



# Islamabad POST

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**Situation in Kyrgyzstan stabilized: Ambassador Erik Beishembiev**

**Around 751 Pakistanis benefit from Malaysian technical programme**



**Fawad Chaudhry announces 'first OTT platform'**



## Briefs

### 'Ready to go to London to get Nawaz'

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan has said that he is ready to visit London for repatriation of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif if needed, media reported on Friday. The major announcement was made by PM Imran Khan, in an exclusive interview to a private news channel. Last month, federal cabinet had decided to bring back Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Quaid Nawaz Sharif from London with Prime Minister Imran Khan saying that the government would use all legal options for the purpose.

### Bilawal for polio free Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Friday said polio-free Pakistan was the dream of his mother Shaheed Benazir Bhutto and urged the people to work with dedication to transform this dream into reality. In his message on the eve of World Polio Day, he said the crippling disease has no cure and it can only be prevented by the vaccination drive being held worldwide. "African region has now been declared polio-free but few cases are still being reported from Pakistan and Afghanistan," he added. Bilawal said Benazir Bhutto launched the polio vaccination in Pakistan with the support of international organizations. — APP

### Indicators showing positive trends

DNA  
ISLAMABAD: Leader of the House in Senate Dr Waqar Raza said that country's economic indicators were showing constant improvements owing to efforts made by the incumbent government. Responding to point of order in Senate, he said the country's exports, remittances have been on persistent increasing trend, which exhibited confidence over government policies.

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## Nawaz will be in jail by Jan 15, says Shibli

They are expert in corruption and looted the nation's wealth with impunity," claimed Faraz

A.M.BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Information Minister Shibli Faraz said in a press conference on Friday that former prime minister Nawaz Sharif will be in a Pakistani jail by January 15. "Nawaz Sharif would be in Kot Lakhpat Jail by January 15," Information Minister Shibli Faraz said in a press conference on Friday. He said that Prime Minister Imran Khan was determined to hold the "corrupt gang" accountable. "They are expert in corruption and looted the nation's wealth with impunity," claimed Faraz. He added that those saying "vote ko izzat do [give respect to vote]", a slogan used by PML-N, gave respect to money during their years in power. The federal minister also spoke about the CCTV footage of Captain Safdar's arrest from a Karachi hotel, obtained by the media, saying that the broken door was not seen as claimed by the PML-N. "As per the footage, Captain Safdar seemed comfortable in police custody," said Faraz. "Their lies have now been exposed." The minister maintained that whatever happened in Sindh the PPP government was responsible not the federal authorities. "We

[federal government] did not arrest Captain Safdar, Sindh Police arrested him," said Faraz. He said that the opposition parties are not "sincere with each other" and playing politics. The opposition and the federal government have been at logger heads since the Sindh police's top brass sought to proceed on leave en masse in protest

*Continued on Page 06*

### PM not our target: Maryam

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz said Friday Prime Minister Imran Khan "is just a pawn and not our target", noting decisively that the incumbent, PTI-led government would be sent packing before the start of 2021. Speaking to the media after meeting Baloch students staging a sit-in at Lahore's Charing Cross, Maryam said students "are the future of Pakistan" but those from "Dera Ghazi Khan, Rajanpur, [erstwhile] FATA, and Balochistan" have to protest after 600 of their reserved seats were taken away.

## Qureshi urges UN to exert itself on Kashmir

It is deplorable that universal ideals of UN Charter are continuously being violated and defied with impunity nowhere more egregiously than in IIOJK

NAVEED MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has urged the United Nations to exercise its legal and political authority to ensure full implementation of its resolutions on Kashmir. He was addressing a ceremony in connection with the 75th anniversary of the United Nations in Islamabad on Friday. The Foreign Minister said it is deplorable that univer-



sal ideals of UN Charter are continuously being violated and defied with impunity nowhere more egregiously than in the IIOJK.

*Continued on Page 06*

## Virus cases register abnormal increase

FIJAZ CH. / DNA

ISLAMABAD: In continuation with a series of escalating warnings, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) has sounded the alarm over the average positivity ratio registering 40% higher over the last four days than what was being recorded earlier. During a morning session on Friday, officials from the NCOC heard from health officials that the positivity ratio (which measures the percentage of actual coronavirus cases from total tests conducted) has increased. The increasing danger of a second wave of the coronavirus is also evident in the increase in hospital admissions and a spike in the number of daily deaths, the forum was told. "Forum noted that [it is] the fifth con-

tinuous day that positivity ratio is on the increase," read a statement issued by the NCOC following the meeting. It also pointed out that coronavirus deaths in Pakistan are also on the rise. "Muzaffarabad, Hyderabad, Karachi and Gilgit have a higher positivity ratio along with other areas across the country," observed the NCOC. It noted that hospital admissions were also on the rise across the country, particularly in Punjab. The NCOC was also informed that has been a marked increase in the number of critical patients being admitted to hospitals as well. The NCOC was told that the country's current case fatality rate has reached 2.06%, compared to the global rate which stands at 2.72%. It was also noted that 71% of total deaths are of males, out of which 76% have been over the age of 50.



ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi in a group photo with Ambassadors of European Union. The former prime minister briefed the diplomats about the prevailing political situation and objectives of the Pakistan Democratic Movement. — DNA

### EU greets UN on 75th Anniversary



SHUJAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The European Union congratulates the United Nations on its 75th anniversary and recognizes its tremendous achievements in a number of areas — including conflict prevention and resolution, development cooperation and humanitarian assistance. The EU is a strong supporter of multilateralism and believes that multilateral cooperation is key to sustainable peace, respect for human rights and development. "In an increasingly complex world and amid more pressing global challenges — such as the COVID pandemic and climate change — there is an urgent need to work together to come up with joint responses. The UN is a unique platform for bringing together the international community to provide global responses to global problems," said European Union Ambassador to Pakistan, Androulla Kaminara.

## Pakistan to remain on FATF's grey list

It was acknowledged that of the 27 conditions that were put forth to Pakistan, 21 have been fulfilled

### Turkey backs Pakistan at plenary session

PARIS: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on Friday announced that Pakistan will continue to remain in its "increased monitoring list" — referred to more commonly as the grey list. FATF President Dr Marcus Pleyer, addressing a webinar to announce the decisions taken by the plenary in its three-day meeting period from October 21 to 23, said that the forum has decided that Pakistan "needs to do more" when it comes to fulfilling the requirements set out by the task force. It was acknowledged that of the 27 conditions that were put forth to Pakistan, 21 have been fulfilled. To a question, Dr Pleyer said that once the remaining six conditions are fulfilled, an "on-site visit" will be approved under which a team from the FATF will visit the country for the next review. "Our discussions are confidential [...] the members decided by consensus that Pakistan needs to complete

*Continued on Page 06*

PARIS: Turkey proposed during the FATF meeting that members should consider Pakistan's good work. Turkey went further to suggest that the Financial Action Task Force should dispatch an on-site team to Pakistan to finalise its assessment instead of waiting for the completion of the remaining six out of 27 parameters. On-site teams of the FATF are permitted to make inspections only after jurisdictions complete their Action Plans. Normally, such a visit is a signal for exit from the Financial Action Task Force's grey or black list. — DNA

## Prolonged detention unfair, says SC

The top court took notice of prolonged detentions and delays in the NAB's cases during a hearing

AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Friday termed the prolonged detention of the accused in cases filed by the NAB as "unfair", asking the anti-graft watchdog to explain why there were delays in such cases. The top court took notice of prolonged detentions and delays in the NAB's cases during a hearing — presided over by a three-member bench led by Justice Umar Ata Bandial — of a bail petition filed by Punjab Food Director Muhammad Ajmal. The counsel for the accused, Advocate Abid Saqi, informed the court that his client had been kept in detention for the past 16 months but that the proceedings had not com-

menced. There was no progress during the coronavirus pandemic either, he added. The NAB has acknowledged the sources of at least Rs70 million worth of assets out of a total of Rs110 million, Saqi stated. In response, Justice Yahya Afridi remarked that accused cannot be detained in jail for so long on corruption charges. Properties may be frozen and the passport confiscated if an individual is accused of corruption, he added. "Apprise the court as to why it is necessary to keep the accused in jail," Justice Afridi remarked. "There are 80 cases before this one, so why keep this accused detained during this time? Yesterday, the chief justice had ordered that there should be no unnecessary adjournment in NAB cases," the judge said.

### WHO lauds Pakistan's COVID-19 response

DNA

ISLAMABAD: World Health Organization (WHO) mission on Friday appreciated the response of federal and provincial governments for effectively containing COVID-19 pandemic. Dr Palitha Mahipala, head of mission, WHO was also present in the meeting. Dr Faisal Sultan appreciated the efforts of WHO mission and WHO Country Office in identifying the gaps and recommendations in the suggested areas of the International Health Regulations 2005. He acknowledged that by strengthening the gaps and identified areas, we can enable the health system to deal with any kind of infectious disease emergency, as COVID-19.

### WB vows to support Pakistan

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh has said the government has devised a mechanism for cash transfer to support 16 million deserving families during testing times. He was speaking at a virtual meeting with Managing Director, World Bank Axel Van Trotsenburg and Vice President Hartwing Schafer. The World Bank appreciated reform agenda of the present Government and reiterated commitment to support Pakistan through IDA 2020 during COVID-19 crisis.

## Situation in Kyrgyzstan stabilized: Ambassador

Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic noted that today Kyrgyzstan is a dynamically developing country with a diversified economy, where foreign investors are widely represented, including from Pakistan

A.M.BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan Erik Beishembiev has informed the media about the current internal political situation in the Kyrgyz Republic, noting that the situation in the country has stabilized, the legitimacy of the state power of the Kyrgyz Republic has been created and its executive bodies continue to operate in their regular mode. It was noted about the formation of a new composition of the government and the entrustment of the powers of the Acting Presi-

dent of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Zhaparov. Ambassador Erik made these remarks during a press briefing on Friday. Ambassador Erik Beishembiev stressed that the procedure for the transfer of power in the country passed peacefully in accordance with the norms of the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic, and that the Kyrgyz Republic remains fully committed to all its international obligations and strict implementation of all previously signed bilateral and multilateral treaties and agreements.

In addition, the Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic noted that today Kyrgyzstan is a dynamically devel-



oping country with a diversified economy, where foreign investors are widely represented, including from Pakistan, as well as a number of positive initiatives of the new government in protecting foreign investments. Ambassador Erik Beishembiev emphasized the continuity of country in the development of mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation with its foreign partners. To a question, the ambassador said both Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan enjoy excellent relations adding there were a number of areas where both countries could cooperate.

He said there was a huge scope of cultural cooperation between the two countries. He said trade and economic relations can also be given new dimensions as a land route was available for transpiration of goods from Pakistan and vice versa. The ambassador said they were also trying to have direct air links and negotiations between the two sides were under way. The ambassador also talked about a number of projects such as CASA 1000 which were under execution and after completion shall greatly contribute to further strengthening of bilateral relations.

## Briefs

## SHC orders notices regarding census results

DNA

KARACHI: Sindh High Court (SHC) here on Friday ordered to issue notices to respondents in a constitutional petition of Pasban Democratic Party (PDP) Chairman Altaf Shakoore and sought their comments by November 5. As per details, a two-member bench of SHC comprising Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Arshid Hussain Khan heard the constitutional petition number CP-4452/2020. Advocate Irfan Aziz, the lawyer of petitioner submitted that there are serious reservations about the results of the national census and inordinate delay in announcement of the final results have cast doubts on holding of the local bodies election in time. The SHC ordered the respondents to file their comments and adjourned the hearing by November 5. It may be noted that in his petition Altaf Shakoore had submitted that the human capital is the most important asset of any society and conducting periodical national census is important to compile a numerical profile of this human capital and conduct national planning and related decision-making processes at all levels on the basis of this data. He submitted that the Constitution of Pakistan gives an obligation of conducting census after every 10 years.

## Pak apprises Argentina about Indian atrocities

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Additional Secretary (Americas) Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan and Ambassador Jose Luis Perez Gabillon, Under Secretary Foreign Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of the Argentine Republic led the 4th round of Bilateral Political Consultations between Pakistan and Argentina via video conference on 22 October 2020. Representatives from the Ministry of Climate Change and Ministry of Commerce of Pakistan also attended the meeting. During the consultations, a wide range of bilateral, regional and multilateral matters of mutual interest were discussed. The Additional Secretary underscored that ever since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Argentina in October 1951, the two countries have enjoyed a cordial relationship based on mutual respect and understanding. He underlined the need to mark the completion of 70 years of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in a befitting manner. The Additional Secretary emphasized the importance of expanding bilateral trade between Pakistan and Argentina by increasing interaction at multiple levels and by holding virtual meeting of the Joint Trade Committee in the first quarter of 2021.

## Establishment of EPZs in South Punjab cities urged

Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan thanked the delegation of Sheikhpura Chamber of Commerce and Industry about their good proposals

DNA

LAHORE: A delegation of Sheikhpura Chamber of Commerce and Industry led by its President Mr. Adil Mahmood called on the Special Assistant to the Chief Minister on Business, Investment and Trade/Chairman, PBIT - Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, in his office. Mr. Manzoor-ul-Haq Malik, Mr. Tariq Nazir and Mr. Usama Tariq were also present on this occasion.



## FPCCI calls for long-term debt relief in post-pandemic era

Mian Anjum Nisar backs PM call to write off debts of vulnerable countries

DNA

LAHORE: The apex chamber of Pakistan has welcomed the extension of debt suspension initiative for developing countries by the G20, calling for long-term loans' relief or their permanent termination to deal with the post-corona economic crunch. FPCCI President Mian Anjum Nisar said though the global economy has begun a gradual recovery with the reopening of businesses, the recovery has not been smooth, as many of the poor countries are still spending more on debt payments than on life-saving public services. He also supported Prime Minister Imran Khan's call to the international community to write off the debts of vulnerable countries, including Pakistan, as the coronavirus has shattered the economies of developing nations. The world community should think of some kind of a debt write-off for countries like Pakistan, as

its major chunk of income is being spent on debt servicing, making it very vulnerable, he said. He said that the central bank's foreign exchange reserves have declined stridently by over one billion dollars during last one month mainly owing to external debt servicing. "FPCCI welcomes the PM call for an outright cancellation of debt payments, who while addressing the UN session last month had stated that the poor countries suffered the most from coronavirus, therefore, these countries must be given debt relief by G20." He said that Prime Minister Imran Khan was the first to highlight the issue as he called for a debt-write off. "We fully support the government which has already reached out to bilateral creditors to see if it can get some relief, as the country pays a large chunk of its tax money to foreign creditors." Last year, Pakistan paid \$11.6 billion to lenders, which is almost as much as its central bank



has in its reserves at the moment, he added. "It is very welcome that both Pakistan along with other countries have collectively called for a moratorium on interest payments, as most of their debt consist of loans, which are borrowed to pay off previous loans, trapping them in a vicious debt cycle." The FPCCI President said that the country's reserves had been declining since Sept 2020 due to scheduled foreign debt payments. Although, during the last few weeks, the central bank also received some inflows from multilateral and bilateral agencies,

however, those inflows were less than the outflows, because of which the foreign exchange reserves posted a sharp decline. Quoting the SBP statistics, he said that the central bank's foreign exchange reserves have declined below \$12 billion due to continued external debt payment, as its reserves were standing at \$11.79 billion on Oct 9, 2020 against \$12.82 billion on Sept 11, 2020, showing a fall of over \$1 billion in a single month. During the week ended Sept 18, SBP's reserves were down by \$119 million to \$12.70 billion also due to debt repayments. Reserves held by SBP further declined by \$342 million to \$12.36 billion week ended Sept 25, 2020. This decline was also attributed to the external debt payments by the government, amounting to \$311 million. During the last week ended Oct 9, SBP made external debt repayment of \$507 million, decreasing SBP reserves by \$356 million to \$11.79 billion. He asked the world community

to think of full debt write-off for countries like Pakistan that will help them to cope with the post-coronavirus sufferings. He observed that Pakistan lacks fiscal space and a proper health system. Therefore, the most appropriate response that G20 countries can give, at the moment, is abandoning the loan instead of a temporary relief, he said. "There is no benefit of G20 countries' announcement of interim debt relief on principal and interest payments, as the suspension period for debt relief will remain only for few months and all debt service falling due in this period will be packaged into a new loan on which the repayments will again start after a short period, to be paid over three years." He asked them to extend grants to Pakistan instead of loans. He said that the debt servicing would eat up more than two-fifth of the country's total budget, as it is the top category in expenditures in FY21, over 41 percent of the federal budget's total outlay.

## Minister visits sahat bazaar



ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Bazzdar has assigned responsibilities to provincial ministers, advisors and special assistants for controlling inflation, monitoring of prices of essential commodities and checking of Sahulat bazaars. In this regard, Provincial Minister for Public Prosecution Ch. Zaheeruddin visited the Sahulat bazaars and checked the availability, quality and prices of essential commodities. Divisional Commis-

sioner Ishaq Ali, Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali, MPA Firdous Rai, Assistant Commissioners Syed Ayub Bukhari and Umar Maqbool also accompanied him. Provincial Minister visited Fair Price Shops including Kaleem Shaheed Park, Riaz Shahid Chowk and other Sahulat bazaars and checked the availability, quality of sugar, flour, fruits and vegetables, pulses, meat and other groceries. He clarified that Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Bazzdar was directly monitoring the prices of the items so there was no scope for overcharging.

## CM Buzdar inaugurates Punjab Rozgar Scheme

DNA

LAHORE: Chief Minister (CM) Usman Buzdar has inaugurated Punjab Rozgar Scheme which is said to be the largest employment programme in the history of the province. The agreement was signed between the Punjab Small Industries Corporation (PSIC) and the Bank of Punjab. While addressing the inauguration ceremony, CM Usman Buzdar said that the government sets the priority to provide easy loans worth over Rs30 billion to youth under the scheme. He said that the initiative was taken to transform

skills of youth into investment by the provincial government. "1.6million people to get employment from this scheme." Under the Punjab Rozgar Scheme, citizens will be provided easy loans worth more than Rs30 billion for new and running businesses besides assisting the small and medium enterprises to recover from coronavirus crisis. CM Usman Buzdar said that the incumbent Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government is working hard to serve the masses and added that Punjab Rozgar Scheme to provide maximum employment opportunities in this crunch economic situation.

## NAB's appeal to put Shehbaz on ECL fixed for hearing

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: The National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) appeal to put Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif's name on the Exit Control List (ECL) has on Friday been fixed for hearing. According to details, Supreme Court's Justice Mushir Alam will head the bench that will hear the appeal on October 27. The PML-N president has been accused of transferring billions of rupees abroad illegally through benami accounts and making assets worth billions using frontmen, servants and money changers. The federal government had put Shehbaz Sharif on the ECL earlier this month but his name was removed on the Lahore High Court's (LHC) order. The anti-corruption watchdog had challenged the LHC's verdict in the top court.

## Day care center made functional at WASA office

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: The day care center has been made functional at WASA office to facilitate the women employees. Punjab Minister for women development Ashfia Riaz Fatayana formally inaugurated the day care center. Chairman FDA Ch Latif Nazir, Vice Chairman WASA Sh.Shahid Javed, Secretary Women Development Department Punjab Anbreen Raza, MD WASA Jabbar Anwar Ch, Director Women Development Sajela Naveed and other officers were present on the occasion.

Talking to the newsmen, Punjab Minister for Women Development Ashfia Riaz Fatayana said that the Punjab Government under the leadership of Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar had taken revolutionary step of establishment of day care center in the government departments and institutions of Punjab to provide comfort to

the working women and more than hundred day care centers had been established in the different districts of Punjab under this development programme and quality facilities were being provided to the babies of the women employees, officers and staff with the view to make the working women free from worries of babies care during job hours so that they could focus their attention on official affairs properly. She said that being business City, the affluent community of Faisalabad should come forward to extend cooperation for providing transport and technical education facilities to the women folk. Later, the minister took a round of day care center and appreciated the quality facilities to the babies including sleeping beds, play land, swings and other toys. FDA Chairman Latif Nazir lauded the Punjab government policies and said that a number of welfare measures were being taken for the

every segment of the society. He said that all out facilities were available for the little children of the working women and they could give full concentration on their job having free from babies. Vice Chairman WASA Sh.Shahid Javed said that the welfare of the woman and their babies was the development of the society and Punjab government was following comprehensive development plan to provide relief to the public in a real sense. He said that the initiative of day care center establishment projects was remarkable step of Punjab government. MD WASA Jabbar Anwar thanked Punjab Minister for Women Development for inaugurating the day care center at WASA office and gave briefing to her about the strength of women employees and facilities available in the centre. He assured that the day care center would be run successfully to achieve the desired objectives.



FAISALABAD: Punjab Minister for Women Development Ashfia Riaz Fatayana inaugurates the day care center at WASA office. - DNA

## District admin retrieves land, shops

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: District administration has relinquished government lands and shops worth Rs 800 million at Douglaspura from occupation mafia. Assistant Commissioner City Syed Ayub Bukhari supervised the marathon operation Thursday night. He said that the encroachments were cleared using heavy machinery. He said that the operation was carried out in Douglaspura after the deadline finished which were given to the residents and shopkeepers earlier. He said that operation is ongoing and no one will be allowed to occupy government land. Meanwhile Assistant Commissioner City Syed Ayub Bukhari has sealed Canal Marquee Canal Road for violating anti-Corona SOPs on certain complaints. He checked the marriage hall on reports where SOPs were found to be violated and participants did not wear face masks and there was no social distance between them and Marquee was sealed while taking action.

## Sindh healthcare commission seals 60 clinics

DNA

KARACHI: After the surge in coronavirus cases in Karachi, the Sindh Healthcare Commission in its actions has sealed more than 60 clinics being run by quacks. As per details, more than 60 clinics in Baldia, Defence, Malir and Sadder Town were sealed by the commission in last two days after a sharp increase in the COVID-19 cases. The Sindh Healthcare Commission has directed the owners of the clinics to get themselves register. Pakistan reported 13 more coronavirus-related deaths during the past 24 hours, taking the death toll from the disease to 6,715. Thus far, Sindh has reported 142,917 cases, followed by Punjab that reported 102,253 cases while Khyber Pakhtunkhwa reported 38,886, Balochistan 15,767, Islamabad 4,127 and Azad Jammu and Kashmir 3,688.

## Resolution passed against Nawaz' speech

DNA

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly has passed a resolution against the speech of former Prime Minister leader of PML-N Mian Nawaz Sharif. According to details, the resolution was passed in Friday's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly session, chaired by Speaker Mushtaq Ghani. The resolution condemned the Nawaz Sharif's speech at the Gujranwala rally of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM). Rabia Basri, a female member of PTI, moved the resolution against Nawaz Sharif's speech, condemning the speech and saying that his allegations were an attempt to harm the country and its institutions. The resolution said that speeches against institutions should be banned.

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## Briefs

### SI arrested for misbehaving with man

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A sub-inspector, identified as Idrees, was arrested for misbehaving with a resident in Rawalpindi, the police said on Friday. A case has been registered against him at the Peerodhai police station. According to the FIR, the officer arrested the complainant's accomplice for parking their car at an incorrect spot and then asked for money to let him go. "The officer took Rs15,000 from me and then told me to pay Rs20,000 more to release my friend from jail," he said, adding that all this time, the officer kept misbehaving with him. The complainant had been visiting Rawalpindi with two of his friends from Peshawar. Rawalpindi SP Rao Mazhar confirmed that Idrees had been found guilty by an investigation committee. "A case has been registered against him. We will not tolerate any misbehavior with residents," he said.

### Army captain impersonater arrested

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A man impersonating an army captain was arrested by the Crime Investigation Agency in Rawalpindi on Friday afternoon. According to the police, the suspect, identified as Suleman, used to spread terror in his neighbourhood and stole from multiple residents by taking millions of rupees for them in the name of fake investments. He was arrested during a raid in the Faizabad area. "Suleman told people he would get them jobs and took money from them in return," a police officer said. The CIA seized a wireless set, fake army uniforms and badges from his possession. A case has been registered. The suspect has been taken into police custody and is being interrogated. Further investigations are under way.

### CDA employees get free medical services

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Interior on Friday informed Senate that Capital Hospital is a departmental hospital comprising of 296 beds primarily meant to provide 100 per cent free services to the Capital Development Authority (CDA) employees and their families both in-service and retired.

In a written reply on the question of Senator Bahram Khan Tangi, the ministry of Interior said that the hospital was also open for general public with free of cost emergency services 24/7 but other services are charged as per CDA approved rates.

"It is fact that some new departments including cardiac surgery and international cardiology could not be started due to non recruitment of concerned staff. However, the Standing committee on Interior, advised for re-advertisement to make recruitment against 209 vacant posts by HRD CDA. - APP

### Police launch search operation

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Police on special directives of City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi Friday launched a search operation in Adra and adjoining areas in the jurisdiction of R.A.Bazaar Police Station, said a police spokesman. He informed that heavy police contingents, Elite Force, Special Branch personnel and Ladies police under the supervision of SHO R.A.Bazaar Police Station conducted search operation in the area and searched 66 houses while 65 persons were also interrogated. Police also checked particulars of various 21 tenants, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President ICCI poses for a group photo with Nemat Ullah Masood, Secretary general, Riaz Khan Chairman and other officials of CDA Officers Association during their visit to ICCI. Abdul Rehman Khan VP ICCI, Ejaz Abbasi former president, Ch Ashraf Farzand, Khalid Chaudhry and others are also present. - DNA

## ICCI President demands representation in CDA Board

The president ICCI urged that CDA should set up a One Window Operation in true spirit in order to facilitate the business community and the citizens of Islamabad in their CDA related day-to-day issues

FIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that almost 90 percent affairs of business community in Islamabad were related to the CDA and emphasized that the government should include sitting President of ICCI in CDA Board to protect the genuine interests of private sector during the policy making process of the civic body and help resolve key issues of the business community.

He urged that CDA should set up a One Window Operation in true spirit in order to facilitate the business community and the citizens of Islamabad in their CDA related day-to-day issues. He said that the business community has to visit various departments of CDA for various services and redress of issues, which consumes a lot of their precious time. However, the availability of one window facility would save them from many troubles as they would get all the required services of CDA from one counter.

He said this while addressing a delegation of CDA Officers Association that visited ICCI led by its Secretary General Nemat Ullah Masood, Riaz Khan Chairman, Mian Muhammad Chief Patron, Abdur Rahim Secretary Admin and Bilal Khan Office Secretary were in the delegation. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that CDA's approval process of commercial buildings plans was quite lengthy as investors have to wait for months and even for years for approval of buildings plans and stressed that CDA should

speed up this process for faster approval of commercial buildings plans that would give boost to investment in the federal capital. Ms. Fatma Azim Senior Vice President and Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI said that the civic body has made manifold increase in the property tax and water & allied charges, which have enhanced the cost of doing business in Islamabad and stressed that CDA should rationalize these taxes to facilitate the growth of business activities. They further said that instead

of demolishing the commercial buildings for encroachments, CDA should consider regularizing them on receipt of certain charges as demolishing of constructed buildings entailed huge losses to the investors. Speaking at the occasion, Nemat Ullah Masood Secretary General and Riaz Khan Chairman, CDA Officers Association assured their cooperation for resolving the key issues of the business community. They said that ICCI and CDA Officers Association have common objectives to promote the interests of

their members, therefore, close collaboration between the both sides would help in achieving common goals. Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi former President ICCI, Khalid Chaudhry, Saif ur Rehman Khan, Zarif Khan, Mian Ramzan and others also spoke at the occasion and stressed for close working relationship between ICCI and CDA Officers Association for the better development of the city including markets and industrial areas in order to spur the growth of business activities.



RAWALPINDI: An illuminated view of a street at Glass Factory decorated with colourful lights in connection with Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) celebrations. - APP

## Plants and their metabolites in pharmaceutical industry discussed

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: COMSTech webinar on "plants and their metabolites as leading molecules for pharmaceutical industry" conducted by renowned Turkish scientist, Prof. Dr. Ilkay Erdogan Orhan of Gazi University, Turkey. Biological and chemical scientists from Pakistan, Turkey, Cameroon, Bangladesh, Iran, Indonesia, Sudan,

Azerbaijan, Senegal, Nepal and Ethiopia attended this webinar. Dr. Ilkay discussed the diversity among plant metabolites for their medicinal use and delved into combination of in-vitro, in-vivo, and in-silico methods used for novel molecule prediction. She enlightened audience about innovation and patent related aspects of this field. She also shared the initiatives taken by the Turkish government to promote and engage

scientists and academia in commercial aspects of this field of study. Prof. Dr. Ilkay Erdogan Orhan secured a Ph.D. degree in Pharmacognosy from the Faculty of Pharmacy, Gazi University, Turkey in 2002. She served as visiting scientist at Department of Chemistry at University of Winnipeg, Canada in 2003 under NATO-TUBITAK fellowship program. Currently, she is Dean of Faculty of Pharmacy, Gazi University, Turkey.

## Easypaisa users can now add cash to their mobile account

ISLAMABAD: Easypaisa, Pakistan's leading mobile payment service has come up with yet another convenience for customers who already have a Bank Account in Pakistan. Now, such customers can use the Easypaisa App and pull funds conveniently into their Easypaisa mobile accounts by saving their 3D Secure Debit Cards enabled for online transaction and issued by any Bank in Pakistan at absolutely no additional cost. Ever since the COVID-19 outbreak in Pakistan, getting funds into the Easypaisa Mobile Account has been a considerable challenge for customers. Many markets were closed and visiting crowded Easypaisa shops and handling physical currency notes was an even bigger risk. This problem has now been solved by Easypaisa by introducing a simple process of adding funds to an Easypaisa account. To pull funds from online transaction enabled Debit cards, customers can go to 'Add Cash' in the App and choose 'Add Other Bank Card'. Next, the user has to choose his respective bank from the provided list and then complete the process. After few steps, funds will be added to Mobile Account and card will be saved securely. Once a debit card is saved, users can easily add funds in the Easypaisa App at their convenience.

The process has multiple security checks in place including generation of One Time Password (OTP) to validate the card-linking procedure and add comprehensive security features for customers. In addition to Debit Cards, certain Banks are also partnering with Easypaisa to enable this functionality on their Credit Cards. Information on the type of card allowed is available on the bank selection screen under the bank name. Digital banking across the globe is becoming seamless with multiple platforms being cross linked and easily accessible. Easypaisa aims introduce innovative systems and processes in Pakistan through technology and collaboration. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, digital payments have taken center stage when it comes to safe and convenient access to financial services. This feature amongst others introduced by Easypaisa is another step towards the development of a digital ecosystem that benefits the country as a whole. - DNA

## Prototype methane gas detector presented in OGRA

The gas detector not only detects methane but also detect LPG and butane leakages. Moreover, the detector is low in cost and efficient in operation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Engineers from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Oil and Gas Company Limited (KPOGCL) visited OGRA and demonstrated the prototype of Methane Gas Detector and briefed about its working. Member Gas Mr. Muhammad Arif, Member Oil Mr. Zainul Abideen Qureshi and officers from Gas Department were present in the demonstration. The gas detector alarm activates when brought near



the leakage of methane gas, commonly known as natural gas. The gas detector not only detects methane but also detect LPG and butane leakages. Moreover, the detector is low in cost and efficient in operation. Mr. Muhammad Arif, Member Gas and Mr. Zainul Abideen Qureshi, Member Oil made various suggestions for further improvement of this detector which KPOGCL engineers considered to be highly feasible and effective. Mr. Zainul Abideen Qureshi said that

this is an excellent initiative by KPOGCL and can be used in various sectors like public transport in which CNG is used and accidents can be avoided. Mr. Muhammad Arif assured OGRA's full cooperation in utilization of detectors once manufactured and commercialized. Mr. Muhammad Arif, Member Gas also emphasized that such type of equipments should be developed and commercialized as soon as possible which is likely to help in considerably reducing the UFG of Gas Companies.

## Ulemas asked to spread awareness

RAWALPINDI: Prayer leaders and heads of mosques were asked to convince people on adopting measures to contain dengue virus and cleanliness awareness in their sermons. Anti-Dengue and cleanliness awareness activity was carried out in the mosques of Dhoke Mangtal, UC-04 and where the communication teams of Albaryak asked the imams and khateebes of mosques to disseminate the cleanliness message and precautionary measure regarding dengue fever in the Khutbat-e-Juma and in other religious congregations.

They were moreover told that with their co-operation with the company would lead to a "Clean & Green City". They were asked that for co-operation purposes to mindful the general public i.e. they ought to put the waste in the waste bags or dump it into the waste holders of company or handover it to sanitary worker. The help line number 1139 was also highlighted so that, if people are having any queries regarding sanitation and cleanliness in their area, they can register complaints on it or give their suggestions. - APP

## PUCAR to organize Kashmir programs

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council (PUCAR) has finalised different programs in connection with Kashmir Black Day to be observed on October 27 to express unity and solidarity with the people of Kashmir facing brutal Indian aggression in IOJK. In this regard, various programmes would be held in PUCAR, a stage drama titled "Kashmir Ki Qasam" would be presented on October 24 while on October-27 another drama "Jalti Wadi" would be held in auditorium of arts council at 6:00 p.m.

A Photographic exhibition had also been planned on October 27 in which renowned artists would present their artwork to highlight human rights abuses, extra judicial killings, disabilities of Kashmiris through pellet guns at the hands of Indian security forces. A walk would also be held to express solidarity with the people of Kashmir in which PUCAR officers, employees, artists and others audience from different aspect of life would participate to raise their voice in favour of the oppressed Kashmiri people. - APP

## 3,990 terrorist incidents b/w Jan 2015-Sept 2020

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Interior Ministry has presented the details before the Senate regarding the martyred and wounded persons in terrorist incidents occurred between January 2015 and September 2020. In its written response, the interior ministry detailed that the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) is compiling data of martyred persons in terrorist incidents since 2015, however, the statistics did not contain details of terrorists killed in different actions.

The Senate was told that 3,990 incidents of terrorism took place from January 2015 to September 2020. 3,384 persons were martyred and 8,436 people left wounded in the incidents. 1,457 personnel of law enforcement agencies were martyred and 1,927 other persons also lost their lives, whereas, 2,569 security officials and 5,867 other persons were wounded.

In year-wise statistics, 1,139 incidents occurred in 2015 which caused the loss of 838 lives and 1,706 left wounded. 785 incidents took place in 2016 with 804 deaths and 1,914 injured. 668 people were martyred and 2,153 injured in 741 incidents occurred in 2017. 584 incidents took place in 2018 with 517 martyrdoms and 1,256 wounded. 375 people were martyred and 963 injured in 482 incidents occurred in 2019 and 175 martyrdoms and 446 people left wounded in 259 incidents in 2020. September 2020.

## Briefs

Third week  
of Divvy film  
festival

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A venture of Foundation Art Divvy in collaboration with PNCA, the "Divvy Film Festival" is winning accolades from the audience of twin cities. Sparing over six weeks the event is a celebration of depth & breadth of powerful independent Pakistani cinema. More than 20 films, documentaries, feature films, short films, fiction and animations are part of this festival, few of which have already been screened. Today two films, "Some lover to some beloved" by Umar Riaz and "Indus blues" by Jawad Sharif were scheduled. An outstanding documentary chronicling the life of veteran actor Zia Mohyeddin. Titled after Faiz's poem the film give whole account of Riaz's life beginning from his childhood. The core of his work seems to be an interpreter, which he immensely enjoys. The film shows the footage of one evening in Lahore where Zia pays tribute to Faiz Ahmed Faiz, by only reciting his poetry. Third documentary was "Indus Blues" directed by Jawad Sharif shows the struggle of Pakistani folk artists to keep a fading art alive. We saw dying musical instruments such as Raanti, Balochi Banjo, Sarina, Suroz and Murli Been being played by perhaps their last remaining maestros. It also took the audience on a mystical journey from castline to Kavakoram mountains in the north. Film traverses 1500KM along the Indus River, chronicling the music that emerges on its way and lives spent shaping these traditions.

'Making capital  
clean and green  
our goal'

FIAZ CH.

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) is utilizing all the available resources for enhancing the beauty of capital city by making it clean and green, said the Chairman CDA, Aamir Ali Ahmad here on Friday. He expressed this while visiting various places of Islamabad on Friday. He said that the work has been started on the projects of the lane marking on roads, restoration of street lights, cleanliness of parks, public places, and nullahs. Thousands of flower saplings have been planted to restore the green character of the city, he added. Chairman CDA directed the officers and workers to restore all the street lights as soon as possible so that the citizens can be facilitated. The complaints of citizens regarding sewage should be addressed promptly. While directing the Director Road Maintenance, he said that attention should also be paid on link roads and others side by side the main roads. He said that facilitating the masses of capital city is the top priority of the CDA.

Action against  
illegal housing  
society  
underway

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Grand operation underway against the bogus housing societies in Islamabad upon the special directions of the Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) Aami Ali Ahmad. In a recent move CDA sealed the office of Islamabad Farming Cooperating Society on Friday. According to detail, CDA is currently doing a high level operation against the illegal housing societies and Housing Schemes. During the operation the authority sealed the office of the Farming Cooperating Society in the presence of the Assistant Commissioner. All the illegal and bogus housing societies were sent the notices from CDA prior to the operation. CDA also gave advertisements in Newspapers in this regard before starting the operation against these housing societies.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the Welosi Jirga of Afghanistan Mir Rahman Rahmani and speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser planting a sapling at Parliament lawn. – DNA

Afghan team's visit to further  
boost bilateral ties: Asad Qaiser

Pakistan has always desired a peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan which is not only in the interest of Pakistan but also for the entire region

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser has said that the dream of peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan is about to be realized. He remarked that peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan would not only ensure regional peace and but it would also be vital for socio-economic development of the people of both the countries. He expressed these views while talking to Speaker of the Wolsey Jirga (Afghan Parliament) Mir Rahman Rahmani who called on him

in Parliament House, this evening. Afghan Speaker arrived in Islamabad along with a Seventeen Members Afghan Parliamentary delegation, today. Speaker Asad Qaiser while talking to the Afghan Speaker said that Pakistan has always desired a peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan which is not only in the interest of Pakistan but also for the entire region. He said that parties to the Afghan peace process should seize the opportunity for perpetual peace in the country. While apprising his Afghan Counterpart about the achievements of the Pak-Afghan Parliamentary

Friendship Group, Speaker Asad Qaiser said that tariff barriers and procedural impediments in mutual and Afghan Transit Trade have been removed, facilitation on borders for visitors and trading community has been ensured besides easing visa policy for students, visitors and patients. He also pointed out that both countries can achieve economic autarky by utilizing their geographical importance. He was confident that Parliamentary contacts between both the countries would enhance cooperation and mutual trade. He, further, stressed on the need to prioritize trade and economic

links between both countries as immense mutual trade and investment potential exists on both sides. He said that the Pak-Afghan Trade and Investment Seminar being held on 26-27 October would pave the way for enhanced economic activities. Mir Rahman Rahman Speaker of the Wolsey Jirga (Afghan Parliament) lauded Speaker Asad Qaiser's efforts to enhance bilateral trade especially focusing on the issues of Transit trade and opening new trade routes on Pak-Afghan border. He said that Afghanistan values high its ties with Pakistan since people on both sides

of the border were tied in eternal bonds of religion, culture and ethnicity. He appreciated efforts of Speaker Asad Qaiser to harmonize relations between both the nations. He said that parliamentary contacts would bring both the nations more closer. He also pointed that Afghanistan has vast potential of investment and trade opportunities and trading community was looking forward for investment in Pakistan. He expressed his confidence about the success of peace process. He said that peace would usher in era of progress and stability in Afghanistan.

12 outlaws  
arrested;  
charras  
recovered

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The police in their crackdown against anti-social elements arrested 12 lawbreakers besides recovering over 3.5 kg charras, fireworks and other items from their possession, a police spokesman said on Friday. He informed that Gujran Khan police conducted a raid and held Nasir for having 2250 grams charras. R.A. Bazaar police also rounded up an accused named Amjid Abbas for carrying 1500 grams charras. Similarly, Waris Khan police raided and held four fireworks dealers named Faizan, Usama Farooq, Malik Rizwan and Muhammad Saleem besides recovering huge quantity of fireworks items from their possession. Rattaamral police in another raid netted Yasir Ali and Muhammad Shahbaz for carrying fireworks items. Taxila and Westridge police conducted two raids and arrested four accused, Saifullah, Muhammad Waqar, Idrees and Anwar Ali for running illegal LPG agencies. Separate cases have been registered against all the accused and police started further investigation. The CPO appreciated the performance of police and directed them for high vigilance and monitoring against those involved in anti-social activities, the spokesman added.

AAC visits  
schools to  
inspect SOPs

DNA

ABBOTTABAD: Additional Assistant Commissioner (ACC) Marvi Malik Sher on the instructions of Deputy Commissioner, Maghs Sanaullah inspected the City Schools, Millennium Schools and several other schools and reviewed the implementation of standard operating procedures (SOPs). She spoke to the students while inspecting the classrooms and expressed satisfaction with the arrangements made by the school administration. She further assured the school administration of full cooperation by the district administration in prevention of coronavirus.

Teaching  
conference  
at FJWU  
concludes

RAWALPINDI: Two days national conference on Promoting Teaching and Assessment of Higher Order Thinking Skills in 21st Century: Possibilities, Challenges and Way forward' concluded at Fatima Jinnah Women University arranged in collaboration of the Department of Education and the department of English. The Chief Guest of the closing ceremony was Dr. Saima Hamid, Vice Chancellor Fatima Jinnah Women University while Special Guest was Dr. Mehmud Ul Hassan Butt, Former, Vice Chancellor, AIOU. Speaking on the occasion, the Vice Chancellor, FJWU, Dr. Saima Hamid said that the discussions in this conference has provided practice based and contextualized instructions for the implementation of a better education system. The findings of this conference will also support the academicians, teachers, educators and all other relevant stakeholders who are involved in the policy formulation related to any aspect of education. There is a growing realization that social, economic, emotional development is not possible without the learning and practicing higher order thinking skills because these skills are essential problem solving tools at local, national and international levels. She congratulated the conference organizers and encouraged them to carry on the good work, she said. Speaking on the occasion Dr. Mehmud Ul Hassan said that it is a commendable effort that besides pandemic, Fatima Jinnah Women University has successfully organized this event. He emphasized on the importance of much needed critical thinking and intelligent execution of ideas. He urged in bringing the value in the current education system and highlighted the role of high order thinking in understanding contemporary research in the field of education. – APP

PTCL  
awarded  
turnkey ICT  
contract

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) has been awarded a turnkey ICT contract to deploy state-of-the-art IT infrastructure for Pak-Austria Fachhochschule Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology (PAF-IAST) University, a leading center of excellence in higher education and research in Haripur. Zarrar Hasham Khan, Chief Business Services Officer, PTCL and Dr. Nasir Khan, Rector, PAF-IAST signed the contract at the university campus in Haripur. The signing ceremony was attended by Suleman Awan, General Manager, Digital Services, PTCL, Dr. Mohammad Mujahid, Advisor, PAF-IAST, Wasim Hashmi, Advisor PAF-IAST, along with senior other officials from both sides. Anwar Amjad, Advisor IT, PAF-IAST, explained the significance of this project and university's future plans with respect to IT and communication facilities. – DNA



ISLAMABAD: Samina Fazil Founder President and Shumaila Naz Vice President and Executive members of Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry visited Government polytechnic institute for women a very fruitful discussion with the Principal and her staff. – DNA

CGSS joins community with shared  
future as Pakistan research center

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Inauguration Ceremony of the International Research Centers for a Community with Shared Future & the International Academic Network for a Community with Shared Future was held at Beijing. The ceremony was also conducted virtually for the participation of member countries including Pakistan. Research and Academic Centers of seven countries are brought together under this partnership including, Germany, South Korea, Malaysia, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Pakistan. Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad has been selected from Pakistan to be the Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future to promote theoretical innovation to build a communication platform that enables societies to address global crises and seek apt solutions to bring sustainable development and prosperity. The ceremony was commenced by the remarks

of Mr. Liao Xiangzhong, President of the Communication University of China, Beijing who extended his congratulations to the member countries of the International Research Center for a community with a shared future. He mentioned the importance of such Institutions for the exchange of research and to encourage academic collaborations and multi-disciplinary research. Representing Pakistan, Mr. Ahmed Farooq, Minister, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Republic of China stated that Pakistan & China are Iron Brothers, we have a glorious past and we envision a bright future under this partnership. He praised CGSS as the participating think tank from Pakistan & expressed his full support for a community with Shared Future. Lt Col Khalid Taimur Akram (Retd), Director of the Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future shared his thoughts at the Inauguration ceremony and highlighted the significance of the subject initiative. Stressing upon the importance of

Collaboration, Cooperation, and Interconnection in the academic domain, he mentioned that, it is necessary to take such initiatives through which the culture of joint research is promoted. He further discussed that he looks forward to strengthening the academic relations between Pakistan, China, and the rest of the world, he aims to establish a network of academic collaborations. Hence, working collectively towards making the world a

progressive and prosperous place. Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery, HI(M), (Retd) President, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad stated that, collaborations have the potential to contribute continuously to academic progress. Through the creation of this Network of Research Centers, the expertise from seven different countries are brought together providing them a single platform where they can perform collaborative re-

search and map out the causes for various global issues and may suggest solutions for the future.

The ceremony was also addressed by the heads of all the partner international institutions including,

a) Mr. Jean-Christophe Bas, CEO of Dialogue of Civilizations Research Institute, Germany

b) Mr. Koh King Kee, President of Centre For New Inclusive Asia,

c) Mr. Costa Rick Mahalu, Vice Chancellor of St. Augustine University of Tanzania

d) Mr. Getachew Dinku Godana, General Director of Ethiopian Broadcasting Authority

e) Mr. Kim Hyoung-Tae, Chief Affairs Officer of Korea Radio Broadcasting Association

f) Mr. AhnChiyoun, Dean of Academy of Chinese Studies, National Incheon University of South Korea

The Ceremony was attended by notable dignitaries including the Directors and Head of Institutions of the seven institutions from the partner countries.



## First quarter surplus

**T**HAT the country's current account has remained in surplus for the first quarter is cause for celebration, but does not quite justify the jubilation being shown in official quarters. It does not mean that the country's economic problems are over, or even that the economy has moved into the right direction. The current account experienced a surplus of \$73 million during September, taking the cumulative surplus to \$792 million. However, there needs to be some caution, because exports have not recovered, and in fact are lower than last year's first quarter, being only \$5.36 billion, as opposed to \$5.98 billion last year. Despite a massive devaluation, imports have only declined to \$10.61 from \$11 billion last year, with the result that the trade deficit has actually grown, to \$5.25 billion from \$5.05 billion. The current account was placed in surplus by worker's remittances, which were \$7.15 billion this year, as opposed to \$5.45 billion last year. That is hardly the best source to rely on, though the PTI, which relies on overseas Pakistanis, would be naturally optimistic, because the global downturn induced by the pandemic means that Pakistani labour, instead of sending remittances, would lose their jobs and return home. Money that came to Pakistan because the Hajj was suspended will dry up soon. The government should understand that the country's most lucrative markets, Europe and the USA, have begun to experience the dreaded second wave of the covid-19 pandemic, and are thus unlikely to buy Pakistani exports. The government must focus on the challenges ahead, over which it will not be able to exert any control. The problem with the jubilation by Prime Minister Imran Khan in his tweet on the news is that it indicates that he is not getting realistic assessments, which in turn will lead to economic decision-making based on his imagination, rather than the economy as it really is. Also, such celebrations may mislead those who think the economy is doing well, and thus make them make incorrect decisions. The Prime Minister should realize that having wrong ideas about the economy has real-world costs for millions of people trying to make ends meet.

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## Rising cases

**J**UST as we had thought that the Covid-19 nightmare we and the rest of the world have faced since the start of the year may have waned to a large extent, there are reports that infection cases are back and ready to claim more lives. The National Command and Control Centre run by Asad Umar has warned of an increase in cases in the country and said that this is largely due to people not following the recommended SOPs, such as wearing masks at all places outside their homes. Dr Faisal Sultan, the PM's adviser on health, has also said SOPs have to be observed otherwise there will be no choice but to impose restrictions once again. Given the impact lockdowns and other restrictions have on the economy, obviously, no one wants this. People are also tired, around the world, of the disruption in life caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. But for now, this is a menace we need to learn how to live with. It is true a vaccine is being developed, but we do not know how long it may take to make it available in mass doses to the public. It could be several months; it could be more than that. Till then the only answer is social distancing, hand-washing, and crucially, the wearing of masks. In Pakistan the positivity rate for Covid-19 is now reported at 2.58 percent. This is lower than is the case in many European countries. But it is creeping up. On Wednesday, around 28,534 people were tested across the country. Of these 736 tested positive. This is a fairly high rate. Each day, according to the NCCO, around 600 cases are being reported. But there are fears that the number will creep up. The danger needs to be reiterated to people. Warnings need to be made stronger and given out more often. At the same time, police must be asked to apprehend and fine those who are going without a mask or indulging in other behaviour which could present a risk. Somehow, we have to keep Covid-19 in control, at least until a vaccine is developed and its efficacy ascertained. Only then can we ensure that this devastating virus will not once again throw our lives into chaos.

# Politics' point of no return is dictatorship!

Attiya Munawer



Unfortunately, the claimants of democracy in the beloved homeland have been the cause of the decline of democracy, so the vehicle of democracy is coming to a standstill and is moving towards the destination by pushing, to the extent that democracy is still present in the country today

**T**HE PDM's rally in Karachi after Granwala has been a big power show in terms of its size, but government ministers are adamant that the people are not ready to be part of the opposition movement. Of course, governments do not go from the sea to the pomp of human beings, but traditionally governments are weakened by the full aggression of the opposition. As the opposition movement gains momentum, it will be a loss-making deal for the government, so it is better to resolve political issues through dialogue, while the government is taking ruthless steps to crush the PDM movement. Political tensions in the country seem to be escalating into a confrontation. This kind of political confrontation has led to the provision of extra-constitutional measures to turn democracy upside down. Political leaders have not learned any lesson from past mistakes and even today they are happy to try to spoil the death of democracy like in the past by finding ways to fight with each other. Unfortunately, the claimants of democracy in the beloved homeland have been the cause of the decline of democracy, so the vehicle of democracy is coming to a standstill and is moving towards the destination by pushing, to the extent that democracy is still present in the country today. But practically this is not the case; everyone knows who is the source of power and where decisions are made. Therefore, the political leadership seems to be prostrating at the door of the ruling forces to gain power. In a meeting with the parliamentary leaders of the opposition parties, the Army Chief reiterated his commitment to abide by the constitution and laws and to keep Pakistan Armed Forces out of politics. However,

in the politics of blame game, the leaders of the government and opposition parties have begun to engage the state institutions themselves in the process of confrontational politics. While this seems to be exacerbating the political tensions; it is not far-fetched that it will pose the same threats to the system as in the past. There is no denying the fact that the army should not have a role in politics and the army does not want to be a part of politics, but the political parties have been instrumental in forcing the army to play this role, as long as political parties aren't free from family dictatorship, parliament is not elevated, and political parties do not give up the practice of entering power through the back door, until then the restoration of full democracy in the country is not possible. The opposition is not protesting for the restoration of democracy, but for adopting unconstitutional means to save itself and gain power. In a democratic system, governments are not overthrown, but elected and constitutionally housed by parliament. There is a mechanism for sending, but it seems that both the government and the opposition do not want to adopt a democratic approach, even though the opposition has highly experienced political leaders, yet undemocratic attitudes seem to prevail. The opposition is on the agenda of overthrowing the government in any way. It is not so easy for the opposition to get the resignation of Imran Khan. If governments go through protests, then the gift of dictatorship is given. While the opposition is pursuing an unconstitutional approach to overthrow the government, and since the PTI came to power, the government's statement that it will not spare the thieves and robbers and will bring them back and lock them in the C-class jail is limited. Prime Minister

Imran Khan should fulfill his political agenda but he should also take care of the welfare of the people. At present, the economic situation of the country is so bad that due to inflation, economic misery, and mismanagement, the people are overwhelmed but it does not reach the ears of government ministers. The advisers to the Prime Minister have no idea that superficial measures alone will not solve so many complex economic problems, it will have to clarify effective strategies along with activating its administration, using the so-called Tiger Force as an institution like government machinery to achieve results is tantamount to self-deception. So, no progress will be made until the right direction of the basic details of the economy is set. Half the term of the PTI government has come to an end. Given the current situation, the rest of the term will also be spent in confrontation and bad governance. The chances of the opposition blocking protest politics, and any better performance by the government are slim. The democratic process is also one step ahead and two steps back. The political system and administrative affairs will not be able to move forward in such an intense confrontational environment. Therefore, to ensure that national state institutions abide by the Constitution and the law, it is necessary to promote the politics of tolerance and politeness in the ranks of the government and the opposition in order to create and prevent democracy from being harmed in any way. If the politics of the country continues to be pushed towards the point of no return, then democratic institutions will be rounded up in the name of democracy and the path to dictatorship will be paved.

— Attiabbutt121@gmail.com

# We need to tackle the coronavirus 'infodemic'

Dr Muhammad Jawad Noon

Despite all this, several news stories, from seemingly reputable sources, embodying misleading information regarding the link between the BCG vaccine and COVID-19 prevention are still online, without sufficient explanation or a warning that informs the readers of the study's shortcomings. Here I would also like to stress that hypothesis generating research is not redundant. It has a special place in medical literature as it forms the foundation for more sophisticated research studies. In this case, several clinical trials are under way to study the link between the BCG vaccine and COVID-19 prevention

**W**ERE not just fighting a pandemic; we're fighting an infodemic," said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the World Health Organization's director-general, at the Munich Security Conference in February. "Fake news spreads faster and more easily than this virus, and is just as dangerous." Since then, the deadly consequences of the coronavirus "infodemic" became impossible to ignore. In Iran, for example, the myth that ingesting methanol – a highly toxic form of alcohol – can kill the coronavirus led to 700 deaths and hospitalisation of 5,000 people. Social media, where the content shared by users is not subject to the same level of scrutiny as mainstream media but can reach millions, is widely seen as the main culprit behind the spread of coronavirus misinformation. An analysis of social media content from around the globe published in the first three months of this year identified more than 2,300 reports from 87 countries that incorporated rumours, stigmas and conspiracy theories related to COVID-19. Back in March, acknowledging their potential role in navigating the growing coronavirus "infodemic", Facebook, Google, LinkedIn, Microsoft, Reddit, Twitter and YouTube pledged to jointly combat "fraud and misinformation about the virus". However, given the huge number of social media users, stopping the spread of pandemic fake news on social media has proved to be a daunting task. A significant number of posts containing misinformation about the virus continue to circulate on major social media platforms to this day. In the early days of the pandemic, elected officials and experts across the world issued warnings about the prevalence of misinformation on social media platforms and encouraged people to get their coronavirus information from newspapers and TV channels instead. After social media rumours about an imminent "shelter in place" order in Massachusetts caused widespread panic, for example, Governor Charlie Baker warned his constituents that they need to "get their news from legitimate places, not from their friend's friend's friend's friend". However, it soon became obvious that TV channels and newspapers are also not immune to pandemic fake news, primarily due to their tendency to not challenge or fact-check claims made by prominent politicians and public figures. For example, when British Prime Minister Boris Johnson boasted about continuing to shake hands with "everybody" at the height of the outbreak in March, many news organisations in the country failed to highlight the danger posed by such actions in their reports on the PM's comments. And a few weeks later, in April, when Roger Stone, a former adviser to US President Donald Trump, opined against COVID-19 vaccination on a fringe radio show and claimed that "Bill Gates may have created coronavirus to microchip people", several mainstream newspapers and television channels republished his comments without checking their credibility. As Nature reporter Amy Maxmen pointed out, an article on Stone's comments published by a mainstream

news organisation, which made no effort to debunk them, "has been liked, shared, or commented on, just on Facebook, by more than a million people". Fascinated by the apparent failure of many news outlets to navigate information accurately during the pandemic, I turned my attention to different ways in which trusted media sources have spread misinformation. After coming across multiple news reports on a study linking the Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccination to protection against COVID-19, I decided to take a closer look at the study and its coverage in the media. After a quick web search, I found out that the study in question has only been published on a pre-print server, meaning it has not yet been peer reviewed. Moreover, I identified several limitations to its design, and realised that while it can serve to generate a hypothesis, it cannot be used to demonstrate causality, as also clearly stated by the authors. Despite the study and its limitations being in the public domain, it has been covered in more than 100 news reports, with many portraying it as a breakthrough in the fight against the coronavirus. A vast number of news reports failed to mention that the study is yet to be scientifically scrutinised, and to my surprise, many of them did not feel the need to explain its limitations to their audiences or engage in basic critical analysis to fully inform them about the state of the evidence. As I evaluated these news reports, I realised that one of the main problems was in the headlines. Most articles on this subject were published under sensational, ambiguous headlines that overshadowed the real findings of the research. For example, one headline referred to the BCG vaccine as a potential "silver bullet" against COVID-19, despite the study itself not nearly making such a claim. This is an important shortcoming, as research shows that when it comes to news articles, most people fail to read beyond the headline. Fearing the misinterpretation of the study's results by the public, the WHO issued a scientific brief and emphasised, "There is no evidence that the Bacille Calmette-Guérin vaccine (BCG) protects people against infection with COVID-19 virus [...]. In the absence of evidence, WHO does not recommend BCG vaccination for the prevention of COVID-19." In response to this, I also wrote a detailed article for Al Jazeera discussing the alleged link between the BCG vaccine and COVID-19, and explaining why current evidence needs to be interpreted with caution. Despite all this, several news stories, from seemingly reputable sources, embodying misleading information regarding the link between the BCG vaccine and COVID-19 prevention are still online, without sufficient explanation or a warning that informs the readers of the study's shortcomings. Here I would also like to stress that hypothesis generating research is not redundant. It has a special place in medical literature as it forms the foundation for more sophisticated research studies. In this case, several clinical trials are under way to study the link between the BCG vaccine and COVID-19 prevention. The results of these trials will further

shed light on the extent of the BCG vaccine's effectiveness against COVID-19. Until we have robust evidence, it is wiser to refrain from unwarranted speculations. As I try to attract attention to some of the media's inadequacies during the pandemic, my intention is not to encourage people not to trust mainstream news sources or urge politicians to censor or control the dissemination of news about the pandemic. I am certainly not trying to undermine the work of any researcher, or the freedom of expression either. My sole aim is to emphasise the need to be more cautious during these turbulent times, especially as people's lives are at stake. Responsible journalism that disseminates verified information, debunks dubious content and publicises good science is an antidote to misinformation and serves as the backbone of our fight against pandemic fake news. The news media, rather than contributing to the "infodemic" for ratings and clicks, can easily help hinder the spread of misinformation by taking a few simple steps: First, media outlets should challenge dubious claims made by politicians and public figures about the pandemic, swiftly and publicly. They should caution the audience when covering unverified information, and where possible, refute the misleading claims. Second, they should insist on framing the articles they publish on the issue with clear, informative, and accurate headlines. Third, they should urge contributing writers and panelists to refrain from making unsubstantiated claims or referring to studies and theories that have not been scientifically scrutinised. Fourth, they should solicit articles from experts that scrutinise and put in context the available evidence to keep readers well-informed. As news consumers, we can also help defeat the growing "infodemic" by rethinking how we acquire information – most importantly by steering clear of social media and relying on informed, detailed and well-referenced news pieces. Rather than taking the words of politicians, public figures and social media influencers at face value, we should consult websites that promote evidence-based science and publish articles by experts when we look for information on the pandemic. The United Nations' specialised agencies, like the WHO, and independent public health bodies, like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the United States, regularly publish authoritative content, thus are excellent sources to verify COVID-19 related information. We need to be more sceptical about the information around us. We need to make sure that we do not spread any news until we have verified it through multiple authentic sources. No matter how big or small, every effort in the right direction has the potential to make a big difference. In the fight against COVID-19, and the "infodemic" that accompanies it, every individual matters and every effort counts. In the words of Rumi, the great Persian poet and philosopher: "You are not a drop in the ocean. You are the entire ocean, in a drop."

— Courtesy: Al Jazeera

## Briefs

## Dubai breaks world record for largest fountain

DNA

DUBAI: The glitzy emirate of Dubai broke the record for the world's largest fountain on Thursday, as the Gulf city seeks to boost its hard-hit tourism sector amid the coronavirus pandemic. The Palm Fountain, which covers an area of 14,366 square feet (1,335 square metres), is located at The Pointe shopping and dining district on Palm Jumeirah, a man-made palm-shaped island. Mask-clad people, in keeping with coronavirus safety measures, gathered on Thursday evening to watch a show of dancing jets of water, music and lights. "GWR is delighted to officially see The Palm Fountain breaking the title of the Largest fountain," Shaddy Gaad, Senior Marketing Manager at Guinness World Records said in a statement. "This fountain is an example of another milestone in Dubai's architectural achievements," it said, adding that Guinness was declaring it "Officially Amazing". Dubai, one of the seven emirates that make up the United Arab Emirates, already holds a string of world record titles - including the world's tallest building, Burj Khalifa, and the fastest police car in service, a Bugatti Veyron. The city that attracts millions of tourists had already one of the largest fountains in the world near Burj Khalifa.

## Nawaz will be in jail by Jan 15, says Shibli

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against the "demoralising and shocking" treatment of the police chief in the events that led to the arrest of PML-N leader Captain Safdar. Captain Safdar had landed in a controversy on Sunday when he raised PML-N's slogan of "vote ko izzat do [give respect to vote]" while standing inside the innermost sanctum of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's mausoleum. The act was decried by many as being disrespectful in the least, and violative of the laws protecting the sanctity of the Quaid-i-Azam's Mazar in the most - a crime which carries a maximum sentence of three years' imprisonment and/or a fine. A case was subsequently filed against him and Maryam Nawaz for violating the sanctity of the mazar.

## Qureshi urges UN to exert itself on Kashmir

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He said led by 'Hindutva' ideology, the BJP-RSS regime in India is incessantly resorting to aggressive posturing against Pakistan and other neighbouring countries that seriously imperils regional peace and security. Shah Mahmood Qureshi said the UN Day reminds us of our collective responsibility to abide by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and lends an opportunity to renew our commitment to the noble ideals enshrined in it. The Foreign Minister reiterated Pakistan's firm and abiding commitment to multilateralism, with the United Nations playing a central role. He said Pakistan's contribution to the UN Peacekeeping is one of the most visible manifestations of our commitment to multilateralism. Pakistan is one of the longest-serving and largest contributors to the UN peacekeeping. Since 1960, we have contributed over 200,000 peacekeepers to 46 Peacekeeping Missions around the world. The Foreign Minister said Pakistan also continues to co-host one of the oldest Peacekeeping Missions - the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan. He said Pakistan also continues to host 3 million registered and unregistered Afghan refugees, which remains one of the most protracted refugee crises in the world.

## Armenian forces continue to target civilian Azerbaijani population

After targeting cities of Ganja and Mingachevir earlier, this is yet another attempt by Armenia to perpetrate new heinous crimes against peaceful population of Azerbaijan

DNA

BAKU: Since September 27, 2020 the armed forces of Armenia have been indiscriminately targeting the civilian population, private houses and civilian infrastructure in Azerbaijan. By doing so, Armenia grossly violates its obligations under international humanitarian law, including the 1949 Geneva Conventions and its Additional Protocols as well as disrespects the humanitarian ceasefire declared on October 10 and 18. On October 22 morning time, Armenia launched six operational-tactical ballistic missiles from its territory (Gafan and Jermukh regions) deliberately targeting residential areas and civilian infrastructure in Azerbaijan. 3 out of 6 missiles were fired at the Siyazan region at about 07.00 am, 2 missiles at the Gabala region, and 1 missile at the Kurdamir region at about 09.00am. Siyazan, Kurdemir and Gabala regions of Azerbaijan are located far away from the zone of military operations. After targeting cities of Ganja and Mingachevir earlier, this is yet another attempt by Armenia to perpetrate new heinous crimes against peaceful population of Azerbaijan. By launching the attacks, Armenia attempts to expand the



geography of the conflict zone that only serve to aggravate and escalate the situation. As a result, resident of Hajjaly village of the Gabalaregion - Murad Amirbeyov (2003) received various injuries. Five houses in the village were severely damaged. According to Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action's (ANAMA) special teams inspecting the operation site in the Gabala region it was determined that the missiles launched were "8K-14" ballistic (SCUD-type). Also, Armenia targeted Oghuz-Gabala-Baku water pipeline, which supplies drinking water to the Absheron Peninsula and is of special strategic importance for Azerbaijan. Fortunately, Azerbaijan Air Defense Forces neutralized the missile and its parts consequently, fell in the 250 meters perimeter from the pipeline. As of 21st of October, totally 63 civilians, including 8 children and 18 women were killed, 293 civilians (including 32 children and 69 women) have been hospitalized with serious injuries. 2072 private houses, 90 apartment buildings and 388 civilian infrastructures were damaged and became unserviceable as a result of Armenia's indiscriminate armed attacks. Below given photos are the evidences from the scene.

## Curfews, lockdowns rain down on Europe

German health experts said it was still possible to combat the outbreak by observing recently-toughened rules on distancing and gatherings

PARIS: France extended its anti-Covid curfew to cover two-thirds of the population and Ireland locked down again on Thursday as governments warned of a dire situation in Europe where countries are registering record cases. Most European governments have been reluctant to reimpose national stay-at-home orders after previous restrictions led to deep recessions and widespread bitterness. But Ireland became the first country on the continent to re-impose a full-on lockdown on Thursday, with its five-million-strong weary population ordered to stay home for six weeks, and non-essential businesses told to shut up shop. "The infection rates, hospital occupancy rates but also death rates are rising all over Europe," warned Andrea Ammon, head of

the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, in an interview with the BBC. In Dublin, resident Jo Finn told AFP a lot of friends were struggling with mental health issues. "Because of this second lockdown we can't socialise, we can't meet up," Finn said during a muted morning rush hour. In France, meanwhile, a nighttime curfew that had already been in place in Paris and eight other cities was extended to wide swathes of the country, more than doubling the number of people affected to 46 million. "The health situation of our country continues to deteriorate," Prime Minister Jean Castex warned as France registered a record 41,622 new cases over 24 hours on Thursday, and 165 deaths. Germany, Denmark, Portugal and Italy all registered

their highest one-day tallies since the pandemic began, and a slew of other European countries are voicing alarm at rapidly rising infections. Lothar Wieler, head of the Robert Koch Institute disease control centre, said "the overall situation has become very serious". German health experts said it was still possible to combat the outbreak by observing recently-toughened rules on distancing and gatherings. For its part, Italy ordered curfews in regions that cover the capital Rome and business hub Milan. And Portugal has banned people from travelling between cities for five days starting October 30, which includes a bank holiday. Greece meanwhile declared a night curfew in Athens, Thessaloniki in the north and other areas. - APP

## Kapil Dev suffers heart attack

SPORTS DESK

MUMBAI: India's World Cup winning former captain Kapil Dev underwent emergency coronary angioplasty after suffering from a heart attack in New Delhi, reported Indian publication Times of India. The 61-year-old has reportedly undergone angioplasty at a hospital in the Indian capital and is recovering. "He is feeling okay now. I just spoke to his wife (Romi). He was feeling uneasy yesterday (Thursday). He is undergoing check-ups at a hospital as we speak," his former teammate Ashok Malhotra is quoted as saying. Kapil Dev, who made both his ODI and Test debuts against Pakistan, is regarded as one of the finest cricketers ever produced by India and captain the country to their first-ever World Cup triumph in 1983 against the might West Indies.

## Wobbling Real Madrid offers Koeman chance

DNA

MADRID: Ronald Koeman will know Barcelona can plunge Real Madrid into crisis on Saturday but for him a first Clasicos as coach is more about vindication. Inflicting a third consecutive defeat in a week on Madrid at Camp Nou would create the sort of turbulence for their opponents that Barca have grown only too used to in recent months. But as much as cranking up the pressure on Zinedine Zidane and gaining an early boost in La Liga's title race would be welcome, Koeman might claim the biggest rewards from a victory. Barcelona's new coach, appointed in August, has overseen a mid-dling start to the season, with three wins, a draw and a defeat meaning the trajectory of his project is not yet clear. Most encouraging has been Koeman's

faith in youth, which has been repaid handsomely as Ansu Fati, Francisco Trincao and Pedri have all delivered more than expected in attack. Ansu is the most established of the three, the 17-year-old who set more records by scoring again in the Champions League on Tuesday and has been arguably Barcelona's stand-out performer so far. "We go into it with the maximum motivation possible," said Fati. "It's a Clasicos, a game I have always dreamed of playing in." So impressive has he been that it would be a surprise if Ansu was not in the starting lineup this weekend. But Trincao and Pedri would be braver calls, especially considering those they would replace. The most pressing issue of Koeman's tenure is currently Antoine Griezmann, who is now on his third coach at Barcelona but still yet to find anything close to top form.

## England cricketers agree virus pay cuts

LONDON: England's centrally contracted men's cricketers have agreed to take a 15 per cent pay cut as part of cost-cutting measures due to the coronavirus pandemic. The England and Wales Cricket Board says the English game has already lost more than £100 million (\$130 million) - a figure that could rise to £200 million next year. Last month the governing body announced it was to cut 62 jobs due to the financial crisis. Bowlers Stuart Broad and Chris Woakes have said recently that players are willing to take a pay cut, which the ECB revealed on Friday would come from retainers, match fees and win bonuses. The annual contracts, which started on October 1, were understood to have been worth £650,000 for Test stars and £275,000 for white-ball performers in 2019/20. - APP



GILGIT: Players struggling to get hold on the ball in a match played between NLI and GBPWD polo teams during Jashan-e-Azadi Polo Tournament played at Shahi Polo Ground. - APP

## "Roshan Digital Account" initiative fulfills demand of overseas Pakistanis: HC

The Webinar was addressed by Governor State Bank of Pakistan Dr Reza Baqir, High Commissioner Moazzam Ahmad Khan and Deputy Governor SBP Dr Murtaza Syed

LONDON: Pakistan High Commissioner to the United Kingdom (UK) Moazzam Ahmad Khan has termed "Roshan Digital Account", a remarkable initiative of the Government of Pakistan, which has not only fulfilled a long overdue demand of the overseas Pakistanis but it would also go a long way in attracting remittances and investment to Pakistan. He was addressing "Roshan Digital Account" webinar held at the High Commission London on Thursday. The Pakistan High Commission

organized the webinar on the "Roshan Digital Account" (RDA) to highlight the initiative of the Government of Pakistan, a statement of the High Commission issued here. The Webinar was addressed by Governor State Bank of Pakistan Dr Reza Baqir, High Commissioner Moazzam Ahmad Khan and Deputy Governor SBP Dr Murtaza Syed. About 100 participants including British MPs, bankers, CEOs, financial experts, business persons and diaspora members virtually attended the

event and Q&A session. Shehzad Shafiq, Minister Trade of Pakistan High Commission London moderated the webinar. Speaking on the occasion, Governor State Bank of Pakistan said the RDA initiative of the Government of Pakistan aims at connecting the diaspora with Pakistan financially by facilitating their remittances. Speaking about the unique features of RDA, he said "it offers flexibility in regulation without compromising on the standards

and allows complete freedom to remit any amount, any time without any permission". He shared with the participants that the State Bank of Pakistan plans to introduce more such initiatives to facilitate the overseas Pakistanis. He noted that the initiative would integrate the Pakistani diaspora into the Pakistani banking and digital payments system by providing a full range of banking services. Dr Murtaza Syed, Deputy Governor SBP made a detailed

presentation on key features and benefits of "Roshan Digital Account". Zulfikar Khakhar, Head of Pakistan Remittances Initiative also spoke about a wide range of benefits for remitters/beneficiaries under the initiative. Under RDA, State Bank of Pakistan was collaborating with 08 commercial banks operating in Pakistan in which overseas Pakistan can open their accounts. All relevant information is accessible on State Bank of Pakistan's website: <https://www.sbp.org.pk/RDA/index.html>. - APP

## Madrid bans households from late night gathering

DNA

MADRID: The Madrid region's government said Friday it would ban households from gathering indoors from midnight until 6 am as part of new restrictions to fight a rise in coronavirus infections. The measures will limit capacity inside restaurants and bars to 50 percent and they will have to close at midnight, said the Madrid region's top health official, Enrique Ruiz Escudero. "The news measures drastically reduce social activity, especially at night," he told a news conference. Cinemas and gyms will be required to reduce their capacity to 50 percent and university residences must close at midnight. Gatherings between 6 am and midnight will remain limited to groups of six people. The measures will come into effect on Saturday when a two-week partial lockdown imposed on Madrid, which is also the Spanish capital, and several surrounding cities by the central government ends. The regional government of Madrid announced the new measures a day after a meeting between the central government and regional health authorities failed to reach a consensus on the need for nighttime curfews. Prime minister Pedro Sanchez was set to make a statement on the results of this meeting at 1100 GMT (1300 local time) Friday, according to his office. Two other regions, Castilla and Leon and Valencia, said they would move to impose a nighttime curfew on their own, while the southern region of Andalusia said it would do so in the city of Granada. Spain earlier this week became the first European Union nation to record a million coronavirus infections.

## Pakistan remain on FATF's grey list

From Page 01

these six items for an onsite visit to be granted. "As soon as the plenary decides that Pakistan has completed all the 27 items, then an onsite visit will be made. After that, it will be decided whether the country will be allowed to exit the grey list or not." He said that the new deadline for Pakistan to fulfill the remaining conditions is February 2021 when the next plenary meeting will take place. "As long as Pakistan can be seen progressing and fulfilling the requirements, it will be given a chance. There are some countries which are not making progress and have been placed on the black list," said Dr Pleyer. Meanwhile, two countries - Iceland and Mongolia - were removed from the FATF's "black list". Reacting to the decision, Minister for Industries and Production Hammad Azhar said that Pakistan has "achieved impressive progress" on its FATF action plan. He said that 21 out of 27 action items "now stand cleared" and the remaining 6 are "partially complete".

## Erdogan confirms test of Russian missile system

ISTANBUL: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Friday confirmed the first test last week of a controversial Russian missile defense system, as he dismissed US criticism. The US State Department last week condemned NATO ally Turkey over the test after repeated warnings over possible sanctions if the S-400 system was activated. "It is true about the tests, they have been done and will continue," Erdogan told reporters in Istanbul after reports last Friday the Turkish army conducted the test firing of the S-400s. "We're not going to ask America for permission. Erdogan stressed that the US' opinion on the issue "did not bind" Turkey, adding: "If we're not going to test what we have in our hands, what else would we do?" There had been hope in Washington that Ankara would "keep it in the box" but Turkey had always insisted the S-400s would be deployed after their delivery last year. "We have also been clear on the potential serious consequences for our security relationship if Turkey activates the system," State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortugus said last Friday. - APP



**Briefs**

**Fawad Ch announces 'first OTT platform'**

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Independent content creators and the entertainment industry, in general, may be in for some much-needed reform as Fawad Chaudhry, the Federal Minister for Science and Technology, announced Pakistan's first OTT network. Chaudhry took to his Twitter handle on Friday to share the news, writing, "We at the Ministry of Science and Technology are all set to launch Pakistan's first OTT TV (Pak version of #Netflix)," adding that the technical part of the project had already been covered and complete. "Have asked PEMRA to prepare a guideline on content and we will be all set to launch in PPP mode, it'll be just another humble contribution," he further shared. Chaudhry also expressed that he is hopeful that the platform will be functional soon, providing a space for local visionaries. The need for a local OTT platform has been highlighted more in recent months after several Pakistani originals were picked up by Indian streaming platforms. Talking to a local news organization, Abbasi had addressed the need and importance of OTT platforms. "Streaming platforms give power back to the content creators. Their mandate of diversification allows for new voices to come to the forefront," he explained.

**New registered voters surpass over 9.79m**

ISLAMABAD: Over 9.79 million new voters have been registered as compared to last general election 2018 when the total registered voters were 105,955,409. According to data shared by ECP, the commission has registered overall 9,793,344 new voters while the total number of registered voters has reached 115,748,753 with 64,080,419 (55 percent) males and 51,668,334 (45 percent) females. As per data of final electoral rolls, Punjab with 66,236,144 voters, including 36,372,639 males (55 percent) and 29,863,505 females (45 percent) leads in terms of total number of voters, followed by Sindh with 24,351,681 registered voters, including 13,444,314 males (55 percent) and 10,907,367 females (45 percent). Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has 19,533,964 registered voters, including 11,076,724 males (57 percent) and 8,457,240 females (43 percent) and Balochistan has 4,801,131 total registered voters, including 2,754,005 males (57 percent) and 2,047,126 females (43 percent). — APP

**No specified routes for drug trafficking**

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: The Senate was informed on Friday that there are no specified routes which are used for drug trafficking at Pakistan's border areas. Responding to a question during Question Hour in Islamabad on Friday, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan said terrain offers many opportunities to traffickers for adopting infrequent routes. He said seventeen federal and fourteen provincial agencies are working to control drug smuggling in the country. He said intelligence network of ANF has been expanded inside main cities to locate and hung drug smugglers. He said FM-101 dedicated time for 03:00 to 04:00pm has been earmarked to ANF where masses are being given awareness on drugs and its adverse effects. Responding to another question, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan told House that government is taking special initiatives to maximize registration of females. Responding to points of PPP Leader Raza Rabbani, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan said government is committed to carry forward China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project successfully.

**Around 751 Pakistanis benefit from Malaysian technical programme**

The MTCP was first initiated at the First Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Sydney in February 1978. Subsequently it was established in 1980 as a manifestation of Malaysia's commitment to South-South cooperation: High Commissioner Ikram Ibrahim

**EXCLUSIVE**

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Malaysia Ikram Muhammad Ibrahim has said a total of 751 Pakistani nationals have received training under Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) adding over 34,000 officials from 144 countries have attended the MTCP so far. The high commissioner announced this on the occasion of dinner he hosted for the alumni of MTCP at the Malaysia Home. A large number of alumni, members of the civil society and media attended the dinner. The high commissioner further said both Malaysia and Pakistan enjoy excellent relations. He said due to COVID 19 the MTCP could take place this year however he hoped the program shall resume from next year. High Commissioner Ikram Ibrahim added, the MTCP was first initiated at the First Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Sydney in February 1978. Subsequently it was established in 1980 as a manifestation of Malaysia's commitment to South-South cooperation. In line with the spirit of South-South cooperation, Malaysia through MTCP has been sharing its development experiences and expertise with other developing countries. He said, the MTCP is remised on the principle that the development of a country is dependent on the quality of its human capital and resources. The human capital development and capacity building programmes under the MCTCP reflect Malaysia's established commitment towards promoting technical regional and sub regional cooperation, as well as nurturing collective self reliance among the developing countries. The high commissioner went on to say, the MTCP encompasses eleven key broad areas, namely professional services, public administration and management, economy and trade, science, technology and ICT, INDUSTRIAL, FINANCE, di-



plomacy, health services, humanitarian, academic, education and social development. While dilating upon the objectives of the MTCP the high commissioner said the objectives include sharing development experience with other developing countries, to strengthen bilateral relations between Malaysia and other developing countries, to encourage and promote South-South cooperation and to encourage and promote technical cooperation among the developing countries. Throwing light on MTCP cooperation framework the high commissioner said provision of long term fellowship and scholarship for post graduate and undergraduate courses at Malaysian public universities, provision of short term specialized training for participants at various training institutions and government agencies

in Malaysian and study visits and practical attachment at participating government agencies in Malaysia. Ambassador Abdul Basit spoke on behalf of the alumni and thanked the ambassador for hosting them at his residence. Ambassador Basit said he was deeply touched with the way Malaysia had made development in various fields, when he visited this wonderful country.

It may be mentioned here that for 30 years the MTCP was under the purview of the economic planning unit of the PM department of Malaysia. Since 2010 MFA Malaysia has been the custodian agency of the programme with the aim of providing the synergy and support it requires in line with Malaysia's foreign policy. As the focal point, MFA Malaysia is responsible to formulate poli-

cies, fund, coordinate, monitor and evaluate the MTCP. These entail prioritizing the developing countries of strategic interests, focusing on Malaysia's areas of expertise, offering demand-driven courses, cultivating potential participants who would later serve as friends of Malaysia fostering public private partnership and collaborating with new development partners beyond the MTCP's traditional partners.

**Pakistan's Civil Awards conferred on Chinese dignitaries in Beijing**

The President had conferred the prestigious "HILAL-I-IMTIAZ" upon Dr. Zhao Baige and "SITARA-I-PAKISTAN" upon Ms. Geng Ying for services to Pakistan

DNA

BEIJING: Ambassador Moin-ul-Haq presented "Pakistan Civil Awards" on behalf of the President of Pakistan to two leading Chinese personalities at an investiture ceremony held here in the Pakistan Embassy. The President had conferred the prestigious "HILAL-I-IMTIAZ" upon Dr. Zhao Baige and "SITARA-I-PAKISTAN" upon Ms. Geng Ying for services to Pakistan. According to Gwadar Pro, Dr. Zhao Baige is the Vice-Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC). Talking to China Economic Net (CEN), Zhao Baige said it's a great honor for her to achieve this award but it is also a great responsibility. "In the past six years we have been working very closely for CPEC and also we tried

to promote people-to-people dialogue including young generation dialogue, which I really think for two countries people need to promote such kind of relationship," she added. Dr. Zhao said, she served as a Deputy Director of the National Population and Family Commission of China. She graduated from the University of Cambridge with a Doctorate Degree in 1989 and started her work with the National Population and Family Planning Commission in 1998. "After the awarding, I will try my best to work for this kind of friendship especially next year two countries celebrating 70th-year diplomatic ties and I think we can do a lot of work not only government to government but also people to people" she mentioned. As Chair of the "Belt and Road" International Think Tank under the Chinese

Academy of Social Science (CASS), Research and Development International (RDI), she launched the Karamay Initiative aiming to promote economic and commercial ties between Pakistan and China. She has led many delegations to Pakistan to advance the ongoing economic cooperation, promotion of investment, people-to-people exchanges, and collaboration between the intelligentsia and think tanks. In recognition of her outstanding services to Pakistan Hilale-Imtiaz was conferred upon her. Addressing guests at the ceremony, Ambassador Moin-ul-Haq said that we pay tribute to our heroes, we need to remind ourselves that people are truly ambassadors of our respective countries. He said it is our duty to tell younger generations this tradition of Pakistan-China friendship. "As an ambassador, it would

be his commitment and devotion to take this relationship to even greater heights, which will not only serve the best interest of the two countries but will also ensure peace, stability, and prosperity in the entire region and beyond," he stated. Ms. Geng Ying is the President of China Cultural Heritage Foundation (CCHF). She is a great patron of Chinese art, culture and has organized a large number of art exhibitions in China and worldwide. Ms. Geng and CCHF played a key role in the publication of "Pak-Cheen Dosti", a bilingual anthology of poetry on Pakistan-China friendship. She was also prominently involved in the project to start a "Friendship Bamboo" plantation in the Chinese city of Wuhan using saplings from the erstwhile residence of the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan in Karachi.

**Jadhav foiled conspiracy of Indian diplomats**

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD— Kulbhushan Jadhav has foiled conspiracy of Indian diplomats for sabotaging the consular access to him as Indian Charge d'Affaires Gaurav Ahluwalia and the spy traded barbs during the meeting, diplomatic sources. Diplomatic sources revealed that Gaurav Ahluwalia and Kulbhushan Jadhav traded barbs during a meeting after the provision of consular access by the Pakistani authorities on July 16 over insistence the Indian charge d'affaires. During the meeting, Ahluwalia declared Jadhav a mentally absent and insane which led the Indian spy to slam the diplomat over his remarks. He told the visiting diplomats for how could they declare a senior commission officer of Indian Navy mentally absent and insane person despite he is in good health condition. Sources said that Pakistani authorities had earlier granted permission to one diplomat from Indian High Commission to meet Kulbhushan Jadhav.

**Nawaz upset over PML leaders, Shahbaz meeting**

NEWS DESK / DNA

ISLAMABAD: A secret meeting of three senior PML-N leaders with Shahbaz Sharif on the "request" of a senior representative of the 'establishment' has "upset" former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. The publication, citing informed sources, said Nawaz was unhappy when he was told that top party leaders Khawaja Asif, Ahsan Iqbal and Rana Tanvir Hussain had met Shahbaz while he was in the custody of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on the "request" of a senior representative of the establishment". Prime Minister Imran Khan's Advisor on Accountability and Interior Barrister Shahzad Akbar had also revealed in a recent press briefing that the PML-N president is holding 'secret' meetings in jail, but refused to divulge any details. PML-N sources, however, said that their party delegation had met Shahbaz Sharif with a message for him. "Before this contact, an effort was made to contact Nawaz Sharif but he refused to entertain those knocking at his door while carrying a message from the establishment," the report said.

**Pak starts IMO elections campaign**

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Maritime Affairs has started a vigorous diplomatic campaign for winning the elections for International Maritime Organization's (IMO) category C being held next year. According to ministry, after 1999, the present government had decided to take part in the elections of IMO, said a press release issued here on Friday. In this regard, diplomats and ambassadors were briefed here about the Blue Economy vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan and federal minister for Maritime Affairs Ali Haider Zaidi. The minister said that previous year, he went IMO and for the first time any Pakistani Minister also delivered speech at IMO. He informed the diplomats that Pakistan would contest elections for Category C at IMO next year. The briefing was attended by diplomats and ambassadors of Bahrain, Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Turkmenistan, Yemen, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Haider Zaidi that Pakistan had no shortage of resources and efforts was being underway to bring prosperity with good governance Blue Economy concept was introduced by Prime Minister Imran Khan's government' for the first time. He said the port authorities were running the cities all over in the world, adding that New York Port Authority ran the whole city. He said that New York Airport, Train, Bus Service and Link Tunnel was owned by New York Port Authority. With construction Port, all the development work being carried by the Port Authority under its jurisdiction, he added. The minister said that after becoming Minister for Maritime Affairs, he desired to bring prosperity through ports in Karachi. Haider Zaidi said that for the first time in country history, the present government was giving top priority to the ports and sea trade. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Maritime Affairs hosted the Ambassadors of different countries and briefed them about the initiatives taken by ministry for revamping this sector. — DNA