



# Islamabad POST

Friday, October 30, 2020

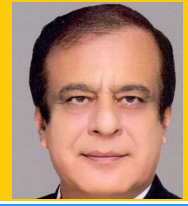
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**Negative narrative serving India: DG ISPR Maj Gen Babar Iftikhar**

**Shibli to Ayaz: Tender apology for anti-state remarks**

**Shahzad accuses opposition of pushing Indian narrative**



## Negative narrative serving India: ISPR

Two Indian fighter jets, the ISPR DG said, were shot down while Wing Commander Abhinandan was arrested, which depicted the resolve of Pak Armed Forces



### Goodwill gesture behind Indian pilot's release: FO

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office on Thursday categorically rejected the impression that the release of captured Indian air force pilot by Pakistan last February, was made under any pressure. "There was no pressure on the Pakistani government to release Indian pilot Wing Commander Abhinandan," Foreign Office Spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri said at the weekly press briefing, held here at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



ISLAMABAD: Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa called on PM Imran Khan. - DNA

### Azerbaijan supports Kashmiris

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijan has expressed the concern over the plight of Kashmiri people suffering immense abuse in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. According to details, Ombudsperson of Azerbaijan Sabina Aliyeva expressed solidarity with the people of Jammu and Kashmir at an event organized by Pakistan's embassy in Baku, Azerbaijan in connection with Kashmir Black Day. She made a special mention of the killing of children by the Indian forces and compared it to Azerbaijani children killed due to recent Armenian bombardment on civilian population.

## PM, army chief discuss security

Imran Khan says Afghan peace to benefit whole region

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa called on Prime Minister Imran Khan to discuss "professional matters pertaining to Pakistan Army and internal and external security situation", a PM Office statement said on Thursday. Taking into account recent efforts to stoke violence in Pakistan, PM Imran resolved that the entire nation is united against the cowardly acts of the enemy. Meanwhile, the premier also paid tributes to the personnel of Pakistan Army, FC and law enforcement agencies, who sacrificed their lives for the defence of the motherland.

Prime Minister Imran Khan also said peace in Afghanistan would be beneficial for the entire region by enhancing regional connectivity and providing new opportunities for economic cooperation. The prime minister, in a meeting here with visiting Minister for Industry and Commerce of Afghanistan Nisar Ahmed Faizi Ghoryani, welcomed the Afghan dignitary and highlighted the close fraternal ties between the two countries.

Advisor to the Prime Minister on Commerce Abdul Razaq Dawood was also present in the meeting, a PM Office press release said. The prime minister reiterated Pakistan's consistent support to peace and stability in Afghanistan and emphasized the need for a negotiated political settlement. He remarked that Pakistan and Afghanistan had untapped economic synergies and complementarities, which could only be realized through cooperation in the economic and trade sphere.

NAVEED MIRAJ

RAWALPINDI: Director General of Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Major General Babar Iftikhar Thursday said India was taking undue advantage of the negative narrative to discredit Pakistan of its successful strike and retaliation to the Indian misadventure on February 27 last year. Addressing a news conference with focus on one-point agenda, he said it was aimed at elucidating the facts related to the events

that demonstrated invincibility of Pakistan's defence. "The Indian forces made aggression on February 26, 2019 and transgressed the Line of Control (LoC) whereby the Shaheen of Pakistan Air Force befittingly responded, leaving the enemy shattered and confused," he added. Two Indian fighter jets, the ISPR DG said, were shot down while Wing Commander Abhinandan was arrested, which depicted the resolve and capability of Pakistan Armed Forces. He said the superiority of

Pakistan Armed Forces was acknowledged not only globally but also by the Indian military leadership. The release of Abhinandan was a responsible decision taken by the national leadership. "...we gave them [Indian forces] a bloody nose and (which) is still hurting." Maj Gen Babar said uncanny interpretations of Abhinandan issue were misleading and tantamount to discrediting the country's victory over India. The ISPR DG said the enemy India was taking undue advantage of the negative

narrative as evident from today's Indian media coverage and hype. He said the enemy forces had thrust a hybrid war on Pakistan and it was incumbent on every citizen to act responsibly, and disown misleading narratives to promote national cause and unity. He vowed that the Armed Forces of Pakistan would foil the nefarious designs of enemies with the support of the nation. "Pakistan's leadership and the Armed Forces are ready to tackle every challenge posed to national security."

### Briefs

#### Maluana demands French boycott

MULTAN: Pakistan Democratic Movement Chief (PDM) Maulana Fazlur Rehman Thursday demanded the government of boycotting trade with France besides its products on national level in wake of profane caricatures and its president outburst against Islamophobia. Addressing a news conference here, he stated that almost all Arab and Muslim countries had already shunned French products by registering their protest. The Jamaat Ulema Islam (F) Chief informed that entire Ummah was feeling unrest at French government role.

## Pakistan records highest virus cases

NCOC has tightened restrictions on some high-risk public activities

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's coronavirus positivity rate crossed 3% mark for the first time in more than 70 days, Federal Minister for Planning Asad Umar said on Thursday, urging the public to follow safety guidelines amid the deteriorating situation of the pandemic. Asad Umar, who also supervises COVID-19 strategy, said, *Continued on Page 06*

### Sindh minister hints at school closure

ATHAR SUFI

KARACHI: Expressing concern over the growing trend of coronavirus cases in the province, Sindh Education Minister Saeed Ghani on Thursday said the situation on schools closure was unclear at the moment. Ghani made the comments at a ceremony to distribute tablets among students at a school in Karachi. He stressed that the schools were reopened to mitigate the education loss during the pandemic.

### Pakistan strongly condemns France attack

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan strongly condemns the attack that was carried out inside a church in Nice, France, today. We express our condolences on the loss of precious lives and sympathize with the bereaved families. There is no justification for such acts of violence, in particular in places of worship. - DNA

## France: at least 3 dead in knife attack

DNA

NICE: French police said Thursday at least three people were killed and several others wounded when a man wielding a knife went on a stabbing spree outside a church in Nice. Authorities had initially confirmed two dead but a police source said a third person had also succumbed to their wounds. The assailant slit the throat of one of his victims before police apprehended him. Police managed to detain the attacker around 9am and France's national anti-terror prosecutors confirmed having opened a murder inquiry.

### Faisal Javed resigns from Pak-France friendship group



ISLAMABAD: Senator Faisal Javed Thursday resigned from Pakistan-France Parliamentary Friendship group in Senate in protest of French President's remarks to flare up Islamophobia in Europe. The Senator in a letter to the Chairman said such actions by the French President Emmanuel Macron contributed and further invigorated the Islamophobia, pointed out by Prime Minister Imran Khan. He said "demonizing Islam and blaspheming the holiest figures will further polarize the humanity and provide breeding grounds for the radical views." - DNA

### HOLIDAY NOTICE

Offices of Daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed on Friday October 30 and Saturday Oct 31 on account of Eid Milad-un-Nabi and weekly holiday therefore there will no newspaper on Saturday and Sunday. - Editor

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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior, Brig R. Ijaz Ahmad Shah met with Ambassador of Italy Andreas Ferrarese. - DNA

## Shibli to Ayaz: Tender apology for anti-state remarks

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader would have to extend apology to the nation in the Parliament for causing harm to the national interest by making anti-state statement that appeased India

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Giving strong reaction to the controversial remarks of PML-N's Ayaz Sadiq about return of the captured Indian pilot Abhinandan, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz Thursday asked him to tender apology in the Parliament or get ready to face the legal action. "All other things are sec-

ondary and the national interest is supreme at this point of time. We will not put Ayaz Sadiq's statement, which has pleased India, on back-burner," he said while addressing here a news conference. He said the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader would have to extend apology to the nation in the Parliament for causing harm to the national interest by making anti-state statement that appeased

India. "For this, the public will hold him accountable," he added. The leadership of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), he said, should also seek apology from the nation, and condemn Ayaz and their own anti-state statements, made in public meetings or in the Parliament. "Nothing less than this [apology] will be acceptable. It stands clear now that whoever causes harm to national interest cannot be the well wisher of the state. It [anti-state remarks] is sheer violation of Article 19 of the Constitution, which



does not permit any statement against the state." Shibli Faraz said it would be okay, if they [Ayaz & PDM leadership] tendered apology in the Parliament, otherwise "the law should take its course". By making such statements, he said, the opposition leaders had exposed themselves and now the public was well aware of the fact that they were pursuing anti-state agenda to protect their vested interests.

the last hearing that the case was made on political grounds and that it would be "a waste of the court's time". PM Imran had informed the court through his lawyer, Abdullah Babar Awan, the son of the premier's aide, Babar Awan, that the prosecution was in favour of the acquittal. "The prosecution has no objection if Imran Khan is acquitted," the court was told. - DNA

### PM Imran acquitted in Parliament attack case

The petition for PM Imran's acquittal was submitted by a lawyer for the federal government

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court on Thursday acquitted Prime Minister Imran Khan in the Parliament attack case days after the ruling PTI's chief petitioned for the same. ATC judge Raja Jawad Abbas Hassan, announced the ruling. The petition for PM Imran's acquittal was submitted by a lawyer for the federal government, with the prosecutor arguing at

### President urges Muslim world's unity

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi urged the Muslim world leaders to put forth a unanimous demand before the international organizations to ensure sanctity of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and desist from the blasphemy and desecration. In his message to the nation on Eid Miladun Nabi (PBUH) being observed Friday, the president said that the condemnable incidents of blasphemy in the West, had invited the wrath of Muslims across the globe. Such incidents, he said, created disintegration and also violated the spirit of inter-faith harmony and dialogue, he added.

### Eid Milad-un-Nabi today

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) is being celebrated today with great religious zeal and fervour across the country. The day began with thirty one guns salute at the federal capital and twenty one guns salute at all the provincial capitals. Special prayers for the unity of Muslim Ummah and progress and prosperity of the country will be offered in the mosques after Fajr prayers.

## Briefs

## Blocking roads with containers challenged

DNA

KARACHI: A petition has been filed in the Sindh High Court over the police seizing containers to block different roads. The court has summoned Sindh home secretary in the case. The home ministry has been given till November 24 to file a detailed reply. We need to make guidelines for using containers to block the roads, remarked Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar. The least they can do is keep the containers back from where they were taken after the roads have been opened. Advocate Shakeel Ahmed, the petitioner's lawyer, said that the police pick up containers without permission. The companies have to pick them back. Using containers just for this purpose even damages them. The police should be stopped from picking up containers from workshops, the petition said.

## Punjab govt notifies new restrictions

DNA

LAHORE: The Punjab government has notified new timings for the business activities in the province amid a possible second wave of coronavirus cases. According to the notification, the Punjab government has ordered all shopping malls, restaurants, shops, and marriage halls to shut by 10 pm. It is also ordered to shut public parks and recreational spots by 6 pm. Medical services, pharmacies, medical stores, tire puncture shops, fruits and vegetable shops, tandoor shops will remain open 24/7. Petrol pumps, LPG shops are also allowed to work without any restrictions.

The Secretary Primary and Secondary Health Punjab has directed the authorities concerned to ensure no mask, no service law. The coronavirus positivity rate in cities including Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Multan, Hyderabad, Gilgit, Muzaffarabad, Mirpur, Peshawar and Quetta is more than 2 per cent.

## 2 infants die as hospital's ward catches fire

DNA

RAHIM YAR KHAN: In a tragic incident, two newborn babies died after a fire erupted in the neonatal ward of a private hospital in Rahim Yar Khan's Sadiqabad early Thursday morning. Rescue sources said the fire broke out due to a short circuit. On getting information, firefighters reached the site and put out the blaze. There were only two babies in the ward when the fire erupted. Earlier in August, Children ward of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital had caught a fire. A short circuit was said to be the cause of the fire. No loss of life or injury was reported in the incident. A three-month-old baby girl had died after the blanket she was wrapped in caught fire in Lahore earlier this year.

## DC reviews anti-polio campaign

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali has said that on the last day of special anti-polio campaign, monitoring teams should go door to door to ensure that children were vaccinated against polio while door marking should also be checked so that the no child left behind for any reason. He said this while reviewing the targets of the ongoing anti-polio drive. The Deputy Commissioner apprised the concerned Assistant Commissioner on the identification of some issues during the campaign by the World Health Organization and asked them to rectify the issues and submitted the detailed report. He urged the health department officials to rectify the situation without delay and report that there should be no negligence in vaccinating the children.

## Quality education is a key to make Pakistan a great nation

The president expressed pleasure that the Akhuwat Foundation had gathered the students from across the country including Azad Kashmir under one roof, and was providing quality education to them



DNA

KASUR: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Sardar Masood Khan has stressed the students to devotedly acquire knowledge in order to turn Pakistan into a great state as was dreamt by our forefathers. He maintained that the students alongside their studies should also pledge not to take rest until they rid their brothers and sisters in occupied Jammu and Kashmir of the barbarity of India because Pakistan is incomplete without Kashmir and similarly, Kashmir has no identity without

Pakistan. He made these remarks while addressing students and teachers of Akhuwat College and University here on Thursday. The president expressed pleasure that the Akhuwat Foundation had gathered the students from across the country including Azad Kashmir under one roof, and was providing quality education to them. The AJK President was happy to note that free education is imparted to poor students at the Akhuwat College and University. He maintained that we need to establish a socio-economic system based on the Islamic system of kindness and brotherhood to end

discrimination between the rich and the poor. He added that there was no concept of helping others in the capitalist system and other systems, and this was only Islam which encourages helping others without any greed or self-indulgence. Sardar Masood Khan said that the practice of dividing the society into poor and the rich, weak and the powerful and different sectarian factions have nothing to do with Islamic society. On the contrary, Islam offers the concept of a strong and stable society in which the state and the society, on the whole, come to the help of the poor and the vulnerable people.

The AJK president while advising the students said that a man and woman can survive in poverty but not without knowledge. That is why our great Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) had laid great emphasis on the acquisition of knowledge. He maintained that knowledge was also imperative to compete with the surrounding countries and the world nations. He said, founder of Akhuwat Foundation, Dr Amjad and his entire team also deserve our appreciation for providing free education to poor and destitute students in their educational institutions. Touching upon the latest

situation of occupied Kashmir, the AJK president lamented that children in occupied Kashmir were being martyred without any fault on their part. An episode of ethnic cleansing is going on in the occupied territory and no one including innocent children is safe there. The people do not enjoy civil liberties because of the foreign army had occupied the whole territory rendered the Kashmiri people are insecure in terms of life and property in their own motherland. The function was also addressed by the founder of Akhuwat Foundation Dr Amjad Saqib and the principal of the college Malik Sher Afgan.

## District admin arranges Serat-un-Nabi (SAW) conference



ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: The Serat-un-Nabi Conference was held under the arrangements of District Education Authority at Metropolitan Corporation Hall. Divisional Commissioner Ishrat Ali, RPO Raja Riffat Mukhtar, Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali, Parliamentarians Latif Nazir, Shakil Shahid, Assistant Commissioner Sadr Umar Maqbool, CEO Education Ali Ahmad Sian, Member Peace Committee Maulana Muhammad Riaz Kharal, Mufti Farooq Qadri, Mian Nabeel Arshad, Administrative Officer Riaz Hussain Anjum, teachers and Naat reciters were also present. Divisional Commissioner said that by practicing, Serat Nabi conference the spirit of justice, tolerance, love, respect, humanity and patience can be promoted in the society. Addressing the Serat-un-Nabi

conference, the RPO, Deputy Commissioner and members of the Assembly said that we have to adapt our lives to the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and the pattern of the Prophet (PBUH). He congratulated the organizers for the successful convening of the Serat Conference. Mufti Farooq Qadri said that the teaching of humanity is to respect humanity. He said that we have to make the guiding principles of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) a part of our life in which our individual and social issues are addressed. He called for the continuation of the Serat-un-Nabi conference. The CEO Education thanked the special guests and scholars for attending the conference. In the end prayer for the progress and prosperity of the country and the nation, peace and security and adherence to the teachings of the Holy Prophet.

## Standardized plates an important step: CM

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar said on Thursday that the provision of better services to citizens was priority of the government, adding that issuance of standardized number plates, having security features, was an important step towards maintaining law and order. Additional DG Excise & Taxation Department Rao Shakeel-ur-Rehman and General Manager

(GM) Marketing National Radio and Telecommunication Corporation Syed Amir signed an agreement at the CM Office on Thursday to provide standardized vehicular number plates to the customers at their doorsteps. Provincial ministers Hafiz Mumtaz Ahmed, Fayyaz-ul-Hassan Chohan, Chief Secretary, Managing Director (MD) National Radio Telecommunication Corporation (NRTC) Brig Toufeeq Ahmed, secretary excise and others attended the ceremony. Usman Buzdar, who was chief guest at the ceremony, expressed his satisfaction that the issue of provision of standardized number plates had been settled amicably. It would be a long-term solution to the provision of number plates along with helping in their identification by security cameras, he added. Universal registration series had been started in the whole of the province and the online auction of attractive numbers had been started as well along with the start of e-payment of all the basic taxes of excise department, he added.

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ISLAMABAD: Begum Samina Arif Alvi, Along with Parliamentarians, taking part in a walk to raise awareness of Breast Cancer and its treatment. - DNA

## ANF seizes 2293.845 kgs drugs

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI, Proving its commitment to eradicate drugs from the country, Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan has seized 2293.845 kgs narcotics valuing US\$ 79.848 million in international market, arrested 15 culprits and impounded eight vehicles while conducting 16 counter-narcotics strikes throughout the country. According to ANF spokesman, the seized drugs comprised of 2257.771 kg Hashish, 26.474 kg Heroin, 7.600 kg Opium & Amphetamine (Ice) two kg. ANF Balochistan, the staff of Police Station Regional Directorate ANF Quetta recovered 1500 kgs Hashish from a nullah situated at Killi Daman Tehsil Gulistan District Qilla Abdullah. ANF Punjab, the staff of Police Station, Lahore conducted an operation at house of

the accused Naeem Akhtar, near grid station Aroop, Gujranwala and recovered 46.800 kg Hashish. In another operation, police station Faisalabad established a naka near Sahinwala Toll Plaza Faisalabad and arrested accused namely Gul Taiz Khan resident of Lakki Marwat and 9.600 kg Hashish was recovered. In third operation, Police Station Sialkot intercepted a car near Dry Port Chowk, Wazirabad, Sialkot and arrested an accused namely Muhammad Shahid r/o Faisalabad on recovery of 4 kg Opium. In fourth operation, Police Station Lahore raided at Shell Petrol Pump Shahdarah Chowk, Lahore and recovered 1.650 kg Heroin from Muhammad Ijaz Iqbal r/o Rahim Yar Khan. In fifth operation, Police Station Regional Directorate, Lahore intercepted two vehicles at Ghazi Ghat Toll Plaza District DGI Khan. Three accused namely

Raz Muhammad r/o Peshawar, Muhammad Tahir r/o Charsada and Muhammad Haroon Rashid r/o Lahore were arrested on the spot on recovery of 606 Kg Hashish. ANF Sindh, the staff of Police Station Korangi, Karachi conduct a raid at Bilal Chowrang near Korangi Industrial area, Karachi and recovered two Kg Hashish. In another operation, the staff of Police Station Korangi, Karachi intercepted a car at Bilal Chowrang near Korangi Industrial area Karachi and recovered two kgs Heroin & one kg Hashish. Accused Muhammad Yasir r/o Karachi was arrested. In third operation, the staff of Police Station Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi conducted a raid at New Subzi Mandi, Super Highway Karachi and recovered 32.805 kgs Hashish from Niamat Ullah r/o Quetta. ANF Rawalpindi, the staff of Police Station Regional Directorate Rawalpindi

intercepted an accused namely Haji Imam Din r/o Islamabad at Islamabad International Airport, who was travelling to Heathrow (London) and recovered 1.824 kg Heroin (Brown) from his possession. In another operation, the staff of Police Station Dina while establishing naka near Tarakai Toll Plaza, main G.T Road Sohawa, District Jehlum intercepted a motorcycle and apprehended two accused namely Shoaib Muhammad & Ayaz Khan r/o Swabi with recovery of 2.466 kg Hashish. ANF KP, Police Station DI Khan in collaboration with Lakki Marwat Police conducted an intelligence based operation near Pezu bypass near Indus Highway Lakki Marwat and recovered 8.400 kg Hashish from Naseeb Khan r/o Lakki Marwat. In another operation, police station KP intercepted a car near Tarnab CNG, Tarnab Farm Peshawar and re-

covered 21 kg Heroin and two kg Amphetamine (Ice) which was laying in the diggi of seized car. Two accused namely Said Amin and Kabul Khan r/o Khyber District were arrested on the spot. In third operation, Police Station DI Khan intercepted a vehicle during naka near Darbang road and managed to recover 42 kg Hashish. In fourth operation, the staff of Police Station Peshawar Det at Shin Qamar, intercepted a car, arrested an accused namely Shakeel Ahmed r/o District Khyber and recovered 5.500 kg Hashish. In fifth operation, the staff of Police Station Regional Directorate ANF KP in collaboration with 166 Wing Barra Rifles, intercepted a car, Muhammad Rasool r/o District Peshawar with recovery of 3.600 kg Opium and 1.200 kg Hashish. All cases have been registered at respective ANF Police Stations under CNS Act 1997 and further investigations are underway.

## NA passes CPEC Authority, 26th amends bills

FIAZ CH./DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly resumed its session at the Parliament House in Islamabad on Thursday with Deputy Speaker Qasim Khan Suri in the chair. Two bills were laid before the National Assembly on Thursday. According to details these included, China Pakistan Economic Corridor Authority Bill, 2020 and the Constitution (Twenty-sixth Amendment) bill. These were laid by Adviser on Parliamentary Affairs Babar Awan. The House also passed three resolutions extending Public Procurement Regulatory (Amendment) Ordinance, the Public Private Partnership Authority (Amendment) Ordinance and the Corporate Restructuring Companies (Amendment) Ordinance for a period of one hundred and twenty days. The resolutions were moved by Adviser on Parliamentary Affairs Babar Awan. The National Assembly on Thursday passed two bills. These were the Emigration Amendment Bill and the Control of Narcotic Substances Amendment Bill. Responding to a calling attention notice, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan said the government has brought a change in the drug policy under which the pharma companies cannot increase the prices of medicines without approval of relevant ministry.

## SHC seeks reply from home department

DNA

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Thursday demanded a detailed reply from Sindh home department on a plea seeking restraint of police from picking up containers from warehouses for road blocks. A high court bench while hearing the case also summoned the Additional Secretary home department along with detailed reply on the matter on November 24. The petitioner's counsel argued that containers were used to block traffic for political rallies, processions and other road closures. The police picks up these containers from warehouses and the task of retrieving them was left to the containers' owners. The petitioner prayed the court to restrict the police from picking up containers from warehouses. Justice Mohammad Ali Mazhar said that police should at least leave the containers at the place from they pick up for blocking roads. Justice Mazhar said that the home department have to prepare guidelines for police with regard to seizing containers. "The police department should follow the guidelines of the home department over the issue", Justice Mazhar said.

## Commander Karachi calls on CM Murad

DNA

KARACHI: New Commander of Karachi, Vice Admiral Faisal Rasool, on Thursday called on Chief Minister of Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah here. Chief Minister congratulated the Command Karachi on his new posting. Murad Ali Shah during the meeting said that he wanted a cadet college in Sujawal district of Sindh. "The cadet college will provide an opportunity of quality education to the children of fishermen," Shah said. The Command Karachi assured his wholehearted cooperation to the chief minister for the new cadet college. Chief Minister of Sindh presented Sindh's traditional gifts to the new Commander Karachi, a spokesperson of the chief minister house said. Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah earlier in a meeting with Pakistan's Naval Chief Admiral Amjad Niazi had called for providing opportunities to the children of fishermen in Pakistan Navy and urged for encouragement to the fishermen to join the navy. "The fishermen have a strong bond with the sea and their relation with the navy should be strengthened," Shah stated.

## Briefs

### Pillion riding banned in federal capital

ISLAMABAD: The district administration Thursday imposed section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) in the federal capital, banning pillion riding till 11:59 pm October 30 to avoid any untoward incident during Eid Miladun Nabi (Peace Be Upon Him), to be celebrated on Friday.

"It has been brought to appear to me that certain pillion riders are likely to resort to violence and acts of sabotage, aimed at disrupting peace and tranquility causing damage to public life and property during the Eid Miladun Nabi 2020," said a notification issued by Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Hamza Shafiqat office. "This order shall remain enforce till 30th Day of October 2020 till 11:59pm," it added. — APP

### Last date for Ehsaas Scholarship extended

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Last date to submit applications for Ehsaas undergraduate scholarship 2020-21 has been extended till 30th of the next month. This was announced by Special Assistant on Poverty Alleviation Dr. Sania Nishtar in a statement on Thursday. Earlier, 30th of this month was the last date for the submission of online scholarship applications. However, given the COVID-19 fronted delays in admission process at several public sector universities in the country, the last date for Ehsaas scholarship applications has just been revised. The decision has been taken to facilitate maximum number of fresh undergraduate students to apply for this scholarship opportunity. Since the online application portal reopened on September 5, 2020 as many as 30,000 applications have been received in the system so far. The Ehsaas Undergraduate Scholarship is a flagship programme of the present government with an objective to provide scholarships to financially challenged students for the duration of their studies. One hundred and twenty five public sector universities recognized by Higher Education Commission are part of this initiative. The Ehsaas undergraduate Scholarships are targeted at students from low income families who earn less than 45000 rupees in a month. Eligible students can apply through an online portal: <https://ehsaas.hec.gov.pk/> — APP

### Pickpocket gang busted

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) police have arrested six members of a pickpocket gang and recovered snatched purse, cash and valuables of passengers, a police spokesman said on Thursday. Following directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Muhammad Aamir Zulfar Khan, Deputy Inspector General of Police (Operations) Waqar Ud Din Syed issued directions to all zonal officers for renewed efforts against those involved in anti-social activities. SP (Investigation) Malik Naem Iqbal constituted police team under the supervision of DSP CIA Hakim Khan including Sub-Inspector Ishaq Memon, ASI Iftakhar Ahmed along with others succeeded to arrest six member of former jail bird gang. They were identified as Ameer Ali, Anwer Ali, Ashiq Hussain, Ghulam Asghar resident of district Khairpur, Tajik Hussain resident of district Rawalpindi and Gul Zaib resident of Saidpur Islamabad. Police have recovered cash, purse and other valuables from him and also impounded his vehicle. Further investigation is underway from them. DIG Islamabad Waqar Uddin Syed has appreciated this performance of CIA police team and directed to resolve the cases on immediate basis.



ISLAMABAD: The officials from Allama Iqbal Open University and Ufone during the MoU signing ceremony. — DNA

## AIOU, Ufone ink MoU about special data packages

Ufone to provide subsidized data bundles and free Ubanking facility to AIOU students

STAFF REPORT / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University and Ufone signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) here at the main campus of the university.

According to the agreement, Ufone will provide data bundles to AIOU's students and tutors on subsidized rates. Furthermore, as per the MoU students will pay zero charges while using Ufone's

Ubanking facility for depositing their admission fee, and other dues. Prof. Dr. Nasir Mehmood, Dean Faculty of Education chaired the session. Professors, principal officers of the university, and senior management staff of the Ufone participated in the MoU signing ceremony. Sohail Nazir Rana, Registrar AIOU, and Atif Ishaq, General Manager Ufone signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations. Atif Ishaq appreciated the role

of AIOU in promotion of education. He said that AIOU is one of those national institutions of the country which contribute tremendously to building the nation. He further said, "by imparting education to the poor and disadvantaged class of the country, Allama Iqbal Open University is abridging the gap between various social strata of the society". Ajmal Farooq, Director ICT, AIOU briefed the participants about the ongoing automation and digitaliza-

tion process of the university. He said that AIOU was converting all its academic and administrative operations and procedures from manual to digital. He termed the agreement as a landmark achievement in facilitating the students to participate in online academic activities. He said as per the agreement those students who would use Ufone banking facility for admission fee and other dues would not be charged for any extra amount other than their actual dues. While

speaking on this occasion Prof. Dr. Nasir Mehmood said, "AIOU is imparting low cost education to almost 1.4 million students and by joining hands with Ufone and other telecom companies AIOU would be able to improve its reach and accessibility".

Director Regional Services, Inama Ullah Shaikh, and Treasurer of AIOU, Dr. Aamer Shah, and Prof. also spoke on this occasion and termed the agreement as beneficial for both the parties.

## Special Covid-19 package urged for universities

The university heads met online to review the compliance of 'COVID-19 health and safety protocols' and share the best practices and innovative measures they have introduced

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: In view of the prevailing apprehension of COVID-19 resurgence, the Vice Chancellors of all the public and private universities have requested the government to provide a special COVID package for universities to enable them to implement the required SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) effectively and prevent any outbreaks of the pandemic on campuses. The university heads met online to review the compliance of 'COVID-19 health and safety protocols' and share the best practices and innovative measures they have introduced to protect the health and safety of students, faculty, and staff against the spread of COVID-19 at their institutions. Addressing the meeting, Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) Tariq Banuri expressed his gratitude for the tremendous leadership demonstrated by the Vice Chancellors in this regard. He said that while

the government and HEC had issued comprehensive guidelines, the real test was in the field, and the situation remained under control in most campuses because of the timely and innovative approach taken by university leaders. Vice Chancellor University of Punjab, Dr. Niaz Akhtar elaborated the detailed actions taken to prevent any outbreaks and to isolate and treat any incident. He said that the most critical action was to impress upon all members of the university community the importance of observing basic safety protocols, namely wearing a mask at all times, hand washing, and maintaining proper social distance. The university had to support this behaviour by proper observation and surveillance, immediate isolation and medical attention for suspected cases, use of hybrid teaching methods (through financial incentives), giving students the option of attending classes online, and introducing safety measures in dining and

other services. Other Vice Chancellors shared information on the innovative practices they have introduced on their campuses. These include the development of COVID testing expertise in university labs at University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, the use of spill-over classrooms to reduce density at Peshawar University, providing counselling for students to cope with the prevailing uncertainty, introducing incentives for complying with SOPs at Lahore University of Management Sciences, the use of coloured cards for students attending morning and afternoon classes at Karakoram International University, taking advantage of the digitization of processes at Sardar Sarbajit University to minimise the need for direct contact, and teaching students about COVID and its likely future trend at different universities. Most universities have introduced a rotation policy to reduce the density of students on campus.

## First lady urges to take breast cancer seriously

ISLAMABAD: First Lady Samina Arif Alvi on Thursday called upon the women to take breast cancer seriously and learn about the techniques of self-diagnosis for an early detection of the disease. Addressing at an awareness walk organized at the premises of Parliament House, the first lady said the health of women was vital for the survival of a healthy society. Samina Alvi said unfortunately 40,000 women in Pakistan died every year due to breast cancer, which otherwise had high prospects of cure if diagnosed at earlier stages. The first lady, who ran a month-long awareness campaign on breast cancer in October, said the drive was not targeted to a particular party, group or segment, but meant to save lives of thousands of women in the country. She emphasized on the important role of parliamentarians in collective highlighting of the issue of breast cancer at national and constituency levels. She paid tribute to women of the country who supported her campaign on breast cancer throughout October and also appreciated various departments in public and private sector in joining her call. — APP

## Naat competition held at PUCAR



IBRAR KHAN / DNA

RAWALPINDI: Bazme Ahab Qalam Pakistan arranged a Naat Competition among school students of Rawalpindi, Islamabad to celebrate Eid Milad-un-Nabi in collaboration with Punjab Council of the Arts, Wajih Akram, Parliamentary Secretary for Federal Education and Professional Training graced the occasion as chief guest. More than 50 students from different schools participated in the Naat Khawani competitions. Mobina Adil got first position in primary level, while Abdull Moez and Ashir Ali came second and third respectively. Among the high school level Samina won first position, while Asiya Bibi and Hijab Fatima came second and third respectively. Addressing at occasion, Parliamentary Secretary for Federal Education and Professional Training Wajih Akram said Hazrat Muhammad is dearest to us than our own lives. The month of Rabi-ul-Awwal is a blessing for Muslims all over the world. All the children have beautifully expressed their love for the Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH). Muslims need to follow the teachings of the Holy Prophet in order to regain their lost glory in the world, she added. Director Waqar Ahmed said that the hearts of Muslims are enlightened by the love of the Holy Prophet. Naheed Manzoor and President Bazme Ahab Qalam Ali Asghar Samar also addressed on the occasion and thanked participants. At the end of the competition, prayers were offered for the protection and glory of the Muslim Ummah and especially Pakistan.

## Nausheen stresses to follow SOPs

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary, National Health Services Regulations and Coordination Nausheen Hamid Thursday urged citizens to follow standard operating procedures (SOPs) against COVID-19 to combat the virus. Talking to private news channel, she said the National Command and Operations Center (NCOC) is closely monitoring the situation and if there is no improvement in SOPs compliance observed, NCOC will have no choice but to revert to strict measures leading to re-imposed of smart lockdown, fines and arrests of people who are violating social distancing rules. She said NCOC has issued a strict warning to all the residents to strictly follow the rules of social distancing and wear face masks as the country's number of cases continued to increase. Nausheen said it is unfortunate people have stopped wearing masks in all public places, especially markets, offices, restaurants," adding, it was an act of extreme selfishness not to wear masks as it endangered not only "yourself but also your family, associates, workers and everyone you come into contact with". While expressing concern over the increasing number of corona cases in Second wave, she advised the general public to realize the sensitivity of the issue and strictly adhere to the precautionary measures and standard operating procedures (SOPs) issued by the government in order to contain the mass scale outbreak of the corona pandemic. — APP

## UNDP to launch program for women

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will launch a small family owned businesses programme for social protection of women and to create a sustainable Covid-19 impact on women's economic empowerment. Talking to APP, an official of UNDP said, "We are launching a women-centered entrepreneurship program, aimed at financially uplifting the women and for creating employment opportunities for women in remote and distant areas". Small business program ideas for entrepreneurs would provide a technical assistance to women in the form of training and mentorship where they would learn about essential components of business, such as marketing, finance and human resource, she added. The official said we are working with local development programmes to unlock private finance for infrastructure projects that would benefit women and lift their burden of unpaid work. She added that impact from the coronavirus pandemic has put enormous strain on world economies. — APP

## IRSA releases 74,600 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 74,600 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 52,100 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1526.23 feet, which was 140.23 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 33,300 cusecs and outflow as 38,000 cusecs. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1210.60 feet, which was 170.60 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 6,200 cusecs and 22,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 42,700, 39,000 and 11,700 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 5,200 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 2,300 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Members of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry and members of diplomatic corps posing for a group photo on the occasion of tree plantation drive arranged by RCCI. (More pictures on Back page) — DNA

## Briefs

## PNCA, Art Divvy to screen short films on Nov 1

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foundation Art Divvy, an art gallery will hold fourth evening of "Divvy Film Festival" on November 1 to screen short films at PNCA. In collaboration with Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA), they will be showing four exceptional film including Dia and Stray Dogs Come Out At Night by Hamza Bangash, Baadi by Marya Javed and Manto by Sarmad Khoosat, Nice Talking to you by Saim Sadiq, Some Lover To Some Beloved by Umar Riaz and Indus Blues by Jawad Sharif. This festival will celebrate the breadth and depth of independent films being made by dedicated and talented filmmakers, an official said on Wednesday. She said that the themes of the films would be vary between human stories of love and heartbreak, the resilience of heroic individuals and the trauma of loss, as well as the joy of ordinary and unexpected moments. She said that Festival will focus on independent Pakistani films, and includes feature films, short films, documentaries and animated films and screening would be held on every Friday for 6 weeks. Each evening will be curated carefully to create a thoughtful and immersive experience for the viewer, ending with a discussion with the film directors.

## COMSTECH-ICYF arrange essay competition

ISLAMABAD: The aspiring participants of the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) member countries can take part in an essay competition on "Artificial Intelligence" (AI) being arranged by COMSTECH and Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF). The essay competition is being organized to promote the awareness of AI as a leading technology of the contemporary era and its potential in varied areas of economy and society. The competition would help identify outstanding talent in OIC countries having deeper understanding and innovative ideas on how AI can be used to address the multitude of problems being confronted by OIC countries as well as the potential pitfalls, challenges and the rules, regulations and guidelines, both legal and moral, that need to be considered to make the use of AI compatible with concerns of human privacy and dignity. The essay competition, open to participants from OIC countries, will consist of competition for students and young professionals in two categories including Undergraduates (18 to 25 years) and Advanced students and Professionals (25 to 35 years), an official of COMSTECH told APP. The Undergraduates will be those students currently enrolled in an Undergraduate (BS) program in a higher education institution or those having completed their BS but not yet enrolled in an MS or PhD program while the Advanced students and Professionals would be those who are either enrolled in a Graduate Program (MS, PhD) in AI or employed in the field of AI. The essays should be between 1300-1600 words (Font size 12) and each applicant may not submit more than one essay. — APP

## Examination center of IMCB, G-6/3 shifted

ISLAMABAD: The center of Islamabad Model College for Boys (IMCB) G-6/3 established for B.A./B.Sc./B.Com annual examinations 2020 has been shifted to Islamabad Model (Postgraduate) College for Men H-8 due to the closure of the former (IMCB G-6/3) by the government to avoid the spread of novel coronavirus. The college has been closed after few COVID cases reported in the staff and students. According to the notification of Quaid-i-Azam University, all the concerned have been advised to keep visiting university's website: www.qau.edu.pk or call 051-9064-3231, 051-9064-4082 for further updates. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal minister for interior, Brig R. Ijaz Shah presenting souvenir to Ambassador of Egypt, Tarek Muhammad Dohroug. — DNA

## ICCI asks CDA to allocate 2000-acre land for industrial estate

Sardar Yasir said that the sitting President ICCI should be made a Board member of CDA to give representation to the voice of the business community in the policy making of CDA

FIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: Amir Ali Ahmed, Chairman CDA along with Dr. Shahid Mehmood Member Planning CDA and Syeda Shafaq Hashmi, DG ICT visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry for an interaction with the business community. In his welcome remarks, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry gave a detailed presentation to the Chairman CDA on the key issues of the business community. He said that the sitting President ICCI should be made a Board member of CDA to give representation to the voice of the business community in the policy making of CDA. He said CDA in consultation with ICCI should establish a new industrial estate at an area of minimum 2000-acre land in Islamabad as the current industrial estates have saturated and potential investors were moving

to other places. He said CDA should allow 2 or more bifurcations of adjacent industrial plots and sell additional land adjacent to industrial plots on last auction rates. He said that CDA should provide free of cost plot for dispensary and mosque in industrial area. He said CDA should defer the receipt of property tax, reduce its rate and allow its payment in easy instalments. He said CDA should streamline completion certificates and building plans approval regimes to facilitate the business community. He said CDA in cooperation with ICCI should construct an expo centre in Islamabad. He said that CDA should allocate plots in markets for parking plazas or arrange parking in markets on BOT basis. He said that ICCI has planned to organize a shopping festival and winter festival in Islamabad and CDA should cooperate in making these festivals successful. Speaking at the occasion, Amir Ali Ahmed, Chairman CDA said that the civic body was going to



launch a mobile application to address the issues and complaints of the business community and the citizens in 72 hours from the time of registration of complaint. He said that CDA in consultation with ICCI would allocate land for

the establishment of a new industrial estate in Islamabad along the ring road on Rawat-Sihala belt. He said that President ICCI would be invited to CDA Board meetings to get the input of the private sector and recommendation would be

sent to the government to make him a member of CDA Board. He said that CDA has now earmarked over 60 percent of its budget for the development works and many development projects including carpeting of main & street roads, improving sewerage & drainage system and restoring streetlights would be started soon. He said that out of 40,000 total streetlights in Islamabad, CDA has made 10 percent streetlights functional while the 90 percent would be made functional in less than two months. He expressed these views while addressing the business community at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Amir Ali Ahmed said that CDA would construct parking plazas in markets on public-private partnership basis for which tender would be floated soon. He said 235 parks in Islamabad would be revived in 3 months, the abandoned sewerage treatment plant would be made functional and another contractor would be hired for improving sanitation services in the city.

## Pinktober awareness activities conclude at NORI

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The speakers at the concluding ceremony of month-long breast cancer awareness campaign titled "Together We Can Defeat" stressed the need for early diagnosis to treat breast cancer and urged all to adopt 'check, screen and prevent' approach in the fight against breast cancer. The event was arranged at Atomic Energy Cancer Hospital (AEC) NORI which is the leading public sector hospital of capital specializing in diagnosis and treatment of cancer. The wife of Director General Strategic Plans Division (SPD), Lt. Gen. Nadeem Zaki Manj was the chief guest. The wife of Chairman Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), Mrs. Muneera Naem also graced the event. Head Oncology Department

at AEC-NORI, Dr. Humera Mahmood welcomed the participants of the awareness program and shared details about the newly added facilities of cancer diagnosis and treatment at the hospital like MRI Simulator, SPECT-CT machine, and PET-Cyclotron facility. She thanked the chief guest for her unwavering support to the noble cause. Dr. Humera delivered an informative lecture titled, "Why to take the chance when you can do something about it". She thanked former diplomat and President NORI Patient Welfare Society (NPWS), Mr. Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary for his valuable assistance in fight against cancer and paid rich tributes to all the team members of AEC-NORI for dedicating their lives to the noble cause of providing relief to the ailing cancer patients.

## Certificate distribution ceremony at PNCA

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Every child is an artist; we only need to discover hidden creativity, said by Fouzia Saeed Director general of the Pakistan National Council of the Arts while distributing certificates among students. She said that PNCA is doing its level best to promote arts & culture. She requested the audience to spread about these classes to the maximum. The event was set to distribute certificates among successful students who have completed different performing arts courses like acting, rubab, guitar, calligraphy, drawing painting, vocal, dance and sitar. Total 45 students including many foreigner students get certificates in their respective courses. Students performed and showed



glimpses of their work to DG PNCA and audiences. In the event, 13 students got certificates in the field of drawing, 7 students in calligraphy, 7 students in Rubab, 5

students in guitar and 6 students in acting. Cash awards and certificates were given to the online painting (8 to 12 years' age group and 12 to 16 years category) and speech

competitions held earlier by PNCA. Students who are willing to continue their classes, will receive 1 year's certificate from PNCA upon completion.

## CGSS, Uzbek embassy to deepen cooperation

CGSS will work in collaboration with the Women Association of Uzbekistan with the aim to empower women entrepreneurs in both countries

DNA

ISLAMABAD: CGSS Management led by Lt Col Khalid Taimur Akram (Retd), Executive Director, CGSS had a meeting with the Diplomatic Staff of Embassy of Republic of Uzbekistan, Islamabad. During the detailed meeting, it was decided that CGSS will work in collaboration with the Women Association of Uzbekistan with the aim to empower women entrepreneurs in both countries. This program will connect entrepreneurs of Pakistan and Uzbekistan to find areas of mutual interest. Through this program, training sessions, awareness cam-



aigns, and courses will be offered to women of both the countries to enhance their entrepreneurial skills and help them to promote their businesses in Pakistan and Uzbekistan. Furthermore, it was decided that CGSS in collaboration with the Government of Uzbekistan will establish Zaheer ud Din Babur Center for promotion of Central Asian culture. This Center will also enhance the academic cooperation between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. It was agreed that CGSS will organize soft skills trainings also for the youth of Uzbekistan which will empower them to grow and inculcate self-motivation, creativity, positivity and leadership.

## PCRWR declares 11 water brands as unsafe

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Council for Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) in its quarterly water monitoring report issued on Thursday declared 11 brands of bottled water as unsafe for human consumption, as per comparison of test results with permissible limits of Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA). The report for the last quarter (July to September, 2020) revealed that five brands (i.e. Blue Plus, Vitella, Sunlay, Aqua King and Elayn Plus) were unsafe due to presence of higher levels of sodium. Two brands (i.e. Chenab and Aqua Star) were found unsafe due to presence of low level of pH. Three brands (i.e. Care Life, Pure Nature and Elayn Plus) were found unsafe due to presence of high level of arsenic. Three brands (i.e. Nurturml Water, Royal Pure Life and Elayn Plus) were found microbiologically contaminated and thus were unsafe for drinking. The government through Ministry of Science and Technology has assigned the task to PCRWR for quarterly monitoring of bottled/mineral water brands and publicize the results in the best interest of public health.

## Imran Khan to serve as PM till 2028, says Fawad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhry on Thursday said those claiming to topple the government till January 2021 and adopting agenda against state institutions should know that Imran Khan would continue to serve as Prime Minister till 2028. Speaking here in National Assembly, the minister said that Opposition's narrative in its three various gatherings was really condemnable as they do not know how to behave and talk in public meetings. He said that Opposition consuming their energies on narratives against institutions and even Constitution should know that Imran Khan would continue to serve till 2028. He said the opposition should talk with the government on electoral reforms, economy, governance and future of the country. Rather adopting such attitude, he said Opposition (PML-N) wanted end of eight cases against the Nawaz Shairf. The minister said that Pak Armed Forces taught a lesson to the enemy who challenged our defense after Pulwama incident. He said we are proud of Pak Army whose officers and jawans stood shoulder by shoulder in fight against enemy and defeated them. Fawad Chaudhry said that opposition had right to criticize the government after differences with its policies. However, they should know how to behave and talk about sensitive issues.

## ANF arrests inter-provincial drug peddler

DNA

KARACHI: The Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Sindh seized huge quantity of hashish and Ice and arrested an accused involved in inter-provincial drug peddling in two separate actions. The ANF Police Station Gulshan Iqbal acting on a tip off arrested a drug peddler Naimatullah s/o Haji Hayat and recovered 32.805 kg of hashish from near New Sabzi Mandi. The arrested accused was involved in inter-provincial drug peddling, said a news release on Thursday. In another action, the ANF Police Station Clifton foiled a smuggling bid by recovering 2.170 kg of Ice from different parcels at courier company office. The parcels were booked for Australia. The drugs were tactfully concealed in plastic boards and door closing springs. Cases have been registered and further investigations underway.



## Briefs

15-man  
squad for  
first ODI  
announced

## SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Thursday announced its 15-member squad for the first ODI against Zimbabwe which is scheduled to be played tomorrow in Rawalpindi. The squad was announced by the PCB in a tweet. The PCB has named Babar Azam as the captain and selected Mohammad Rizwan as the wicketkeeper for the match.

Vice Captain Shadab Khan will miss the match as the medical team of the PCB Wednesday had ruled him unavailable for selection. Shadab felt stiffness in his left upper-leg during the first intra-squad warm-up match on October 23 in Lahore. Now the vice-captain will undergo treatment and rehabilitation regime and an update in this regard will be provided ahead of the second ODI. Squad: Imam ul Haq, Abid Ali, Fakhar Zaman, Babar Azam (captain), Haris Sohail, Mohammad Rizwan, Iftikhar Ahmed, Khushdil Shah, Faheem Ashraf, Imad Wasim, Usman Qadir, Wahab Riaz, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf, Musa Khan.

Pakistan  
records  
highest virus  
cases

## From Page 01

"after more than 70 days the national covid positivity ratio was higher than 3% yesterday".

He said that the NCOC has tightened restrictions on some high-risk public activities but the rising spread of the disease can only be controlled if people believe in the need for precautions. Pakistan reported 908 new cases of coronavirus on October 28, the highest number of positive cases since July 29. The authorities conducted 29,449 tests of which 908 returned positive while 16 deaths were also recorded in the day. The federal authorities have issued multiple warnings in the past few days on the ignorance towards implementation of Covid-19 SOPs as the second wave hits the country. On Wednesday, the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) issued fresh rules regarding the closure of wedding halls and shopping malls and made the wearing of face mask mandatory.

France call  
up Vincent  
for 6 Nations  
decider

PARIS: Centre Arthur Vincent replaces injured winger Teddy Thomas in France's side to host Ireland in this weekend's potential Six Nations decider, coach Fabien Galthie announced on Thursday. Midfielder Gael Fickou moves to the wing as Vincent comes into the centres alongside Virimi Vakatawa for the nail-biting finish to a coronavirus-delayed tournament that sees les Bleus, this Saturday's Irish visitors and England - who play Italy - all in a position to win the Six Nations title. Galthie's side must better Eddie Jones' men's result in Rome earlier in the day and have a better points difference to claim the competition for the first time since 2010. France team manager Raphael Ibanez, however, refused to be dragged into the details of clinching the trophy.

"The message to the players is simple. We have as much chance of winning the Six Nations as Ireland and England in this final round," the ex-France hooker and skipper said. Vincent, 21, who captained his country to the World Under-20 Championship title in 2019, started three Test matches earlier this year before the competition was postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic. Former international scrum-half Galthie, who has lost just once in five matches since taking over as France head coach after last year's Rugby World Cup, said his selection was made up of three parts. "The collective experience is essential at international level," Galthie said in reference to Vincent having already played alongside Fiji-born powerhouse Vakatawa. - APP



TURIN: FC Barcelona's captain Lionel Messi trying to dribble past Juventus' players in a UCL game. - DNA

## UN warns of 'moderate to strong' La Nina this year

La Nina is considered the stormy sister of El Nino, which occurs every two to seven years when the prevailing trade winds that circulate surface water in the tropical Pacific start to weaken

## DNA

GENEVA: Global temperatures boosted by climate change will still be higher than usual despite the cooling effect of a "moderate to strong" La Nina weather phenomenon, the UN said Thursday. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said La Nina "has developed and is expected to last into next year, affecting temperatures, precipitation and storm patterns in many parts of the world." La Nina is considered the stormy sister of El

Nino, which occurs every two to seven years when the prevailing trade winds that circulate surface water in the tropical Pacific start to weaken.

El Nino, which has a major influence on weather and climate patterns and associated hazards such as heavy rains, floods and drought, has a warming influence on global temperatures, whilst La Nina tends to have the opposite effect. But global warming could worsen or distort the effects of such phenomena, WMO chief Petteri Taalas warned in a statement.

"All naturally occurring climate events now take place against a background of human-induced climate change which is exacerbating extreme weather and affecting the water cycle," he said. "La Nina typically has a cooling effect on global temperatures, but this is more than offset by the heat trapped in our atmosphere by greenhouse gases," he pointed out. "Therefore, 2020 remains on track to be one of the warmest years on record and 2016-2020 is expected to be the warmest five-year period on record," Taalas said.

"La Nina years now are warmer even than years with strong El Nino events of the past."

The last La Nina, which was brief and rather weak, began developing in November 2017 and ended in April 2018, according to WMO. This year's La Nina "is expected to be moderate to strong", WMO said, adding that the world had not seen a strong La Nina for a decade.

WMO stressed though La Nina and El Nino were not the only factors driving global and regional climate patterns, and that "no two La Nina or El Nino

events are the same". "Their effects on regional climates can vary depending on the time of year and other factors," it said, urging decision makers to closely monitor seasonal forecasts and the latest data. The UN agency pointed to fresh data indicating that this year's La Nina would among other things lead to below normal rainfall in the Horn of Africa region and Central Asia, while Southeast Asia, some Pacific islands and the northern part of South America would see more rain than usual.

Kazakhstan,  
Ethiopia discuss  
trade potential

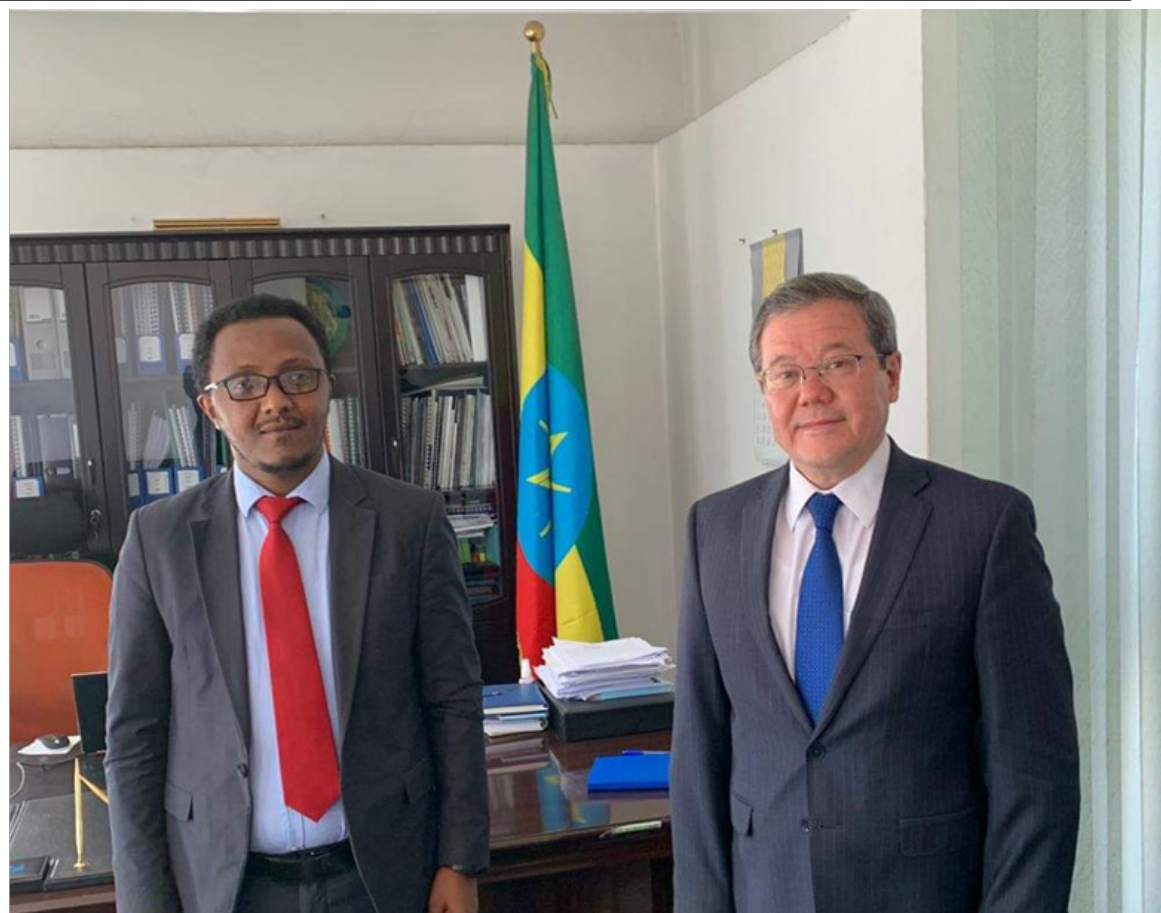
During the meeting, B. Sadykov informed about the economic potential of Kazakhstan

## DNA

ADDIS ABABA: The Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Ethiopia Barlybay Sadykov met with the Deputy Commissioner for Investments of Ethiopia Mr. Temesgen Telahun. During the meeting, B. Sadykov informed about the economic potential of Kazakhstan and the prospects for the development of trade, economic and investment cooperation with Ethiopia, promotion of Kazakhstan's goods to African markets and mutual investment. Information was presented in detail on the activities of the Astana International Financial Center and Kazakhstan's participation in the Belt and

Road Initiative as a basis for expanding cooperation with Ethiopia and African countries in general.

Temesgen Telahun welcomed the interest in developing cooperation and provided detailed information on economic reforms in Ethiopia, including improving the investment climate in the country. He assured of the readiness of the Ethiopian Investment Commission to provide full assistance to the Kazakh side in the development of bilateral cooperation, including in the field of investments. The interlocutor recognized the Kazakhstani approach to working with foreign investors as very effective and expressed interest in exchanging experience in attracting investments.



ADDIS ABABA: The Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Ethiopia Barlybay Sadykov called on Deputy Commissioner for Investments of Ethiopia Mr. Temesgen Telahun. DNA

## 27 October the darkest day of Kashmir's history, say speakers at a webinar

## DNA

TORONTO: A webinar was organized today by the High Commission for Pakistan, Ottawa and the Consulate General of Pakistan, Toronto to observe Kashmir Black Day. The event was held to observe 27 October as the darkest day of Kashmir's history as Indian forces landed in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir on that day in 1947. The webinar was addressed by the senior officials and experts including Sardar Masood Khan, President Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Raza Bashir Tarar, High Commissioner for Pakistan, Ottawa, Dr. Fozia Alvi, President Humanity Auxilium, Dr. Zafar Bangash, Director, ICIT Toronto, Mr. Farhan Mujahid Chak, Associate Professor of Political Science, Ms. Karen Rodman, Executive Director Just Peace Advocates and Mr. Robert Fantina, Political Analyst. Mr. Abdul Hameed, Consul General Toronto, moderated the event.

During his address on the occasion, Sardar Masood Khan, President AJK, said the United Nations was not showing leadership in the filed of diplomacy and currently no dialogue was taking place between Pakistan and India. He suggested that Kashmir movement may be turned into an international mass civil rights and BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) Movement. He drew attention towards the multilateral diplomacy as a possible mechanism for resolving the dispute. He also highlighted the need for effective communication to support the legitimate rights of Kashmiris to self determination. He underlined that India had been distorting facts about Kashmir and an effective communication strategy can help us counter it. High Commissioner Raza Bashir Tarar referred to the lack of political will on behalf of the international community. He said that the international civil society seemed to be ready for the advocacy of Kashmiris. The concepts like

"responsibility to protect" should not be used selective-

ly as the international community is not ready to protect



Kashmiris. India is trying to project itself as a candidate for a permanent membership of the Security Council but there is a yawning gap between the ground reality and its aspirations. He said Kashmir is the world's longest running conflict, acutely dangerous flashpoint and one of the most militarized zones in the world. He said that Hindutva ideology fueled by the dangerous doctrine of Chanakya is a serious threat to regional peace and security. Other panelists appreciated the resilient and brave people of IIOJK who have stood up to the Indian atrocities even after a long torturous period of 73 years. They expressed serious concerns over the demographic change in IIOJK being attempted by the RSS-BJP regime of India. They noted that IIOJK will change for ever as the fake domicile certificates are being issued to non-natives for reducing Kashmir's native, indigenous population into a minority in the region.

Ambassador  
Arain  
presents  
credentials

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador to Guinea Bissau, with residence at Dakar, Ali Ahmed Arain presented his credentials to Umaro Sissoco Embaló, President of the Republic of Guinea Bissau in an impressive ceremony held at the Presidential Palace on October 20, 2020, a message received here from Dakar on Thursday said. The Ambassador was escorted to the Presidential Palace by a large motorcade and was received by the Head of State Protocol and the Chief of Staff of the President. During the 30-minute audience, the Ambassador presented his Letters of Credence to the President which accredited him as the Ambassador of Pakistan in Guinea Bissau. The Ambassador, on behalf of the President and the Prime Minister, conveyed greetings to President Embaló, on his election as President of Guinea Bissau. He also shared proposals relating to cooperation in Education, Agriculture, Defence and Information Technology. The Ambassador expressed his desire to work for further strengthening relations between the two brotherly countries. President Embaló warmly welcomed the Ambassador to the Presidential Palace. Appreciating friendly relations between Pakistan and Guinea Bissau, the President extended warm wishes to the President, Prime Minister and the people of Pakistan. - APP

Benevento,  
Crotone  
crash out of  
Italian Cup

MILAN: Promoted Benevento and Crotone were the only two top flight clubs to crash out of the Italian Cup after third round matches which concluded on Wednesday. Filippo Inzaghi's Benevento fell 4-2 to Serie B leaders Empoli, with Crotone losing a penalty shootout against SPAL after the match ended 1-1 after extra time. The top eight teams in Serie A last season, including champions Juventus and runners-up Inter Milan, will join the competition at the last 16 stage in January. Ten other top-flight teams are still in the running with the fourth round taking place late November. - APP

Hurricane  
slams into  
Louisiana  
coast

NEW ORLEANS: Hurricane Zeta slammed into the southern United States as a Category 2 storm on Wednesday, bringing dangerous winds and surging ocean waves to Louisiana, which has been hit repeatedly during a busy hurricane season. Zeta, packing sustained winds of 110 miles (175 kilometers) an hour, strengthened and moved onto land near Cocodrie in remote in southeastern Louisiana on Wednesday afternoon. It was expected to sweep through the New Orleans area before moving along the Mississippi coast. The National Hurricane Center issued a hurricane warning that covered New Orleans, and said a "life-threatening storm surge and strong winds (are) expected along portions of the northern Gulf Coast." - APP

PSG win in  
Turkey with  
Kean brace

ISTANBUL: Moise Kean's second-half double gave Paris Saint-Germain a 2-0 win away to Istanbul Basaksehir in Turkey on Wednesday as the French side got their Champions League campaign up and running but lost Neymar to injury. The world's most expensive player limped out of the action before the half-hour mark and went straight down the tunnel to join an already lengthy queue to the PSG treatment room. He was replaced by Pablo Sarabia, but without the Brazilian the visitors ground out the victory after the break in a game that mercifully passed without incident despite the backdrop of on-going diplomatic tensions between Turkey and France. "It's his adductor muscle, but I hope it's not a real injury. He didn't feel good or free and that is why he came off," said PSG coach Thomas Tuchel of Neymar. - APP

## Briefs

## Boeing cutting 30,000 jobs in two years

DNA

NEW YORK: Pressured by a prolonged commercial travel downturn and the hit from the 737 MAX crisis, Boeing on Wednesday announced an additional 7,000 job cuts that will lower headcount by 30,000 positions over two years. The planemaker, which has been in belt-tightening mode throughout 2020 in the wake of the coronavirus on top of the 737 MAX's protracted grounding, reported another quarterly loss and said it will shrink headcount down to 130,000 at the end of 2021 from 160,000 in January, a drop of nearly 19 percent in less than two years. "The global pandemic continued to add pressure to our business this quarter, and we're aligning to this new reality by closely managing our liquidity and transforming our enterprise to be sharper, more resilient and more sustainable for the long term," said chief executive Dave Calhoun. A steep drop in commercial plane travel has prompted airlines to cancel plane orders or defer deliveries, crimping Boeing's revenues. On top of that, the company's finances have been under pressure due to the grounding since March 2019 of the Boeing 737 MAX, which is nearing regulatory approval to resume service after a lengthy oversight process by air travel authorities. In the third quarter, Boeing reported a loss of \$449 million, compared with profits of \$1.2 billion in the year-ago period, as revenues fell 29.2 percent to \$14.1 billion. The latest quarter of red ink takes Boeing's losses for all of 2020 to \$3.5 billion.

## 16 dead, dozens missing in Vietnam landslides

QUANG NAM, VIETNAM: Sixteen people were killed and dozens left missing Thursday after landslides triggered by a typhoon hit central Vietnam, prompting a desperate search for survivors as the country battles some of the worst weather seen in years. Typhoon Molave hit villages in the central provinces on Wednesday, reportedly killing two people as it knocked down trees, tore roofs off homes and brought heavy rain to an area already badly affected by weeks of flooding. Following two separate landslides on Wednesday, 53 people were reported missing across two villages in Quang Nam province, authorities said. The bodies of 16 of them had so far been pulled from the mud, according to state media. "This is a very serious accident, burying many people," said Deputy Prime Minister Trinh Dinh Dung, adding: "The route for rescuers to access them is very difficult." Soldiers were among a search team battling to reach the site through fallen trees and mud that had blocked roads, authorities said. Typhoon Molave was Vietnam's fourth storm this month, and forced authorities to relocate around 375,000 people to safety, cancel hundreds of flights and close schools and beaches. It made landfall south of Danang packing winds of up to 145 kilometres per hour (85 miles per hour), before weakening to a tropical depression on Thursday. — APP

## Huawei lawyers accuse Canada police of lying

VANCOUVER: A defense lawyer for Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou accused a Canadian policeman on Wednesday of giving a "not honest" reply during the ongoing hearing on whether the Chinese national should be extradited to the US. The accusation targeted Royal Canadian Mounted Police Constable Winston Yep's testimony about why he delayed arresting Meng during a December 2018 stopover in Vancouver. Meng is wanted by the United States on fraud charges related to violations of American sanctions in Iran. Yep testified this week that he did not immediately arrest Meng when her flight landed in Vancouver because of "safety reasons," telling the court she might have had a knife, secret bodyguards or even "counter-surveillance" agents with her.



CAIRO: The Embassy of Pakistan in Cairo organized a Seminar titled "Human Rights Violation in Kashmir – Role of International Community" to observe "Kashmir Black Day" in solidarity with Kashmiris under military siege in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. — DNA

## Political ad confusion at Facebook as US election nears

California-based Facebook has tightened its rules on political advertising ahead of the 2020 election. In particular, it has prohibited attempts to undermine the electoral process

DNA

SAN FRANCISCO: Confusion over political ads at Facebook marred the onset of what was supposed to be a cooling period ahead of the US presidential election. Mistakes implementing a ban on new paid ads at Facebook during the week leading up to November 3 had rival parties complaining the leading social network was undermining campaign efforts. "We're investigating the issues of some ads being paused incorrectly, and some advertisers having

trouble making changes to their campaigns," Facebook product manager Rob Leathern said in a tweeted message when the ban kicked in on Tuesday.

"We're working quickly on these fixes," California-based Facebook has tightened its rules on political advertising ahead of the 2020 election. In particular, it has prohibited attempts to undermine the electoral process.

The social media network also banned new political advertising in the week before the November 3 election. That ban kicked in on October 27. Political ads could

sidestep the ban by getting in position at Facebook prior to the deadline, with those behind them deciding when to activate them.

President Donald Trump's campaign displayed in a paid posts library at Facebook included what appeared to be a victory ad. The animated ad showed a cartoon sunrise along with a smiling Trump head atop a flitting bird and a soundtrack featuring an agonized cry of "No" after the claim Trump was still president.

Megan Clasen, a senior media adviser for Democratic presidential contender Joe Biden,

tweeted a screen capture of a Trump ad with a picture of the president and a message that "Election Day Is Today." Former vice president Joe Biden's campaign was told by Facebook they could not launch ads saying election day was "today" or even "tomorrow," Clasen said in the tweet. To be in position to be used in the days ahead, ads in the Facebook library have to have run at least once, if even to a just a very limited audience.

"When Facebook's latest ad policies were announced, we

warned that they contained major loopholes that would likely enable election misinformation," said Media Matters president Angelo Carusone

"Now we are seeing those warnings come to life." Democratic political strategist Eric Reif put out word on Twitter that he and other were working to have ads mistakenly removed by Facebook restored at the social network. Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg was grilled on Capitol Hill on Wednesday, with decisions regarding political content a hot button topic.

## 5 Spanish regions close borders to fight virus

MADRID: Five more Spanish regions, including Madrid, said Wednesday they would close their borders ahead of the All Saints' Day long weekend to try to halt a surge in coronavirus infections. Spanish families traditionally visit the graves of loved ones on the November 1 holiday to leave flowers. As this year the holiday falls on a Sunday, Monday has been declared a holiday to create a three-day weekend. Some six million people travel to other parts of Spain during the All Saints' Day holiday and as a result the regional government of Madrid plans to close the region's borders from Friday until November 2, said the head of the region's government, Isabel Diaz Ayuso.

"We are aware that we must continue to reduce social contacts," she told a joint news conference with the heads of the neighbouring

regions of Castilla and Leon and Castilla-La Mancha who said they would shut their borders until Monday November 9, a bank holiday in Madrid. Separately, the coastal regions of Murcia in the southeast and Andalusia in the southwest, popular destinations for residents of inland cities like Madrid during long weekends, said they would also shut their borders from Friday until November 9. The move means no one will be able to enter or leave the regions during this period except for essential reasons such as seeking medical care or going to work. "The pandemic is growing exponentially," said the leader of the north-western Castilla and Leon region, Alfonso Fernandez Manueco. "We have to adopt measures, drastic measures which at the same time are proportional." — APP



BAKU: Ambassador of Pakistan to Azerbaijan Bilal Hayee had a meeting with Vusal Huseynov Afgan, Chief of State Migration Service of Azerbaijan. Exchanged views to further facilitate visitors from Pakistan and Azerbaijan. — DNA

## Civilian casualties as a result of Armenia's act of aggression against Azerbaijan

DNA

BAKU: Since September 27, 2020 the armed forces of Armenia have been targeting the civilian population, private houses and civilian infrastructure in Azerbaijan in a deliberate, widespread and systematic manner. By doing so, Armenia grossly violates its obligations under international humanitarian law, including the 1949 Geneva Conventions and its Additional Protocols as well as disregards the humanitarian ceasefire declared on October 10, 18 and 25. On October 28, Armenia continued to escalate tensions with attacks in various directions, including across the international border with Azerbaijan. The border regions of Azerbaijan - Tovuz, Gadabay, Dashkasan and Gubadli were fired by the enemy from the territory of Bard, Chambarak, Vardenis and Gorus regions of Armenia. Moreover, Armenia's armed forces continuously targeted Aghjabadi, Barda, Goranboy and Tartar regions with heavy artillery, including "Smerch" and BM-21 "Grad" multiple-launch rocket systems that caused enormous human suffering and damage to civil infrastructure. Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA) report-

ed that the Barda region was attacked with 300mm "Smerch" 9M525 rockets containing 9N235 bomblets, which is a cluster munition banned under the international law.

As of October 28, in total 90 civilians, including children, women and elderly were killed, more than 380 civilians have been hospitalized with serious injuries. Currently, damages to private and public property being assessed (as of 27 October, reported damages were

around 2300 private houses, 92 apartment buildings and more than 400 civilian infrastructure). Widespread and systematic rocket attacks on the Barda city On October 28, Armenia, acting on its stated policy of terror, committed another heinous crime against the civilians in Azerbaijan. Around 1pm local time, Armenia launched 300mm "Smerch" rockets with banned cluster munitions at densely populated areas of the Bardacity (located approx 100 km

from Armenia's border and 30 km away from the conflict zone), including its business center and surroundings. As of now, the General Prosecutor's office confirmed 21 civilians killed and more than 70 wounded. Civil infrastructure facilities and vehicles were extensively damaged. The attack on Barda's residential areas is the second deliberate attack within 20 hours with banned munitions. Earlier, on October 27, as a result of Armenia's attack

using the same type of cluster munition, four civilians died and thirteen civilians were injured. In total, civilian casualties in the Barda region within 20 hours are reportedly 108 with 25 killed and 83 injured (as of now, the list of casualties are being clarified). The attack on the Barda city is the single, most bloody According to ANAMA's report, six locations (HuseinJavid str., Baku str., Natavan str., Koroglu str., Bahadur Hacıyev str. and Heydar Aliyev-UzeirHajibeyov crossing) in the Barda city were hit with 300mm "Smerch" 9M525 rockets containing 9N235 bomblets. This is another terror act by the government of Armenia against the civil population of Azerbaijan, follows a notorious pattern of terror acts earlier committed by Armenia in Ganja, Tartar and other towns in a deliberate, widespread and systematic manner. The policy of terror were publicly declared by Armenia's government officials as a strategy to strike at peaceful settlements in order to cause panic. The rocket attacks against the civilian population in Barda, along with ballistic missile attacks which Ganja and other towns constitute a war crime and a crime against humanity perpetrated in a deliberate, widespread and systematic manner. Below are photo evidences from the scene.



## Blowout US GDP report will obscure slowdown

DNA

WASHINGTON: After the worst downturn on record, the US economy is expected to post jaw-dropping growth of between 30 and 35 percent in the third quarter, but the headline number will obscure potential signs of trouble. With days before the November 3 election, President Donald Trump will almost certainly seize on the data to be released Thursday by the Commerce Department as proof of the recovery he promised from the Covid-19 pandemic is underway. But economists warn that the rebound in the July-September period, after the 31.4 percent drop in the second quarter, was driven by consumer spending supported by a massive \$3 trillion in government aid, much of which has since expired. And even that bounce is not nearly strong enough to repair the damage and get the world's largest economy back to where it was pre-pandemic, or where it would have been if the expansion had continued at the same pace. The gain is "not enough to get out of (the) hole," Diane Swonk of Grant Thornton told AFP, and the prospects for the fourth quarter are "deteriorating by the day, without life boats."

## China builds largest social security system

BEIJING: China has built the world's largest social security system in the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-2020), says the communique of the fifth plenary session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) on Thursday. The country's basic medical insurance has covered over 1.3 billion people, and the basic old-age insurance has covered nearly 1 billion people, says the communique passed at the session held in Beijing from Oct. 26 to 29. — APP

## 59 bodies found in Mexico hidden graves

CELAYA/MEXICO: The bodies of at least 59 people were found in hidden graves in the central Mexican state of Guanajuato, government authorities said Wednesday. Guanajuato is one of Mexico's most violent states, with its wealth and extensive energy infrastructure drawing in the attention of criminal gangs. "The vast majority of the bodies, in which there is still some tissue or other sign, would appear to be young people, very young, possibly even teenagers," said Karla Quintana, the head of Mexico's National Search Commission (CNS). Pending expert confirmation, between 10 and 15 women are among the victims, Quintana added. The graves were found in the Barrio de San Juan neighborhood in the city of Salvatierra, in the southern part of the state, according to Quintana. Authorities were notified of the graves' possible location two weeks ago, and state and federal security institutions have been working together for the past eight days. "We have even more possible positive points, which is why we will continue working," said Quintana. — APP

## ECB under pressure to bolster virus response

DNA

FRANKFURT: The European Central Bank on Thursday faces mounting pressure to signal further monetary stimulus as spiking coronavirus cases and new restrictions darken the eurozone's economic outlook. ECB chief Christine Lagarde's words will be closely scrutinized for every hint of possible action as the central bank weighs up boosting its pandemic response of more than a trillion euros. It comes after she told the French daily Le Monde that any economic recovery seen during the summer "now risks losing momentum" as new shutdowns put in place to stem the second wave of the pandemic restrict business activity. On Wednesday, Germany joined major economies France and Italy in announcing tough new measures - including closures of restaurants, bars and cultural activities - in an attempt to wrest control of the virus.

**Briefs**

**NAB court approves Zardari's exemption plea**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Accountability court on Thursday has approved exemption from the hearing plea of Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) co-chairman and former president Asif Ali Zardari in Thatta water supply reference. During the proceedings, the testimony of National Accountability Bureau (NAB) witness Ali Raza was recorded while the court has also rejected the petition filed by co-accused to defer the hearing. Earlier on October 5, the NAB court had indicted Asif Ali Zardari in Thatta water supply case via video link. In December 2019, former president Asif Ali Zardari was released on medical grounds after an accountability court in Islamabad issued separate rokars [mandamus] in the money laundering through fake bank accounts cases against him. The charges in the latest case centre around allegations Zardari laundered vast sums of money through suspect bank accounts and companies. NAB is conducting investigations in pursuance of the Supreme Court's verdict in the money laundering of billions through fake accounts case wherein it forwarded the joint investigation team (JIT) report with directions to investigate and file references. Zardari has repeatedly dismissed allegations he had a hand in the scheme. Never popular and always shrouded in controversy, Zardari - who was once jailed for 11 years for corruption - stepped down from the president's office in 2013. But he has continued to serve as co-chairman of the opposition PPP.

**Rs 1000 subsidy on 50 kg bag of fertilizers**

ISLAMABAD: Economic Coordination Committee of the Cabinet (ECC) on Thursday approved the "Prime Minister's package for Rabi crops-specially wheat" under which a subsidy of Rs 1000 per 50 kg bag would be extended on fertilizers; DAP, P and K fertilizers. The meeting of the committee was chaired by Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh. The subsidy would be shared by the federal and provincial governments with ratio of 70 percent and 30 percent respectively. Similarly the federal government would also give a subsidy of Rs 250 and Rs 150 per acre on weedicides and fungicides respectively. The provinces would distribute the subsidy in their already prevalent manner but would be responsible for ensuring transparency. - APP

**PIA incurs Rs250bn loss after EU flight hiatus**

DNA

KARACHI: The Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) incurred a loss of Rs250 billion after suspension of its flight operation to and from the European Union (EU) states and the United Kingdom (UK). According to PIA's spokesperson, the national airlines is bearing a monthly loss of Rs9billion due to the suspension of its flights to Europe and the UK. It was feared that Pakistan International Airlines may face more losses of Rs-54billion if the restrictions remain intact, he said. In July, the European Union Air Safety Agency (EASA) had suspended the authorization for the PIA to operate in the bloc for six months. "EASA has temporarily suspended PIA's authorization to operate to the EU member states for a period of 6 months effective July 1, 2020, with the right to appeal against this decision," a Pakistan International Airlines statement had said.



**ISLAMABAD: 97th anniversary of the republic of Turkey was celebrated at the embassy. No usual reception is hosted by the embassy due to COVID. National anthem of Turkey was played. Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul, Ambassador of Turkey addressed the members of the embassy and congratulated them on this happy occasion. - DNA**

**Hybrid wheat can be promoted with cooperative enterprises**

In order to achieve high yields in Pakistan, Beijing hybrid wheat has been fully accustomed to Pakistan's arid and hot climate for the past 11 years

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Beijing hybrid wheat is ready to be popularized in Pakistan and we're stepping in the marketization stage and looking for cooperative enterprises in Pakistan," said Dr Zhang Shengquan, an expert of Beijing Academy of Agriculture and Forestry Sciences (BAAFS). She said, the prospects of better yield through hybrid's technology

has been achieved after 11 years of local experiments and demonstrations in Peshawar, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday. Zhang said, "after comparing with thousands of species of other wheat and selecting from ten thousand of genome of Beijing hybrid wheat, the final Beijing hybrid wheat we have bred can fully adapt to the climate and soil in Pakistan. It also can greatly alleviate the food crisis in Pakistan and meet the nutritional needs of the Paki-

stani people. In order to achieve high yields in Pakistan, Beijing hybrid wheat has been fully accustomed to Pakistan's arid and hot climate for the past 11 years of experimentation." Meanwhile, the wheat rust is a major factor in the reduction of wheat production in Pakistan. Beijing hybrid wheat can basically achieve immunity or high resistance to this crop disease. Zhang said, Pakistan suffers from a chronic wheat shortage because of high demand for high-quality wheat

and low yields. Therefore, while ensuring excellent drought resistance, lodging resistance, disease and insect resistance, increasing yield is our research focus. According to experimental data this year, compared with the best local varieties in Pakistan, planted on the same acreage, Beijing hybrid wheat harvested 120% of crop using only 10% of seeds. The composition testing shows that the nutrition and taste of Beijing hybrid wheat can meet the

needs of Pakistani people, and the texture of flour is very suitable for Nam and Chabati. "After 11 years of research and experiments, we are confident that the current Beijing hybrid wheat has fully met the ripe conditions for large-scale promotion in Pakistan. We'll provide Beijing hybrid wheat seed to Pakistan so that our iron brother can overcome the food crisis. We are willing to provide as much seeds as they need," said Zhang Sheng Quan.

**Food security depends on efficiency of agriculture**

BEIJING: Secretary-General Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Vladimir Norov Wednesday said that today food security and sources of livelihood for millions of people all over the world depended on the efficiency of agricultural production and international food trade. "The SCO countries, where rural population accounts for 52.6 percent, or 1.7 billion people, have faced a number of pandemic-related problems involved in agricultural production and producer-to-consumer transportation," he said while addressing a roundtable: Agricultural Produce Trade and Transborder Trade, held as part of the 27th China Yangling Agricultural Hi-Tech Fair. The ministries and agencies from Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran, Mongolia and Cambodia were attended the meeting, according to SCO Secretariat here. In his address, Vladimir Norov noted the pandemic-related difficult situation in the world and its negative impact on states' socioeconomic development and food security in particular. "A green corridor needs to be created for freight transit to ensure unimpeded agricultural and food exports and imports. In this context, states must focus on drafting legal instruments designed to harmonise sanitary and phytosanitary standards and requirements; deal with the certification and customs barriers; and create a network of product inspectorates to take care of testing and certification in the SCO countries," Vladimir Norov stressed. World trade in the COVID-19 environment has promoted the development of digital economy and e-commerce, taking the transborder e-trade in food to the highest level ever. - APP

**SECP rebuts news of data leak**

DNA

KARACHI: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has refuted the news of handing over data to a foreign company. It was being reported in a section of media that the SECP's data was allegedly leaked to a foreign company. The SECP's spokesperson in his statement released here on Thursday strongly rebutted the news of leaking data to a foreign company. In his clarification, the spokesperson said that DFID gave funds to the SECP for the digitalization of the record.

**'China could help Pak combat desertification'**

DNA

BEIJING: China could help Pakistan to combat desertification and shortage of fuelwood by exchanging the new technology. This was stated by Nowsherwan Zarif, who used to be a public servant in Pakistan Forest Institute in Peshawar and now is on a 4-year study leave in Harbin, China, according to China Economic Net (CEN). "I am doing a Ph.D. at Northeast Forestry University since 2017. As a researcher, my duty is to plant different forest species. I have to plant," he said.

My basic aim is to enhance my expertise in the field of forestry and learn modern techniques which can help Pakistan in the future, he said in an interview to CEN. "Pakistani government also encouraged us to learn more modern forestry techniques. We can introduce different expertise and inventions and plant different varieties of trees to enhance soil fertility and soil nutrients," he said. According to Nowsherwan, there are a lot of disciplines in which China can help Pakistan improve. "With the increasing population in Pakistan, the fuelwood demand boosted as well.

**Uswa-e-Rasool best role model for Muslims: NA Speaker**

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser has said that the life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is a beacon of light for whole universe, by following which we can achieve success in this world and the hereafter. He said that Holy prophet (PBUH) is mercy for all mankind, who elevated the status of humanity by taking them out of the darkness of ignorance and bestowing them on the highest level. He expressed these views in his message on the auspicious occasion of Eid Milad-Un-Nabi (PBUH) which is being celebrated on Friday throughout the Muslim World. While congratulating Muslim Ummah on the occasion of Eid-Milad-Un-Nabi (PBUH), the Speaker said that the life of the Holy prophet is the role model for all mankind. He said that by following the Sunnah of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) we can find a solution to all our problems. "The Holy Prophet (PBUH) is a source of blessing for the entire humanity and his teachings convey the message of love, tolerance and compassion," he added. The Speaker said that the whole life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is the beacon of guidance and he is no doubt a living representation of the Holy Quran and Islam.

**Shahzad Waseem slams opposition**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Leader of the House in Senate, Shahzad Waseem on Thursday has accused opposition parties of peddling Indian narrative. In his policy statement in the Senate, Shahzad Waseem said that narrative that started from Gujranwala, violated the sanctity of Quaid-e-Azam's mausoleum in Karachi and slogans of Free Balochistan were raised in Quetta. He said that the people of the country have rejected the anti-state narrative of the opposition parties from the platform of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM). "Opposition should clarify that whose narrative it is safeguarding". The leader of the house in the Senate made it clear pride of the country comes first then the government. Speaking on the floor of the National Assembly on Monday, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi had slammed PDM, an alliance of political opposition parties for targeting armed forces and other national institutions.

**'My Green Pakistan' plantation drive by RCCI**

STAFF REPORT / DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has kicked off its Plantation Drive under My Green Pakistan at Gulistan e Fatima Park Islamabad here on Thursday. The event was attended by Federal Minister for Narcotics Control Muhammad Azam Sawati, Senator Faisal Javed Khan, Dean of Diplomatic Corps H.E. Mr. Atadjan Movlamov and various ambassadors and high commissioners along with top executives of RCCI. Addressing the ceremony, Atadjan Movlamov said that the diplomatic community is ready to support PM Imran Khan Clean and Green initiative and is already participating in different activities in fight against climate change. The Ambassador said that climate change has badly affected different countries and added that his embassy will support RCCI efforts in promoting advocacy drives on tree plantation and rain water harvesting. Federal Minister for Narcotics Control Muhammad Azam Sawati lauded RCCI efforts for the national cause and said that Pakistan is among top ten countries where glaciers are melting with fast speed and causing climate



change. Climate change is directly linked with the economy of any country and we must all act now. We should promote these activities and work as a team to achieve one goal, i.e. Clean and Green Pakistan. RCCI President Nasir Mirza apprised the participants of current and future activities of the chamber. He said that RCCI now has become the first Green Chamber of Pakistan by installing rain water harvesting and recharge systems and solar panels at chamber building. He added that the prime objective of this event was to promote green culture among the community. Group leader RCCI Sohail Altaf said that its our collective responsibility to secure the future of our generations by promoting tree plantation and green initiatives. Later chief guests along with ambassadors planted trees in the park to mark the Green Pakistan Drive under the auspices of RCCI. Former Presidents RCCI, Senior Vice President Osman Ashraf, Vice President Shahraiz A Malik, executive committee and a large number of civil society attended the ceremony.

*-(Detailed coverage of the event shall be published in the coming issue of CENTRELINE)*