



# Islamabad Daily POST

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Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

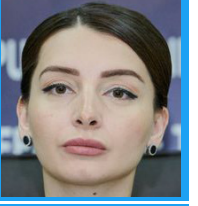
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UNODC organizes special training for 25 law enforcement officers

PDM's anti-state attempts won't succeed: Shibli



'Respect for territorial integrity principled position for Azerbaijan'



## Briefs

### President urges UN to implement resolutions

DNA  
ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has urged the United Nations to take steps to implement Security Council Resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir. Talking to UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Julien Harneis in Islamabad on Monday, he said Pakistan has always pursued peaceful resolution of all outstanding issues with India, including the core dispute of Jammu and Kashmir which has been on the agenda of the UN for over seven decades. The President reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to multilateralism.

### PM playing politics of corruption

GILGIT BALTIKISTAN: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that the Prime Minister Imran Khan is a liar who is playing politics of corruption and during his 2 years in power corruption has increased. He had promised to end corruption in 90 days and now says that he cannot end corruption with a switch button. Addressing a corner meeting in Gilgit Baltistan on Monday, Bilawal Bhutto said that his grandfather Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto ended FCIR and rajgiri system from GB. His mother Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto introduced democracy and allowed political parties to work in GB. His father President Zardari gave identity to the people of GB. - APP

### PDM anti-state attempts won't succeed

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Senator Shibli Faraz said on Monday the vicious attempt of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) to appease the enemy by spreading baseless propaganda against national institutions will not succeed. In a tweet, the minister said that PDM should not think that the masses would forget the statement of Ayaz Sadiq, Shibli Faraz said that the people of Pakistan need answer for the anti-national narrative of Gujranwala and Quetta public meetings and the incident of desecration of Mazar-e-Quaid. - APP

## Over 25 killed in Afghanistan varsity attack

Students of the Kabul University escaped a compound, with many climbing the boundary walls, after at least three assailants stormed the varsity

DNA / NEWS DESK  
KABUL: At least 25 people were killed or wounded Monday when gunmen stormed Kabul University in an attack that ended after hours of fighting with security forces, an official said. "Three attackers were involved. One of them blew up his explosives at the beginning, two were brought down by the security forces," interior ministry spokesman Tariq Arian told AFP, adding that at least 25 people had been killed or wounded. Students of the Kabul University escaped a compound, with many climbing the boundary walls, after at least three assailants stormed the varsity, Tolo News said, citing sources, with the attack coming as several senior government officials were expected to attend the opening of an Iranian book fair. Authorities have reached the attack scene, cordoning off the area and blocking all roads towards the university. The Taliban said they were not involved but several education centres have been attacked over the years by extremist groups such as Daesh.  
**Pak condemns terrorist attack**  
STAFF REPORT / DNA  
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan strongly condemns the mindless attack at Kabul University today, resulting in loss of so many precious lives and injuries to many more. This act of terrorism is particularly despicable as it targeted an institution of learning. We extend our deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and wish speedy recovery to the wounded. Our thoughts and prayers are also with the Afghan people in this hour of grief and sorrow. Pakistan condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and will continue to support a peaceful and stable Afghanistan.

## Pakistan, Saudia agree to cooperate in IT

Both the Ministers especially deliberated on cooperation in the digital field

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have agreed to undertake joint efforts for promotion of cooperation in the field of information technology. The understanding came during a telephonic conversation between Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Saudi Minister for Information Technology Abdullah Al-Swaha. Both the Ministers especially deliberated on cooperation in the digital field. Last month, during a telephone exchange, Qureshi and Saudi foreign minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud discussed bilateral ties and the situation in the region. Pakistan's foreign office said in a statement.

## COAS, Khalilzad discuss regional security situation

RAWALPINDI: US Special Representative for Afghan Reconciliation Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa in Rawalpindi on Monday, an ISPR press release said. "The regional security situation, the Afghan peace process, with particular reference to border management, and the way forward for lasting peace in Afghanistan were discussed during the meeting," the statement said. Khalilzad appreciated Pakistan's untiring efforts for facilitating the process towards the mutual objective of peace in the region, it added. Khalilzad is the Trump administration's special representative for Afghan peace and played a key role in arranging the US-Taliban deal and the joint declaration earlier this year. The US envoy had also called on the army chief last month to discuss matters related to mutual interest, peace and stability in the region, Pak-Afghan border management, and current developments in the Afghan peace process, according to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood receiving China's Ambassador-designate Nong Rong. - DNA

## Foreign Secretary receives Chinese envoy

DNA  
ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood received China's Ambassador-designate Nong Rong on Monday. The Foreign Secretary reaffirmed strong commitment to Pakistan-China 'All-Weather Strategic Co-operative Partnership, and hoped that CPEC projects would be fast-tracked. The Foreign Secretary also lauded Ambassador Nong Rong's experience & extended best wishes to him for successful term.

## Schools not being closed, says Shafqat

"It is again clarified that educational institutions are NOT being closed"

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Schools and other educational institutions are not being closed, stated Federal Minister for Education, Shafqat Mahmood on Monday despite a recent surge in coronavirus cases across the country. "Rumours again afloat regarding school closures. It is again clarified that educational institutions are NOT being closed," he announced via a tweet. He stated that the government will continue to monitor the health of students, teachers and school staff "but at the moment no such decision (about closing schools or educational institutions) has been made". Mahmood's tweet comes a day after Punjab Education Minister Murad Raas also dismissed speculation that schools across the province were not being closed due to rising cases of the novel virus.

## NCC meeting called as virus resurges

"Need to take immediate measures which have the most impact on disease spread without curtailing economic activity"

### Highest daily cases in 3 months

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday summoned a National Coordination Committee meeting tomorrow to discuss the growing trend of COVID-19 infections in the country. The premier will be briefed by the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) on the coronavirus situation. The development comes hours after Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar said the government was deliberating over additional measures to contain the rising spread of coronavirus in the population. Continued on Page 06  
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday recorded over 1,100 new coronavirus cases, the highest daily number since July 30, the Health Ministry said. With 1,123 new infections, the nationwide caseload reached 335,093, while 12 more people died from coronavirus over the past 24 hours pushing the toll to 6,835. As many as 315,016 people have so far recovered, while active cases stand at 13,242. On July 30, the country of over 200 million people recorded 903 cases of the novel virus, a figure which then started to decline. Amid a resurgence in cases across Europe and other countries, health experts have warned of a second wave in Pakistan as well. To contain the outbreak, the government has made wearing of masks mandatory in public places. Authorities also announced the shutting of all parks and entertainment venues by 6:00 p.m. local time (1300GMT) and markets, shopping centers, restaurants and banquet halls by 10:00 p.m. (1700GMT) nationwide. - DNA

## Chohan removed as Punjab info minister

Firdous Ashiq has been appointed as the special assistant to CM

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: LAHORE: Fayyaz ul Hassan Chohan has been removed as Punjab's information minister, read a notification from the Government of Punjab on Monday. Two other ministers along with Chohan have been removed, said the notification. Firdous Ashiq Awan - who previously served as the prime minister's special assistant on information - has been appointed as the special assistant to Chief Minister Usman Buzdar. According to the Government of Punjab, two other ministers besides Chohan have been removed from their posts. The notification further said that Chohan will remain the minister for colonies, while Punjab's information department will be headed by Awan. The other two ministers removed by the provincial government are Mehar Muhammad Aslam Bharwana, who was the minister for cooperatives, and Zawar Hussain Warraich, who was serving as the minister for prisons. This is the second time that Fayyaz ul Hasan Chohan has been removed from his portfolio after the Punjab government reappointed him as the provincial information minister in 2019.

## Norwegian embassy marks day to end impunity

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Royal Norwegian Embassy on Monday marked the International Day to end impunity for crimes against journalists. It was noted that the safety of journalists and media workers is a priority for Norway. A healthy democracy is reliant on the work journalists do to scrutinize the actions of governments and inform citizens. Free press is also a key to ensuring free and fair democratic elections. It is time to end impunity for crimes against journalists so that media workers in Pakistan and around the world can do their job freely and without fear.

## Maryam, Shahbaz, Hamza show unity

Chants of solidarity and support from the PML-N's political workers welcomed Maryam

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: PML-N Vice-President Maryam Nawaz hugged her cousin Hamza Shahbaz and party president, Shahbaz Sharif, in what was seen as a symbol of unity, as she arrived at a National Accountability Bureau (NAB) court here on Monday. Chants of solidarity and support from the PML-N's political workers welcomed Maryam Nawaz, who went in for a hug when she saw her cousin, Hamza, and then kindly patted his face. She then turned towards Shahbaz who embraced her in tender-hearted manner. (Picture on Page 2)

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## US Election 2020: Biden and Trump hit swing states

Republican President Trump, 74, visited five battleground states while his 77-year-old Democratic challenger spoke at a campaign event in Pennsylvania, where the race also looks tight

### WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump and Joe Biden have been travelling across the nation as the US election race enters its final hours. Republican President Trump, 74, visited five battleground states while his 77-year-old Democratic challenger spoke at a campaign event in Pennsylvania, where the race also looks tight. Mr Biden, a former vice-president, has a healthy national lead in the latest polls ahead of Tuesday's election. But his advantage is narrower in key states which could decide the result.

More than 90 million people have already cast their ballots in early voting, putting the country on course for its highest turnout in a century. To be elected US president, a candidate must win at least 270 votes in what's called the electoral college. Each US state gets a certain number of votes partly based on its population and there are a total of 538 up for grabs. President Trump had a punishing schedule on Sunday, holding rallies in Iowa, Michigan, North Carolina and Georgia, and later in Florida. In Michigan, Mr Trump boasted his leadership the state's car manufacturing

industry had been revived. At a later rally in Iowa, Mr Trump promised secure borders and more conservative judges in the courts. Meanwhile, Mr Biden headed to Pennsylvania, his place of birth and another key state.

At a rally in Philadelphia, Mr Biden addressed the city's black community, vowing to confront "systemic racism" in the US and attacking the president's handling of the pandemic - something which has disproportionately affected African Americans. "It's almost criminal the way he's handled it," he said. "It's a mass casualty event in the black community and it's totally unnecessary." Mr Biden earlier courted Latino voters with a tweet in Spanish, speaking of the separation of migrant families at the border and Mr Trump's "indifference" to the suffering of Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria struck in 2017. Meanwhile, Mr Trump will hold more rallies in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin. It can take several days for every vote to be counted after any US presidential election, but it's usually

pretty clear who the winner is by the early hours of the following morning. But don't set your alarm clocks just yet. Officials are already warning that we may have to wait longer - possibly days, even weeks - for the result this year because of the expected surge in postal ballots. On Sunday, a report by news site Axios said Mr Trump would declare victory on Tuesday night if it looked as if he was ahead. Mr Trump denied the report, but said that counting ballots after election day was a "terrible thing". Meanwhile, Mr Biden vowed to stop the Trump "stealing" the election.



## Briefs

PHA plants  
30,000  
saplings

DNA

FAISALABAD: The Parks & Horticulture Authority (PHA) Faisalabad planted 30,000 saplings during October 2020 for beautification of the city. According to PHA Director General Asima Ejaz Cheema, the Authority was taking steps for upgradation of parks and green-belts in Faisalabad. In this connection, it has also arranged walks and seminars to create awareness for maintaining beauty of the city. She said that the PHA has not only planted 30,000 saplings but also developed and renovated four parks and eight green-belts in Faisalabad. For this purpose, all stakeholders were taken into confidence, she added.

## Police foil bid to smuggle narcotics

SWABI: Tordheer police Monday foiled a bid to smuggle narcotics from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province to Punjab through Indus River and arrested a drug peddler who was wanted to police in various cases since 2014. According to district police spokesman, District Police Officer Imran Shahid received a tip-off regarding smuggling of huge quantity of Hashish through Indus River and deployed a police team led by DSP Taj Muhammad Khan and comprised of SHO Tordheer Sub-Inspector Altaf Khan. During raid at various points the police team arrested Zeeshan alias Shane s/o Tahir alias Boda resident of Tordheer and recovered 5 packets of Hashish concealed in a plastic sack on the banks of Indus River weighing 5,620 grams. The police also recovered a pistol from his custody. The notorious drug peddler Zeeshan alias Shane was wanted to police in eight cases of drug trafficking since 2014. - APP

## CAA bans visitors' entry to all airports

DNA

KARACHI: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) on Monday banned the entry of visitors to all airports across the country to stem the second wave of the coronavirus. According to the CAA, drivers will be allowed to drop passengers at the airports' drop lines and those coming to pick travellers up will be required to wait in their vehicles until flyers' arrival. Moreover, the CAA has made it mandatory for people to put on masks on the premises of the airports. It said these measures are aimed at addressing the coronavirus pandemic. Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar had recently stressed for strict implementation of precautionary measures to ward off the second wave of novel coronavirus pandemic in the country. In a meeting of National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) the federal minister said that the use of face masks is mandatory adding that enforcement of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in educational institutions and banquet halls will be strictly monitored. - APP

## Abid remanded in police custody till 17th

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Monday handed over Abid Malhi, the prime suspect in the Motorway gang-rape case, to police on 15-day physical remand. ATC Judge Arshad Hussain Bhutta conducted the case proceedings, wherein the authorities produced Abid Malhi on expiry of his judicial remand. A prosecutor apprised the court that the process of identification parade had been completed during the judicial remand. He pleaded with the court to hand over the accused to police on 30-day physical remand for investigation and recovery of pistol and other items. However, the court remanded him in police custody for 15 days and ordered for producing him on Nov 17. - APP



LAHORE: Secretary Information and Broadcasting Akbar Hussain Durrani in a group photo officers during his visit to Press Information Department. - APP

## Kyrgyz markets are open for Pakistani traders, says envoy

LAHORE: Ambassador of Kyrgyz Republic to Pakistan, Erik Beishembiev said on Monday that Pakistani industrialists could exports their goods via Kyrgyzstan to Europe and other western markets. Erik Beishembiev offered the Pakistani traders and investors to use Kyrgyzstani markets for exporting their goods directly to Europe and other countries. Addressing to the RoundTable Conference convened by Lahore Center for Peace Research, H.E Erik Beishembiev said that Kyrgyzstan was dynamically developing and foreign investors were widely presented. Investment in Kyrgyz republic was easy and profitable. Kyrgyzstan was now focused on its high quality and environmental friendly agricultural products, organic vegetable and fruits, meat, dairy products and honey. He said that for several years, Kyrgyzstan had been successfully exporting Kyrgyz honey to Europe and Arab countries.



The Kyrgyz Ambassador said that Kyrgyzstan attached great importance to the development of economic cooperation visa to Pakistan in order to promote greater economic relations between both countries.

Kyrgyzstan was interested in cooperating Pakistan to handle energy crisis and wanted to implement the great Central Asia-South Asia power project CASA-

1000, he added. Erik Beishembiev emphasized on the renewal of transport deals within Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan for multilateral agreement on transit transports between Pa-

kistan, China, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan as a part of CPEC. "This will bring our countries more closer," he said. He said that bilateral trade and economic cooperation between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan was currently low. "Current volume of trade between two countries is 4 billion dollars and Pakistan's investment in Kyrgyzstan is about 3.5 billion dollars," he said and reiterated that priority areas for economic cooperation between both countries included medicine and pharmaceutical sector, electricity production and supplying, mining, food, textile and IT industry. He said that both countries needed to intensify people to people contacts and spread more information about both cultures. Lack of direct air and road transport between both countries was also a hurdle for economic cooperation between both countries, he said. - APP

## SSP highway patrol media briefing

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: The prevention of crime and accident on highways is the prime responsibility of Punjab Highway Patrol, SSP Ch. Farooq Ahmad Hundal told the media that as many as 458 cases were registered under different sections and 459 criminals were arrested during the month of October.

He briefed that 4 Kalashnikovs, 2 Rifle 244 Bore, 4 Rifles 12 Bore, 12 pistols 30 Bore with 208 bullets and 16 cartridges were recovered. Furthermore, total 220 liter liquor, 5 kg 65 Gram Cannabis was recovered. As many as 79 proclaimed offenders and 7 court absconders were arrested. Dead meat is detrimental to health. 180 KG dead meat was recovered. As many as 123 cases were registered against reckless drivers U/S 279 PPC. Moreover, 6 lost children were found and reunited with their relatives. Help rendering were extended to 2692 commuters. Total 23 encroachments were removed for free flow of traffic. 329 Motorcycles were impounded U/S 134 PO, 115 MVO and 550 Cr.P.C. Further, he emphasized that the help line of PHP is 1124. The signboards and information regarding Helpline 1124 is displayed in all beat areas. The road commuters should know about the helpline and call in case of any emergency and happening of mishap. The awareness about helpline 1124 saves road users from distress and any untoward incident.

## Two street criminals caught by citizens

DNA

KARACHI: Two street criminals were caught red-handed by the citizens in Karachi's area of Bahadurabad. According to details, the robbers were looting a car driver, when a citizen hit them with his car. As a result, both the robbers got injured and were caught by the citizens. The arrested robbers were handed over to the police after subjecting them to torture by the angry citizens. The police have recovered looted valuables and weapons from the custody of the arrested. Earlier in the month of July, four locals of Korangi area of Karachi grabbed a hold of robbers trying to flee the scene of the crime in the vicinity of Bilal Colony police station. The robbers were on a motorcycle but were intercepted by four locals who got alerted to the robbery by the man who they had just mugged.

## Alfalah, Mastercard launch alfa virtual debit card

DNA

KARACHI: Bank Alfalah has announced the launch of the Alfa Virtual Debit Card in collaboration with Mastercard in an endeavour to bring the bank closer to customers in the times of social distancing. The virtual card eliminates the need to visit a branch, present any physical documentation or in-person interaction to application as customer verification is performed digitally. The launch of the new card is in line with the bank's commitment to support citizens and communities by providing convenient solutions enabling them to continue banking remotely. With this launch, Bank Alfalah aims to drive inclusivity by broadening its reach to cater to a diverse customer base and improve the digital payments ecosystem across the country.

## Name Correction

I, Saif Ali Khokhar s/o Niaz Ahmed Khokhar CNIC 61101-8333008-5, Resident of Village and PO Alipur Islamabad, appeared in SSC Annual / Supplementary Exam (2014) with Roll No 906692, Registration No 1412981123 from FBISE with my name as Saif Ali s/o Niaz Ahmed Khokhar, which I changed to Saif Ali Khokhar s/o Niaz Ahmed Khokhar in all my senses. Please correct all my records.

## Revenue Public Service Katchahri held

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: On the directions of Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Bazar, a Revenue Public Service Katchahri was held at the Circuit House in which senior member Board of Revenue (SMBR) Babar Hayat Tarar also reached and listened to the problems of the citizens. Divisional Commissioner Ishrat Ali and Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali were also present. Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Fazal Rabi Cheema, Additional Deputy Commissioner General / Assistant Commissioner Sadar Umar Maqbool, Assistant Commissioner City Syed Ayub Bukhari, Revenue Department officials, Assistant Director Land Record City and the Sadar, Tehsildar, Niab Tehsildar and Patwari were also present. SMBR said that Revenue Katchahri are being hold on every first working day of month and problems are being solved on the spot. He appreciated the steps taken by the district administration in resolving the issues related to the citizens' revenue department immediately and said that this initiative has radically changed the centuries-old pattern. He said that he visited district and tehsil in the province and listening public complaints. He said that the Department of Revenue was at the forefront of public service and holding Revenue Public Service Courts would not only solve the problems of the people but also increase their confidence. The Divisional Commissioner said that officers in all the four districts and tehsils of the division were listening to public issues during the courts and the first working day of each month has been allotted for this purpose. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali said that the problems of the people's under one roof are being addressed by listening to the problems related to the revenue department. He said that speedy resolution of issues and grievances related to the revenue department including issuance of domicile, faad, registry, income certificate and other revenue matters are being solved on spot.

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## FPCCI urges for halal product certification to retain GCC market

DNA

KARACHI: Mian Anjum Nisar president FPCCI while referring product certification to be required by Saudi Arabia wide its new note verbal No 210-41-1601, dated July 28, 2020, strongly urged all stakeholders in the public-private sector, Government sector, and ministry should take up this issue immediately. According to the notification from the Saudi Food and drug authority (SFDA) has issued health and hygiene conditions and requirements that

must be met by food factories exporting their products to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. These mandatory conditions will enter into force on July 1, 2021, and the Saudi Authority SFDA had notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of this change on October 7, 2019. New conditions Details can be found at the SFDA website. Saudi Arabia considered being the single largest market for food and beverage products in the Gulf, accounting for more than half of all of the region's imports. Our food industries have a sizeable trade with Saudi Arabia.

Mian Anjum Nisar shared his grave concerns over it if the food sector industries are not able to acquire the halal certificate it will face difficulties and un-amendable losses. The industries of Pakistan especially SMEs have not been fully recovered through post-corona economic tragedy. Hike in power and natural gas prices are also forcing them into vulnerability. Any industry engaged in food sector activity without an accredited halal certification will lose the opportunity to trade with Saudi Arabia. Local food industries are obligated to acquire

halal certification and to implement and maintain health and hygiene conditions as prescribed by the Saudi Food and drug authority (SFDA) He advised industries to avail support by the "Ministry of Science & Technology Certification Incentive Program for SMEs" through which SMEs can benefit incentive grants up to 0.4 million rupees upon acquiring any halal certification. FPCCI will utilize all available resources to create awareness about certification Incentive Program and to motivate SMEs to avail it for their benefits.



LAHORE: PML N Vice President Maryam Nawaz meets President PML N Shahbaz Sharif at Accountability Court. - DNA

## KIIR seeks UN intervention to address IIOJK issue

The unilateral move followed by a crippling clampdown and communication blockade has thrown the territory into a quagmire of uncertainty and perpetual violence that continue to consume innocent lives at an unprecedented scale

MIRPUR: World-fame Kashmiri think-tank - the Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR) Monday made a fervent appeal to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, urging him to mount pressure on the Indian government to stop human rights violations, persecution of journalists, rights defenders and civil society activists in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. In a letter addressed to the UN secretary-general, KIIR chief Altaf Hussain Wani sought Guterres' urgent attention toward the highly critical situation in IIOJK, saying, "The human rights situation in the occupied Kashmir has taken

a dangerous turn after the Indian government's unilateral decision to forcibly annex the disputed state into Indian Union, last year." "The unilateral move followed by a crippling clampdown and communication blockade has thrown the territory into a quagmire of uncertainty and perpetual violence that continue to consume innocent lives at an unprecedented scale," he said adding that there has been no letup in the state-sponsored violence as arbitrary arrests, extra-judicial killings, forced disappearances and military crackdowns and nocturnal raids by the Indian army continue unabated. "Thousands of Kashmiris includ-

ing political activists, lawyers, human rights activists and youth who were arrested before and after August 5th last year continue to rot in jails far away from their homes", the communique said. "Every aspect of the disputed state of Jammu and Kashmir, society, politics and culture today bears the scars of the 14-month inhuman siege, the longest in Kashmir's history", he said adding that fundamental political and human rights including the right to freedom of expression, the right to opinion and right to assembly remained severely restricted in the region. Massive crackdown on civil society, human

rights defenders and persecution of journalists he said reflect the dangerous and dark aspects of the fascism the Indian state had exhibited while dealing with the political dissent in the region. He lamented that the Government of Indian was using counterterrorism laws to muzzle the media and silencing critical and truthful voices. "There has been an immense rise in the incidents of coercion, intimidation and harassment of journalists, rights groups and the civil society activists who have been critical of the militaristic approach," the communique said adding that the GoI was now using its so-called investigation agency the NIA to harass and terrorize them on one

pretext or another. These rights groups he said were being targeted for their work and cooperation with the UN and other international organizations in bringing out human rights violations being committed by the Indian troops in Indian administered territory of Jammu and Kashmir. About the enactment of a series of anti-Kashmiri laws by the Indian government he underlined that the laws such as Domicile Law, Media-Policy 2020, New Education Policy, Land Law and the law, which empowers Indian security forces to demarcate/grab any piece of land in the territory, have instilled a fear of insecurity amongst the Kashmiris". - APP

## Briefs

### Police arrest three gang-rape suspects

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested three suspects in a case pertaining to the alleged gang-rape of a 13-year-old girl in the limits of Wah Cantt, Rawalpindi on Monday. The rape victim in her plea stated that she was gang-raped by three suspects after offering a lift. Senior Superintendent Syed Ali said that three suspects have been taken into custody by the police after registration of the case on the complaint of the victim. On the other hand, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Inam Ghani has also sought a detailed report from RPO Rawalpindi in the case. The IGP Punjab has ordered strict action against the guilty in the case and directed the provision of timely justice to the rape-victim. The number of gang-rape cases in Punjab has seen a sharp increase in the last two months. On September 21, a woman was allegedly gang-raped during a robbery in Depalpur city in Okara. Police had registered an FIR of the incident against seven suspects on the complaint of the victim's husband. The woman was shifted to Tehsil Headquarters Hospital, Depalpur in critical condition. He said the robbers took cash, gold ornaments, and other valuables with them after raping the woman.

### PNCA to hold puppet shows from Nov 6 to 14

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) will hold puppet shows in annual Lok Mela to be held at the Lok Virda from November 6 to 14. The puppet shows would aim to promote and preserve the dying art of puppetry through educating the children and norms using puppets as tools in a soft and subtle manner. The puppet shows will feature theme-based puppetry that usually revolves around current issues including women and children related issues, education and environment to educate the audience especially children through infotainment. According to an official, special PNCA puppet artist will perform in the shows who have taught special techniques of puppetry from different institutions. He said performers in these shows were contractual employees of PNCA who have received special trainings in this art. These artists were not only trained in Pakistan, but they have also been sent abroad by PNCA for different professional training including singing and dances, he added. These puppet shows are promoting societies' culture and ethnicity with the references to their folk legacies, he stated. — APP

### IRSA releases 80,500 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 80,500 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 48,000 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarela Dam was 1524.89 feet, which was 138.89 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 28,600 cusecs and outflow as 38,000 cusecs. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1207.80 feet, which was 167.80 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 6,900 cusecs and 30,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Tauna and Sukkur was recorded as 53,400, 37,800 and 7,300 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 4,500 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 3,000 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala. — APP



RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) President Nasir Mirza, Group Leader and Former President Sohail Altaf, UBG Group Patron-in-Chief SM Munir, Chairman UBG Iftekhar A Malik and Presidential Candidate for FPCCI Khalid Tawab and others in a Group photo at a reception ceremony in the honor of UBG at a local hotel in Rawalpindi. — DNA

## NAB's strategy started yielding excellent results

Honorable Justice Mr. Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB said that NAB is an apex anti corruption organization of the country which has assigned a gigantic task of eradication of corruption and to recover looted money from corrupt elements

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Justice (RETD) Javed Iqbal, Chairman, NAB chaired a meeting to review the latest progress on the implementation status of the decisions and measures taken by the present leadership of NAB. The meeting was attended by Deputy Chairman NAB, Prosecutor General Accountability (PGA) DG Operations, DG NAB Rawalpindi and other senior officers of NAB including all Director General of Regional Bureaus via video link at NAB Headquarters. While chairing the meeting, Honorable Justice Mr. Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB said that NAB is absolutely determined to eradicate corruption to make Pakistan corruption free. NAB's Anti-Corruption Strategy has started yielding excellent results.

He said that NAB has prescribed efficient, effective and expeditious disposal of white collar crimes cases putting a maximum limit of 10 months which is a record as compared to other Anti-Corruption Organizations.

He said that NAB has established a state of the art Forensic Science LAB in Islamabad which has facilities of Digital Forensics, Questioned Documents and Fingerprint Analysis.

During the meeting, Honorable Chairman NAB directed that performance review of NAB headquarters and all the Regional Bureaus of NAB would be conducted at the end of the year at a given criteria under Quantified Grading System in order to further improve the performance of officers/officials of NAB as with better quantitative and qualitative improvements in Operational Efficiency Index,

rationalized workload, clearly drawn job descriptions and institutional support and supervision.

Honorable Justice Mr. Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB said that NAB is an apex anti corruption organization of the country which has assigned a gigantic task of eradication of corruption and to recover looted money from corrupt elements. Chairman NAB said that taking mega corruption cases/white collar crime cases to logical conclusion is top most priority of NAB.

NAB strongly believes in conducting the inquiries and investigations of white collar crimes on scientific lines that too after collecting solid evidence as per law. During the meeting, it was informed by DG operations, that out of 179 mega corruption cases, NAB had filed 97 corruption references in different

accountability courts, while 57 references had been taken to logical conclusion.

Currently, out of 179 mega corruption references, 10 inquiries and 15 investigations are under process. He said that NAB attaches great importance to its Human Resource Management. A comprehensive yearly Training Plan for 2020 was approved in order to enhance capacity building of NAB officers/officials. He said Training Cells were created at all Regional levels as primarily responsible to liaise and carry out the planned activities in their respective Regional Bureaus in coordination with T&R Division NAB Headquarters who had successfully conducted training programs besides a Training of Trainers (ToT) program was also organized at NAB Headquarters.

Honorable Justice Mr. Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB said that

the figures of complaints, inquiries and investigations have increased as compared to the same period of 2019 to 2020. The comparative figures of previous two years are indicative of the hard work being put in by all ranks of NAB officers/officials in an atmosphere of renewed energy and dynamism, where fight against corruption is being taken as a national duty. Increase in the number of complaints also reflects enhanced public trust in the NAB. The Chairman NAB said that NAB officers are considering eradication of corruption as their national duty. Serious efforts to combat corruption are being made with the realization that eradication of corruption from Pakistan. He directed all officers of NAB to demonstrate absolute fairness and transparency as per law in discharge of their national duties.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Republic of Turkey Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi at Naval Headquarters. The Ambassador congratulated CNS on assuming command of Pakistan Navy. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest and bilateral relations were discussed. Naval Chief also expressed grief over losses in recent earthquake at Turkey and prayed for speedy recovery of the injured. — DNA

### Stinking ICT nullahs become nuisance for residents

According to details, due to negligence of MCI these natural streams were flooded with heaps of garbage and waste that had made the lives of people miserable living besides those Nullahs

ISLAMABAD: The residents of federal capital on Monday demanded of the authorities concerned for cleaning capital city's stinking nullahs that have become constant nuisance for citizens. Talking to APP, the citizens of some sectors such as G-7, I-8 and I-10 respectively have said in their complain to the authorities that persistent odour and foul smell was prompting health related hazards. According to details, due to negligence of Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI) these natural streams were flooded with heaps of garbage and household waste that had made the lives of people miserable living besides those Nullahs. Ali Rizwan a resident of I-8 when talked to this scribe told that, "A lot of inhabitants are suffering from respiratory diseases due to intake of polluted air spewing through these drains", he added. Javed Khan, another resident of I-10 urged MCI to ensure provision of dumpsters near these nullahs so that the citizens should throw the garbage into it. Zubair Ahmed resident of G-7 said, the nullah was full of garbage people of nearby areas were facing serious health issues including skin, respiratory problem and others. "The cleanliness drive of Nullahs should be initiated on regular basis for smooth flow of water from drains", he added. When MCI Sanitation Director Sardar Khan Zimri was contacted about this issue, he said the local population living on both sides of nullahs were responsible for polluting these streams by throwing garbage. — APP

### Police foils bid to smuggle drugs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Sabzi Mandi and Noon police have thwarted an attempt to smuggle narcotics from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to down parts of the country and arrested two persons in possession of cache of drugs, a police spokesman said. Following orders of IGP Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfiqar Khan, he said that DIG (Operations) Waqar Uddin Syed had categorically directed all police officers to accelerate their efforts against drug dealers/smugglers and curb this menace from Capital. Following these directions, SP (Industrial Area) Zubair Ahmad Shaikh constituted special team under the supervision of DSP Khalid Mehmood Awan including SHOs Sabzi Mandi Sub-Inspector Muhammad Iqbal, SHO Noon Abdul Razaq, Sub-Inspectors Adeel Shokat, Muhammad Nawaz along with others. The accused identified as Saif-ur-Rehman and Javed Khan besides recovery of 6.357kilogram hashish from them. During preliminary investigation both the suspects confessed to smuggle this cache of drug from KPK to Islamabad and various cities of Punjab.

### NEPRA issues 27 generation licenses in 2019-20

ISLAMABAD: National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has issued 27 generation licenses with cumulative installed capacity of 2338.14 MW to various companies during 2019-20. Giving the details, sources told APP here that out of total, as many as 16 licenses have been issued for solar, two hydel, four each thermal and wind and one nuclear during the said period. The thermal has total 315.99 MW capacity, hydel 117.02 MW, Wind 138.70 MW, Solar 621.43 MW and Nuclear 1145 MW. They said the licenses were issued to Lake City Management (Pvt) Limited, Jabori Power Project, SAIFCO Hydropower Ltd, CIHC Pak Power Company Ltd, Karachi Nuclear Power Plant-2, Burj Wind Energy (Pvt) Limited, Moro Power Company Ltd, Shafi Energy (Pvt) Limited, Sino Well (Pvt) Limited, Enertech Bostan Solar (Pvt) Ltd and Enertech Quetta Solar (Pvt) Ltd. Similarly, licenses were also issued to Kulachi Solar Power Pvt Ltd, US Apparel and Textile (Pvt) Limited, Vision Developers (Pvt) Limited, FAS Energy Pakistan Pvt Limited, Grid Edge (Pvt) Limited, Javed Solar Park (Pvt) Limited, Asia Energy (Pvt) Limited, Siddiqsons Kohat Solar Limited, Siddiqsons Nowsherhra Solar Limited. — APP

### Traders to hold protest on Nov 4

RAWALPINDI: Trade bodies of the city would organize a protest rally on November 4 against the hate-based narrative against Islam by the French President Emmanuel Macron. President Markazi Anjum Tajran Shahid Ghafoor Paracha, Chairman Traders Action committee Pakistan Sharjeel Mir, and Chairman Pharmaceutical traders Association Arshad Awan said in a statement here on Monday. According to statement, the rally in collaboration with local Ulema would start from Fawara Chowk and would end at Waris Khan bus stop. They appealed to masses to participate in the rally to express their love for the Holy Prophet (SAW). — APP

### Chances of smog to increase in Capital

ISLAMABAD: Spokesman Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) Dr Khalid Malik Monday said in coming days chances of smog 'Air Quality Index' (AQI) would increase in federal capital. He said that smog would may increase around 200-250(AQI) in capital which considered to be in unhealthy trend. He underlined the need that people should follow the SOP's while going outside as it directly effects on the lungs. Adding that Lahore, Faisalabad and its adjoining areas having intense smog due to vehicle pollution and industrial pollution comparatively other areas. He said those allergies patients try to be more careful during the coming days as it would be more harmful to them. — APP

### 13101 candidates for matric re-exams

RAWALPINDI: Board of Intermediate & Secondary Education (BISE), Rawalpindi Matric supplementary examination 2020 will commence from November 7. According to RBISE spokesman, Roll no slips have been dispatched to regular candidates at their respective institutions while private candidates will receive slips at their residential addresses. In case the candidate has not received the roll no slip, are advised to download slips from board's website [www.biserawalpindi.edu.pk](http://www.biserawalpindi.edu.pk) or contact their institution. As many as 13101 candidates would appear in the examination for which 53 examination centres have been set up in the board's jurisdiction, he added. — APP

## Razak pleased over 22.6% growth in pharmaexports

"Alhamdulillah, I am glad to share that our pharmaceutical exports have gotten off to a good start this year. In value terms, our exports have grown by 22.6% in the first quarter (Q1) to USD 68.1m as compared to USD 55.6m in the corresponding period last year," the minister tweeted

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment, Razak Dawood Monday expressed pleasure over the considerable growth in the pharmaceutical exports, which grew by 22.6 percent during the first quarter (Q1) to over \$68.1 million compared to \$55.6 million during the corresponding period of last year. "Alhamdulillah, I am glad to share that our pharmaceutical exports

have gotten off to a good start this year. In value terms, our exports have grown by 22.6% in the first quarter (Q1) to USD 68.1 million as compared to USD 55.6 million in the corresponding period last year," the minister tweeted. He said credited pharmaceutical exporters for this success as they worked hard to ensure positive growth in trade in this particular export sector. "All this has been due to the hard work our Pharmaceutical exporters and renewed focus on exports.



I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Dr. Faisal Sultan @fslsln and his team for their valuable support to the Pharma

Industrial Sector," he tweeted. It is pertinent to mention here that the country exported pharmaceutical products worth USD \$68.176 million during July-September (2020-21) as against the exports of US \$55.609 million during July-September (2019-20), showing growth of 22.60 percent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). Meanwhile, on year-to-year basis, the exports of pharmaceutical products witnessed growth of 57.99 percent during the month of

September 2020 as compared to the same month of last year. The exports of pharmaceutical product from the country during September 2020 were recorded at \$27.149 million against the exports of \$18.249 million in September 2019. On month-on-month basis, the exports of pharmaceutical products increased by 64.87 percent during September 2020, when compared to the exports of US \$16.467 million during August 2020, the data said.

## Briefs

Morals  
be strong  
enough: IHC  
on TikTok

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) removed encroachments from various areas of capital during last 8 days. According to detail, Directorate of Enforcement removed illegal fruit stalls from PWD stop on October 23. The property office of Chaudhry Azam on Kahuta road has been sealed. Similarly the property office of Ayesha Town Scheme has also been sealed. Service station in street number 14 of G-8 was sealed. Other encroachments against which the Directorate took action on the same day include encroachments at the gate of PIMS, vegetable market I-11, illegal construction of rooms in Maskeen colony of G-8, and encroachments in front of zoo at Margalla road. On October 24, the Directorate of enforcement took action against encroachments nearby Quaid-e-Azam University, illegal construction in E-10 and E-11, and Khana pull. On October 25, the authority took action against the encroachments in H-9 bazar, and Panjgraan. On October 26, strict action taken against encroachments in G-8/4 street No. 32, G-7 slums area, GT Road, I-8/1, I-9, F-7, G-8. The operation of CDA continued and on October 27 the authority demolished the illegal wash rooms at Tarnol Road. Illegal fruit stalls were removed from I-11 and fruit was donated to sweet home. The operation continued in the following days during which encroachments were removed from various spots of the capital.

Islamic  
Calligraphy  
workshop

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Punjab Council of the Arts (PUCAR) in collaboration with Takhlige Forum organized a one-day Islamic Calligraphy workshop here on Monday to promote Islamic art in connection with Rabi-ul-Awal. Presidential Award winning calligrapher Elahi Bakhsh Mattee imparted training to the students in the workshop. He delivered a special lecture on history of Islamic calligraphy to the students along with its past, present and future. Mattee also gave practical training in different style of writing. Speaking on the occasion, Director PUCAR Waqar Ahmed said that Islamic Calligraphy had a significant place not in Pakistan, but also in the whole world, adding calligraphy is fundamental in Islamic arts. He said that the Council regularly organized workshops to introduce Islamic calligraphy to students and interest of students in it is a proof that the art of calligraphy is flourishing in Pakistan. At the end certificates were distributed among the participants of the workshop.

DRAP  
launches  
'MED safety  
mobile app'

ISLAMABAD: Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) on Monday launched 'MED safety mobile application' in Pakistan to report adverse drug reactions (ADRs) cases for taking action by the authorities concerned. Sharing details of this mobile app, Director Pharmacy Services DRAP Dr. Abdur Rashid said that in case of any such grievance, the victims can submit complaint with the DRAP through this mobile app. He said that only seven countries have created this mobile app so far for the purpose. He added that the World Health Organization (WHO) will directly receive this complaint on any such matter regarding adverse reactions of drug. He said that the complainant could submit report on adverse reactions even when offline or to view and submit updates to previously submitted reports. He said the complainant could also see immediate acknowledgment of receipt of report. He said that there was a watch list of medications to receive personalized news and alert. He added while using this option one can create a watch

ICCI, DWE to provide  
trainings to workers of SMEs

Syed Noor Ul Hassnain said that the Directorate of Workers Education (DWE) was working to provide free of cost trainings to produce devoted and disciplined manpower according to the current requirements of the market

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and Directorate of Workers Education (DWE) here on Monday jointly taken an initiative for providing free of cost trainings to the workers of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) including industrial and commercial establishments. Director General, Directorate of Workers Education (DWE), Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Management Syed Noor Ul Hassnain, along with Deputy Directors Muhammad Naqi Khan and Muhammad Akbar Rai visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and exchanged views with President ICCI, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan and his team for providing trainings to the workers of SMEs including industrial and commercial establishments, said a press release. Syed Noor Ul Hassnain said that the Directorate of Workers Education (DWE) was working to provide free of cost trainings to produce devoted and disciplined manpower according to the current requirements of the market. The training initiatives covered various topics including effective time management, stress management, total quality management, change management, work ethics and communication skills. He added, DWE was providing in-house trainings as well as trainings at workplaces, both for employees and employers. He said that all expenses of trainings and trainers were borne



by the DWE and the purpose of training interventions was to make the workers of various public and private sector organizations more productive. He said that ICCI members should take benefit of the services of DWE to improve the skills and productivity of their employees. Speaking at the occasion, President ICCI Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan lauded the role of DWE for providing free of cost trainings to working people. He said that industries and businesses could improve their

productivity and service delivery significantly by focusing on trainings and skills development of their workforce. He said that Pakistan has immense pool of young talent that could be transformed into a great dividend for the country by imparting them demand-driven trainings and skills. He said that ICCI would organize one-day training workshop in collaboration with DWE in its premises in which workers of SMEs from trade, industry and services sectors would be invited to get the required training. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan

said that over 60 percent of Pakistan's population was below the age of 35 and if they were trained and equipped with demand-driven skills to gain employment in domestic and international markets, a major chunk of the country's population would be able to work towards enhancing the nation's industrial productivity, competitiveness, domestic production, and exports besides significantly boosting the inflow of foreign remittances. He said that providing technical trainings to youth and enhancing their skills

should be the key focus of the government to make them key drivers of economic growth of the country. Senior Vice President, Ms. Fatma Azim, Vice President ICCI, Abdul Rehman Khan, M. Ejaz Abbasi, Saeed Khan, Aslam Khokhar, Raja Hassan Akhtar, Umar Hussain, Ali Akram Khan, Khalid Chaudhry and others also spoke at the occasion and gave useful suggestions for organizing training interventions for workers of SMEs to make them more efficient and productive.

CDA removes  
encroachments from  
various areas

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) removed encroachments from various areas of capital during last 8 days. According to detail, Directorate of Enforcement removed illegal fruit stalls from PWD stop on October 23. The property office of Chaudhry Azam on Kahuta road has been sealed. Similarly the property office of Ayesha Town Scheme has also been sealed. Service station in street number 14 of G-8 was sealed. Other encroachments against which the Directorate took action on the same day include encroachments at the gate of PIMS, vegetable market I-11, illegal construction of rooms in Maskeen colony of G-8, and encroachments in front of zoo

at Margalla road. On October 24, the Directorate of enforcement took action against encroachments nearby Quaid-e-Azam University, illegal construction in E-10 and E-11, and Khana pull. On October 25, the authority took action against the encroachments in H-9 bazar, and Panjgraan. On October 26, strict action taken against encroachments in G-8/4 street No. 32, G-7 slums area, GT Road, I-8/1, I-9, F-7, G-8. The operation of CDA continued and on October 27 the authority demolished the illegal wash rooms at Tarnol Road. Illegal fruit stalls were removed from I-11 and fruit was donated to sweet home. The operation continued in the following days during which encroachments were removed from various spots of the capital.

Over 30 million  
children vaccinated  
against polio

DNA

ISLAMABAD: More than 30 million children under the age of five-year received anti-polio drops in 128 districts across the country during seven-day sub-national campaign against the disease. According to an official of Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme, the campaign which was started on October 26, covered areas included 33 districts of Punjab, 33 districts of Balochistan, 41 districts of Sindh, eight districts of Gilgit Baltistan, 10

districts of AJK and one district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said that during this campaign more than 210,000 frontline workers visited door to door to protect children from this crippling disease. The vaccinators adhered to stringent COVID-19 preventative operating procedures as they did in the campaigns conducted in July, August and September, he added. Coordinator of the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) of the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme, Dr Rana Safdar said.

PTCL partners with  
ICAP for shared services

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) has agreed to offer the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) exclusive discount packages for seamless telephone and internet services for all ICAP members. Muhammad Shehzad Yousuf, Chief Business Operations Officer PTCL, presented offer pertaining to PTCL services to Syed Masood Akhtar, Secretary, ICAP, at a special ceremony organized at ICAP office in Karachi. Khalilullah Shaikh, President ICAP and Hina Usmani, Vice

President ICAP, attended the ceremony, along with Abdul Zahir Achakzai, EVP Business Zone South PTCL, Azhar Saeed, GM Sales South PTCL and Omair Jamal, Senior Director, Education & Training ICAP. This offer will include Managed IT & Telecom services such as Voice, High Speed Internet, International connectivity, Static IP and GSM consumer solutions. Ufone, being a subsidiary of PTCL, plans to offer state-of-the-art Call Center solution to ICAP. Through the establishment of an in-house Call Center at

ICAP, Ufone will also be offering expert technical support. Moreover, this facility will enhance ICAP's connectivity with all its stakeholders. Speaking on the occasion, Muhammad Shehzad Yousuf, Chief Business Operations Officer PTCL, said, 'We are delighted to partner with ICAP where the community of chartered accountants will experience high quality telephone, internet and managed digital services across Pakistan. We are at the forefront to serve our nation through concerted efforts in line with the vision of Digital Paki-

stan. Through such partnerships, we endeavor to support organizations such as ICAP that is a part of the education sector and the regulator of the accountancy profession in Pakistan to play a pivotal role in nation building.' Khalilullah Shaikh, President ICAP said, 'Academic excellence demands better connectivity these days. PTCL, being the national telecommunication service provider, has vast infrastructure and expertise to support our increasing demand of internet and telecom services. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Sardar Tahir Mehmood President IEAA, Khalid Choudhry Former SVP-ICCI & Rana Qaiser Executive Member ICCI visited Senator Talha Mehmood at his Residence & after meeting Presenting Flowers. - DNA

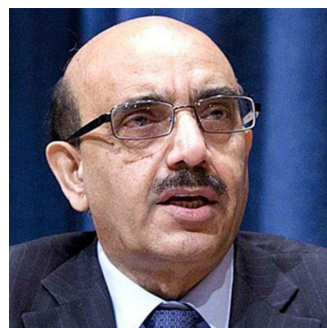
## Masood demands economic sanctions on France

Masood Khan said that the 2 billion strong, Muslim Ummah is in itself an economic power, adding that we must collectively ban all French products, stop trade with France and reject any further economic ties with them

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Masood Khan, President Azad Jammu and Kashmir, while denouncing the recent statements by French President Emmanuel Macron, said that by encouraging Islamophobia and allowing blasphemous caricatures of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is creating further polarization by hurting the sentiments of the Muslim Ummah and attacking the teaching and value system of Islam. He said that the Muslim Ummah should impose economic sanctions against France in the wake of this wicked move. The President made these remarks while speaking to a seven-member delegation led by Member AJK Legislative Assembly Pir Ali Raza Bukhari, which called on the President here at Jammu and Kashmir House. The delegation also comprised of Chairman International Sufi Scholars Forum (ISSF)

Dr. Masood Ahmad Raza Al-Rafai, and Chairman Al Mustafa Welfare Trust-UK Abdul Razaq Sajid Chairman. The President along with the delegation strongly condemned Emanuel Macron's hate-mongering. Masood Khan said that the 2 billion strong, Muslim Ummah is in itself an economic power, adding that we must collectively ban all French products, stop trade with France and reject any further economic ties with them. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman ISSF Dr. Masood Ahmad Raza informed the President of the activities of the organization. He said that ISSF has worked towards bringing Sufis from around the world and in a coordinated fashion has helped carry out numerous educational and welfare projects. He said that it is our firm belief that Kashmiris have to be liberated from Indian occupation and that Kashmiris be given their right to self-determination. He also informed that the ISSF has actively advocated the



Kashmir issue in all their conferences and helped sensitize the general public on the human rights crisis in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Chairman Al Mustafa Welfare Trust-UK Abdul Razaq Sajid informed the President of various social welfare activities of the Trust in connection to organizing free eye-camps and providing health facilities to the indigent segments of the population here in Pakistan and AJK. He said that Al Mustafa Trust has conducted over 100,000 successful

eye operations, provided protection to women in its Dar-ul-Kafala and vocational centres at its numerous vocational centres around the country. Apprising the President, he said that free eye camps are frequently set up in rural areas where patients are also provided transport to and from the camps. He said that recently a free eye-camp was also organized in Palandri and currently the Trust is conducting a 2-month long free eye camp campaign all over AJK, comprising 40 camps spread over 12 cities. He also requested the cooperation of the AJK Government for building an eye hospital in Muzaffarabad. Abdul Razaq said that under the banner of Save our Children in Kashmir, the Trust is also gathering international support to provide humanitarian aid to the people of IOJK. All these efforts, he said, would be made in collaboration with the International Red Cross and the Red Crescent Society of Pakistan. Sardar Masood Khan,

while welcoming the delegation expressed the gratitude of the people of Kashmir, AJK and Pakistan to the ISSF and its members for highlighting the Kashmir dispute. He said that the prayers and efforts of the global Sufi community would certainly lead to the liberation struggle of the Kashmiris to bear fruit. He said that the ISSF in a well-coordinated manner is paving the way for international opinion-making on Kashmir and millions of their followers can play a vital role in creating critical awareness on Kashmir. The AJK President said that Kashmir is the land of Sufis and there is a rich and well-documented history of Sufism in Kashmir. 'This proves that the people of Kashmir are peace-loving people that aspire peace and condemn violence. Unfortunately, a war has been imposed on Kashmiris by India. IOJK has become a territory with the largest military concentration ever witnessed in modern history', he said.

DG PCAA  
holds 4th  
E-kachehri

ISLAMABAD: Director General Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) Hassan Nasir Jamy on Monday held the fourth E-kachehri to address public grievances in line with the vision of the Prime Minister.

The DG had also invited queries from the public about the matters pertaining to aviation services in the country, a news release said. The Deputy Director General Airport Services, Deputy DG Regulatory and Director Human Resource also attended the E-kachehri. About 51 queries were received during the E-kachehri regarding provision and maintenance of facilities at airports, upgradation of Instrument Landing System (ILS) based on Artificial Intelligence Safety Systems, mobile signals and free wifi internet registration issues at Islamabad Airport, reopening of pilots and other licensing exams, E-Gates' Installation for Immigration at all international airports, resolution of pending issues of commercial land lease / agreement, domestic flight operation for Chitral and Muzaffarabad besides matters pertaining to CAA employees. The DG responded to most of the queries on spot and directed the quarters concerned to sort out things as per merit at the earliest without any delay. The public has appreciated the initiative of CAA to resolve their grievances by holding the E-kachehri, which was live-streamed at the PCAA official Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/PCAA.Official. - DNA

IHC asks  
govt about  
its policy on  
Roosevelt

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court wants to know the federal government's policy on the PIA-owned Roosevelt Hotel in New York. The assistant attorney general has been told to take instructions from the government and inform the court. The hotel, which is a fixture of the Manhattan skyline, decided to close this year because of low demand. 'Due to the current, unprecedented environment and the continued uncertain impact from COVID-19, the owners of The Roosevelt Hotel have made the difficult decision to close the hotel,' it said in a statement on October 12. 'The iconic hotel, along with most of New York City, has experienced very low demand and as a result, the hotel will cease operations before the end of the year. There are currently no plans for the building beyond the scheduled closing.' PIA has gone to court over the closure of the hotel. A lawyer told the court that the hotel is being converted into apartments and offices, adding that US President Donald Trump wants to purchase it too. The hearing has been adjourned for a week.

IESCO  
issues power  
suspension  
programme

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Monday issued a power suspension programme for Tuesday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work. According to IESCO Spokesman, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 08:00 am to 12:00 noon, H-8, Highway, Faziya, NPCC-II, Ghariyal, Nogzi, Faziya, Charah, Chakral, RTM, KTM, Thackeray, Galyana, Mandi Bhalwal, Bani, Katarian, Holy Family, F Block, Chontra, RCC-1, RCC-2, RCC-3, Sihala, Chhaji Mar, Mathial, Shahiya, Bohi Ghar, Salargah, Burhan Feeders, from 08:30 am to 12:30pm, Bani, Ashgar Mall, Katarian, Holy Family, F Block, Faizabad, Noor Muhammad Shamsabad, Tamama-bad, Dhok Khabbra, Gawalmandi, Pirudha, Gulzar Shaheed, Kashmir Road, Dhok Farman Ali, NPP-1, Jhanda, Azizabad, Radio Pakistan-1, New Race Course, Golra, Siham, Range Road, Lalazar, Chontra, Mort, Garja-1, Cantt, RCC-1, RCC-2, RCC 3, Sihala, Naar, Khawaja, Jhatta Hathial, New Mandira, Alipur, CDA Flats, Company Bagh, Diplomatic Enclave, G-10/2, G-11/2, H-8, I-10/1, Iqbal Town. - APP

## Fertilizer subsidy

**T**HE federal government's decision to allow a subsidy of Rs5.4bn on diammonium phosphate, or DAP, fertilizer will help reduce the input costs of wheat farmers. According to the finance ministry, the government has approved a subsidy of Rs1,000 per 50kg bag of DAP, which will reduce its price by 25pc. The DAP subsidy is part of the prime minister's special package for the growers to be approved by the federal cabinet next Tuesday. The subsidy was announced two days after some ministers raised concerns over the rising prices of food, especially of wheat flour, at a recent cabinet meeting and the absence of an administrative response. The total value of the package is estimated to be Rs24bn and it includes an increase in the wheat support price from Rs1,400 per 40kg to Rs1,600 per 40kg and subsidy on fungicides and weedicides in addition to DAP. The fertiliser subsidy will be paid from the Rs50bn earmarked for the agriculture sector in the Rs1.2tr fiscal stimulus package given to fight the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Only a fifth of the money allocated for agriculture could be spent until now.

It is encouraging to see the government realising the impact of consistently rising input costs on farmers' meagre incomes and spiralling food inflation on consumers. The actions being taken will help the growers cut the overall cost of their inputs and boost their incomes. But it will not help control food prices surging since August last year. The solution to the higher food prices demands an overhaul of existing agriculture policies and investment in new high-yield technology. If the wheat growers, for example, are able to double their output per acre, it will not only halve their costs and substantially increase their incomes but also bring down wheat prices in the market. Also, the increased yields will spare a part of cultivable land under wheat for growing other value-added crops and vegetables. Thus the government should focus more on revamping policies than fiscally unsustainable subsidies.



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## Sliding scale

**W**HEN it came to power, the PTI had promised a vast improvement in governance and an end to corruption. This has not happened, according to the annual report by the World Justice Project, a private organisation that collects data about governments and countries around the world, and especially open government, or the absence of corruption and adherence to rule of law. Pakistan has slipped considerably from its position in 2019. In 2019, out of 126 countries, Pakistan was at 117th position with a score of 0.39. In 2020, it was positioned at 120 and the score remained 0.39 with the index now comprising 128 countries. Out of the lower middle income countries, Pakistan is at 25th place out of 30 countries and in the region is ahead only of Afghanistan. The reasons for this become apparent, as the report provides its detailed review of what happened through a Gallup Survey conducted in the country. There is particular concern over the 'constraints on government power' factor for which Pakistan is on 79th place in 2020 compared to 74th position in 2019.

All this is an especially damning indication of how the PTI government has performed. The government had stressed that removing corruption would be its priority. It doesn't seem to have shown much success in this. There are areas in which the country has remained on track, including access to justice with people able to obtain justice by being able to approach courts and seek redress of grievances. However, the overall picture raises concern. Pakistan with its continued development should be standing well above other countries in the region. The problems are grave. They should be seen as a wake-up call for the government so that it can work towards amending everything that has gone wrong and move towards a situation where it can move further up the scale of countries on the World Justice Project index and show that it is indeed able to govern and protect its people better than other countries in the same economic situation as itself.

## The US election: Hate, hope beyond the vote

Marwan Bishara



Trump has already appointed more than 200 federal conservative judges and three Supreme Court judges; if re-elected, he would transform the US judiciary and politicise it for decades to come. Trump would become an inspiration, a lightning rod for populist nationalists in America and around the world, triggering a domino effect with untold consequences for the Western alliance, not to say, civilisation

**T**HE hate towards Donald Trump may prove as decisive in determining the outcome of this election, as hate towards Hillary Clinton did in 2016. Back then, many Americans hated the Clintons and hoped for anyone but Hillary to assume the presidency. Today, many hope for anyone but the incumbent president, even if it were old and tired Joe Biden. Hate, of course, is not new to American politics. It is a fixture of American society, any society for that matter, and there is plenty of it to go around, alas. Hate is rooted in paralysis and driven by despair, but it motivates, hardens and energises precisely in order to overcome despair. Hate is simple and straightforward, it protects and reassures us in uncertain times.

But hate is also miserable and destructive. Hope may counterbalance hate, even if it turns out to be false hope. Indeed, many US presidents in recent memory ran on messages of hope, optimism and compassion, including Ronald Reagan, Barack Obama and the "Man from Hope" Bill Clinton.

But a new plague of racial and political hatred infected America after its economy collapsed in the 2008 meltdown and Obama became the first Black president, and it turned into a national contagion with the rise of Trump as a populist white hatemonger nationalist.

It has proven particularly resilient and ruinous to the country's system of government, liberal democracy. It is, of course, important to distinguish two types of hate: hating the other for what they do and hating them for who they are, the latter being a more sinister, overtly racist type of hate. Pollsters have observed that it is not only Republicans and Democrats who are now thinking in hateful, virulent, even apocalyptic terms, but surprisingly, Independents as well.

In effect, Trump is as much a symptom as he is a spreader of this hate virus that has weakened the nation's immunity and raised its temperature to feverish, life-threatening levels.

But, it is not only hate. It is not only anger. It is also fear, fear of Trump winning a second term. If Trump defies the pollsters' predictions, as he did in 2016, and defeats Biden on November 3, many of his followers would see his victory as no less than a miracle, divine intervention, and a clear and dangerous vindication of their righteous hatred.

Along with a Republican-led Senate and a conservative majority in the Supreme Court, Trump would rule like an autocrat, crushing the country's liberal pillars, reversing liberal laws and limiting the freedom of the press.

It may be an exaggeration, but liberals believe more than ever before that a Trump victory would spell the beginning of the end of American democracy.

For what could prevent Trump from, say, naming his daughter, Ivanka, Secretary of Commerce, her husband, Jared Kushner, Secretary of State and Donald Trump Jr perhaps Secretary of Tolerance or Secretary of Greatness?

Meanwhile, the racial and ideological divide would deepen further, as white nationalists would be empowered to reclaim public space, leading to potential civil strife.

Contrary to conventional wisdom, a Trump triumph would also prove devastating to the Republican Party and especially to its liberal and centrist wings that have shown a lack of enthusiasm for, if not total opposition to, another Trump term.

The president has already monopolised the party's leadership, making its 2020 platform his own, and he is sure to continue to further radicalise it according to his whims and impulses.

Such a triumph would also be devastating to the unity of the Democratic Party, pitting progressives against centrists, as the party comes under attack from the radical right.

Trump has already appointed more than 200 federal conservative judges and three Supreme Court judges; if re-elected, he would transform the US judiciary and politicise it for decades to come.

Trump would become an inspiration, a lightning rod for populist nationalists in America and around the world, triggering a domino effect with untold consequences for the Western alliance, not to say, civilisation.

It is the fear of such an eventuality that has pushed a record 74 million voters to cast their vote early – a number that will only increase leading up to election day on November 3. This could be a sign that Americans are keen to overcome voter suppression and to seal Trump's defeat in 2020.

If the polls are correct, the president will reap what he sowed. Just as the Trump presidency lived by hate, so it may perish by hate.

But a Trump loss would have no less dramatic ramifications for US politics, starting with his potential rejection of an unfavourable result.

He has warned repeatedly against rigged elections that could result in part from postal voting. Never mind that there is no factual basis for such a claim and that his own family has voted by mail.

Trump hopes "his" majority in the Supreme Court would take his side in any emerging dispute, which, unlike the contested 2000 elections, would bring the

country to the brink.

But if he is declared the loser of the election, the ramifications for the Republican Party and the conservative movement in general would be no less dramatic.

With no love lost between the party's radical and liberal wings, the bickering, recrimination and division will start the next day. The radicals are sure to accuse the centrists of undermining the party and betraying the "brother leader".

These attacks could take a menacing, and even destructive, tone if any number of the centrist/liberal Republicans join the Democratic administration, as Biden hopes they would. This could further undermine the unity and effectiveness of the party.

In other words, the demise of the Trump presidency could throw the Republican Party in disarray. This may be beneficial for the Democratic Party, but the decline of any one party in a two-party system may not necessarily serve the long-term interest of US democracy.

These elections feel like they have gone for so long that their mere conclusion will be a welcome relief.

As one observer remarked, we have been holding our breath for too long, it is high time this ends so we can all breath normally once again.

But the stakes are so high and the scars so deep that, regardless of the election results, the country will, for the foreseeable future, continue to pay the price for Trump's debacles.

It is said the best remedy for hate is love. But let us be honest, love is scarce and hardly on offer in today's America. Nor is forgiveness or forget-ness, it seems. So, given that it is hard to find a vaccine for Trumpism, the only hope for the country is to fight the hate virus any way it can and slow down the contagion before it hurts more people.

This begins by "political distancing" the government from the populist-nationalist agenda and avoiding another four more years of vitriol, in order to finally take a deep breath, for a change. It also means addressing the root causes of why so many people from all walks of life are so bitter and angry.

I know better than to repeat mantras, but there is no way around improving the socio-economic conditions to tackle inequality in all its forms.

The winner of the election also must refrain from retaliation or further humiliation of the losing party. Winning the vote may well prove to be the easy part. Reducing hate and restoring hope as a pandemic ravages the country will be the true challenge for the next president of the United States.

Courtesy: Al Jazeera

## Challenges in financial inclusion of women

Adnan Ali Mughal

Their annual FIWC (Financial Inclusion for Women Challenge) has resulted in innovative and disruptive ideas to support business that create financial products that enable women to adopt Financial Services. A good example is of Oraan, a Karandaz Pakistan funded venture which digitises the committee concept of saving, along with provision of coaching and guidance all under one mobile application. Improving and increasing the outreach of such solutions will allow women to use more convenient financial services

**I**NCREASING access to and use of quality financial products and services is important to an inclusive economic process and poverty reduction. Research shows that when people participate within the economic system, they're better ready to manage risk, start or invest in a business, and fund large expenditures like education or a home improvement. Despite the overall progress made in terms of financial inclusion, the gender gap remains intact. Women's financial inclusion occurs when women have effective access to a range of financial products and services that cater to their multiple business and household needs and that are responsive to the socioeconomic and cultural factors that cause financial exclusion in women.

A well-developed body of literature shows that closing the gender gap in financial inclusion could have positive effects in smoothing consumption, lowering financial risks and costs, providing security, increasing saving and investment rates, and facilitating new business opportunities.

Women can contribute to their economic uplift by not only building businesses but also by better managing their financial resources. Having access to and use of a variety of monetary services enhances not only the contribution of women in the economic growth, but also contributes to women's autonomy, allows for an efficient use of their personal and household resources.

Pakistan still has a long way to go to achieve financial inclusion of women in the economy. Women only make up 22% of the workforce, despite constituting 49% of the total population (World Bank). Only 2.9% of women are financially included, compared to 17% men National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS). At financial institutions, men outnumber women account holders by 68%. In mobile banking, the gap widens to 78% (FINCA). Compared to men, women are more likely to be poor, less likely to have a job and more likely to work in the informal economy.

Greater women's financial inclusion requires a more gender inclusive financial system that addresses the specific demand and supply side barriers women face. Women face multiple barriers that limit their access to and use of financial services. The primary and foremost are the social conventions that govern a typical

Pakistani community i.e. a patriarchal society.

Women are deprived of their fundamental rights which creates a sense of inequality, they are subjected to predefined cultural norms that over the years become boundaries they must not cross.

This not only damages their self-esteem; but also endorses them as the gender of less importance. Resulting in under confident women who constantly doubt their own capabilities and rights.

Stemming from the above, is a second crucial matter of awareness and education that needs to be addressed. Women are reluctant to interact with the financial sector, because they have limited financial literacy and lack the understanding of how to deal with financial products & services.

The cumbersome documentation, technical language and lengthy processes are all too much strenuous for a woman with limited exposure. Although female participation in the micro, small and medium enterprises has witnessed a surge, women still have hesitations from the banking sector. High interest rates, significant collateral demands and limited insurance options prove to be a major hurdle.

For financial inclusion to have an impact on women's economic empowerment, livelihoods and broader welfare effects, these social norms need to be taken into account and acted upon. While social norms change is complex, financial services and products design and roll out can have a role to play.

It is unfortunate to ascertain that in essence the banking sector has failed to serve the financial needs of all people. In Pakistan only 21% of the population is banked (State Bank of Pakistan) and no concrete efforts have been made to increase this number. Although the emergence of digital financial services has catered to the access and mobility issue, enormous potential remains unexplored. Moreover, there is lack of availability of financial products specifically designed to address women's needs and challenges e.g. provision of loans as small as Rs. 10,000/-.

Evidence shows that different measures can be used to overcome above mentioned barriers, and it is essential that financial institutions take these measures into account when developing financially inclusive products. To start off with; identifying women as a lucrative customer segment, investing in their needs

and helping them grow. Financial institutions need to gather gender disaggregated data to develop customized value propositions tailored to women's needs and gender-smart products, train employees to provide expertise and design-friendly ecosystems, provide financial training and coaching to women and access women through their close knitted networks.

Financial inclusion is important for women to access loans, credit and to make transactions, but it is also an essential way to save money and build assets in a safe place, which can in turn help them move out of poverty. Efforts need to be made in developing a relationship of trust and compassion to overcome financial literacy hindrances of women. For instance, a packaged service which caters to identity registration, bank account opening, training & mentoring along with provision of loan.

Furthermore, the new alternative forms of digital finance have also opened a new set of services, channels and value opportunities for women, both the financially excluded and the already financially included but underserved. Digital channels and innovative product designs have the potential to offer new and better value propositions for women when done holistically and considering social norms. Karandaz Pakistan, has been working extensively in this area along with other interventions for financial inclusion.

Their annual FIWC (Financial Inclusion for Women Challenge) has resulted in innovative and disruptive ideas to support business that create financial products that enable women to adopt Financial Services. A good example is of Oraan, a Karandaz Pakistan funded venture which digitises the committee concept of saving, along with provision of coaching and guidance all under one mobile application. Improving and increasing the outreach of such solutions will allow women to use more convenient financial services.

Although the demand and supply side barriers to women's financial inclusion are vast, appropriate product design features can help overcome some of these barriers. Products which allow women greater degree of control and privacy surrounding their incomes and spending decisions can also be particularly promising. Public policies are also needed to support, promote and bring to scale improved access to and growing use of financial services for women.

## Briefs

Trump warns  
legal action  
against late  
mail-in-ballots

## MONITORING DESK

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump said the Republicans will legally challenge ballots being counted after the Election Day on Nov. 3.

"I think it's a terrible thing when ballots can be collected after an election ... when people or states are allowed to tabulate ballots for a long period of time after the election is over because it can only lead to one thing," he told reporters in Charlotte, North Carolina on Sunday in response to a question about an Axios report earlier that he planned to declare victory if he appears to be leading the race, which he dismissed as "false."

Slamming the Supreme Court for its "terrible decision" on extending mail-in-ballot time frame in a few states, the president reiterated that "there is great danger" in collecting ballots after the Election Day, and added there can be "fraud and misuse" if that happens.

"We're going to go in night of, as soon as that election is over, we're going in with our lawyers. We don't want them [Democrats] watching ballots come in," he warned. Trump's statements come as the Supreme Court has recently decided in two separate cases to allow ballots to be received after the Election Day in many swing states. The top court in the US ruled last week that ballots received via mail will be counted in states of North Carolina and Pennsylvania that are not postmarked after the Election Day but arrive nine and three days after Nov. 3, respectively.

While the rulings represented a victory for Democrats, the Supreme Court, however, maintained a Nov. 3 deadline for the mail-in ballots in the state of Wisconsin. Trump had surprisingly won Wisconsin in 2016 presidential election against Democratic contender Hillary Clinton by a margin of 0.77% to gain 10 electoral votes, but this time he is behind Biden by 4 points in the Badger State, according to the latest polls by opinion analysis website FiveThirtyEight.

Will focus  
on actions  
of new US  
admin'

## DNA

TEHRAN: Iran's foreign ministry said Monday it will focus on the "actions" of the new US administration rather than who wins the White House, a day before Americans vote. "Our position is clear: we do not look at (what happens) tomorrow, we will be watching the approach of the new US administration, whichever party it's from," ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh told reporters.

"More than the result of the election, we will pay attention to the actions" of whoever is president, he added. Since unilaterally withdrawing from a landmark nuclear deal with Tehran and world powers in 2018, the Republican administration of President Donald Trump has re-imposed - and extended - crippling sanctions on Iran. Trump's Democratic challenger, Joe Biden, has said he wants to use the 2015 nuclear accord - a pact hammered out when he was vice president under Barack Obama - as a "starting-point for follow-on negotiations" with Tehran. Iranian officials have repeatedly said they favour no specific candidate in the race, while also calling for a return to the nuclear accord, the lifting of sanctions and compensation for damages caused.

NCC meeting  
called as  
virus surges

## From Page 01

Taking to Twitter, Umar said the NCC discussed additional measures today to control the rising spread of COVID-19.

"Recommendations will be tabled in the NCC being called for tomorrow," he continued. "Need to take immediate measures which have the most impact on disease spread without curtailing economic activity."



LONDON: Tottenham's Gareth Bale enjoying after scoring goal against Brighton in Premier League match. - DNA

UN Secy Gen Guterres  
greeted President Tatar

According to the information from the TRNC Presidency, Guterres expressed his wish for the social meeting between Greek Cypriot Leader Nikos Anastasiades and TRNC President Ersin Tatar

## DNA

LEFKOSA: United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres sent a message of congratulations in respect of the election of Ersin Tatar as the President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. According to the information from the TRNC Presidency, Guterres expressed his wish for the social meeting between Greek Cypriot Leader Nikos Anastasiades and TRNC President Ersin Tatar, which will be held on 3rd November 2020, to be productive and stated that he wants to discuss with President Tatar the quintet meeting which will take place with the participation of Tatar, Anastasiades, guarantor countries and the UN.A new navigational telex, or Navtex (announ-

ment to seafarers) which will continue until 14th November 2020 has been announced for the area where the Oruç Reis seismic research vessel will operate in the Eastern Mediterranean. According to the announcement, Oruç Reis will conduct seismic research activities until 14th November 2020 and the mission that will be carried out by Oruç Reis seismic research vessel will continue to be accompanied by the vessels Ataman and Cengizhan in the Eastern Mediterranean. Oruç Reis can conduct various geological, geophysical, hydrographic and oceanographic surveys, especially of the continental shelf, while also searching for natural resources.

Oruç Reis, which is one of the rare and fully equipped and multi-purpose research vessels in the world, can conduct 2 and 3 dimensional



seismic, gravity and magnetic geophysical research. The ship can perform 3-dimensional seismic operations up to a depth of 8,000 meters, and two-dimensional seismic operations up to a depth of 15,000 meters. Turkish Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hami Aksoy said, "It is a futile effort for Greece to

object to our activities after every NAVTEX announcement based on its maximalist claims." Upon a question regarding the statement of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning Turkey's seismic research activities in the Eastern Mediterranean on 1st November 2020, Aksoy has responded as follows: "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece made yet another statement where it repeated its baseless claims regarding the seismic survey activity conducted by Turkey on its own continental shelf in the Eastern Mediterranean."

It is a futile effort for Greece to voice its objections to our activities by asserting its maximalist claims after each and every NAVTEX announcement. Turkey will continue its activities in the region within the framework of its rights stemming

from international law. Turkey is ready to cooperate with Greece and to solve the issues between the two countries through dialogue. Needless to say, we will continue to protect the legitimate rights and interests of Turkey and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus with determination. We expect Greece to refrain from escalatory steps in the region, contribute to create a suitable atmosphere for negotiations and declare that they are ready for the talks; instead of accusing Turkey with groundless allegations and as usual complaining to third parties. We hereby invite Greece, once again, to have dialogue with Turkey in order to address both the issue of maritime jurisdiction areas in the Eastern Mediterranean and other interrelated issues between the two countries, without preconditions."

Jacinda names  
'incredibly diverse'  
New Zealand cabinet

## FOREIGN DESK

AUKLAND: Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern unveiled what she called an "incredibly diverse" cabinet on Monday, as she promised to prioritise economic recovery in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Former Finance Minister Grant Robertson was named deputy prime minister, the first openly gay person to hold the position. He also retains the finance portfolio. Women and the Maori community were also strongly represented in the 20-member cabinet, including new Foreign Minister

Nanaia Mahuta, who has a "moko kauae" - a traditional Maori tattoo on her chin. Ardern has revamped her ministerial lineup in the wake of a landslide election victory, allowing her to form the first single-party government since New Zealand moved to a German-style system of proportional representation in 1996. "The next three years will be very challenging for New Zealand," she told reporters in Wellington. "With the global outlook worsening we won't be immune to the ongoing effect of COVID is having around the world." While expressing pride at her cabinet's diversity, Ardern also said appointments were made on merit. "It is both a cabinet with huge merit and talent, which also happens to be incredibly diverse," the 40-year-old said. "I think it's an important point to make - these are individuals who have been promoted for what they bring to the cabinet, they also reflect the New Zealand that elected them."

Indonesia thousands protest  
against French president

The governments of Muslim-majority nations, including Turkey, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, and Malaysia, have condemned Macron's "anti-Islam" remarks and "Islamophobic" behavior

## FOREIGN DESK

JAKARTA: Several hundred Muslims from the Islam Defenders Front (FPI) and 212 Alumni Brotherhood (PA 212) flocked to Thamrin Street in Central Jakarta on Monday to protest against French President Emmanuel Macron's critique of Prophet Muhammad.

The demonstrators thronging the street, which is part of Jakarta's central business district area, demanded that Indonesia sever diplomatic ties with France while calling to expel French Ambassador to Indonesia and Timor Leste, Olivier Chambard, from the country. The protestors also vociferously labelled President Macron as a terrorist in the world while simultaneously praising Abdullak Anzorov, 18, whom they called a real hero since his actions were aimed at defending the honor of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

Anzorov was the man, who beheaded Samuel Paty on Oct 16, 2020, after this

history and geography teacher showed cartoons mocking Prophet Muhammad during a class on Oct 6, 2020.

Anzorov, who felt offended by Paty showing cartoons of Prophet Muhammad to students, was later shot dead by the French police. During the peaceful rally, several ulama were invited to speak to protestors from the stage of an FPI commanding truck. They repeatedly led the demonstrators to recite "Shalallahu salamullah", "Ala Thaha Rasulallah Shalallahu salamullah", "Ala Yasin Habibillah" to echo their sincere adoration for Prophet Muhammad. Led by the speakers, the demonstrators, who were predominantly dressed in Muslim attire, also launched a campaign to boycott French products in Indonesia. Before commencing their anti-France rally, the Muslim protestors performed their zuhr (mid-day) prayer on Thamrin Street near Sarinah Mall, while the Jakarta city police secured the French embassy. Macron's remarks following the beheading of Samuel Paty

have sparked controversy and fueled a backlash from Muslims worldwide over the past few days. The governments of Muslim-majority nations, including Turkey, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, and Malaysia, have condemned Macron's "anti-Islam" remarks and "Islamophobic" behavior. The Indonesian government had also denounced French President Macron's remarks on Islam and support for portrayal and publication of cartoons on Prophet Muhammad. To register its protest, the Indonesian Foreign Ministry summoned French Ambassador to Indonesia and Timor Leste, Olivier Chambard, on October 27, 2020, and sought an explanation for Macron's controversial statements. Meanwhile, Muslims at the grassroots level also voiced their fury and disappointment over Macron's defense of the right to reprint and depict caricatures of Prophet Muhammad by staging anti-France rallies and intensifying campaigns for boycotting French goods.

'Respect for territorial integrity  
principled position for Azerbaijan'

The Armenian side is not interested in resolving the conflict through negotiations, it is obvious. The goal of the Armenian side is to strengthen the occupation, as well as to involve other states, said Leyla Abdullayeva

## DNA

BAKU: Foreign Ministry spokesperson Leyla Abdullayeva has said that respect for territorial integrity is a principled position for Azerbaijan, Azertag reported on 1 November. Abdullayeva made the remarks at a news conference in Baku. "We recognize and respect the territorial integrity of other countries. Respect for the territorial integrity is a principled position for us. At the same time, we demand other countries to respect Azerbaijan's territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders," she said. Abdullayeva added that Armenia's purpose in spreading false

Hajiyeve condemns attacks against  
international media outlets

## DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijani presidential aide Hikmat Hajiyeve has strongly condemned attacks and threats by US-based radical Armenian lobby groups against The New York Times. "We strongly condemn attacks and threats of radical/chauvinistic information, as well as targeting Azerbaijani civilians despite the humanitarian ceasefires is clear. "The Armenian side is not inter-

ested in resolving the conflict through negotiations, it is obvious. The goal of the Armenian side is to strengthen the occupa-

tion, as well as to involve other states - third parties into the conflict. The Azerbaijani side, including President Ilham Ali-

vey, has repeatedly brought to the international community's attention and stated that Azerbaijan has no claims to the territories of other countries. Today, Azerbaijan is conducting self-defence measures on its sovereign territory against the Armenian armed forces, who maintains its illegal presence. The steps are being taken to ensure the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, as demanded by the UN Security Council resolutions adopted in 1993," Abdullayeva added. She said that Armenia's efforts to involve other countries in the conflict will yield no results as Azerbaijan enjoys ties of friendship and cooperation with all its neighbouring countries.

Death toll  
in Turkey  
rises to 91

## FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: The death toll in Turkey from a powerful earthquake in the Aegean region has risen to 91, the country's disaster agency said Monday.

Some 1,286 aftershocks have hit the area since the Friday quake, with 43 of them above magnitude 4.0, the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) said.

It added that 994 people were injured, with 839 of them discharged from hospitals and 155 still being treated.

Speaking at a news conference Monday in the Aegean Izmir province, Environment and Urbanization Minister Murat Kurum updated the number of heavily damaged and destroyed buildings to 58. With quake victims facing cold weather, Kurum called on them to seek shelter at local guesthouses.

"We began the process for setting up a container city. We will establish a container city with a capacity to host 1,000 people on an area of 46,300 square meters [498,000 square feet] in the Bayrakli district," he added. On Friday, a magnitude 6.6 earthquake hit Izmir, Turkey's third-largest city, with a population of some 4.37 million.

Family, Labor and Social Services Minister Zehra Zumrut Selcuk also urged quake victims to take shelter at public guesthouses, which she said have a capacity of 7,000, which can be increased if needed.

Azerbaijan  
downs another  
Armenian jet

## DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijan shot down another Armenian Su-25 fighter jet, according to the country's Defense Ministry on Monday, the third Su-25 to be downed in the last four days. In a statement, the ministry said the Su-25 attack aircraft had launched airstrikes on Azerbaijani positions in the Zangilan region on Sunday when it was shot down. Since clashes erupted on Sept. 27, Armenia has repeatedly attacked Azerbaijani civilians and forces, even violating three humanitarian cease-fires since Oct. 10.

While world powers have called for a sustainable cease-fire, Turkey has supported Baku's right to self-defense and demanded the withdrawal of Armenia's occupying forces. Multiple UN resolutions also call for the withdrawal of the invading forces.

Philippines  
typhoon  
death toll  
rises to 17

MANILA: At least 17 people died and tens of thousands others were evacuated to safer places due to the ongoing typhoon in Philippines, state-media reported on Monday. The country's Office of Civil Defense (OCD) said the Super Typhoon Rolly - the year's most powerful cyclone - pummeled Bicol region on Sunday and casualties rose to 17, Philippines News Agency reported.

"Most of the fatalities were either swept away or buried by a huge volume of volcanic materials that cascaded down the slopes of Mayon Volcano as heavy to intense rains pelted Albay," said Jessar Adornado, OCD division chief for operations.

Philippines chapter of International Red Cross said in a Twitter statement that Vi-rac region has suffered 80-90% damages to residential buildings while its supermarket is "totally damaged". "There is still no water, electricity, signal, and gasoline stations are closed throughout the province," Philippines Red Cross Chief Dick Gordon said. Typhoon Rolly struck the country early Sunday, bringing floods, mudslides and strong winds. Officials said the typhoon had wind speeds of up to 280 kilometers (173 miles) per hour and first lashed the country's eastern island province of Catanduanes, bringing with it heavy rains. It then made landfall four times throughout the day on the island of Luzon, leading to coastal towns being inundated and rivers flooding and overflowing. It was downgraded to a tropical storm Sunday evening local time and continues to weaken over the West Philippine Sea. The OCD report said 108,561 families or 394,859 people living in areas prone to flooding, lahars, landslides, and storm surge in the provinces of Albay, Sorsogon, Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, and Catanduanes have been shifted to safer places. - APP

## Briefs

## Bangladesh stage anti-France rally

DNA

DHAKA: At least 50,000 people have staged the biggest demonstration yet in Bangladesh over French President Emmanuel Macron's stance on the right to publish cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad, as they tried to reach the French embassy in Dhaka, police said. Macron's comment that Islam was "in crisis" and his defence of the offensive caricature, which Muslims say is an insult to their prophet, has prompted a global backlash, with Muslims across the world holding protests and calling for a boycott of French products. The rally, which started at Bangladesh's biggest mosque in the capital Dhaka, was stopped from getting close to the French embassy where security had been stepped up. Police estimated some 50,000 people took part in the protest, which demanded a boycott of French products, while organisers said there were more than 100,000 people. Protesters chanted "No defamation of the Prophet Muhammad" and burned an effigy of the French leader. Macron sparked protests across the Muslim world after the murder last month of French teacher Samuel Paty - who had shown his class a cartoon of the Prophet Muhammad - by saying France would never renounce its laws permitting blasphemous caricatures. The third major anti-France demonstration in Bangladesh in the past week was called by Hefazat-i-Islam, one of the biggest Muslim political groups in the country of 160 million people.

## UK takes control of weapons deal

## FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: Britain's defence ministry will take back direct control of the operations and development of the country's nuclear weapons from a consortium of Lockheed Martin, Serco and Jacobs Engineering in June 2021, Serco said on Monday. The three companies have managed an entity called AWE Management, which controls the Atomic Weapons Establishment, since 2000, with Lockheed Martin holding 51 percent and Serco and Jacobs holding 24.5 percent each. "The change in model will remove the current commercial arrangements, enhancing the MoD's (Ministry of Defence) agility in the future management of the UK's nuclear deterrent, whilst also delivering on core MoD objectives and value for money to the taxpayer," the government said. Serco said it was told by Britain's Ministry of Defence (MoD) late on Friday that AWE plc would transfer back under the direct control and management of the MoD as of June 30, 2021. Based in Aldermaston in southern England, AWE maintains the warheads for the Trident nuclear deterrent and is required to retain the capability to design a new weapon, should it ever be required.

## WHO chief in quarantine after contact gets Virus

## FOREIGN DESK

GENEVA: Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director-general of the World Health Organization (WHO), has said that he is self-quarantining after someone he was in contact with tested positive for COVID-19.

In a tweet late on Sunday, he added that he was symptom-free and feeling well. "I have been identified as a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. I am well and without symptoms but will self-quarantine over the coming days, in line with WHO protocols, and work from home," Tedros said. The 55-year-old former Ethiopian foreign minister has been at the forefront of the United Nations health agency's efforts to battle the pandemic. COVID-19 has claimed nearly 1.2 million lives and infected more than 46 million people worldwide since it was first detected in China late last year. Tedros stressed on Twitter that "it is critically important that we all comply with health guidance".

## Multilateral dialogue needs to effectively confront challenges

In accordance with the agenda, issues of close coordination and joint counteraction to the negative consequences of the global spread of coronavirus infection, as well as further expansion of multilateral cooperation were discussed in detail

DNA

TASHKENT: At the invitation of the President of the Republic of Korea Moon Jae-in, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev addressed the Second International Forum for Northern Economic Cooperation in Seoul, via videoconference. It should be noted that this event is held on the initiative of the President of the Republic of Korea Moon Jae-in, and this time it was attended by the leaders of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Mongolia. In accordance with the agenda, issues of close coordination and joint counteraction to the negative consequences of the global spread of coronavirus infection, as well as further expansion of multilateral cooperation were discussed in detail. In his speech, the President of Uzbekistan emphasized that amid the complicated situation in the world and the global crisis, such a multilateral dialogue allows to effectively confront new challenges and threats, contributing to stability, wellbeing and sustainable development of the countries. In this regard, the President of Uzbekistan focused on the most important aspects of international policy and prospects for regional cooperation. In particular, the need for close coordination and broad international cooperation in the fight against COVID-19 was



noted. It was proposed to continue joint work in key areas, including the development of effective vaccines and serums, systems for rapid and accurate diagnosis of diseases on the basis of a pharmaceutical cluster created jointly with Korean companies. In addition, the importance of establishing cutting-edge laboratories and modernizing sanitary control points at our borders; training qualified doctors; creating enter-

prises for disposal of medical waste, introducing an integrated system for monitoring and early warning of the epidemiological situation in the region was noted. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev stressed that Uzbekistan considers the Republic of Korea as one of the key promoters of digital and green technologies to Uzbekistan. It was stated that Uzbekistan will take an active part in the Seoul Summit of Partnering for Green Growth and

expert level. Special attention was paid to enhancing mutually beneficial cooperation within the framework of Central Asia - Republic of Korea Forum. The objective need for bringing interaction within the framework of this format to a new, higher level and hold a meeting of the Forum with participation of the heads of government was noted. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev highlighted Uzbekistan's support for President Moon Jae-in's active efforts to achieve lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula as an important contribution to regional and global security. Conducting of an international expert forum on nuclear disarmament and establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones was proposed for a broad exchange of experience. In conclusion, the Head of the state stressed that Uzbekistan and South Korea are special strategic partners, and history of the relations goes back to millennia. Confidence was expressed that the forum will open up new prospects for development of long-term and multifaceted cooperation between the countries in the interests of peace and prosperity of the entire region. The forum was also attended by Presidents of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. A message from President of Mongolia Khaltmaagiin Battulga was read out.

## Sudan, Egypt and Ethiopia resume Nile mega-dam talks

## FOREIGN DESK

CAIRO: Sudan, Egypt and Ethiopia have resumed their talks over Addis Ababa's controversial dam on the Blue Nile river, just over a week after US President Donald Trump warned that Cairo may "blow it up" if disputes are not resolved. The week-long negotiations, being held via videoconference, started on Sunday and include water ministers from the three countries, as well as representatives from the African Union, the European Union and the World Bank. The latest round of talks came three months after the suspension of dialogue between the African neighbours over the construction of the \$4.6bn mega-dam by Ethiopia. Previous three-way talks failed to reach an agree-

ment on the filling and operation of the vast reservoir behind the 145-metre (475-foot) tall Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD). Egypt, which depends on the Nile for about 97 percent of its irrigation and drinking water, sees the dam as an existential threat. Sudan hopes the dam will help regulate flooding but has also warned that millions of lives would be at "great risk" if Ethiopia unilaterally fills the dam. Ethiopia, on the other hand, views the project as essential for its electrification and development, and insists that the flow of water downstream will not be affected. "The three sides agreed to continue discussing the issue through a six-member team, including two representatives from each country," Sudan's water ministry said in a statement.

## 'Azerbaijan writing history in Karabakh'

## FOREIGN DESK

BAKU: Azerbaijan is writing history in this war [the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict], Former Prime Minister, and former Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Binali Yildirim, who is on a visit to Baku, said, Trend reports on Nov. 2. Expressing gratification with the organizing of the visit to fraternal Azerbaijan, Yildirim wished success to the Azerbaijani people, who are waging a great struggle, liberating their lands from occupation. Yildirim expressed condolences to the relatives of the killed military personnel and civilians and wished a speedy recovery to the wounded.

While reminding that this problem has not been solved for 30 years, Yildirim stressed that over the years Armenia continued to occupy 20 percent of Azerbaijani lands. "Turkey has always been a supporter of the liberation of the Nagorno-Karabakh region from the Armenian occupation and the return of Azerbaijani refugees and internally displaced people to their lands," the former prime minister said. "The talks which were held on these issues up till now were futile." "Unfortunately, the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group did not take any steps, let the situation take its course for the problem to be forgotten," the former prime minister said.

## Hundreds detained at Belarus opposition rally

The opposition is demanding that Lukashenko, who has been in power for over two decades, step down and hand power to opposition leader Svetlana Tikhanovskaya

MINSK: About 300 people were detained in the Belarusian capital Minsk at a weekend opposition rally against the re-election of President Alexander Lukashenko, the interior ministry said Monday. Tens of thousands of protesters marched from central Minsk to a Soviet-era execution site on Sunday in the latest protest against 66-year-old Lukashenko's claim to victory in an August presidential vote. "Some 300 people were detained in Minsk and the Minsk region for breaking laws on mass gatherings," the Belarusian interior ministry

said on its Telegram channel. It said law enforcement officers used stun grenades and rubber bullets to disperse the protesters. For nearly three months, protesters have been taking to the streets on Sundays to voice their opposition to the results of the election which government critics say were rigged. The opposition is demanding that Lukashenko, who has been in power for over two decades, step down and hand power to opposition leader Svetlana Tikhanovskaya. Tikhanovskaya, who is now in exile in Lithua-

nia, said she was the real winner of the election and has won the backing of Western leaders who also have refused to recognise the result. Western countries have also imposed sanctions on allies of Lukashenko over vote-rigging and police violence. Last Monday, Tikhanovskaya urged supporters to launch a national strike, but its effects on the country's economy appear to be limited. The political situation in ex-Soviet Belarus is now at an impasse, with Moscow-backed Lukashenko refusing to resign and the opposition unable

to force his ouster. Last week, Lukashenko appointed a new interior minister and police chief in Minsk and warned protesters that security services would "take no prisoners". The authorities last month threatened to use live ammunition to disperse the protesters. Belarus last week closed its land borders with EU members Poland, Lithuania and Latvia as well as Ukraine, citing the coronavirus pandemic. From Sunday, the authorities also banned foreigners from entering the country via land border crossings. - APP



BISHKEK: Sardar Azhar Tariq Khan, Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Kyrgyz Republic held a meeting with Kargar Abdul Majeed, Charge d' Affaires of Republic of Afghanistan to Kyrgyzstan. Both dignitaries exchanged views on recent political developments. - DNA

## A journalist killed every four days this past decade: UNESCO

In the first nine months of this year, 39 journalists have been killed, including 3 female journalists, the report released by UNESCO on Monday said, noting that this is the lowest death toll in the last decade

DNA

NEW YORK: Fifty-seven journalists and media workers were killed across the world last year, the United Nations says in a new report to mark the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists. In the first nine months of this year, 39 journalists have been killed, including 3 female journalists, the report released

by UNESCO on Monday said, noting that this is the lowest death toll in the last decade. Unprecedented global attention following high-profile cases and better mechanisms to improve the safety of journalists were potential reasons for the lower death toll recorded this year, the report said. It added that journalists practising self-censorship in reaction to widespread threats could also be a factor.

In 2018, 99 journalists were killed globally, according to the report. According to UNESCO's data, the largest number of fatal attacks in 2019 - 23 killings - occurred in Latin America and the Caribbean region, representing 40 percent of the total killings registered worldwide. With 15 killings, Asia and the Pacific region recorded 26 percent of the fatalities - the second-highest tally globally. The Arab region was the

third-deadliest with 18 percent of the recorded fatalities, amounting to 10 killings. UNESCO said the lowest deaths were reported from Central and Eastern Europe. In terms of countries, Mexico reported the highest fatalities with at least 12 journalists and media workers killed in the country last year. In 2018, war-torn Afghanistan had the highest death toll with 16 such killings recorded. UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay said for too many journalists, "telling the truth comes at a price". "When journalists are attacked with impunity, there is a breakdown in security and judicial systems for all," she said. "States have an obligation to protect journalists" and judges and prosecutors must promote "swift and effective criminal proceedings" to ensure that perpetrators of crimes against them are held accountable, Azoulay said.

## King says Thailand 'land of compromise'

## WEB DESK

BANGKOK: King Maha Vajiralongkorn called Thailand the "land of compromise" in unprecedented comments on Sunday night, during which the once-unapproachable monarch declared "love" for all Thais after months of protests calling for reforms to the monarchy. The 68-year-old ruler made the comments during a walkabout among thousands of people wearing yellow shirts - the colour of royalty - who had waited near the Grand Palace clutching portraits of King Vajiralongkorn and Queen Suthida. Approached by a journalist from the United Kingdom's Channel 4 News and asked what he would say to the tens of thousands of anti-government protesters who have been calling for the reform of the monarchy, the king said: "We love them all the same."

Asked if there was room for compromise, he added: "Thailand is the land of compromise". Comments to the media are rare as a result of strict protocols surrounding the royal family, and harsh defamation laws.

## Tanzania police arrest opposition leader

## WEB DESK

DODOMA: A Tanzanian opposition leader said police arrested several opposition figures and sealed off areas where a peaceful demonstration was to begin on Monday over last week's disputed election. Emmanuel Mvula, campaign manager with the ACT Wazalendo party, told The Associated Press security forces were deployed in the commercial hub of Dar es Salaam, where the two main opposition parties planned to march to the national electoral commission.

The opposition has demanded a repeat vote citing widespread irregularities and called for protests against the outcome from last week's election, which returned President John Magufuli to office with 84 percent of the vote. Those arrested with Freeman Mbowe, chair of the Chadema opposition party, include a former member of parliament Godbless Lema, the former mayor of Dar es Salaam, Isaya Mwita, and the former mayor of Ubungu municipality, Boniface Jacob. "I got a message around midnight that they had been taken in," Tundu Lissu, Chadema's opposition presidential candidate, told Reuters news agency on Monday. Dar es Salaam's regional police commander Lazaro Mambosasa said: "We were tipped [off] that they were organising illegal demonstrations and persuading youths to go into the streets today. We did not issue a permit for anyone to hold demonstrations, so these are illegal demonstrations."

## 66.8% voted in favor of constitutional amendment

## FOREIGN DESK

ALGIERS: Some 66.8% of Algerians voted in favor of constitutional amendment, the country's electoral authority said on Monday. Late on Sunday, the National Independent Electoral Authority announced that the turnout in the constitutional referendum was around 24%. "Voter turnout in the referendum on constitutional amendments reached 23.7%, or 5.5 million out of 24.5 million eligible voters," Mohamed Charif, the head of the electoral authority, told a news conference. Sunday's voter turnout was considered the lowest in Algeria's electoral history. The referendum was held amid restrictions as part of measures to stem the spread of coronavirus and absence of President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, who has been hospitalized in Germany. The constitutional changes were proposed by Tebboune, a move that was rejected by the opposition on the ground that the referendum lacks national consensus. The changes include limiting the president's terms to only two and expanding the power of the prime minister.

## Briefs

### CAA bans visitors' entry to all airports

ATHAR SUFI

KARACHI: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) on Monday banned the entry of visitors to all airports across the country to stem the second wave of the coronavirus. According to the CAA, drivers will be allowed to drop passengers at the airports' drop lines and those coming to pick travellers up will be required to wait in their vehicles until flyers' arrival. Moreover, the CAA has made it mandatory for people to put on masks on the premises of the airports. It said these measures are aimed at addressing the coronavirus pandemic. Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar had recently stressed for strict implementation of precautionary measures to ward off the second wave of novel coronavirus pandemic in the country. In a meeting of National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) the federal minister said that the use of face masks is mandatory adding that enforcement of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in educational institutions and banquet halls will be strictly monitored.

### OPEC Fund approves \$50m loan for Pakistan

NAHIL MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: The OPEC Fund for International Development has approved \$50 million for Pakistan to support its Covid-19 response efforts. The fast-track loan will help finance the government's programme to strengthen health infrastructure and social safety nets and provide a counter-cyclical fiscal stimulus, the OPEC Fund announced from its headquarters in Vienna. This support will include the provision of Covid-19 testing kits and protective equipment, cash assistance to 12 million families and daily wage workers in the industrial sector who lost their jobs, the purchase of 8.2 million tonnes of wheat, subsidies for agricultural businesses and small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and financing for industry and exporters. Co-financers of the loan include the Asian Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, International Monetary Fund, World Bank and bilateral donors.

### Ishq-e-Rasool (SAW) week being observed

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Sahibzada Noor-ul-Haq Qadri said Haf-ta-e-Ishq-Rasool (PBUH) was being observed across the country to pay tributes to the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH). The week is being observed to send a message to the elements involved in blasphemy that our love for Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) has been strengthened further. Talking to media, he said Ishq-e-Rasool (PBUH) week was being observed from Friday (Oct 30). Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was the mercy for the whole universe, not for human beings alone. The aim of the week was to express our deep love for Khatam-un-Nabiyeen. He said Mahafil-e-Na'at, Mahafil-e-Milad were being held at division, district and tehsil level to pay tribute to the Holy Prophet besides highlighting his Seerah and teachings. By this they would convey a message to the entire world that our relation with our Holy Prophet (PBUH) was strengthening day by day, he said. Our respect for Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) would increase against any blasphemous attempt in the world. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) is a blessing for the whole universe, he said. — APP

# Special Training for Women Law Enforcement Officers underway

The training is being in strict adherence to the government COVID-19 guidelines and is made possible with the financial support of the European Union

STAFF REPORT / DNA

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), under the framework of the Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants in Asia and the Middle East (GLO.ACT - Asia and the Middle East), is organizing from 2 to 6 November 2020 a special training for 25 female law enforcement officers on investigative techniques related to Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and the Smuggling of Migrants (SOM) at the Ramada Hotel Islamabad, Pakistan. GLO.ACT-Asia and the Middle East is a four year joint initiative by the European Union (EU) and UNODC implemented in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in four countries in the region of Asia and Middle East, including Pakistan. The project reaffirms that combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling is of the highest importance for the EU and the United Nations as a whole. Welcoming the participants, Jeremy Milsom, Representative, UNODC Pakistan said "As a woman who is raising a family while pursuing a career you face the challenge of doing two full-time jobs at once. Yet your positions as law enforcement officers place additional burdens on you at work and at home, requiring you to intervene, console, and protect other families while also maintaining peace within your community. We deeply admire the dedication, skills and enthusiasm you bring to both these tasks." Wajid Zia, Director General FIA, in his opening remarks, while



thanking UNODC and EU said "The presence of all these women law enforcement officers here is evidence of a strong partnership and a shared recognition in the indisputable correlation between women's empowerment and global peace." He further added that "during the past few years, our joint efforts have resulted in several accomplishments. These include the development of Pakistan's National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling (2015-2020),

the enactment of TIP and SOM Laws in June 2018. These efforts show our strong commitment to address problems related to human trafficking and migrant smuggling." Highlighting the importance of women's role in policing, Androulla Kaminara, Ambassador of the European Union to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan said, "There are many benefits when women are better represented in law enforcement. In gender-based forms of violence, such



as trafficking in persons, the security needs of men and women differ. Women bring skills that strengthen and improve the police force - and are less likely to resort to force. Women police officers are able to connect with communities on a different level and their presence can help improve internal team dynamics. I hope to see more women represented in law enforcement to make justice more accessible to a broader spectrum of society" 17 female officers from the Fed-

eral Investigation Agency (FIA) and 8 female police officers of the Punjab police will participate in the training. Upon conclusion of the training the participants will understand the differences and connections between TIP and SOM, and will have gained a demonstrable understanding of both, international and national legal frameworks, concerning those crimes. Participants will also understand how human trafficking and migrant smuggling intersect with other crimes, and

how other articles of law can be relevant in such cases. GLO.ACT seeks to address the heavily gendered nature of TIP and SOM through such specialized training and is hopeful that middle and senior managers will be encouraged to ensure that the training participants will be given access to the full range of police duties. The training is being in strict adherence to the government COVID-19 guidelines and is made possible with the financial support of the European Union.

## Pakistani company shows surgical instruments at 'Dentech China'

DNA

BEIJING: A well-reputed Pakistani manufacturer showcased its high quality dental and surgical instruments at the 24th China International Exhibition and Symposium on Dental Equipment, Technology and Products or 'DenTech China' held in Shanghai. "I displayed my products at a stall comprised of three booths during the four-day exhibition and successfully achieved the target," Muhammad Sabir Jan, Founder and CEO, Sawuat Surgical Pakistan said on Monday. He informed that the exhibition was world's third biggest fair dental and surgical instruments focusing on dental and health care in which all international brands from the US, Germany, Netherlands, Spain, Italy, South Korea, Japan

and China were displayed for the customers. Sabir Jan said that he had been participating in this exhibition since 2011 and this year Sawuat Surgical Pakistan, holder of China Food and Drug Administration certificate, was only the Pakistani company showcasing its products at the exhibition. He said that most of his customers come from England, Turkey, Albania, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan who could not attend the expo owing to Covid-19 pandemic this year and added, "But, I achieved my target as I was able to get orders from local customers and buyers." For next year's exhibition, he would start his planning right now to participate in the event in a better way. Sabir Jan established his dental and surgical instruments manufacturing

and exporting company in Sialkot, Pakistan in 2011. Having an office in Beijing, Sawuat Surgical Pakistan was committed to provide good satisfaction to customers through its quality products. He said that in every interaction, he aimed to treat his customers and employees with respect, offering superior service in a friendly, professional, and productive manner. The CEO informed that he wanted to showcase his products at the forthcoming China International Import and Expo (CIIE) scheduled to be held from November 5 in Shanghai but could not book a stall there. "I request to our government to facilitate Pakistani businessmen and entrepreneurs who are already in China to represent their country in such a mega exhibition," he added. However,

Sabir Jan will participate as a visitor to explore business opportunities in the expo. The DenTech China, held between October 28 to 31 at Shanghai World Expo Exhibition and Convention Center covered an exhibition space of more than 50,000 Sq meters with more than 2,000 exhibition booths. Over 850 exhibitors from different countries and areas showcased their innovations to industrial users from domestic and around the world. More than 100,000 visitors attended the show during 4 days time this year. By offering each visitor a mask and all people on-site must register with ID number, the organizers supported all participants to meet their business goal while keep everyone safe at the same time.

## Immediate steps needed to stem Covid spread: Umar



KHAYYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Planning and Development Minister Asad Umar emphasized on Monday the need for taking immediate measures to curb rising cases of the coronavirus. He tweeted that the NCOC on Monday discussed additional measures to control "the rising spread of Covid-19". He said the NCOC in a meeting on Tuesday will put forth recommendations in this regard. "Need to take immediate measures which have the most impact on disease spread without curtailing economic activity," he said. Asad Umar had earlier stressed for strict implementation of precautionary measures to ward off the second wave of novel coronavirus pandemic in the country. In a meeting of NCOC, the federal minister said that the use of face masks is mandatory adding that enforcement of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in educational institutions and banquet halls will be strictly monitored. Expressing his views in the meeting chief secretary Sindh said that NCOC guidelines are being implemented in the province and action against the educational institutions, marriage halls found violating the SOPs are going on.

## Over 30m children vaccinated against polio

ISLAMABAD: More than 30 million children under the age of five-year received anti-polio drops in 128 districts across the country during seven-day sub-national campaign against the disease. According to an official of Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme, the campaign which was started on October 26, covered areas included 33 districts of Punjab, 33 districts of Balochistan, 41 districts of Sindh, eight districts of Gilgit Baltistan, 10 districts of AJK and one district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said that during this campaign more than 210,000 frontline workers visited door to door to protect children from this crippling disease. The vaccinators adhered to stringent COVID-19 preventative operating procedures as they did in the campaigns conducted in July, August and September, he added. Coordinator of the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) of the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme, Dr Rana Safdar said, "While we may have not achieved zero cases, the programme has been able to secure the future of millions of children by continued vaccination." He said, "Despite multiple challenges, our frontline workers remain committed and are the real heroes. World's eyes are focused on Pakistan and the government is committed to eradicate polio virus from the country." He said now it's up to the parents and society as a whole to vaccinate their children and open doors to frontline workers to get rid of not only the polio but all other vaccine preventable diseases. — DNA

## Minister receives bio safety cabinets by WHO

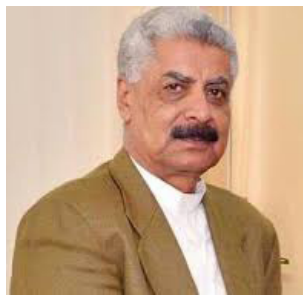
LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Dr. Yasmin Rashid received six Bio Safety Cabinets donated by World Health Organization (WHO) at the Laboratory of TB Control Programme, Primary and Secondary Healthcare department, here on Monday. Primary and Secondary Healthcare department's Secretary Captain (Retd) Usman Younis, World Health Organization representative in Pakistan Dr Palitha Gunarathna Mahipala, officials of TB Control Programme, Rafia Haider, Dr. Jamshed and other officials of the department were also present on this occasion. The Health Minister said, "We are grateful to the WHO for giving away Bio Safety Cabinets which will significantly enhance our capacity to perform coronavirus and other tests a great deal. All of these Bio Safety Cabinets will be installed at different BSL-3 Labs in Punjab. The testing capacity is increased by around 600 tests a cabinet apiece in a day. Currently 16 BSL Labs are performing Corona tests in Public sector and overall more than 50 labs in Punjab have the capacity to perform Corona tests. The WHO has always been supportive in challenges. The government is implementing Corona SOPs in accordance with the WHO guidelines to control virus transmission. The second wave of Corona Pandemic is much more severe globally than the first wave. Europe is re-imposing lockdowns as winter comes. — DNA

## PA resolution demands to disqualify Ayaz Sadiq

LAHORE: A resolution condemning PML-N leader and former National Assembly speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq's controversial statement on the release of Indian pilot Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman was submitted to the Punjab Assembly secretary. PTI MPA Musarat Jamshed Cheema submitted the resolution that alleges Ayaz Sadiq made the statement to please former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and India. Not only did he go against the country's Constitution but also distorted history. — APP

## Abdul Qadir Baloch to reveal plans on Nov 7

QUETTA: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Balochistan chief Abdul Qadir Baloch on Monday said that he will make an announcement about his political future on November 7. "I have been in consultation with the friends and political colleagues", Abdul Qadir Baloch said in his statement released from Quetta here on Monday. The disgruntled leader of the PML-N further said that he will address a press conference on November 7 and announce his political future. In his statement on Sunday, Qadir Baloch said that the only reason he had decided to part ways with the PML-N is its narrative against Pakistan Army. It is pertinent to mention here that it was reported earlier in the day that PML-N leader Maryam Nawaz took notice of the statements of Abdul Qadir Baloch with regard to the protest rally of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) in Quetta. Baloch, was advised by the party's senior leadership to step down from the top seat in Balochistan, according to sources. Jamal Shah Kakar, incumbent provincial General Secretary of the PML-N, who has completed the organizational set up of the party in Balochistan, has been directed by the leadership to look into the organizational matters of the party, sources said. — DNA



## Pak youth attends Panda Youth Reporters Camp

"It has very important significance for my personal development and career planning in future." "CPEC has a great influence on youth of both countries. CPEC has brought many opportunities for youth"

DNA

BEIJING: World Panda Youth Reporters Camp was held in Chengdu last week, participated by twenty outstanding youth from six countries. Among them two Pakistani youth, Zaid Ahmed and Aftab Ali also took part in this event, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Monday. They got opportunities to visit and interview Chengdu around 6

themes such as urban greening, urban industries, history, technology, sport, and entertainment. After this activity, 2 Pakistani students hope to have the opportunity to shoulder the responsibility of protecting traditional Chinese culture. Meanwhile, they also have learnt a lot at the camp. Zaid said, "in order to exercise my communication ability, increase my understanding of Chinese society, I took part in the camp.



By this activity, I broadened my horizons to make friends from all over the world, intuitively felt the social and economic development speed of China. "It has very important significance for my personal development and career planning in the future." "CPEC has a great influence on the youth of both countries. CPEC has brought many opportunities for young people like me." These opportunities range in

various aspects. The Chinese government treats us really well. The hospitality of Chinese people is worth mentioning as well," said Ali Zaid Ahmed said that "Through CPEC, the two countries are engaged in all-round and multi-field cooperation. Youth are the future of our countries, and their exchanges and learning, understanding and tolerance, will bring long-term cooperation and common prosperity to our two countries," he added.

## COVID-19 hot-spots sealed in Punjab

ISLAMABAD: The Punjab government has sealed 830 places across the province in a move under the micro-smart lockdown after spike in COVID-19 cases. In these areas 1416 cases of novel coronavirus were reported, a private news channel reported on Monday quoting the sources of the provincial government. The micro-smart lockdown has been imposed in 435 spots in Lahore, which is maximum number of areas sealed in the province. — APP