNA

SIALKOT: Employer's Federation of Pakistan (EFP) in collaboration with International Organization of Labour and Pakistan Olympic Association organized a seminar to create awareness of sports among youth at the sports ground of Forward group of companies factory in Sialkot. Chief Executive officer Forward Group of Companies, Khawaja Masood Ahmed was the chief guest, while Muzammil Sheikh Habib, ILO representative, Nazir Ali EFP Board Director, Saad from PWF and Fasihul Karim Siddiqi, Advisor EFP were also present and addressed the seminar. While addressing, the CE said healthy body and healthy mind were complementary prerequisite for a sportsman and the sports goods industry of Sialkot fully supported promotion of sports as an essential component of 'Decent Work program'. Vice President, Employer's Federation of Pakistan (EFP) Zaki A Khan said that employers were keen to promote sports, adding that he called upon Pakistan Olympic Association to make special efforts not only to encourage participation of players from sports goods industry of Sialkot in Tokyo Olympics but also to show case socially responsible best practices of Sports Goods Industry at the forthcoming Olympics. Khalid Mehmood, Secretary General Pakistan Olympic Association, highlighted activities of Pakistan Olympic Association to promote sports among youth, besides contributing to women empowerment, gender mainstreaming and community development.

Death toll from floods in central Vietnam up to 105

DNA

HANOI: Floods, landslides and other natural disasters triggered by downpours have left 105 people dead and 27 others missing in Vietnam's central and central highlands regions since early October, the country's Central Steering Committee for Natural Disaster Prevention and Control said on Tuesday. The death toll rose from 90 reported on Monday. The fatalities were mainly reported in the provinces of Quang Tri, Thua Thien-Hue and Quang Nam, according to the committee's latest report. Among the major incidents, on Oct. 13, landslides killed 13 officials and military personnel, who had been dispatched to rescue workers trapped due to the landslide at a hydropower plant in Thua Thien Hue province. The rescue work is still underway for the missing workers. On Sunday, 22 military personnel were killed in the landslide that engulfed their military base in Quang Tri province. As of 5 p.m. local time Monday, over 52,100 households in the localities of Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh and Quang Tri had been evacuated to safe areas. More than 177,900 houses in these provinces were inundated, the committee said. More than 691,100 cattle and poultry animals have been killed or swept away. Natural disasters also caused the erosion and damage in several state highways and local roads, said the committee. — APP

India's COVID-19 tally reaches 7,597,063

NEW DELHI: India's COVID-19 tally reached 7,597,063 with 46,790 new confirmed cases recorded in the past 24 hours, showed the data released by the federal health ministry on Tuesday. The total death toll rose to 115,197, including 587 newly reported. This is the first time in nearly four months when the per day new cases fell below 50,000, and per day deaths below 600. Still there are 748,538 active COVID-19 cases in the country, while 6,733,328 people have recovered and been discharged from hospitals. Tuesday is the fourth consecutive day of the number of active COVID-19 cases being below the 800,000 mark. "India's active cases have fallen below 800,000 after 6 weeks and continue to slide further down. 22 States/UTs have less than 20,000 active cases, and only 3 are reporting more than 50,000 active caseload," the federal health ministry tweeted on Monday. The Indian government's focus has been on ramping up COVID-19 testing facilities across the country. — DNA

Armenia continues to target civilian population

Despite the humanitarian truce agreed during the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenia in Moscow with the mediation of the Russian Federation, as well as decision regarding the temporary humanitarian ceasefire from 00:00 local time



DNA

BAKU: Since September 27, 2020 the Armed Forces of Armenia have been indiscriminately targeting the civilian population, private houses and other civilian infrastructure along the line of contact and in the regions located far away from the conflict zone in a gross violation of its obligations under international humanitarian law, including the 1949 Geneva Conventions and its Additional Protocols. Despite the humanitarian truce agreed during the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenia in Moscow with the mediation of

the Russian Federation, as well as decision regarding the temporary humanitarian ceasefire from 00:00 local time on October 18, the armed forces of Armenia continue to attack the residential areas and civilian infrastructure in Azerbaijan. On October 18, from 00:05 am to 04:00 am the Armenian armed forces units stationed in Chambarak and Berd regions of Armenia using large-caliber weapons fired at the positions of the Azerbaijan Army in Gadabay, Goyugol and Tovuz regions. To comply with the new ceasefire regime Armenia fired at the vicinity of the Jabrayil city, as well as the villages of this region liberated from the occupation and

located along the Araz River and Aghdam, Aghdere, Fizuli, Hadrut regions using mortars and artillery. There are no losses among the military personnel. On 18-19 October 2020, residential areas of Aghdam, Aghjabadi (Yukhari Qiyamaddini, Qarakhani and Poladli villages), Goranboy, Tartar (Alasgarli village) and Khizi were under constant mortar, rocket and artillery shelling of armed forces of Armenia. As a result of shelling of Tartar by Armenia city's secondary school No. 1 and cotton factory got seriously damaged. On 18th of October, around 13:00, armed forces of Armenia launched missile to Khizi city of Azerbaijan, which is located 300

km away from the theatre of operations, aiming to hit Baku - Novorossiysk oil pipeline. Fortunately, this time missile was naturalized by the Air Defense Forces of Azerbaijan. ANAMA's special mobile operation team went to the scene and found the remains of the S-300 missile in the Sitalchay area. Search operations were conducted in Agdam, Aghjabadi, Fizuli, Jabrayil, Tartar, Beylagan, Goranboy regions and Ganja by ANAMA. According to findings Armenia fired cluster munitions in Goranboy, Aghjabadi and Yevlakh on October 4th and 5th. Also, a 122 mm artillery shell containing white phosphorus was found and confiscated in Fizuli region. So far, a total of

11 Elbrus missiles were found. As it was reported earlier, bodies of two missing children, Khalilli Maryam and Khalilli Orkhan, a minor sister and brother, were found on 18th of October under the debris in Ganja after missile attack launched by armed forces of Armenia. Since Armenia's new aggression against Azerbaijan on September 27, 2020, 343 civilians became victims of Armenia's deliberate attacks including 61 civilians killed and 282 were seriously wounded. In total, 1846 private houses, 90 apartment buildings and 341 civilian infrastructures were damaged and became unusable as a result of Armenia's indiscriminate attacks.

Pakistani youngsters shine in BRI talent competition

DNA

BEIJING: Pakistani youngsters came out with outstanding performance in BRI 3rd Silk Road and Young Dreams competition held here. The event was hosted by the Silk Road Cities Alliance, China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development, Beijing Belt and Road Cooperative Community, and the Chongyang Research Institute for Financial Studies at the Renmin University of China. Ahmed Farooq, Deputy Head of Mission in Pakistan Embassy Beijing attended the occasion and distributed prizes among the winners. With the theme "Health", "Youth", "Dream", "Silk Road" and "Peace", the 3rd Silk Road and Young Dreams competition aimed

to show the characteristics of city, region and country, and to bring together young people along the Belt and Road. "This event aimed at celebrating our youth. (To witness) how they came together, and how they were motivated is like celebrating our future." Mr. Ahmed Farooq stated while attending the award ceremony. "Politics aside, this is about bringing our future generations closer, so when they 'take over', they will always value the common good of humanity in their heart, and work together, not to be isolated." He added. Twenty Pakistani Students from Pakistan Embassy College Beijing (PECB) participated in the competition, during which many of them impressed judges with their talent in speech, photography, music, singing and sand painting, and secured prizes.

K Hynix in \$9 bn deal for Intel's flash memory chip business

DNA

SEOUL: The world's second-largest chipmaker, South Korea's SK Hynix, announced a record \$9 billion deal Tuesday to buy Intel's flash memory chip operation as it seeks to bolster its position against rival behemoth Samsung Electronics. SK Hynix is already the world number two maker of DRAM chips, used in computers and servers, but has lagged in the market for flash memory NAND chips in everyday devices such as smartphones and USB storage drives, as well as industrial and medical equipment. In a regulatory filing, SK Hynix said it will acquire Intel's "entire NAND

business division excluding the Optane division" for 10.3 trillion won, with Intel's factory in Dalian, China, included in the deal. It is the largest-ever acquisition by a South Korean company, ahead of Samsung Electronics' \$8 billion purchase of US audio and car parts maker Harman International in 2016. SK Hynix CEO Seok-Hee Lee said in a statement it would give his firm a NAND flash market position "comparable with what we achieved in DRAM". Analysts said it would also boost its ability to compete with Samsung Electronics, the market leader in both the NAND and DRAM sectors.

Kyrgyzstan detains ex-president's ally

Jeenbekov stepped down last week in the wake of protests that followed a disputed parliamentary election on October 4, leaving power in the hands of Sadyr Japarov as prime minister and acting president.

BISHKEK, KYRGYZSTAN: Kyrgyzstan authorities Tuesday detained on corruption charges a powerbroker closely allied to former president Sooronbay Jeenbekov, the national security committee said, as a new acting leader seeks to consolidate power with an anti-graft drive. Ex-deputy customs chief Rayimbek Matraimov was regarded as a key financial backer for political parties and presidents, including Jeenbekov. Jeenbekov stepped down last week in the wake of protests that followed a disputed parliamentary election on October 4, leaving power in the hands of Sadyr Japarov as prime minister and acting president.

The national security committee said that Matraimov and other officials were part of "a corruption scheme established to extract shadow income during customs administration". The scheme had begun in 2016, when Matraimov was still in his post and had resulted in "especially large scale damage" to the state budget, it said in a statement. Japarov had pledged to bring Matraimov to justice over claims first aired in a media report that he was at the centre of a scheme that funnelled \$700 million out of the impoverished republic. Matraimov

was seen as the main backer of the Mekenim Kyrgyzstan party that dominated the parliamentary vote along with a party called Birimdik that included Jeenbekov's brother among its ranks. Japarov, 51, who claimed power less than two weeks after he was sprung from jail by supporters, styled himself as a reformist in a speech on Friday one day after Jeenbekov's resignation. The populist politician said that the fight against corruption would "cease to be a tool for eliminating political opponents", pledging that organised crime "will stop dictating its terms". Japarov has angrily denied

suggestions he has his own ties to organised crime, amid media allegations during his overnight rise to power during the post-elections crisis. With a re-run of parliamentary election expected in December and presidential polls by mid-January, Japarov still must work to tighten his grip on the ex-Soviet state. There has as yet been no indication that key ally Russia recognises his functions. Prior to his release he was serving jail time for hostage taking - a conviction related to an incident that took place during a 2013 rally in support of the nationalisation of a key foreign-operated gold mine. — APP



LONDON: People from various segments of life put flowers and notes outside Embassy of Azerbaijan in London to show solidarity against Armenian aggression. — DNA

Abu Dhabi to build mosque to honor Indonesian president: Joko Widodo

President Joko Widodo Street is located in the heart of Abu Dhabi's central business district. Main landmarks of the street include Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, ADNEC

DNA

ABU DHABI: Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who is also the deputy supreme commander of the UAE armed forces, has directed to build a mosque named after Indonesian President Joko Widodo, in Diplomatic Area in Abu Dhabi. Sheikh Mohamed also gave directions to rename Al Ma'arid Street, one of the capital's key roads, in honor of the President. The directives come as recognition and appreciation of the Indonesian President's close friendship with the UAE and his efforts in strengthening the relationship between the

two countries in many areas, including economy, commerce and development. Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Member of the Executive Council of Abu Dhabi and Chairman of Abu Dhabi Executive Office, inaugurated on Tuesday President Joko Widodo Street, in a ceremony coinciding with the anniversary of Widodo's election as President of Indonesia. President Joko Widodo Street is located in the heart of Abu Dhabi's central business district. Main landmarks of the street include Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, ADNEC, home to leading international events, conferences and exhibitions attended by



experts from around the world, and headquarters of prominent companies, businesses, and government entities. The street is strategically located in Diplomatic Area, which hosts

many foreign embassies in Abu Dhabi, capital of the UAE. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Falah Mohammed Al Ahabbi, Chairman of the Department of Municipalities and Transport; Husin Bagis, Ambassador of Indonesia to UAE; Dr. Mohammed Matar Al Kaabi, Chairman of the General Authority of Islamic Affairs and Endowments; Saif Saeed Ghobash, Director-General of Abu Dhabi Executive Office; Mohamed Rashed Ahmed Al Hameli, Secretary-General of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council; Shehab Ahmed Al Fahim, Assistant Under-Secretary for Protocol Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; Ahmed Al

Hai Al Hameli, Director of the East Asia and Pacific Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; Major General Maktoum Ali Al Sharifi, Director-General of Abu Dhabi Police; and Saif Bader Al Qubaisi, Director-General of the Municipality of Abu Dhabi City. In an official visit to Abu Dhabi early 2020, President Widodo and Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed attended the signing of 16 agreements and memorandums of understanding between various entities and institutions in the UAE and Indonesia, to enhance mutual cooperation in various areas, including education, health, energy, ports, environment, and Islamic affairs and endowments.

Japan, China likely to resume travel this month

DNA

ANKARA: Japan and China are likely to resume travel between the two countries for businesspeople this month as part of Tokyo's efforts to revive its domestic economy, local media reported on Tuesday. "Japan and China are extremely important neighbors to each other and there had been many reciprocal trips before the outbreak of the coronavirus," Kyodo News Agency quoted Chief Cabinet Secretary Katsunobu Kato as addressing a news conference. "It is extremely important that economic exchanges [between Japan and China] return to a recovery path through the resumption of travel," he added. Travel between the world's second and third biggest economic powers is expected to resume this month as officials from both countries are discussing ways to reopen their borders for business people, according to the agency. Last month, the Chinese president and Japanese prime minister agreed in their first telephone call after Japan's premier took office, to continue talks in hopes of achieving a speedy resumption of business travel. In 2019, over 9.5 million Chinese, including businesspeople, visited Japan. Japan has so far reached agreements with South Korea, Vietnam, and Singapore to restart short-term business trips. Tokyo had banned the entry of foreign nationals in February following the coronavirus outbreak in the country.

China's central SOEs report profit growth

DNA

BEIJING: China's centrally administered state-owned enterprises (SOEs) saw both profit and revenue growth in the third quarter (Q3), the country's state-asset regulator said Tuesday. Revenues of central SOEs rose 1.5 percent year on year to 7.8 trillion yuan (about 1.17 trillion U.S. dollars) in Q3, the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC) said at a press conference. Their net profits in Q3 totaled 474.8 billion yuan, up 34.5 percent from a year ago, SASAC data showed. In September alone, central SOEs saw their revenues hit 2.8 trillion yuan, a 4.3-percent expansion from a year ago and the highest monthly growth this year, according to the SASAC.

Australian firms to attend China fair

DNA

ANKARA: Amid tense bilateral relations, a record number of Australian companies are attending the 3rd China International Import Expo in November, Chinese media reported Tuesday. Nearly 200 Australian firms will attend the China Expo in November for five days which will be held in Shanghai, daily Global Times reported. The expo will be held from Nov. 5 to 10 wherein around 1,000 food companies from nearly 100 countries and regions will participate to showcase variety of food products. The Australia companies are attending the China expo at a time when the two countries are locked in a verbal duel affecting the bilateral trade. "We want the expo to become a meeting point for global food companies and set the industry's latest trends," said Zhou Yanling, deputy general manager of the exhibition department of the expo, according to ECNS website. More than 1,000 activities, including food sampling and cooking sessions, will be held during the expo. The Australian companies recently complained that China has informally asked its businesses to halt imports of steel and cotton from Australian counterparts. The trigger to ongoing bilateral tensions between China and Australia lies in Canberra's demand to probe the COVID-19 virus origin, frustrating Beijing.

Briefs

Maryam booked for creating disorder

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Lahore's Shahdara police on Tuesday registered a case against PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz, her husband retired Captain Mohammad Safdar and other party leaders and workers for damaging public order by "causing trouble for citizens, blocking roads, unnecessarily using loudspeakers and microphones and violating coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs)" in the run up to the October 16 rally of the Pakistan Democratic Movement in Gujranwala. The first-information report (FIR), a copy of which is available with Dawn.com, was registered under sections 269, 270, 290 and 291 of the Punjab Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance, 1960, and sections 6 and 16 of the Punjab Sound Systems (Regulation) Act, 2015. It said that three policemen of the Shahdara police station — Mohammad Imran, Amir Ali and Sajjad Ahmed — were present at the Begum Kot Chowk when they were informed that PML-N leaders had set up a stage on a trolley to welcome participants of the Pakistan Democratic Movement's first rally in Gujranwala.

PML-N changes date of PDM's rally

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) has changed the date for the upcoming rally of the opposition alliance, Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), scheduled on October 31 in Rawalpindi. The decision was taken in a party consultative session chaired by PML-N senior vice president Shahid Khaqan Abbasi in Rawalpindi Tuesday. The next rally of the opposition parties' alliance will be held on November 7 instead of October 31 in Rawalpindi. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi chaired an emergency consultative session of the political party held at PML-N division office of Malik Ahrar. Sources told a private television that PML-N leaders have also mulled over the strategy for organising a sit-in in the federal capital Islamabad. They also reviewed the situation after the recent PDM rallies in Gujranwala and Karachi besides discussing the registration of cases against PML-N leaders. The session was attended by PML-N central leaders, provincial and national lawmakers and other high-level office-bearers. On the other hand, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has scheduled a 14-day visit to Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) region from Wednesday.

Punjab govt sets fare for Orange Line Metro Train

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: The Punjab Transport Department has notified fare for Lahore Orange Line Metro Train (OLMT) that will start chugging from October 25. According to a notification issued by the department, passengers will have to pay Rs40 for one-way train trip. The Orange Line Train will start chugging on October 25. Earlier this month, Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar green-lighted the project to start service from October 25. He directed all departments concerned to complete their preparations in this regard. The Orange line project is a rapid transit system under construction in Punjab's capital Lahore. The line will span 27.1 km (16.8 mi) with 25.4 km (15.8 mi) elevated and 1.72 km (1.1 mi) underground. The line will be served by 26 stations and is expected to handle 250,000 passengers daily, travelling via trains.

China lauds Moeed Yousaf remarks about Xinjiang

China commends this position. It proves that seeing is believing. China commends Pakistani side for upholding a fair and objective position on relevant issue," Chinese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson Zhao Lijian said during his regular briefing held here

AGENCIES

BEIJING: China on Tuesday lauded Prime Minister's Advisor on National Security, Moeed Yusuf for his remarks about the situation in Xinjiang and upholding a fair and objective stance on the relevant issue. "China commends this position. It proves that seeing is believing. China commends Pakistani side for upholding a fair and objective position on relevant issue," Chinese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson Zhao Lijian said during his regular briefing held here. He said, in fact, the international community knows very well that what the truth is on Xinjiang related issues. "As many as 48 countries made a joint statement at the third committee of the UN General Assembly expressing just



stance on relevant issue." He said, these countries showed their understanding and support to China's position and opposed politicizing and applying double standard on human rights issues and also opposed groundless accusations against China. "This shows people know what is true and what is false," he added. Zhao informed that since 2018, more than a thousand people from more than 90 countries and regions have visited Xinjiang. They have seen themselves that

Xinjiang is stable, prosperous and enjoying rapid development. He said, all spoke highly on counter terrorism and de-radicalization efforts in Xinjiang. They believe these efforts are worth learning. "We welcome all people upholding objective and fair stance to visit Xinjiang where they can see what is happening in Xinjiang on ground," he added. Zhao said that the Chinese side believes that more countries will speak for truth and for justice just like Pakistan has done. National Security Adviser Moeed Yusuf said in a recent interview that Pakistani delegations visited Xinjiang and saw the real situation there. People of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang enjoy equal rights protected by law and lead happy lives.

British CDS stresses need for Afghan peace

British High Commissioner, Dr Christian Turner said, "I am pleased to welcome General Carter to Pakistan. His visit recognises the important role Pakistan has played in the Afghanistan Peace Process. The UK is committed to working with Pakistan"

NIHAL MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: British Chief of Defence Staff General Sir Nick Carter on Tuesday addressed the National Defence University underlining the enduring relationship between the UK and Pakistan. He described how both countries had worked together to tackle Covid-19 and highlighted the close UK-Pakistan defence partnership.

He stressed the UK's full commitment to backing Pakistan's prosperity and potential. General Carter welcomed the Afghanistan Peace Negotiations and Pakistan's important contribution to it. He acknowledged the important opportunities that the peace process represents for both Afghanistan and Pakistan, including from the potential for greater economic connectivity between the two

countries. He noted that this was an historic opportunity and that we must work together to prevent spoilers and reduce violence markedly, leading to a ceasefire and towards securing peace. The Chief of Defence Staff was accompanied by the British Prime Minister's Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan, Gareth Bayley. British High Commissioner, Dr Christian Turner said,

"I am pleased to welcome General Carter to Pakistan. His visit recognises the important role Pakistan has played in the Afghanistan Peace Process. The UK is committed to working with Pakistan for a more peaceful and stable region and prosperous future for all." The Chief of Defence Staff was accompanied by the British Prime Minister's Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan, Gareth Bayley.

Govt to curtail powers of CPEC Authority

STAFF REPORT / DNA

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has decided to bring in new laws for the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority, which will give immunity to the chairman and other officers from being investigated by the National Accountability Bureau or the Federal Investigation Agency while also curtailing some of their powers. The bill, which has been approved by the Cabinet Committee on Legislative Affairs, also says that instead of reporting to the planning ministry, the CPEC Authority will report directly to the prime minister. The new law also reduces the powers of the CPEC Authority chairman and also abolished the office of the chief executive officer. The draft bill also recommends abolishing the voting powers given to the chairman. The bill also recommends taking away powers from the authority to create a CPEC Business Council. Instead, the Board of Investment will form the council and issue a notification regarding it. Last year, President Arif Alvi had promulgated an ordinance to provide for the establishment of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority. The ordinance was promulgated by the president in exercise of his powers under clause (1) of Article 89 of the Constitution.

Israel, UAE agree visa-free travel for nationals: Netanyahu

DNA

TEL AVIV: Israel and the United Arab Emirates agreed on Monday to reciprocal visa-free travel, making Emirati citizens in the Arab world to not require Israeli entry permits. The deal was signed after the first-ever official delegation from the UAE landed in Israel for a day of talks following an agreement to normalise ties signed at the White House last month. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, wearing a mask as he greeted the UAE delegation at Ben Gurion airport near Tel Aviv, described the visit as "a glorious day for peace". "Today, we are making history in a way that will stand for generations,"



the right-wing premier said of the Israeli-UAE accord, which has been angrily denounced by the Palestinians. The two states signed four agreements on Monday, including one "exempting our nationals from visas", Netanyahu announced, arguing that free movement of people would offer benefits to the Israeli and Emirati economies.

Nawaz' narrative inspired Indian media: Ijaz Shah

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Brig (retd) Ijaz Shah on Monday said that PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif is being portrayed as the greatest political leader in the subcontinent by the Indian media because of his anti-state narrative, media reported on Tuesday. While speaking to a private channel, Shah asserted that no political leader in a democratic system should be allowed to target national institutions in the name of freedom of expression. Questioning if there was rigging in the general election, then why Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa was given an extension by the Parliament, Shah said that PML-N had always adopted a stance of its own choice about the fairness of election on the basis of its victory. His leadership had said not a single word against the armed forces when only 17 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf candidates had won Punjab Assembly seats, he added. He said the opposition parties coming together was not surprising as 11 years ago Prime Minister Imran Khan had rightly predicted about their alliance against the PTI. — APP

Pakistan's good quality cotten yarn attracts Chinese market: Report

According to Chinese scholar Prof. Cheng Xizhong to maintain the status of traditional cotton growing country and textile producing country

DNA

BEIJING: Pakistan's cotton yarn has attracted the Chinese market in recent years, says a report published by China Economic Net on Tuesday. This was mainly because of Pakistan's good quality yarn that can be used as woven yarn or knitting yarn, especially combed yarn can be used to produce high-quality textiles. Second, Pakistan's cotton yarn has price competitive advantage in the international market.

Third, China is a textile giant, which needs to import a large quantity of high-quality cotton yarn. Fourth and most importantly, China and Pakistan have signed the second phase Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which went into effect on December 1, 2019. After the signing of the second phase FTA, the free trade rate between China and Pakistan has exceeded 90%. As far as I know, Pakistan's cotton yarn exports to China enjoy zero-tariff treatment. However, this year, due to locust invasion and other serious natural disasters, Pakistan's cotton production has dropped sharply and its price has risen. As of September 15, the market volume of Pakistan's cotton was only 1.4 million bales, with a year-on-year decrease of 820 thousand bales. According to Chinese scholar Prof. Cheng Xizhong to maintain the status of traditional cotton growing country and textile producing country, and to keep cotton planting at an advanced level, there are two points worthy of great attention: First, the government should intro-

duce good policies to make farmers have the consciousness and enthusiasm of planting cotton, and in particular, the government's policies should ensure that the farmers can make good money by planting cotton. Second, the government should increase investment in scientific research, and strengthen scientific research and technological development for cotton planting. And only in this way, can Pakistan's exports of textile products and cotton yarn increase significantly, he added.

625 new corona cases reported

ISLAMABAD: The total active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan on Tuesday were recorded 9,461 as 625 more people tested positive for the deadly virus during the last 24 hours. 14 corona patients, 12 of whom were under treatment in hospital and two out of hospital died on Monday, according to the latest update issued by the NCOC No COVID affected person was on ventilator in AJK and Balochistan, while 80 ventilators elsewhere in Pakistan, out of 1,884 allocated for COVID-19 patients, were occupied. — APP

Huge trade potential exists between Pak, Yemen

Talking to the President of the Chamber Nasir Mirza, the visiting Ambassador of Yemen, Muhammad Motahar said that Yemen attaches great importance to its relations with Pakistan

SHUJAAT HAMZA

RAWALPINDI: Yemeni Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Mohammed Motahar Alashabi visited the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Tuesday. Group leader and former president Sohail Altaf, Senior Vice President Osman Ashraf, Vice President Shahraiz A Malik, members of the executive committee and chamber members were also present on the occasion. Talking to the President of the Chamber Nasir Mirza, the Ambassador of Yemen, Muhammad Motahar said that Yemen attaches great importance to its relations with Pakistan and there are deep friendly relations between the two countries.



The envoy said mutual trade opportunities can be explored in the tourism and pharmaceutical sectors. He said that this was his first visit to the chamber. He appreciated the role of the Rawalpindi Chamber in promoting trade and business activities. He also accepted the invitation to participate in the Winter Tree Planting drive organized by the Rawalpindi Chamber next week. On this occasion, the President of the Chamber Nasir Mirza said that the Chamber is ready for any kind of cooperation for the exchange of delegations and holding of bilateral business conferences. Bilateral trade can be promoted in the fields of tourism, education, agriculture, IT and pharmaceuticals. Relations between the two countries need to be enhanced at the level of the Chamber of Commerce. Yemeni investors take advantage of investment opportunities in Pakistan.

China welcomes lifting of ban on Tik Tok

DNA

BEIJING: China has welcomed the decision to lift ban on Tik Tok after receiving assurance that the company would block all accounts repeatedly involved in spreading obscenity and immorality. "We have noted the relevant report. The Chinese government always maintains the companies operating overseas should strictly abide by international law and local rules," Chinese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson Zhao Lijian said during his regular briefing while commenting on the issue. He said, these companies should fully respect local customs, practice and their religion. "We glad that two sides can properly deal with the relevant issue through amicable solutions," he added. According to reports, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority said that it has decided to lift a ban on popular social media app Tik Tok after the company vowed to block all accounts involved in spreading "obscenity and immorality. The move comes some 10 days after the authority blocked Tik Tok for failing to block "immoral and indecent" content. "TikTok has agreed to moderate accounts in accordance with local laws," said a spokesman for the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), adding that the app had some 20 million monthly active users in the country.

SC adjourns Katas Raj temple case

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Tuesday adjourned hearing of the suo moto case on drying out of Katas Raj temple's pond in Chakwal, till November. A three-member bench of the apex court, headed by Justice Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Yahya Afridi and Justice Sajjad Ali Shah, heard the case. During the course of proceedings, Additional Advocate General Punjab Faisal Ch submitted Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report. He said that the EPA's detailed report indicated the reasons for the underground water and temple pond drying up. He said that the report also recommended the installation of water meters in the area. Justice Bandial asked had the Chairman of the Evacuee Trust Board Property (ETBP) been appointed? Ramesh Kumar, MNA, said that despite the court order, a bureaucrat Aamir Khan had been appointed Chairman of ETBP, instead of a minority representative. He said that the ETBP had a total of 1831 temples and Gurdwaras out of which 31 were functional and 1799 Temples and Gurdwaras were not in its direct control, he added. He said that there were no lights or statues of Hindu deities in the temples of Katas Raj.

Indian troops martyr two more youth in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD: Indian troops in their fresh act of state terrorism martyred two more Kashmiri youth in Shopian district, Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) on Tuesday. The youth were killed by Indian troops during an overnight cordon and search operation (CASO) in Melhora area of the district. The operation is going on till reports last came in, Kashmir Media Service reported. Despite COVID-19, Indian troops continued violent cordon and search operations in different town and areas of Srinagar, Kupwara, Bandipore, Baramulla, Budgam, Ganderbal, Pulwama, Islamabad, Shopian, Kulgam, Ramban, Udhampur, Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri, Poonch, Samba and Kathua districts. — APP