



Islamabad *Daily* POST

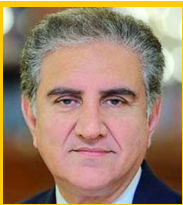
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**Pakistan's UN envoy
Munir Akram says no
to Israel's recognition**

**Kahmiris subjected
to worst treatment,
says FM Qureshi**



**'Incompetent'
govt is failing
miserably: Sherry**



Briefs

Pakistan to continue supporting Kashmir

DNA

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.

Fazl announces protest

DNA

SUKKUR: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief and Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) president Moulana Fazlur Rehman on Tuesday said that announced week-long nationwide protest starting Friday over publication of blasphemous caricatures in France. Addressing a press conference in Sukkur on Tuesday, he said that it is strange that the Europe which calls itself a follower of Hazrat Issa (AS), but the Muslims have to protest when there is an attempt to insult Prophet Issa (AS).

Bilawal warns of rigging in GB polls

DNA

SKARDU: Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday warned of going to Islamabad with the voters in case of rigging in the Gilgit-Baltistan elections. Addressing party workers in Skardu on Tuesday, he said that he is the only representative of the public who can raise their voice not only in the country but in the whole world. The PPP chairman said only the PPP serves the people, adding that his party's government in Sindh has built a network of free hospitals in the province and now his party would also build a cardiac hospital in Skardu.

ISLAMOPHOBIA

World must end double standards: PM

The premier says hate is being spread under the guise of freedom of expression

SHUJAAT HAMZA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: There is a difference between freedom of expression and blasphemy. Hate is being spread under the guise of freedom of expression. The world needs to get out of Islamophobia, international community should end double standards. The blasphemous sketches hurt the feelings of millions of Muslims. The Prime Minister said this while addressing a meeting of the Federal Cabinet. He said that we will get to the bottom of the issue of inflation and hoarding. Steps must be taken to control inflation. He also called a meeting on reduction in wheat and flour prices. According to details, a meeting of the federal cabinet was held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Imran Khan in which the issue of inflation was focused. The federal ministers called for urgent measures to control inflation and said that bureaucracy was an obstacle in resolving issues.

Continued on Page 06

Saudia condemns blasphemous sketches

DNA

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia condemned the publication of blasphemous sketches in France depicting Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), but held back from echoing calls by other Muslim states for action. A foreign ministry official said in a statement that the Gulf state condemns all acts of terrorism, an apparent reference to the beheading of a Paris teacher who showed the blasphemous sketches in a class on freedom of speech. "Freedom of expression and culture should be a beacon of respect, tolerance and peace that rejects practices and acts which generate hatred, violence and extremism and are contrary to coexistence," said the statement carried by state media.

Indian envoy summoned on Kashmir Black Day

It was demanded that the Indian Government give the Kashmiris their legitimate right to self-determination

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Indian Chargé d' Affaires was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today to register Pakistan's strong protest on occasion of the Kashmir Black Day in condemnation of the continued human rights violations being perpetrated by Indian occupation forces against innocent Kashmiri people in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK). It was demanded that the Indian Government give

the Kashmiris their legitimate right to self-determination in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions which call for a free and impartial plebiscite under UN auspices. It was further demanded that India rescind its illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019, immediately lift its military siege in IIOJK, and reverse its illegal measures to change the demographic structure of the occupied territory. The Indian side was also called upon to cease extra-

judicial killings of Kashmiri youth in fake encounters and so-called cordon-and-search operations and release the illegally detained Kashmiri youth and political leadership. It was underscored that to enable an accurate assessment of the humanitarian situation in the region, India needed to immediately remove all restrictions on the media, Internet and mobile communications in IIOJK and allow independent observers, human rights organizations and international media unhindered access to the occupied territory.

Kahmiris subjected to worst treatment: FM

Qureshi advised the youth that they should continue their efforts to mobilize the world community on Kashmir question

NAVEED MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi says Kashmir is not just a dispute between Pakistan and India, but is a litmus test for our collective humanity to check gross human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing a seminar, organized

Senate expresses solidarity

SAIFULLAH / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Senate has passed a resolution expressing full solidarity with the popular indigenous uprising of the heroic people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. *Continued on Page 06*

Munir Akram says no to Israel's recognition

Munir Akram claimed that Pakistan has blocked the Indian way to become the permanent member of the UN Security Council from last 20 years

ALI FURQAN / VOA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Munir Akram has said that recognizing Israel by some Arab countries is due to their internal and external compulsions; however Pakistan could not quit its principled stance regarding self-determination struggle of Palestinians. He said that recognizing Israel will be against the basic principle, adding that Pakistan is not a so weak state which could be forced to quit its basic principle. In an exclusive interview with VOA's Ali Furqan Am-

bassador Munir Akram said that it has been remained the basic principle of Pakistan after the establishment of Pakistan to support the self-determination public movements in the world. He said that on this basic principle, Pakistan has stance on the Kashmir, adding that Islamabad has also same stance regarding Palestine while following this principle. Munir Akram said that the Arab countries which are recognizing Israel have their own compulsions; however Pakistan will have to see its own policy and interests. He said that Pakistan is 5th biggest country of the world with 220



million population, which is nuclear power and military power, and it could not be forced to change its policy through pressure. While terming the election of Pakistan as member of the United Nations Human Rights Council as big success of the country, Munir

Akram said that this proves that Pakistan is respected in the world and we enjoy huge support at the international forum. Munir Akram said that Human Rights Council is an important institution of United Nations where human rights violations committed in the world and other issues are raised. He said that last year Pakistan had raised Indian illegal step of 5th August 2019 regarding changing the status of Jammu and Kashmir, adding that over 50 countries had condemned the unilateral action of New Delhi regarding disputed valley. He said that Pakistan being the member of the UN Human Rights Council will raise the Kashmir issue and disputed legislation passed by India regarding Muslims in an effective manner. He said that Pakistan is highlighting Kashmir issue at United Nations, its sub-organizations and other

international forums while following a strategy. Munir Akram claimed that Pakistan has blocked the Indian way to become the permanent member of the UN Security Council from last 20 years, adding that in future also Pakistan through its influence at international community will stop India to become the permanent member of the UNSC. He said that the world is satisfied with the steps taken by Pakistan regarding terrorism and banned organizations and election of Pakistan as president of economic social council and human rights council is proof of it.

EU to help Sindh in agri sector

KARACHI: European Union through its project Program for Improved Nutrition in Sindh (EU-PINS1) will help the agriculture sector of the province to boost its nutritious sensitive agriculture production in its sub-sectors of livestock, fisheries, and farming by fully adapting to the effects of the climate change. Senior Advisor of EU-PINS1, John K. O'Dea speaking online from London said that their primary objective was to improve nutrition in all types of food along with boosting growth in agriculture production related to micronutrient food products. He offered the help from his organization in a meeting held in the conference room of the Environment, Climate Change and Coastal Development Department, Sindh (ECC&CDD) on Tuesday chaired by its Secretary Muhammad Aslam Ghouri, said a statement here. - APP

UNICEF condemns Peshawar blast

ISLAMABAD: United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) on Tuesday strongly condemns the attack on a religious school which took place in Peshawar earlier today, reportedly killing at least seven people and injuring more than 75 - some of them children and teachers. "Education is the fundamental right of every girl and boy, everywhere. Schools must never be targeted. They must remain safe learning environments at all times to protect the growth and healthy development of children, adolescents and young people," said UNICEF's Pakistan Representative Ms. Aida Girma, said a press release. According to several reports, the blast occurred as students were attending an early morning class at Jamia Zubairia Madrasa in the Dir Colony Area of Pakistan's northwestern city.

Eight killed in Peshawar blast

President, PM, chief ministers condemn blast; five dead victims identified

BUREAU REPORT / DNA

PESHAWAR: Five dead victims of the powerful IED blast inside a mosque were identified here Tuesday. Police and LRH spokesman told APP that death toll has mounted to eight and more than 125 others injured in the powerful bomb blast inside a mosque at Dir Colony Peshawar. The dead bodies of Salman son of Muhammad Zahoor, resident of Waziristan, Muhammad Arif son of Gul Shan, resident of Khyber district, Naimat son of Saifur Rehman, Zubair son of Habibullah, residents of Afghanistan and Maroof Khan son of Awal Khan, resident of Masokhel Peshawar while mutilated bodies of three others victims

Continued on Page 06

Shibli Faraz condemns blast

BUREAU REPORT / DNA

ISLAMABAD, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz Tuesday strongly condemned the blast in a madrasah in Peshawar. In a tweet on social media platform Twitter, he said those who attacked students did not have anything to do with humanity. He said the nefarious designs of those who created instability in the country would be foiled. He expressed heartfelt condolences with the families of the martyrs and prayed for the early recovery of the injured.

Second virus wave has begun

773 new virus cases reported' Now, Pakistan is entering a phase where we need to tighten the virus curbs, the PM's aide said

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The second wave of the novel coronavirus has begun in Pakistan with both the death and positivity rates rising across the country, said Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan. The prime minister's aide was addressing a press conference in Islamabad. The premier's aide said that a few weeks ago, 400-500 cases were being recorded daily in the country, however, now the infections have shot up to 700-750 per day. "Coronavirus death rate has increased in the country," he said, adding that that the positivity ratio had surged to 2.5%. Dr Faisal said that that the nation was not observing coronavirus precautionary measures to the extent that it should. Now, Pakistan is entering



a phase where we need to tighten the coronavirus curbs, the PM's aide said, adding that an official plan would be formulated soon. "Our focus - tightening coronavirus curbs - will be more on the cities and areas where the positivity ratio of the virus is high," Dr Faisal said. The premier's aide said that the authorities were mulling over several plans of action to curb the spread. "We urge the local administrations to implement coronavirus SOPs," he said and warned that the government would impose a fine on people who did not follow coronavirus SOPs in public places.

773 new corona cases reported

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: The total active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan on Tuesday were recorded 11,190 as 773 more people tested positive for the deadly virus during the last 24 hours. Six corona patients, five of whom were under treatment in hospital and one out of hospital died on Monday, according to the latest update issued by the National command and Operation Centre (NOC). No COVID affected person was on ventilator in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Gilgit Baltistan (GB) and Balochistan, while 93 ventilators elsewhere in Pakistan, out of 1,884 allocated for COVID-19 patients, were occupied.

'Incompetent' govt failing miserably: Sherry

ATHAR SUFI

KARACHI: PPP Senator Sherry Rehman on Tuesday lambasted the "incompetent" PTI-led government for "failing miserably everywhere", including at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). "Whether it is the FATF or the IMF, this incompetent government is failing everywhere," Rehman said. "Pakistan is still on the grey list. Over what are they [the government] tooting their own horns?" The PPP leader said people wished for the country to be removed from the notorious grey list, formally known as the "increased monitoring list" and on which Pakistan was to remain as announced by FATF President Dr Marcus Player last week. "This is a divisive government, an incompetent government, an unaware government. This 'notice' government just keeps taking notice but nothing happens after that."

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Azerbaijan will never fall prey to Armenian provocation: Alizade - Page 08

Briefs

Black Day observed across Faisalabad

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: On the directions of the government, Kashmir Black day was observed across the Faisalabad division on Tuesday to express solidarity with the people of the Indian Held Kashmir. The divisional and district administrations had arranged various programmes in this connection. The Kashmir Solidarity Seminar was held at District Council hall in which Divisional Commissioner Ishrat Ali was the chief guest. RPO Raja Riffat Mukhtar, Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali, Parliamentarians Latif Nazar, Firdous Rai were participated while representatives of civil society and a large number of students were also present in the seminar. Addressing the seminar, the Divisional Commissioner said that the Black Day of this year was a great significance when the situation in the Occupied Jammu and Kashmir were worsening every coming day due to the inhuman acts and continued lockdown for the last 449 days. He said that the people of Kashmir had been facing acute food and medicines shortage and they were unable even to offer prayers at mosques.

Daraz to increase user engagement

DNA

LAHORE: Daraz, being one of the major contributors to the e-commerce industry in Pakistan, Daraz has grown into multiple categories to become the customer No.1 choice app. In preparation of 11.11 Sale, Daraz introduces the concept of super app with Games (Daraz First Games), Utility Bills (dBills) and Online bus tickets booking (dtravel) on top of world class shopping UI/UX. Ammar Hassan, CMO Daraz said, that, "Time on App is becoming the single most important metric for tech brands. For the same, we are introducing multiple services to amplify user engagement giving more reasons to use Daraz for a Pakistani Internet user." Daraz First Games has more than 20+ highly engaging games including Ludo and cricket. During 11.11 Daraz will also be holding an inter-country Ludo tournament amongst 4 of its markets: Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal. Previously, the DFG platform has successfully achieved more than 1 million users which shows the increase in interest. The platform has recently launched dBills - a channel dedicated to the payment of electricity, water, telephone, internet and gas bills which will eliminate the need for Pakistanis to step outside of their houses to pay their bills.

Culprits will be taken to task: KP IG

DNA

PESHAWAR: Those responsible for the blast in Peshawar madrassah will be taken to task, vowed KP IG Sanaullah Abbasi while speaking to the media on Tuesday. The police held a meeting on Monday to discuss the threats to the city. "We are saddened by the attack. The suspects are arrested after every incident." Speaking about the upcoming PDM rally in Peshawar, he remarked that they have provided as much security as possible. Every person is given security based on their threat-perception. The IG shared that he cannot share details of the investigation with the media. "There are some things that we tell people and many things that we don't. I cannot jump to any conclusions right now but we have neutralized as many as 36 threats recently." The forensic investigation will be shared later, but I cannot divulge details now. The people who live here know the dynamics of this place. They are unique, he said.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Bazardar and Governor Muhammad Sarwar are leading a walk to express solidarity with the Kashmiri people on Black Day. – DNA

AJK President urges world to save Kashmiris from total annihilation

He also called upon the UN Security Council play its role in finding a political and diplomatic solution to the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the resolutions on the issue to save the region from devastation and to ensure peace and security of the region

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Masood Khan on Tuesday urged the international community to intervene and stop India from death and destruction, the genocide of Kashmiris and evicting them from their land and homes in Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK). He also called upon the UN Security Council play its role in finding a political and diplomatic solution to the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the resolutions on the issue to save the region from devastation and to ensure peace and security of the region. Addressing two international webinars and two national conferences on the occasion of the 73rd anniversary of Indian military occupation of occupied Kashmir and the Black Day being observed

by Kashmiris on both sides of LoC, in Pakistan and all over the world against its illegal occupation, he said that the Kashmir issue emerged as a result of illegal and the immoral military occupation of Kashmir by India in 1947 and today it has all the potential of taking India-Pakistan hostility to the nuclear level. Addressing webinars organized by the Scottish Human Rights Forum and Kashmir Council Sweden, the President rejected Indian claim that Kashmir is a bilateral dispute between the two countries. He said it was an international dispute on which the UN Security Council had passed several resolutions and the issue was still on the agenda of the Security Council. Saying that there are three parties to the Kashmir dispute, Khan asserted that apart from Pakistan and India, the people of Jammu and Kashmir are the principal party to the long-standing



dispute and the participation of Kashmiri people in any parleys to resolve the issue was inevitable to make the process a success. He emphasized that that solution to the Kashmir issue lies in a free and fair plebiscite under UN supervision and in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions. He maintained that before any talks on Kashmir it was necessary for India to withdraw all measures it took

before and after August 5, 2019, with regard to Occupied Kashmir in violation of UN Security Council Resolutions 92 and 122.

India, he said, also needs to take back actions such as unilaterally changing the disputed status of the region and altering the demography of the occupied territory. He said that the UN Security Council should play the role of mediator to resolve the dispute and the UN Secretary-General should appoint a Special Representative to take forward the diplomatic process.

Addressing a conference organized by the Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR), the president said that the bond of love and the brotherhood between Kashmiris and Pakistan was eternal and no power on earth could separate them from each other. He said that India had used every tactic in the last seven decades to integrate the Kashmiris with Indi-

a society and win their hearts and minds but it had failed and now it had hatched a nefarious conspiracy to wipe out the entire Kashmiri nation. He said that dialogue with India could not be successful without the participation of genuine representatives of Kashmiris. He said that after August 5 last year, the entire Kashmir Valley was under siege where the Indian Army was selectively killing the youth every day, arresting them and putting them in jails. In the last one year, 14,000 youths have been arrested and locked up in various jails in Kashmir and India. The President said that even children of Kashmir and women were also not safe from Indian barbarism, and hence, it was obligatory for the international community to take cognizance of gross violations of human rights by accelerating efforts to resolve the dispute through peaceful means.

Phase-wise establishment of ACs proposed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pursuant to the Supreme Court's Orders dated 08-07-2020 and 21-20-2020, the Federal Minister for Law and Justice Barrister Dr. Muhammad Farogh Naseem briefed the Prime Minister Imran Khan regarding establishment of 120 Accountability Courts across the country. The Prime Minister was pleased to grant in principle approval to establish 120 Accountability Courts in accordance with the directions of the Supreme Court of Pakistan. However, owing to financial constraints, initially thirty (30) Accountability

Courts will be established whereas the remaining Courts shall be established in phased manner keeping in view the workload. The Prime Minister was further pleased to direct the Establishment and Finance Divisions to extend full support to implement the decision of establishment of additional Accountability Courts e.g. creation of posts, HR related issues, provisions of finances, etc. Moreover, Parliamentary Secretary on Law and Justice Barrister Maleeka Bokhari gave a briefing regarding creation of Special Courts to prosecute gender based violence crimes, which includes rape and sexual abuse against women, children and transgenders.



MULTAN: German Ambassador Bernhard Schlagheck visiting UNDP's local level disengagement & rehabilitation project in Multan. – DNA

Regional cooperation vital for development, prosperity: Sanjrani

He said enhancing cooperation with Afghanistan is a key factor in Pakistan's foreign policy and it understands the vision of peaceful neighbour. He said it is the time to transform bilateral relations into a strategic partnership

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has said regional development and economic prosperity depend on effective coordination, trade cooperation and better investment opportunities. Addresses the concluding session of the Pakistan-Afghanistan Trade and Investment Forum in Islamabad this evening, he said Pakistan and Afghanistan have shared geographical, cultural and religious commonalities. He said enhancing cooperation with Afghanistan is a key factor in Pakistan's foreign policy and it understands the vision of peaceful neighbour. He said it is the time to transform bilateral relations into a strategic partnership. The Chairman Senate, discussing current trade volume between the two countries, said

that there is a need to further improvement and Pakistan is committed to further strengthening trade, economic and pub-

lic relations with Afghanistan. He said practical steps have been taken to open border for transit trade, relaxation in visa policy

and promotion people-to-people contacts which are reflections of Pakistan's commitment towards a prosperous Afghanistan.

He said such events will help in adopting a joint strategy for development and prosperity and will provide an opportunity to address barriers to trade and investment. Speaking on the occasion, Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser said capitalizing trade and investment potential between Pakistan and Afghanistan would bring regional prosperity and economic stability. He remarked that parliament to parliament contact would ease the hurdles of traders and investors on both sides of the border. He said both countries are facing the scourge of extremism, terrorism and economic deprivations and only collaborative efforts by two sides would lessen the intensity of socio-economic issues. Prime Minister's Advisor for Commerce Abdul Razzak Dawood said trade volume enhancement is our objective and concrete steps would be taken to facilitate trade.



ATC extends judicial remand of Abid

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday gave another opportunity for identification parade of Abid Malhi, the prime suspect in the Motorway gang-rape case, and extended his judicial remand till Nov 2. ATC Judge Arshad Hussain Bhutta conducted the case proceedings. However, the jail authorities did not produce Abid Malhi before the court on expiry of his remand term. The jail authorities submitted that identification parade could not be held during the judicial remand term and requested for grant of further time. The police stated that the victim had been summoned again for identification parade. Subsequently, the court allowed the request and extended judicial remand of Abid Malhi till Nov 2. The court ordered for producing the accused on expiry of the remand term. Shafqat Ali alias Bagga, co-accused in the Motorway gang-rape case, is in police custody on physical remand and he would be produced in the court on Oct 28, on expiry of the remand. – APP

Skills imparted to rural girls for garment sector

FAISALABAD: Skills are being imparted to rural girls and women to strengthen the garment sector while on job training is also provided to them. This was said by Mrs Tehmina Pasha, President Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FWCCI), here on Tuesday. She conducted a study tour of the Faisalabad Garment City (FGC) and other important garment units in the industrial conglomerate of M-3 Industrial city. She said: "We should use skills to make women a productive part of our national economy." Rehan Nasim Bharara, Chairman Faisalabad Garment Company, said that a modern training centre for female workers would be established in FGC along with all other allied facilities. He said that day care centre for female workers had become functional while residences would also be provided to them in the close vicinity of M3 Industrial city in future. The president FWCCI was accompanied by Mrs Shahida Aftab, SVP and Ms Nimra Rahim, executive committee member of the FWCCI. –APP

Punjab govt to regularize all contract teachers

RAWALPINDI: The Punjab Government has decided to regularize contract teachers from all the districts of the province. As per details, more than 1,000 male and female teachers of Rawalpindi district will be regularized and the Department of Schools Education has sent a summary to the provincial cabinet in this regard. According to the new Educator Recruitment Policy, appointment of new educators and also the existing educators will be made permanent. It is pertinent to mention here that the contracts of the teachers recruited in April 2014 and 2015 had expired but the school education department extended their contracts by one year. –APP

Faisalabad transgender continue to protest

FAISALABAD: The transgender people in Faisalabad continued on Tuesday their protest against the police violence they face every day. The protesters surrounded the RPO office and said that the officials should hold a meeting with them. "We are beaten routinely for begging on the roads," said a transgender person. Another protester said that they will continue to protest till their demands are met. On Monday, they had staged a protest at Council Chowk. They blocked traffic by laying charpays on the street. A transgender person was even beaten up in Faisalabad after a fight with another group of "transgender people". The victim alleges that the other group was not in fact from the trans community and were pretending to be trans people in order to beg for money. –DNA

Briefs

IIUI to remain closed till Thursday

DNA

ISLAMABAD: International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) will remain closed till Thursday in order to take safety measures to prevent from COVID-19. According to spokesman IIUI, Nasir Farid, the university will reopen on Monday, November 02. He said, during this period disinfection shall be carried out in the campus.

Bike-lifter gang busted: Two arrested

RAWALPINDI: In a crack-down against criminal elements, Taxila Police have busted a bike-lifter gang and arrested its two members. Police also recovered 20 stolen motorcycles and spare parts of motorcycles from their possession. According to a police spokesman, Taxila police in a raid, arrested Babar Muhammad Imran and Zaheer Ahmed, two bike lifters and recovered 20 stolen motorcycles and their spare parts from their possession. He informed that the Police team constituted under the supervision of SHO Taxila Police Station on the directives of SP Potohar conducted a raid and managed to net the bike lifters. As per preliminary police record, the criminals were also involved in other crimes, he added. He stated that other members and facilitators of the bike lifters would also be arrested following preliminary investigations with the detainee culprits. Superintendent Police (SP) Potohar lauded endeavours of Saddar Wah and police team for netting the bike lifters. – APP

Police review security arrangements

ISLAMABAD: The police here on Tuesday reviewed the security arrangements during the visit of Zimbabwe cricket team. The overall security arrangements were discussed and reviewed in the meeting presided over by the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Amir Zulfiqar. DIG (operations), AIG (Special Branch), AIG (Operations), SSP (Traffic), SSP (Security), Additional SP and all SPs attended the meeting. The meeting focused to ensure foolproof security arrangements and devised comprehensive plan for traffic. It was decided that elaborate security would be provided to the players residing in Islamabad and special commando force would be deputed during movement of players. The meeting decided to ensure maximum convenience to citizens and specify alternate routes for them. The SSP (Traffic) was directed to chalk out a comprehensive plan in this regard. AIG (Special Branch) was directed to install walk through gates near the accommodation areas of the players and ensure checking of all people in the vicinity. It was agreed to use social media and other modes of communication to guide the citizens. The IGP said that all law enforcement agencies including police would ensure effective security for the Zimbabwe Cricket team through complete coordination among them. – APP

Six injured in accident in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI: At least 6 persons were injured when a Toyota Hiace hit the safety divider on Airport road here on Tuesday. According to Rescue 1122, a speedy passenger van coming to Katcheri struck with the road divider at Raheemabad on Airport road, resultantly Rukhsana D/O Muhammad Ali 34, Tahir S/o Abdul Rahman 38, Saqib S/O Qasim 37, Arshad S/O Abdul Aziz 35, Tabinda D/O Muhammad Riaz 19, Shameem W/O Dilshad of 70 got several injuries. On information, Rescue teams rushed to the spot and shifted the injured to Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH). – APP



ISLAMABAD: A little girl expresses sympathy with the victim of Armenian brutalities during a memorial corner established outside the Azerbaijan embassy. A large number of people turned up to show solidarity with Azerbaijan. – DNA

ICCI urges to withdraw increased property tax

President ICCI Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that instead of putting enormous burden on the business community by making a 300 percent increase in property tax, MCI should have increased this tax in a gradual manner

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has said that Municipal Corporations Islamabad (MCI) had made 300 percent hike in property tax in one go, which was totally unjustified. It said that there was no example of making such unprecedented increase in any tax in one go and called for its urgent withdrawal to save the business community and the citizens of Islamabad from its huge financial impact.

In a press release, President ICCI Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that instead of putting enormous burden on the business community by making a 300 percent increase in property tax, MCI should have increased this tax in a gradual manner, which would have saved the business community from unnecessary problems. He said that ICCI had obtained a stay order from the Islamabad High Court against this illogical step of MCI and the court had

directed MCI to charge the property tax in accordance with the provision of assessment by issuing the amended bills on the basis of previous rates. However, it was unfortunate that MCI has now issued new bills of property tax on enhanced rates with interest, which was not justified by any standards. He said that MCI had not fulfilled the legal requirements for making unilateral increase in property tax. He said that MCI was bound

to organize a public hearing for making any increase in its taxes, but the public was not taken on board on this important issue, therefore, there was no justification for its continuation. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that after the resignation of Mayor Islamabad, CDA Chairman was now looking after the affairs of MCI and urged him to reverse unjustified decision of MCI of increasing property tax by 300 percent in order to provide relief to the business community and the citizens of Islamabad. He said that the business community was not against the payment of property tax, but it should be rationalized to make it affordable for taxpayers. Ms. Fatma Azim Senior Vice President and Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI further said that MCI had increased trade license fee and signboard tax and urged that these taxes also be reviewed. – APP

Enemies want to spoil Pak efforts for Afghan peace



ISLAMABAD: The elements involved in condemnable and sorrowful Peshawar seminary blast wanted to sabotage peace efforts of Pakistan in Afghanistan, Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council, Special Representative to Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and Middle East, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi said on Tuesday. Talking to visiting delegates of different religious schools of thought, he said that Pakistani people and forces had foiled bids of the enemies. Ashrafi stated that Indian secret agencies had been involved in hatching conspiracies to make anarchy and chaos in Pakistan and India had been found in fanning sectarian violence in the country. India had been involved in patronising

world terrorists Organizations, which were being found accomplice in terrorism activities in Pakistan and other Muslim countries, said Ashrafi. Indian secret agency has been accomplice in fanning propaganda against Pakistan Force and making sectarian and ethnic violence in the country. Indian lobbies were making propaganda to ignite sectarianism violence in Pakistan to make anarchy and instability in the country, he said in a press release. Indian lobbies are making propaganda through social media websites in Pakistan to heighten sectarian anarchy and chaos. India wanted to spoil Pakistan's peace efforts in Afghanistan and now Indian secret agency disbursing million of rupees among the terrorists Organizations to heighten terrorism activities in Pakistan, said Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi. Meanwhile Ashrafi also held meeting with a delegation of National Reconciliation Council and commenting on the issue of sacrilegious caricatures in France stated that French President Emmanuel Macron through his blasphemous action sowed differences among faithfuls of different religions. Foreign Office with assistance of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) was devising unanimous stance in this regard, Ashrafi said. He also added that any bid to associate teachings of Islam with terrorism would not be tolerated.

CDA to renovate Quaid's portrait



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) decided to add more features to Monumental portrait of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah installed at Expressway. The decision taken during a meeting chaired by the Chairman CDA, Aamir Ali Ahmad in Islamabad on Tuesday. The meeting decided to make Quaid's portrait better. CDA will spend Rs 56 million on this project. 2mm iron sheet will be used in the making of portrait. The length and width of the portrait will be 50 feet, and 59 feet respectively. The feature of Rohtas fort will be added in the portrait. A wall will also be constructed to ensure the safety of the portrait. The Quaid's portrait was damaged due to the harsh weather during the current year. CDA has decided to make the portrait stronger by using the good quality iron.

91 Sri Lankan students win scholarship

The selected students have started arriving in Pakistan and so far 27 students have reached Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi and Sukkur to join their respective universities

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan has awarded Allama Iqbal Scholarship to 91 Sri Lankan students for Fall-2020 / Spring-2021 sessions to pursue higher education in Pakistani universities, under Pak-Sri Lanka Higher Education Cooperation Programme. The selected students have started arriving in Pakistan and so far 27 students have reached Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi and Sukkur to join their respective universities. As many as 525 Sri Lankan students had applied for Medical, Engineering, BS, MS, and PhD programmes in response to HEC announcement for Fall 2020/

Spring 2021 admissions. A selection board was constituted for online interviews, which comprised officials from HEC Pakistan, Pakistan High Commission (PHC) Colombo and University Grants Commission (UGC), Sri Lanka. A total of 172 applicants were shortlisted for interview, out of which 91 students have been finally selected. Spread over five years, Allama Iqbal Scholarship provide an excellent opportunity for 1000 Sri Lankan students to visit Pakistan and pursue undergraduate, post-graduate, and doctoral degree programmes in Engineering Sciences, Basic and Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences. The scholarship aims to promote an effective exchange of knowledge and better understanding of cultures and tradition between Sri Lankan and Pakistani students. Allama Iqbal Scholarships are part of HEC's internationalization initiative to encourage international students to study in Pakistan. The Sri Lankan students will study in their respective programmes in COMSATS University, Islamabad; Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi; Government College University, Lahore; Hazara University, Mansehra; Islamic International University, Islamabad; Institute of Management Sciences, Peshawar; Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Jamshoro; NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi; National University of Sciences and Technology, Islamabad; Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad; Sukkur IBA University, Sukkur; University of Engineering and Technology, Taxila; and University of the Punjab (UoP), Lahore.

AIOU: Oct 30 deadline for autumn 2020 admission

DNA

ISLAMABAD: AIOU has warned the candidates that online system of the university would not process any admission form submitted after October 30. AIOU offered admissions in several post graduate programs as well as BA (Associate Degree) and teachers' training programs in the autumn 2020 semester and the closing date for submission of admission application form was October 15. However, Prof Dr Zia Ul Qayyum extended the date upon students' request without imposing any late fee charges. Director Admissions, Mian Muhammad Riaz, has instructed the candidates to process the admission application before October 30. He, further, added that transparency would be ensured in the admission process of merit-based programs in accordance with the HEC guidelines. Admissions application forms can be submitted manually or through online system. Prospectus and admission forms are available at the main campus of the university as well as regional offices and prospectus sales points established throughout the country. Prospectus and admission forms are also uploaded on the university website to facilitate the students in admission process.

Traders to protest against Macron's remarks

RAWALPINDI: Trade bodies of the city on Tuesday gave a call for protests on October 29 against the hate-based narrative against Islam by the French President Emmanuel Macron. President Markazi Anjuman Tajran Sharjeel Mir said that the protest demonstration in collaboration with local Ulema and trade associations of the city and cantonment would be held at Fawara Chowk. He appealed the people to participate in the protest to express their love for the Holy Prophet (PBUH). Earlier this month, Macron had said that his country would not "give up cartoons" depict the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH). Meanwhile Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry(RCCI) strongly condemned the continued publication of controversial caricatures in France and urged the government to co-ordinate with other Muslim countries and adopt a line of action. – APP

Street criminal held, weapons recovered

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Ramana Police has nabbed a street criminal and recovered motorbikes, snatched mobiles and weapons from their possession, a police spokesman said. According to details, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfiqar Khan ordered crackdown against criminals including those involved in street crime and bootlegging. Following these orders, DIG (Operations) Waqar-Ud-Din Syed has directed all zonal offices to accelerate their efforts to curb the crime in the city. Following these directions, SP (Saddar) Muhammad Sarfraz Virk constituted special team under supervision of ASP Rana Abdul Wahab including SHO Ramana police station Sub-Inspector Tariq Rauf, ASI Haider Ali Shah along with others. This team nabbed a street criminal identified as Manzoor and recovered motorbikes, snatched mobiles phones and valuables from him. During the preliminary investigation, he also confessed his involvement in incidents of theft in area of Ramana police station and its surrounding along with his other accomplices. Further investigation is underway from him.

Briefs

Police reunited child with his family

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As per details, the officer of NHMP N-5 North Zone, Sub-Inspector Muhammad Sayar Khan and Sub-Inspector Amjad Ali were on routine patrolling at Pirpai (G.T. Road). They observed a child age about 7 / 8 years, along with the road and he was weeping. The officers immediately took the boy in safe custody and informed the base, accordingly. On asking the child told his name as Asad S/o Umar (Late) R/o mardan. He further told that, he belongs to Cannal Chowk, Mardan and a student of Class-II in a government school. Later on, the Operations Officer Inspector Jawad Khan brought the child to beat camp. Later on, the Operations Officer along with Constable Wahid Niaz brought the child to Cannal Chowk, Mardan to search his hires. After hectic efforts, the officers succeeded to find out his family after completing codal formalities, the child was handed over to his mother who was very thankful to NHMP officers for this helpful attitude and sense of responsibility.

WASA, RDA hold rally to mark "Black Day"

RAWALPINDI (APP): Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) and Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) jointly organized a rally here on Tuesday to demonstrate solidarity and love with the Kashmiri Muslims along with condemning Indian atrocities in the occupied valley. The rally participants carrying placards, banners and Pakistani-Kashmiri flags chanted vociferous slogans against India, its Prime Minister Modi and in favor of Pakistani and Kashmiri brethren. They demanded the United Nations to resolve the longstanding dispute in line with the desires of the people of occupied Kashmir. Addressing the rally, Managing Director WASA, Raja Shaikat Mehmood said that the people of Pakistan fully supported the right of self-determination and termed the October 27, 1947 as the blackest day in the history of mankind. He asked the international community to play due role in the peaceful resolution of Kashmir dispute. The MD saluted to commitment and will of the people in the occupied Kashmir without bowing to brutal use of force by the Indian troops. — APP

Dialogue for women empowerment

ISLAMABAD: Speakers in a panel discussion titled "Women Voices for Better Choices" in Family Planning Programme Sharing the Sindh Experience" Tuesday invited all stakeholders for opening dialogue for women empowerment not only in Sindh but across Pakistan. The discussion focused on women's participation in raising their family planning related demands, identifying solution and engaging with district managers for resolution of demands. In a dialogue on a policy paper drafted after the experience of Cost Implementation Plan (CIP), Population Welfare Department, Sindh in collaboration with Forum for Safe Motherhood (FSM), speakers included Dr. Talib Lashari, Technical Adviser, Population Welfare Department Sindh, Dr. Ambreen Nadeem DG Technical, Population Programme Wing, Ministry of National Health Services, Islamabad, Dr. Amanullah, CEO Forum for Safe Motherhood (FSM), Ihtisham Akram Technical Advisor, FSM, Dr. Mahwish Mubarik, Deputy Director Medical Sindh, Ayesha Ihsan DG KP, Bushra Naveed Director Planning, Punjab, Tahira Kamal, Director Health Services, Baluchistan and Dr. Harris Ahmed member FSM said that the project done in five districts of Sindh must be translated into policy line to link with women legislation. Dr. Talib Lashari, Technical Advisor Population Welfare Department said that the 'women voices inclusion' approach for family planning put forward in this paper is based on extensive literature review, as well as an in-depth analysis of women FP related demand. — APP

PNCA organizes cultural activities to observe Kashmir black day

The young students skillfully exposed the Indian Strategy and suppression of the Kashmiri people. Especially during the yearlong lock down, which is still going on. The tableau and skits give hope to the Kashmiri freedom fighters for their struggle and paid tribute to the martyrs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: October 27 is the day, when Indian Armed Forces took over Kashmir by force and made it Indian dominion. In this connection, Kashmiris observe this day, all over the world, as a Black Day. Pakistan National Council of the Arts organized day-long cultural activities to observe Black Day and express solidarity with the people of occupied Kashmir who are fighting for their right self-determination. Different events were arranged to mark the day which included puppet show, speeches, tableaux and an exhibition of photographs. The artists of PNCA arranged a puppet show highlighting the hardships of the Kashmiri people in Occupied Kashmir. The puppet show also presented Kashmir dance, Roshan Mustaqbil story, Khayali Palao, Sindhi Jhoomer, Jeway Pakistan and story of Mir Adnan for the children. The story regarding the hazards of tobacco was also presented. A tableau was performed by the students of various educational institutions. The young students skillfully exposed the Indian Strategy and suppression of the Kashmiri people. Especially during the yearlong lock down, which is still going on. The tableau and skits give



hope to the Kashmiri freedom fighters for their struggle and paid tribute to the martyrs. The PNCA also organized a speech contest among school children. The musical performance paid tribute to freedom fighters of Kashmir by presenting Kashmiri popular Folk Music and received a big applause from the audience. The young artists also

presented folk dances of Kashmir. The photographs presented were a narration of the struggle of Kashmiri people who are fighting for their independence and right of self-determination. To conclude the event a mime, show titled "Seed of Hope" was presented by PNCA. The atrocities of Indian forces and plight of Kashmiri people, especially

during the ongoing curfew was highlighted. But the message to the world is that the people of the valley have never left the hope for freedom and struggle goes on. Mr. Shehryar Khan Afridi, Chairman Parliamentary Committee of National Assembly for Kashmir Affairs was the chief guest on the occasion. Mr. Shehryar Khan Afridi highlight-

ed the efforts of the Govt to create more & more awareness among the nations about suffering of the Kashmiri people. The day is not for when the valley will be liberated. The day-long activities were concluded with prize distribution among the participating students and the winners of the speech contest by the chief guest.

Pak- Afghanistan to increase cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP), National Assembly of Pakistan Shandana Gulzar Khan on Tuesday urged to increase the cooperation between Pakistan and Afghanistan in the manufacturing sector for enhancing bilateral trade volume. The effect of Pak-Afghan transit trade condition on exports, ease of doing business, partnerships and Joint Ventures amongst business communities of both sides were the major issues, which needed to be resolved for enhancing the trade between the two countries, she said this while addressing the Pakistan-Afghanistan Trade and Investment Forum- 2020 here. She said that for exploring trade and investment opportunities in the manufacturing sector, there was need to enhance the bilateral cooperation in tex-

tiles, construction, Plastic and Pharmaceutical sector. Shandana said the both sides must explore, strengthen and identify weakness in bilateral trade. The senior parliamentarian said that to address the issues of the business community on the both sides, environment of mutual trust and cooperation was required. During her address to the forum, she also highlighted the importance of the Pak-Afghan forum in general and the need to find a way to promote manufacturing sectors of both the countries in particular. She said that political and any tragic incident should not impact the conduct of business between the citizens of both the countries. She also proposed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between both the countries for trade openness to increase the trade volume. — APP

Lok Virsa organizes cultural activities to observe Black Day

ISLAMABAD: National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) on Tuesday organized day-long cultural activities to observe Black Day and express solidarity with the Kashmiris who are fighting for their self-determination. Day-long cultural activities were inaugurated by ED Lok Virsa Talha Ali Khan Khushvaha at premises of Lok Virsa. The event

was attended by a large number of students from various educational institutions of the federal capital. Video documentaries were screened on large projector at Heritage Museum, highlighting the atrocities being committed by the Indian forces in Indian-Occupied Kashmir (IOK). Photographs were also displayed by eminent artists, reflecting the Indian brutality in IOK. — APP

Meeting of CPEC joint working group held

DNA

ISLAMABAD: 8th Meeting of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Joint Working Group on Transport Infrastructure was held via video link at Ministry of Communications here today. Besides Federal Secretary Communications Mr. Zafar Hassan, Vice Minister of China on Transport DAI Dongchang, Deputy Director General for

International Cooperation China Shan Hongjun and Chairman National Highway Authority Capt. (R) Sikander Qayyum also participated. The representatives of Foreign office, CPEC Authority, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Sindh Government, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan Government and Civil Aviation Authority were also present. After deliberations, the meeting adopted construction of

motorway from Peshawar to D.I. Khan (320KM), Swat Expressway from Chakdara to Fatehpur Phase-II (182KM) and Dir Expressway (30KM). Pakistan side gave briefing on ML-1 project, Karachi Circular Railway, Peshawar Circular Railway and Quetta Mass Transit Project. Chitral-Shandoor-Gilgit, Nokundi-Mashkhel-Panjgur and Mirpur-Muzaffarabad-Mansehra projects were also brought under discussion. Secretary

Communications Mr. Zafar Hassan said, CPEC is the vision of leadership of both the neighboring countries. He proposed inclusion of Chitral to Chakdara Highway (N-45) connecting Swat Motorway (Chakdara to Col. Sher Khan Interchange on Motorway M-1) as part of CPEC Western Route. He said, Government of Pakistan is planning for remaining sections of Gwadar-Ratodero Motorway M-8.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Qatar Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani met in his office at the Embassy with Air Marshal Amir Malik, CEO of Pakistan International Airlines. During the meeting, they exchanged views on different matters of common interest. — DNA

Durable peace impossible sans Kashmir solution: Shehryar Afridi

He expressed his astonishment that a country which claims to be a democratic and secular can indulge in practices like Ghar Wapsi Programme where minorities are being asked to either revert back to Hinduism or leave India

DNA

ISLAMABAD: "Since 449 days, the way Kashmiri people have been treated was never experienced before particularly after the creation of the UN in 1945", this was stated by Shehryar Afridi, Chairman Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir while addressing a seminar titled "Remembering Black Day: Kashmir and Right to Self Determination" organized by India Study Centre (ISC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI) in collaboration with Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir today. Afridi said that what Modi is doing in Kashmir, the UN and the world should have taken notice of that. He expressed his astonishment that a country which claims to be a democratic and secular can indulge in practices like Ghar Wapsi Programme where minorities are

being asked to either revert back to Hinduism or leave India. He also highlighted the fact that Pakistan has laid down huge sacrifices to combat

terrorism and the world need to see what India has been doing. He also expressed his firm resolve that Pakistan will stand united as a nation and

there will be no compromise on the issues of national security. Earlier, in his introductory remarks, Director India Study Cen-

tre, Dr. Saif Malik said that though everyday in Indian illegally occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IOJK) bring miseries in the lives of innocent Kashmiris but 27th October is observed when India in 1947 illegally against the international norms landed its troops in Srinagar contrary to the wishes of Kashmiris. Since then, perpetual move of ethnic cleansing, atrocities coupled with curfews, human rights abuses, lockdown is yet unending. In his welcome remarks, the Director General ISSI, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry said that more than seven decades ago, India illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. It was illegal because it was against the partition plan and later also against the UN resolutions. Last year, the Modi government took this illegality to yet another level when he revoked Article 370 and other steps to change the demography of Kashmir.



Seminar on 'status of forestry in Pakistan' held

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A national seminar was held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) on "Status of Forestry in Pakistan", here on Tuesday. The seminar was organized by the Department of Forestry including poster exhibition with the themes of World Habitat Day, International Migratory Birds Day and Disaster Risk Reduction Day. Hameed Marwat from Sustainable Land Management Project (SLMP) was chief guest while Prof. Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed from Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad delivered a lecture as a guest speaker. In the seminar, Dean, Director and the faculty members of the Forestry, Range Management & Wildlife were also present.

On the occasion, Dr. Mushtaq said that forestry was a very important subject in environmental sciences and Pakistan was considered an important country in the world not only due to its geographic but forestry & bio diversity also. He said that Pakistan's forests have a bigger threat from the timber mafia so it was responsibility of every citizen to protect the forests from them. Pakistan has diverse Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) in the world which could be largely used to meet different kinds of needs, he said and highlighted the significance of the forests which not only help support to normalize the ecosystem but important due to commercial use of NTFPs and a security for health, food & energy also. While talking to the audience, Hameed Marwat said that forestry was the oldest profession than agriculture of mankind which was not only providing food but also used for medical treatment of the humans.

SC dismisses appeal seeking Shahbaz's name in ECL

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday dismissed an appeal of National Accountability Bureau (NAB) seeking placement of PML-N's President Shahbaz Sharif name in exit control list (ECL). A division bench headed by Justice Mushir Alam and comprising Justice Munib Akhter conducted hearing on an appeal of NAB challenging the decision of Lahore High Court (LHC). Deputy Prosecutor General NAB Jahanzeb Bhawana appeared before the court. During the course of proceeding, Justice Munib Akhter remarked that the situation was different when this case was filed in LHC. The court would view the situation under which the LHC had given the decision for not placing accused name in ECL. The accused was a renowned person of the country, he said. NAB prosecutor pleaded that usually the accused flee abroad if their names were not placed in ECL, adding that around six people left the country during the phase of inquiries. He said that the accused was currently in judicial custody. Shahbaz Sharif was accused of money laundering and holding assets beyond known sources.

RCB Facilitation Centre addresses 261 complaints

RAWALPINDI: The Public Facilitation Centre of Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) received 342 complaints regarding electricity, water supply and sanitation problems in the cantonment areas and resolved 261 during this month. According to RCB spokesman, Qaiser Mehmood, the Board's public facilitation center received 137 complaints from the residents regarding electricity of which 111 were resolved, whereas out of 77 complaints regarding water supply 52 were resolved on urgent basis. Similarly, out of 128 complaints lodged by the residents relating to sanitation, 98 were resolved during the period. He informed, the Cantonment Executive Officer had issued special instructions to officials of RCB's Public Facilitation Centre to address the problems on urgent basis so as to provide better facilities to the residents. — APP

Discussing trade

THE Prime Minister of Pakistan (PM) Imran Khan, while speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the two-day seminar, Pakistan-Afghanistan Trade and Investment Forum 2020, affirmed Pakistan's assistance in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. Islamabad has shown this by taking practical steps time and again. Pakistan knows it better than any other country that a stable Afghanistan means a stable Pakistan. Therefore, our government has always extended its support to Afghanistan in gaining stability, both economic and security-related. Besides, PM Khan's remark that enhanced trade between the two neighbours is the only way forward to achieve prosperity is not a novel idea. Many countries, especially neighbouring states in different continents, have reaped the fruits of engaging in bilateral trade. These countries not only prospered economically, but they also succeeded in sorting out their territorial disputes. Islamabad and Kabul can also secure these two objectives provided the business between them increases. The ongoing seminar can open new vistas of bilateral cooperation. Such avenues can encourage other countries, especially the Central Asian Republics (CARs), to join the Pakistan-Afghanistan commercial setup. However, in the short term, Pakistan needs to focus on the ground realities in Afghanistan that are under rapid transition. The policymakers in Islamabad must adopt a new rational approach and deliberate on such investment opportunities that can benefit us the most. Also, given the fact that we have lost 50 percent of our trade with Kabul, our authorities must think of out-of-the-box solutions to bolster our exports share in Afghanistan's markets. Afghanistan, a landlocked country, is the natural extension of our domestic market. Enhanced trade with Kabul can earn significant revenue for Pakistan. Similarly, if Afghanistan achieves normalcy, trading with Pakistan, which has the flagship project of One Belt One Road (OBOR), i.e., China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), can offer it enormous economic dividends.

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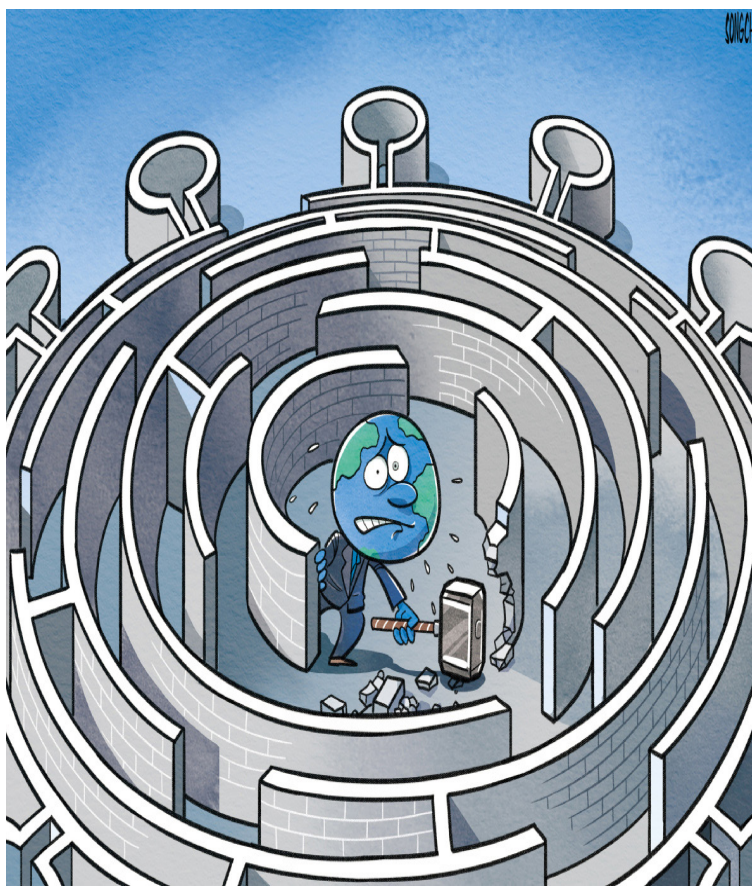
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Rebuilding cricket in Pakistan

MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

THE game of cricket is perhaps the most followed sport in Pakistan. Children enjoy playing cricket in the streets with whatever resources are available to them while teenagers and adults enjoy watching it on television. However, for years the infrastructure of cricketing academies in terms of producing players has remained somewhat bleak. The governing bodies should create an all-inclusive strategy to discover and train unsung talent that can become a part of the national team. For this to happen, the problems of the domestic cricket mechanism must be addressed. It should be as strong as the national cricket academy. The domestic cricket can only be fortified if those at the helms of affairs are former cricketers and who are well-connected with international bodies. We observe that bowlers and batsmen playing at the national side perform well for a period and then either fallback, are dropped by the management, or fade away from the cricketing scene. If the domestic cricket circuit is strong, players emerging after playing domestic cricket will have the knowledge and the experience to do well at the national level. In this regard, the mechanism of national cricket academies must be replicated at the domestic level. The domestic circuit has been ignored for long. Now is the time for the Pakistan Cricket Board to bring domestic cricket into the limelight. The domestic matches should be aired live on Facebook, and each domestic cricket team must have an active social media presence. The players too should be highlighted and their stats must be shared. This will create a link between the domestic cricketers with the fans. Domestic cricket must be revived and celebrated. Only then the players chosen from the domestic circuit can carry on with their performance at the national level. Otherwise, the domestic circuit will continue to operate in oblivion having no link with the national circuit.

Power of the 'boycott': Let France know

Dr M Ali Hamza



Today, boycotts are much easier to successfully initiate due to the Internet. Though to stretch the meaning and dig-out the potential power of the boycott, an organized consumer boycott is needed.

A consumer boycott requires focus on long-term change of buying habits, and so fit into part of a larger political program, with many techniques that include a longer structural commitment by the govts to reform commodity markets

UNFORTUNATELY, the French government chose to follow an extreme version of secularism or laicity. Islamic crises or not is debatable. But moral, humanitarian, and constructive image of French president and westerners' political elite is indeed in crises? Crises occur when leadership leaves behind the golden values of conduct and starts disregarding the efforts of predecessors. Macron's statement is sheer disrespect to article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that is observed in entire Europe, says 'blasphemy is a limitation to free speech'. He and his supporters are also either ignorant or an insult to 'harm principle' and 'offense principle' that lay down the principles for free speech. These principles are result of evolution in social-cognition of homo-sapiens. As a consequence of more than two millenniums of human learning, today even in secular countries publicly vilifying an act or object of religious worship is a crime, but Macron disgraces human learning. Standing with Charlie Hebdo's profanity reveals the ill-bred political attempt of French president, because coming to power as a moderate and having no established party, ideology or tradition, Emmanuel Macron was free to govern France avoiding populist fanaticism, which is rapidly spreading across Europe and beyond. He was viewed as the one liberal, democratic politician who could curtail the tide of populism sweeping the globe. However, on the contrary, he has become the most populist leader in Europe. Today, self-proclaimed-seculars' hatred towards Muslims has become a part of everyday speech for the French government as well as its media. Stigmatizing French Muslims as terrorists and separatists, branding Muslims of the world as radical, and labeling 'Islam in crises' is on top agenda of French government in particular and western powers in general. How should Muslim world respond to such

malicious, detrimental and unpropitious narrative built by Islamophobes?

Aggression and anger is not going to help-out. More the Muslims show aggression, the more they will be defamed as intolerant community. This does not mean to embrace silence and accept the absurdity instead we need to look for a better choice of action. Muslims are lucky enough to have the other option, the option of 'economic boycott'. A boycott is an act of nonviolent, voluntary and intentional abstention from using, buying, or dealing with a person, organization, or country as an expression of protest, usually for moral, social, political, or environmental reasons. The purpose of a boycott is to inflict some economic loss on the target, or to indicate a moral outrage, to try to compel the target to alter an objectionable behavior. Few notable boycotts in recent history include: 1790s boycott against abolition of the slave trade in Britain advocated boycotting slave-produced sugar, the American boycott of British goods at the time of the American Revolution, Montgomery Bus Boycott and stores & businesses that discriminated against blacks were boycotted during American civil rights movement of the 1950s and '60s, 1980s disinvestment movement in South Africa in opposition to country's apartheid regime, Chinese boycott of American products to protest the extension of the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1905, the boycott of Japanese products in China after the May Fourth Movement, crude oil embargo against the West by Arab countries in 1973.

Looking into the business Muslim majority countries offer to western world; in this case to France, can make us realize our strength on negotiation table. According to an annual report of United Nations COMTRADE Database on International Trade 2019, Pakistan imports from France were of US\$420.09 Million, Malaysia US\$2.62 billion, Turkey US\$7.41 billion, Dubai US\$450 million, Saudi Arabia US\$4.59 billion, Qatar US\$1.7 bil-

lion, Iran US\$ 1.58 billion. Only 7 out of 50 Muslim majority countries' annual import from France is more than US\$16 billion. You can imagine the magnitude of dent Muslim world can cause to French economy, just through a steady consumer boycott. Besides some: though in fact there is none, unsubstitutable products, the substitutable consumer goods imported from France include beverages, dairy products, leather articles, perfumes and cosmetics, pharmaceutical products, medical apparatus, iron & steel, plastic etc. The products offered by France are not unique or indispensable. These all products are not bound to geographical constraints, neither France have monopoly in these and nor these products are impossible to reverse engineer. So what is that restricting Muslim states to boycott these goods, nothing but the will, noting but absence of collective belief in one's own abilities, and above all nothing but the deficiency of true love with the Prophet Muhammad (Peace be Upon Him).

Today, boycotts are much easier to successfully initiate due to the Internet. Though to stretch the meaning and dig-out the potential power of the boycott, an organized consumer boycott is needed. A consumer boycott requires focus on long-term change of buying habits, and so fit into part of a larger political program, with many techniques that include a longer structural commitment by the governments to reform commodity markets, and people's commitment to moral purchasing. Shouting, yelling, protesting, and raising slogans have temporary effects. Now is a time for Muslim world to call a firm boycott of French products against French profanity, for a permanent impact. It is not just a state decision but a decision of individuals moral purchasing. To start with, there are around 40 French brands working in Pakistan, i.e. LU Biscuits, Total Petroleum, BIC Manufacturing Company, Garnier, L'Oréal, Michelin etc. now it's your call.

Yunnan of China: Promoting bonds with Pakistan

Li Ping



Pakistani students have studied in and continuing their education in institutions of higher and professional learning in Yunnan. A direct flight between Kunming and Islamabad ensued in December 2019 that would be resumed once COVID-19 related restrictions are removed, soonest we hope. However, we are nowhere near the potential that exists – on both sides

IT is good to note that relations between China and Pakistan are growing from strength to strength. Economic and commercial cooperation, particularly under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is driving the current surge in bilateral relations. While bilateral partnership of the two nations is broad-based and comprehensive, some of the regions in China are gaining added significance to take this win-win cooperation further. Yunnan, the southwestern province of China is one such region. Let us introduce you to Yunnan province, first. Located at the juncture of South and Southeast Asia, the province is half the size of Pakistan in terms of landmass and almost one-fourth when it comes to population. It borders Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar and is in close proximity to Cambodia, Thailand, Bangladesh, India and, we can say, Nepal. Flight time between the capitals of all these countries from Yunnan's capital Kunming is between hardly 1 to just over 3 hours. It would be interesting for Pakistani audience to note that the province has a GDP, in nominal terms, of around \$330 billion which is more or less equivalent to that of Pakistan. International trade of the province is around \$30 billion. Thanks to continuous attention and robust policies of China's central and Yunnan's provincial authorities, the province is witnessing one of the highest rates of GDP growth among Chinese provinces and regions, in recent years. International trade and commercial cooperation is also increasing fast, further, in size and scope. It would not be wrong to say that Yunnan is rapidly on the way to become an important gateway between China and South and Southeast Asia. Chinese and international investors are increasingly turning to Yunnan, to invest there and start their businesses – reaping the benefits of the province's ideal location in the south-eastern part of Asia; and getting the dividends of favorable central and provincial policies and approaches.

As a whole, the province offers immense investment, business and trade opportunities for international potential partners and Pakistani investors, businesspersons – due to extraordinarily positive relations between the two nations – stand to gain a lot if they wish to benefit from these opportunities. It may be pointed out here that Yunnan is home to one of the first 6 Pilot Free Trade Zones that China is building in various provinces and regions of the country; which means that the province is being readied for much more enhanced and multiplied international commerce activity from its borders. When we talk about up and coming investment opportunities of investing in this beautiful province of China, some of the prefectures, cities and areas as well as their projects that are being developed for the purpose assume a renewed significance for international investors. The following projects in particular

await international investors to join hands with Yunnan in developing their businesses.

Wenshan

- Biomedicine Cosmetics Manufacturing Project;
- Xiaobaishan Sports and Leisure Park Project
- Yanshan Modern Agricultural Industrial Park Construction Project

Honghe

- International Medical Center Construction Project;
- Generic Medicine and TCM Research Center Project;
- Public Overseas Warehouse and Operation Center Construction Project.
- PCB Production Project
- ITO Target Material Production Project

Dehong

- International Medical Center Construction Project;
- Generic Medicine and TCM Research Center Project;
- Investment Attraction Program for Wanding Boundary Economic Cooperation Zone

Lijiang

- Chenghai Health Town Project in Yongsheng County
- Dadong Hot Spring Resort Development Project in Gucheng District Lijiang City
- Jinsha River Ecological Economic Corridor Construction Project in Lijiang
- Yongning Basin Mosuo Ancient Town Project

Xishuangbanna

- Tianhe Project in Gasa Tourist Town
- Mengman International Rubber Town Project
- Megla (Mohan) Key Development Project and Opening Up Experimental Zone
- Daluo Port Trade Services Area Project
- Qizi Cake Tea Cultural Tourism Project

Yuxi Prefecture

- Construction of Theme Park on South Bank of Qilu lake in Tonghai County
- Development Project of Lijashan Ancient Town Group Archaeological Site Park and Cultural Creative Base in Jiangchuan District
- Citrus Processing and Band Operation Project in Xiping County
- Mango Characteristic Town in Ganzhuang – Home to Overseas Chinese, Yuanjian County
- Lincang**
- Yawei Exhibition Center
- Pottery Cultural Industrial Park
- Processing of Fruits, vegetables and Other Leisure Foods

- Electronically and Electrical Processing Project
- Agriculture Machinery Assembly and Development
- Qujing**
- Hydropower Silicon Industrial Park
- New Energy and New Industrial Materials Park
- Stainless Steel Industrial Park
- Luliang County Dehydration, Freeze-Dried, Quick Frozen Vegetable and Edible Fungi Project

Dali

- Shangguan Pastoral Ecological Healthcare Center
- Heqing Green Low Carbon Hydropower Aluminum Intensive Processing Industrial Park
- International Means of Livelihood Logistics Park

Pu'er

- Banshan Hotel – A Destination for Healthy Life
- Bodder Processing Logistics Park at Mengkang Port
- Gold Menglian Nayun Ancient Town Border Cultural Tourism Project
- Cold Chain Logistics Park
- 100 miles Tea Road

Yunnan is also home to the best varieties of green and herbal tea as well as black tea and coffee; major producer of tobacco and its products; a huge power in terms of hydropower generation; a leading global producer and exporter of cut-flowers. The province, due to its mesmerizing landscape, historical heritage, ethnic diversity and natural wealth is a magnet for tourists from China and abroad.

Like other parts of China, Yunnan is already engaged in various forms of commercial cooperation with Pakistan – particularly involvement in CPEC projects and slowly but gradually increasing trade. Every year, province's capital Kunming hosts a major trade expo of South and Southeast Asian producers and manufacturers, which would no onwards be running on permanent basis, and Pakistani businesses' have been an important feature of this activity.

Pakistani students have studied in and continuing their education in institutions of higher and professional learning in Yunnan. A direct flight between Kunming and Islamabad ensued in December 2019 that would be resumed once COVID-19 related restrictions are removed, soonest we hope. However, we are nowhere near the potential that exists – on both sides. It is high time that investors, producers and traders come forward; take advantage of the opportunities that Yunnan offers and resultantly play a much needed role in further solidifying the evergreen partnership between our two countries.

– *The writer is Director, Overseas Representative Office of Yunnan in Islamabad.*

Briefs

Turkey
detains IS
suspects for
'preparing
attacks'

ANKARA: Police on Tuesday detained seven Islamic State suspects in Ankara accused of preparing attacks on national holidays in Turkey, media and officials said. They were planning attacks on Republic Day on Thursday and ceremonies on November 10 which commemorate the death of the founder of the modern Turkish state, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, NTV broadcaster reported. Special forces police raided the homes of the suspects, two of whom were believed to have played an "active role" in armed fighting in Syria, the channel added. Another individual was accused of being an "executioner" for the extremist group. The Ankara chief public prosecutor's office said in a statement seven arrest warrants for IS members were issued on Tuesday and they were all detained as part of two separate investigations but did not provide more details. Their nationalities were not given. Turkey was hit by a series of terror attacks in 2015 and 2016 blamed on IS and Kurdish militants. The last attack was in January 2017 when a gunman killed 39 people at an elite Istanbul nightclub during New Year celebrations.

World must
end double
standards: PM

From Page 01

Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that he is fully aware of the plight of the people due to the rising inflation in the country and vowed to bring the inflation under control at any cost. Ministers said that the bureaucracy involved in the wheat crisis should be identified. The federal cabinet strongly condemned the blasphemous caricatures in France, saying such publicity was unacceptable. The meeting also strongly condemned the Peshawar blast and offered prayers for the martyrs of the incident. The Federal Cabinet was briefed on availability of essential commodities including wheat, sugar, timeline of wheat import till January 30, 2021, sugar import schedule and reduction in prices.

Eight killed
in Peshawar
blast

From Page 01

could not be identified. The bomb concealed in a bag brought by a man around 8 a.m. Tuesday ripped through inside main hall of a mosque at Dir Colony when students were being taught by a religious teacher. Five kilogram explosive and ball bearing were used in the blast, according to AIG, Bomb Disposal Squad, Shafqat Malik. He rejected reports that it was a remote controlled blast. The condition of five victims were critical at LRH and shifted to ICU.

Senate
expresses
solidarity

From Page 01

Kashmir, terming October 27 as a Black Day in the history of the Kashmiri people. The House resolutely rejected the illegal Indian occupation of Kashmir which is the root cause of the dispute for the last 73 years. The resolution reaffirmed complete and unconditional support of Pakistan and its people to the just cause of the inalienable right of self-determination of the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions that seek a plebiscite under UN auspices to ascertain the wishes of the Kashmiri people regarding their future.



LONDON: High Commissioner Moazzam Ahmad Khan observing Kashmir Black Day photo exhibition at the Pakistan High Commission London. – DNA

Int'l community should take
notice of HR violations in IIOJK

Moin ul Haq expressed his gratitude on behalf of people of Kashmir and Pakistan, to the people and the Chinese government for the all out support for Kashmir issue and freedom struggle of Kashmiri people

BEIJING: Kashmir Black Day was observed here on Tuesday to express solidarity with the Kashmiri brethren in their just struggle for the right to self determination and expose atrocities being committed by Indian troops against innocent Kashmiri people in the illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing the participants, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque paid rich tributes to the just and fair struggle of the Kashmiri people and said that the purpose of observing this day is not only to highlight the plight of Kashmiri people but to revive the memory of the

Black Day when Indian forces illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir on this day in 1947. He said that the international community should take notice of the presence of one million Indian troops, complete lock down and gross human rights violations by the Indian troops deployed in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The Ambassador observed that India never fulfilled its promise of holding a plebiscite in Kashmir, despite numerous resolutions passed by UN Security Council on Kashmir issue. He reaffirmed Pakistan's unflinching diplomatic, moral and po-



litical support to the freedom struggle of the Kashmiri people and urged the international community to fulfill its promise to them in securing their right of self-determination. He expressed his gratitude on behalf of people of Kashmir

and Pakistan, to the people and the Chinese government for the all out support for Kashmir issue and freedom struggle of Kashmiri people. The Ambassador reiterated that as the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan in their messages said, the people of Pakistan will stand shoulder to shoulder with Kashmiri brethren and will always be voice of Kashmiris in every international forum. Earlier, Deputy Head of Mission, Ahmed Farooq read out messages of President Dr. Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan on the day. A video documentary screened on a large projector

showcasing Kashmir issue generated great interest amongst the audience. The students of Peking University Beijing also attended the event and spoke on Kashmir issue. They expressed their full support and solidarity for the people of Kashmir in their just freedom struggle. A song reflecting plight of Kashmiri people as well as their freedom struggle was also played on the occasion. In the end, a special 'Dua' was offered for Kashmiri martyrs and for the liberation of Jammu and Kashmir. The event was attended by all the officers /officials of the Embassy. – APP

Uzbekistan,
China consider
interregional ties

FOREIGN DESK

TASHKENT: Ambassador of Uzbekistan to China Bakhtiyor Saidov has held talks with the Governor of Shaanxi Province, Zhao Yide. The parties discussed priority areas of cooperation between Uzbekistan regions and Shaanxi Province in various fields, Dumyo news agency reported. The sides exchanged views on further strengthening ties in trade-economic, investment, humanitarian spheres, as well as on the implementation of joint investment projects in agriculture.

Special attention was paid to the implementation of the project for construction of Uzbekistan – China Science and Technology Innovation Park in Uzbekistan worth US\$15 million, which is designed to become an effective platform for the implementation of mutually beneficial projects in agriculture, as well as a platform for training professional personnel in this area. The parties highly appreciated the current state of inter-regional ties between the two countries, which are new drivers for the development of a comprehensive Uzbekistan – China strategic partnership.

Dubai changes
coronavirus test
requirements for entry

DNA

DUBAI: Dubai has changed COVID-19 test requirements for entry for tourists and residents returning from specific destinations, Emirates said in a statement posted on its website. UAE residents returning from Algeria, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakh-

stan, Kirgizstan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malaysia, Maldives Islands, Mauritius, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, the UK and the US, specifically New York, Washington DC, Boston, Chicago and Seattle need to either present a valid negative coronavirus polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test or take it upon arrival in Dubai.

Revitalizing soybean
production in Pakistan

BEIJING: "Based on our research, at present, if Pakistan wants to develop soybean production, adopting maize-soybean strip intercropping technology would be the best of all viable alternatives," said study leader Professor Yang Wenyu of China's Sichuan Agricultural University, Chengdu. He also disclosed that Chinese seeds, machinery and herbicides related to this technology have been permitted to be transported to Pakistan. "Food security is a common issue faced by the whole humanity. Chi-

na and Pakistan are brotherly friends, and we are both suffering from soybean shortage. We ought to join hands to strengthen bilateral cooperation on soybean production to achieve win-win outcomes," Prof. Yang said in an interview with China Economic Net (CEN) while talking about the reason why he introduced this technology to help Pakistan produce soybeans. He said, China and Pakistan were major importers of soybeans worldwide while China was also a major soybean producer whose experi-

ence might provide meaningful insights for Pakistan in crop cultivation. As the two countries' capacity of soybean progresses, farmers' income will be increased and their standard of living will be boosted. Meanwhile, both countries' soybean imports will be reduced. Furthermore, the two friendly neighbors may export soybeans to each other to improve mutual food security. Along with technology exchanges, both countries' agricultural modernization will be gradually lifted as well. – APP



TOKYO: Ambassador of Pakistan to Japan Imtiaz Ahmed In a meeting with Yanmar Agribusiness Corporation, the Japanese agricultural machinery company was invited to invest & manufacture in Pakistan for developing capacity of local farmers through a possible joint venture. – DNA

China tells US not to 'bully' Sri Lanka

The comments by the Chinese embassy in Colombo came shortly before the arrival on Tuesday of US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who is on an Asian tour aimed at pushing back against China's growing influence in the region

WEB DESK

COLOMBO: China has raised objections to what it called bullying of Sri Lanka by the United States after Washington said the Indian Ocean island must make "difficult but necessary choices" regarding its ties with Beijing. The comments by the Chinese embassy in Colombo came shortly before the arrival on Tuesday of US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who is on

an Asian tour aimed at pushing back against China's growing influence in the region. "We are firmly opposed to the United States taking the opportunity of the State Secretary's visit to sow and interfere in China-Sri Lanka relations, and to coerce and bully Sri Lanka," the embassy said in a statement late on Monday. China has invested billions of dollars in infrastructure projects in Sri Lanka as part of President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative, aimed

at linking Asia, Europe and beyond, to the alarm of India and the US. The embassy said China's ties with Sri Lanka stretched back 2,000 years and the two countries did not need a third party to dictate terms. Pompeo's trip to Sri Lanka, and later to the Maldives, another Indian Ocean island nation, is seen as part of an attempt to counter China's dominating economic presence in smaller countries that has left some of them

in deep debt. Ahead of the trip, Dean Thompson, a senior State Department official in the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, said Sri Lanka must make tough choices to secure its economic independence over the longer term. China also raised concern about Pompeo making the trip at a time when Sri Lanka is struggling with the novel coronavirus. "Is it helpful to local epidemic prevention and control? Is it in the interests of the Sri Lankan

people," the embassy asked. A Chinese delegation led by its top diplomat, Yang Jiechi, visited Colombo this month but it kept its personnel and activities to a minimum in line with guidelines to prevent a surge in cases, the embassy said. "We are willing to share these practices with the United States, hoping to provide some reference for Mr State Secretary's visit and its handling of relations with small and medium-sized countries," it said.

Belarus
strike action
begins

FOREIGN DESK

MINSK: Factory workers, students and business owners in Belarus began a general strike on Monday to demand that President Alexander Lukashenko step down after more than two months of continuing mass protests following a disputed election. Lukashenko ignored an ultimatum to surrender power by midnight over claims his August 9 re-election was rigged. The authoritarian leader had challenged his opponents to carry out a threat to paralyze Belarus with strikes. Police used stun grenades as more than 100,000 people gathered in Minsk, Grodno, Brest and other cities. The Interior Ministry said police made 523 arrests across the country. "The regime has once again showed the Belarusians that violence is the only thing it is capable of," said civil rights activist and exiled opposition figure Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya in a statement from neighboring Lithuania. The Belarusian human rights organization Viasna said that more than 255 people had been detained at strikes and other protests in the country on Monday.

WTO clears
EU request for
tariffs on US

WEB DESK

The World Trade Organization's (WTO) Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) on Monday gave approval to European Union (EU) retaliatory tariffs on \$4 billion (3.4 billion) worth of US goods in response to US subsidies for airplane manufacturer Boeing. The EU had sought \$8.6 million in tariffs, in response to tariffs imposed by the US tied to European Airbus subsidies last year. The EU sanctions were originally approved by a WTO auditor on October 13, but needed approval from the trade body's 164 member states. On Monday, a representative from the WTO in Geneva announced: "WTO members approved the European Union's request for authorization to impose retaliatory measures against the United States for its failure to comply with the WTO ruling regarding US government subsidies for Boeing."

Kashmiris
subjected
to worst
treatment: FM

From Page 01

He said political, religious, cultural, and economic liberties of the people of Kashmir are facing Indian oppression. He said demographic structure in the occupied territory is being changed in violation of international injunctions and law. He said Kashmiris have been deprived of digital connectivity in the age of digital media. He said Hindutva obsessed mindset is doing all this. He said humanity dies in Kashmir every day. The Foreign Minister said the world must know and the Kashmir youth must know that even their voices are muzzled; they have their voice and their rights are being muzzled, they have rights. He said their lives are no less than a life of an American, European, or Indian. He said they are not alone as the Pakistani youth is standing with you and will remain with them in future as well. Shah Mahmood Qureshi advised the youth that they should continue their efforts to mobilize the world community on Kashmir question and they should never lose hope. Paying tribute to the sacrifices of Kashmiri people against Indian oppression, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Shibli Faraz urged the world bodies including the UN to voice against Indian brutalities in IIOJ&K. He regretted over the role of international community over silence on Indian inhuman attitude towards Kashmiri people. The Minister said Kashmir is a national issue which evokes widespread sentiment in Pakistan and all political parties stand united against India's forcible annexation of Kashmir. He said change of status of IIOJ&K after 5 August 2019 was the violation of UNSC resolutions. He said today people in the IIOJ&K are being tortured, killed, incarcerated and deprived of their basic rights. The Minister said Prime Minister Imran Khan has successfully highlighted the Kashmir issue at international forums that vindicates he is the true ambassador of Kashmir.

Briefs

Child malnutrition reaches new highs in Yemen: UN

FOREIGN DESK

SANAA: Parts of Yemen are seeing their highest levels of acute malnutrition in children, heightening warnings that the country is approaching a dire food security crisis, the United Nations said in a report. Drivers of malnutrition in Yemen worsened in 2020, as the coronavirus pandemic, economic decline, floods, escalating conflict and significant underfunding of this year's aid response have compounded an already bleak hunger situation after nearly six years of war. "We've been warning since July that Yemen is on the brink of a catastrophic food security crisis. If the war doesn't end now, we are nearing an irreversible situation and risk losing an entire generation of Yemen's young children," said Lise Grande, the UN humanitarian coordinator for Yemen. According to a UN Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) malnutrition analysis of south Yemen, acute malnutrition cases in children aged below five have increased about 10 percent in 2020 to more than half a million. "Acute malnutrition at that age causes irreversible damage to the brain and cognitive capacity of the child. It is absolutely terrible," Philippe Duamelle, the UNICEF representative in Yemen, told media from Yemeni capital Sanaa. "It not only puts the life of the child at risk, but it also puts their future at tremendous risk," he added. Cases of children with severe acute malnutrition rose 15.5 percent, and at least a quarter-million pregnant or breastfeeding women also need malnutrition treatment.

Thousands rally in Bangladesh against France

FOREIGN DESK

DHAKA: Tens of thousands of protesters have marched through the Bangladesh capital, calling for a boycott of French products as anger over President Emmanuel Macron's defence of cartoons depicting Prophet Muhammad mounts in the Muslim world. The protesters on Tuesday burned an effigy of Macron during their march in Dhaka, chanting: "Boycott French products" and calling for the French leader to be punished over his alleged Islamophobia. Police estimated that more than 40,000 people took part in the march organised by Islami Andolan Bangladesh (IAB) party. Macron has sparked outrage across the Muslim world by accusing Muslims of "separatism" and describing Islam as a "a religion in crisis all over the world". The French leader also announced a plan "to reform Islam" in order to make the country's six million Muslims more compatible with France's republican values. Tensions further escalated in the aftermath of the killing of Samuel Paty, a middle school teacher who showed his pupils drawings of Prophet Muhammad during a discussion on the freedom of speech.

Tanzania: Opposition claims 3 killed

WEB DESK

DODOMA: A major opposition party in Tanzania has accused police of shooting dead three citizens and arresting its leader amid unrest in the semi-autonomous archipelago over alleged fraud on the eve of the country's presidential election. Leader of ACT-Wazalendo (Alliance for Change and Transparency) party, Seif Sharif Hamad, who is taking his sixth shot at the top office, was hauled away by police as he arrived at a polling station in Garagara neighbourhood to try and cast his ballot on a day of early voting set aside mainly for security forces, his party said. "Verified reports from Pemba in Zanzibar indicate that three citizens have been shot dead by the police using live ammunition," read a statement from ACT-Wazalendo on Tuesday.



BAKU: Ambassador of Pakistan to Azerbaijan Bilal Hayee attending event regarding Kashmir Black Day at embassy of Pakistan, Baku. – DNA

‘Armenia established PKK corridor in Nagorno-Karabakh’

Forming tunnels in the region, digging ditches and the firing systems are all unique to the PKK. Azerbaijan has determined PKK presence in the front rows of Armenian fronts with regards to their movement, tactics and differences of appearance,” Hajiyev said

DNA

BAKU: Presidential aide Hikmat Hajiyev has said that Armenia established a corridor to bring PKK members to the Azerbaijan's occupied territories. In an interview with the Turkish media, Hajiyev stressed that Azerbaijan had been sharing information about the presence of PKK terrorists and Armenia's contact with the terrorist group. "They established a corridor to bring the PKK into Azerbaijan's occupied territories," Hajiyev said, adding that there are also PKK camps in the area, while the tactics used by Armenia indicate a PKK presence. "Forming tunnels in the region, digging ditches and the firing systems are all unique to the PKK. Azerbaijan has determined PKK presence in the front rows of Armenian fronts with regards to their movement, tactics and differences of appearance," Hajiyev said. He added that according to the latest intelligence from captured Armenian

officers, some 200 PKK terrorists would cross into Nagorno-Karabakh from Armenia. Hajiyev noted that all countries that do not see the PKK as a terrorist organization contribute to crimes against humanity. "We all have serious suspicion about Armenia bringing mercenaries from Libya," Hajiyev said, adding that Armenia carries weapons using false information on civilian planes. Hajiyev said Armenia targets civilians and rejected claims that Syrian fighters were fighting for Azerbaijan. "First of all, we don't need such a thing. We have a very professional military. We also have enough reserve power," he said. However, he said foreign fighters from several countries including Syria, Lebanon, as well as the USA, Canada and France, in particular, were fighting among the ranks of Armenia's armed forces. Hajiyev urged countries, whose Armenian citizens have joined the war and are killing Azerbaijani civilians, to stop the slaughter of ordinary civilians. "We also have concerns about the



PKK terrorist organization's involvement in the war. They are also in the ranks of the Armenian armed forces. Essentially, they are deployed to the front line for the defense of the Armenian armed forces," said Hajiyev. Armenia is also using civilian airplanes, which is "against the rules of the International Civil Aviation Organization. They have attached missile systems to civilian airplanes. In addition, weapons and missiles are being sent in the name of 'humanitarian aid,'" he said, noting that

it was carrying arms on its official airplane as if it is on a formal visit. "They kill Azerbaijani civilians with them. This also needs to be examined by the international media," he said. Meanwhile, in a detailed statement posted on his official Twitter account on 26 October, Hajiyev said that international media had distributed credible news, citing intelligence information regarding the deployment of PKK terrorists to Azerbaijan's occupied city of Shusha and them being dressed in military attire used by the Azerbaijani armed forces. "We wish to remind that most recently, Armenia had released an utterly unprofessional fake video regarding foreign mercenaries in uniforms of the State Border Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan, alleging that mercenaries were fighting on Azerbaijan's side. With regret, we must note that some reputable media outlets have also chosen to refer to such fake information without fact-checking," Hajiyev wrote on Twitter on 26 October. Hajiyev described

as suspicious a photo earlier released by the Armenian Defence Ministry depicting the Armenian defence minister together with Armenian soldiers, among whom one was dressed in the uniform of the Azerbaijani State Border Service. "MOD of Armenia released a photo of Armenia's defence minister together with the Armenian soldiers. A barefoot Armenian soldier sitting next to the minister, wearing a military uniform identical to the one used by the State Border Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan, has raised serious suspicions. Several minutes later Armenia's Defence Ministry's press service had deleted those photos from the official accounts," Hajiyev tweeted. He also added: "An Armenian soldier in the military uniform of the State Border Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan sitting next to Armenia's defence minister is proof that the Defence Ministry of Armenia is overseeing the production of such Bollywood style fake movies," Hajiyev said.

Azerbaijan calls on to investigate children rights abuses

DNA

BAKU: The recent videos widely spread on social media demonstrate that Armenia employs children as soldiers in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. It is almost three decades that hundred of thousands of children in the Republic of Azerbaijan suffer from the ongoing aggression of Armenia and its long-lasting effects. But as we are witnessing today Armenia not only continues to violate the rights of Azerbaijani children but does not hesitate to violate the rights of Armenian children as well. By using children in the military operations Armenia violates the protection guaranteed for children by the IV Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilians and me Additional Protocol which provides that "chil-

dren shall be the object of special respect and shall be protected against any form of indecent assault". By such actions, Armenia vigorously violates the child rights enshrined in the UN Child Rights Convention, its Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict, in particular Article 1 and Article 2. While using children as combatants Armenia deprives the children of their fundamental rights, in particular the right to life and the right to protection, as children might become military targets as combatants. Moreover, Armenia which presents itself as one of the "advocates" of the Safe Schools Declaration does not hesitate to use school buildings for military purposes, which is another demonstration of its failure to respect the protection of future generations.

Erdogan files complaint against Dutch MP

DNA

ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday lodged a criminal complaint against Dutch far-right politician Geert Wilders over an insulting tweet. The president's lawyer Huseyin Aydin filed the complaint over Wilders' insulting contents targeting Erdogan. In a criminal complaint submitted to the Office of the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor, Aydin called the leader of Party for Freedom "suspect" and said his insulting remarks are "criminal libel" and "cannot be evaluated under freedom of express." "Suspect Wilders, in his content targeting our first [directly] elected [by public] president, used expressions insulting the honor and dignity of our president, and committed the crime publicly by targeting his personality, dignity and reputation," it was stated in the complaint.

Govt policies boost confidence in business community: FPCCI

DNA

KARACHI: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Tuesday said that the policies of the government have started bringing a turnaround despite difficult economic situation, especially owing to the outbreak of coronavirus globally. The current account has been in surplus for the last three consecutive months, standing at \$792 million in Jul-Sep, which is a significant improvement from the deficit of \$1,492 million of last year's same period, FPCCI President Mian Anjum Nisar observed in a statement issued here. He suggested that promotion of industrial activities should now be the priority of the government as it would increase economic activity, and create employment op-

portunities, which is the slogan of PM Imran Khan. The government's policies have started giving results in the form of economic stability and increased business' confidence, he noted. He expressed confidence in the government policies aimed at increasing exports, stating that as a result of its policies, the confidence of business community had been restored and consequently economic activities increased in the country. Despite challenges at internal and external fronts, the prudent strategy adopted by the government helped put the country's economy on back on growth trajectory as indicated by many economic indicators. The exports of textile commodities witnessed an increase of 2.92 per cent during the first quarter of the

current fiscal year compared to the corresponding period of last year whereas, on a year-on-year basis, exports grew 11.3pc during Sept 2020 compared to the same month of last year. He said that current account deficit reduction coincided with signs of economic growth pick up, which is evident by uptick in automobiles, cement, steel, fertilizer, etc at a time when non-oil imports are also picking up which is a clear sign of economic recovery. The prime reason for better balance of payment situation is a surprising growth in home remittances. The World Bank was estimating that remittances would decline in countries like Pakistan but the opposite happened in fact, as the 31 percent growth in the first quarter is the highest since Apr-Jun 2011.

Iran summons French envoy

FOREIGN DESK

TEHRAN: Iran said on Tuesday that it has summoned French chargé d'affaires in Tehran to protest insults against Islam and the Prophet Muhammad. In a statement, the Foreign Ministry said a strong protest was conveyed through the French envoy over "unacceptable actions" of French authorities that have "hurt the sentiments of Muslims across the world". "It is deeply regrettable to incite Islamophobia and spread hatred in the name of freedom of expression, which should otherwise promote communication, empathy and co-existence," the statement said, quoting the deputy director general for European affairs. It further said that the "irrational reaction" of French officials to actions of extremists only provides the ground for the "growth of deviant tendencies". According to the statement, the French official assured the Iranian officials that he will convey the protest to the authorities in France. French President Emmanuel Macron has sparked outrage across the Muslim world by accusing Muslims of "separatism" and describing Islam as a "a religion in crisis all over the world".

Turkish speaker meets Cypriot president

WEB DESK

ANKARA: Turkey's parliament speaker on Tuesday met with the newly elected president of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) visiting the capital Ankara. According to a statement by the speaker's office, Mustafa Sentop and TRNC President Ersin Tatar discussed possible cooperation between the two countries. TRNC Ambassador Kemal Koprulu also took part in the meeting, after which Sentop offered a luncheon in Tatar's honor. Then-Prime Minister Ersin Tatar on Oct. 18 won a presidential runoff election in the TRNC with 51.74% of the votes, beating incumbent Mustafa Akinci's 48.26%. Tatar is the TRNC's fifth president, and is set to serve a five-year term.

Microsoft to invest in Taiwan

ANKARA: The US-based Microsoft Corporation has announced its biggest investment in Taiwan amid faltering US-China trade ties.

In a news conference on Monday, Microsoft Taiwan CEO Ken Sun said the company will build a data center in Taiwan, creating over 30,000 jobs with an investment of over \$10 billion until 2024, daily Taipei Times reported on Tuesday. The investment in four digital projects also include research and development of artificial intelligence hardware. It has been the first time in last 31 years that Microsoft announced such a big investment in the island nation. Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen said in a tweet: "I am proud to be part of reimagining Taiwan with @Microsoft & welcome their investment. Our collaboration is yet another step forward for the Taiwan-US partnership, as we reimagine supply chains & create business opportunities for a better tomorrow." The huge investments come amid weakening US-China relations which have hit the bottom rock. Washington has increased its relations with Taiwan which China claims a "breakaway province". Beijing has warned against hobnobbing with Taipei arguing it violates "One China Policy". Microsoft said it will also train more than 200,000 "digital talents" to serve its ventures. "We have been increasing our investment in Taiwan every year for the last five years," Microsoft Taiwan Corporation General Manager Ken Sun said. "And now we are making the biggest investment in Microsoft's 30-plus-year history in Taiwan." – APP

WHO urges world ‘don’t give up’

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a virtual briefing that he understood the "pandemic fatigue" that some people were feeling but stressed the need to continue measures to contain a virus for which there remains no cure or vaccine

MONITORING DESK

NEW YORK: The World Health Organization (WHO) is urging people around the world not to give up in the fight against the coronavirus as cases surge once again, stressing the need for mask-wearing, physical distancing and other measures to avoid the kind of full-scale lockdowns that were imposed earlier this year. WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a virtual briefing that he understood the "pandemic fatigue" that some people were feeling but stressed the need to continue measures to contain a

virus for which there remains no cure or vaccine. "Working from home, children being schooled remotely, not being able to celebrate milestones with friends and family or not being there to mourn loved ones – it's tough and the fatigue is real. But we cannot give up. We must not give up." Around the world, but particularly in Europe and the United States, new cases are surging beyond levels seen in the first wave of the pandemic back in March. Data from Johns Hopkins University shows more than 43 million cases globally and nearly 1.2 million deaths from the disease, which first emerged in the



Chinese city of Wuhan late last year. In the US, where there has been resistance to mask-wearing and other measures to curb the spread of the infection, average deaths a day have risen by 10 per-

cent in the last two weeks – to nearly 794 on Sunday, compared with 721 previously. It remains the world's worst-affected country in terms of cases and deaths. "We cannot have the economic recovery we want and live our lives the way we did before the pandemic," WHO chief said. "We can keep our kids in school, we can keep businesses open, we can preserve lives and livelihoods. But we must all make trade-offs, compromises and sacrifices." WHO emergencies chief Michael Ryan also said countries should "not give up on trying to suppress transmission." He voiced particular concern about the situation in Europe,

which in the past week accounted for 46 percent of global cases and nearly a third of global deaths. "There's no question that the European region is an epicentre for disease right now," Ryan said. Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO's technical lead on the pandemic, also voiced concern about the situation in Europe – and in particular a surge in admissions to hospital and rapidly filling intensive care units. "In many cities we're seeing beds filling up too quickly and we're seeing many projections saying the ICU beds will reach capacity in the coming days and weeks," she told Monday's briefing.

Briefs

Law to allow
Indians buy
land in IIOJK

DNA

SRI NAGAR: As Kashmiris across the world observed a Black Day today to mark India's occupation of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, New Delhi added insult to their injury by notifying a law allowing any Indian citizen to buy land in their occupied homeland.

According to the Times of India and other outlets, the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs has notified new laws for the occupied territory, called UT of Jammu and Kashmir Re-organisation (Adaptation of Central Laws) Third Order 2020. The publication reported that the notification allows any Indian citizen to purchase land in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The new law has removed the condition that individuals purchasing land in the occupied territory be a permanent resident of the occupied valley. The move has already been rejected in Kashmir, with the former chief minister of the occupied territory describing it as "unacceptable amendments to the land ownership laws" of the occupied valley.

Kashmir
photo
exhibition at
London HC

DNA

LONDON: The High Commission organized a day-long Photo Exhibition today to mark Kashmir Black Day. The photos of the Kashmiri victims of Indian atrocities were displayed in the premises of the Mission. The heart-rending depictions of the human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), as documented and widely reported by the UN Offices, INGOs, volunteers and international media, highlighted the unending plight of the Kashmiris. On this occasion, High Commissioner, Moazzam Ahmad Khan paid homage to the Kashmiri victims and lauded their unbreakable resolve for self-determination. He briefed the visitors and media about the importance of 27th October, when in 1947, India forcibly occupied Jammu and Kashmir. On this day, Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control, and across the globe observe Black Day. Speaking about egregious human rights abuses being committed by India, the High Commissioner called upon the international community to intervene and stop bloodshed of the voiceless and defenceless people of Kashmir, and stop ongoing Indian atrocities in IIOJK.

Sindh, Punjab
on high alert

DNA

LAHORE: Authorities in Sindh, Punjab and Quetta heightened security on Tuesday hours after at least seven lives were lost in Peshawar bomb blast. Punjab IG Inam Ghani directed field officers to increase security in red zone areas, and heightened security at checkpoints at inter-provincial and inter-district levels. He also ordered security officials to intensify security and intelligence operations across the province. Sindh IG Mushtaq Ahmed Mahar also ordered heightened security at the provincial level. "Police patrolling, picketing and snap check should be made more effective," he said, directing increased security at Masjid, Imaam Bargah and other key locations. Quetta DIG Abdul Razzaque Cheema said patrolling and snap checking have been increased across the city while security has been tightened at all entry and exit points. The city police chief said the CTD and special branch were also put on high alert.

Azerbaijan will never fall prey to
Armenian provocation: Alizade

Special corner highlighting Armenian aggression set up in front of the Azerbaijan embassy; heads of missions; members of civil society visit venue to pay tributes to martyrs

EXCLUSIVE

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Ali Alizade has said by attacking civilian population Armenia wants to provoke Azerbaijan also to attack Armenia in return, which Azerbaijan will never do. The ambassador said we are fighting only in the conflict zone. Our forces make sure that no innocent people are affected. The Azerbaijan ambassador made these remarks while talking to Daily Islamabad POST, CENTRELINE magazine and DNA News Agency. The ambassador further said Armenia wants us to attack Armenian territory so that it could then drag Russia and others into the fray. That is why Armenia continues to attack civilian population of Azerbaijan. Attack on Ganga city is one such example. He said Russia can only help Armenia, by virtue of agreement it has with Armenia, only if Armenian territory is attacked. It may be mentioned here that a special corner reflecting the consequences of the Armenian terror was set up in the diplomatic enclave under the aegis of the Azerbaijan embassy in Islamabad. The corner was established to inform the world community about the terrorism committed by Armenia against the Azerbaijani civilian population and to commemorate our compatriots killed in Ganja, Mingachevir and other settlements. A number of Pakistani officials, heads of diplomatic missions and international organizations in the country, diplomats, representatives of the Pakistani public and media, as well as Azerbaijanis living in the city visited the corner and laid flowers to commemorate sacrifices of those who lost their lives as a result of Armenian aggression.

Visitors got acquainted with the corner with posters, pictures and slogans depicting the Armenian terror, lit candles in front of it, as well as laid flowers and toys and paid tribute to the memory of those killed. A large monitor was installed on the side of the road where the embassy building is located showing documentaries and information on the results and consequences of numerous missiles attacks on the civilian population of Ganja and other cities. Visitors to the corner condemned Armenia's atrocities against civilians in gross violation of the norms and principles of international law, including international humanitarian law, the obligations of the Geneva Conventions, as well as the declared humanitarian ceasefire, and expressed solidarity with Azerbaijan and support for our country's right to self-defense.



Chief Editor Islamabad POST, CENTRELINE and DNA News Agency laying flowers. – DNA



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Ali Alizade laying flowers at memorial corner set up at the Azerbaijan embassy. – DNA



Ambassador of Kazakhstan laying flowers. – DNA



Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan laying flowers. – DNA



High Commissioner of Brunei visiting the corner – DNA



Ambassadors of Tajikistan and Belarus laying flowers. – DNA

India's arms amassing
serious repercussions
for regional peace: FO

"These developments clearly negate the argument that India's mainstreaming in the international export control regimes will further the non-proliferation objectives of these regimes," the spokesperson stressed

STAFF REPORT / DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office on Tuesday once again raised serious concerns over India's massive acquisition of armaments and expansion of its nuclear forces, including introduction of new destabilizing weapon systems. The Foreign Office spokesperson responding to a query about the signing of the US-India Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) on sharing of geospatial information, said such developments carried serious repercussions to peace and stability in the South Asia. Pakistan, he said, had taken note of the signing of the agreement. It was added that Pakistan had been consistently highlighting the threats posed to strategic stability in the South Asia as a result of provision of advanced military hardware, technologies and knowledge to India. "The recent unprecedented rate of missile tests conducted by India is yet another manifestation of dangerous Indian conventional and nuclear military build-ups," the spokesperson said. He again corroborated concerns expressed by several international experts on the military spin-offs of conducting high technology trade with India, which had not only eroded the international norms but also resulted in negatively affecting the strategic stability in the South Asia. "These developments clearly negate the argument that India's mainstreaming in the international export control regimes will further the non-proliferation objectives of these regimes," the spokesperson stressed.

RCCI
condemns
blasphemous
cartoons

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has condemned the fresh publication of cartoons of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him), by a French satirical weekly.

RCCI President Mohammad Nasir Mirza in a statement said that such incidents in Europe including republication of blasphemous sketches by Charlie Hebdo have stirred anger in the Islamic world. He said that in any civilized society, it is unthinkable to insult the honor of the prophets. The business community will never tolerate insults to the Holy Prophet (Peace be upon him) under the guise of freedom of expression. He demanded the government of Pakistan to take the strong stance in this regard at the governmental level.

SC rejects NAB plea to
place Shahbaz on ECL

Justice Akhtar noted that NAB's move to restrict Shahbaz's travels was unnecessary at the time when the case was being heard by the LHC

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Tuesday rejected an appeal by the National Accountability Bureau seeking to place PML-N President Shahbaz Sharif's name on the Exit Control List (ECL). A two-member bench comprising Justice Mushir Alam and Justice Munib Akhtar heard the plea challenging the Lahore High Court decision to remove Shehbaz's name from the list. "The suspect is under judicial custody," observed Justice Alam. When Justice Akhtar questioned NAB prosecutor Jahanzaib Bharrwana if he had read the seven-bench decision in Justice Qazi Faez Isa's case four days ago, the

latter responded in negative. "If you had read it, you wouldn't file this appeal," noted the judge.

Justice Akhtar noted that NAB's move to restrict Shahbaz's travels was unnecessary at the time when the case was being heard by the LHC. To which, the NAB prosecutor said the investigation has progressed since then. Justice Alam observed that the apex court was bound to review the circumstances when the high court removed the PML-N chief's name from the no-fly list. NAB counsel said the authority wanted to place Shahbaz on ECL in assets beyond means case. "His name surfaced in suspicious transactions," he alleged. "He is also involved in money laundering."

Pak will keep
exposing
Indian
atrocities

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Brig © Ijaz Ahmed Shah has said that Pakistan will continue to highlight human rights violation and atrocities on innocent Kashmiris by India occupied forces in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The minister said, In a message on occasion of Kashmir Black Day, the minister said every Pakistani firmly stood with our Kashmiri brethren and could feel their miseries. "Pakistanis stands with our Kashmiri brethren in their struggle for freedom and right to self-determination as promised in the various United Nations Security Council resolutions," he said. He said Prime Minister Imran Khan was effectively pleading Kashmir cause at all international for a. The PM also effectively raised the Kashmir issue at UN General Assembly, he said.

Iran's virus
deaths exceed
33,000

TEHRAN: Iran's official novel coronavirus fatalities crossed the 33,000 mark on Tuesday, the health ministry said, as the country set new records in both daily deaths and infection cases. Health ministry spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari said Iran had registered 346 new fatalities in the past 24 hours, raising the total to 33,299. The previous record of 337 deaths was reached last week, and was matched again on Monday. Lari said 6,968 people tested positive for the virus on Tuesday, almost 800 more than the previous record set two days before. The new infections bring officially reported Covid-19 cases in the Middle East's worst-hit country to 581,824. – APP

Morocco calls for renewed multilateral system

Mr. Bourita stressed that the world "does not need a multilateral system of categories, which enshrines the principle of groupings, as much as we need a more open, practical and pragmatic plurality, far from the logic of groupings"

DNA

NEW YORK: Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, Mr. Nasser Bourita reiterated, Monday before the UN General Assembly, Morocco's commitment to a renewed and more equitable multilateral system capable of strengthening the international solidarity which must guide the post-Covid-19 world. In a video message broadcast during a ceremony in New York to mark the 75th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, Mr. Bourita stressed that the world "does not need a multilateral system of categories, which en-

shrines the principle of groupings, as much as we need a more open, practical and pragmatic plurality, far from the logic of groupings". "The creation of a multilateral system, renewed and equitable, does not constitute, in the opinion of the Kingdom of Morocco, a luxury as some think, but a necessity to guarantee the strengthening of international solidarity which must guide the post-Covid-19 world, insisted the Minister before the representatives of the 193 UN member states. He recalled that Morocco has expressed, on several occasions, the need to rethink the purpose of multilateral action which is experiencing a real crisis, requiring the development of an innovative ap-



proach and consensual concepts capable of giving a new dynamic to address current and future challenges, and reinforce the effectiveness of international institutions. In this regard, Morocco welcomes the efforts of the UN Sec-

retary-General and the spirit of initiative and perseverance he has shown during the period of the Covid-19 pandemic, said Mr. Bourita, lauding his call to intensify efforts for a stronger United Nations organization and a renewed multilateral action. The Minister also expressed the support of the Kingdom of Morocco for the initiatives launched by the UN chief to this end. The Covid-19 pandemic has been an amplifier of the shortcomings that hamper the achievement of the supreme objective of the sustainable development agenda, namely the fight against economic and social inequalities, under the slogan "leaving no one behind". "The international community has

no other choice to meet the challenge of Covid-19 but to renew its common action and launch a new political coalition based on a more flexible and responsive United Nations system, which promotes solidarity and equity, aiming for multilateral action, based on results and meant to achieve peoples' aspirations for sustainable development," said Mr. Bourita. For the Minister, Morocco which has expressed its appreciation for the results of the United Nations action and which is attached to the lofty mission of this international organization, "calls for more collective efforts to counter the challenges we are facing and avoid their political, economic, social and environmental repercussions".