

Islamabad POST

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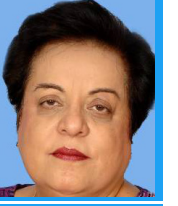
Price Rs. 20

Armenia breaks ceasefire just minutes after start: President Ilham

Mandviwalla for boosting trade ties with Hungary



Shireen Mazari accuses Opposition of peddling Indian narrative



Briefs

Erdogan urges French goods boycott

DNA

ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has called on Turks to boycott

French goods amid a row over France's tougher stance on radical Islam. In a televised speech, he urged world leaders to protect Muslims "if there is oppression against Muslims in France". Mr Erdogan has angrily criticised his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron for pledging to defend secular values. It comes after a French teacher was murdered for showing cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad in class. France "will not give up our cartoons", President Macron said earlier this week.

PDM misleading the people

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz Monday said

the persons wanted by law were making a condemnable attempt to mislead the people. In a tweet on social media platform Twitter, he said some opposition political parties for their political interests were making the mistake of instigating people against the national institutions. He said these institutions provided the basis for the integrity and security of the country. Imran Khan did not bow before these parties before and he will not do so in future as well, he added. - APP

Siraj calls for OIC meeting

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Senator Siraj-ul-Haq, Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami said that the actions of

France hurt the feelings of 1.52 billion Muslims. He said that it is important to hold an OIC meeting on this issue. Senator Siraj-ul-Haq demanded from the government of Pakistan to boycott all French products and expel its ambassador from the country. Pakistan should take the lead in the OIC on this matter, the JI Ameer added.

French envoy summoned to lodge protest

Civilized nations should respect Muslim sentiments, says Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday summoned French envoy Marc Baret to register protest over the anti-Islam campaign a day after Prime Minister Imran Khan denounced French President Emmanuel Macron for hurting sentiments of Muslims around the world. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi had also denounced the decision of the French President for allowing display of blasphemous cartoons. "Civilized nations should respect Muslim sentiments," he added. The foreign minister said he will take up the issue in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and propose declaring March 15 a "Day of Solidarity" to honour the 2019 Christchurch attack in New Zealand. Qureshi's comments follow a statement by the Foreign Office ringing alarm "at highly disturbing statements by certain politicians justifying such heinous

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan to take up matter with OIC

SHUJAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Representative on Religious Harmony Maulana Tahir Ashrafi has said the issue of blasphemous caricatures will be taken up at the forum of OIC. In a tweet on Monday, he said France has badly hurt the sentiments of Muslims in the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal. The Special Representative said Prime Minister Imran Khan has already raised the desecration of sanctities at every forum. Tahir Ashrafi said love for holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAW) more than anything else in the world is part of our faith.

Senate condemns blasphemous sketches

During the session, the historic resolution was presented by Leader of the House Shahzad Waseem

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's upper house (Senate) has unanimously passed a resolution condemning blasphemous caricatures in France. According to details, this historic resolution was presented by the Leader of the House Dr. Shahzad Waseem. The text of the resolution states that when such measures are government-sponsored, divisions



are created between different religions. It further stated that our love for the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is part

of our faith. No Muslim will tolerate disrespecting of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The unanimous resolution said that such measures hurt the feelings of Muslims. The international community must play its part in preventing such actions. During the meeting, Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjarani directed to hand over a copy of the resolution to the Foreign Office and the French Ambassador.

EU provides over €1m to flood victims

The funding will help address the most pressing needs of close to 175,000 people in the hardest hit provinces

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The European Union has allocated 1.15 million (over 220 million Pakistani Rupee) in response to the devastating monsoon rains and floods that swept across large parts of Pakistan between August and September. The funding will help address the most pressing needs of close to 175,000 people in the hardest hit provinces of the country. This is part of a multi-donor response that will support over 420,000 people.

"We stand by the people of Pakistan, many of whom have suffered tremendous losses in the wake of the floods," said Bernard Jaspers-Fajier, head of the EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations Office in Islamabad. "This contribution

from the EU will enable our partners on the ground to scale up their operations and deliver vital assistance to those most in need, helping them to get back on their feet at the earliest possible."

The aid will support the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), a consortium of INGOs working together in the Alliance 2015 (CESVI, ACTED and CONCERN Worldwide) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent in providing much-needed assistance to the most affected people.

This includes the distribution of emergency food assistance, cash transfers, shelter repair toolkits, clean water supplies and other essential relief items. It will also ensure access to sanitation facilities and good hygiene practices for those hit by the floods.



ISLAMABAD: CEO PIA Air Marshal Arshad Malik called on Saudi Arabian Ambassador H.E. Nawaf Bin Saeed AlMalki. - DNA

Ajit Doval hurls threats at Pakistan and China

"It is not necessary that we only fight where you want to, India will take the battle to where the threat originates"

DNA

NEW DELHI: India will fight not only on its own territory but also on foreign soil which becomes the source of a security threat, national security advisor Ajit Doval said in remarks that struck many as significant in the context of the military standoff on the Line of Actual Control. Addressing the Parmarth Niketan ashram in Rishikesh, Doval said while India has never attacked anyone first, the new strategic

thinking holds that perhaps we could have acted proactively to nip security threats. "It is not necessary that we only fight where you want to. India will take the battle to where the threat originates," the NSA said, summing up the doctrine of what he called "New India". Official sources, however, emphasised that Doval was speaking more in the context of civilisational ethos and his remarks were not directed against anyone in the current context. "We never became aggressors to serve our personal interests. We will surely

fight, on our soil as well as on foreign soil, but not for our personal interests. But in the interests of Parmarth spirituality," Doval said. "Ours is a civilization state. It is not based on any religion, language or sect. What cannot be seen, what is the foundation of this nation... is its culture," he added. However, coming on a day when RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat talked about China's encroachment, Doval's remarks struck many as reflecting the government's intent to apply the doctrine of pre-emption to nip security threats.

Chinese President Xi Jinping put out an equally stirring nationalistic message on the anniversary of the Korean War. "We will never sit back and allow damage to national sovereignty, security and development interests, and will never allow anyone or any force to invade and divide the sacred territory of the motherland. If such a serious situation occurs, the Chinese people will surely attack it head-on," he said. It could have been about the US, Taiwan or India, the three big challenges to China at present.

French diplomats advised to stay indoors

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The French diplomats residing in Islamabad have been advised to stay indoors keeping in view the recent blasphemous cartoons issue. According to details the French diplomats are required not to attend public gatherings and functions in order to avoid any untoward incident because public sentiments on the cartoons issue are highly charged. The diplomats have been asked to wait for the proper moment in order to resume their work outside the mission. It may be mentioned here that the Foreign Office on Monday called the French envoy and handed over Pakistan's reaction. The envoy was told that the French president's remarks have greatly hurt sentiments of the people. Even the Prime Minister of Pakistan had to issue a strong worded statement.

Mandviwalla for boosting ties with Hungary



STAFF REPORT \ DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Hungary H.E Mr. Béla Fazekas made a courtesy call on Deputy Chairman Senate, Saleem Mandviwalla in his Chamber at Parliament House, Islamabad and exchanged views over trade, investment and other issues of mutual interest. Deputy Chairman Senate, Saleem Mandviwalla while discussing trade and investment opportunities with Switzerland said that improving inter-parliamentary relations between the two

countries will help enhance business and trade ties. He said that in addition to Parliamentary Groups he would like to visit Hungary officially, along with a business delegation to explore business and trade opportunities between the two countries. He showed reservations towards the current USD 30 million Hungarian investments in the Pakistan and stressed the need for it to be increased. He stressed the need for promotion of tourism between the two countries as well. Continued on Page 06

Turkish minister calls on COAS

DNA

RAWALPINDI: General Hulusi Akar (Retired), Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Turkey called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS).

During the meeting, views were exchanged on issues of mutual interest including regional stability as well as defence and security cooperation. Chief of Army Staff said that both countries share great history of brotherly relations which is being transformed into enduring partnership. The dignity commanded the role of Pakistan for regional peace and stability, especially the efforts of Pakistan Army in battling the scourge of terrorism.

Public holiday on 12th Rabi ul Awwal

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The interior ministry on Monday announced a nationwide public holiday on 12th Rabi ul Awwal.

According to a notification issued by the ministry, on Friday, October 30, all federal government institutions will remain closed. "It is notified for general information that Friday 30th October, 2020 shall be public holiday on the occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (12th Rabi-ul-Awwal 1442 AH) throughout the country," read the notice.

Muslims around the world celebrate the birth of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), known in Arabic as the Mawlid al-Nabawi holiday and locally as Eid Milad un Nabi, on the 12th of Rabi ul Awwal, which is the third month in the Islamic lunar calendar.

Pakistan keen to cement ties with Kabul: PM

It was the Afghan people's prerogative to elect officials and choose the government, the prime minister noted

NAVEED MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday said Pakistan would cooperate and strengthen ties with Kabul regardless of who takes the office. "It was the Afghan people's prerogative to elect officials and choose the government, the prime minister noted. Addressing the two-day 'Pakistan-Afghanistan Trade and Investment Forum 2020' seminar in Islamabad, Imran said Afghanistan was part of the Mughal empire. "The nomads would travel from Central Asia to India and back for economic activities. Even the official language of the Mughal court was Farsi." PM Imran regretted the 40-year-old conflict in Afghanistan and

stressed that Pakistan was the second-most affected country "especially in the last 18 years". "The past serves only one purpose: to teach us," he reflected. "Those who are stuck in the past ruin their future." The premier said it was time to analyse the gains and losses of the past. "Pakistan has learned from history that no foreign force can influence the narrative in Afghanistan. "Afghans make their own decisions. Outside interference is never successful." Speaking of the past, the prime minister lamented Narendra Modi administration in India. "Never has India seen a government so anti-Muslim. The RSS propagate ethnic cleansing of Muslim." "I know India the best," he continued. "Because of cricket, I

have many ties and friendships there so I tried a lot in the beginning until I realized the ideological differences." "But we will keep trying," he said, adding that the current hateful campaign against Muslims was unprecedented in India. "Over eight million Kashmiris remain in an open jail." "So, we are suspicious of New Delhi using Afghan soil to design terrorist activities to destabilise Pakistan," said Imran. "Yet, we have

decided to accept and cooperate with whoever Afghan people bring to power." The premier stressed that the region's future depended on trade ties between the two states. "Economic revival will bring employment. We need to focus on wealth creation by allowing industries and backing business community." "Afghanistan is our natural partner," said Imran, adding that he had directed Advisor on Commerce Abdul Razzak Dawood to discuss matters of mutual cooperation with the visiting dele-

gates and chambers from Afghanistan. He stressed that restoration of peace in the neighbouring country was not just beneficial to Afghans but to Pakistan as well specially Khyber Pakhtunkhwa which was hit the most by the wave of terrorism. The prime minister said no country in the world was trying as hard as Pakistan to restore peace in Afghanistan. "My government's priority has been to push for dialogue. We first brokered talks between Taliban and the United States government and now with the Afghan government." "Our government, armed and intelligence forces are trying their best to ensure peace returns to the war-torn country," said the premier, adding that he envisioned Central Asia similar to Europe with friendly borders.



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Naik Saif Ali Janjua Shaheed remembered - Page 08

Briefs

Court hears KPT illegal recruitment case

KARACHI: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Monday submitted a report in accountability court here about declaring former minister for ports and shipping Babar Ghauri a proclaimed offender. The accountability court in Karachi was hearing the reference of illegal recruitment and misuse of power in Karachi Port Trust (KPT). Sindh Assembly member Javed Hanif, Rauf Akhtar Farooqui and other accused have been arrested in the case. Former federal minister and MQM leader Babar Ghauri has been absconder in the case. The NAB prosecutor presented a report with regard to the action on declaring the absconding former minister Ghauri a proclaimed offender. The prosecutor informed the court that under Section 88, the accountability bureau is taking action to seize properties of the accused person. "The bureau still waiting for reports from some districts of Punjab and Balochistan," NAB prosecutor said. Former KPT chairman Javed Hanif's counsels filed a plea in court seeking permission for their client to go abroad for his medical treatment. The court issued notices to the prosecution and the NAB over the application. The witness could not appear before the court over a petition of counsels of the accused with regard to amendment in the NAB Ordinance. The court adjourned further hearing of the case until November 09.

Polio drive starts in Balochistan

QUETTA: Coordinator Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) Balochistan Rashid Razaq has said that four days Polio campaign has started on Monday in all 33 districts of Balochistan. All preparations have been completed for the Anti-Polio drive in Balochistan. "More than 2.5 million children of less than five years would be administered with polio drops, during the anti-polio drive launched in the province, EOC said. As many as 10585 teams have been deployed to vaccinate children under the age of five," Rashid Razaq said adding that at least 8988 Mobile teams, 941 fixed and 594 transit teams have been tasked in whole province to make sure that all children are administered with polio drops. "In order to ensure strict security to prevent any unforeseen situation, Balochistan Levies force, Police and Frontier Corps (FC) have also been deployed by the provincial government to protect the polio workers," he noted adding religious scholars are also taking part to persuade the parents who normally refuse to administer the polio drops.

Telenor collaborates with Garena Free Fire

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Telenor Pakistan, being at the forefront of innovation remains committed to enabling the youth by connecting them to what matters most through personalised digital solutions and experiences. Strengthening this resolve, in yet another industry first, Telenor Pakistan has collaborated with Garena for Free Fire Continental Series (FFCS) 2020 and co-partnered for the Asia Series Pakistan Qualifier 2020 tournaments launched for the first time in Pakistan. This collaboration in the esports ambit will support Garena in hosting and organising Esport events nationwide, offering contextualised content to help explore the talent and nurture the mobile gaming community of Pakistan. Garena Free Fire is one of the biggest use cases of Mobile Gaming in Pakistan. It became the most downloaded mobile game with over 100 million daily active users globally and received the award for "Best Popular Vote Game" by Google Play in 2019. Garena has recently launched the Pakistan Serveto help optimise the gameplay while establishing their presence in the gaming community of Pakistan.



RAWALPINDI: Minister of State for Climate Change Ms. Zartaj Gul Wazir visited RCCI. President RCCI Mr. Mohammad Nasir Mirza briefed the minister about different initiatives of Chamber towards Green building such as Water conservation and recharge, Solar system, paperless environment and many others. Minister congratulated the Chamber and offered her utmost support for the chamber. Group Leader Mr. Sohail Altaf elaborated the need for a supportive environment for the business community. During the visit Vice President Mr. Shahraiz Malik and Former President Mr. Raja Amir were also present. – DNA

Pakistan's support to continue for Kashmiris, says president

"On 5 August 2019, India moved to alter the disputed status of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and change its demographic structure," he said

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi while reaffirming Pakistan's unflinching support to the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) in their just struggle said that this support and solidarity will continue until the Kashmiris achieve their legitimate right to self-determination. "I would like to assure my Kashmiri brothers and sisters, that we honour their sacrifices and salute their indomitable spirit as we observe this Black Day. We also reaffirm our unflinching support to the people of IIOJK in their just struggle," he said in his message on Kashmir Black Day being observed on Tuesday (October 27). The president added that this support and solidarity would continue until the Kashmiris achieve their legitimate right to self-determination as enshrined in the international law, United Nations Charter and the relevant UN Security



Council Resolutions. He said, "On this day 73 years ago, Indian Security forces landed in Srinagar to illegally occupy the territory and subjugate people of Jammu and Kashmir in clear violation of international law and humanitarian norms." "On 5 August 2019, India moved to alter the disputed status of Indian Illegally Occu-

pled Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and change its demographic structure," he added. The president said the illegal and unilateral Indian actions have been rejected by the Kashmiri people, by Pakistan and by the international community for being in violation of international law, relevant United Nations Security Council

resolutions, and India's own solemn commitments made bilaterally to Pakistan as well as to the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir. "For more than a year now, Kashmiris have been prisoners in their own homes, aliens in their own land, and unable to walk freely on their own streets. Over 900,000 Indian occupation

forces, holding 8 million Kashmiris, have turned the occupied territory into the world's largest open prison," he added. The president said India's inhuman military siege, continued blockade, continuing torture and brutal repression and attempts to change the demographic structure of the occupied territory, have shown the real face of the Hindutva-driven RSS-BJP regime and its extremist designs. The international media and human rights organizations continue to document the tragedy of Kashmir as it goes on unfolding, he added. "Despite the horrendous nature and scale of Indian atrocities, and facing the worst form of Indian state -terrorism, the people of IIOJK have demonstrated remarkable courage, strength and resilience. They have proved that India cannot break their will with the use of brute force," he maintained. – APP

'PDM pursuing enemy's agenda'

DNA

LAHORE : Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Usman Buzdar has said that a vicious conspiracy is being hatched to weaken Pakistan by making national institutions controversial. In a statement, he said that state institutions are our pride and we will foil every conspiracy against them. The nation will never forgive those elements who are raising allegations against the state institutions. He said that those who are targeting the institutions will not succeed in their nefarious designs. "PDM is working on anti-state agenda," Chief Min-

ister Usman Buzdar said that Prime Minister Imran Khan has given a new identity to Southern Punjab. He said that the Punjab government has resolved the issues of students of Balochistan on priority basis. Yesterday, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Shibli Faraz had hit out at the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), an alliance of political opposition parties – saying "PDM is the third part of the axis of evil with India and Israel against Pakistan". Talking to media in Islamabad, the federal minister had slammed opposition leaders for attacking the country's integrity and institutions.

Amir Sajjad Syed, Asif Ali Bhatti elected unopposed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Amir Sajjad Syed and Asif Ali Bhatti have been elected unopposed as President and general secretary of Rawalpindi Islamabad Union of Journalists respectively. The entire panel was also elected unopposed. Apart from RIUJ Election Committee Chairman Iqbal Jaffri, it consists of 4 members Ahsan Premi, Nisar Hussain Sheikh, Athar Rizvi and Samad Salik. With the signatures of Iqbal Jaffery, Chairman, Election Committee 21-2020.

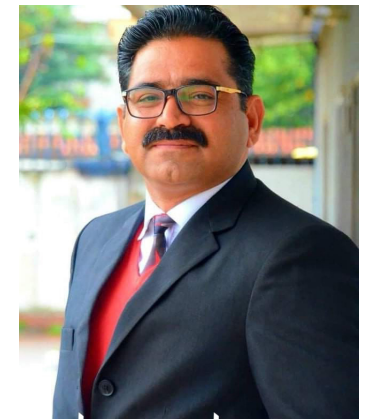
According to the final list of candidates released, President Amir Sajjad Syed Secretary Asif Ali Bhatti and Finance Secretary Hanif Rehman have been elected unopposed while Syed Aun Shirazi and Maira Imran were elected



unopposed after withdrawing of nomination papers from other candidates. While no candidate has filed nomination papers against Tariq Ali Work and Zia-ul-Murtaza Bhervi for the two seats of Joint Secretary. Fourteen candidates submitted their nomination papers for the 10 seats of the governing body.



Later, four candidates withdrew their nomination papers on the due date. As a result, Rubina Shaheen, Javed Ahmed Malik, Idrees Ahmed Awan, Asma Nawaz, Afshan Qureshi, Izhar Khan Niazi, Nabi Baig, Ali Akhtar, Imrana Sagar Komal, Hina Durrani were elected unopposed as members of the governing body. Nomina-



tion papers for RIUJ elections were received from 15th October to 19th October. The final list of candidates was posted on October 24 in RIUJ elections, 26 candidates submitted their nomination papers out of which 9 candidates withdrew their nomination papers and 17 candidates were elected unopposed.

Pak Navy establishes free medical

DNA

KARACHI: In continuation to PN efforts for uplift of health standards along the Coastal areas prominently under COVID-19 scenario, Pakistan Navy in collaboration with Rotary Club International, Al-Mustafa Trust & Sahil Welfare Association established a Free Medical & Eye Camp at Mubarak Village, Karachi. A qualified and dedicated team of doctors comprising Eye Specialist, Medical Specialist and GDMOs examined the patients on modern diagnostic equipment and extended free consultation. The patients were also provided with free medicine and minor surgical and dental procedural treatments. In addition, Patients were comprehensively briefed and enlightened about common infectious diseases and their preventive measures particularly on COVID-19 pandemic. Beside, patients were also educated about maintaining personal health & hygiene, child health care and sanitation of living areas.

Faisalabad: DC reviews security plan for Eid e Milad

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

Faisalabad: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali called on the members of Central Milad Committee. Additional Deputy Commissioner General / Assistant Commissioner Sadar Umar Maqbool and other officers besides President Milad Committee Munir Ahmad Noorani, Patron General Waheed Khaliq Ramay, Naveed Akram, Muhammad Imran Madani, Malik Akbar Ali, Ali Ejaz Qadri, Mohammad Binyamin, Mohammad Irfan Gujjar, Mian Arshad Mahmood Sadhe Mian, Malik Bakhsheh Elahi and other members attended. Welcoming the members of the Central Milad Committee, the Deputy Commissioner said that administrative and security measures have been taken by the district administration for the celebration of Eid Milad-un-Nabi throughout the district however the cooperation of the members of the civil society is essential so that the blessed birthday of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) could be celebrated in a peaceful atmosphere with full religious devotion, respect and dignity.

BRT bus develops fault a day after resumption

DNA

PESHAWAR: Only a day after the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service was resumed following a month-long inspection by the experts, a bus plying on the corridor broke down on Sunday and the passengers travelling in it have to be shifted to another one. The BRT service was suspended in mid-September due to rising incidents of fire eruption on the buses. The company experts were then asked by the provincial government to conduct an audit of the buses and after a review, the service was resumed on Saturday. Spokesperson TransPeshawar Umair Khan played down the recent incident and said that minor faults in operations were

not unusual, adding fault hampering the operation would be fixed on a top priority without any delay. He told Independent Urdu that an issue was developed in the clutch and that has been fixed. Khan said that BRT Peshawar was a milestone project of the government, adding that TransPeshawar believed in providing the best transport services to the citizens. The spokesperson said TransPeshawar experts and bus company experts were on toes to resolve any issue, which may emerge. It is pertinent to mention here that no unauthorized person or vehicle is allowed inside the main corridor route of BRT. The spokesperson urged people to follow all rules and regulations in the best interest of the public.

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Jordan-Pakistan ties poised for quantum leap

CEO Serana Hossain fetes diplomats
CEO Moinat hosts dinner for diplomats

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

Briefs

Rupee gains against US dollar

ISLAMABAD: The exchange rate of Pakistani rupee strengthened by 31 paisas against US dollar in the interbank trading on Monday and closed at Rs161.05 against the previous day's closing of 161.36. Meanwhile according to Forex Association of Pakistan, the buying and selling rates of dollar in open market were recorded at Rs160.5 and Rs161.5 respectively. In interbank trading, the price of euro depreciated by 22 paisas and closed at Rs190.44 against the last day's trading of Rs191.05, State Bank of Pakistan reported. The Japanese Yen lost one paisa and closed at Rs1.53, whereas a decrease of Rs1.67 was witnessed in the exchange rate of British Pound which was traded at Rs 209.54 as compared to its last closing of Rs211.21. The exchange rates of Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal declined by 09 paisas each to close at Rs 43.84 and Rs 42.94 respectively. — APP

Residents advised to use amnesty scheme

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) has advised the owners of illegal residential buildings to get regularized the building maps without fines. According to a RCB spokesman, the board had launched an amnesty scheme for illegal residential buildings under which the owners had been asked to legalise their illegal structures without fines. The amnesty scheme was announced for illegal structures of domestic units, constructed before 2015, he added. The owners of the illegal buildings would pay a fee of Rs2500 to have their building map made by an approved architect which would be submitted to the Board for formal approval, he said and informed that three field offices had been set up in Allahabad for the residents of Ward Number 1 & 10, Valley Road for Ward Number 2,3,4,8 & 9 and 'Baraf Khana, Masrial Road' for Ward Number 5, 6 & 7. He said, special awareness campaign had also been launched through banners, posters and newspapers ads. — APP

Rs 820,000 fine imposed on 600 SOPs violators

ABBOTTABAD: The district administrations in Hazara division implementing the COVID-19 SOPs in letter and spirit imposed Rs 820,000 fine in 600 violators and sealed 16 shops while issued warnings to 2500 individuals. According to Commissioner Hazara Division Riaz Khan Mahsud told a video conference with all divisional commissioners that 9000 shops, markets, malls, transport vehicles, bus stands (addas), public gatherings, restaurants, marriage halls and petrol stations were checked during the last three days. To highlight progress on price control efforts, the Commissioner told that the officers of district administrations and other concerned departments and authorities have checked about 3000 shops, sealed 220 shops and fined Rs one million to 150 shop keepers for overcharging. Mahsud further informed that following the provincial government's directions 13 Sasta Bazars have been set up in Hazara Division wherein all essential edible items including wheat flour, Ghee, sugar, pulses, rice, fruits and vegetables were made available for general consumers at the government notified prices. He added that general people were being informed about availability of essential food items on subsidized rates at sasta bazars by installing banners etc. on different public places as well as through other media. He thanked the CS who expressed satisfaction over performance of Hazara Division and issued directions for maintaining the achievements of the divisional and district administrations. — APP



ISLAMABAD: RCCI organised Breast Cancer awareness session (Pink Day) today at the Chamber. Vice Chancellor Fatima Jinnah University Ms. Saima Hamid was the Chief guest and Ms. Noor Azida Azmi (Spouse of Malaysian High Commissioner) was the guest of honour. President RCCI Mr. Mohammad Nasir Mirza and Group Leader Mr. Sohail Altaf also gave the key note speech. — DNA

Mazari accuses Opposition of peddling Indian narrative

Mazari's statement comes days after Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval warned that his country will use its own and foreign territory in its fights against enemies

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a fresh attack on the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), Minister for Human Rights Shireen Mazari on Monday accused the Opposition of peddling the Indian narrative. "So [Ajit] Doval threatens hybrid war and LOC inside Pakistan and suddenly PDM's Noorani talks of breaking away Balochistan, Marjam discusses issues of enforced disappearance while Nawaz Sharif seeks to sow mutiny in armed forces," she said in a tweet. "Is it just a coincidental unity of purpose between India's NSA and PDM?"

The government and Opposition are embroiled in a war of words that intensified with PDM taking to the streets. Mazari's statement comes days after Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval warned that his country will use its own and foreign territory in its fights against enemies. According to Times of India, Doval said India will take the battle to where the threat originates. "We will fight where you want us to



fight, that is also not mandatory. We fight where we feel the threat is coming," the Bharatya Janata Party (BJP) leader told a religious gathering in Risikesh on Saturday. "We have never done it for selfish reasons. We will fight a war on our land and others' land too but not our selfish reasons but for the highest good of others. You said we have never attacked anyone and there are many views about it," he continued. "If there is a threat to the country, then we should have attacked as it is important to save the country."

A day later, Jamiat Ulema-Islam Pakistan (JUIP) leader Owais Noorani sought an independent state for Balochistan at PDM's jalsa in Quetta. PML-N vice-president Marjam Nawaz also met with affected families and highlighted the missing persons issue during her stay in the southwestern province. Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan also expressed concerns over Noorani's remarks. "PDM is speaking in Quetta to make Balochistan a separate state," he wrote, questioning the JUIP leader's narrative. "Is it BJP jalsa or PDM?"

AIOU examinations of spring 2020 from Nov 2

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Final examinations of all post graduate programs offered in spring 2020 semester including ADE, ADC, PGD, BS, B Ed, M Ed, MA and MSc will commence from 2nd November, 2020. Moreover, the final examinations of BA (Associate Degree) programs have already been commenced on 26th October. According to Controller Examinations, roll number slips have been dispatched to the students and have

also been uploaded on the university website as well. Those students who have not yet received roll number slips through postal services may download these from the website which would be acceptable in the examination halls. Controller Examination further instructed the students to strictly observe COVID-19 SOPs in the examination halls. Wearing of face masks and social distancing within the examination halls have been made mandatory for both the students as well as exam invigilation staff.



PNCA to hold cultural activities today

ISLAMABAD: In connection with "Black Day", Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) will hold cultural activities to express solidarity with the Kashmiris today. In collaboration with Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, the event will highlight the plight of Kashmiris in the occupied valley. The artists of PNCA will hold a puppet show to highlight the sufferings of the Kashmiri people in Occupied Kashmir. An exhibition of paintings will also be arranged to reflect the brutalities and massive human rights violations being committed by the Indian troops to suppress the indigenous freedom struggle of Kashmiris brothers, an official said on Monday. He said that photographs will also be displayed to narrate the struggle of Kashmiri innocent people who are fighting for their independence and rights of self-determination. — APP

Teachers Association lauds appointment of Dr Ikram

ISLAMABAD: Federal Government Teachers Association (FGTA) on Monday welcoming the appointment of Dr Ikram Ali Malik as new Director General (DG), Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) has expressed the hope that pending issues of teachers would be resolved on priority basis. The Association also expressed the gratitude that this induction will bring improvement in the education

sector. Talking to APP on Monday, President FGTA Malik Ameer Khan said the permanent appointment of DG FDE was the proof of pro educational policies of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government. The previous governments had appointed FDE chiefs on adhoc basis which proved to be disastrous for education sector. These adhoc base appointments were main reason to

increase the problems of teaching and non-teaching staff of government schools. He lauded initiative of Prime Minister Imran Khan for giving approval to the summary of Ministry of Federal Education for appointment of Dr Ikram Ali Malik as new head of FDE, saying that now a professional educationist will look after more than 400 schools, colleges of the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). — APP

ICT police devises security plan for Eid Milad ul Nabi

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police Monday chalked out an elaborate security plan for main procession of Eid Milad ul Nabi on 12th Rabi ul Awal (October 30) and to ensure strict patrolling for religious gatherings in the city. The decision for comprehensive security arrangements were made in meeting presided over by IGP Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfikar which was also attended by DIG (Headquarters) Muhammad Saleem, AIGs Special Branch, Operations, SSPs Traffic, Security, Headquarters, CTD, Additional SP and SPs of various zones. IGP directed DIG (Operations) Waqar Uddin Syed to ensure comprehensive security arrangements on the occasion. He asked for monitoring and surveillance of the processions through drone and CCTV cameras and to deploy teams of CTD as well as falcon on important points. According to the plan the contingents of capital police and personnel of other law enforcement agencies will perform patrolling and security duties on this occasion and main procession starting from Sector G-7 will be completely cordoned off through heavy deployment. — DNA

No talks possible without Kashmir's consent

'Whenever any talks started with India, kashmiri will be third party in the dialogue, because without kashmiri no dialogue will be successful between the two countries'

FIAZ CHAUDHRY

RAWALPINDI: A special ceremony was arranged to celebrate Kashmir Youm-e-Azadi at Punjab Council of the Arts. President of Azad Jamu & Kashmir Sardar Masood Khan presided over the ceremony Chairman Kashmir Committee Shahrir Afriqi was chief guest and Mishal Malik was guest of honor. While addressing the ceremony, Azad Kashmir President Sardar Masood Khan said that, war had imposed on us because of Kashmir. If India looked toward Azad Kashmir with evil eyes, Azad Kashmir will become the graveyard for Indian Army. Pakistan Army is always ready for the defence of Azad Kashmir. In-

dia is on a war frenzy, while Pakistan is a responsible nuclear power, he added. He further clarified that there is no bilateral talks with India. Whenever any talks started with India, kashmiri will be third party in the dialogue, because without kashmiri no dialogue will be successful between the two

countries. In occupied Kashmir, youth are being martyred every day, women and children are not safe from Indian barbarism. Indian army has imprisoned more than 14,000 Kashmiri youth in camps. Azad Kashmir fought and became independent from India. The youth of Kashmir fought valiantly

like Ghazwa Badar without considering the number of Indian troops, Sardar Masood said, that Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs and Christians are like finger of a hand which can become a punch for India. Sardar Masood Khan thanked the government of Pakistan and said that after fifty years, Pakistan has

revived the Kashmir issue in the UN Security Council. The people, including politicians, should launch a global campaign to take the Kashmir issue to the world. The President of Azad Kashmir said that he was grateful to all Pakistanis for celebrating the foundation day of Azad Kashmir. Chairman Kashmir committee Shahrir Afriqi said that the super powers of the world need to open their eyes, what is going on in Indian occupied Kashmir. India has heated up the market of oppression and barbarism in the occupied valley. Mishal Malik said that, until we don't get crazy for freedom. We won't be able free ourselves from Indian atrocities. Special songs related to the independence movement were also performed at the event.



Holy Family holds breast cancer seminar

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek Insaf (PTI) North Punjab Women wing chapter here on Monday arranged a seminar on breast cancer awareness at Holy Family Hospital. Speakers at a seminar stressed the need for educating women about self-examination in order to avoid them from breast cancer. A large number of faculty members of Medical research, students, nursing and paramedics attended the seminar. Speaking on the occasion, Parliamentary Secretary for National Health Services Regulation Dr Nosheen Hamid was chief guest. She underlined the need to educate women about self-examination because breast cancer does not affect only a woman but whole of the family bears the consequences in terms of social and financial impacts. Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chancellor Rawalpindi Medical University Dr Muhammad Umer said that according to the WHO, if the breast cancer continues to grow at the present rate, the number of deaths from cancer will increase to more than 13.1 million by 2030 worldwide. The VC said that cancer is a killing disease, but is curable if diagnosed at earlier stage. Deputy Director Medical Research center Dr Shazia Zeb and Dr Uzma Hayat also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the importance of holding such seminars that creates awareness among women about this sensitive disease. At the end, President PTI North Punjab Shabana Fiaz thanked the participants for attending the seminar.

Progress on journalist's abduction submitted

ISLAMABAD: The Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad on Monday submitted a progress report of joint investigation team (JIT) to the Supreme Court (SC) pertaining to the investigation about abduction of a Senior Journalist Matuallah Jan. The report stated that the kidnappers couldn't be identified in the video clips surfaced regarding the incident of abduction of journalist. The National Database Regulatory Authority (NADRA) had expressed disability to identify the accused from the video clips as the footage was taken through the sub-standard cameras. The report said that NADRA and NHA didn't answer the letter of JIT which was written in August. The investigators had sought the footage of three toll plazas from NHA while the NADRA was asked to provide the address of five people. The report added that Geo fencing expert of Intelligence Bureau (IB) had traced out 121,000 mobile numbers at the time of incident. There was no safe city camera at the place of incident, it further said. — APP

IESCO issues power suspension schedule

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Monday issued power suspension schedule for Tuesday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work. According to IESCO spokesperson, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 08:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Chhaji Mar, Mathial, Sangani-2, Shahullah Dutta-2, Shahullah Dutta, Sangani, Paswal, Valley, Bohi Ghar, Salargah, Museum, Danda Shah Bilawal, Chakri, Arsalan Poultry Farm, SPD, Priyal, Bani, Katarian, Holy Family, F-Block, Chakra, Model Town, Pepsi, Sarwar Shaheed, Swan Industrial, RCCI, Bahr Kalial, Mahuta Feeders, from 08:30 am to 12 noon Sangani Dual Circuit, Pind Pran Dual Circuit, PMC, Hussainabad Dual Circuit, Col. Sher Khan Dual Circuit, Hameed, I-16/1 feeders and surrounding areas. — APP

Briefs

Eid Milad-Un-Nabi preparations in full swing

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Like other parts of the country, preparations to celebrate Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) are in full swing in Rawalpindi city and adjoining areas. The city is beautifully being decorated and all the arrangements are being finalized to celebrate the birth of holy prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) in a befitting manner and with religious fervour. The roads, streets and buildings in the town are being decorated by the faithful with colourful lights and bunting. A number of programmes are being chalked out to celebrate the birth of Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) with great reverence and devotion. Different Naat committees in the city are organizing Naat competitions to celebrate 12 Rabi-ul-Awal. Like every year, the government and religious organizations have planned a number of activities to celebrate the annual event. Eid Milad-un-Nabi would be observed with religious fervor and respect on Oct 30 (Friday). As a tradition, Milad-un-Nabi processions would be held in all areas of the town. Strict Security arrangements would be made to ensure the security of the processions of Eid Milad-un-Nabi. Punjab government has directed to all District and Tehsil administration officers to take strict security measures in this regard. In this connection the main procession of Milad-un-Nabi would start in the morning from Bunni Chowk and after passing from Circular road, Waris Khan, Murree road, Committee Chowk, Iqbal road, Fowara Chowk, Raja Bazaar, would end at central Jamia Mosque Rawalpindi. The district administration has finalized plan for the security of the faithful on Eid Milad-un-Nabi. The entry of Tractor trolley, trucks and other heavy vehicles would be prohibited at the route of the main procession. Ulama and people belonging to different sects of life have also been urged to play their role in maintaining law and order and would foil nefarious designs of the miscreants.

RSCP to be inaugurated on Tuesday

ISLAMABAD: The Road Safety Council of Pakistan (RSCP) would be inaugurated on Tuesday, October 27. The Additional Inspector General National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) Abbas Malik will grace the ceremony as the chief guest, said a press release. According to the chairman of the newly-established RSCP Engr Irfan Baloch, separate awareness sessions on the road safety would also be conducted by Islamabad Traffic Police and NHMP. The road safety is considered a major public issue and it is estimated that every five minutes someone is killed or badly injured in a result of a different traffic accidents in Pakistan. About 60 to 70% of road accidents are due to motorcycles. Once if they fell or slip there is a chance of serious injury and risk to death. - APP

CDA, SBP for facilitating online banking

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) in collaboration with the State Bank of Pakistan signed a MoU with ILink to launch a mobile application for facilitating the masses in online banking here on Monday. The MoU signed upon the special directions of the Chairman CDA, Aamir Ali Ahmad. Members Finance CDA, Members Administration, Director General, and Directors of CDA attended the signing ceremony. From I Link side the Chief Executive Officer, Najeed Agrawala was present at the occasion. Speaking at the occasion, Members Finance CDA said that whole world has been digitalized, therefore CDA has also decided to provide best facilities to masses. The current era is the era of the digital transactions. Citizens will be able to pay their property taxes, sales taxes, revenue, water sanitation charges, land transfer charges, and other bills through this app.

ICCI hopes R3 project to start a new era of development

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan appreciated the initiative of Rawalpindi Development Authority for constituting a Facilitation Committee for preparation of concept of Special Economic Zones along R3 and thanked RDA for making President ICCI as member of that Committee

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) hailed the Punjab Government for initiating the Rawalpindi Ring Road (R3) project through RDA as it would start a new era of development in the twin cities. He said that business hubs, industrial zones, transport terminals, fruits & vegetables wholesale markets, logistic and education hubs, health city, dry port, recreational parks and residential estates would be constructed on both sides of the R3 that would uplift the economy of the region, boost investment and industrialization, create a lot of new jobs and generate great economic activity in the Potohar region. He said that the R3 will not only reduce the traffic congestion in the twin cities, it will also provide a clean, healthy and safe environment besides making significant contributions to national development. He expressed these views while addressing the first meeting of ICCI Executive Body of his tenure. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan appreciated the initiative of Rawalpindi Development Authority for constituting a Facilitation Committee for preparation of concept of



Special Economic Zones along R3 and thanked RDA for making President ICCI as member of that Committee. He termed it a very positive development as it would enable the private sector to contribute more effectively towards the development of economic zones along R3 through a public-private partnership model. He said that when the special economic zones would be planned and constructed along the R3 in consultation with the stakeholders of the private sector, these zones would address all concerns

of the investors and cater to the needs of the current day industry more effectively. Thus these zones go a long way in putting the regional economy on the path of sustainable growth. ICCI President said that the Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) has set a good precedent by including the representatives of business community in Facilitation Committee for SEZs and urged that Capital Development Authority (CDA) should also include the sitting President of ICCI in its Board and in other

important Committees in order to protect the interests of business community during policy making process of CDA. He said that giving representation to ICCI in the CDA Board and in its key committees would be very helpful in resolving key issues of the business community and developing the infrastructure in markets, industrial areas and the whole city with joint efforts. Ms. Fatma Azim Senior Vice President, Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI and the members of ICCI Execu-

tive Body lauded the initiative of RDA for including the President ICCI in its Facilitation Committee as it was a very wise decision to give representation to the voice of private sector in its decision making process for R3 project. They urged that CDA, WAPDA, FBR, SBP and other business related departments should also include the President ICCI in their policy boards that would be instrumental in resolving the key issues of the business community and creating a conducive environment for the business sector.

SECP registers 2,365 new companies in Sep

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) registered 2,365 new companies in September 2020, indicating an increase of 69 per cent as compared to corresponding period last year. Out of these newly registered, 68 per cent companies were registered as private limited companies, 29 per cent were registered as single member companies and three per cent were registered as public unlisted companies, not for profit associations, under section 43 and limited liability partnership (LLP), said a press release issued by SECP here on Monday. This month 99 per cent companies registered online in September 2020, while 40 per cent of the companies were registered same day. The trading sector took the lead with incorporation of

414 companies, followed by construction with 294 companies. A total 289 companies were registered in IT sector, 226 in services, 139 in the real estate, 87 companies in food and beverages, 73 in corporate agricultural farming, 70 in commerce and 69 companies registered in tourism sector. 63 companies registered in education sector, 61 in engineering, 59 in pharmaceutical, 46 in textile, 42 in transport, 38 in marketing and advertisement, 37 in chemical, 28 in logging, 35 in mining and quarrying, 33 in healthcare, 26 companies in each power generation, cables and electric goods, 24 each in fuel and energy, 21 in communications, 19 each in auto and allied and paper/ board, 17 each in broadcasting and telecasting, and cosmetics and toiletries, 14 in steel and allied and 73 companies were registered in other sectors.

Two gangs of criminals busted, weapons recovered

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Bani Gala police has busted two criminals' gangs comprising 10 members and recovered cash, mobile phones, valuables and weapons from them, a police spokesman said. Following directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Muhammad Aamir Zulfikar Khan, Deputy Inspector General of Police (Operations) Waqar Ud Din Syed issued directions to all zonal officers for renewed efforts against those involved in crime of heinous nature. Owing these efforts,

teams headed by SP (City) Omer Khan under the supervision DSP Iqbal Khan including SHO Asim Ghafar Zahidi, Sub- Khuram Aslam, ASIs Munair Ahmed, Tanveer Ahmed, Younas Ali, Muhammad Ahmed and other officials successfully arrested 10 members of two criminal's gangs. They have been identified as Yousaf, Ameer Zaman, Masood Khan, Iftakhar, Bahar Ali and Mudassar Khan, abdul Wahab, Adnan Farooq, Mohsan Ali and Hamad. Police team also recovered cash, motorbike, mobile phones, valuables, and weapons used in various criminal incidents.



RAWALPINDI: Brig Sultan Satti in a meeting Maj Gen Muhammad Arif Malik HI (M), DG ANF. - DNA

Speaker stresses on providing optimum facilities to investors

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly, Asad Qaiser on Monday said providing optimum facilities to traders and investors of Pakistan and Afghanistan would help ushering a new era of economic development and prosperity in the entire region. Speaking at the inaugural session of Pakistan Afghanistan Trade and Investment Forum 2020, he asked for constituting a joint front for eliminating illiteracy, poverty and achieving lasting peace and promoting investments in the region. The only way to enhance bilateral relations was to promote trade, he said adding, leadership of both countries should ensure strong coordination to resolve issues which would help eliminating poverty, developing sector besides creating job opportunities. In last four months, he said, Pakistan has taken various steps to facilitate Afghan transit trade. On receiving

information that more than 11,000 containers were struck in Pakistan, the National Assembly took various steps to make clearance of containers easy and prompt. Four task forces had been constituted under Parliamentary Friendship Group for resolving issues. Over 20 meetings of the task forces had already been held besides visiting crossing points and ports for making possible prompt clearance of the containers. Due to prudent measures, he said, right now a container reaches Afghanistan in three days from Karachi port as comparing to 28 days in past. Pakistan was opening three more border crossing points for enhancing bilateral trade. In July 2020 an average of 350 containers were being cleared at the borders which has enhanced to 1,800 in the month of October 2020. Bilateral trade has shrunk significantly in past years which dropped further

in last few months due to Covid-19 pandemic. In 2019, the volume of Afghan transit trade from Pakistan was over US \$ 5.6 billion. During the same period volume of bilateral trade was US \$ 1.3 billion which was very low as compared to US \$ 2.5 billion in 2011. Volume of formal trade between two countries was over US \$ 2 billion. Removing impediments in Afghan transit trade would help enhancing investments. He said Pakistan has opened the crossing points of Angor Adda, Ghulam Khan and Karachi. Important infrastructure was being set up at the crossing points. These points would help enhancing bilateral trade. The new visa policy speaks volume of the enhanced Pak-Afghan trade. This would help facilitating people of Afghanistan especially Afghan students, businessmen and patients. Afghan people were being granted six month visa on arrival. Pakistani Mis-

sion has been authorized to issue one year multiple visa and five years business visa for Afghan nationals. Afghan students were being granted visa for their entire academic period. The seminar would help strengthening diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan, he said adding that both countries would facilitate and promote trade through Central Asian states. He said Pakistan has played vital role in ensuring negotiated settlement of peace in Afghanistan. Pakistan was committed to take ongoing peace process to logical conclusion. He thanked Prime Minister Imran Khan for showing personal interest in promoting Pakistan Afghanistan relations. Participation of Speaker of the House of the People of Afghanistan (Wolesi Jirga) Mir Rahman Rahmani would help promote trade relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan in future. - APP

CTP directs crackdown on unregistered number plates

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Chief Traffic Officer (CTO), Rawalpindi, Syed Ali Akbar on Monday directed to launch a crackdown on fancy, inappropriate, unregistered, bogus and tampered number plates at the motorcycles and vehicles. In a statement issued here, he said cases would be registered against those who would use bogus and green number plates illegally, adding that those who tampered the number plates would be dealt with strictly. The CTO also directed to take action against juvenile drivers and their vehicles must be impounded. He urged parents not to hand over the keys of vehicles to the juvenile and youngsters. He made it clear that strict action must be taken against violators. CTP is making all out efforts to maintain traffic flow on city roads and traffic wardens have been directed to perform their duties dedicatedly, he added.

Security plan for Eid e Milad

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police have decided to chalk out an elaborate security plan for main procession of Eid Milad ul Nabi on 12th Rabi ul Awal (October 30) and to ensure strict patrolling for religious gatherings in the city. The decision for comprehensive security arrangements were made in meeting presided over by Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Amir Zulfikar Khan which was also attended by DIG (Headquarters) Muhammad Saleem, AIGs Special Branch, Operations, SSPs Traffic, Security, Headquarters, CTD, Additional SP and SPs of various zones. The IGP directed DIG (Operations) Waqar Uddin Syed to ensure comprehensive security arrangements on the occasion. He asked for monitoring and surveillance of the processions through drone and CCTV cameras and to deploy teams of CTD as well as falcon on important points. As per plan, the contingents of Islamabad police and personnel of other law enforcement agencies will perform patrolling and security duties on this occasion and main procession starting from Sector G-7 will be completely cordoned off through heavy deployment. Procession will start from sector G-7 (Sitara Market) and to culminate near shrine of Hazrat Sakhi Mehmud at Aabpara market after passing through various routes, the police source said. All SPs, SD-POs, SHOs and other police officials will visit the routes of procession and ensure effective coordination among the security personnel performing duties.

Islamabad registers 91 new virus cases

ISLAMABAD: National Command and Operation Center (NOC) on Coronavirus Monday said that 91 new COVID-19 cases were reported from the federal capital during last 24 hours. According to an official of NOC, as many as 157 cases were reported last day while 186 cases were reported on Saturday which was the highest number of cases reported in a day during October. He said that so far 19,012 cases were reported from the federal capital while 212 deaths were reported from Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) while 17,454 patients had been recovered completely. Meanwhile, on the direction of Ministry of National Health Services, the district administration of Islamabad had started smart lockdown in different streets of Islamabad to reduce transmission of the infection in selected streets and other sectors of Islamabad. They also started taking actions on violation of SOPs related with the Corona while visiting marriage halls, markets and petrol pumps by its inspection teams. The administration also sealed schools, shops, workshops and restaurants on violation of SOPs. The inspection teams also issued notices to marriage halls besides imposing fines on owners of different shops. Commenting on the situation, an official of Ministry of National Health Services said that several local level administrative decisions were made to control the disease. - APP

PUCAR observes Kashmir Black Day

IRBRAR KHAN

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Council of the Arts arranged a photo exhibition regarding Indian atrocities on Kashmiries to observe Kashmir Black Day. Deputy Speaker National Assembly Qasim Khan Soori inaugurated the photo exhibition. Deputy Speaker Qasim Khan Soori addressing at the occasion said that 27th October is Black Day in the history of Kashmir. On this day in 1947, Indian forces illegally occupied the Kashmir territory. Kashmiries had been fighting for independence from last 70 years, he added. In last few years the independence movement in Kashmir seen enormous progress. Soon, the people of Kashmir will get independence from India. Pakistan will always support Kashmir cause through political and dip-



lomatic ties. Pakistan has highlighted the Kashmir issue in the world under the keen leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan. United Nations, European Union and other international bodies should take action against Indian barbarism in Indian occupied Kashmir. Indian army is busy in genocide against Kashmiries, he added. Director Waqar Ahmed said that, Kashmir is the jugular vein of Pakistan. Kashmir safety is the guarantee of safe and sound Pakistan. The People of Pakistan are standing shoulder to shoulder with the people of Kashmir in their independence movement. Soon, the Kashmiries will celebrate their independence with great zeal and zest. Hundreds of people from different of life visit the arts Council to see the photo exhibition. A special prayer was offered for the independence of Kashmir from India.

The Prime Minister's obsession

IT is not easy to fathom Prime Minister Imran Khan's insistence on the need to bring ex-PM Mian Nawaz Sharif back to Pakistan. Is he merely connecting with his base, which has insisted that Mr Sharif made fools of the government by persuading it to let him go abroad for medical treatment, and that he should be brought back? Or is he trying to distract public attention away from the failures of his government to control the inflation that is plaguing the country? While addressing the beginning of a polio vaccination programme, he said that those brought up in Lahore could not realize what happened in backward areas, nor those whose sons were living in London. While giving a broad hint at Mr Sharif's sons, he could not help drawing attention to his own, who live with their mother in London. The Lahore background also breaks down, for if Mr Sharif belonged firmly to Lahore, Mr Khan too was brought up in Lahore, where his father was posted, well away from Mianwali. Mr Khan, instead of wasting too much attention on bringing Mr Sharif back, should focus on the country's genuine problems. If he is so concerned about its economy that he will not allow the lockdown needed to avert a second wave of the coronavirus pandemic, he will also focus on measures needed to end the food inflation caused by the wrongly timed export of food staples. The standard method is to import cheap supplies and flood the market with them, allowing market forces to bring down prices. However, he has presented the excuse that his timely orders for import were not implemented. A common thread is visible. His orders are not implemented and he is easily fooled. Is one to suspect he has no idea of how to tackle food inflation, even though it fuels the opposition movement to topple him and his government? While one strand of the opposition campaign, its attacks on the military, do not appear to affect him, the link is being made that the establishment has caused food inflation by installing someone as incompetent as him. He would thus tackle the opposition most effectively by bringing food prices down.

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The polio battle

AS World Polio Day was marked on Friday, Pakistan continues to struggle to eradicate the disease. Today, it is one of only two countries, the other being Afghanistan, which is still endemic for the illness, which can cause crippling ailments, especially among small children, and can in some cases prove fatal. It is sad that, while every other country in the world including those poorer than Pakistan, has successfully dealt with the disease and driven it away from their borders, Pakistan still struggles to do so. In fact, last year, at the end of 2019, it recorded 147 cases, a new record for several years, given that the case flow had fallen dramatically in years before that to double digits. Something has gone seriously wrong, we need to understand what it is. Already this year 70 cases have been reported from across the country, suggesting that again by the time the year ends the overall figure will be high. Covid-19 and the actions against it can partly be held responsible, taking interest away from other matters. But this is only partially true. The fact is that we have struggled against polio for years – and the struggle continues. It is essential that this be successfully combated by doing much more to create awareness about the need to vaccinate children under five against polio, so that they can be saved for life. All around us, if we look carefully, we see individuals struggling along on braces or specially-built shoes or artificial limbs as well as other more primitive devices in order to ensure mobility. When a child is missed it means that another child in the country becomes vulnerable to the disease and can also spread it to others. The refusals by parents are part of a more widespread suspicion of vaccination and its effects. For many years, there have been conspiracy theories suggesting that vaccines are an effort by the West to limit childbirth amongst Muslims and thereby hamper them and their countries. This is obviously untrue. The truth needs to be told to the people and made more widespread, while administrative methods need to be sharpened so that each and every child in the country can receive polio drops in the next drive which is due to begin later this year.

27th October the black day for Kashmir

Justice Ali Nawaz Chowhan



The ban on media and free press speak volumes. The arbitrary detention under UAPA, PSA has crossed all the limits despite amnesty calling PSA a lawless law India has detained more than 15 thousand Kashmiri's since 05 August 2020. The impunity enjoyed by army under AFSPA (armed forces special power act) has jeopardized the legal system, army use rape as weapon of war, killed innocent under custody and rampant use of torture

27th October is observed as the black day in the history of Kashmir struggle. On this day Indian forces sponsored by Mountbatten and Nehru and constituting soldiers from maharaja of Patiala and Bikanir and as well of Kapoorthala joined the Dogra regime to crush the uprising of the locals of Kashmir against India. Shortly before this there was the Jammu massacre in which there was the similar involvement leading to the killing of lacs of Muslims of Jammu. Kashmir is world's largest militarized zone in the world with more than 800000 troops. The CIA fact book reveals that the people Army ratio is for every 5 individual one army person is present. 27 October 2020 marks 73rd year of military occupation in Indian occupied JK which is longest in modern history. Since 1989 more than 96 thousand Kashmiris have been killed by occupying army, 8000 have been subjected to enforced disappearance; there are 6000 unidentified mass graves in Kashmir. The occupying army use banned lethal weapons like pellet and PAVA grenades, occupying force also use banned chemical to mutilate the dead bodies and destroy civilian property. India has criminalized dissent in Kashmir. The ban on media and free press speak volumes. The arbitrary detention under UAPA, PSA has crossed all the limits despite amnesty calling PSA a lawless law India has detained more than 15 thousand Kashmiri's since 05 August 2020. The impunity enjoyed by army under AFSPA (armed forces special power act) has jeopardized the legal system, army use rape

as weapon of war, killed innocent under custody and rampant use of torture. The dispute of Kashmir is source of international armed conflict and the Indian Army perpetrating war crimes, crime against humanity which needs to be adjudicated seriously before the world judicial forums. The uprising and revolt against the Indian occupation is remarkable as well as the patience with which the people of Kashmir had gone through the ordeal. I congratulate them for their courage and steadfastness in encountering the evil military Indian machine. I would be candid in saying that the Pakistan army took the brunt. Everyday there are killings at the LOC. Three wars were fought. The conclusion is that we have to discover other dimensions for breaking the existing inertia, keeping the issue alive until the fulfillment of the Indian undertakings as reflected in UN resolutions. We need a strong political will translated into action by a skillful approach for this purpose. I am sorry to say that for years the committee on Kashmir remained indolent. I also would attribute indolence to government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Who should have been pro active throughout the 73 years. The leadership emerging from Azad J&K has only involved themselves in self praise, rhetoric and aggrandizement. Leading luxurious life unbecoming of people in protest asking for their rights. This is has been disappointing. The truth is that because of a design and conspiracy of Nehru and Mountbatten the maharaja of Patiala and Bikanir had

already sent troops before the arrival of Afridis and Pathans from FATA went to encounter them and were able to capture the territory now liberated. India went to the UN on false grounds and remains unsuccessful. However it kept the issue in abeyance till this date. However the issue is now once more internationalized because of carnage, the annexation against the constitutional guarantee under section 370 and 35 of the constitution of India. The tricks taught by Chanakya, the philosophy of Hindutva and the Kashmiri political scientist who wrote Raj Karni. The present stage is also the result of the betrayal on the part of people like Sheikh Abdullah. The LEGAL FORUM FOR OPPRESSED VOICES OF KASHMIR is finding legal means of bringing the issue to the notice of the United Nations inter alia in reference to the security council resolution 6/654 and 5/726 of 1948. We hope that this dedicated group of indigenous Kashmiris and their friends in Pakistan will successfully push the issue forward and obtain a legal decision not only against the carnage but also for action against the Indian war machine who is committing war crimes against the innocent people of Kashmir. Soon you will hear the steps we envisaged for the legalistic answer. *In the end I refer to the sayings of Iqbal:* Jis khaak ky zamir mein ho aatish-e-Chinar Mumkin nahin ky sard ho wo khaak-e-arjmand (The dust that has in its conscience The fire of Chinar tree That dust, celestial dust Will never become cold)

Everything is fine under National Action Plan

Attiya Munawer



Under the National Action Plan, highly effective measures have been taken to protect educational institutions and madrassas from extremism and terrorism. As a result, students in educational institutions are adorning themselves with the adornment of education while considering themselves safe

SOMETIMES there are stages in the life of nation that are seemingly very difficult and patient. Brave nations are characterized by turning coming challenges into opportunities. However, despite the tragedies of terrorism and tragic events of extremism, opportunities at the national level have not been fully realized. The Peshawar Army Public School tragedy had shaken the political and military leadership of the entire country and all sections. In this context, the government, in consultation with all concerned parties, formulated a 20-point National Action Plan. It was decided that all government and state institutions would work together to address the serious threats of terrorism and extremism facing the country. Much progress has been made in this regard and the structure of terrorism has been significantly weakened under the operations Zarb-e-Azb and Radd-ul-Fasaad. However, sporadic incidents are not only continuing, but the enemy continues to conspire to harm the country by adding sectarianism to extremism. In this regard, religious circles, madrassas, and educational institutions are targets of the enemy. The incidents of extremism in the past educational institutions are clear evidence that they have become tools of their own anti-national forces. Government and military leadership are working together to thwart the conspiracies of anti-national forces, but in the new changing situation, the need for a new plan is rightly felt. It is no secret that the National Action Plan is the most important document of national security. This action plan was formulated by national consensus on twenty points, based on

peace, tolerance and political and social harmony. It was based on educational institutions, madrassas, curriculum, teachers and students and included points on the basis of which awareness could be raised at the societal level along with the prevention of this scourge. This extremism could not be cured by the use of force or administrative measures alone, it was to create awareness on the scientific and intellectual front, especially among the new generation, that we should live together in spite of each other's different views, ideas, thoughts and concerns and not to promote the politics of prejudice and hatred against anyone. In this regard, many points of the National Action Plan have not yet been implemented. There is no doubt that our main problem is the spread of extremist tendencies. This problem is not only religious but also political, social and intellectual. The main reason for this is the growing culture of intolerance in society and the weakening of the culture of dialogue or tolerance. In society, extremism is not a big issue but some individuals, institutions and anti-national forces are not only promoting it but also defaming it. On the contrary, they are fulfilling their nefarious aims. Such elements are present everywhere in the country. Those who teach hate and those who support them, whether in political parties, media, educational institutions or state institutions, must abandon conciliatory attitudes towards them. The incidents that took place in the educational institutions of Karachi, Peshawar and Bahawalpur in the past are enough to show how extremist thinking can take the lives of innocent people. Under the National Action Plan, highly effective measures have been taken to protect

educational institutions and madrassas from extremism and terrorism. As a result, students in educational institutions are adorning themselves with the adornment of education while considering themselves safe. At the level of educational institutions, the administration needs to make its monitoring system more effective and transparent, so that people who have extremist tendencies or are involved in such activities can be identified immediately. After identifying such students, there should be a dialogue with their parents, so that they can be told what kind of activities their child is involved in. Similarly, regular counseling centers should be set up with the help of psychologists and social experts for the students who are creating anger, hatred, anxiety, frustration or revenge thinking among the students of the educational institutions. Only timely diagnosis and treatment of extremist tendencies will solve the problem. There is no denying that the steps taken under the National Action Plan have been encouraging and have had a positive impact on its educational institutions, students, but based on an important document like the National Action Plan, major surgery is needed for major reforms in our education system. Because it is very dangerous to think that our education system is failing in its mission to stop extremism. We need strong practical steps at all levels including state, government, institutional, media, and intellectuals, to make it possible to build a society based on peace and tolerance in the face of extremism, if extremism and sectarianism aren't prevented or if this chapter is neglected, this spark will set fire to all the grassroots and destroy them.

Briefs

Thai parliament to discuss protests

DNA

BANGKOK: Thailand's parliament opened Monday for a special session to discuss the growing youth-led pro-democracy movement, which is demanding Premier Prayut Chan-O-Cha's resignation and reforms to the ultra-powerful monarchy. A former military chief who staged the 2014 coup, Prayut has faced increasing pressure in recent weeks by the protesters, who regard his premiership as illegitimate. Prayut last week recalled parliament - which was in recess - to discuss how to reduce tensions.

"It's about how to solve the situation of the protesters," said Tankhun Jittitsara, one of the secretaries of House Speaker Chuan Leekpai. The protesters want Prayut's resignation, a rewrite of the military-scripted constitution, and for the government to "stop harassing" political opponents. But the two-day session will not address these demands, focusing instead on the "illegal" protests, according to a parliament statement issued last week. Some protesters have also boldly challenged the monarchy, long a taboo subject in Thailand because of strict royal defamation laws.

Tensions spiked earlier this month when protesters flashed three-finger salutes - a symbol of their movement - at Queen Suthida's motorcade as it passed by. After that incident, the premier responded by imposing emergency measures banning gatherings of more than four, while authorities arrested scores of activists. Prayut revoked it a week later when it failed to discourage tens of thousands turning up in "guerrilla" protests across Bangkok. The motorcade incident is also up for discussion in parliament. "The protesters say it was not in the plan for the Queen to pass that way, but the government says she can go anywhere," Tankhun said.

French envoy summoned to lodge protest

From Page 01

acts under the garb of freedom of expression and equating Islam with terrorism, for narrow electoral and political gains." French President Emmanuel Macron is being criticised with protests breaking out in several cities across the world after he accused Muslims of separatism and vowed not to give up on blasphemous caricatures. The Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan had also criticized the French President asking him to get himself medically examined.

Mandviwalla for boosting ties with Hungary

From Page 01

Ambassador of Hungary H.E. Mr. Béla Fazekas was of the view that Parliamentary visits are an excellent means of improving and enhancing relations between the two countries. Regarding increasing trade and investment opportunities, the Ambassador informed Deputy Chairman Senate, Saleem Mandviwalla; that for this, signing of an agreement on investment protection between the two countries is imperative. He added that a draft of the agreement had been submitted to the Board of Investment (BOI) three years ago.

Ambassador of Hungary H.E. Mr. Béla Fazekas thanked Deputy Chairman Senate Saleem Mandviwalla for his hospitality and said that he looked forward to developing stronger links between the two countries through various parliamentary/business avenues. The two leaders agreed that both countries will benefit greatly from the exchange of trade and tourism opportunities between the two countries.

Seminar to commemorate the "Kashmir Black Day"



DNA

JAKARTA: As part of series of events being held in commemoration of the "Kashmir Black Day" (observed on 27 October every year), the Embassy of Pakistan held a Seminar today in the Chancery, on the Topic "Jammu & Kashmir Dispute-Past, Present and Future". The event was organised while complying with the SOPs of the Indonesian Government.

The Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy, Mr. Jamal Nasir delivered a detailed presentation covering the introduction of Pakistan's

History, Geography, Strategic location, and Regional Dynamics. He discussed various issues faced by the world including the rising wave of Islamophobia, US-China trade war, Covid-19 Crisis, Great powers contestation in the Indo-Pacific Region, Unrest in the Middle East, Afghan Peace Deal, and India's hegemonic posture in the South Asian region with special reference to the recent problems created by India with its neighbors, including Pakistan, China, Bangladesh and Nepal. Subsequently, Mr. Nasir highlighted the importance and history of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute and significance of Kashmir

Black Day. He described in detail, the ongoing wave of intolerance and state sponsored repression against minorities (especially Muslims) in India with special reference to the plight of the Muslims of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK). Quoting the recent illegal attempts aimed towards changing the demography of IIOJK by the Indian Government, Mr. Nasir conveyed Pakistan's strong rejection to these illegal acts, and expressed resolve of the Government of Pakistan to fight the case of Jammu & Kashmir at all forums. He also spoke about the targeted hatred and discrim-

ination against Muslims in India by the Modi Government such as the Babri Mosque verdict, the discriminatory Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), the controversial National Register of Citizens (NRC), and lynching of Muslims by the cow vigilantes. Mr. Nasir also covered various other aspects of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute including gross Human Rights Violations, Sexual abuse and violence against women and Children, Hindutva ideology of the RSS inspired Modi Government, the non-implementation of the UNSC resolutions by India, and Pakistan's desire

to resolve all issues with India, including the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, through dialogue, in accordance with the UNSC resolutions. Later on, Drs. Nur Munir, The Head of Islamic and Middle Eastern Research Centre Jakarta, Mr. Abu Aly, the Head of Inter-Agencies Relation of UIN, Dr. Zahir Khan, former Indonesian Ambassador, and the current Head of Kashmir Solidarity Forum also spoke at the occasion. The Seminar was attended by academics, scholars, intellectuals, researchers, members of political and religious organizations, and students.

Early US voting surpasses 2016

WASHINGTON: Early voting in the 2020 US election has surpassed all the pre-election ballots from four years earlier, an independent vote monitor said Sunday, with nine days still to go before the November 3 poll. Millions of Americans wary of crowded polling booths during the coronavirus pandemic and energized by an election fight that both President Donald Trump and his Democratic rival Joe Biden have framed as existential are smashing records for casting ballots, whether by mail or in person. The tally by the independent US Election Project, run by the University of Florida, said that as of Sunday more than 59 million people had voted so far.

That is higher than the 57 million who voted early or by mail in 2016, according to the US Election Assistance Commission website. So far, Democrats - who have encouraged early voting - have been leading the way, but whether that means Biden can breathe

easy remains to be seen. Trump for months has been claiming, without evidence, that mail-in ballots lead to fraud, and many Republicans are expected to vote on Election Day. With coronavirus cases spiking across the country, however, Michael McDonald - a political science professor at the University of Florida who administers the Election Project - warned that the strategy "looks all the more risky." "What if at least some of his voters decide not to vote? What if a polling place becomes unavailable or an election office shuts down?" he tweeted. The Election Project has predicted that turnout this year could top 150 million in total. Some 137 million ballots were cast in the 2016 election. Some states key to the 2020 outcome were also firmly on the path to breaking records, such as Texas, where the Election Project said Sunday that 80 percent of the early 2016 vote had already turned out.

Tanzanians to vote as alarm soars over democracy

DNA

STONE TOWN: Tanzanians head to the polls on Wednesday in an election set to be a litmus test of President John Magufuli's authoritarian style after a five-year crackdown on the opposition and freedom of speech. Voters on the Tanzanian mainland and semi-autonomous archipelago of Zanzibar will cast their ballots for a president and lawmakers after an energetic campaign which saw massive turnout for both the ruling party and opposition. Magufuli's main challenger among 15 presidential candidates is Tundu Lissu, 52, of the Chadema opposition

party, who returned to the country in July after three years abroad recovering from 16 bullet wounds sustained in what he believes was a politically-motivated assassination attempt. Lissu's return has re-invigorated an opposition in the doldrums after a ban on political rallies outside of election time, multiple arrests, attacks, and what rights groups have slammed as the squeezing of democracy. In a boost for the opposition's chances, Zitto Kabwe, the head of the popular ACT-Wazalendo party, this month endorsed Lissu for the presidency on the mainland, saying he "stands the best chance of beating President Magufuli in the presidential election."

'Chinese brown rice can relieve the food crisis in Pakistan'

HAAS is very concerned about the food security of friendly countries along BRI while boosting the development of local agriculture

DNA

BEIJING: A new type of germinated brown rice, developed by Heilongjiang Academy of Agricultural Sciences (HAAS), was unveiled at the 3rd China Heilongjiang International Rice Festival, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. At the festival, Ren Chuanying, an expert with the Institute of Food Sciences of HAAS, told reporters that the newly developed germinated brown rice is not only popular among Chinese consumers, but

also provides an effective solution to the food crisis in Pakistan. She said that both Heilongjiang province and Pakistan are important rice planting areas. Meanwhile, China and Pakistan are close all-weather cooperative partners. HAAS is very concerned about the food security of friendly countries along BRI while boosting the development of local agriculture. "The germinated brown rice simply requires the rice to be sprouted according to specific processes. It has low requirements for rice quality, low tech-

nical threshold and low investment. It is very suitable for Pakistan," Ren introduced. "There is a serious food shortage in Pakistan and locust plague and floods have further exacerbated the situation in 2020. If this variety of brown rice can be imported to Pakistan, the rice growing and processing chain in Pakistan can save crops about 20% and reduce processing costs about 20%," she said. The technical core of the new germinated brown rice is to improve its taste. Ren said, "The germinated brown rice

retains a lot of water and nutrients, which improves the taste." "This new germinated brown rice will be very popular in Pakistan," says Nowsherwan Zarif, a Pakistani doctor at Northeast Forestry University (NEFU) in China. "If it can be incorporated into the CPEC agricultural cooperation project, new germinated brown rice will alleviate the food crisis in Pakistan, improve the dietary structure of the Pakistani people and boost the development of rice industry in Pakistan."



Turin: Juventus' Federico Bernardeschi vies with Verona's Davide Faraoni during a Serie A football match between FC Juventus and Hellas Verona. - DNA

Japan's premier vows zero carbon emissions by 2050

He emphasized on "balancing measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus with the promotion of economic growth." The Japanese premier resolved to hold the postponed Tokyo Olympics next summer

TOKYO: In his first policy address, Japan's Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga on Monday vowed to cut carbon emissions to net zero by 2050. Addressing the country's parliament, locally called Diet, Suga said: "Response to global warming is no longer a constraint on economic growth." Kyodo News quoted Suga as saying, Suga, 71, was elected prime minister of Japan last month after his predecessor Shinzo Abe stepped down over health concerns.

"We need to change our mindset that proactively taking measures against global warming will bring about changes to industrial structures, as well as the economy and society, and lead to major growth," Suga told the 41-day extraordinary Diet session through Dec. 5. Previously, the Japanese government has set a target of reducing emissions by 80% by 2050. Suga said: "Japan will try to introduce renewable energy



sources as much as possible and push forward its nuclear power policy." He emphasized on "balancing measures to

prevent the spread of coronavirus with the promotion of economic growth." The Japanese premier resolved to hold the postponed Tokyo Olympics next summer. The biggest global sports event was delayed due to the pandemic. He asserted to continue pursuing "Abenomics," - the economic mantra of Abe which marked bold monetary easing by the Central Bank, fiscal stimulus and structural reforms to spur growth. "We will absolutely prevent the explosive

spread of infections and protect the lives and health of the people, and resume social and economic activities to revive the economy," he added. Suga also said that his government will secure enough COVID-19 vaccines for all people in Japan in the first half of next year after confirming its safety and effectiveness. Nearly 97,825 people have tested positive for the coronavirus in Japan including 1,711 fatalities. The country has conducted 2,308,769 tests for the infection.

S. Korea to continue flu vaccination program

SEOUL: South Korea's health authorities decided on Monday to continue its flu vaccination program across the country as the suspected deaths after getting flu shots were found to have very little link to inoculation. The Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) said in a statement that there was a very little possibility for any link between flu vaccination and deaths, noting that it will continue its nationwide flu vaccination program.

A total of 59 people, mostly those in their 70s and 80s, have died after receiving flu shots this year. The number of those who have reported side effects was 1,231.

An investigation into 46 deaths found no direct link to the inoculation, while a probe into the remaining 13 deaths was underway.

Out of the total deaths, no case has been relevant to anaphylaxis shock, or a fatal allergic reaction from vaccination. The government has been pushing for a free flu inoculation program to vaccinate about 19 million people, including the elderly people and teenagers. Out of the combined 14.68 million flu shots the South Korean people have received this year, 9.68 million flu shots have been given under the free vaccination program. The program came as a part of efforts to prevent the so-called "twindemic" of COVID-19 and flu during the winter influenza season.

Public concerns recently mounted here over the safety of flu vaccines as some of vaccine vials for the free vaccination program were exposed to room temperature while being transported. The health authorities said there was no safety issue as the exposure time was short.

Iraq protesters revive year-old revolt against the system

BAGHDAD: Iraqi security forces and protesters clashed in Baghdad on Sunday during demonstrations to mark the first anniversary of mass anti-government protests demanding the ouster of the ruling class. Thousands took to the streets in Baghdad, some waving portraits of fallen "martyrs" killed in protests last year, with peaceful demonstrations also taking place in several cities in the south including Basra, Najaf and Nasiriyah.

In the capital, protesters hurled rocks as police fired tear gas canisters and used water cannons to block demonstrators from bridges leading to the highly-fortified Green Zone, a no-go zone for ordinary Iraqis where government offices, parliament and the US embassy are based. Some demonstrators managed to scale a towering security barricade erected on the Al-Jumhuriyah bridge across the Tigris River, but were then stopped by concrete walls and security forces, an AFP journalist reported. Some protesters threw Molotov cocktails, and others set fire to tires, the reporter added.

About 50 police and protesters were slightly injured, police and medical sources told AFP. As night fell, demonstrators and security forces continued skirmishes throughout central Baghdad. Sunday's demonstrations renewed the cross-sectarian, youth-led protest movement's key demand for the ouster of the entire ruling class accused of corruption, and of being beholden to neighbouring Iran. "It's been a year and we still want our country back," said Batool Hussein, a female demonstrator in central Baghdad's Tahrir Square, the heart of the protests. "We still want to unseat the corrupt from power, and we still want to know who killed the protesters last year."

About 600 protesters have been killed and 30,000 wounded in clashes with security forces nationwide since protests erupted in October 2019. Activists have long complained of a campaign of kidnappings and killings to intimidate them into halting demonstrations. The movement eventually lost momentum as tensions between Baghdad's key allies Tehran and Washington spiralled, then ground to a halt due to the coronavirus pandemic. Hussein Mortada, from Amara in the south, said he was determined to take part in the revival of the so-called "October Revolution", despite "threats from political parties and powerful local figures".

Briefs

COVID-19 cases reach 40,937 in Afghanistan

DNA

KABUL: The Afghan Ministry of Public Health on Monday confirmed 104 new COVID-19 cases, bringing the total number of patients to 40,937 in the country, including 5,269 active cases. A total of 431 tests were conducted within the past 24 hours, and 104 were positive in nine provinces out of 34 Afghan provinces, the ministry said in a statement. Four patients died within the period, taking the death toll to 1,518 since February, the statement added. Twenty-one new recoveries were recorded since early Sunday. Laboratories across Afghanistan have completed 120,425 tests since February.

Putin rejects Trump's criticism

FOREIGN DESK

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Sunday that he saw nothing criminal in Hunter Biden's past business ties with Ukraine or Russia, marking out his disagreement with one of Donald Trump's attack lines in the US presidential election. Putin was responding to comments made by Trump during televised debates with Democratic challenger Joe Biden ahead of the November 3 election. Trump, who is trailing in opinion polls, has used the debates to make accusations that Biden and his son Hunter engaged in unethical practices in Ukraine. No evidence has been verified to support the allegations, and Joe Biden has called them false and discredited.

Putin, who has praised Trump in the past for saying he wanted better ties with Moscow, has said Russia will work with any US leader, while noting what he called Joe Biden's "sharp anti-Russian rhetoric". Putin appeared less friendly towards Trump in remarks broadcast by Russian state TV on Sunday. In what may be seen by some analysts as an attempt to curry favour with the Biden camp, he took the time to knock down what he made clear he regarded as false allegations from Trump about the Bidens. "Yes, in Ukraine he (Hunter Biden) had or maybe still has a business, I don't know. It doesn't concern us. It concerns the Americans and the Ukrainians," said Putin. "But well yes he had at least one company, which he practically headed up, and judging from everything he made good money. I don't see anything criminal about this, at least we don't know anything about this (being criminal)."

Sri Lanka shuts parliament after coronavirus

WEB DESK

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's parliament has been closed after a police officer at the complex tested positive for the coronavirus amid a new surge of cases in the country. Parliament will be closed for two days as a precautionary measure so the premises can be disinfected, said Narendra Fernando, the parliament's sergeant at arms. Close associates of the officer were also tested, with the results expected later on Monday. An additional 22 parliament staffers will be tested on Tuesday, Fernando said. Sri Lanka has seen a new outbreak of the virus since early this month when a new cluster emerged, centred at a garment factory near Colombo, the capital. On Monday, 351 new cases were confirmed in the Indian Ocean island nation. Most of the new infections are related to the garment factory cluster, which has grown to 4,400 cases, more than half the country's total of 7,872. One death was reported on Sunday, raising Sri Lanka's death toll to 16.



TOKYO: Ambassador of Pakistan to Japan, Imtiaz Ahmad held interactive session with print and electronic media on "Kashmir Black Day". -- DNA

Armenia breaks cease-fire just minutes after start: Ilham

Referring to those supporting Armenia, Aliyev said: "If you want to save the Armenian state, tell them to leave our lands. They will go out with a word of yours"

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijan agreed on a fresh humanitarian cease-fire to exchange prisoners and bodies, but Armenia broke the truce only minutes after it was supposed to take effect, the Azerbaijani leader said Monday. President Ilham Aliyev stressed that those who want an Armenia-Azerbaijan humanitarian cease-fire are sending weapons to Armenia. "I have the list. Why would anyone who wants a cease-fire would send weapons?" he asked. Referring to those supporting Armenia, Aliyev said: "If you want to save the Armenian state,

tell them to leave our lands. They will go out with a word of yours." Azerbaijan on Monday said the Armenian forces continued its attacks on Azerbaijani civilian settlements and military units, despite the fresh humanitarian cease-fire in Nagorno-Karabakh. The villages of the Aghdam region, as well as the city of Tartar and its surrounding villages are subject to heavy shelling, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry said in a statement. The ministry added that the Armenian forces also opened fire on Tovuz, Gadabay, and Dashkesan regions of Azerbaijan from the Berd, Chambarak, and

Vardenis regions of Armenia. The positions of the Azerbaijani units in Tartar, Aghdam, Fuzuli, Lachin, and Gubadli also came under attack, it said. The US-brokered new temporary humanitarian truce between Azerbaijan and Armenia was announced Sunday and came into effect as of 8 a.m. local time (0400GMT) Monday morning. The first armistice reached on Oct. 10 was violated by the Armenian army within 24 hours as Armenia's missile attacks on Azerbaijan's Ganja city claimed many civilian lives. The second one on Oct. 17 was again violated by Armenia. Since recent clash-

es erupted on Sept. 27, Armenia has repeatedly attacked Azerbaijani civilians and forces. Relations between the two former Soviet republics have been tense since 1991, when the Armenian military occupied Upper Karabakh, or Nagorno-Karabakh, an internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan, and the seven adjacent regions. Four UN Security Council resolutions and two from the UN General Assembly as well as international organizations demand the "immediate complete and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces" from the occupied Azerbaijani territory.

In total, about 20% of Azerbaijan's territory has been under illegal Armenian occupation for nearly three decades. The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Minsk Group - co-chaired by France, Russia, and the US - was formed in 1992 to find a peaceful solution to the conflict, but to no avail. A cease-fire, however, was agreed to in 1994. World powers, including Russia, France, and the US, have called for a new and lasting cease-fire. Turkey, meanwhile, has supported Baku's right to self-defense and demanded the withdrawal of Armenia's occupying forces.

'Cease-fire won't affect deals with Turkey'

TRIPOLI: Libyan authorities said Sunday that a permanent cease-fire reached during talks last week in Geneva would not affect military deals with Turkey and they would continue cooperation with Ankara. Libya's Defense Ministry and High Council of State both issued statements on the truce reached Friday at UN headquarters in Geneva by the two Libyan delegations to the 5+5 Joint Military Commission talks. Touching on the cease-fire agreement signed under the leadership of the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) between delegations representing the Libyan government and Khalifa Haftar, the leader of illegitimate forces in the east of the country, Libyan Defense Minister Salaheddin al-Namroush said, "the signing of the initial agreement does not include the military co-operation agreement with the state of Turkey, an ally of the legitimate government." "We affirm the strengthening of cooperation with our Turkish ally and the continuation of the training programs that have been received and will be received by affiliates at the training institutes of the Ministry of Defense of the Government of National Accord." Noting the possibility that Haftar's militias may not comply with the truce, he said the accords on security and military training must be focused on more than ever now. -- DNA

China to sanction US arms suppliers

FOREIGN DESK

BEIJING: China will impose unspecified sanctions on the defense unit of Boeing Co., Lockheed Martin Corp., and Raytheon Technologies Corp. after the U.S. approved \$1.8 billion in arms sales to Taiwan last week. The sanctions will be imposed "in order to uphold national interests," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told reporters Monday in Beijing. "Boeing Defense" would be among those sanctioned, he said. The State Department last week ap-

proved \$1.8 billion in new weapons for Taiwan and submitted the package to Congress for a final review. The submission comes two months after the U.S. and Taiwan completed the sale of 66 new model F-16 Block 70 aircraft from Lockheed, and as tensions between the two superpowers continue to escalate ahead of the American election. Boeing Defense is one of the broader company's three business units, according to its website. A spokesperson for Boeing emphasized the firm's relationship with China in the aviation space. Boeing has "worked together successfully with the aviation commu-

nity in China for almost 50 years to support Chinese efforts to ensure a safe, efficient and profitable aviation system to keep pace with the country's rapid economic growth." "It's been a partnership with long-term benefits and one that Boeing remains committed to," the spokesperson said in the emailed statement. Representatives from Raytheon weren't immediately available for comment outside of normal U.S. business hours. Zhao condemned Lockheed's F-16 Block 70 sale at the time, saying it violates the One China principle, interferes in China's internal affairs and will

have a "major impact" on U.S.-China relations. Taiwan's presidential office thanked the US for the sale. In July, China - which considers Taiwan part of its territory - had announced sanctions on Lockheed Martin for a previous arms sale to the island. U.S. arms manufacturers face strict limitations on what kind of business they can do with countries deemed by Washington to be strategic rivals, such as China. Lockheed generated 9.7% of its revenue in the Asia-Pacific region last year, according to data compiled by Bloomberg, though that's not broken down by individual countries.



BISHKEK: The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic H.E. Mr. Ruslan A. Kazakbayev in a meeting with the Secretary General of the Turkic Council (Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States / CCTS) H.E. Mr. Baghdad Amreyev, who is in Bishkek on a working visit. -- DNA

Malaysian PM faces calls to quit after failed bid for emergency rule

Muhyiddin had requested emergency rule amid a fresh spike in infections in Malaysia and a global pandemic that has battered the economy. But critics accused him of using it as a pretext to suspend parliament

DNA

KUALA IAMPUR: Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin is facing calls to resign as doubts swirled over the support that he commands, after the country's king rejected his request to declare a state of emergency to fight the coronavirus epidemic. Muhyiddin had requested emergency rule amid a fresh spike in infections in Malaysia and a global pandemic that has battered the economy. But critics accused him of using it as a pretext to suspend parliament and avoid a test of his razor-thin parliamentary majority. King Al-Sultan Abdullah's refusal is seen further eroding Muhyiddin's grip on power, a month after opposition leader

Anwar Ibrahim said he has majority support in parliament, including from defectors from the ruling alliance, to form a new government. Turning down Muhyiddin's request on Sunday, the king also asked politicians to end any politicking that could destabilise a government that he said has handled the pandemic well, and stressed the importance of the 2021 budget scheduled to be set before parliament on Nov. 6. But leaders of other parties in Muhyiddin's coalition and the opposition criticised his move to seek emergency powers and called on him to step down after the bid failed. "Thankfully, His Majesty the King was not influenced by the political game that could drag the country into more critical territory," said Ahmad Puad Zarkashi, a

senior leader in the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) - the largest party in the ruling coalition - said in a post on Facebook. "The people's wellbeing is more important. By right, Muhyiddin should step down,"

Ahmad Puad said. Opposition lawmaker Wong Chen said Muhyiddin's "malicious" proposal was rightfully rejected by the king, and that the premier should resign or fire ministers who proposed the emergency. The Southeast Asia nation was plunged into political instability in late February following the resignation of the previous prime minister, veteran politician Mahathir Mohamad, after his coalition broke apart, and former ally Muhyiddin forged a new alliance with UMNO to become prime minister. Within weeks, Muhyiddin was faced with the coronavirus crisis, but the new ruling coalition is also beset with infighting, with UMNO seeking to exert more influence. And

some of the UMNO's corruption tainted leaders, notably former prime minister Najib Razak, have been trying to revive their political fortunes. The country's politicians, however, could be influenced by the king's call to avoid politicking, and put the nation's needs first, analysts said. "The King appears to be sending a signal that the government of the day will hold, and that the Budget should be passed, and there should not be any political changes, at least for the time being," Shazwan Mustafa Kamal, a senior associate with political and policy risk consultancy Vriens & Partners, said. Muhyiddin is holding a cabinet meeting on Monday that is scheduled to start at 0330 GMT (11:30 am local time).

Airstrike targets Syrian opp

MONITORING DESK

IDLIB: Several people were reportedly killed in a Russian airstrike on the Al-Sham Legion of the Syrian National Army in Idlib province on Monday, according to opposition sources. The sources told the Anadolu Agency that a Russian fighter jet violated the ceasefire and bombed the village of Al-Duwaylah, in western Idlib province. The sources pointed out that the attack resulted in a large number of deaths and injuries. In May 2017, Turkey, Russia and Iran announced that they had reached an agreement to establish a de-escalation zone in Idlib, as part of the Astana talks on Syria. Despite subsequent understandings that were concluded for the ceasefire in Idlib, the most recent of which was last January, the regime forces and their allies continued their attacks on the region. Since January 2019, the attacks have killed more than 1,800 civilians and displaced more than 1.94 million people who fled to relatively calm areas or close to the Turkish border. On March 5, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Russia's Vladimir Putin announced that they had reached a ceasefire agreement in Idlib, which took effect the next day.

Nigeria probes killing of peaceful protesters

WEB DESK

ABUJA: Nigerian authorities have launched an investigation into the killing of several peaceful protesters in Nigeria's commercial city of Lagos, the president said early Monday. The protests against police brutality, which started almost two weeks ago, have continued to gain momentum in most cities of the country, forcing the government to declare curfew in some states. Dozens of protesters were killed and hundreds severely injured in Lagos at the Lakki Gate protesting ground during a face-off with multiple gunmen last Tuesday. "The Judicial Panel of Inquiry set up by the Lagos State Govt has my full support, as it commences sitting this week," President Muhammadu Buhari tweeted early Monday. "I'm confident that all the State Panels will help ensure justice is done on behalf of the peaceful protesters and law enforcement agents who sadly lost their lives," Buhari added. The mass demonstrations started when activists called for protests in Lagos and the capital Abuja after a young man was killed by members of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), a controversial police unit, and spread across the country. On Oct. 11, Nigeria's police chief dissolved SARS following nationwide protests against police brutality and created the Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT). -- APP

Chile votes overwhelmingly to draft new constitution

BOGOTA: Chile voted on Sunday to scrap the Constitution they inherited from General Augusto Pinochet's regime and draft a new one. "It is a triumph of the people and democracy," said President Sebastian Pineru in a TV broadcast as the "approve" option began taking the lead early in the afternoon. With 94% of the votes counted, more than 78% of Chileans decided by a landslide to replace the Magna Carta. Around 21% chose to maintain the current document, which dates back to the government of Augusto Pinochet, accused of instilling fear and using violence, torture and repression in a grim chapter of Chile's history. In the second question of the ticket, "What kind of body should draft the new Constitution," Chileans opted for a "constitutional commission" - a group of popularly elected individuals among whom there must be gender parity. The men and women who will make up the commission that will draft the new Constitution will be elected by popular vote on April 11 and then they will have a year to write the new text, which will be submitted to a new referendum in 2022. "This plebiscite is not the end. It is the start of a road that we must travel together to agree on a new constitution for Chile." -- APP

Briefs

Taliban condemns Macron's remarks

DNA

KABUL: Afghan Taliban have condemned comments of French President Emmanuel Macron regarding blasphemous caricatures, terming them irresponsible. In a statement issued by Taliban spokesperson, the Afghan Taliban said: "The French President (Macron) recently made irresponsible remarks against Islam and alleged that Islam was facing a crisis internationally and is in need of reform, placed restrictions on Muslims in France and other such measures." The Taliban considered it as a stand against nations. They further added: "It would be better if he carefully studied Islam instead of making ignorant Islamophobic remarks, to stop making irresponsible comments based on deficient information of hostile actors and to stop assuming a stand that threatens international peace and inflames enmity and animosity among nations." "This is the umpteenth time that the supposed caricatures of the Great Prophet of Islam, Muhammad (peace and blessing be upon him), have been displayed in France and numerous evil circles in the country have promoted a misleading image of Muslims," the statement concluded. In recent weeks, French President Macron attacked Islam and the Muslim community, accusing Muslims of "separatism" and he said previously that "Islam is a religion in crisis all over the world."

Power Division refutes media report

ISLAMABAD: The news items published in a section of media titled "Power Division misspent Rs.3 trillion, points out AGP is factually incorrect" and out of context of the Audit Report ignoring basic parameter and procedure of Audit in general and taking out headlines of choice in particular. The Power Sector overall market revenue per annum is Rs. 1.4 trillion therefore question arises as to how Rs. 3 trillion is misspent out of total market share of Rs. 1.4 trillion in one year? The Power Sector spent around Rs 200 Billion out of Rs.1.4 trillion market share on development projects in a year which also casts doubts on Rs.3 trillion misspending as reported by the news item, said a statement issued by Power Division here Monday. The finality of irregularities or mismanagement is vested with Public Accounts Committee therefore reporting Audit Report before its finalization by the relevant forum does not serve the purpose of fair reporting for fair public opinion. It is also worthy to add that a Departmental Accounts Committee (DAC) comprising DG (Audit) Power and Power Division's representative, has already discussed these paras and the DAC issued directions to all entities of Power Sector for verification of record and submission of their revised point of views based on rules and regulations. - APP

OGRA increases gas price for industries

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has issued a notification for an increase in gas prices for the industries. Domestic consumers will not be subject to the new prices. According to the notification, the price of gas for the CNG sector has been increased by up to Rs88 per MMBTU. The hike in prices for Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is Rs88 while for Sindh and Balochistan it is Rs67. The price of gas for general industries has been increased by Rs33 per MMBTU and for the export sector to Rs66 per MMBTU.

Naik Saif Ali Janjua Shaheed remembered

Naik Saif Ali Janjua Shaheed was born on 25 April 1922. He was enrolled in the Royal Corps of Engineers in British Indian Army on 18 March 1941

DNA

RAWALPINDI: 72nd martyrdom anniversary of Naik Saif Ali Janjua Shaheed was observed on Monday. To pay homage to the brave son of soil, a wreath laying ceremony was held at his native town Nakial Kotli, (Azad Jammu and Kashmir). Major General Shahid Imtiaz Iaid floral wreath and offered feteaha on behalf of General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS). Naik Saif Ali Janjua Shaheed was born on 25 April 1922. He was enrolled in the Royal Corps of Engineers in British Indian Army on 18 March 1941. After retirement he helped in establishment of Haidri Force on



1 January 1948, as "Sher-e-Riast Battalion" under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Sher Khan. Due to his dedication, he was promoted as Naik and appointed

as platoon commander. He set personal examples of gallantry and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy at the Bhudha Khanna area where his post was located. He defended the post with chivalry

and repulsed many aggressive ventures by the enemy. During the battle he was seriously injured and embraced Martyrdom on 26 October 1948. On 14th March 1949, the Defence Council of Azad Jammu & Kashmir

adorned him with Hilal-e-Kashmir (posthumous) and on 30th November 1995, the Government of Pakistan declared his Hilal-e-Kashmir equivalent to Nishan-e Haider.

'China's countryside anti-poverty drive effective'

DNA

BEIJING: As one of the participants of 2020 Looking China - Chongqing Youth Film Project, a Pakistani student Usama Kalim, whose Chinese name is Li Hao got highly impressed to see an effective anti-poverty drive in the countryside. According to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Monday, Li got the opportunity to film a documentary of Shipping village, Henghe Tujia Township in Chongqing. He captured the story of a young man named Lang Xiaoyong who gave up his job in the city and returned home to start a business. When it comes to the countryside, in Li Hao's eyes, the countryside has always been synonymous with "backwardness". Most people in the countryside where he grew up want to get rid of the label of "country people" and live

in big cities. Li Hao, comes from Pakistan and is currently a Ph.D. student at Southwest University in Chongqing municipality, China. After talking with Lang, Li learned that Lang not only pioneered a rural tourism development model in Shipping village, but also provided local villagers with jobs and subsidized local primary schools. When Li asked Lang his secret to success, Lang just smiled and said, "hard work." "Lang came from a poor family, but he was never ashamed of it. He firmly believes that where there are difficulties, there are ways. Through his unremitting efforts, he finally found a well-paid job in the city. He could have stayed in the city, but he chose to come back to build his hometown," Li said, "I think he is a hero." During his seven days in Shipping village, Li was not only touched by Lang's perseverance, but he also found the key reason

that attracted Lang to return to his hometown. Shipping village is different from the villages Li has visited in the past. The road here is asphalted, the network communication is smooth, and the villagers can get access to clean water and sufficient electricity. Li witnessed the great change of Chinese countryside under the guidance of China's national policies. "While some countries are still focusing on urban construction, China has already shifted to the vast countryside and has achieved remarkable results," Li said. He believed that the development potential of China's rural areas was what attracted Lang back to his hometown to start a business. The happy smiles on the faces of the villagers once again confirmed Li's thoughts. Li said everyone he met in Shipping village would greet him hospitably. And when the villagers

knew that he was from Pakistan, they treated him as their family and prepared diverse and tasty food for him these days. After returning to school, Li began to edit videos. Currently, he is still thinking about how to use visual language to fully present Lang's hard work and the tourism development of Shipping village. He believes that Lang is not an exception, but an epitome of the general public in China's rural revitalization. "Lang's personal experience is linked to China's development process. Through decades of efforts, the number of rural poor has markedly dropped in China and the poverty headcount ratio has seen a continuous decrease. China is now sharing its experience in poverty alleviation with many countries including Pakistan and promoting cooperation in global poverty eradication," Li said.

China, Pakistan universities host BRI aerospace meeting

BEIJING: Belt and Road Aerospace Innovation Alliance (BRAIA) 2020 Council Meeting and General Assembly was jointly held online by Northwestern Polytechnical University (NPU), China and National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Pakistan. Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. According to NPU, Wang Yiran, Vice President and Secretary General of Chinese Society of Astronautics (CSA), on behalf of the co-initiator of Belt and Road Aerospace Innovation Alliance (BRAIA), Ms. Zhang Hailan, VP of NPU, on behalf of the co-initiator and Permanent Secretariat of BRAIA and Mr. Rizwan Riaz, leader of NUST, on behalf of BRAIA Regional Development Center-South Asia delivered welcome speeches respectively. More than 130 delegates from China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Malaysia, Russia, Ukraine, United Kingdom, France, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Poland, Argentina, Mexico, Tunisia, Egypt, Nigeria and Cameroon's colleges and universities, enterprises, research institutions and international organizations attended the meeting. During the meeting, BRAIA new memberships and new regional development center were announced, joint research cooperation projects were approved, and BRAIA annual work report and future work plan were presented. To further promote substantial joint research cooperation among BRAIA members and generate more fruitful scientific research output, NPU, as BRAIA Permanent Secretariat, initiated BRAIA Joint Research Seed Fund Program this year. 5 international scientific teams consisting of 13 BRAIA member universities from China, Pakistan, Russia, Spain, Italy, Belgium, Argentina had applied for projects in the domain of composite materials, microsatellite and aerodynamics. These projects were approved by BRAIA Academic Committee. Since its establishment in 2017, BRAIA has organized a series of student activities, academic exchanges and managerial meetings, which has improved the international reputation and global impact of both NPU and BRAIA members. BRAIA thus has become an important platform for multilateral international cooperation and exchange. BRAIA is making continuous efforts on exploring better ways of strengthening international cooperation and benefiting to all members, in spite of the global impact of COVID-19. - DNA



LAHORE: Governor Punjab, Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar in a meeting with President Dr. Arif Alvi at Governor House. - DNA

Armenians open artillery fire at Azerbaijani army units

DNA

BAKU: In a gross violation of the new humanitarian ceasefire, on October 26 at 08.05 am, the armed forces of Armenia were subjected to

artillery fire by the units of the Azerbaijan Army located in the Safiyan village of Lachin region. Later, the city of Tartar and the villages of the Tartar region were under intensive shelling by the armed forces of Armenia. Another third time in a row a ceasefire regime is blatantly ignored and violated by Armenia; 10 October Moscow joint statement, 18 October reaffirmed commitments by the mediation efforts of Paris and 24 October meeting in Washington and agreement on implementing the immediate humanitarian ceasefire. This is yet another demonstration of

willful ignorance by Armenia of its commitments and open disrespect to the tireless endeavors of international mediators. Obviously, as it is declared by the Prime Minister of Armenia, this country does not see a diplomatic solution to the conflict, and the ultimate goal is about continuing the military occupation of the Azerbaijani territories. Azerbaijan is committed to its agreements and showing respect to the agreed humanitarian ceasefire. All responsibility for violation of the ceasefire and continued escalation in the region lies with the political-military leadership of Armenia.

Fakhar for enhancing Pak-Afghan trade

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam on Monday stressed for exploiting untapped trade and investment opportunities existing between Pakistan and Afghanistan, particularly in fields of agriculture and livestock for promoting bilateral trade and investment relations. Addressing the session on trade and investment opportunities in agriculture, food, livestock and mineral sectors in a two-day 'Pakistan-Afghanistan Trade and Investment Forum 2020', he said that existing Pak-Afghan trade volume was far below than its actual potential. Pakistan's export to Afghanistan was recorded at Rs three billion and imports Rs one billion only, whereas the volume of Pak-Afghan transit trade reached to US \$ 5.6 billion, he added. The minister said there was a dire need to enhance people to people contacts, exchange of research facilities, students and investors for mutually benefiting by sharing the knowledge and experiences of both the countries. Fakhar Imam said the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan was striving to strengthen its relations with neighboring countries, saying China Pakistan Economic Corridor Project was an example of it. The multi-billion dollars development project with China had entered into second phase, he said adding that it has seven components related to agriculture and livestock sectors development that would help in transforming the local agriculture sector. He informed that work on on-farm water management in collaboration with China was in progress as country was switching from flood irrigation to drip and sprinkle irrigation systems to save water. - DNA

Morocco condemns blasphemous publications

DNA

RABAT: The Kingdom of Morocco strongly condemned, on Sunday, the continuing publication of cartoons insulting Islam and the Prophet Syedna Mohammed (PBUH). The Kingdom of Morocco denounces these acts which reflect the immaturity of their perpetrators and reaffirms that the freedom of some ends where the freedom and beliefs of others begin. Freedom of expression cannot, for any reason, justify the insulting provocation and the offense of the Muslim religion, which has more than two billion followers across the world. As much as it condemns all obscurantist and barbaric violence allegedly perpetrated in the name of Islam, the Kingdom of Morocco stands up against these abusive provocations of the sacredness of the Muslim religion. The Kingdom of Morocco, like other Arab and Muslim countries, calls for stopping stoking resentment and for showing discernment and respect for otherness, as a prerequisite for living together and for a serene dialogue of religions.

707 new virus cases reported

KHAYYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The total active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan on Monday were recorded 10,788 as 707 more people tested positive for the deadly virus during the last 24 hours. Three corona patients, who were under treatment in hospital died on Sunday, according to the latest update issued by the National command and Operation Centre (NCCOC). No COVID affected person was on ventilator in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Gilgit Baltistan (GB) and Balochistan, while 90 ventilators elsewhere in Pakistan, out of 1,884 allocated for COVID-19 patients, were occupied. Some 26,492 tests were conducted across the country on Sunday, including 9,019 in Sindh, 8,584 in Punjab, 4,560 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), 2,990 in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), 501 in Balochistan, 241 in Gilgit Baltistan (GB), and 597 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). Around 311,075 people have recovered from the disease so far across Pakistan making it a significant count with over 90 percent recovery ratio of the affected patients.

No Pakistani can talk like PDM leaders: Chohan

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Fayyaz-ul-Hassan Chohan on Monday said no patriotic Pakistani can talk about Balochistan's freedom and it is now evident that Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) is linked with India. Fayyaz Chohan said in his statement that it would be appropriate for former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to mention his own name in the list of missing persons with whom he expressed sympathy. Nawaz Sharif has been missing for ten months along with his family, billions of dollars made by corruption and hundred suitcases, he said. Hitting out at Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Fayyaz Chohan said he gave a ridiculous statement that PM Imran Khan occupied Balochistan's islands following his remarks of Rs 200 per kilogram eggs. The provincial minister further said that Pakistan Democratic Movement is a circus and people get entertained after watching out of mind leaders in every new rally. The drop scene of Pakistan Democratic Movement drama is nearing, Fayyaz Chohan predicted.

Chairman NAB hands over Rs. 224.071m to CS Sindh

The former Provincial Minister Sherjeel Memon had allegedly received Rs. 77m which was deposited in a Fake Bank Account. He further informed that the total liability of the project is Rs. 505m. The accused persons have admitted their offence and entered into Plea Bargain and the amount recovered is Rs. 305m

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB handed over Rs. 224.071 million to Mumtaz Ali Shah, Chief Secretary Sindh recovered in illegal award of contracts in installation of solar street lights under Roshan Sindh program after a meeting was attended by Syed Ashgar Haider, Prosecution General Accountability (PGA), Mumtaz Ali Shah, Chief Secretary Sindh, Zahir Shah, DG Operations NAB, Irfan Naem Mangi, DG NAB Rawalpindi and other senior officers at

NAB Headquarters. During the meeting Irfan Naem Mangi, DG NAB Rawalpindi informed that NAB Rawalpindi initiated probe in illegal award of contracts in installation of solar street lights in municipal and town committees of Sindh under Roshan Sindh Program as the subject investigation was authorized as a spinoff of an umbrella inquiry referred by Joint Investigation Team (JIT) where in as per findings of JIT at total of 19 x contractors have deposited kick backs in different fake bank accounts. The instant investigation has revealed that 3 contractors



namely Wadood Engineering Service Pvt. Limited along with MJB Construction Company and Zafar Enterprises (JV) were illegally awarded 6 contracts pertaining to a project namely "Installation of Solar Street Lights in Municipal & Town Committees of Sindh (Roshan Sindh Program)" by officers / officials of Rural Development Department, Sindh. He further informed that

is done separately. The expert provided per unit cost of Solar Light based on the market survey on the basis of which exorbitant profit charged by the contractors but products were totally different from the PC-1. An item which was costing only Rs. 600-2000 but shown in documents to purchase for Rs. 60, 000/-. However, the solar charge controller item was never purchased in actual. Under this project besides exorbitant rates of lights were Rs. 401.2 million and huge kick backs were paid to govt officials to the tune of Rs. 22.3 million.