



# Islamabad POST

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**Tayyip Erdogan says Emmanuel Macron needs treatment**

**Pakistani people pay homage to victims of Armenian attacks**

**Colorful graduation ceremony of Somali students at Serena**



## Briefs

### FM warns against xenophobia

NEHAL MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has urged the international community to show common resolve against xenophobia, intolerance, stigmatization and incitement to violence on the basis of religion and belief. In a tweet, he said at a time of rising racism, ultranationalism and populism, we must work together for peaceful coexistence and interfaith harmony.

### NAB to bring the corrupt to justice

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Justice @Javed Iqbal Chairman NAB has called a high level meeting on Monday. The meeting was attended by Deputy Chairman NAB, Prosecutor General Accountability, DG Operations and all DGs of Regional Bureaus. During the meeting, strategy to further revamp Operation and Prosecution Divisions of NAB will be chalked out in order to vigorously pursue NAB's references in the respected accountability courts besides further improvement of the performance of all Regional Bureaus in conduct of complaint verifications, inquires, investigations on the basis of solid evidence as per law. It was informed that on the directions of the Chairman NAB, the Prosecution Division is being revamped by inducting experienced legal consultants/special prosecutors.

### No NRO for corrupt mafia: Fayyaz

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Fayyaz-ul-Hassan Chohan has said that government will not give NRO to opposition even if they climb K2 Mountain or Burj Khalifa. Fayyaz-ul-Hassan, in a statement said that with Quetta rally, Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) will secure hat-trick of failures. Opposition is so divided that Bilawal Bhutto Zardari preferred Gilgit-Baltistan campaign over Quetta rally, he said.

## BLASPHEMOUS CARTOONS

# PM Imran slams French President

Imran Khan says French president 'deliberately provoked' Muslims by hurting their sentiments

NAVEED MIRAJ / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan slammed French President Emmanuel Macron over his anti-Muslim attitude on Sunday, criticising him for hurting the sentiments of millions of Muslims around the world. The French president is being criticised with protests breaking out in several cities across the world after Macron accused Muslims of separatism and vowed not to give up cartoons depicting the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). His comments came in response to the beheading of a teacher, Samuel Paty, a 47-year-old teacher, who was attacked on his way home from the junior high school where he taught in Conflans-Sainte-Honorine, 40 kilometres northwest of Paris. The teacher had shown cartoons disrespecting Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), according to media reports. In a series of tweets on Saturday, the prime minister, while presenting examples of the iconic leader Nelson Mandela, said that this is a time when President Macron could have

put the healing touch and denied space to extremists rather than "creating further polarisation and marginalisation that inevitably leads to radicalisation". "It is unfortunate that he has chosen to encourage Islamophobia by attacking Islam rather than the terrorists who carry out violence,"

Continued on Page 06

### Macron 'needs mental treatment'

DNA

ANKARA: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan has suggested the French President Macron to get his mind checked. He made these remarks after the French President allowed displaying of blasphemous cartoons of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). France has recalled its ambassador from Turkey after statement of the Turkish President. - (Related news on Page 6)

## Pakistan condemns Islamophobic campaign

SAIFULLAH / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has condemned systematic Islamophobic campaign under the garb of freedom of expression. Foreign Office, in a statement issued on Sunday, said Pakistan condemns in the strongest manner the systematic resurgence of blasphemous acts of republication of caricatures of the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) and desecration of the Holy Quran by certain irrespons-



ble elements in some developed countries. It said we are further alarmed at highly disturbing statements by certain politicians justifying such heinous acts under the garb of freedom of expression and equating Islam with terrorism, for narrow electoral and political gains. It said under international human rights law, the exercise of the right to freedom of expression carries with it special duties and responsibilities. The Foreign Office said dissemination of racist ideas, defamation and ridiculing of other religions, denigration of religious personalities, hate speech, and incitement to violence are not allowed expressions of this fundamental freedom.

### FIA arrests 'RAW sleeper cell member'

The suspect was involved in attacks on MQM-Haqiqi leader Afaq

KARACHI: The Counter-Terrorism Wing of the Federal

Investigation Agency (FIA) arrested a worker of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-London (MQM-L) for allegedly having links with Indian spy agency, Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), media reported. According to a spokesperson for the FIA, the officials conducted a raid in Karachi's Gulistan-e-Jauhar and arrested a suspect, Abdul Jabbar, alias Zafar Tension. "The suspect is an expert in bomb-making and using modern sophisticated weapons," the spokesperson claimed, adding that Jabbar was an employee of the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KSWB) and had visited India four times for military training. As per details from the FIA, the suspect was a member of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-London (MQM-L) and part of a RAW sleeper cell in Karachi. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Ms. Wajiha Akram, Chairman, Parliamentary Secretary Professional Education and Training and Ambassador of Somalia Khadija Mohamed Almakhoumi giving certificate to the graduating students on the occasion of graduation ceremony of Somali students studying in Pakistan. ( News on back page) - DNA

### Poor PTCL services irk customers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Poor services of PTCL continue to irk customers. Adding fire to the fuel, the 1218 service of PTCL has miserably failed to rectify complaints of customers on time. Due to this fact, a number of customers have switched to other telecom networks. It may be mentioned here that a customer got his phone number shifted almost four months ago. After installation he received a call from 1218 asking to press 1 if the number is installed and working. The customer did the same. But even after lapse of four months 1218 continues to call the same customer at his cell number 03335203232 whether his number has been shifted or not. This call is made even at odd hours. Similarly telephone numbers 2261960, 2280072 and 2266165 installed in Sector G 8 Markaz remain out of order even for weeks. Upon contacting the said line man comes up with the excuse that since he is alone and he has to cover the entire sector therefore he cannot attend to all complaints. It has been observed that after privatization the PTCL services have degraded significantly. Customers are left with no option but to switch the network. Whether it is at office in any city of Pakistan or at home of a small village, PTCL is clearly failing to serve its customers.

## It is time to change country's fate: PDM

Among the PDM leadership, PML (N) Maryam Nawaz and PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressed the supporters

BUREAU REPORT

QUETTA: The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) held its third anti-government rally in the city on Sunday despite a warning from the government that militants can target the public gathering. Among the PDM leadership, PML-N vice president Maryam Nawaz and PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari have addressed the large show of supporters

### Shibli condemns anti-state remarks

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Syed Shibli Faraz has condemned opposition leaders for hurling attacks on country's integrity and

who have gathered to hear the Opposition leaders speak. Maryam began by saying sentiments of Pakistanis were hurt after depictions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) were projected onto government buildings in France. The PML-N vice-president also lamented over the non-provision of scholarships to the students of Balochistan. "The students of Balochistan and Punjab are close to my heart."

### Global problems need global action

EU envoy Androulla Kaminara lauds services of the UN

ISLAMABAD: European Union Ambassador to Pakistan Androulla Kaminara Sunday said collective and joint efforts were required to address pressing global challenges of an increasingly complex world such as the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change. The United Nations, which marked its 75th anniversary on Saturday, was a unique platform

for bringing together the international community to provide global responses to such global problems, she said while talking to APP. The world body, she said, had already made tremendous achievements and rendered services in diverse fields and areas, including conflict prevention and resolution, development cooperation and humanitarian assistance. - DNA

### Three killed in Quetta blast

DNA

QUETTA: Three people were killed and three others injured in a bomb blast at Hazarganji locality of Quetta on Sunday. According to police sources, the explosive material was planted in a motorcycle. The injured were shifted to civil hospital Quetta for treatment. Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Jam Kamal Khan while strongly condemning the Hazarganji bomb blast has sought the report.

## Pakistani people pay homage to victims of Armenian missiles attacks

President ICCI, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan says that people of Pakistan are firmly standing with their brethren from Azerbaijan; Armenia is war criminal, says Ali Alizada

A.M.BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Ali Alizada has pledged that Nagorno-Karabakh will be fully liberated by Azerbaijan's valorous armed forces. The war crimes committed by the Armenia will be put to an end. He reiterated that Armenia must respect the United Nations Security Council resolutions and make an unconditional and immediate withdrawal from occupied territories of Azerbaijan. The ambassador, along with Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, president of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Investment (ICCI), was visiting the special corner established at Centaurus, the largest shopping center of Islamabad. The special corner has the latest photographs from the war affected region of Azerbaijan. The corner was established to commemorate the victims of Armenian aggression and to spread awareness about Armenian war crimes in Karabakh. Talking to media representatives, President ICCI, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that people of Pakistan are firmly stand-



ing with their brethren from Azerbaijan. He further said that Armenia is an aggressor and has illegally occupied the Azerbaijan's lands. It is time that United Nations must put an end to the plight of Karabakh, Kashmir and Palestine. The ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, Ali Alizada hailed the efforts

of the President ICCI, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan for arranging the commemoration ceremony. He thanked government of Pakistan for its firm stance on the conflict and supporting Azerbaijan narrative. It may be mentioned here that Azerbaijani forces have been fighting the ag-



gressor Armenia in order to safeguards its national and territorial integrity. Armenia, so far, has targeted hundreds of civilians due to which many innocent people have lost their lives. A similar commemoration ceremony is planned in the Diplomatic Enclave on Monday October 26. The venue shall be

open for laying of floral wreaths from 5 pm to 10 pm. Members of the diplomatic community shall lay floral wreaths in order to commemorate those who lost lives as a result of Armenian aggression. - (Full coverage of the event shall be published in the coming issue of CENTRELINE magazine).

## Inside...

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Morocco supports Libyan ceasefire agreement - Page 06

Agricultural techair opens in Shaanxi - Page 07

Colorful graduation ceremony of Somali students at Serena Hotel - Page 08



## Briefs

NAB teams  
raid  
go-downs in  
Kashmore

DNA

SUKKUR: The National Accountability Bureau Sukkur conducted raids at 15 government go-downs in Kashmore for the second day. The NAB teams conducted raids at difference food department centres and taken record in its custody, sources said. The NAB teams raided food department's wheat purchase centres and warehouses in Kashmore and Kandhkot. The accountability bureau officials inspected the wheat stock and found hundreds of bags missing, according to NAB sources. Director General NAB Sukkur has ordered action against the government officers allegedly involved in misappropriation of unaccounted wheat stocks. Around 60,000 bags of 100 KG wheat were found missing from the food department's centres, NAB sources said. The value of un-traced wheat bags is around 250 million rupees, according to accountability bureau sources.

Two terror  
suspects  
killed

DNA

SUKKUR: Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of police on Sunday claimed to kill two terrorists in an encounter at Sukkur/Jaffarabad road. The motorbike riding terrorists opened fire at the police when they were signaled to stop at Jaffarabad road, CTD officials said. Two terror suspects were injured in retaliatory fire and arrested by policemen, according to the officials. The injured were succumbed to their injuries while on the way to hospital. "The two men were experts to make suicide jackets," in-charge CTD claimed. Police recovered material used for making suicide vests, two pistols and a motorcycle, CTD in-charge official said. "Slain terrorists were involved in attacks on security forces," police official claimed. "They were involved in scores of attacks during 2008-10 period", he said.

## Celebrating birth of Holy Prophet (SAW) part of Muslim's faith: Gulzar

The Commissioner and RPO said that on the occasion of Eid-ul-Milad-un-Nabi, where the world of Islam is expressing its sentiments with full enthusiasm and religious devotion, the anti-national and anti-Islamic forces are also mobilized for the fulfillment of their nefarious aims

DNA

GUJRANWALA: Gujranwala Commissioner Gulzar Hussain Shah and RPO Gujranwala Riaz Nazir Gara have said that celebrating the birth of the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) and expressing love for him in one's own way is a fundamental part of every Muslim's faith and without any doubt, no Muslim's religion and faith can be complete without love for the Holy Prophet. The commissioner and the RPO

expressed these views while addressing the Deputy Commissioners, CPOs, DPOs, Chairman Divisional Peace Committee Qari Zahid Saleem and esteemed members from across the division who participated in the video link meeting of the Divisional Peace Committee. The Commissioner and RPO said that on the occasion of Eid-ul-Milad-un-Nabi, where the world of Islam is expressing its sentiments with full enthusiasm and religious devotion, the anti-national and anti-Islamic forces are also mo-

bilized for the fulfillment of their nefarious aims. "It is the duty of the religious leaders and members of the peace committees to work with the district administration and the police to thwart these destructive and anti-peace forces by demonstrating ideal peace and unity, brotherhood and religious harmony," they said. They said that on the auspicious occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi, all possible means would be utilized for the establishment of peace, provision of best municipal services and

fulfillment of other governmental responsibilities so that the devotees of Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (PBUH) could fully participate in these processions and gatherings. The commissioner said that instructions have also been issued for the provision of street lights, proper sanitation facilities and removal of encroachments on the procession routes. About the security arrangements, the RPO said that more than 7816 police officers and men have been deployed for 496 processions in the division

on 12th Rabi-ul-Awal. In addition, 1437 national volunteers will also perform security duties on the occasion. Chairman Divisional Peace Committee Qari Zahid Saleem and other members expressed satisfaction over the administrative and security measures and assured that the ulema and religious scholars would fully cooperate with the administration for the implementation of all government directives and code of conduct and to ensure maintenance of law and order across the division.

Coronavirus  
infects 832  
in one day

LAHORE: Pakistan has reported 9 deaths in last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 327,895. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 6,736. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NOC) 832 persons have been tested positive for COVID-19 in 24 hours. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pandemic in terms of cases followed by Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad. Till now 143,526 coronavirus cases have been confirmed in Sindh, 102,677 in Punjab, 39,015 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 18,921 in Islamabad, 15,801 in Balochistan, 3,788 in Azad Kashmir and 4,167 in Gilgit-Baltistan. — DNA

APNS lauds  
release of reporter

DNA

KARACHI: The APNS expresses its appreciation over the release of the abducted Geo News and Jang group senior reporter Ali Imran Syed after 22 hours on the strong protest of media and human rights organisations. Mr Hameed Haroon President and Sarhad Ali Secretary General of All Pakistan Newspapers Society have stated that the disappearance of Mr Ali Imran was strongly condemned as a pressure tactic on journalists and the media in performing their professional duties. The APNS office bearers thanked the Prime Minister for forming a fact finding committee in this regard and hoped that

this will help identify elements involved in activities of harassing the media. The APNS office bearers stated that there is an increasing perception that the freedom of press is being eroded and physical as well as financial security of journalists and media is being targeted. These practices have resulted in hampering and distorting the democratic dispensation as well as development of a civilised society in Pakistan. The peoples right to know and freedom of press must be respected for the formation of a country where rule of law prevails. They urged upon the government to provide security to and protect the lives and freedom of journalists.

Another PML-N  
MPA meets CM

DNA

LAHORE: Another lawmaker of opposition party, Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), Faisal Khan Niazi, has met Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar after Jalil Sharaquri. The opposition lawmakers from Punjab Assembly have continued holding meetings with Punjab chief minister as Faisal Khan Niazi called on Usman Buzdar today where he discussed issues of his constituency, welfare and development pro-

jects. CM Usman Buzdar assured him for resolving public issues in his constituency and consideration of recommendations tabled by him. The chief minister criticised that those creating chaos are the enemies of development of the country besides hiding their corruption. He said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is the most popular political party of the country under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan. The opposition parties wanted to stop the journey towards development and prosperity.



Karachi: Milestone certificate being signed between officials of Karachi Shipyard & Engineering works and M/s ASFAT. — DNA

DC, CPO visit  
market

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali, CPO Sohail Ch. visited the fruit and vegetable market Muhammad Abad and reviewed the process of auction for different vegetables and fruit.

Keel laying of Milgem Class  
Corvette Pak Navy held at Karachi

The Chief Guest underscored that Turkey appreciates and supports Pakistan's principle stance over Azerbaijan right of self-defence and Kashmir issue

ATHAR SUFI

KARACHI: The keel laying ceremony of 2nd MILGEM Class Corvette for Pakistan Navy held at Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works (KS&EW). Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Turkey, H.E Mr. Hulusi Akar, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The ceremony was attended by Minister for Defence Production, Ms Zubaida Jalal and Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi. While addressing the ceremony, the honorable Chief Guest termed Keel laying of PN MILGEM Corvette as a historic event for Ministry of Defence Production, Pakistan Navy, KS&EW and M/s ASFAT of Turkey. He appreciat-

ed the commitment and dedication of M/s ASFAT (Turkish state owned Defence Firm) and KS&EW for construction of technologically advanced Corvette. The Chief Guest underscored that Turkey appreciates and supports Pakistan's principle stance over Azerbaijan right of self-defence and Kashmir issue. Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Defence Production Ms Zubaida Jalal also appreciated the performance of Karachi Shipyard and underlined that indigenization is forefront of our policy. She underscored that it is convincing to see state of the art warship is being built in Pakistan. The MILGEM Class Corvettes will be one of the most technologically advanced stealth surface platforms of Pakistan

Navy Fleet. The vessel is equipped with state of the art weapons & modern sensors including surface to surface, surface to air missiles, anti submarine weapons and Command & Control system. Induction of these ship in Pakistan Navy would significantly add to the lethality of Pakistan Navy's capabilities and contribute in maintaining peace, security and balance of power in Indian Ocean Region. Earlier, the MD KS&EW Rear Admiral Ather Saleem welcomed the distinguished guests and highlighted that Karachi Shipyard is fully cognizant and aligned with the goals set forth by the Government and Pakistan Navy to pursue self-reliance in Defence Shipbuilding Industry. He emphasized that

deep rooted friendship with brotherly country Turkey for this mega project will open new vistas of further cooperation in the field of indigenous warship construction and other defence sectors in Pakistan. Construction of corvettes in Pakistan is aimed to provide impetus to local ship building industry and to further enhance KS&EW capabilities. These Ships are being constructed as per modern Naval Ship class standards with stealth features. The 2nd MILGEM Class Corvette will be delivered in early half of 2024. The ceremony was attended by representatives of M/s ASFAT Turkey, Istanbul Naval Shipyard and officials from Government of Pakistan, Pakistan Navy and KS&EW.



PESHAWAR: German Ambassador tastes Chapal Kabab during his recent visit to Peshawar. — DNA

DC apprises lawmakers  
of development works

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Divisional Commissioner Ishrat Ali has said that comprehensive measures are being taken to further improve the quality of services of public service departments so that the best relief could be provided to the citizens related to civic amenities and guidance and cooperative of parliamentarians were also essential in this regard. He said this while giving briefing the members of the parliament in the committee room of his office on the progress of development schemes related to various departments. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali, DG FDA Muhammad Sohail Khawaja, Additional Deputy Commissioners Fazal Rabi Cheema, Afifa Shajia, Director

Development Mehr Ramzan, Deputy Director Development Rana Tahir Mahmood, Chief Corporation Officer Metropolitan Corporation Naemullah Warraich, Fesco, Sui Gas, Public Health Engineering officers were present. Members of National and Provincial Assemblies Raja Riaz Ahmed, Faizullah Kamuka, Sheikh Khurram Shehzad, Chaudhry Asim Nazir, Latif Nazir, Shaheel Shahid, Mian Waris Aziz, Mian Khayal Castro, Firdous Rai besides representatives Mian Nabil Arshad, Sher Afghan Cheema and others were also present. The Divisional Commissioner said that an effective strategy was being adopted to expedite the individual and collective problems of the citizens related to public service institutions. He asked the officials of Fesco, Sui Gas

and Metropolitan Corporation to further strengthen the liaison with the Parliamentarians and complete their development schemes in various sectors without any delay so that the citizens could benefit from these schemes. He asked the parliamentarians to continue their support in proposing projects for regional development and solving the problems of the people so that the mission of urban development and public welfare can be carried forward together. During the meeting, Metropolitan Corporation, Fesco and Sui Gas officers briefed on the overall performance, public welfare measures and some of the issues faced. Deputy Commissioner gave detail of Sahulat Bazars and said that 24 bazars had been established in the district to provide flour, sugar, meat, vegetables, fruits, pulses an other katyana items to the buyers on cheaper rate. He said that 47 long closed water filtration plants have been reopened with the help of Sailami Welfare Trust. He also apprised of other public welfare measures.



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**JORDAN-PAKISTAN ties poised for quantum leap**

**BERAHIM ALMADANI**

**Pakistan's legal system obsolete, needs review**  
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LARGEST CIRCULATED DIPLOMATIC MAGAZINE

NOV 02 / 21



## Briefs

## MoCC Red Data survey continues

RAWALPINDI: The Ministry of Climate Change has maintained that the country's first National Red Data Book survey of mammals under Ten Billion Tree Tsunami project (phase-I) despite major cut in PSDP releases of 80 percent in funds being provided under the project amid COVID-19 pandemic.

Project Director TBTT Joint Secretary MoCC Suleman Khan Warraich told APP that there was no such credible data available related to mammals and other native wildlife species for informed decision making.

"All the policies formed earlier have been developed superfluously based on estimated data of mammals. Due to Prime Minister Imran Khan's keen interest in biodiversity and ecosystem conservation the ministry has taken an initiative to develop first ever National Red Data Book on Mammals of Pakistan based on population estimates, under the umbrella of Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme, Phase-I."

He added that the Red data book was the publication of risk assessment of species in every country across the globe. "It provides complete information of rare and endangered species and about their habitats. Pakistan; for the first time is going to make a comprehensive National Red Data Book of mammals, which will provide population status of species at national level. It will assist to devise monitoring and conservation strategies for threatened species at regional level." - APP

## Effective SOPs in place for inbound int'l flights

ISLAMABAD: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has introduced effective anti coronavirus (COVID-19) Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for all international passengers arriving in Pakistan from different countries. The new SOPs would remain in place for inbound international flights till December 31, 2020, under which all passengers are required to register themselves by installing the Pass Track App, according to an official document.

"For those passengers who do not possess smartphones shall be required to enter their data on the website <https://passtrack.nitb.gov.pk/login>.

While, children under 12 years of age, disabled passengers and high level international delegations referred by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall be exempted from the app/ web data requirement." International passengers traveling from category 'B' countries are required a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR test not older than 96-hour prior to commencement of travel to Pakistan. However, the passengers traveling from the category 'A' countries do not require getting themselves tested prior to commencement of travel. APP

## Hunarmand classes resume today

ISLAMABAD: The National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTC) will restart training classes from Monday (October 26) under 'Skill for All' (Hunarmand Pakistan) of the Prime Minister's Kamyab Jawan Programme after few months' hiatus. Executive Director NAVTC Dr. Nasir Khan announced this while saying that anti-coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs), will strictly be followed.

Talking to APP here, he said all arrangements were finalized in this regard after which previously enrolled students were also intimated about resumption of classes by the affiliated institutions.

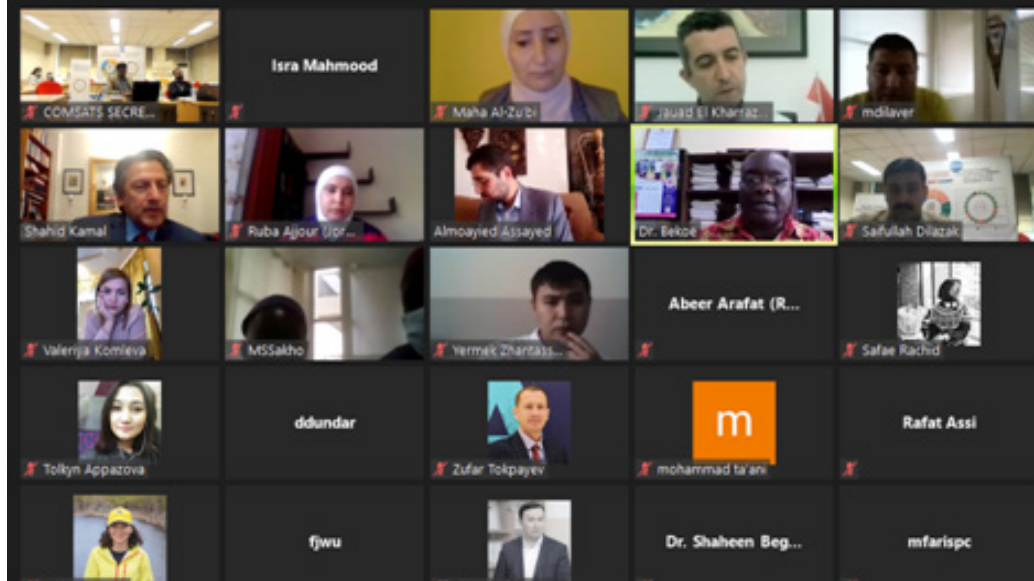
Refuting the news item about closure of 'Hunarmand Pakistan', he said the training classes under the programme were stopped in the wake of coronavirus pandemic. - APP

## COMSATS for community based water governance

Speakers of the international webinar included three from COMSATS Centres of Excellence in Ghana, Pakistan and Turkey, i.e., Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), and the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK), respectively

SAIFULLAH/DNA

ISLAMABAD: COMSATS has stressed the need for community-based water governance, water metering and accountability; strengthening public-private partnerships; prioritizing capacity-building of institutions and stakeholders. Social parameters, policy making/implementation, necessary legislation, knowledge-management for evidence-based policy making, and multi-stakeholder/sectoral approaches to water governance constituted the core of the deliberations of an international webinar of the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS). Experts from Ghana, Jordan, Oman, Pakistan, and Turkey shared ideas, experiences, best practices and policy measures from the platform of the webinar on "Sustainable Water Governance in the Global South under Changing Climate" held by COM-



SATS Centre for Climate and Sustainability (CCCS) in collaboration with Princess Sumaya bint Hassan led Royal Scientific Society of Jordan that is also COMSATS' Centre of Excellence. The webinar's

discussions revolved around the overarching theme of Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG6) - Clean Water and Sanitation.

Speakers of the international webinar included three from COMSATS

Centres of Excellence in Ghana, Pakistan and Turkey, i.e., Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), and the Scientific and Technological Research

Council of Turkey (TUBITAK), respectively. Other experts belonged to International Water Management Institute (IMWI), Jordan; and Middle East Desalination Research Centre (MEDRC), Oman.

Moderated by Dr. Almoayed Assayed, Manager Climate Change Studies at RSS, Jordan, the event highlighted challenges to sustainable water governance in the speakers' respective countries. Climate change and its secondary impacts were considered a major threat to natural ecosystems, as well as water, food and energy sectors, which necessitate reviewing existing policies and institutional frameworks.

The event recommendations stressed the need for: community-based water governance, water metering and accountability; strengthening public-private partnerships; prioritizing capacity-building of institutions and stakeholders; promoting development and integration of new technologies; and integrating research in the governance systems for finding innovation solutions.

## 'PAC recovers Rs 25 billion during my chairmanship'

DNA

ATTOCK: Chairman Public Accounts Committee MPA Syed Yawar Abbas Bokhari has said that Rs 25 billion has been recovered by the committee during his chairmanship which is a record. During his visit to Attock, accompanied by DC Ali Anan Qamar, Assistant Commissioner Zarmina Wazir, Chief Officer TMA Malik Abid Hussain, he said the PTI govt was taking the country towards prosperity and development and soon we will be out of the crises, he added.

He said, Sahulat Bazars have been set up at tehsil

level across the Punjab where Wheat flour and sugar are being sold at subsidised rates. Yawar Bokhari also inaugurated the polio campaign. He said it was our national obligation to make this campaign a success as this is the only way to get rid of this disease. He said, immunisation of kids with oral polio vaccine was necessary to keep them safe from life long crippling. Bokhari called upon the religious scholars to use their influence to remove misconceptions about the anti polio drops.

He also stressed the parents for not believing in misconceptions about the polio drops as the vaccine

was completely safe.

CEO Health Dr Sohail Ejaz Awan while giving briefing about the polio campaign said that this campaign will remain continue from 26th Oct to 30th Oct during which 296662 children will be administered polio drops in the district. He said for the purpose 1160 teams have been constituted.

These teams will go door to door to administer polio drops to the children up to the age of five years. Dr Sohail said that this facility would also be available in all the hospitals, health centers, at bus stops, railway stations and all the entry and exit points of the district.

## CDA starts work on three wetland projects

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) has begun work on three wetland projects at three different sites including Saidpur, Rose and Jasmin Garden, and F-11 in Islamabad, said the Chairman CDA, Aamir Ali Ahmad here on Sunday. These projects will be completed and inaugurated within 45 days, he added.

He said that after completion of these projects, trees will be planted in their surroundings to counter the air pollution effects. While visiting the sites of all three projects, Chairman Capital Development Authority directed the concerned authorities to fasten the work on the project.

While disclosing the detail of the projects, Aamir Ali Ahmad said that STP named project in Saidpur will be completed in 15 days. Second wetland project is being done at the central green belt between F-11 and E-11. Wetland construction pond is being constructed which will help in controlling and treating the sewerage coming from old Golra, F-10, G-10, and other areas. This pond will also help in separating the solid waste from water. Resultantly, all the issues including the smell of waste will be resolved. 70% water will be purified here and then it will go back to nullahs. Third project is being setup in Rose and Jasmin Garden. This project is being established at 12 Kanal. It will treat the sewerage of G-6, F-6, and adjoining areas, he further said.

## Blind murder of a bank manager traced

*During the preliminary investigation, the female confessed that the deceased was her former husband and divorced her recently*

STAFF REPORT / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have traced the murder of bank manager who was assassinated in the area of Koral police station on September 17, 2020, a police spokesman said. According to details, manager of a bank Syed Raza Hussain Naqvi was shot dead by two unidentified motorcyclists near his office in Koral area. Following this incident, IGP Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfiqar khan directed DIG (Operations) Waqar Uddin Syed to ensure arrest of the killers. Following his directions, two separate teams were constituted under supervision of SP Rural and SP Investigation which included SDPO Koral DSP Qasim Niazi, SHO Koral Asjad Mahmood, Inspector Muneer from Homicide Unit and others. These teams investigated into case by using modern techniques and managed to arrest three persons including a woman. The nabbed persons have been identified as Shoaib, Kamran Sajjad and Zaib un Nisa. During the preliminary investigation, the female confessed that the deceased was her former husband and divorced her recently. Along with her accomplices, she said that a plan was earlier made to kill him but he escaped. In second attempt on September 17, 2020, she said that her former husband was assassinated as she had grudge with him over divorce issue. Further investigation is underway into the matter. IGP Islamabad and DIG (Operations) have appreciated this performance and announced cash prizes and commendation certificates for members of police team.

## Pakistan armed forces extend best wishes to UN

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan armed forces have extended best wishes to the United Nations (UN) on its 75th anniversary. Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Saturday. The military's media wing said on Twitter that Pakistan has contributed over 200,000 troops in 46 UN missions in 28 countries, whereas, 158 Pakistani peacekeepers sacrificed their lives for global peace. Pakistan had joined the UN peacekeeping mission on September 30, 1947, and

the first batch of Pakistani soldiers had been deployed in Congo. The country has taken part in joint missions in 28 countries and its peacekeepers including military officers sacrificed their lives. Earlier in the year, the United Nations (UN) had honoured the Dag Hammarskjöld medal to a Pakistani soldier in May, Naik Muhammad Naeem Raza, who embraced martyrdom while serving in the UN mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. - DNA

## Musical program "Raagistan" at PNCA



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts Islamabad launched a series of colorful musical programs named "Raagistan". This series is aimed to revive the traditional aspects of classical music like khayal, thumri and kafi giaki etc. This is an effort not only to promote the classical music awareness among the young lot but also "to provide an opportunity of listening quality music for the classic lovers. This venture will be a mile stone in order to pay tribute to the legendary classical singers and a source of encouragement for their upcoming generation who is custodian of

that precious art form.

The first program of this series was held today at PNCA's auditorium. Famous classical singer from Iconic "Jalandhar Family" Mr. Akbar Ali was the lead performer of that evening accompanied by the renowned flutist Hassan Badshah and a bunch of some extremely talented musicians. He showed an excellent exhibition of Khayal, thumri and kaafi gaki. PNCA is looking forward to organize more programs of this series in near future to revive the rich classical art form. Director General PNCA Dr Fouzia Saeed hosted that musical evening. - DNA

## HEC improves policies on basis of evidence

This principle was central to the new HJRS policy, and all progress achieved by faculty members until June 2020 would be acknowledged and evaluated under the old policy framework

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) Tariq Banuri has said that HEC has always protected rights of teachers and students, with the goal of continuous enhancement in the quality of education.

"We are reviewing all past policies for flaws or redundancies in order to improve, modify, amend, or revoke, as needed, but all this has to be based on evidence, analysis, and a proper rationale, not random observation. That is the approach we have established at HEC."

These remarks were made after the Chairman met with a few representatives of university teachers' association who were protesting outside HEC. He said that HEC has been continuously devising and developing policies for all the stakeholders, after due consulta-

tion with experts from all across Pakistan and nothing is prepared or finalized in haste. The meeting was also attended by Executive Director HEC Dr. Shaista Sohail, Member (Operations and Planning) Dr. Fateh Marri, Adviser (Administration and Coordination) Mr. Awais Ahmad and Director General (R&D) Dr. Zain ul Abidin.

"Every policy has gone through a number of phases, namely identification of a problem (often by aggrieved persons), collection of evidence, in-house analysis, review by external experts, and thorough consultation with faculty members, university leaders, and other professionals from all across Pakistan. This leads to drafting of detailed proposals, with proper justifications, for the consideration of HEC's governing body. The Commission then takes appropriate decisions after considering all aspects of the issues, and on the

basis of the best interest of students, teachers, and the society in general," the Chairman said.

The main concerns raised by the delegation pertained to the service conditions and benefits of university teachers. These had earlier been discussed with the representative associations of both TTS and BPS faculty members, both of which had been assured of HEC's commitment to and sympathy for the demands of the teachers. It was also emphasized that these matters had long-term implications, and policies and structures could be modified only after due deliberation, and never in haste. He urged university teachers to make constant improvement in teaching and research their foremost cause.

The faculty members were assured that all their legitimate concerns would be taken care of. They were also informed that one of the funda-

mental principles of HEC's policy reform was that no change would be applied retroactively, and that all benefits achieved by anyone on the basis of an old policy would be respected under the new policy. Only their future actions will need to conform to the new policy. This principle was introduced to protect the interests of the faculty.

This principle was central to the new HJRS policy, and all progress achieved by faculty members until June 2020 would be acknowledged and evaluated under the old policy framework. HEC will once again clarify to the universities that all papers published before June 2020 would be evaluated in accordance with the old system, and will be counted towards faculty benefits, and that only the papers published after June 30, 2020 would be evaluated under the new policy.

The faculty members asked for a relaxation of the requirement of

post-PhD experience for purposes of promotion. It was explained that the policy could be reviewed only on the basis of proper evidence, and a justifiable rationale that relaxation of the policy would not affect the quality of education. In May 2020, HEC had requested FAPUASA to provide such evidence. The faculty representatives offered to collect the statistical data and evidence and submit a written rationale. A deadline of 31 March 2021 was agreed for the review of the policy on the basis of the evidence and rationale, and that the existing policy would be suspended until this deadline. Similarly, faculty members asked for a relaxation of the minimum qualifications required for appointment as a lecturer or assistant professor. Their argument was that people of the requisite qualifications were not available in Balochistan.

## NBF's readers club drive continues

ISLAMABAD: National Book Foundation (NBF) Readers Club's membership drive continued to attract the book readers to get books on discounted rates. Membership drive is in full swing which was inaugurated on October 19 to provide standard books at fifty percent less prices. According to an official, hundred of readers were getting membership on daily basis as the Readers Club Scheme was the most popular development scheme and through this scheme a member can get books on 55 percent discounted rates.

He said that Membership fee is Rs 110 adding that Readers Club Scheme attracts number of book lovers who wait anxiously for opening of this scheme. The membership drive will continue for three months to facilitate books on low-priced rates. He said that to get membership there is only need to show a copy of National Identity Card (NIC) and 2 passport size photos. He said that NBF is promoting book reading culture in country by offering books on inexpensive rates.

He said that after membership drive NBF will take series of innovative projects including the formation of Village Book Clubs, City Book Clubs and Children's Book Clubs. He said that National Book Foundation is one of the most important and active organizations in the history. He said that the dream of development of the society cannot be realized without knowledge and book-friendliness. - APP

## Biometric machines installed at police stations

RAWALPINDI: To improve efficiency of the police and ensure their attendance, biometric machines have been installed in various police stations, a police spokesman said on Sunday. Initially, biometric machines have been installed in 15 police stations of the district. The police stations where biometric attendance system has been introduced include Airport, Cantt, Civil Lines, Naseerabad, R A Bazar, Race Course, Westridge, City, Ganjmandi, Pirwadhai, Ratta Amral, Waris Khan, Saddar Beruni and Women police station. The process of feeding finger prints and other related data of the concerned police officials posted at the police stations had been completed, he added.

City Police Officer (CPO) Muhammad Ahsan Younas said that presence of force at the police stations would help in rectifying various issues faced by the citizens regarding police culture and also improve policing and response on public complaints. He said that the process of reforms at police stations with the introduction of technological gadgets would be continued, adding the police would keep introducing latest technology to enhance professionalism. - APP

## IRSA releases 72,100 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 72,100 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 58,600 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1526.52 feet, which was 140.52 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet.

Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 34,100 cusecs and outflow as 30,000 cusecs. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1212.30 feet, which was 172.30 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 7,400 cusecs and 25,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 33,300, 44,200 and 13,900 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 5,200 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 4,000 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala. - APP



## Briefs

AJK PM  
urges UN to  
play its role

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider Khan has called upon the United Nations to play its leading role in resolving the longstanding Kashmir dispute and implement its resolutions for establishing durable and everlasting peace in the region. Farooq Haider, in his message to mark the 73 founding day of AJK government being celebrated on Saturday, said India's expansionist designs had not only jeopardized the peace of the entire region but would trigger another human tragedy. He said the main objective behind the establishment of Azad Kashmir government was the liberation of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir. The present government was making all-out efforts to achieve that objective. Farooq Haider said India had intensified the reign of terror in the occupied valley to crush the freedom struggle, but the people of occupied Kashmir were determined to overthrow despotic Indian rules.

They had added a new chapter of freedom history with their blood, he added. He said the freedom movement launched by the people of occupied Kashmir against the brute Indian forces had no example in the freedom history of the world. After the illegal and immoral actions of August last year, India had started a new series of repressions and converted the entire state in to a big jail while imposing a communication lockdown to conceal the facts of its grim human rights violations, he added. He expressed the hope that the day was not far off when the people of occupied Kashmir would get liberation from the Indian yoke and their dream of accession to Pakistan was materialized.

Weekly  
inflation  
down 0.23%

ISLAMABAD: Weekly inflation for the combined group during the period ended on October 22 recorded a decrease of 0.23 per cent due to a decline in prices of essential food items, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). The Sensitive Price Index (SPI) is calculated on the basis of the prices of 51 essential items collected from 50 markets in 17 cities of the country. A report compiled by the PBS said this decrease was witnessed mainly due to a decline in prices of food items, including onions, down 4.75pc; chicken, 1.49pc; wheat flour, 1.31pc; gur, 1.26pc; moong pulse 1.03pc; mash pulse, 0.02pc; with a cumulative impact of minus 0.28 per cent in the overall SPI. On the other hand, an increase of one percent or more was observed in prices of tomatoes, up 1.57pc, tea prepared 1.43pc, and potatoes 1.00pc. During the week, rates of 14 essential items went up and those of 11 commodities decreased while prices of 26 food items remained unchanged.

Indian media  
took advantage  
of Safdar's arrest

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Political Communication Shabbaz Gill Saturday said Indian media took advantage of the arrest of Captain (ret'd) Safdar and aired news of civil war in Pakistan over his arrest. Shabbaz Gill while addressing a news conference, said that two families that are in the politics for the last 40 years should be given a PhD degree in lies. He said that Nawaz Sharif, Shehbaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz are responsible for the current situation of their party. PML-N only wants a deal to protect their loot and corruption, he added. Talking about the video of Karachi incident, Shabbaz Gill claimed that first the video was played in London then in Pakistan. He added that their own cameraman made the video and later made it viral. If we wanted to arrest Captain (r) Safdar, he could have been caught in many other ways. The Special Assistant said that PML-N spokesperson call others as 'hired spokespersons', but fails to acknowledge how and where she comes from.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of National Defence of Turkey Hulusi Akar separately called on Defense Minister of Pakistan Pervez Khattak and Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Gen Nadeem Raza. Issues pertaining to defence cooperation, and regional peace & security came under discussion. DNA

Masses buying costliest  
flour in country's history

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former President ICCI Shahid Rasheed Butt on Saturday said indecision by the authorities to fix wheat support price will compound the flour crisis in the country pushing helpless masses to the corner. The country may go through a famine-like situation leading to civil turmoil if mismanagement continues in the wheat sector, he said. Shahid Rasheed Butt said that

responsible institutions should intervene to improve food security by reversing wrong decisions, new and failed experiments, doctored statistics, smuggling and speculation in the food market. He said that authorities unnecessarily delayed imports and now they are reluctant to announce wheat support price despite the beginning of the sowing season in some parts of the country. Indecision is making farmers nervous which can have disastrous consequences, he said,

adding that a review in the wheat support price is the only option to calm the market. Wheat support price was increased from Rs1200 to Rs1300 in 2014, it was increased to Rs1350 in 2019 and Rs1400 in March 2020. The support price was not increased in proportion to the prices of inputs and cost of doing business. Now the government wants to purchase wheat at the old price while its policies have compelled masses to buy the wheat at a record

price of Rs2500 per 40kg. Presently the cost of the wheat crop is almost Rs1650 per 40kg, therefore, the government should hike support price to Rs1700 per maund which will also trigger inflation by almost six percent. If the government wants to keep inflation in check then it should provide a real subsidy on urea which covers twenty percent cost of crop and reduce taxes on other inputs which will bring the price of wheat and flour down. The business leader noted that

per acre yield of wheat is dismally low as compared to regional countries at 25 to 26 maund per acre due to lack of interest on the part of policymakers. Masses cannot get any relief and food security cannot be ensured unless the government stops new experiments and takes steps to provide relief to struggling farmers. The area under wheat cultivation in Punjab has already reduced by 21 percent and it will go down advance if policies are not changed, he warned.

UN urged to  
implement its  
Kashmir resolutions

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan have urged the international community especially the UN to exercise its moral, legal, political and diplomatic authority to implement Security Council

resolutions on Kashmir dispute. They said this in their separate messages on the occasion of 75th Anniversary of United Nations. President Arif Alvi said the Security Council should put pressure on Indian government to end its oppression in the Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Police martyrs write  
golden chapter with  
their blood: IGP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The police in the national capital like their compatriots elsewhere in the country have added a golden chapter in the history, written with blood of their martyrs. It was stated by Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Amir Zulfikar Khan while addressing the participants of heavy bike rally held to pay tributes to martyrs of Islamabad police and keep Capital Green and Safe. The rally passed through the various roads of Islamabad and culminated at Martyrs' Monument at Police Line Headquarters. The bikers, members of civil society and other notables laid floral wreath and offered Fateha for the departed souls. The

officials of Islamabad police including DIG (Operations) Waqar Uddin and SSP (Traffic) Farrukh Rasheed were also present on the occasion. IGP Islamabad Amir Zulfikar Khan said the courageous role played by the police in the Capital has won hearts of people as the brave custodians of law and order prevented many disasters by timely nabbing mischievous elements. He said that around 50 policemen embraced martyrdom in the line of duty but did not bow before the anti-social elements. He said police is basically a risky job and police officer has to handle brutal and mindless violence. Everyone is proud that Islamabad Police has always kept dictum of duty before self and the entire nation and the police department is proud of its brave and gallant Shaheeds.

## IHC to hear Fawad Ch disqualification case

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court will hear the petition on the disqualification of Federal Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhry for hiding his assets. Chief Justice Athar Minallah will hear the case on November 16, according to the cause list issued by the Registrar's Office. The petitioner, journalist Sami Ibrahim, has claimed that the minister did not disclose details of the land he

owns in Jhelum in his nomination papers for the 2018 General Election. He is no longer 'sadiq and ameen' and should be disqualified, he argued. Article 62 (1)(f) of the Constitution is a provision requiring elected officials to be 'sadiq and ameen' or honest and righteous. Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and PTI leader Jahangir Tareen were disqualified under this clause. Ibrahim and Chaudhry are no strangers. A controversy had erupted after the federal minister slapped the anchor

during a wedding ceremony in Faisalabad in June. The minister told media at the time that he slapped Ibrahim after he got angry. Chaudhry said that he made a new advertisement policy when he was minister for information and divided the channels into A, B, C and D categories on the basis of ratings. Ibrahim, he said, approached him and asked him to put his channel into category A and asked for an adjustment of Rs20 million. Chaudhry said that Ibrahim ran a campaign against him

and tried to blackmail him when he [Chaudhry] declined. However, Ibrahim said that he was sitting with PTI MNA Farrukh Habib, FIA DG Bashir Memon as well as journalists Rauf Klasra and Arshad Sharif at the wedding when he heard someone using abusive language. He claimed that Chaudhry slapped him without saying a word. The anchorperson claimed that his glasses fell to the ground with the force of the blow but he didn't respond to Chaudhry.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman CDA Amir Ahmed Ali inspecting various projects. – DNA

CDA seals  
offices  
of illegal  
schemes

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) began taking action against the illegal housing schemes of Zone five and sealed the offices of the dealers of Ayesha Town. According to detail, CDA is in action against the illegal housing schemes. In a recent move the authority sealed the offices of the dealers of Ayesha town after consulting the Assistant Commissioner Rural on October 18. A new survey was conducted on October 20 in which it was witnessed that the work was underway on 5 illegal schemes. In zone five of Islamabad Aiza town, Azeem town, Daniyal town, New model town, and Rashed town are the illegal schemes. The offices of Ayesha town and Azeem town have been sealed by CDA. Besides these schemes, Islamabad Cooperative Farming Scheme of Zone two has also been sealed earlier.

Two brothers  
found dead in  
Mandra

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The bodies of two brothers were found near the railway tracks in Rawalpindi's Mandra, the police said on Saturday. According to the victims' family, they had gone over to their friend's house to spend the night but never returned. "In the morning, their bodies were found near the railway tracks near the friend's house," a police officer said. The men, a 22-year-old and 24-year-old, had bullet wounds on their bodies which have been shifted to the DHQ hospital for post-mortem examinations. The police have taken their friend into custody and begun interrogating him.

Campaign  
to sensitize  
motorists  
about smog

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) have launched an awareness campaign to sensitize motorists to adopt safety measures during smog season. According to a spokesman, the campaign has been launched on the special directives of City Traffic Officer (CTO) with an aim to raise awareness about best practices to keep oneself safe and healthy during the season.

In this regard, the teams distributed pamphlets and face masks among motorcyclists, motorists and pedestrians and urged them to avoid waste burning to control the smog and protect themselves from breathing problems, eye, nose and throat infections.

Police to launch  
campaign  
against beggars

DNA

ABBOTTABAD: Deputy Inspector General Police (DIG) Hazara division Qazi Jameel ur Rehman Sunday directed all the District Police Officers (DPOs) to launch a comprehensive campaign against professional beggars. He further said that professional begging was increasing day by day which needed immediate action to curb this menace, moreover many beggars are also involved in criminal activities. Qazi Jameel ur Rehman said the initiative was taken in view of increasing public complaints against the professional beggars. He asked the DPOs to instruct SDPOs and SHOs to take strict action against beggars those are chasing people in the markets, shops, mosques and vehicles. Through rhetoric phrases those are heart wrenching the listener pay them whatever cash he/she could give to them at that time, they also show their selves or their children disable are dangerous and police should take action against them, the DIG stated. He ordered DPOs to search the living areas of beggars and collect their data, which would help to stop the professional begging particularly those were using children for this heinous crime. DIG Hazara while giving a message to the traders and transporters of the region to support the police department for the eradication of professional begging, if they found any beggar involved in criminal activities immediately inform police station.

IPS' study refutes allegations of  
'forced conversion' in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A baseline study conducted at Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) analyzing a number of reports by various civil society organizations alleging forced conversion of minorities in Pakistan terms them baseless, lacking empirical evidence. Conducted by Ghulam Hussain, a PhD scholar in anthropology at Quaid-i-Azam University and a research fellow at IPS, the report titled "Faith Conversions or Forced Conversions: Reality and Rhetoric" digs into the popular narrative that suggests that the members of minority communities, particularly women and girls, are forcibly converted to Islam in Pakistan – an allegation that has resounded on various forums including the Indian

Parliament and USCIRF reports. Some of these reports claim that as many as 1000 Hindu and Christian girls are kidnapped, forcibly converted and married of annually in Pakistan. Through content analysis of some three dozen reports of various human rights organizations, this baseline study suggests that the reports that are often presented as evidence for alleging that there is an organized and systematic effort of forcibly converting non-Muslims to Islam, lack any primary or empirical data. Such reports, the study claims, rely on clichés cited from another report that too is created without an evidence. At most, some of these reports base themselves on anecdotal evidence taken from newspaper reports and political statements and none of these reports verifies the allegations of

forced conversions from 'the supposed victims and so-called perpetrators'. Claims in these reports are tautological in nature and make circular arguments on the basis of unverified/unverifiable secondary sources. The study also interrogates the polemics against religious clerics, lawyers, police, and the State of Pakistan that characterizes the content of the reports. It shows how the narrative is developed into a charged rhetoric through social media platforms to malign the state and society of Pakistan and the religion of Islam. It alleges that the social media accounts associated with Hindu extremist groups in India are the most active in spreading such allegations. The study also underscores the narrative internal to minority communities, particularly the Scheduled Castes or Dalits. It

suggests that caste-based divisions, endogamy, and patriarchy are among the socio-economic push and pull factors that cause faith conversion, apart from a natural and genuine urge for a more satisfying way of life as religion. In fact, the conversions have been taking place on individual and collective levels through all times in the region of Sindh and Southern Punjab where forced conversions are mostly alleged, it underscores. "To say that in Pakistan, non-Muslims are forced by religious clerics and the State will be a sweepingly naive understanding of the very complex phenomena, and will be as flawed as the assertion that free-will conversions are always divinely inspired", the study emphasizes. The study calls upon the civil society organizations and responsible citizens to abstain from raising 'false alarm' on sensitive issues through a

rhetoric that tarnishes the image of Pakistan and Muslims without any clear justification and undermines genuine issues of the oppressed scheduled castes. Given the lack of evidence of 'forced conversion', the study recommends against an anti-conversion law and sees it as potentially 'immature and flawed' without a real picture being explored. Recommending primary research into the subject to understand the phenomenon of faith conversions, and the various factors contributing to it, the report has been launched at a time when a parliamentary committee on the forced religious conversions has been inquiring into the subject and has recently returned after meeting various stakeholders in parts of Sindh. This study is expected to give a new turn to the current debate on faith conversions in the country.



## A little bit of sun

WHILE the grey clouds which have hung over Pakistan since the Financial Action Task Force placed it on its grey list continue to linger, there is some evidence that rays of sunlight are beginning to shine through. Although, disappointingly the FATF has ruled at its three-day meeting that Pakistan will not for now be removed from the grey list, it has also said that Pakistan has completed 21 of the 27 tasks given to it by the FATF and that the country now needs to complete the rest. The Pakistan government has responded by saying it is close to reaching this target. The FATF has set February 2021 as the date by which these tasks need to be completed and has also suggested that there will be a physical visit of the country before any change is made in Pakistan's status. This again, is welcome news.

The next steps will be important. Banks are expected to tighten the procedures still further regarding sources through which money can enter or leave the country. The question of Pakistan's placement on the FATF grey list has lingered now for some years. It is time we once again enter the white zone, where many countries stand. This would help Pakistan strengthen its economy and build its systems to the benefit of people all across the country as well as boost business confidence in the country. We badly need such confidence. While the economic managers of the country deserve to be pleased, real success can come only when the country is off the grey list and back on the white list. It is creditable that it is coming closer and closer to achieving this task despite the fact that there are countries in the world with powerful economies who would like to see it on the black list. This is now unlikely to happen. We hope the worst fears have been removed but there's still more that needs to be done and this must be achieved as quickly as possible, along with a determination which can be demonstrated within governance to tackle terrorism and end the support for it by freezing assets used by these groups to carry out the acts of violence.

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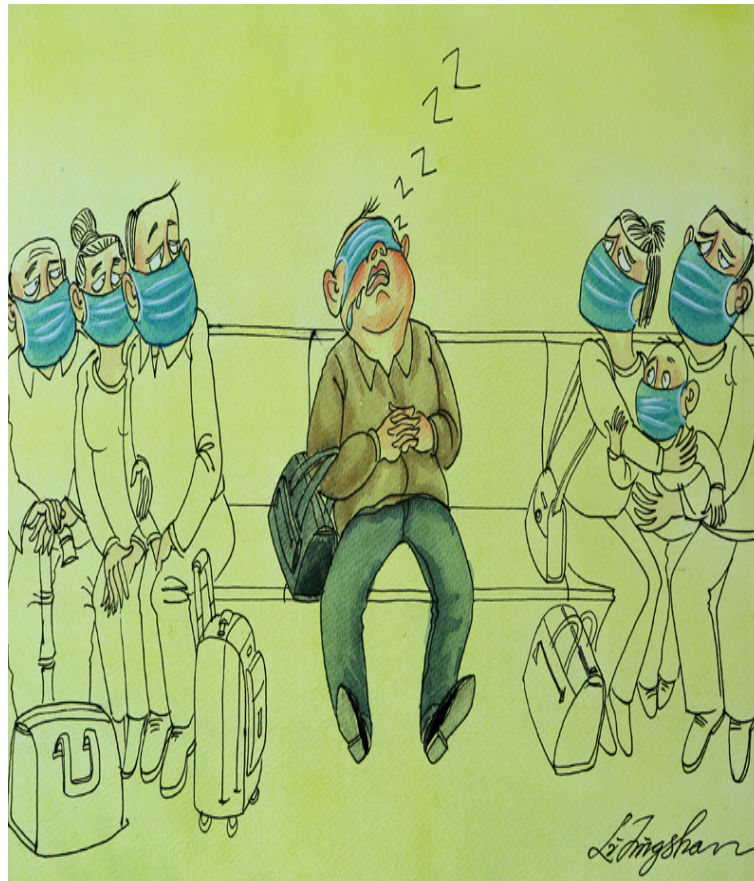
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## The government and supreme court

THE courtiers around Prime Minister Imran Khan are willing to do anything for him irrespective of its legality. The President continues to abjectly sign on the dotted line of any order emanating from the PM's office without giving it a second thought. The reasons given by the Supreme Court for overturning the reference against Mr Justice Qazi Faiz Isa should be embarrassing for the PTI government. The Supreme Court pointed out the scale and degree of the illegalities in the reference that led to its dismissal. The PTI sacrificed one Attorney General in the case; the second one would not touch it with a bargepole. The Law Minister had to resign from his office to plead the case himself, only to lose it.

The way the case was prepared underlines two things: the abysmal incompetence of the PTI's legal team and its cynical disregard for the law while collecting the evidence. Three key players of the PTI have consequently received damaging remarks in the judgment. The President, it is maintained, failed to form a considered opinion by not receiving advice from a third party on the questions of law in the reference. The President Instead relied on the inadmissible advice from the architects of the reference, Law Minister Farogh Naseem and ARU chief Mirza Shahzad Akbar.

Mr Justice Yahya Afridi's dissenting note focuses on the role of both the Law Minister and the ARU chairman. According to the judgment, the direction of the Law Minister and the ARU chairman to solicit and obtain confidential information regarding the income tax returns of Justice Isa and Mrs Sarina Isa, prima facie, exposes them to criminal prosecution. The judge has directed the incumbent FBR chairman to ensure that the entire record of the present case is placed before the FBR "to proceed under the law, against the law minister, the ARU chairman, the then FBR chairman and all the concerned income tax officers for their role in ordering to disclose confidential information relating to the income tax returns of Justice Isa and Mrs Isa."

After the strictures from the apex court, the President, the Law Minister and ARU chairman would set up a good precedent by resigning from their posts. But will they?

## SCO is ready to help reduce poverty

Vladimir Norov



"Continuation of instability in different parts of the world, growth of conflicts and violence, environmental disasters and other threats of our time aggravate global problems of poverty", said the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev speaking at the 75th session of the UN General Assembly. These problems, he emphasized, have sharply aggravated during the period of pandemic. The whole world community, all of us should be concerned about the "voice of poverty"

THE history of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is inextricably linked to the date 17 October 1987. On that day, more than one hundred thousand people gathered at the Place Trocadero in Paris, where the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed in 1948 to pay tribute to the victims of extreme poverty, violence and hunger.

In the year 2000, at the Millennium Summit, representatives of 189 countries, including 147 Heads of State and Government, adopted an ambitious UN program called the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to address global problems of mankind. Among the eight key goals, the goal of eradicating poverty and hunger was set as a priority.

On September 25, 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted the Sustainable Development Agenda, which identified 17 goals and targets to promote sustainable development in areas of primary importance to humanity and the world. Eradication of hunger and poverty, problems related water and sanitation, low-cost and clean energy, as well as education were identified as priorities.

There are several causes of poverty, major among which are economic – unemployment or low wages, the growing impact of the environmental degradation on people's lives and food security, as well as medical and social causes – age, disease, low social security, limited work capacity. An international day is dedicated to the people who struggle to eradicate poverty on a daily basis, to those who provide any assistance to this category of people.

Each year, the activities of the Day are devoted to a certain theme, among which in different years were: "Common Efforts to End Poverty", "Human Rights and Dignity of People Living in Poverty", "Children and Families Against Poverty", "From Poverty to Decent Work: Bridging the Gap", "Leaving No One behind: Thinking, Deciding and Acting Together Against Extreme Poverty", "Building a Sustainable Future: Together to End Poverty and Discrimination" and others.

The theme of the International Day for Poverty Eradication, which is celebrated on October 17 this year, is connected with the task of achieving social and environmental justice for all. The growing recognition of the multidimensional nature of poverty means that the two issues are inextricably linked.

"Poverty is not just a lack of income and resources for sustainable livelihoods. It manifests itself in hunger and malnutrition, limited access to education and other basic services, social discrimination and exclusion, and lack of participation in decision-making," the UN documents note. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that 820 million people lacked access to sufficient food in 2018, compared to 811 million in the previous year. The world's population is growing rapidly and food production has not been able to meet all their needs as a result of unsustainable use, land degradation and desertification, environmental degradation and climate change. According to the UN, new climate conditions will provoke changes in crop productivity, which will cause mass poverty.

By 2030, more than 120 million people will fall below the poverty line and lose access to health services, quality products and other social benefits. This will particularly affect those who already live in poor regions.

Most of the world's poorest people (about 75 percent) live in rural areas, and their livelihoods and food security depend directly on agriculture. Yet they often do not have adequate access to resources, services, technology, markets and economic opportunities.

2018-2019 The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution "Eradicating rural poverty in the context of the Sustainable Development Agenda until 2030". This document calls for the development, implementation and implementation of social and economic policies, taking into account the gender dimension, poverty eradication, including in rural areas, as well as to facilitate and expand access of developing countries to appropriate technologies designed to improve the situation of the poor and increase productivity.

In 1990, 36% of the world's population lived on less than \$2 a day. 25 years later, the proportion had fallen to 10%, and by the end of 2018 – to 8.6 percent by the end of 2018, as per the UN News Service.

Despite significant improvements in the global poverty situation, the current rate of poverty reduction cast shadow over the UN's goal of eradicating poverty in the next 10 years.

A report on the impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on Sustainable Development Goals 2030 reports that 1.6 billion workers have already experienced a 60 percent decline in income. Loss of income, lack of social protection and rising prices mean that poverty now threatens even those whose economic situation was previously sustainable. However, most of the increase in poverty will be in middle-income countries, which are more than 80 percent of the world's poor. According to the UN, in the worst-case scenario of a 20 percent decline in income or consumption, the number of people living in poverty could increase by 420-580 million compared to 2018.

The priority goal of the SCO, in accordance with the SCO Charter, is to promote comprehensive and balanced economic growth and sustainable development in the region through equal partnership in order to improve the living conditions of the peoples of SCO member states.

According to UN estimates, a high level of poverty persists in some SCO Member-States. The majority of poor people live in remote urban areas and rural areas, and experience significant difficulties. In order to overcome the problems of "accessibility" (services or infrastructure) for remote and rural areas, the Russian side has developed and proposed for adoption of a Concept of Cooperation between the Organization's Member States on Development of Remote and Rural Areas in the Digital Age at the forthcoming SCO Summit.

The general strategy of targeted assistance to the needy, outlined by the country's leadership, was aimed at six priority tasks: the need to guarantee the accuracy of the beneficiary to be supported, targeting of project planning, targeted use of financial resources, targeting of measures

for poor families, targeted assistance to rural areas, led to achievement of concrete results in poverty eradication. President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev said: "High expectations of our citizens are associated with achieving practical results in accordance with the Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030. Restoring the previous pace of joint work within the Decade of Action for Sustainable Development Goals will require quick and well-coordinated steps. In this context, the next 10 years are critical for our generation. The main fundamental goal – the total eradication of hunger on the planet – must be unconditionally achieved." In this regard, he noted the importance of convening the Summit on Food Systems in 2021.

President Xi Jinping said "China will honestly fulfill its promises of international assistance for the amount of \$2 billion within 2 years." The world cannot, he emphasized, return to the past, to a closed, isolated, all the more artificially split state. It is impossible to close eyes to the challenges of economic globalization, it is better to start eliminating such urgent problems as the gap between rich and poor, uneven development, etc. In the face of the pandemic, we must pay special attention and care to developing countries, especially African countries. The world community should take timely and effective measures to provide debt relief and a moratorium on debt payments, assistance, and consistently implement the "UN Agenda for Sustainable Development until 2030 to help them get out of the difficult situation," said the PRC leader.

Russian President Vladimir Putin emphasized in his statement that a full or partial reduction in global employment in the 2nd quarter of 2020 is equivalent to a loss of 400 million jobs, and everything must be done to ensure that such unemployment does not become stagnant, that people return to work, can provide for their families and not fall into poverty, without prospects for life. This is indeed the most acute global social problem, so the mission of politics now is to pave the way for trade, joint projects and fair competition, rather than tying the hands of business and business initiative, he said. "Clearance, liberation of the world trade from barriers, bans, restrictions, illegitimate sanctions could be a good help to restore global growth and reduce unemployment," – said the President of Russia.

"Continuation of instability in different parts of the world, growth of conflicts and violence, environmental disasters and other threats of our time aggravate global problems of poverty", said the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev speaking at the 75th session of the UN General Assembly. These problems, he emphasized, have sharply aggravated during the period of pandemic. The whole world community, all of us should be concerned about the "voice of poverty", which sounds even stronger today. In this regard, the head of Republic of Uzbekistan proposed to define the problems of poverty eradication and fight against poverty as one of the main topics of the UN General Assembly session, as well as to hold a Global Summit dedicated to these issues.

– The writer is the SCO Secretary-General

## Macron & French far-right are promoting Islamophobia

M. Javed Naseem



In his book about People of Shaam (Syria & Lebanon) Prof. Adil Abu Shanab tells the story of an Arab Sheikh who got into a discussion with one of the French occupation officers during the French occupation of Syria (the French, the Americans and the Europeans are in Syria again!)

FRANCE is a racist country that hides its racism, bias/discrimination, Islamophobia and cruel injustice to the minorities under the glittering cover of its slogan "Liberty, Equality & Fraternity". The last three consecutive governments of hypocrites, who claim to be secular socialists, have systematically flared, instigated, promoted and encouraged racism and Islamophobia in France. We are seeing the results these days with ever-increasing anti-Muslim incidents and the racist President himself making anti-Islam and anti-Muslim speeches. Macron is a small/mean man holding a job much bigger than his size and abilities. There are millions of good French people – honest, compassionate, sincere, just, hard-working and peace-loving who enjoy good relations with the minorities but a small number of evil-minded far-Right extremists holding some influential government jobs are playing the dirty games. Biased French and Western media is pursuing its own agenda to make things worse. For a few decades now, France has become another ugly face of Israel in Europe. It victimizes minorities and when the minorities show any reaction, it cries foul and claims to be the victim!

It does not matter how far Syria, Iraq, Palestine or Libya is from America, Britain or France; how far India is from Britain; or how far Middle Eastern oil-rich countries are from America and Europe, they are always easy targets. Those countries were always attacked, invaded and colonized by the white Americans and Europeans under one pretext (excuse) or the other. The history of the last two centuries tells the bloody stories of invasions, occupation and colonization. When the occupied nations show some resistance, they are labeled 'terrorists' and bombed. You are held prisoner in your own home and are not allowed to raise your voice in protest!

Famous French-West Indian political philosopher Frantz Fanon once said: "Two centuries ago, a former European colony decided to catch up with Europe. It succeeded so well that

the United States of America became a monster, in which the taints, the sickness, and the inhumanity of Europe have grown to appalling dimensions." Frantz Fanon ("The Wretched of The Earth").

Allah the Almighty told the believers in the Quran more than 1400 years ago that unbelievers had joined hands together and were constantly working against them. They (the forces of Evil) would continue spreading corruption, injustice and violence unless the forces of Good unite against them and try to stop their onslaught. Justice is the only way to peace. No justice, no peace! There is no other solution to the world's problems and to peace!

"The unbelievers are protectors, one of another. Unless you do this, (protect each other), there would be tumult and oppression on earth, and great mischief." (al-Quran 8:73)

In his book about People of Shaam (Syria & Lebanon) Prof. Adil Abu Shanab tells the story of an Arab Sheikh who got into a discussion with one of the French occupation officers during the French occupation of Syria (the French, the Americans and the Europeans are in Syria again!). The French officer had invited some Syrian dignitaries to a dinner. One of the invitees was an old Sheikh with his white beard. When the French officer saw the old Sheikh eating with his fingers, he tried to ridicule him by asking him: "Why are you not eating like us?" The Sheikh replied: "Do you see me eating by my nose?"

The French officer sheepishly answered: "I mean, why don't you use fork and knife?" The Sheikh replied: "I am sure of the cleanliness of my hand, but are you sure of the cleanliness of your fork and knife?"

This shut the French officer up, but he made up his mind to get vengeance on the old Sheikh. At the feast, the wife of the French officer was sitting to his right and the daughter to his left. The French officer, asked for wine to be brought, and proceeded

to pour for himself, his wife and daughter. He started to drink in a way to annoy the Sheikh. But the old man did not show any reaction. Then the French officer asked him: "Listen O Sheikh! You like grapes and eat them, don't you?" To which the Sheikh replied in the affirmative. The French officer pointed towards the grapes, hoping to beat the old sheikh, and said: "This drink is from these grapes, so why do you eat grapes, but keep away from the wine?" All the guests looked at the old Sheikh, feeling that he would have no answer to that. The Sheikh calmly replied: "This is your wife, and this, your daughter, is from her, right? So how is it that your wife is legitimate (Halal) for you in bed but your daughter is not?" It is said that the French officer immediately ordered for the wine to be removed from the table. Iraq and Syria were always under fire during the last 200 years, even before. The ancient Babylonian history tells us that one of the greatest battle between Good and Evil was fought between Nimrod and Prophet Abraham in the region which is called Iraq today. The modern history of the world tells us that so-called Terrorism, Islamic Extremism, WMD, Taliban, Boca Haram, Al-Shabab, ISIS/ISIL/IS, Daesh, etc., are all lame excuses fabricated to invade the oil-rich Islamic Middle East – especially Iraq, Syria, Libya. The Anglo-American West invaded or attacked these countries in every century (many times in 20th & 21st centuries) with no mention of terrorism! There were always political and economic considerations. The region has been the battleground of Good & Evil for centuries. How ironic that in those conflicts, one party was always the arrogant white man of either Europe or America! In the 20th century, the arrogant white man nurtured a bully (Israel) in the Middle East to plunder the petrol, gas and other natural resources of the region; and at the same time keep the resisting region under political control.



## Briefs

Cricket  
SA board  
members  
resign

JOHANNESBURG: Acting president Beresford Williams and five other Cricket South Africa board members resigned on Sunday, two days ahead of a deadline threatening intervention from the country's sports minister. The resignations were announced in a series of tweets on CSA's official Twitter account. The organisation has been in disarray since chief executive Thabang Moroe was suspended last December, prompting calls from the country's players' association and major sponsors for the board to resign. — APP

It is time  
to change  
country's  
fate: PDM

From Page 01

"The children of Balochistan were crying on the streets for the last 12 days [for their scholarships] but no one inquired about their condition," she said, hoping that their scholarships would be resumed.

"I love the people of Balochistan more than the people of Punjab," she said, speaking of her intentions behind donning a traditional Balochi dress. Maryam stressed that the people of Balochistan have just as much a right to elect their own representatives as anyone else in the country. Maryam also asked how it was that after former military ruler Pervez Musharraf was indicted, "the courts that sentenced him were dismantled".

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Sunday asked the people of Quetta and Balochistan to support the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), an alliance of political opposition parties in order to restore "real" democracy in the country. Addressing the PDM rally in Quetta, the PPP leader said that the people of Balochistan are living in miserable conditions despite having plenty of natural resources.

"What kind of democracy is this where no one including media and people is free," he said and added that nation wanted freedom from poverty, elimination of inflation and are demanding to restore "real" democracy. Speaking over inflation, the PPP leader said that the prices of all necessities including medicine prices have skyrocketed under the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government. Quami Watan Party (QWP) chief Aftab Sherpao, while addressing the crowd, said that people's problems had worsened during the incumbent government's rule. Awami National Party (ANP) acting president Ameer Haider Khan Hoti said that the government had "betrayed" the people of Balochistan and their representative, Sardar Akhtar Mengal.

PM Imran  
slams French  
President

From Page 01

be it Muslims, White Supremacists or Nazi ideologists. Sadly, President Macron has chosen to deliberately provoke Muslims, incl his own citizens, through encouraging the display of blasphemous cartoons targeting Islam and our Prophet (PBUH), the premier wrote on Twitter. Condemning that by attacking Islam, Macron has hurt the sentiments of Muslims around the world, PM Imran said that the last thing the world wants or needs is further "polarisation". "Public statements based on ignorance will create more hate, Islamophobia and space for extremists," he added. France has recently stepped up measures in the country which its Muslim community views as anti-Islam. The French government has said it fears militancy is taking over some Muslim communities in the country. The French government is considering proposals to restrict funds that Muslim communities in the country receive from abroad. The government also wants to create a certificate program for French-trained imams, as well as other things. The French Interior Ministry announced that its officials will target for possible dissolution 50 French Muslim associations if they are found guilty of promoting hatred. The list of names include that of a mainstream group that aims to battle Islamophobia.



LIVERPOOL: Players trying to head the ball during a premier league game between Liverpool and Sheffield United. — DNA

Morocco supports Libyan  
ceasefire agreement

Thanks to its format and approach, the Libyan Dialogue held in Bouznika was a "qualitative progress" as it brought together Libyans, far from any foreign interference, who decided for themselves on the composition of the delegations, the agenda and the rules of dialogue as well as its results, he said

DNA

RABAT: Morocco supports the ceasefire agreement between the Libyan parties, which represents a "very positive development" and "very good news", said Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, Mr. Nasser Bourita, on Saturday. The Kingdom congratulates the Libyan parties for this agreement as well as the United Nations for this "new achievement" and calls on all parties to respect its provisions, which are likely to create a favorable climate to move forward on the path of a political solution, Mr. Bourita pointed out at a joint press briefing with the Speaker of the Libyan House of Representatives, Aguilah Salah, following a bilateral meeting. Mr. Bourita underlined on this occasion the link between what

is happening on the ground and the progress made in the ongoing political discussions, highlighting the positive dynamics recorded at all levels, both in terms of political dialogue, of the application of article 15 and of the ceasefire, "which is very encouraging".

Thanks to its format and approach, the Libyan Dialogue held in Bouznika was a "qualitative progress" as it brought together Libyans, far from any foreign interference, who decided for themselves on the composition of the delegations, the agenda and the rules of dialogue as well as its results, he said.

The conclusions of this dialogue confirmed the conviction of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, May God Assist Him, that Libyans are able to solve their problems on their own and that they enjoy a sense of patriotism and responsibility which can help them overcome all obstacles

Libyan speaker praises  
Morocco's 'great efforts'

DNA

RABAT: The Speaker of the Libyan House of Representatives, Aguilah Salah, welcomed, Saturday in Rabat, "the great efforts" made by the Kingdom of Morocco, within the framework of the Libyan Dialogue, to support a political solution in Libya, and which led to the first successes with the conclusion of the ceasefire agreement between the Libyan parties in Geneva. Speaking at a joint press briefing with the Moroccan minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, Nasser Bourita, following a bilateral meeting, Mr. Salah said that Morocco is committed since the process of Skhirat and has provided to the Libyan brothers all the possible opportunities to achieve solutions.

The Speaker of the Libyan Lower House underlined, in this regard, that the interest shown by the Kingdom and its support for the quest of a political solution, within the framework of the Libyan Dialogue in Bouznika, also led to a consensus accepted by all Libyans on the sovereignty posts, as defined by Article 15 of the Skhirat Agreement, as well as their distribution among the three historical provinces in a way that will satisfy all Libyans.

all the positions and initiatives undertaken by the Speaker of the Libyan House of Repre-

sentatives, which have created a positive dynamism in favor of the resolution of the crisis which has affected the Libyan people for years, his positive interaction, from the start, with the Libyan Dialogue hosted by Morocco in Bouznika, as the first meeting between the Libyan High Council of State and the Libyan House of Representatives having given positive results, as well as his full support and follow-up to the sessions of this dialogue as well as to its positive conclusions. Mr. Bourita underlined that the visit to Morocco of the Speaker of the Libyan House of Representatives is part of the regular contact of Morocco with the Libyans, in accordance with the instructions of His Majesty the King, May God Assist Him, to listen to all Libyans and to provide unconditional support to anything that might push Libya towards a solution.

Khabib announces  
retirement after  
defeating Gaethje

SPORTS DESK

ABU DHABI: Unbeaten lightweight champion Khabib Nurmagomedov retired from mixed martial arts after stopping Justin Gaethje with a triangle choke early in the second round at UFC 254 on Saturday night. Nurmagomedov (29-0) made the announcement immediately after he impressively finished his first fight since the death of his father and lifelong coach in July. Abdulmanap Nurmagomedov had a heart problem exacerbated by Covid-19, and his son was overcome by tears in the cage moments after choking Gaethje unconscious 1:34 into the second round of his third UFC title defense. "This is my last fight," Nurmagomedov said. "There's no way I'm going to be back without my father. I spoke to my mother. She don't know how I fight without father, but I promised it's going to be my last fight, and if I give my word, I have

to follow it." The 32-year-old Nurmagomedov was active with strikes and with grappling against Gaethje (22-3), the dangerous brawler who had knocked out four consecutive elite opponents while winning the UFC's interim lightweight title. After spending the first round largely trading punches and kicks with the aggressive Gaethje, Nurmagomedov used his unparalleled wrestling skills to take down Gaethje early in the second round and then worked into position for the finishing choke. Gaethje appeared to tap out at least twice before the referee noticed and stopped the bout, by which time Gaethje was unconscious. He bounced up quickly and shared a moment of mutual respect with the dominant Russian champion. "I know he was in a bad spot, but whether he was or not, he did what he needed to do," Gaethje said. "I know his father is so proud."

Erdogan says Macron  
'needs mental treatment'

France has since been shaken by the beheading of a teacher by a person, avenging the use of cartoons of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) in a class on freedom of expression

WEB DESK

ISTANBUL: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Sunday that his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron needs "mental treatment" over his hostile attitude towards Muslims and Islam. Following Erdogan's remarks, France recalled its ambassador. "Outrage and insult are not a method," Macron's office said. The development took place as France stepped up measures in the country which its Muslim community views as anti-Islam. The French government has said it fears militancy is taking over some Muslim communities in the country. France has since been shaken by the beheading of a teacher by a person,



avenging the use of cartoons of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) in a class on freedom of expression. "What is the problem of this person called Macron with Muslims and Islam? Macron needs treatment on a mental level," Erdogan said in a speech in the central Turkish city of Kayseri. "What else can be said to a head of state who does not

understand freedom of belief and who behaves in this way to millions of people living in his country who are members of a different faith?" Erdogan added. Turkey and France are both members of the NATO military alliance but have been at odds over issues including Syria and Libya, maritime jurisdiction in the eastern Mediterranean, and the conflict in Nagorno-Karab-

akh. "France has gathered its European partners, who share France's demand that Turkey puts a stop to its dangerous adventures in the Mediterranean and in the region," the statement from Macron's office said. Erdogan has two months to respond or face measures, it added, noting the absence of a condolence message from Turkey's leader after the history teacher's death last week. Since Erdogan's Islamist-rooted AK Party first came to power in 2002, he has sought to shift Islam into the mainstream of politics in Turkey, an overwhelmingly Muslim but constitutionally secular country. The Turkish president had also said on October 6 that Macron's comments on Islamist threats were "a clear provocation" and showed "impertinence".

Morocco joins coalition on women's  
economic empowerment

"This call to action will amplify the promotion of women's rights, their prosperity and their contribution to peace and stability in the world," Morocco's Foreign Minister added

DNA

WASHINGTON: A coalition of 31 countries, including Morocco, launched Friday a Call to Action on Women's Economic Empowerment around the world. Led by the United States, the initiative encourages countries to promote women's economic empowerment and to remove legal barriers to their economic participation. This call is an opportunity for coordinated ac-

tion to ensure that women are empowered to lead the global response to COVID-19 and economic recovery. In remarks at the virtual launch ceremony of this initiative, Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, Mr. Nasser Bourita, said that Morocco "fully adheres" to the spirit of this initiative. "This call to action will amplify the promotion of women's rights, their prosperity and their contribution to peace and stabil-



ity in the world," Morocco's Foreign Minister added. "Investing in gender equality is not an option. It is the only way to achieve sustainable development," he stated during the event, which was attended by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. "Today, as we roll up our sleeves to fight the Covid pandemic, turn our economies around and strive to achieve the SDGs, let us ensure that women are empowered, that their voices are heard and that they participate fully in building

our societies, our world and our future," Mr. Bourita said. In addition to Morocco, the Core Group includes Afghanistan, Albania, Bhutan, Brazil, Cape Verde, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Estonia, Hungary, India, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Maldives, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Marshall Islands, Rwanda, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

More mass  
testing in  
China after  
137 cases

DNA

BEIJING: Chinese officials were racing Sunday to smother a fresh coronavirus outbreak in the country's far northwest after 137 new infections were discovered. Mass testing began Saturday evening to cover 4.75 million residents in and around Kashgar, Xinjiang province, after a 17-year-old garment factory worker tested positive for the virus. China - where the coronavirus first emerged late last year - has largely brought domestic transmission under control through lockdowns, travel restrictions and testing, but sporadic regional outbreaks have emerged. Beijing has lauded its rapid testing capabilities, with the Communist Party eager to project an image of victory over the virus as much of the world struggles with lockdowns and mass outbreaks. The new cases - all asymptomatic - were linked to a factory in Shufu county where the girl and her parents worked, the Xinjiang health commission told a press briefing Sunday. A special team from Beijing's National Health Commission was sent to investigate the source of the outbreak and assist with preventive measures, state broadcaster CCTV reported. As of Sunday afternoon more than 2.8 million samples had been collected in the area and the rest would be completed within two days, the city government said in a statement.

Kashgar - near the country's borders with Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan - is the cultural heart of ethnic Uighurs and other Turkic Muslims, many of whom complain of long-running political and religious oppression, which the Chinese government denies. All schools in Kashgar have been closed until October 30 and anyone leaving the city needs to show a negative nucleic acid test, the city government said. State broadcaster CCTV showed footage of hundreds of people lining up to take nucleic acid tests outside hospitals and mobile testing centres set up across the city. Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang, was kept under strict lockdown for weeks after more than 900 cases were reported in mid-July.

Shibli  
condemns  
anti-state  
remarks

From Page 01

institutions. Talking to media in Islamabad Sunday evening, he said the people of Pakistan are aware of the sacrifices of Pakistan Army and security agencies in successfully fighting war on terrorism and averted Pakistan from becoming Syria, Iraq, or Afghanistan. He said it is unfortunate that an abscorder was allowed to make a speech and talk negative about country's institutions. He said it would have been better if the opposition talked about sanctity and respect of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) as was done by Prime Minister Imran Khan at the UN General Assembly instead of maligning state institutions. Syed Shibli Faraz said opposition's political gimmicks are aimed at saving its leadership from accountability. He said PML-N leader Maryam Nawaz Sharif has no moral justification to hurl questions on the government and instead she and her father should answer that how they made their assets abroad and how they laundered money. He said they used institutions for their corruption and on the contrary, we will strengthen our institutions. He said the PTI government led by Prime Minister Imran Khan is committed to put the country on path of economic progress and prosperity. The Minister said Pakistan People's Party had come to politics on the slogan of providing 'bread, cloth, and housing', to the people, but they deprived the masses of these things. He said PPP was a national party, but due to the loot and plunder of its leadership, it has become a regional party and it will likely to further reduce to just two districts. He said former President Asif Ali Zardari laundered 65 million dollars abroad and took refuge behind presidential immunity instead of answering his corruption.



## Briefs

## Italy protesters, police clash over virus curbs

DNA

PARIS: Italian demonstrators staged Europe's latest public rally against new anti-coronavirus restrictions early Sunday, as more countries tightened social distancing rules over the weekend to fight surges in infections. The World Health Organization has warned of an "exponential" rise in infections threatening health systems' ability to cope with a second wave of the pandemic, testing many nations that appeared to have the virus under control earlier this year. Governments are now struggling to balance new restrictions against the need to revive economies already battered by earlier draconian lockdowns after the virus first emerged in the Chinese city of Wuhan late last year. But populations weary of social isolation and economic hardship have bristled at new restrictions. Around 200 masked far-right militants clashed with Italian riot police during a demonstration against a new curfew in Rome shortly after midnight on Sunday, throwing flares and firecrackers at officers. Seven protesters were arrested during the rally, which came the night after hundreds of people set rubbish bins on fire and threw projectiles at police further south in Naples in another anti-curfew protest. Italy is reeling from its worst post-war recession after a two-month national lockdown prompted by one of Europe's worst outbreaks, and authorities have so far sought to avoid reimposing more drastic quarantine restrictions. The latest protests there cap a week of similar demonstrations against government restrictions in several parts of Europe, including Spain, Switzerland and the Czech Republic.

## US sees record infections for 2nd day straight

DNA

WASHINGTON: The United States saw a record high number of new daily Covid-19 cases for the second day in a row on Saturday, figures from Johns Hopkins University showed, as warnings grew over its spread. The country reported 88,973 new infections between 8:30 pm Friday and 8:30 pm Saturday, the figures showed, substantially above the previous day's 79,963. A total of 8,568,625 cases have been reported in the United States with 224,751 deaths, the highest in the world in absolute terms. The worst current outbreaks in the country are in the north and midwest, and some 35 of the 50 states are seeing an increase in case numbers. The number of deaths over 24 hours has remained broadly stable since the beginning of autumn, with between 700 and 800. On Saturday the US recorded 906 deaths, the Johns Hopkins tracker showed. President Donald Trump has sought to beat back harsh criticism of his handling of the health crisis ahead of the November 3 election, particularly from his Democratic opponent Joe Biden.

## Spain declares nationwide state of emergency

MADRID: Spanish declared a national state of emergency Sunday, and a curfew covering all of Spain except the Canary Islands, in a bid to curb a second wave of coronavirus cases. The new state of emergency will last until the beginning of May, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said in a televised speech. "The situation we are going through is extreme," he stressed. The measures were agreed earlier Sunday at a two-and-a-half-hour cabinet meeting convened to respond to calls from the regions for powers to impose curfews to fight the surge in coronavirus cases. A government statement said the overnight curfew would run from 11:00 pm until 6:00 am. While the state of emergency would initially last for 15 days, it would go to parliament to get it extended for six months, the statement added. They were responding to calls for help from 10 Spanish regions and the city of Melilla, it said.

## Agricultural techfair opens in Shaanxi

The fair was organized in conjunction with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and hosted by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, National Forestry and Grassland Administration

DNA

BEIJING: The opening ceremony of the 27th China Yangling Agricultural Hi-tech Fair is held at Yangling Agricultural High-tech Industrial Demonstration Zone in Shaanxi province on Oct 22, 2020. An agricultural technology training demonstration base was unveiled on Thursday at the 27th China Yangling Agricultural Hi-tech Fair, an annual promotion and exhibition for agricultural development in Shaanxi province. The fair was organized in conjunction with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and hosted by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, National Forestry and Grassland Administration, China National Intellectual Property Administration, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Shaanxi provincial government. It will run until Monday. Six indoor and outdoor exhibition halls and display areas with more than 2,000 stands were installed at the fair, in a total exhibition area of 160,000 square meters. This year also marks the first year that the fair is being held both online and offline. Themed "Technological innovation leads to high-quality growth", the fair will feature more than 100 activities and attract participants from 70 countries. At the opening ceremony



on Thursday, Zhao Yide, governor of Shaanxi province, said, "The activities we hold at the fair can bring more opportunities for communication and cooperation at home and abroad, while injecting stronger impetus into the comprehensive revitalization of rural areas and high-quality agricultural

growth. Xu Nanping, vice-minister of science and technology, said that the fair has played an important role in strengthening international exchanges and cooperation in agriculture. "In the next step, we plan to implement an innovation-driven development strategy to

speed up innovation in the agricultural sector," Xu said. The fair's organizers said the training demonstration base will establish a number of modern agricultural research centers, international collaboration labs and agricultural technology promotion application platforms to

promote cooperation. Yangling has been home to the Agricultural High-tech Industrial Demonstration Zone since 1997. The high-tech fair has attracted thousands of agricultural companies and scientific research institutions from more than 70 countries worldwide since 1994.

## UBG nominates President, Senior Vice President

DNA

LAHORE: The United Business Group of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry unanimously nominated Khalid Tawab for the post of President and Abdul Rauf Mukhtar for the post of Senior Vice President. Khalid Tawab hails from Karachi and has previously served as the Senior Vice President of FPCCI while Abdul Rauf Mukhtar belonging to Lahore has remained the Vice President of FPCCI. These candidates were announced by UBG Patron in Chief S. M. Munir during a meeting of the UBG Core Committee at the residence of UBG Chairman Iftikhar Ali Ma-

lik. In this meeting, the members of the core committee gave full authority to S. M. Munir for these two decisions which were announced by mutual consent. The members of the core committee from all across the country participated in the meeting. Sheikh Tanveer Ahmed, Zubair Tufail, Riaz-ud-Din Sheikh, Ghazanfar Bilour, Darukhan, Abdul Rauf Alam, Amir Ata Bajwa, Zafar Bakhtawari, Qazi Akbar, Zahid Iqbal Chaudhry, Sohail Altaf, Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Mazhar Ali Nasir, Abdul Sami Khan, Noor Ahmed Khan, Mian Waqar Ahmed, Sohail Malik, Samina Fazil, Shireen Arshad Khan, Shabnam Zafar, Sheikh Mumtaz Ahmed and others also attended the meeting.

## Jordan, Kuwait condemn publishing of cartoons

DNA

AMMAN: The Jordanian government has condemned the continuing publishing of the cartoons of the Noble Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, under the pretext of freedom of expression, confirming its support for the statement of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), which expresses the position of the Islamic nation in this regard. Spokesman for the Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dhaifallah Al-Fayez affirmed Jordan's condemnation of publishing such cartoons and its deep dissatisfaction with these practices, which represent insult to the feelings of nearly 2 billion Muslims, considering it as a clear targeting of religious symbols, beliefs and sanctities, and a flagrant violation of the principles of respect for others and their beliefs.

## Emirates celebrates 35 years of connecting Pakistan to the world

Since its launch, Emirates has operated more than 116,500 roundtrip flights between Pakistan and Dubai, carrying more than 28 million passengers to Pakistan

DNA

Karachi, Pakistan - 24 October 2020: The first Emirates flight took off on 25 October 1985 from Dubai to Karachi, marking the birth of a global airline and the establishment of an air transport link between the UAE and Pakistan that has grown from strength to strength, contributing to tourism and trade flows between both countries. Today, Emirates currently serves customers in Pakistan with 53 weekly flights. Since its launch, Emirates has operated more than 116,500 roundtrip flights between Pakistan and Dubai, carrying more than 28 million passengers to Pakistan, from Pakistan to Dubai and destinations beyond. Following its Karachi oper-

ations, Emirates launched flights to Peshawar in 1998; Islamabad and Lahore in 1999; and Sialkot in 2013, progressively growing its presence in Pakistan in line with customer demand for high quality air services both inbound and outbound. The airline continues to play a vital role in serving communities across Pakistan, providing global connectivity for business and leisure travellers alike. Emirates currently operates flights to Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Peshawar and Sialkot - utilising its wide-body Boeing 777-300ER aircraft, and connecting customers to Dubai, and to more than 95 destinations worldwide, via Dubai. Emirates SkyCargo, the airline's freight division, also plays an instrumental

role in driving economic activity and helping support the country's local exporters and businesses to connect to more than 120 cargo destinations. Over the past 10 years, Emirates SkyCargo has helped transport over 750,000 tonnes of cargo into and out of Pakistan - including main exports of fish, meat and vegetables and main imports of pharmaceuticals and medical equipment. Today, more than 555,000 Pakistani nationals and residents are enrolled in Emirates Skywards, the award-winning loyalty programme of Emirates and flydubai - allowing members to redeem fantastic benefits and rewards on flights, hotel stays as well as retail and lifestyle experiences supported by the airline.

## COVID situation in Europe worst

DNA

BERLIN: The COVID-19 situation in the vast majority of European Union member states is of "serious concern" with high risk to the general population, the European infectious disease agency warned on Friday. Under the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)'s current classification system, the epidemiological situation in the 31 countries it monitors - EU, EEA member states and the UK - is described as either stable, of concern, or of serious concern. Only six nations were on Friday classified as stable while no countries were labelled "of concern". The vast majority were classified as experiencing an epidemiological situation

of serious concern due to the increasing rates and/or test positivity standing at above 3 per cent. "In countries where the epidemiological situation is of serious concern, there is a high risk to the general population, and for vulnerable individuals the COVID-19 epidemiological situation represents a very high risk. According to its latest figures, more than 5.5 million infections have been confirmed across the 31 countries since the beginning of the pandemic. The death toll now stands at nearly 206,000. The Czech Republic and Belgium have been particularly impacted by the second wave which started sweeping the continent in September. Both countries have 14-day COVID-19 incidence rates of more than 1,000 cases per 100,000 population.



PESHAWAR: Ambassador of Germany posing for a picture with members of the civil society during his recent visit to Peshawar. - DNA

## Pak Research Center at Chinese University

DNA

BEIJING: Pakistan Research Center for a 'Community with Shared Future' has been established here in Communication University of China (CUC) in collaboration with Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad. According to Gwadar Pro, addressing the opening ceremony Deputy Head Mission, Pakistan Embassy Beijing, Ahmed Farooq said the relationship between Pakistan and China is based on the principle of a shared future for humanity, several decades ago, with time, its future is far brighter than its glorious past all because it is based on principles. The Center, he said to offer an opportunity to exchange ideas and to create better ways as how to collaborate with each other. Farooq added, this is very im-

portant that we remain engaged with each other and understand each other and it's not just one country it's a combination, and a collection of so many other countries coming together for such exchange of ideas, how we can better cooperate with each other for the benefit of all of us. President of the Communication University of China, Liao Xiangzhong stated on the occasion that every institute should pursue innovation, research, development, international exchange, and collaboration for the promotion of international education and the betterment of mankind. "We hope we can further promote peace development and civilization dialogue. We should have that responsibility to spread knowledge and pursuing a higher goal. So, we should have a broader mind and high envisions in front of the challenges and recession" he said. Lieutenant Colonel Khalid Taimur Akram

(Retd) has the honor of being appointed as the first Director of Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future. In an interview with China Economic Net, Taimur Akram said that it is indeed a great honor for CGSS and himself to be the partner organization of the Research Center in Pakistan and being given the chance to collaborate for the promotion of a community with a shared future. "As we all are aware that Research at the global level is becoming increasingly collaborative and problem-oriented. This transition is not only taking place at the global level but at regional and national levels as well. Hence, leading to more inclusive and accountable research which will be instrumental in highlighting issues that need immediate attention" he stated. Khalid hoped that through this initiative, they will contribute to the pro-

motion of the academic and cultural resource exchange between Pakistan, China, and other member states. "I look forward to strengthening the academic relations between Pakistan, China, and the rest of the world. Along with his colleagues from the Communication University of China and the rest of the member states, he will try to establish a network of academic collaborations. Hence, working collectively towards making the world a progressive and prosperous place", he added. It is worth-mentioning that CUC is establishing Research Centers in collaboration with seven countries including Pakistan, Germany, South Korea, Malaysia, Ethiopia, and Tanzania. These Centers are designed as a joint academic platform to co-build networks in both China and the partner country to facilitate cooperative projects.

## Trump casts vote

DNA

NEW YORK: President Trump has cast his vote for November's presidential election early and in-person. After completing his ballot in the key state of Florida, he spoke to reporters at the Palm Beach polling station, telling them: "I voted for a guy named Trump." He repeated his argument that that voting in person is more secure than by post - a claim which he's never been backed up with any evidence. "It was a very secure, but much more secure than when you send in a ballot, I can tell you that. Everything was very strict. Right by the rules. When you send in your ballot, it could never be like that," he said. The president switched his official residence from New York to his private Florida club last year, complaining that New York politicians had treated him badly. Since the switch, he has also voted twice by post. Voters in New York also began to cast their ballots in person on Saturday, with thousands assembling early in the morning in Madison Square Garden.

## Top aide to Pence tests positive for Covid-19

WASHINGTON: US Vice President Mike Pence's chief of staff tested positive for Covid-19 on Saturday, a spokesman said, the latest in a list of figures connected to Donald Trump's administration to do so.

Marc Short began quarantine and was assisting in the contract tracing process, Pence spokesman Devin O'Malley said in a statement. "Vice President Pence and Mrs. Pence both tested negative for Covid-19 today, and remain in good health," he added.

Pence, who has been campaigning ahead of the November 3 election, will maintain his current schedule in consultation with White House doctors, said the spokesman.

A surge in Covid-19 cases led to the United States reaching a record number of daily infections for a second day running on Saturday, with nearly 89,000 new cases. A list of people connected to the White House have contracted the virus, including President Trump, who was hospitalized before recovering. Trump has downplayed the seriousness of the virus, calling for businesses to reopen so the economy can recover. - APP

## Crown Prince launches AED500m package

DNA

DUBAI: Under the directives of Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, crown prince of Dubai and chairman of the Executive Council of Dubai, launched an AED500 million economic stimulus package to support various business sectors across the economy. The new package brings the total value of stimulus packages introduced by the emirates' government in 2020 to AED6.8 billion. The stimulus package is aimed at mitigating the impact of the current global economic situation on businesses and support them to overcome the current exceptional circumstances. "We strive to support the business sector while working together to counter the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The business sector is at the heart of our economy. We are keen to revive the business environment and open new horizons for entrepreneurs and investors in line with Dubai's future aspirations," Sheikh Hamdan said. Highlighting the importance of the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), he said: "We are working as one integrated system, and our main goal is to accelerate the pace of recovery and ensure that the economy can tide over this phase." The current circumstances require consistency in the business approaches to ensure continuity and a flexible economic environment that can adapt to global changes," he added. Sheikh Hamdan launched several economic initiatives that seek to support various business sectors in Dubai. Advertising companies affected by the pandemic will be exempted from Dubai Municipality's advertising permit fees for three months, retroactive from March 15 to June 16, 2020.



**Briefs**

**Pakistani folk song delights at China Youth Festival**

DNA

BEIJING: A Pakistani folk song, produced by Pakistan's National Arts Council, was unveiled here at the 13th China International Youth Arts Festival. Fouzia Saed, director of the council, delivered an online congratulatory speech, wishing great success for the event and said, Pakistani music, lively and vivacious, shows the diversity of the nation's culture. Twelve well-known Pakistani singers dressed in folk costumes sang in 12 Pakistani languages, including Urdu, Punjabi and Pashto, expressing Pakistani people's hope for a peaceful, harmonious life, according to local media here on Saturday. Due to the COVID-19 epidemic, this year's China International Youth Arts Festival was held online. More than 50 art troupes or artists from 26 countries including Pakistan were invited to send their performance videos or greetings, in the form of music, dance, drama, acrobatics and folk customs. The Twitter account of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, the Facebook page of the cultural office of the embassy and Facebook page of the China Cultural Center in Pakistan all sent out information about the festival, attracting many likes, messages and reposts from Pakistani citizens.

**Opposition not cooperating on national issues: Fawad**

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhry said on Sunday that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government was ready to sit with opposition parties to make legislation on national issues but they were not cooperative. Talking to a private news channel, referring to Financial Action Task Force (FATF), he said that it was a matter of national interest and the opposition should have cooperated on it fully. But sadly, the opposition was demanding to close corruption cases and wanted to National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO), he added. He further said that the Pakistan went to FATF due to poor performance of previous governments, while now they were politicizing it. We have completed 21 targets of FATF and Pakistan would be out of the FATF grey list in February 2021, after the completion of the remaining targets. He said the opposition movement would be continued till the senate election, while it has nothing to do with the common man and neither have the support.

**KP proposes new policy for transgender community**

DNA

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Social Welfare Department proposed a new policy for the transgender community, noting that advice had been sought from relevant stakeholders and approval from the provincial cabinet awaited. The new policy formulated for transgender rights focuses on various aspects, including education opportunities, medical treatment, and job quotas. The opinion of the Election Commission of Pakistan and the concerned departments has been sought for the document comprising the recommendations and suggestions. According to the policy document, a 2% quota in government jobs has been proposed for the transgender community. It has been recommended that the Industries, Commerce and Technical Education Department, as well as the department of education, set up separate schools.

**Colorful graduation ceremony of Somali students at Serena Hotel**

Ambassador of Somalia to Pakistan Khadija Mohamed Almahzoumi thanks Pakistan for hosting Somalian students; bilateral relations to grow even stronger: Wajiha Akram

**EXCLUSIVE**

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Somalia to Pakistan Khadija Mohamed Almahzoumi, has thanked Pakistan for hosting Somalian students adding relations between the two countries have seen new heights in past years. She said our bilateral relations continue to make positive strides in the right direction. She expressed these views while speaking on the occasion of Graduation Ceremony of Somalian students studying in various Pakistani universities. She said a similar graduation ceremony was held here two years ago, adding she will try to hold this ceremony on a regular basis. Ms. Wajiha Akram, Chairman, Parliamentary Secretary Professional Education and Training was the chief guest while ambassadors of African countries were also present on the occasion along with officials from higher education commission. The Ambassador appreciated the HEC and Pakistani universities for facilitating Somalian students. She said that around 1200 Somalian students were currently studying in Pakistani universities. The Somalian ambassador said a lot of Somalian students have graduated from Pakistan and they are now contributing greatly to the Somalian society. Some of them have even reached the highest positions in Somalia. Ambassador said she was lucky to be here with the Somalian students celebrating the graduation ceremony. She especially thanked those who wholeheartedly supported Somalia students in Pakistan. Ms. Wajiha Akram in her speech, said the presence of Somali students in Pakistan speaks volumes for the deep rooted relationship between the two countries. She said students are our future ambassadors who would for sure contribute greatly towards further strengthening of bilateral relations after completing their education. Some students of Somalia have established Urdu language institutes back in Somalia which ostensibly is a great honor



ISLAMABAD: Somali students expressing jubilation on the occasion of graduation ceremony of Somali students studying in Pakistan. – DNA



ISLAMABAD: Ms. Wajiha Akram, Chairman, Parliamentary Secretary Professional Education and Training and Ambassador of Somalia Khadija Mohamed Almahzoumi giving certificate to the graduating students on the occasion of graduation ceremony of Somali students studying in Pakistan. – DNA



ISLAMABAD: Ms. Wajiha Akram, Chairman, Parliamentary Secretary Professional Education and Training and Ambassador of Somalia Khadija Mohamed Almahzoumi giving certificate to the graduating students on the occasion of graduation ceremony of Somali students studying in Pakistan. – DNA

for our both nations. Wajiha said since the 1960s we have had an important and solid mutual relationship with Somalia and great people of Somalia. The African continent is a rising re-

gion giant with a population of 1.6 billion people. The continent, as we know, is rich with mineral resources and an exporter of energy resources. Pakistan has a lot of goodwill in

the region as the country has always championed the cause of the African countries. We must continue this path of mutual cooperation especially in the field of education, she added.

Later the chief guest along with Ambassadors of the African countries gave away certificates to the graduating students. A famous Somali singer came all the way from Somalia to perform

on the occasion. His mesmerizing performance simply left the audience spell-bound. The students presented traditional Somali cultural dances, which added color to the event.

**Role of Pakistan in UN Peacekeeping**

*The very roots of our commitment with UN for promoting international peace and security stems from the vision of the Founding Father, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah*

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani peacekeepers have a long and distinguished history of serving with the United Nations. The very roots of our commitment with UN for promoting international peace and security stems from the vision of the Founding Father, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, which stipulates Pakistan's resolve to make utmost contribution to the promotion of peace and prosperity among the nations of the world, while upholding the principles of the United Nations Charter. Going back in history, Pakistan joined the United Nations on 30 September 1947 which marked the beginning of an illustrious era that is unmatched in history. Our support to UN Peacekeeping Operation's began in 1960, when Pakistan deployed its first ever contingent in United Nations' Operations in Congo. Taking this initial step forward, over the past 60 years Pakistan has been instrumental in implementing the mandate of United Nations missions across the world; our feats are un-paralleled in this regard. Pakistan has contributed more than 200,000 troops in 46 mission and 28 countries in almost all continents of the world. With the spirit of sacrificing our today for the world's tomorrow, 158 Pakistani peacekeepers have sacrificed their lives including 24 Officers in the noble cause of helping humanity to build peace and restoring stability in turbulent regions under the auspices of United Nations. Pakistan has remained one of the largest and most effective Troops Contributing Country consistently over the years. Our contingents abroad have played a significant role in normalizing war torn communities, maintaining law and order and ensuring successful transition of political dispensation through supervision of elections. Performance of Pakistani peacekeepers has been widely acknowledged globally by numerous world leaders and UN leadership. Presently, Pakistani peacekeepers are deployed in Congo, Central African Republic, South Sudan, Darfur, Somalia, Western Sahara, Mali, Abyei and Cyprus, helping humanitarian causes, bringing stability and promoting peace thus building a secure and peaceful world. – APP

**Saudia to resume Pak flights in November**

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia's national carrier Saudia announced it will resume flights to 33 international destinations, including five Pakistani cities, in November. The airline resumed international flights to 20 destinations after months of travel disruption caused by the coronavirus pandemic, when authorities partially lifted the suspension of international flights on September 15. Saudia said the flights will be available to passengers who are permitted to travel under Saudi Arabia's coronavirus safety measures. The Pakistani airports it will resume travel to are Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Multan and Peshawar, Arab News reported. Other destinations include major international capitals across Europe, Asia and Africa. Saudia travelers who are going to the US will only be able to fly to Washington. The Saudi Interior Ministry said it will end all restrictions on air, land and sea transport next year. – APP

**NA all set to host two-day seminar on Pak-Afghan trade**

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Realizing the significance of bilateral trade and economic linkages, regional growth and development, the National Assembly of Pakistan under the leadership of Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaisar has taken a bold initiative to host two-day Seminar on "Pakistan-Afghanistan Trade and Investment Forum 2020". The Seminar, according to National Assembly handout, will commence on Monday, 26th October in Islamabad in which parliamentarians, trade communities of the two sides, government functionaries, line ministries will discuss and deliberate on ways and means to open up new vistas of cooperation and boosting bilateral trade between Islamabad and Kabul. USAID, Pakistan has also extended support to National Assembly Secretariat in organizing Seminar under its regional connectivity and

integration initiative. Inter-Parliamentary parleys, during the seminar, will explore the possibilities of regional connectivity and to provide for mechanisms to enhance bilateral trade and strategies to resolve all outstanding issues to create a win-win situation. Thematic sessions of the seminar will focus on reducing cost of Pakistan-Afghanistan transit trade, trade and investment opportunities in manufacturing sector, trade and investment opportunities in agriculture, food, live stock and minerals and trade and investment opportunities in services. The Prime Minister of Pakistan will address the opening ceremony of the Conference on 26th October, as Chief Guest. Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaisar, Advisor for Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood, Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi will also address the gathering.

**'Opposition wants Pak on FATF blacklist'**

RAJA PERVAIZ

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Postal Services and Communications, Murad Saeed on Sunday said that opposition parties want to see Pakistan on Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) blacklist. Addressing a presser in Islamabad, Murad Saeed said that the opposition tried to get National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) when the government was doing legislation related to FATF laws. Taking on former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, the minister said that the PML-N supreme leader is carrying out Indian narrative and his statements about Mumbai attacks and Dawn Leaks were presented as proofs in the international court. "India has done investment over Nawaz Sharif." Murad Saeed said the Kashmir issue was put on the backburner during the tenure of Nawaz Sharif. Modi was warmly welcomed in Rawind when he was slaughtering Kashmir, he said. He said the anti-Pakistan narrative of Nawaz Sharif is getting full coverage in Indian media, which raises question that why India is giving so much coverage to him?

**Orange train landmark Pak-China partnership**

The train will also provide safe transit to women and other vulnerable social factions. Additionally, the project will help in addressing the worsening traffic situation of the city

ABID RAZA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: With the operational of Orange Line Metro Train, the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which is considered as the flagship of the Belt and Road Initiative has smoothly transitioned from its first phase to the second phase. This will be another landmark of Pak-China collaborative partnership under CPEC for promoting the living conditions of the people, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday. Orange Line Metro Train is one such project which was constructed to promote inter-city connectivity in Lahore. Lahore is the second-largest city of the country and provincial capital of the most populous province Punjab.



LAHORE: Metro train kick started on Sunday. CM Punjab Usman Buzdar inaugurated the train. – DNA

In May 2014, both Pakistani and Chinese governments had signed MOU for the initiation of the project. Project financing was secured in December 2015 through China's Exim Bank. In October 2015, the construction of the project began. The first phase of construction was awarded to Habib Construction Services. The second phase of the project was awarded to ZKB Engineers and Constructors for civil works. CRRC Zhuzhou Locomotive rolled out the first of 27 trains in 2017. The 27 units are energy-saving trains and comprising five fully air-conditioned wagons. Testing and trial runs began in 2018. The train was cleared for the test run in December 2019. It will cover 26 stations – 24 of them are elevated and the remaining two are underground.

**Poliovirus detected in sewage from Multan**

MULTAN: The presence of the poliovirus was confirmed in sewage samples of Ali Town and Suraj Miami of Multan. Thirty thousand children missed polio vaccine during the last campaign in Multan. The Department of Health has developed a strategy for convincing parents in the first phase and filing lawsuits in the second phase during the October 26 campaign if they continue to refuse the vaccine. – DNA