



# Islamabad POST

Wednesday, November 04, 2020

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

It is my honor to serve as Ambassador of China to Pakistan: Nong Rong

World must keep fighting abuse of Islam: Turkish FM



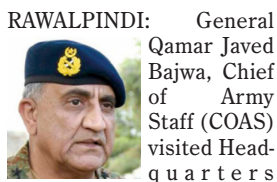
'Critical moment' as the Europe, North Africa see COVID-19 surge: WHO



## Briefs

### Army Chief lauds FWO's work

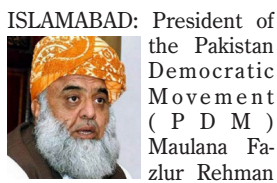
STAFF REPORT



RAWALPINDI: General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) visited Headquarters Frontier Works Organization (FWO) on Tuesday. COAS was given a detailed briefing on development projects undertaken by FWO. COAS expressed satisfaction over the progress and directed to ensure timely completion of projects of national importance. He appreciated the public-private partnership initiatives and said that private sector must be supported in greater national interest. He also appreciated organisation's capacity building efforts for mega projects.

### Maulana summons PDM meeting

FAIZ CH.



ISLAMABAD: President of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) Maulana Fazlur Rehman has convened a crucial meeting of heads of the alliance's constituent parties in Islamabad on Nov 8 to review the prevailing political situation in the country in the wake of allegations of treason and devise a strategy for the upcoming three public meetings in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Punjab. Sources told that the supreme leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) would also address the participants of the meeting through a video link from London. The PML-N is also the host of the PDM meeting which will be held at the party's secretariat in Islamabad.

### Chohan gets new ministry

ABID RAZA



LAHORE: After removing him from the post of Information Minister, Punjab government has assigned new responsibilities to Fayyaz-ul-Hassan Chohan, appointing him as the provincial minister for prisons. This was announced after a meeting between Fayyaz-ul-Hassan Chohan and Chief Minister Usman Buzdar, in which issues of mutual interest and responsibilities of the new ministry were discussed. Fayyaz Chohan vowed to carry out his responsibilities more efficiently.

## Govt offers relief to industries

Starting November 1, the additional electricity used by SMEs up to June 30, 2021, will be sold at 50% lower the cost

NIHAL MIRAJ / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday announced a package under which small and medium enterprises as well as the industrial sector in general will be able to benefit from reduced energy costs. The prime minister said that starting November 1, the additional electricity used by SMEs up to June 30, 2021, will be sold at 50% lower the cost. "So whatever amount of electricity they use in addition to the level that they used last November, it will cost [half] of what it did previously," he explained. "For example electricity that cost Rs16 per unit will now cost Rs8." He said that these rates will then be revised beyond the aforementioned date. The prime minister also said that industries in general, even the large scale ones, will pay reduced electricity costs at all times, and the concept of "off-peak hours" will be redundant. "It will be as if its all off-peak hours." He said that after the coronavirus lockdown period, record-high cement sales have been recorded, as well as high levels of automobile sales. "Our construction industry is

also booming." The prime minister lamented that the service industry was severely impacted during the lockdown period and it was now imperative that our industrial sector be propped up and perform well.

### 'PDM's agenda unacceptable'

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz says opposition's narrative against Pakistan and national defense is not acceptable in any case. Addressing a news conference regarding steps taken in cabinet meeting, the minister said PML-N's recent narrative is aimed at putting aside their corruption cases. He said negative propaganda of PML-N is not acceptable to any segment of Pakistani society. The Minister slammed Pakistan Democratic Movement for toeing the Indian agenda of spreading anarchy in the country.

## Fear in Austria as terrorists strike

The shooting began just hours before Austria was to re-impose a coronavirus lockdown

DNA

VIENNA: Gunmen opened fire in six locations across central Vienna on Monday night, in an attack that left at least four dead - including one of the assailants - and some 15 people wounded. The motive for the shootings, which began near the Austrian capital's main synagogue, was not clear, but Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz described the shootings as a "repulsive

### Pakistan condemns attack

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan condemns in the strongest terms the heinous terrorist attack in Central Vienna on Monday night, resulting in the loss of precious lives and wounding several more. A statement issued by Foreign Office here said we would like to convey our

terror attack" and said the gunmen were "very well equipped with automatic weapons" and had "prepared professionally". In an early morning televised news conference, Austrian Interior Minister Karl Nehammer repeated calls for the public to stay off the streets. The attacks, in six locations including near a synagogue in the centre of town, were carried out by "several suspects armed with rifles", police said.

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06

## Bosnian president arrives today

This is Mr. Sefik Dzaferovic's first visit to Pakistan in his capacity as Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia & Herzegovina

ISLAMABAD: On the invitation of Prime Minister Imran Khan, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia & Herzegovina Sefik Dzaferovic will pay a two-day official visit to Pakistan on 4-5 November 2020.

The Chairman will be accompanied by a high-level delegation including the Minister for Security as well as Presidential Advisers.

During the visit, the Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia & Herzegovina will call on the Prime Minister and the President and will have separate interactions with the Speaker of National Assembly, Foreign Minister, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment, and other dignitaries. This is Mr. Sefik Dzaferovic's first visit to Pakistan in his capacity as Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia & Herzegovina. Earlier, Prime Minister Imran Khan had met with Mr. Sefik Dzaferovic on the sidelines of 14th OIC Summit in Makkah in May 2019.

Continued on Page 06



RAWALPINDI: Pakistan's Khushdil Shah departs as Zimbabwe players celebrate in the super over during the 3rd ODI. - DNA

## Zimbabwe wins final ODI in super over

SPORTS DESK

RAWALPINDI: Zimbabwe won the final ODI - restricting Pakistan from a clean sweep - after beating the Green Shirts in the Super Over at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday. Pakistan had set a three-run target for Zimbabwe after they were able to score only two runs in the Super Over. Earlier, Pakistan skipper Babar Azam completed his well deserved century as his team is aims to make a clean sweep against Zimbabwe. Chasing a huge total of 279, Pakistan have scored 255 for seven, needing 24 runs in 17 balls. The Zimbabwean batsmen piled up a big score of 278 for six in the third and final ODI after losing the first two One-day Internationals, and also the three-match series against Pakistan. They made their score with the help of a brilliant century by Sean Williams and a fine fifty by Brandon Taylor against the hostile attack from Pakistani bowlers.

## FC soldier martyred at Afghan border

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A Frontier Corps soldier embraced martyrdom while two others sustained injuries when terrorists attacked their security check post along the Pak-Afghan border in Balochistan's Zhoib district on Tuesday, the military said. Naik Fakhr Abbas, 22, was martyred and two other FC soldiers injured in the ambush, military's media wing, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), said in a statement. The security check post was located in Zhoib's Manzaikai sector, it added.

## No chances of another lockdown

PM chairs NCC meeting; appreciates efforts of NCOC; calls for improved healthcare services

NAVEED MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has appreciated efforts of NCOC and all stake holders for all our efforts for public safety and health. NCC endorsed all measures of recently announced measures of NCOC including implementation on wearing of face mask, reduce timings of closing of Markets, Restaurants, marriage Halls, enforcement of smart lockdowns. He said this during NCC meeting held at Islamabad today. PM chaired the meeting. Federal ministers attended. CMs joined the meeting through video link. NCOC apprised PM about current Covid situation and current pattern of disease spread and

### Covid-19: FM calls for joint efforts

SAIFULLAH / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has called for joint efforts at the international level to face the global challenge of COVID-19 pandemic. He was speaking at the beginning of fifth session of strategic dialogue between Pakistan and the European Union via video link on Tuesday. The Foreign Minister said that Pakistan and EU enjoy multidimensional bilateral relations.

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06

## Indonesian envoy presents credentials

President said that Pakistan greatly values its ties with Indonesia



ISLAMABAD: Adam Mulawarman Tugio the newly arrived ambassador of Indonesia has presented his credentials to the President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi. He stayed with the President of Pakistan for some time and exchanged views on bilateral as well as other issues. The President said that Pakistan greatly values its ties with Indonesia. He hoped that during the tenure of Ambassador Tugio relations between the two countries will be strengthened further. Mr. Adam is a career diplomat and has held a number of important diplomatic positions in different countries. Mr. Adam Tugio did his Master's degree in Law from American University, Washington in 1996. While, he obtained his bachelor's degree in 1990 from Faculty of Law, University of Indonesia. Ambassador Adam Mulawarman Tugio has also undertaken various training courses. In 2007 he got Senior Diplomatic Training, in 2002 Mid-career diplomatic training and in 1991 junior diplomatic training from Center for Education and Training Ministry of Foreign Affairs. - DNA

## Schools closure: decision on 5th

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: In view of the growing number of COVID-19 cases, the federal government has called a meeting of all provincial education ministers on Thursday, November 5, to discuss the possibility of school closures and winter vacations. According to sources, the Minister for Education Shafiqat Mahmood will preside over the meeting, while ministers from all the four provinces, along with representatives from Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B), will be in attendance. With a continuous rise in the number of coronavirus cases across Pakistan, parents have become increasingly concerned about sending their children to school. Sources said the ministers will review the situation in educational institutes and take the next steps accordingly.

## Stocks record highest surge in 6 months

DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan stocks rebounded sharply on Tuesday, with the benchmark KSE 100 index gaining more than 1,300 points (3.5%) by the close of trading. "Shrugging off concerns of rising COVID cases, the market recovered sharply today from yesterday's sell-off to close the day at 1,368.70 level (up 3.50%)." Topline Securities analyst Haris Khan said in a note. "This was the highest single day increase for the past six months," he reported. "A lower than expected CPI [inflation] announcement also buoyed sentiment at the bourse." "Towards the end of the session, PM Imran Khan made an announcement of reduction in electricity tariff on additional consumption, which also provided further impetus," he added.

## Inside...

Lahore Chamber seeks FBR help over taxation issues - Page 02

COMSTECH and MoFA launch Consortium of Excellence - Page 03

ADB, Pak sign agreement to combat virus through UNICEF - Page 04

Rising inflation: The silent pickpocket - Page 05

Iran backs Azerbaijan's right to liberate Nagorno Karabakh - Page 06

United Nations concerned over possible war crimes in Karabakh - Page 07

President apprises envoys of Indian atrocities in IIOJK - Page 08

## It is honour to serve in Pakistan: Chinese envoy

Mr. Rong presented his credential to the President of Pakistan on Monday along with Ambassadors of USA and Indonesia, Maldives, Bangladesh and Afghanistan

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The newly appointed Ambassador-designate of Peoples Republic of China Nong Rong has said it was indeed an honour for him to serve as the Ambassador of P.R. China to Pakistan. In his first Twitter message Ambassador Rong started his Pakistan stint by saying 'Assalam-o-Alaikum, Iron Brother'. Upon arrival in Pakistan, Ambassador Nong thanked Amin the DCP Ministry of Foreign Affairs who received him at the airport. He thanked Amin for his warm welcome and said that it is his great honor to be posted in Pakistan. Chi-

na and Pakistan are good brothers and partners with special friendship. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is an important pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, China and Pakistan have carried out close anti-epidemic cooperation, which reflects the true nature of China-Pakistan relations of sharing weal and woe together. Nong Rong looked forward to strengthening all-round exchanges and cooperation with all walks of life in Pakistan during his tenure, so as to promote the comprehensive and in-depth development of the China-Pakistan All-weather Strategic

Cooperative Partnership and jointly work for a Closer China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future. It may be mentioned here that Ambassador-designate Nong Rong, arrived in Islamabad to assume the post. Ms Pang Chunxue, Minister-Counselor of the

Embassy of China, and Mr Ammar Amin, DCP of the Protocol Division of Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, were present at the airport to receive the new ambassador. On behalf of the Pakistani government, Ammar Amin warmly welcomed

Ambassador Nong Rong. Amin said that Pakistan and China are all-weather strategic partners and iron friends. Friendly cooperation with China is not only the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy but also the consensus of all walks of Pakistani society. The Pakistani side expects that Pakistan-China relations will be further improved during the term of Ambassador Nong Rong. Amin assured that Pakistan will provide all facilitation and support for the Ambassador for continuous progress of bilateral cooperation in various fields. On November 2, 2020, Ambassador Nong Rong met with the Foreign Sec-

retary of Pakistan Sohail Mahmood. Both sides discussed matters of mutual interest. Pakistan and China enjoy excellent brotherly relations. CPEC has further cemented and diversified this relationship. As rightly mentioned by the newly arrived ambassador CPEC is a landmark project that would bring peace, prosperity and development in the region. Ambassadors-designate of the People's Republic of China, Afghanistan, Indonesia and High Commissioners-designate of Bangladesh and Maldives presented their credentials to President Dr. Arif Alvi in a Credentials ceremony, on Monday.



## Briefs

## Rickshaws, cabs' ban on BRT route

DNA

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Tuesday heard petition of a rickshaw driver against ban on plying rickshaws and cabs along the BRT route.

A bench of the high court (PHC) consisting of Justice Qaiser Rashid Khan and Justice Nasir Mahfooz summoned CEO of the TransPeshawar company and D.G. Peshawar Development Authority (PDA) in the hearing of the case on Wednesday. Justice Qaiser Rashid in his remarks said that Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) buses come to halt due to some fault after few days. "Every person not owns a vehicle," the judge said. Justice Rashid also questioned keeping the BRT buses under the open sky. TransPeshawar company's representative, who was present during the hearing, said that these buses could resist the weather's impact. "Will you keep the buses parked in the open sky if they are resistant to the weather's impact," the Judge asked the company's representative.

"If these buses have been gifted to you or purchased with public tax money," Justice Qaiser Rashid retorted. The bench summoned CEO of the TransPeshawar and D.G. PDA in further hearing of the case on Wednesday. Earlier, the lawyer for the petitioner said that the government issued a notification restricting route permits for rickshaws and cabs and banning their plying on the BRT route. He said the BRT route was spread over around 30 kilometers and passed through all main areas of the provincial capital. The lawyer said rickshaws or cabs were mostly used by patients, elderly people and students, so banning them on main roads would cause inconvenience to commuters.

## 'Govt providing relief through Sahulat Bazars'

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Dr. Yasmin Rashid has said that provincial government is providing relief to public through Sahulat Bazars. As per details, Yasmin Rashid chaired meeting of Price Control Committee to review government action against profiteers and hoarders. Concerned district officials briefed the meeting about arrangements of 31 Sahulat Bazars. During the meeting, provincial health minister said that essential commodities including flour and sugar are available in ample quantity in government established markets. She further said that arrangements of Sahulat Bazars are being monitored daily by government.

## Bailable arrest warrant against Safdar issued

LAHORE: Local court in Lahore on Tuesday has issued a bailable arrest warrant against Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Captain (r) Safdar in a case pertaining to clash outside the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Lahore office on the appearance of party vice president Maryam Nawaz. According to details, the court conducted hearing on a plea submitted by police officers against PML-N leaders at Islampura police station. It is to be mentioned here that Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) had already confirmed interim bail of 30 suspects including PML-N senior leaders Rana Sanaulah and Captain (r) Safdar. In September 2020, a clash erupted between outraged PML-N workers and police as Maryam Nawaz reached the NAB office in a convoy - pelted stones at police officials and tried to break the barriers outside the anti-corruption watchdog's office. In retaliation, the police resorting to aerial firing, shelling and baton charge to disperse the infuriated crowd. Several protesters including women were arrested. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Staff of the UAE embassy in Islamabad celebrate national flag day at the embassy. - DNA

## Lahore Chamber seeks FBR help over taxation issues

LCCI President said that FBR has started imposing heavy fines on retailers/chain stores on non-implementation of POS system. The government must take the private sector into confidence before taking such measures

LAHORE: The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Tuesday called for an early resolution of tax related issues. In a letter sent to Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Chairman Muhammad Javid Ghani, LCCI President Mian Tariq Misbah said that there are a number of taxation issues which are hitting the economy hard therefore these issues should be tackled on priority. He said that FBR has started imposing heavy fines on retailers/chain stores on non-implementation of POS system. The government must take the private sector into confidence before taking such measures and address their apprehensions.

LCCI Senior Vice President Nasir Hameed Khan, Vice President Tahir Manzoor Chaudhry and Executive Committee expressed their deep concern over these issues and asked the LCCI President to

take up these issues with FBR for an early resolution.

Mian Tariq said that in the post-Covid economic scenario when the taxpayers are facing severe liquidity issues, the number of Audits should be decreased considerably. The FBR should follow the policy of only risk-based audits. He added that business community is facing a lot of issues regarding the CNIC condition. The condition of disclosing CNIC for sale to unregistered persons should be abolished in the larger interest of small businesses in the country in this difficult time. He said taxation system should be made simpler in such a way so that no harassment is created by the tax officials among the businesses. FBR has granted special tax exemptions to the manufacturers based in Free Zones like Federal/ Provincial Administered Tribal

Areas (FATA/PATA) and others. These exemptions should only be provided to the export oriented industries as they affect the competitiveness of industries located in other parts of the country. The stakeholders should also be taken into confidence in this regard. While talking about the rate of duties for commercial importers and industry, he said that the rate of duties for both must be same so that any misuse of raw materials imported for industry can be discouraged. Moreover, the government must eliminate the regulatory duties on those raw materials which are not manufactured locally. In this regard, the SRO culture should not be misused. Due to the carriers, the genuine importers who are importing through legal process are facing immense difficulties. This matter needs immediate attention. Mian Tariq

Misbah said that duties on raw materials of pharmaceutical industry should be reduced in order to enhance its competitiveness in both local and international markets. Molded glass vials are a very important raw material of the pharmaceutical industry which is not being manufactured locally but still facing a high rate of Regulatory Duty. This anomaly needs to be rectified.

Mian Tariq Misbah stressed upon the FBR that the pending Sales Tax and Income Tax Refunds should be cleared immediately. To facilitate the businesses, the self-assessment scheme should be again introduced so that the inspector's regime can be abolished. He added that the Withholding Tax is being deducted on different stages from the commercial importers. This amount is refundable but is not being paid back to the

commercial importers. He urged the FBR to clear the refunds of the commercial importers at the earliest. The commercial importers pay their Withholding Tax at the import stage which has been converted into Minimum Tax. He requested the FBR to restore the Final Tax Regime for the commercial importers. In order to bring down the food inflation, President LCCI suggested the duties on agriculture inputs including pesticides and agro-chemicals should be reduced. He said that the import duty on used mobiles is very high and needs to be reduced to facilitate the general public. The Lahore Directorate of Valuation should be empowered like Karachi Office to hold meetings of valuation committees since a heavy percentage of importers are from Lahore and up-country areas. - APP

PHA inaugurates forest at Johat Town

## Pak experts to participate in health conference

DNA

KARACHI: Two Pakistani experts of mental health, Dr. Zainab F. Zadeh and Dr. Ayesha Mian, who are on the board of advisors of Kazim Trust, will be participating in an international annual conference on mental health to be held on 6th and 7th November. The conference being organized by CHADD (Children and Adults with Attention-deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder), an organization which was founded in 1987 in response to the frustration and sense of isolation experienced by parents and their children with ADHD. Co-organizers include ACO (ADHD Coaches Organization), a world-wide professional membership organization for ADHD coaches and ADDA (The Attention Deficit Disorder Association). And for the first time an organization from Pakistan, Kazim Trust is among the sponsors.

## Problems of kiln workers to be resolved: DC

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: The district administration will resolve problems of kiln workers on top priority and departments should improve their performance. This was stated by Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali at a meeting of District Vigilance Committee. Additional Deputy Commissioner General Umar Maqbool, Director Labor Malik Munawar Awan, Education, kiln owners and their representatives were also present. He directed the kiln owners to pay their dues for issuance of social security cards and said mutual interests of kiln owners and workers would be protected.

## PHA inaugurates forest at Johat Town

LAHORE: The Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) on Tuesday inaugurated another urban forest inspired by Miyawaki method at Johar Town. PHA Chairman Yasir Gillani along with Director General Jawad Ahmed Qureshi planted a sapling on the occasion. Yasir Gillani said the step was taken to cope with environmental challenges, adding that the PHA would enhance the number of urban forest in the city. He elaborated that the PHA had planted around 35 types of plants, including Java Plum, Mango, OBauhnia tree (Kachnar), white and black mulberry, bamboo tree. He was of the view that trees and plants were vital for life. PHA Director Jawad Qureshi said Miyawaki forest was very effective to reduce smoke from air, adding that around 52 more forest would also be established in various parts of the provincial capital to enhance beauty of the city. He mentioned the PHA striving to maintain and enhance greenery in the city. - APP

## PRA makes record revenue collection

DNA

LAHORE: The Punjab Revenue Authority (PRA) has collected an unprecedented revenue of Rs.9.4 billion in the last month. The revenue collection during the same month in 2019 was Rs.7.6 billion which was an increase of 24 per cent. The PRA spokesperson mentioned here Tuesday that during the period of July-Oct this year PRA witnessed a revenue collection of Rs 35.46 billion showing a growth of 9.74% per cent over the same period last year which stood at Rs 32.29 billion. She added that this growth in revenue collection in the current year had been achieved amidst the negative impact of Covid-19 on the economy. She said the Punjab Revenue Authority had achieved this by creating awareness and ensuring compliance through tax payer involvement and education. The spokesperson said the government of Punjab during FY 2019-20 last quarter reduced the rate of tax for over 20 services from 16 per cent to 5 per cent.

## Seminar on importance of Persian held

DNA

BAHAWALPUR: A seminar on the importance of Persian teaching was organized by the Department of Persian Language and Literature, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur at the Islamic Learning Faculty Auditorium. Dean Faculty of Islamic Learning Prof. Dr Sheikh Shafiq ur Rehman presided over the seminar while the chief guest was the distinguished parliamentarian, poet and writer Syed Tabish Alwari. Former Chairman Department of History Islamia University of Bahawalpur Prof. Dr Shahid Hasan Rizvi and former Head of Urdu Department Sadiq Public School Bahawalpur Prof. Qudratullah Shehzad were among the speakers. Department of Persian Chairperson Dr Ismat Durrani, in his welcome address, specially thanked the Vice-Chancellor Engr. Prof. Dr Athar Mahboob for his patronage of Persian and the Department of Persian. While stating

the importance of Persian language, the origins of social, scientific, and cultural civilization and history and their sources are in Persian language only, especially all the histories of Bahawalpur state official correspondence and documents are in the Persian language without which it is difficult to understand the history of the state. He suggested holding Persian workshops for Urdu teachers to understand Persian. Mujahid Jatoi told about Saraiki language and especially the Persian books of Khawaja Ghulam Farid and the Persian found in his poetry. Dr Shahid Hasan Rizvi's dissertation was titled "The Need of Persian, in the Context of History". The Chief guest Syed Tabish Alwari gave an insight into various subjects under the title of "Persian and We" and various fields of life. He highlighted the importance of Persian, and gave many valuable suggestions, including recommendations for the Persian language courses and a translation centre at the university.

## Pakistan Navy wins national sailing championship



DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan Navy successfully maintained the winning streak in National Sailing Championship and clinched 1st position in all three categories of

the championship held at Pakistan Navy Aquatic Club, Karachi. The three days long National Sailing Championship comprised of Laser Standard, 470 Class and Windsurfing RSX Class categories. Teams of Pakistan Army, Navy, Air Force

and Sindh participated in the event. During the event Pakistan Navy's Najeeb Ullah Khan in Laser Standard Class, Rehman Ullah Khan and Khalid Hussain in 470 class and Tariq Ali in Windsurfing RSX Class secured first position and won the

Gold Medals. Pakistan Navy also grabbed second position in Windsurfing and Laser Classes and third position in 470 Class. Whereas, Sindh grabbed second position in 470 Class and PAF stood at third position in Windsurfing and Laser Classes.

## FPCCI hails Prime Minister's decision to reduce the electricity tariff for SMEs and Industries

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

DNA

KARACHI: Mian Anjum Nisar, President FPCCI has hailed the Prime Minister for his bold initiative to reduce electricity tariffs for SMEs and Industries. He said for a long, FPCCI was striving for a balanced electricity tariff for industries to compete with the regional trade. The struggle is now fulfilled and the government realized the issue. The reduced electricity cost will also positively impact the local markets

and will create a tendency to overcome inflation and lead to the spur of economic growth.

The Prime minister's announcement is warmly welcomed by the business and trade industry. Mian Anjum Nisar President FPCCI on behalf of the business, trade, and industries extend hearty congratulations for such a business friendly decision for the industry. Prime Minister Imran Khan during a post-cabinet meeting media briefing announced reduced energy costs for industrial sector. The

prime minister said that from November 1, the additional electricity used by SMEs up to June 30, 2021, will be sold at 50% lower the cost. The prime minister also said that even the large industries, will pay reduced electricity costs at all times, without any concept of off-peak hours. The prime minister admitted that the industry was severely impacted during the lockdown period and it was now essential that industrial sector should be supported to perform well. Mian Anjum Nisar also addressed

the business, trade, and industry sectors to avail full benefits of this facility and play their part to increase production and volume of export. Present Government has already decreased the policy interest rates and established a network of economic zones as Karachi Export Processing Zone, Risalpur Export Processing Zone, Sialkot Export Processing Zone, Gujranwala Export Processing Zone, Khairpur Special Economic Zone, Rashakai Economic Zone, Gadoon Economic Zone, Hathar

Economic Zone, Quaid e Azam Business Park. And special economic zones SEZ National Science & Technology Park, Islamabad, JW-SEZ China-Pakistan SEZ Raiwind in Punjab, and Dhabeji SEZ in Sindh. This is the high time to put all energy and efforts into the enhancement of the socio-economic development of the country. Electricity relief packages will ultimately provide support in decreasing expenses and industries will be able to compete with their regional contemporaries.

## Briefs

### MoHR to create violence-free society

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) is working on a plan to create violence-free society, where all forms of violence against women could be eliminated. In this regard, the Ministry of Human Rights has also launched a range of campaigns to implement women empowerment package includes legal reforms. According to an official report, the initiatives were aimed at resolving women's problems particularly facilitation of basic services to the working women in the country. "The facilities being provided to women includes daycare centre, age relaxation, bank loans, small and medium business plans, availability of shelter in case of any mishap, educational and healthcare facilities and political empowerment. It is the state's responsibility to eliminate any kind of violence against women, the report said. - APP

### NHMP recover heavy cache of arms

DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Highways and Motorway Police (Motorway Zone) foiled an attempt to smuggle a heavy quantity of arms and ammunition. According to the details, the motorway police officers during routine patrol saw the Honda Car LEA 4046, which had a punctured tyre. When the officers moved towards the car for help, two accused in the vehicle, sped up the car very dangerously. When the officers reached there they found huge quantity of arms and ammunition by the side. The Motorway Police tried to stop the vehicle but the culprits sped away. After a long chase the Motorway Police succeeded to force them to stop the car but the criminals tried to escape by opening fire on the police. However one of the culprits Yaseen was arrested and a search for the accomplice was going on. During the search of the vehicle 16 rifles, 89 magazines, 48 pistols, 80 pistol magazines, 15300 rounds were recovered. DIG Motorway Zone Ashfaq Ahmed and Sector Commander Aashiq Hussain Chohan reached the spot. As per the investigation, the culprits were trying to smuggle the arms from Peshawar to Lahore.

### Kitchen gardening gaining popularity

ISLAMABAD: The trend of kitchen gardening is gaining popularity in the federal capital due to diversified agro-ecological conditions suitable for growing almost all kind of vegetables. A kitchen gardener Zahid Majeed said that he was growing all kind of vegetables in special boxes on the floor of his house due to absence of space. He said that kitchen gardening has always reduced the kitchen budget as vegetable prices were high in the market. Another kitchen gardener Taveer said that more people should start growing organic vegetable for their families, adding that Islamabad is very suitable and fertile for all kind of vegetable. He said that now is the best season for cultivation of radish, turnip and other vegetables. He said that Islamabad is more suitable for growing tomato and turnip and other vegetables. According to Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) household gardening has a vast potential for addressing the food and health of the urban and peri-urban population, adding that the obvious advantages associated with household gardening, such as pesticide free produce and availability at the doorstep on one side and on the other hand, vegetable and herbs have high nutritional values.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman builders association presenting a memento to renowned business figure Ittikhar Ali Malik of SAARC chamber of commerce and industry. - DNA

## COMSTECH and MoFA launch Consortium of Excellence

A pilot program to commercialize indigenous innovation is conceived to strengthen industry academia collaboration and increase high-tech exports

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The OIC Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Co-operation (COMSTECH) would launch "COMSTECH Consortium of Excellence (CCoE)" on November 18, 2020, comprising of leading academic and research institutions of Pakistan, and OIC member states, in the fields of science, technology, and engineering. In Pakistan, CCoE is being launched under the "Science Diplomacy Initiative" of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Government of Pakistan.

This was shared by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, Co-ordinator General COMSTECH during a meeting with Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali Shah, Vice Chancellor Quaid-i-Azam University and the Chairman Vice-Chancellors Committee who paid a visit to COMSTECH along with the QAU-COMSTECH Liaison Committee members to discuss various avenues of mutual cooperation and linkages with the Co-ordinator General COMSTECH. Prof. Shah appreciated the initiatives taken by COMSTECH and assured his utmost cooperation to COMSTECH in implementing its various initiatives. He said

that QAU would extend every sort of possible cooperation to COMSTECH in promoting science diplomacy initiative among OIC member states. Murtaza Noor Advisor Linkages and Media COMSTECH was also present on the occasion. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary further mentioned that the strategic intent of the CCoE is to create S&T interdependence among OIC member states, increase investment and trade through technology-based projects, build capacity in key areas of STEM through exchange programmes, and create Pakistan's image as scientifically leading

country in OIC region through international cooperation. CCoE is being launched to help the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) among OIC Member States by providing 6-12 months research training in various fields of science, technology and engineering to over 50 young scientists/engineers (enrolled in Master/PhD programs) every year in collaboration with prominent higher education institutions of Pakistan. Upon the request of COMSTECH, CCoE member institutions will nominate up to 'two' distinguished faculty members to visit institutions in the OIC re-

gion, and review their academic structure, suggest reforms and conduct capacity building workshops and courses. Under this initiative the technicians from least developed countries will visit the host institution(s) to receive training to operate and maintain state-of-the-art lab equipment. A pilot program to commercialize indigenous innovation is conceived to strengthen industry academia collaboration and increase high-tech exports. The program shall foster an ecosystem of industry-academia linkage as well as create an opportunity to accelerate high-tech exports.

## CDA to ensure timely water supply

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority's recent steps will help add 10 to 12 MGD water in the existing system to meet water requirements of the city. This increase will help augment the existing water system to address water shortage in the city. In this connection, the infrastructure for collection, treatment and transmission of portable water is being revamped. Water supply lines are being repaired, restored and leakages are being fixed in addition to exploration more options to strengthen the water supply system. Time line for these efforts is three to six months. In this connection, water supply wing, in line with the directions of Chairman CDA making all out efforts for ensuring provision of quality portable water in required quantity. In this context, it has been decided to obtain four million gallons per day (MGD) of

water from Rawal which was abandoned nearly thirty years ago. Furthermore, planning is being made to make functional the abandoned treatment plant once used to treat Rawal dam water. Once the share of water is received through Rawal dam and plant is functional water issues in sectors I-8, I-9 and I-10 will be considerably reduced.

Similarly, work on restoration of 15 abandoned tube wells has also been taken up. In this context, in order to make functional the abandoned tube wells tenders have been issued and work in this regard would likely be initiated in next week. Authority has ensured availability of necessary funding and around 111 million rupees have been allocated for restoration of these abandoned tube wells. Similarly, it has been also decided to carry out rehabilitation work at Sangiani water treatment plant which will also help improve the overall water supply in the city. It is pertinent to mention

here that since last three weeks considerable steps have been taken by the authority to improve water supply in the city. In this regard, leakages in the supply lines have been fixed in addition to replacement of pipe lines in different areas of the city.

In this context, Production Division-II of water supply directorate has repaired and restored different pipelines and saved water around 1.6 MGD and water supply in different sectors including F-10, F-11, G-9, G-10, G-11, I-8, G-7, G-8, I-9, I-10 and G-5 has been considerably improved. Similarly, during the last three weeks, 10 tube wells located in Golf Course, Poona Faqeeran, E-10, F-11, I-8/4, I-10/4 and H-8/4 have been repaired which help save water 1.30 MGD. Similarly damaged portion of conduction lines of 10 tube wells have been also repaired which has resulted in increase of water supply particularly in I series sector.

## PNCA to hold musical, tabla evening

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) will hold an evening of quality singing and Tabla performance titled "Saz Samandar" today. The evening will feature legendary Tabla player of Subcontinent Ustad Abdula Sattar Tari Khan aiming to keep alive the culture of the classical music.

He will enthrall the music lovers of twin cities with his melodious Tabla performance and note-perfect singing, an official said on Tuesday. He said that he is the student of Ustad Mian Shaukat Hussain adding that he has been awarded with many accolades such as the Hazrat Amir Khusrav Award, as well as Pakistan's Pride of Performance Award. The event is aimed to celebrate the preserve Pakistan's waning musical heritage, he stated. He said that it was a family ambience event that has been arranged to enhance the cultural and music activities and provide healthy entertainment to citizens. He said that strict Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will be followed including hand sanitizers and masks. - APP

## ICT police establish special desk for families of martyrs

*Elaborating other steps for heirs of martyred personnel, the police source said that children or family members of martyred personnel were being employed in Islamabad police*

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have established a special desk at police lines to facilitate the families of martyred cops and ensure timely assistance to them in case of any problem. According to the police source, this desk has been established following the directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfiqar. The family members of any martyred cop can contact there following which timely assistance would be provided to them. The source said that family members of martyred cops can inform the police employees at the desk in written about issues they were facing. He said that all problems including admission of children to educational institutions and other social issues would be reviewed and assistance to be provided to the relevant family. Elaborating other steps for heirs of martyred personnel, the police source said that children or family members of martyred personnel were being employed in Islamabad police. He said that Prime Minister has also approved special package for martyrs of Islamabad Police and every possible steps would be taken to provide relief to the families of martyrs cops. He said that educational facilities were being provided to the children of martyred personnel and expenses at educational institutions were being provided by Islamabad police. - DNA

## Pak Post organizes online 'Khuli Katchery'

RAJA PERVAIZ

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Post on Tuesday organized an online 'Khuli Katchery' (Open Court) for resolving the complaints of postal services clients on month basis. The initiative was taken on the special directives of Prime Minister Imran Khan and Ministry of Communications and Postal Services Murad Saeed, said a press release. The open court was joined by senior management of Pakistan Post and assured the customers to resolve their complaints at the earliest. The customers highly praised the initiative of open court and thanked Director General Pakistan Post in this regard. DG Pakistan Post directed concerned management to take steps for resolving customers complaints and providing all possible facilities to them.

## IESCO identifies 2571 suspicious meters

ISLAMABAD: Surveillance and Monitoring teams of Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) have identified 2571 suspicious meters in all five regions of the company during routine checking in October. Sharing the details, the IESCO spokesperson told that out of total, 2507 meters were found slow, eight with holds while direct supply was taken from 56 meters. As many as 2.3 million units were charged to them besides imposing fine of Rs 42.52 million on account of power pilferage, the spokesperson said. He said applications have also been submitted in the concerned police stations for further legal action against the power thieves. Meanwhile, the IESCO has also started a comprehensive campaign to replace all defective meters in all regions of the company. IESCO Chief Shahid Iqbal Chaudhary was personally monitoring the whole campaign, the spokesperson said. - APP

## IRSA releases 80,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 80,000 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 45,100 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tabela Dam was 1524.48 feet, which was 138.48 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 27,800 cusecs and outflow as 38,000 cusecs. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1206.90 feet, which was 166.90 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 5,300 cusecs and 35,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 59,000, 37,800 and 7,300 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 3,800 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 3,000 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala. - APP

## IESCO issues power schedule

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Tuesday issued a power suspension programme for Wednesday 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 09:00 AM to 05:00 PM Padiyal, Gagan, Mahota Feeders, from 09:00 AM to 04:00 PM KSM-II, Al Qadir Mill, KSM-I, PAF, KSF-3, Al-Rizwan Mill, Millat Chowk Feeders, from 08:00 AM to 12:00 Noon Chrah, Islamia Chowk, Klar Kahar Feeders and surrounding areas. - APP

## 'Pak must play proactive role regarding Kashmir'

These views were expressed during the Asian Media and Business Awards Ceremony organized by the Asian Cultural Association of Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Jammu Kashmir Salvation Movement Altaf Ahmed Bhat has said that India is engaged in conspiracies against the independence movement of Kashmir. In order to change the proportion of the population in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, more than 2 million domicile certificates have been issued to Non-Kashmiri Hindus. The sacrifices made in Kashmir demand that Pakistan play a proactive role on the diplomatic front regarding Kashmir and thwart Indian conspiracies. He expressed these views while addressing the Asian Media and Business Awards Ceremony organized by the Asian Cultural Association of Pakistan. Deputy Commissioner Islamabad

Hamza Shafiqat, Chairman Sweet Home Zamrud Khan, Former President of PFUJ Afzal Butt, General Secretary Asian Cultural Association of Pakistan Syed Sohail Bukhari, Former President of CDA Union Chaudhry Yasin, Secretary of National Press Club Anwar Raza, Finance Secretary of NPC Sagheer Chaudhry, Senior Journalists Aqeel Ahmad Tareen, Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Dar, Mazhar Barlas, TV Anchor Ali Raza Alvi, Raja Bashir Usmani, Raja Kafil

Ahmad, Nisar Ahmad, Shamshad Mangat, Raja Abrar, REnowned Businessman Mushatq Askari, Shafiq Butt, Sheikh Shabbir, Hammad Mir, Ahtisham Mir and a large number of people attended the award ceremony. Addressing the function, Kashmiri leader Altaf Ahmed Bhat said that Kashmiri people are fighting for the completion of Pakistan. Without Kashmir, Pakistan is incomplete. All avenues for peace in South Asia pass through Kash-

mir. The Kashmiri people have played their role beyond what they could. It is an everlasting story of sacrifices and aspirations that of the Kashmiri people have made. Thousands are locked up in prisons, thousands missing, millions left their homes and migrated. The Kashmiri people are making all these sacrifices for the freedom of Islam and the completion of Pakistan. Inshallah, as a result of these great sacrifices of Kashmiris, Kashmir will soon reach the

goal of independence. Bhat added. President J&KSM Altaf Ahmed Bhat asserted that, in the last few months, more than two million Hindus will be given Kashmir domiciles. There is a conspiracy to change the proportion of the population in occupied Kashmir. India wants to snatch Kashmiris from their language and culture. He said that it is the responsibility of our media that the statement of truth be placed before the world. Indian extremist organizations are chanting slogans to destroy Pakistan. Threats are being made to attack Kashmir. Hindu extremist organizations should be aware of their intentions. Kashmiri and Pakistani people should unite and fight to thwart India's ambitions. Kashmiri people are fighting for the defence of Pakistan. Kashmiris should be supported at all levels.



## Briefs

## 'MPC disposes of 4748 cases'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Missing Persons Commission has disposed of 4748 cases upto Oct 31, 2020 as per monthly progress report released by Secretary (Co-ED) on cases of alleged enforced disappearances for the month of Oct 2020. A total number of 6786 cases were received by the Missing Persons Commission upto September 2020. During Oct 2020, 45 more cases were received by the commission and total numbers of cases reached to 6831. The Missing Persons Commission disposed of 30 cases in October 2020 and thus total disposal of Missing Persons upto October 31, 2020 is 4748 and balance as on Oct 2020 is 2083. The Missing Persons Commission will resume its hearings soon after review of COVID-19 policies announced by Federal Government and Provincial Governments in order to prevent from COVID-19 as per law. Justice (ret'd) Javed Iqbal, Chairman, Missing Persons Commission and other Honorable members have disposed of 4748 cases upto Oct 31, 2020. The relatives of missing persons have lauded the efforts of Honorable Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal Chairman Missing Persons Commission and other Honorable members of Missing Persons Commission for taking personal interest in locating their near and dear ones. Honorable Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman, Missing Persons Commission is serving Missing Persons Commission in an honorary capacity and is drawing no salary and availing other facilities which are admissible as per law.

## Police held 95 drug peddlers

RAWALPINDI: The police in their massive crackdown against drug peddlers Tuesday arrested 95 accused besides recovering 51 kg of Charas, 500 grams of heroin, 331 liter of liquor and 23 bottles of liquor during last two days. According to a police spokesman, Rawal police held 23 drug peddlers and recovered 9.6 kgs of Charas, 77 liter liquor from their possession. Potohar police during their crackdown arrested 52 accused and recovered 30.6 kgs grams of Charas, 500 grams of heroin, 215 liter of liquor from their custody. Saddar police netted 20 outlaws and recovered 11.6 kg charas, 40 liter of liquor. City Police Officer (CPO), Muhammad Ahsan Younis directed the official concerned to accelerate the ongoing operation and made it clear that strict action would be taken against those who were found in this illegal activity and playing with the lives of innocent people. He said the police were committed to protect citizens' lives and property and in that regard no stone would be left unturned. - APP

## Dacoit gang busted, two arrested

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Police have busted a dacoit gang and nabbed its two members involved in robberies, snatching and other illegal activities in various areas of city. According to a Police spokesman, Ratta Amral Police while acting on tip off conducted a raid in their jurisdiction and manage to hold "Hamza Gang" and arrested its member namely Hamza and Hasaan. Police also recovered looted cash, arms and ammunition from their possession. During the preliminary investigation, the accused confessed their crimes including dacoities, snatching and other illegal activities in different areas of the city. The arrested outlaws have been sent behind the bar while further investigations were underway, spokesman said.

## ADB, Pak sign agreement to combat virus through UNICEF

The grant supplements an initial \$500,000 provided by ADB through UNICEF to support Pakistan's procurement of emergency supplies and personal protective equipment. These have been delivered to doctors, nurses, and other medical staff in major health facilities prioritized by the government

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of Pakistan today signed a \$2 million grant agreement to strengthen Pakistan's efforts to combat the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Secretary of the Economic Affairs Division, Noor Ahmed and ADB Country Director for Pakistan, Xiaohong Yang signed the agreement. The grant financed from the Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund, will help provide life-saving medical supplies, diagnostic and laboratory facilities, and other critical equipment for communities affected by the pandemic. Ms. Yang and Representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Pakistan Aida Girma signed the administrative agreement, which will enable UNICEF to procure the supplies and equipment using the grant. "ADB continues to work closely with the Government of Pakistan and development partners to assist Pakistan in sustaining the gains made in combating the pandemic" said ADB Country Director for Pakistan Xiaohong Yang. "The grant to be administered through UNICEF will help strengthen Pakistan's response to the COVID-19 challenge. Pakistan needs to maintain its strong efforts to contain the pandemic through robust prevention and control measures as well as by ensuring the provision of essential medical and emergency healthcare facilities, considering the recent increase in



the infection rates." The grant supplements an initial \$500,000 provided by ADB through UNICEF to support Pakistan's procurement of emergency supplies and personal protective equipment. These have been delivered to doctors, nurses, and other medical staff in major health facilities prioritized by the

government. "Since the outbreak of the pandemic, UNICEF has been at the forefront supporting the Government of Pakistan in its efforts to mitigate the spread of coronavirus in the country, said UNICEF Representative in Pakistan, Aida Girma. "More specifically, UNICEF has supported the national response in

risk communication and community engagement by ensuring timely and accurate information to families and communities and promoting positive behavior to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19, and procured life-saving medical supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE). We have also endeavored

to ensure continuation of essential services including immunization and health, nutrition, education, child protection and water, sanitation and hygiene. We appreciate the Asian Development Bank's continued and generous financial support to UNICEF's response to the COVID-19 pandemic".

## Telenor bags network awards

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In line with its commitment to strengthening the pillar of connectivity and providing high-quality broadband services across the length and breadth of the country, Telenor Pakistan has bagged the Network Transformation Award for the "USF - Extreme remote coverage programme for community support" in the "Community Crisis Support" Category at Layer123 World Congress. Network Transformation Awards (NetTAs) shine a spotlight on global leadership, while recognising and celebrating achievements in the market. Telenor Pakistan, in collaboration with Universal Services Fund (USF) is bridging the digital divide

by ensuring the provision of Telecom, Digital and Mobile Internet Services to the underserved population in Pakistan. The company is connecting people residing in far-flung areas of the country in unlocking their potential in an increasingly interconnected world. "Despite the challenges faced due to harsh weather conditions, tough terrain and lately Covid-19 in remote areas, Telenor Pakistan stood successful in completing milestones and connecting Pakistanis to what matters most.", said Khuram Ashfaq, Chief Operating Officer, Telenor Pakistan. "Telenor Pakistan's mission is to bridge the divide and bring marginalised communities within the digital and financial sphere.

## Huawei established ICT academy to promote advance technologies

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Air University and Huawei Technologies Pakistan for the establishment of the Huawei ICT Academy at the university. The ceremony was attended by the Vice Chancellor of the university, Air Marshal (R) Javaid Ahmed, Dean Kashif Kifayat, Huawei Service Director, Mr. Zhangwenwu, as well as other respective professors and members from both organizations. The Academy at Air University will be the 24th Huawei ICT Academy established under the MOU signed between the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan and Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd aimed at promoting the studies of advanced technologies and adopting the globally renowned university-enterprise cooperation model for course development, training and certification in HEIs. Students from BS-Cyber

security, IT, Computer science, Software engineering and engineering will be able to get Huawei certified at an associate, professional and expert level. Addressing the ceremony, Professor Kashif Kifayat stated, "Air University is the headquarter of the National Centre of Cyber Security, establishing the Huawei academy here will attract more external students due to the trust Air university has developed. This initiative will have a significant impact on the cyber security culture of Pakistan and produce more Huawei cyber security product line experts in the country." Adding to that, Huawei Service Director, Mr. Zhangwenwu emphasized on the importance of creating intellectually independent individuals, "Huawei understands that with the constant technological advancements happening in the world right now it is necessary to focus on youth development programs to build a skilled work force for our future digital economy. Similarly, the Digital Pakistan

initiative by the Prime Minister of Pakistan also emphasizes this need to create skilled youth and to bolster the IT industry by building a digital ecosystem." Echoing his statement, Vice Chancellor Javaid Ahmed added, "This initiative by Huawei and Air University will benefit us in multiple dimensions. We will embed the Huawei certification in our BS-Cyber Security, IT and Computer Science as special courses. This academy will enable our faculty members to get trainings from Huawei experts to become professional trainers." The Huawei ICT Academy Program is a global initiative aimed at promotion of ICT technology skills. The program was launched by HEC and Huawei in 2017. It features industry-academia linkages and cooperation with universities in different countries for development, training and certification. It is based on Huawei's advanced technologies in the ICT area and leading market solutions.

## IHC orders govt to appoint CAA chief

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) directed on Tuesday the government to fill the vacant position of Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) director general at the earliest. A single bench comprising IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah gave this direction while hearing a writ petition moved by a pilot challenging revocation of his licence. During the hearing, the chief justice declared that this court couldn't meddle in the issue of revocation of pilots' licences. The power

to revoke and restore licences rests with the relevant authority and not the court, he observed. At present, the country's aviation regulator is non-functional, Justice Minallah noted, adding the licence issue would get resolved once a permanent director general of the authority is appointed. Observing that it is up to the CAA DG to decide whether to revoke pilot licences, he called for the matter to be placed before the authority's chief after appointment to the post is made. The government needs to fulfil its duty properly in a timely manner, he said.



ISLAMABAD: Eesha Niazi, CGSS Ambassador (Islamabad) has been awarded with an appreciation letter and certificate for being amongst the youngest organizer of ADASIA 2019. - DNA

## Govt. asked to focus on computer industry for boosting exports

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) has called upon the government to focus on the computer industry that has tremendous potential to boost the country's exports and create plenty of new jobs. He said this while addressing a delegation of Pakistan Computer Association Islamabad Chapter that visited ICCI led by Munawar Iqbal founder member of PCA and Ibrar ul Haq President. Abdullah Malik, Jamal Yousof, Arshad Janjua, Abdul Rehman and others were in the delegation. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that the computer industry could bring billions of dollars to the country through exports, but lack of a supportive ecosystem was a major hurdle in its growth. He said that computer and IT exports of our immediate neighbour were over USD100 billion, but Pakistan's share in the global market of com-

puter services exports was very low, at around 0.2 percent. He said that lack of recognized international payment gateways such as PayPal was a major hurdle in the growth of e-commerce segment business and stressed that the government should arrange internationally recognized payment gateways in Pakistan that would boost

the exports of this industry. He further said that the government should ease tax regulations to encourage investment in the computer industry. He emphasized that the government should establish a technology park in Islamabad that would promote businesses of the computer and IT industry and make a significant increase in exports.

He said that during Covid-19 pandemic, e-commerce businesses in Pakistan had experienced better growth and urged that the government should implement e-commerce policy in true letter and spirit to promote e-commerce in the country. He assured that ICCI would cooperate with Pakistan Computer Association for resolving the key is-

suues of their industry. Speaking at the occasion, Munawar Iqbal Chairman and Ibrar ul Haq President, Pakistan Computer Association (PCA) highlighted the key issues of their industry. They said that banks in Pakistan were not providing soft loans to computer sector start-ups due to which they were facing problems in launching new businesses. They said that due to Covid-19 pandemic, import of computer industry raw materials has declined by 50 percent and stressed that the government should make supportive policies for this industry to strengthen it. They said that thousands of tech graduates were entering the job market every year in Pakistan and facilitating the growth of the computer and IT industry would help in creating more jobs for them and fostering entrepreneurs. They said that the government should create a venture capital fund for the entrepreneurs of the computer field that would accelerate the growth of this industry and bring multiple benefits to the economy.



## Former CDA head indicted

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An accountability court in Islamabad has indicted former Capital Development Authority chairperson Kamran Lashari and CDA Planning Director-General Ghulam Sarwar Sandhu in an illegal land allotment case. In 2015, NAB had filed a reference against 11 suspects for illegally allotting two acres of land in Islamabad's Park Enclave. On Tuesday, Judge Azam Khan resumed the hearing. Lashari pleaded not guilty and questioned NAB's inquiry against him. "Why did NAB close inquiry against me in 2015 if [I have] caused a massive loss? Is the old inquiry wrong or this one?" Lashari asked. The judge told him that he was let go five years ago because no evidence were found against him. "The law treats every one equally," the judge remarked.

## 11 indicted in diplomatic enclave reference

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An Accountability Court (AC) Tuesday indicted 11 accused including former Capital Development Authority (CDA) Chairman Kamran Lashari in a reference pertaining to illegal award of a diplomatic enclave contract. The court directed the prosecution to present its evidence and witnesses on next hearing, after the accused denied all charges against them. AC-III Judge Syed Asghar Ali conducted hearing on a reference moved by National Accountability Bureau (NAB). The accused including former CDA Chairman Kamran Lashari, ex-director general planning of CDA Ghulam Sarwar Sindho, Mazhar Hussain, Fida Hussain, Shaikat Ali, Kamran Ali Qureshi, Faisal Malik Awan and others appeared before the court. At the outset of hearing, the judge read out the charge sheet against the accused who denied the charges. Kamran Lashari objected that why the anti-graft body closed its inquiry in 2015 if there was any illegality or corruption. The judge remarked that the accused would be acquitted if there was no evidence against them, adding that everyone had to follow the law. The judge remarked that the court was putting this case trial on fast track. After this, the court adjourned hearing till November 19, and summoned the evidence from prosecution on next hearing. Meanwhile, AC-II Judge Muhammad Azam Khan adjourned hearing against CDA officers in a reference pertaining to Safa Gold Mall due to absence of defense counsel. The court adjourned the case till November 5.

## 'Stop charging Neelum Jhelum Surcharge'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Tuesday recommended the power ministry to stop charging Neelum Jhelum Surcharge from electricity bills in the month of December. The committee which met here with Senator Agha Shahzaib Durrani in Chair directed the ministry to move a new summary for abolishing the surcharge from the bills. The Chairman maintained that the project was already achieved its commercial operation and was earning by producing the electricity, therefore WAPDA should immediately stop the surcharge. Joint Secretary Power Ministry Khair Muhammad informed that a summary had already been moved by the ministry to convert the surcharge to other projects such as Diamir Basha Dam. The committee, however, was not convinced and recommended that first the Neelum, Jhelum Surcharge should be abolished and then a new summary for another surcharges should be moved. The committee gave one week time to the power ministry for compliance.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti  
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

ABC CERTIFIED

Vol: 01 Issue: 189

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad

## Provincial status

**A**S elections for Gilgit-Baltistan approach, the ruling party has ramped up its campaigning efforts to secure a victory that was seized last time by the federal government of the PML-N and before that the PPP, showing that the party at the center has a better chance of winning in the region. GB has been largely neglected by Pakistan since partition in 1947. The people of GB have had pro-Pakistani statements since the Gilgit rebellion during the First Kashmir war in 1948, wanting to be merged into the country as a fifth province. This proposal was rejected by Pakistan on the basis that any such move would compromise its chances at the United Nations (UN) for a larger chunk of disputed Kashmir. This slow progression over the status of GB in Pakistan has led to the region being deprived of its basic democratic rights. The region has been run for the most part as an agency, getting its first functioning court in 2005 and a legislative assembly in 2009, granting the region self-rule. Opposition parties, especially the PML-N, are claiming that the PTI is violating election rules by announcing development projects in GB, but what it is conveniently forgetting is that their victory in the previous elections was on the back of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), that has resulted in perhaps the most consequential infrastructure upgrade in the region. The PTI is perhaps also facing some pressure from Chinese to clear up the mess that India has started to create over GB by upgrading its status to a province so that China's investment is relatively more secure. A win for PTI in the upcoming election followed by GB somehow becoming a fifth province would automatically increase its seats in parliament. The creation of a fifth province will of course require a constitutional amendment for which the PTI will need a clear two-thirds majority that it simply does not have. With a non-existent relationship with the opposition, this will be a near impossible task for the ruling party. The motivation therefore, to grant GB provisional provincial status has little to do with the uplift of an aborted part of the country and more to do with solidifying political power.



## Disturbing discourse

**O**NCE again, India and its hysterical media seems to have led to the setting of political discourse in Pakistan. This time an admittedly irresponsible statement, regarding Indian Wing Commander Abhinandan, by former NA speaker Ayaz Sadiq was picked up by the Indian media and twisted and distorted and amped up in its usual manner. As an experienced politician, there is no doubt that Ayaz Sadiq should have been more cautious in the language he chose to use for his remarks, which in the first place seemed rather pointless in any case. An issue that has long been done and dusted being dredged up makes little sense. That said, both the PML-N and Ayaz Sadiq himself have said that this was a personal statement and not the party line. They have also said that the Indian media has played its usual gimmicks and given different twists to the statement, essentially making it sound worse than it was. And, while the statement was unnecessary, the calls for treason cases and labels of disloyalty being handed down to Ayaz Sadiq are hardly mature or in any way helpful. In fact, with posters likening him to Abhinandan and with ministers openly linking opposition members with India and Israel, the situation has become much more disturbing than it ought to have been. We repeat, as we have before, that this unfortunate tradition of handing out loyalty and disloyalty certificates to politicians has to end. If it's one party on the receiving end one day, it can easily be another party another day. This unfortunate situation has also come to pass in such a glaring manner due to the extreme polarisation we see in Pakistani politics these days. The way the ruling party and opposition parties are having a go at each other almost at every forum has now resulted in discourse descending to a level where saying this is 'political point-scoring' would be an extreme understatement. A word of caution: if every Pakistani government starts taking the hysterical and rabble-rousing Indian media seriously, we will lose whatever sanity (if any) is left in the political sphere. It's time for everyone to step back, take a deep breath and seriously rethink which way politics is headed.

## Rising inflation: The silent pickpocket

Attiya Munawer



The same helplessness is seen in PM Imran Khan. It seems that there is a big and powerful hand active against the people in Pakistan which wants to maintain the division of the deprived and privileged classes and thwarts every effort that is being made to improve the condition of the people. It is the responsibility of the government to curb this corrupt powerful mafia. At this time the government is trying its best to stop inflation

**T**HE government has been making claims for a long time to control inflation, but in practice nothing seems to be improving. Rising inflation has broken the backs of the people; the purchasing power of the people has completely died. Prices of daily necessities go up at night and during the day. However, the deficit is being calculated in the name of fuel adjustment in electricity bills. Prices of wheat, flour, sugar, vegetables, and pulses have shown the stars to the people during the day. In this situation, the condition of the people has become like who to advocate or who to seek justice from. The people have no forum for grievances, and the public representatives are missing from the scene instead of redressal. In the cabinet meeting, the federal ministers have tried to become innocent by dropping all the rubble on the bureaucracy, which is tantamount to turning a blind eye to the facts. If bureaucracy is the biggest obstacle, then the minister's job is to remove the obstacles. If there is a proposal from any authority to increase the prices of commodities, petroleum products and electricity, gas, then why don't the ministers stand up to it and try to stop anti-people measures. In the next elections, the ministers and MPs have to go to the people, not bureaucrats, so instead of escaping from responsibilities and saving the aspect, effective measures for the development and prosperity of the people are the need of the hour. Simply talking and imagining will not satisfy the hunger of the people nor will it be able to curb inflation. It is clear that the country's biggest problem at the moment is to control inflation. One of the immediate steps taken by the gov-

ernment was the establishment of the Tiger Force, which will help control inflation, but this force has not been able to overcome the Sustainable Development Authority. In its report, Pakistan has the highest inflation rate in Asia. The report cites India, Bangladesh and Pakistan as having 5.9 per cent inflation in Bangladesh, 7.34 per cent in India and 9 per cent in Pakistan. Even sugar, onions and flour are more expensive in Pakistan than in these countries. The claimants of making Pakistan an Asian Tiger have created the Asian Tigers of inflation and announce not to leave the Mafia. To this, a new addition has been made by the Prime Minister that the mafia and the opposition are pickpockets; they will all go to jail. But it did not say when this will happen. There is no doubt that the Prime Minister has rightly said that all the pickpockets have come together and are making noise to save themselves from accountability. Along with the national treasury of the country, the people have also been robbed by the pickpockets, but in the identity parade, even though the faces are clear, why do the criminals walk freely? In fact, in every era of power, personal interests and expediencies continue to stand in the way of saving the pickpockets. Even today, only some compulsions stand in the way. There is no harm to the rulers in this, because no one's pockets are cut, the pockets of the people are definitely cut. If there is a problem in the country or if there is a threat of war or if the business is ruined due to Coronavirus, the pockets of the poor and not the pockets of the rich are cut off. People wonder why flour, sugar, pulses, ghee, milk, medicine, electricity, etc. are so expensive in the country? Just because they are used by the poor, then

why not 260% tax is levied on items used by the rich? Because there is no real representative of the poor in the parliament, there, in the guise of representing the poor, the elites have become facilitators of pocket cutters while ensuring the pursuit of their own interests. Given this situation, it seems that all our rulers who came were really deceivers, who did not want to do anything for the people or there have always been powerful mafias in this country who make the rulers of the time helpless that they can't give relief to people even if they want to. The same helplessness is seen in Prime Minister Imran Khan. It seems that there is a big and powerful hand active against the people in Pakistan which wants to maintain the division of the deprived and privileged classes and thwarts every effort that is being made to improve the condition of the people. It is the responsibility of the government to curb this corrupt powerful mafia. At this time the government is trying its best to stop inflation, but nothing is getting at a normal rate except in Punjab's Sahulat Bazaars. Government ministers should take responsibility for their decisions, actions and plans instead of holding the bureaucracy responsible for inflation. Only joint action will be able to overcome this problem to some extent. Failure to control inflation is not the responsibility of any one party; every party is responsible for it. In this country, who is not a pickpocket, everyone is looking for an opportunity, but the government has a responsibility to protect the people from pickpockets and their facilitators, because whoever cuts the pockets of the poor, the government is accountable to the people.

- Attiabutt121@gmail.com

## Lockdown 2.0: Europe enters a long, uncertain winter

Ferdinando Giugliano

Leaders must now do a better job of bringing citizens on board with new restrictions. They must ensure that measures are proportionate and based on scientific advice, and that the public sector does its part to limit the spread of contagion - for example by reducing crowds on public transport. They must do better at communicating the thinking behind their decisions. Finally, they must put together adequate financial support and get it swiftly to those in need. During the first wave, countries such as Germany managed this far more efficiently than others such as Italy

**A**FTER a summer of hope, Europe looks set for a tragic winter. The dream of keeping the pandemic in check with limited sacrifices is gone. Governments are readying themselves for a new round of tough containment measures. England faces a month of nationwide lockdown restrictions from Thursday after Boris Johnson detailed new plans in a bid to combat coronavirus. Pubs, restaurants, gyms and non-essential shops will close, but schools, colleges and universities can stay open. Ireland paved the way a week and a half ago, imposing a national lockdown while keeping schools and essential stores open. France has similarly ordered a shutdown, just a few months after president Emmanuel Macron categorically ruled one out. In Germany, chancellor Angela Merkel has spearheaded a partial lockdown for the month of November, one that will put a stop to leisure activities. Italy has imposed a 6pm curfew for bars and restaurants but could opt for more draconian rules. As new curbs on personal freedom loom, it's worth asking: Are Europeans going to accept them as they did during the first wave of the virus? From Italy to Spain, many are already taking to the streets to protest the impact of restrictions on their financial security. Politicians must find ways to address their concerns or risk a collapse of social cohesion. As I argued in August, more lockdowns were never off the table. Although leaders vowed to tackle a second wave through

tracking, tracing and "smart," localised lockdowns, the rising number of deaths and hospitalisation is giving them no choice but to impose stricter measures. Even Sweden, which opted for a relatively light-touch strategy during the first wave, is now enforcing more restrictions, at least in some areas. The current approach across Europe differs, however, from that taken during the spring. Governments appear desperate to keep open as much of their economies as possible, as they fear a spike in bankruptcies, unemployment and ever larger budget deficits. Spain and Italy are resisting the blanket bans on non-essential activities they had previously adopted. Politicians also want to keep schools open, even though this likely contributes to propagating contagion. Italy has reverted to distant learning for high school kids, but elsewhere on the continent we are not seeing the same widespread school closures we had in the first half of 2020. Still, any lockdown is going to require collaboration from the population. Most European countries benefited from exceptional levels of compliance to stay-at-home orders in the spring. Now, as protests in cities such as Rome and Barcelona show, people's frustration and rage are growing. To some extent, this is the natural consequence of earlier policies. Generalised lockdowns were always an imperfect long-term containment strategy for the virus, as the economic shock hits citizens hard. It

also hits the same people again and again, from waiters to ballet dancers. But European governments have themselves to blame for this wave of discontent. During the spring, they could be excused for being caught off guard. This line of defence no longer holds. As Europeans continue to face shortages of tests and hospital beds, many are asking what exactly politicians did to prepare for the colder season. There is also anger that businesses were forced to invest in sanitisers and other health precautions only to then be shut down again. Policymakers should have been more honest about the long-term uncertainty linked to the pandemic, rather than raising expectations of a swift return to normality. Leaders must now do a better job of bringing citizens on board with new restrictions. They must ensure that measures are proportionate and based on scientific advice, and that the public sector does its part to limit the spread of contagion - for example by reducing crowds on public transport. They must do better at communicating the thinking behind their decisions. Finally, they must put together adequate financial support and get it swiftly to those in need. During the first wave, countries such as Germany managed this far more efficiently than others such as Italy. Europe is heading into winter with a scared population. The challenge will be finding a way to fight the pandemic.

- Courtesy: Gulf News

## Briefs

## World's biggest pink diamond mine closes

SYDNEY: The world's largest pink diamond mine has shut its doors after exhausting its reserves of the expensive gems, global mining giant Rio Tinto said Tuesday. The Argyle mine, in the remote Kimberley region of Western Australia, churned out more than 90 percent of the world's pink diamonds – sought after for their incredible rarity. The seam was discovered in 1979 and the Anglo-Australian firm began mining operations there four years later. It has since produced more than 865 million carats of rough diamonds, including a small but steady stream of prized pink stones, according to Rio Tinto. Argyle employees and indigenous landowners attended a ceremony at the shuttered mine to mark the end of operations. The company expects efforts to decommission and dismantle the 37-year-old site will take around five years. "A new chapter will now begin as we start the process of respectfully closing the Argyle mine and rehabilitating the land, to be handed back to its traditional custodians," mine manager Andrew Wilson said. Over the past two decades, the value of pink diamonds has risen by 500 percent, Rio Tinto's Sinead Kaufman told public broadcaster ABC. The end of operations at Argyle is likely to push the price of the diamonds even higher, jewellers say. At current rates, the gems can fetch up to \$3 million per carat. Diamonds are typically clear, but jewels such as those mined at Argyle become pink through extreme heat and pressure during their creation. Those conditions warp their crystal lattices and alter the reflection of light as it passes through the body of the diamond.

## Pakistan condemns attack

From Page 01

deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathies to the families of the innocent victims and wish speedy recovery to those injured. Pakistan reiterates its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

## Bosnian president arrives today

From Page 01

Pakistan enjoys traditional warm and friendly relations with Bosnia & Herzegovina. The two countries have extended support to each other in times of need. During the years 1994-95, Pakistan was a significant contributor of troops to the UN Peacekeeping Mission. Bosnia & Herzegovina provided assistance during the 2005 earthquake and 2010 floods in Pakistan. High-level exchanges are an important feature of the bilateral relationship. The two sides are committed to further deepen and broaden cooperation in diverse fields – including trade, commerce, education, culture and people-to-people exchanges. The visit of the Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia & Herzegovina will serve to enhance bilateral relations and strengthen cooperative bonds between the peoples of the two countries.

## Maradona admitted to hospital in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES: Argentine football great Diego Maradona was admitted to hospital Monday for medical checks, his personal doctor announced. "It's not a serious situation and we didn't come for an emergency," Leopoldo Luque told reporters outside the clinic in La Plata, south of Buenos Aires. Though he gave no details of Maradona's condition, Luque said his patient would undergo a series of medical check-ups. "He's an elderly patient with many pressures in his life. It's a time when we must help him. It's very difficult to be Maradona," Luque said of the star, who celebrated his 60th birthday on Friday. – APP



RAWALPINDI: President RCCI Mr. Mohammad Nasir Mirza along with Mr. Khurshid Barlas, Mr. Shahraiz Malik Vice President had a zoom meeting with Cairo Chamber of commerce arranged by Ms. Sidra Haq Trade Investment Attache of Pakistan to Egypt. Discussion of bilateral trade agreements and other business opportunities were discussed. – DNA

## Iran backs Azerbaijan's right to liberate Nagorno Karabakh

Azerbaijan has the right to liberate its occupied territories and international borders must be respected, and terrorists should not be present near (Iran's) borders," Khamenei said in a speech marking the birth of the Prophet Muhammad

DNA

TEHRAN: Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei on Tuesday backed Azerbaijan's right to liberate its occupied territories, amid a conflict with Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh region. Khamenei said the ongoing conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh threatens the security of the region, calling for efforts to resolve the dispute immediately. "Azerbaijan has the right to liberate its occupied territories and international borders must be respected, and terrorists should not

be present near (Iran's) borders," he said in a speech marking the birth of the Prophet Muhammad. Khamenei's remarks are seen as significant as Iran's official policy on the simmering conflict between the two former Soviet republics has so far remained "neutral". Experts believe his stance will reassure the Azeri population in Iran that Tehran stands with Azerbaijan in its conflict with Armenia over the occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh. Earlier, Khamenei's representative in Baku Ojaq Nejad Agha had strongly backed Azerbaijan in its conflict with Armenia. "Karabakh belongs to Azerbaijan... occupiers (Armenia) are aggress-



sors," he said in a statement last month, maintaining that Iran "has and will stand by Azerbaijan". Pertinently, Iran has come up with a peace plan for the resolution of

the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi toured four countries – Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkey and Russia – last week to discuss the plan. According to sources, the plan calls for an immediate ceasefire between the two sides, end to occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh and respect for the sovereignty of Azerbaijan. Relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan have been tense since 1991 when the Armenian military occupied Upper Karabakh, or Nagorno-Karabakh, an internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan, and seven adjacent regions. Four UN Security Council resolutions and two from

the UN General Assembly as well as international organizations demand the "immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces" from the occupied Azerbaijani territory. About 20% of Azerbaijan's territory – including Nagorno-Karabakh and seven adjacent regions – has been under illegal Armenian occupation for nearly three decades. A cease-fire, however, was agreed to in 1994. World powers including Russia, France and the US have called for a sustainable cease-fire. Turkey, meanwhile, has supported Baku's right to self-defense and demanded the withdrawal of Armenia's occupying forces.

## World must keep fighting abuse of Islam: Turkish FM



MONITORING DESK

ANKARA: Stressing Turkey's condemnation of Monday's terror attack in the Austrian capital, the Turkish foreign minister has underlined the need to keep fighting ideologies which abuse Islam. "Especially we need to continue our fight to destroy the ideologies of those who abuse Islam, our religion of peace," Mevlut Cavusoglu told a news conference in the Turkish capital Ankara on

Tuesday. Cavusoglu also hailed Recep Tayyip Gultekin and Mikail Ozer, two ethnic Turks in Vienna who risked their own lives, entering the line of fire to help injured civilians: "Our two brothers did what a human, a Muslim, and a Turk should do." He went on to say that no terrorist attack can be justified, and that Turkey stands ready for close and sincere cooperation against all approaches that cause terrorism. At least three people died and 15 more were wounded in the terror attack in Austria's capital on Monday evening, authorities have confirmed. Seven of the wounded are in critical condition, including a police officer. Top Turkish officials have expressed solidarity with Austria in the aftermath of the deadly attack.

## Argentina to buy 25 mln doses of Russian vaccine

BUENOS AIRES: Argentina could obtain 25 million doses of the Russian Covid-19 vaccine "Sputnik V" between December 2020 and January 2021, President Alberto Fernandez told Russian media. "They would be in a position to give us 10 million of each of the two doses (required). We can have them here in December, and in the first days of January we could have, they tell me, 15 million more doses," Fernandez said in an interview with Russian news agency Sputnik. "By December we could begin vaccination," a development he described as "very important, because it would allow us to vaccinate vulnerable sectors in Argentina." Local media said the agreement with Russia was finalized after Argentine authorities visited Moscow. The Sputnik V vaccine is being developed by Moscow's Gamaleya Research Institute and marketed by the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF). – APP

## 72 nations offering ICC 'unwavering support'

The joint statement "marks a stark rebuttal of Washington's unprecedented use of sanctions seeking to undermine the work of the ICC,"

MONITORING DESK

LONDON: Seventy-two countries at the United Nations on Monday offered their "unwavering support" for the International Criminal Court (ICC) after Washington imposed sanctions on two of the court's key officials. "We reaffirm our unwavering support for the Court as an independent and impartial judicial institution," read a joint declaration signed by countries that included Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and France, the United States' traditional allies. The signatories, all from countries that signed the Rome Statute that established the ICC in 2002,

vowed "to preserve its integrity and independence undeterred by any measures or threats against the Court, its officials and those cooperating with it". Washington has refused to recognise the ICC, which is based in The Hague and was founded to try cases of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. On September 2, the administration of US President Donald Trump took the unprecedented step of sanctioning chief ICC prosecutor Fatou Bensouda, along with another senior ICC official, Phakiso Mochokocho. The two are investigating alleged war crimes involving US troops in Afghanistan. The joint declaration said sanctions were "a tool to

be used against those responsible for the most serious crimes, not against those seeking justice" and added that "any attempt to undermine the independence of the Court should not be tolerated." The joint statement "marks a stark rebuttal of Washington's unprecedented use of sanctions seeking to undermine the work of the ICC," said Richard Dicker, the director of the International Justice Program at Human Rights Watch. The statement "says loud and clear to the US administration: this is our court, back off", Dicker said. The ICC opened a war crimes investigation into US military personnel in Afghanistan earlier this year.

## Beijing 2022 offers business opportunities

BEIJING: The Beijing 2022 Organizing Committee is actively trying to involve more disabled people in benefiting from the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. The Beijing 2022 organizers Monday launched a project soliciting licensed manufacturers specifically among enterprises whose employees with disabilities account for at least 25 percent of the total employees. Enterprises can apply for 14 categories of licensed products, such as pins, key chains and other non-precious metal products and art crafts, and each enterprise shall apply for no more than three categories. The licensed products plan was launched on July 31, 2018, marking the third anniversary of Beijing's successful bidding for 2022 Winter Olympic Games. By the end of September of this year, Beijing 2022 Organizing Committee has signed 27 licensed manufacturers, 61 licensed retailers, 121 all-category licensed retail stores globally, and set up a flagship store on Tmall, an online shopping platform.

## Covid-19: FM calls for joint efforts

From Page 01

He apprised his EU counterpart Josep Borrell about concerns of Muslims all over the world, including Pakistan, regarding rising Islamophobia in some of EU countries. Views were also exchanged on efforts for peace in Afghanistan during the meeting. Both the Foreign Ministers termed intra-Afghan dialogue as a milestone for durable peace in Afghanistan. Shah Mahmood Qureshi called upon the global community, including EU, to play its due role in resolution of Kashmir issue in accordance with UN Resolutions. Expressing satisfaction on the Strategic Engagement Plan approved between Pakistan and EU last year, both sides agreed to further enhance bilateral cooperation in fields of mutual interest. Earlier in the day, Ambassador Designate to Ethiopia Shozab Abbas called on Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi in Islamabad. The Foreign Minister said Pakistan is faced with several challenges on the external front and we will have to devote all our energies to cope with them. The Foreign Minister gave special directions to the ambassador about priorities of Pakistan's foreign policy including economic diplomacy.

## No chances of another lockdown

From Page 01

increasing positivity ratio. PM directed all stake holders to balance between disease control measures and livelihood of people. PM particularly directed for ramping up hospital care to cater for any rise in Covid cases particularly critical care equipment. The prime minister directed NCO to formulate future course of action in consultation with all stake holders and issue necessary guidelines. It was expected that the NCC meeting may go for a smart lockdown however the meeting did not discuss this idea for the time being. The meeting rather decided to implement SOPs in letter and spirit in order to effectively cope with post-COVID situation.

## Fear in Austria as terrorists strike

From Page 01

Police stated earlier that an officer had also been hurt during the assaults. The shooting began just hours before Austria was to re-impose a coronavirus lockdown, with people out in bars and restaurants enjoying a final night of relative freedom. The attacks started at around 8pm when the first gunshots were heard in the city's centrally located first district.

## SCO: 15th Meeting of SCCJ held through video link

SCO Secretary-General Vladimir Norov opened the recently meeting by greeting the participants. In his remarks, Vladimir Norov noted that the event is extremely important ahead of the SCO Summit that is taking place in just 10 days

BEIJING: A 15th Meeting of Supreme Court Chief Justices (SCCJ) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States took place via video-conference. The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Supreme Court of Kazakhstan Zhakip Asanov, Judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan Munib Akhtar, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Russia Vyacheslav Lebedev, Judge of the Supreme Court of India Uday Umesh Lalit, Chief Justice of the Supreme People's Court of China Zhou Qiang, Chairperson of the Supreme Court of Kyrgyzstan Gulbara Kalieva, First Vice Chairman of the Supreme Court of Tajikistan Shavkat Lutfullozoda, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan Kozimjan Kamilov, Chairman of the Supreme Court of Afghanistan Sayed Yousuf Hal-

im, Chairman of the Supreme Court of Belarus Valentin Sukalo, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Mongolia Ganzorig Dandim and Valiant Richey, OSCE Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, according to SCO Secretariat press statement issued here on Tuesday. SCO Secretary-General Vladimir Norov opened the recently meeting by greeting the participants. In his remarks, Vladimir Norov noted that the event is extremely important ahead of the SCO Summit that is taking place in just 10 days. Notably, over the 19 years since the establishment of the SCO, the supreme courts of the member states have gained positive cooperation experience in justice for the protection of people's rights and freedoms, strengthening justice, the rule

of law, and expanding the judicial and legal reforms, while relying on the principles of the Shanghai spirit. "The global coronavirus pandemic highlighted the importance of developing online courts and online justice, as it has made the work of judicial bodies more complicated in the majority of the countries, including the SCO countries, has," he added. Thanks to prompt responses and adaptation, judicial bodies, prosecution services, public security, law enforcement agencies, attorneys and notary offices never stopped working for a day, and remained functional and available. In this context, the SCO Secretary-General stressed that the primary task of the entire court system in the current circumstances is to develop regulatory and enforcement mechanisms for mov-

ing online without violating the constitutional fundamentals of personal rights. He proposed strengthening the mutual exchange of regulatory and legal acts, references, methodologies, analytics, research and other materials on legal proceedings online, between the SCO members. Vladimir Norov also pointed out that it is necessary to organise an international conference for supreme court justices in the SCO on the digitalisation of courts, potentially followed by the development of a draft cooperation programme in this area. The Secretary-General added that the training and professional development of judges focusing on digital court proceedings play an important role in updating theoretical and practical knowledge, as well as expanding qualifications in line with modern conditions and international

requirements and standards. Considering the benefits of the digital economy and e-commerce, the Secretary-General noted the importance of reinforcing the protection of consumers' and vendors' rights. A coordinated policy on consumer rights protection is of primary importance for building trust in the digital economy and providing every individual with an opportunity to fully engage in it while reducing risks. The Secretary-General concluded by acknowledging the 20th anniversary of the Organisation's establishment that will be marked in 2021. He suggested that the chief justices get involved in the extensive anniversary programme. The meeting produced a joint statement reflecting the SCO member states' joint approaches to the development of their judicial systems. – APP

## Briefs

## Athens finally gets a mosque

WEB DESK

ATHENS: The first mosque in the Greek capital, Athens, has opened after 14 years of wrangling and bureaucratic delays, local media reported. The mosque's inaugural prayers were held on Monday evening under physical distancing measures due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases in Greece, as in much of Europe. Only a handful of people were able to attend. With the opening, Athens shakes off its status as the only European Union capital to lack a mosque, Anadolu Agency reported.

The mosque's first imam is Zaki Mohammed, 49, a Greek citizen of Moroccan origin, Greek daily Ekathimerini said. The opening of the mosque "sends a clear message ... of democracy, religious freedom and respect," the government secretary for religious issues, Giorgos Kalantzis, was quoted by Kathimerini newspaper as saying. Opposition from the Greek Orthodox Church had delayed the opening of the mosque since 1979. It took years even after the government gave the go-ahead in 2006. The 2006 decision to build a mosque with a budget of \$1.04m was held up by bureaucratic hurdles, protests by far-right groups, and legal challenges. The vast majority of Greeks, 97 percent, are Orthodox Christians.

However, there is a Muslim minority concentrated along the land border with Turkey, and tens of thousands of Muslim workers and refugees live in the country.

Turkey has long decried Greek violations of the rights of its Muslim and Turkish minority, from closing down mosques to letting historic mosques fall into disrepair. These measures violate the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne as well as European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) verdicts, Turkish officials say.

## Turkey: Girl rescued 91 hours after quake

FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: A 3-year-old girl was pulled out of the rubble alive on Tuesday days after a magnitude 6.6 earthquake hit Turkey's Aegean region. Ayda Gezgin was rescued in the Bayrakli district of the Aegean Izmir province 91 hours after the quake. Ayda, the 107th survivor to be rescued, was taken to hospital for treatment. The young survivor was seen to be conscious and looking at her surroundings when being transported to Ege University Hospital. Speaking at a news conference, Environment and Urbanization Minister Murat Kurum said by all indications, Ayda's health is stable and good, a view echoed by the deputy health minister. Deputy Health Minister Muhammet Guven told reporters that Ayda remains conscious, healthy and is able to respond. He also confirmed that she displays no problems in her vital signs. He added that search and rescue efforts in four buildings continue while efforts in 13 buildings have been completed in the city, which is Turkey's third largest. On Twitter, Mehmet Gulluoglu, the head of Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), expressed happiness at the little girl's rescue. On Twitter, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan expressed happiness at the little girl's rescue and shared photos of her from the hospital.



ISLAMABAD: Sardar Tahir Mahmood President Retailers Association hosted lunch for the members and leadership of United Business Group. The entire UBG leadership attended the lunch. Malik Sohail Hussain moderated the session. - DNA

## United Nations concerned over possible war crimes in Karabakh

The parties to the conflict are obliged to effectively, promptly, thoroughly and impartially investigate such violations and to prosecute those alleged to have committed them," said United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet

DNA

GENEVA: The UN rights chief said Monday that indiscriminate attacks on civilian settlements amid fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region could amount to war crimes. "The parties to the conflict are obliged to effectively, promptly, thoroughly and impartially investigate such violations and to prosecute those alleged to have committed them," said United Nations High Commissioner for

Human Rights Michelle Bachelet. Bachelet said the attacks carried out indiscriminately against densely populated areas in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone are against international humanitarian law. "International humanitarian law cannot be clearer," she added. Since clashes broke out on Sept. 27, Armenia has repeatedly attacked Azerbaijani civilians and forces, even violating three humanitarian cease-fire agreements since Oct. 10. To date, at least 91 civilians, including 11 children and 27 women, have been killed in Armenia's attacks,



according to Azerbaijan's Chief Prosecutor's Office. About 400 people have also been injured in the at-

tacks, including at least 14 infants, 36 children and 101 women. At least 2,442 homes, 92 apartment buildings and 428 public buildings have also been damaged and become unusable. Relations between the two former Soviet republics have been tense since 1991 when the Armenian military occupied Upper Karabakh, or Nagorno-Karabakh, an internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan, and seven adjacent regions. Four UN Security Council resolutions and two from the UN General Assembly as well as international organizations demand the "immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces" from the occupied Azerbaijani territory. About 20% of Azerbaijan's territory - including Nagorno-Karabakh and seven adjacent regions - has been under illegal Armenian occupation for nearly three decades. A cease-fire, however, was agreed to in 1994. World powers including Russia, France and the US have called for a sustainable cease-fire. Turkey, meanwhile, has supported Baku's right to self-defense and demanded the withdrawal of Armenia's occupying forces.

## SL rescues 120 whales after mass stranding

WEB DESK

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's navy and a band of volunteers from nearby villages have managed to rescue 120 pilot whales that became stranded in the country's biggest mass beaching, but at least two injured animals were found dead, officials said. Sailors from the navy and the coastguard joined

local volunteers and had pushed back at least 120 whales by dawn on Tuesday after a gruelling overnight rescue, navy spokesman Indika de Silva said. The school of short-finned pilot whales began coming ashore at Panadura, 25 kilometres (15 miles) south of Colombo, on Monday afternoon in the biggest-ever mass stranding of whales on the island.

## Fact sheet of Armenia's act of aggression

DNA

BAKU: Since September 27, 2020 the armed forces of Armenia have been targeting the civilian population, private houses and civilian infrastructure in Azerbaijan in a deliberate, widespread and systematic manner. By doing so, Armenia grossly violates its obligations under international humanitarian law, including the 1949 Geneva Conventions and its Additional Protocols as well as disregards the humanitarian ceasefire declared on October 10, 18 and 26. On October 30 - November 2, Armenia continued to launch attacks in various

directions, including across the international border with Azerbaijan. The border regions of Azerbaijan - Dashkesen, Gadabay, Gazakh, Gubadli, Tovuz and Zangilan were fired at from Noyemberyan, Berd, Chambarak, GorusVardenis regions of Armenia. "Su-25" combat aircraft attacking Azerbaijan's territory from Armenia also neutralized. Moreover, Armenia's armed forces continuously targeted Aghdam, Aghjabadi, Goranboy and Tartar regions with heavy artillery causing human suffering and damage to civil infrastructure. As a result of the attacks, a school was severely damaged in Aghdam regions Mahrizli village. In total, Armenia's deliberate bombardment of residential areas

killed 9 schoolchildren and destroyed or damaged 50 schools. As of November 1, Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA) found 311 unexploded ordnances, 1151 bomblets from 9N235 cluster munition, 640 exploded missiles part and etc. As of October 31, in total 91 civilians, including children, women and elderly were killed, more than 404 civilians have been hospitalized with serious injuries. Currently, damages to private and public property being assessed (as of October 31, reported damages were around 2465 private houses, 97 apartment buildings and more than 455 civilian infrastructure).

## Qatar to hold Shura Council elections next year: Emir

FOREIGN DESK

DOHA: Qatar's emir has said the Gulf state would hold elections for its advisory Shura Council in October 2021, without giving further details. "This is an important step towards strengthening Qatari advisory traditions and developing the legislative process with wider citizen participation," Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani said while addressing the opening of the Shura Council on Tuesday. Plans for a partial popular election to the 45-member top advisory council have been delayed for several years. Last year, the emir ordered the formation of a committee to organise the elections but did not announce a date for the vote. Following the elections, the council's power is expected to be expanded to include the ability to dismiss ministers, approve the national budget and propose legislation. The country's constitution, approved in a 2003 referendum, calls for elections for 30 seats of the country's Shura Council, which advises the hereditary rulers. The other 15 seats are appointed by the emir. It was not immediately clear what eligibility requirements, such as a minimum age, Qatari citizens would have to meet to be able to vote. In the neighbouring United Arab Emirates, voters are selected by the country's rulers. Kuwait and Bahrain both have elected parliaments, which have some influence, though ultimate decision-making rests with the rulers of the Gulf Arab states.

## Quake death toll in Turkey rises to 107

DNA

ANKARA: The death toll from last week's powerful earthquake in Turkey's Aegean region now stands at 107, authorities said on Tuesday. As many as 144 victims are still under treatment, while 883 have been discharged from hospitals, according to the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD). A total of 1,528 aftershocks - 44 of them with a magnitude higher than 4.0 - have been recorded since the Oct. 30 6.6-magnitude quake rattled Izmir, Turkey's third-largest city and home to more than 4.3 million people, the agency said. Turkey is among the world's most seismically active zones, and has suffered devastating earthquakes in the past, including the 7.6-magnitude Marmara quake in 1999.



KUWAIT CITY: Pakistan ambassador to Kuwait Syed Sajad Haider received Ambassador of Tajikistan to Kuwait Zubaydulo on his visit to Pakistan embassy Kuwait. - DNA

## 'Critical moment' as Europe, N Africa see COVID-19 surge: WHO

FOREIGN DESK

NEW YORK: Governments face another "critical moment for action" as coronavirus cases surge in parts of Europe and North Africa, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director-general of the World Health Organization (WHO), said in his latest briefing on the pandemic. Germany, France, Italy and the United Kingdom are among countries in Europe turning, once again,

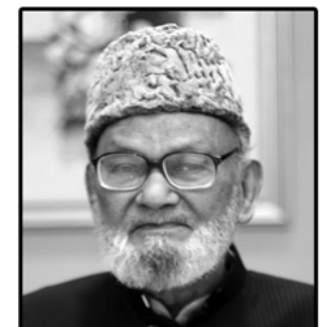
to lockdowns to try and get the disease under control, while the health crisis in the United States is also deepening. Nearly 47 million people around the world have been diagnosed with the coronavirus around the world and 1.2 million people have died, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. In a briefing on Monday night, Ghebreyesus said leaders needed to "step up" while people had to "come together" to tackle the virus.

"We all have a role to play in suppressing transmission and we have seen across the world that it's possible," the WHO chief said. "In some countries, we're seeing cases go up exponentially and hospitals reach capacity, which poses a risk to patients and health workers alike. "We need countries to again invest in the basics so that measures can be lifted safely and governments can hopefully avoid having to take these measures again."

Ghebreyesus, who is himself in quarantine after a contact tested positive for COVID-19, stressed a "whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach" was necessary and urged governments to learn from each other to better tackle the outbreak. "Public health is more than medicine and science and it is bigger than any individual," he said. There has been resistance to some coronavirus mitigation measures, such as mask-wear-

ing in some countries, particularly the United States, where President Donald Trump has sought to downplay the risk from the virus, but the renewed lockdowns in Europe have also triggered protests among people concerned about economic hardship. The WHO said Ghebreyesus, who said on Monday he was symptom-free and feeling well, had not been tested for the virus. He will continue to work from home.

اَنَا لِبِسَاوَاتِنَا الْيَوْمَ رَجَعُونَ  
اظہار تعزیت  
آل پاکستان نیوز پیپر سوسائٹی



ڈاکٹر اعجاز حسن قریشی  
(2020-1928)

صدر مجلس ادارت اردو ڈائجسٹ کی وفات پر گہرے  
رنج و غم کا اظہار کرتی ہے اللہ تعالیٰ انکے درجات بلند  
کرے اور جنت الفردوس میں اعلیٰ مقام عطا فرمائے۔



All Pakistan Newspapers Society

**Briefs**

**US returns stolen antiquities to Pakistan**

DNA

NEW YORK: The United States has returned the antiquities of the Gandhara era stolen from Pakistan. According to state media, historical and ancient artifacts from the Gandhara period date back to the 2nd century AD. The handover ceremony was held at the Pakistani Consulate in New York. At the ceremony, District Attorney New York County Cyrus Vance and Pakistani Consul General Ayesha Ali signed an agreement to return the stolen artifacts. Consul General Ayesha Ali expressed gratitude to the Office of the District Attorney, New York County, and the Department of Homeland Security for their efforts in retrieving the stolen cultural treasures of Pakistan. She called it an important manifestation of the Pakistan-US friendship. Some of the recovered antiquities were also displayed at the ceremony.

**Assembly secretariat closed over positive cases**

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Secretariat has been closed for three days after five of the employees tested positive for the novel coronavirus. Following the development, the scheduled meetings of the standing committees have also been called off, while all the offices in the NA secretariat have been shut down, sources said. Furthermore, the employees have been directed not to come to the secretariat for their dues for three days, as the secretariat would be disinfected to ensure the safety of the staff. Sources further said that only selected employees would perform duties at the NA secretariat till November 6. On Monday, as many as 20 employees of the Senate Secretariat were also diagnosed with the coronavirus. Pakistan has reported 1,167 new infections and 14 more deaths due to novel coronavirus during the last 24 hours. The total count of COVID-19 deaths has reached up to 6,849, whereas, the tally of active cases reached up to 13,965 in Pakistan, according to the statistics of the National Command and Operation Centre (NOC).

**CAA issues list of seven tests equivalent to PCR**

ATHAR SUFI

KARACHI: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has modified its standard operating procedures (SOPs) for international passengers and flights in light of instructions given by health authorities which declared seven laboratory tests equivalent to PCR-based test of COVID-19. The aviation authority stated in its notification obtained by a private channel that seven tests will be considered as equivalent to PCR testing for detection of COVID-19. It read the updated version of SOPs related to international passengers, chartered and private aircraft flights. Passengers holding negative reports of any of the seven tests will be considered as fulfilling the requirements of RT-PCR testing in accordance with the defined regulations. The seven tests are listed below: Real Time RT-PCR for Covid-19, Real Time RT-PCR for SARS-CoV-2, RT-PCR for COVID-19, RT-PCR for SARS-CoV-2, PCR for COVID-19, PCR for SARS-CoV-2, Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 or SARS-CoV-2 GeneXpert. The new version of SOPs was sent to airlines, operators, ground handling agents, authorized flights permission agents and directed to inform passengers who are willing to travel to Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Residents Ambassadors-designate of the People's Republic of China, Afghanistan, Indonesia and Residents High Commissioners-Designates of Bangladesh and Maldives presenting their credentials to President Dr. Arif Alvi. – DNA

**President apprises envoys of Indian atrocities in IIOJK**

The ambassadors of China, Afghanistan, Indonesia and the High Commissioners of Bangladesh and Maldives presented their credentials to President Dr. Arif Alvi

ISLAMABAD: The ambassadors of China, Afghanistan, Indonesia and the High Commissioners of Bangladesh and Maldives presented their credentials to President Dr. Arif Alvi at a ceremony held here at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Tuesday. The president congratulated the newly-appointed envoys and expressed the hope that bilateral relations of their respective countries with Pakistan would further expand in the areas of economy, culture, trade and investment.

Ambassador of China Nong Rong, Ambassador of Afghanistan Najibullah Alikhil, Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Mulawarman Tugio, High Commissioner of Bangladesh Ruhul Alam Siddique and High Commissioner of Maldives Farzana Zahir, presented their credentials to the president. Later, the envoys made separate calls on the president. While talking to the Ambassadors/High Commissioners, the president said that Pakistan wanted to

further strengthen and enhance economic, trade and political relations with friendly countries. The president briefed the envoys about the steps taken by Pakistan to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus. He said that the pandemic was the greatest challenge and the global community needed to make collective efforts to contain the disease. He also highlighted the gross human rights violations being committed by the Indian security

forces against the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). He said India had transformed the entire valley into world's largest open-air prison and urged upon the international community to take note of atrocities being perpetrated by the Indian security forces against Muslims and other minority groups. China has designated first non-career ambassador for Pakistan in more than 40 years as

its new ambassador Nong Rong has assumed his assignment in Islamabad and had important meetings with senior top officers, including that of the Foreign Office since his arrival. He has brought a special message of goodwill of his country's President Xi Jinping for the government and people of his host country that he would deliver to the president here next week when he will be formally submitting his credentials to him. – APP

**Chinese institute designs program for Pak students**

DNA

BEIJING: Pakistani members from Beijing Global Talent Exchange Association (BGTEA) visited Hebei Construction Material Vocational and Technical college (HCMVTC), Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. At the invitation of the school's administration they visited HCMVTC's maritime training base, marine engineering training base, mechanical and electrical engineering department, international students' apartment and halal cafeteria, after which multiple technical and vocational training programs for Pakistani students is expected to be launched. Last year, in order to promote exchanges and cooperation on vocational education between Pakistan and China, HCMVTC had inked a cooperation agreement with BGTEA, which allows 30 Pakistani high school graduates to conduct further study under its mechatronics department. Since then, HCMVTC attached great importance on training, as well as ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the Pakistani students. This year, enable to counter the influence of COVID-19 pandemic, HCMVTC launched online courses for these Pakistani students, to ensure the successful completion of their training. "The exchange and cooperation on China's vocational education is one of the core aspects of the Belt and Road Initiative. Technical cooperation and exchange between Pakistan and China start with the training of skilled human resources. Under the CPEC framework, many Pakistani students craving for the opportunity to study in China, deeper cooperation of vocational education between the two countries is meant to happen" vice secretary general of Beijing Global Talent Exchange Association, Muhammad Ammar stated during his visit at HCMVTC.



**APNS expresses grief over demise of Dr. Aijaz Qureshi**

DNA

KARACHI: "Hameed Haroon, President, Sarmad Ali, Secretary General, All Pakistan Newspapers Society on behalf of the Office Bearers and members of the Society have expressed profound grief over the sad demise of Dr. Aijaz Hasan Qureshi, President, Editorial Board, Monthly Urdu Digest, Lahore. The APNS Office Bearers expressed their condolence and prayed that Almighty Allah may rest the departed soul in peace and give patience to bereaved colleagues and family to bear the irreparable loss.

**Economy back on growth path: Hafeez**

NIHAL MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Asserting that economy was steered back on growth path, Advisor to Prime Minister on Finance, Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh said Tuesday that there was no increase in country's debt during the past four months. "During the period from June 30 to November 1st, there was zero percent increase in the country's debt," he said while accompanying Prime Minister, Imran Khan during a briefing on power relief package for industry. The advisor said that this all was done on the basis of country's own income as the government had reduced expenditures while the revenues were on growth path. The advisor said that the government successfully

managed Covid-19 pandemic crisis and steered the economy out of difficult situation and currently majority of the economic indicators were showing positive growth as shown by the latest data. He said that the revenues increased, exports were also growing while the industry has also gone back on positive trajectory with current account deficit reduced from \$20 billion to zero. He said that Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed outstanding performance and was ranked 4th in the world and 1st in the Asia among most performing markets. The advisor said that the government policies were focused on welfare of the people and that was why it took all the measures to ensure people get employment and earn livelihood.

**1167 cases, 14 deaths reported**

ISLAMABAD: The total active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan on Tuesday were recorded 13,965 as 1167 more people tested positive for the deadly virus during the last 24 hours. Fourteen corona patients, 12 of whom were under treatment died in hospital and two died out of hospital on Monday, according to the latest update issued by the NOC. No COVID-19 affected person was on ventilator in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Balochistan, while 129 ventilators elsewhere in the country, out of 1,884 allocated for COVID-19 patients, were occupied. Around 315,446 people have recovered from the disease so far across the country making it a significant recovery ratio of the affected patients. – APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Narcotics Control, Muhammad Azam Khan Swati paid a visit to Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan, Mustafa Yurdakul to extend his deep grief and sorrow over the loss of life and property in the recent earthquakes in Izmir, Turkey. – APP

**Morocco, Liberia ink three cooperation agreements**

DNA

RABAT: Morocco and the Republic of Liberia signed three cooperation agreements in the fields of higher education and scientific research, agriculture and health. These agreements were signed by Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, Mr. Nasser Bourita and his Liberian counterpart Mr. Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, who is on a working visit to the Kingdom. The first cooperation agreement aims to strengthen and intensify cooperation relations between the two countries in higher education and scientific research, mainly through the consolidation of the scientific and technological potential of the two parties and the broadening of ties between the two countries' scientific and technical circles, as well as the promotion of scientific and technical cooperation in areas of shared interest. The second agreement is a memorandum of understanding for cooperation meant to establish the general framework for cooperation in the agricultural field based on the sharing of experiences, technical assistance and capacity building.

**Punjab sees highest single-day surge**

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Punjab on Tuesday reported as many as 340 new cases of the coronavirus, which is the highest single-day surge since July 21. The number of confirmed infections thus far reported across the province has risen to 104,894. According to the Primary and Secondary Health Department, seven more people died due to the coronavirus, lifting the death toll from the disease in the province to 2,372. Of the total fresh cases, 148 surfaced in Lahore, followed by Rawalpindi reporting 59 cases, Multan 48, and Gujrat 20. The number of people recovering from the disease stands at 97,498. On November 2, provincial authorities had sealed several areas in a move under the micro-smart lockdown. The Punjab government has sealed 830 places across the province after spike in COVID-19 cases, officials said. In these areas 1416 cases of novel coronavirus were reported. The micro-smart lockdown has been imposed in 435 spots in Lahore, which is maximum number of areas sealed in the province, sources said. Micro-smart lockdown clamped in 37 hot-spots in Bahawalpur, 35 places in Bhakkar, 17 spots in Dera Ghazi Khan, 34 places in Faisalabad and 14 spots in Gujranwala district.

**Munir Akram urges to assist covid-hit countries**

DNA

NEW YORK: The head of UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Ambassador Munir Akram of Pakistan, has called for boosting international development cooperation to help coronavirus-battered countries to achieve a resilient, sustainable and inclusive recovery. "We are all aware that the current crisis has transcended all borders, but at the same time it is painfully obvious that developing countries have suffered disproportionately from the unprecedented economic, social and health emergency triggered by the pandemic." He said in a video message to Civil Society meeting of Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond. "The voices of civil society – your voices – will play a vital role not only by contributing your expertise but also by amplifying the call for a sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery from COVID-19," he told the meeting. Among the actions to enable the nations rebuild from the pandemic's onslaught, Ambassador Akram said it was the imperative to address the debt vulnerabilities and liquidity requirements of developing countries.

**Pakistan rejects Indian Minister's GB remarks**

Pakistan's principled position on the Jammu & Kashmir dispute remains firmly anchored in the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions

SAIFULLAH / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan categorically rejects the Indian Defence Minister's unwarranted comments regarding Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). A statement issued by Foreign Office stated India has no locus standi whatsoever on the issue – historical, legal, or moral. It further added that gratuitous repetition of false claims by the RSS-BJP leaders, one after the other, for political point-scoring can neither

change facts nor can it draw attention away from the reprehensible human rights violations being perpetrated against the Kashmiri people by Indian occupation forces in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Pakistan's principled position on the Jammu & Kashmir dispute remains firmly anchored in the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions. Administrative, political and economic reforms are a long-standing demand of the people of Gilgit-Baltistan. The en-

**Indian diplomat summoned over CFV's**

ISLAMABAD: A senior Indian diplomat was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today to register Pakistan's strong protest over ceasefire violations by the Indian occupation forces along the Line of Control (LoC) on 03rd November 2020, resulting in serious injuries to an innocent civilian. Due to indiscriminate and unprovoked firing by the Indian occupation forces in Bagers Sector of the LoC, 45 year old Muhammad Afzal s/o Muhammad Aslam, resident of Mehtika, sustained critical injuries. The Indian occupation forces along the LoC and the Working Boundary (WB) have been continuously targeting civilian populated areas with artillery fire, heavy-caliber mortars and automatic weapons. This year, India has committed 2659 ceasefire violations to date, resulting in 20 shahadats and serious injuries to 202 innocent civilians. Condemning the deplorable targeting of innocent civilians by the Indian occupation forces, it was underscored that such senseless acts are in clear violation of the 2003 Ceasefire Understanding, and are also against all established humanitarian norms and professional military conduct. These egregious violations of international law reflect consistent Indian attempts to escalate the situation along the LoC and are a threat to regional peace and security. It was added that by raising tensions along the LoC and the WB, India cannot divert attention from the grave human rights situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK).

visaged provisional reforms reflect the aspirations of the indigenous populace of Gilgit-Baltistan. Pakistan calls upon India to immediately end its illegal and forcible occupation of parts of Jammu & Kashmir. India must comply with its international obligations by allowing the Kashmiris to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination through a free and impartial plebiscite under the auspices of the United Nations as enshrined in the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.