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PDM is an alliance of biggest thieves, says PM Imran

Pak, kyrgyzstan explore business avenues: Envoy



Danish envoy lauds Energy Policy of govt



Briefs

Ardern sworn in as NZ PM

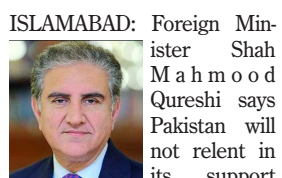
DNA



WELLINGTON: New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern was sworn in for a second term Friday, as final election results showed her landslide victory was even bigger than previously thought. The charismatic leader and her ministers made their oaths of office in English and Maori during a ceremony at Wellington's Government House. "I would say simply that sitting at this table is Aotearoa New Zealand," Ardern said, gesturing to her gathered team, in which women and Maori are strongly represented.

Pak will continue supporting Kashmiris

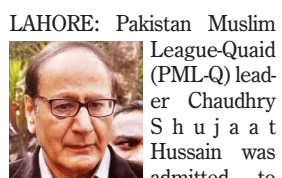
SAIFULLAH



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi says Pakistan will not relent in its support until the Kashmiris realize their legitimate right to self-determination in accordance with the relevant UNSC resolutions. In his message on the day marking the Jammu Massacre, he said November 6 marks the darkest day in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. He said on this day, 73 years ago, the Dogra Army backed by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and the Indian occupation forces systematically martyred more than 237,000 Muslims in the first massive genocide in the post-World War II period.

Ch Shujaat shifted to hospital

ABID RAZA



LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) leader Ch Shujaat Hussain was admitted to a hospital on Friday due to a chest infection. PML-Q MNA Moonis Elahi tweeted: "Ch Shujaat sb has a chest infection and has been shifted to hospital. AH he is not in danger and is recovering. Thank you for all the prayers." It is noteworthy that the veteran politician had undergone treatment in Germany last year. During his stay there, rumours about his death began to swirl, which were denied.

PDM alliance of 'biggest thieves': PM

"One goes to London and acts like he is very ill and we all feel sorry for him," he said

HAROON SIRAJ / DNA

SWAT: The Prime Minister on Friday referring to the opposition's Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) alliances, the premier said all of Pakistan's "biggest thieves" had gathered on one platform because they thought they were above the law. "One goes to London and acts like he is very ill and we all feel sorry for him," he said, referring to PML-N supremo and Maryam's father Nawaz Sharif. "Even the courts felt sorry for him and asked the government to allow him to go abroad. I asked the courts to at least take guarantee of Rs7 billion from him but eventually he went abroad." At the gathering in Swat, Imran said after going to London, Nawaz and his daughter were initially silent and tried "their best" to gain an "NRO" but when the PML-N leader realised the government would not give him any relief despite "blackmail", he (Nawaz) started attacking the armed forces. "The game he has started to attack the Pakistan Army and the Pakistani judiciary ... he is asking the armed forces to replace their army and ISI chiefs, meaning he is asking the army to revolt against the army chief to protect his own money. Who could be a bigger enemy of the country?" the prime

minister said, referring to Nawaz. "Nawaz Sharif is speaking like jackals (geedar) while sitting abroad [and] his sons have also absconded abroad after stealing money," he added.

PM Imran asking for NRO: Maryam

DNA

SKARDU: PML-N vice president Maryam Nawaz on Friday lashed out at Prime Minister Imran Khan, claiming that the premier was asking for an NRO but the Opposition will not give it to him. Addressing a rally in Gilgit-Baltistan's Skardu region, Maryam took shots at turncoats, referring to them as lotay that belong in bathrooms. She told party workers and supporters in the rally to not vote for such people in the upcoming elections. "Trap these lotays, do not allow them to hide," she urged her supporters. Nine of the PML-N's workers were wooed into leaving the party, she noted, "but my youth, promise me that you will not vote for these lotay."

Bilawal says was shocked by Nawaz' statement

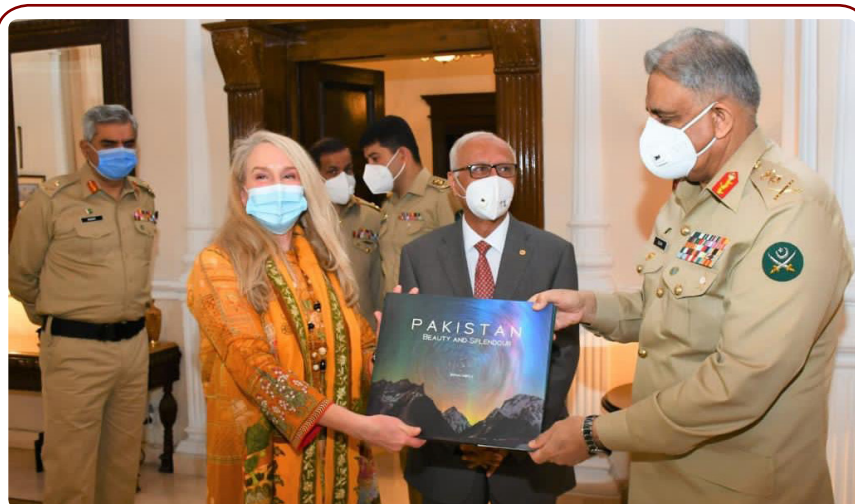
DNA / AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto said that he was "blindsided" when former prime minister Nawaz Sharif named top military leadership in a Pakistan Democratic Moment rally last month, media reported Friday. Reflecting on the PML-N supremo's move to name military leadership in his Gujranwala speech, Bilawal told the foreign publication that it was the former premier's personal decision. Admitting being blindsided by the speech, Bilawal hoped Nawaz would soon reveal evidence to support the statement. "We avoid such comments during public gatherings."

'Bilawal's remarks his own opinion'

LAHORE: Reacting to Bilawal's statement, PML-N Marriyung Aurangzeb spokesperson said the statement by the PPP chief was "his own personal opinion". "What Nawaz Sharif said is a fact, and the witnesses are the people of Pakistan and Nawaz Sharif himself." The PDM set off its countrywide protest campaign against the incumbent government by holding a maiden power show in Gujranwala on October 16, which the opposition termed a "decisive referendum against the incompetent" rulers. — DNA

Continued on Page 06



RAWALPINDI: Vanessa O'Brien, the only woman ever to climb Mount Everest & dive into Challenger Deep, met Army Chief General Qamar Bajwa. COAS appreciated her achievements & thanked her for promoting Pakistan as a goodwill ambassador. — DNA



ISLAMABAD: Adam Mulawarman Tugio Ambassador of Indonesia presenting a souvenir to Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood. The Indonesian ambassador has recently arrived in Pakistan and is currently paying courtesy calls on officials and his colleagues of diplomatic corps. — DNA

Pak slams Indian CDS' remarks

NAVID MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan strongly condemning the "irresponsible" and "gratuitous" remarks of Indian Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) on Friday advised Gen. Bipin Rawat to focus on his professional domain, rather than continuing to make a career out of anti-Pakistan rhetoric. "We strongly condemn Indian Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen. Bipin Rawat's irresponsible and gratuitous remarks about Pakistan," Foreign Office Spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri said in a statement issued here. He said the Indian CDS's unabated anti-Pakistan vitriol was reflective both of his completely flawed understanding of Pakistan's realities as well as his patently politicized approach.

PTI ministers ordered to leave GB

DNA

GILGIT: The Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Court on Friday ordered federal ministers and government officials to leave region in three days. A two-member bench comprising Justice Malik Haq Nawaz and Justice Ali Baig announced the verdict on a writ petition filed over violation of the code of conduct ahead of the upcoming polls. The court also directed Gilgit-Baltistan's Chief Election Commissioner Raja Shahbaz Khan, Chief Minister, and Chief Secretary to implement the decision immediately. Earlier, PPP leader Sherry Rehman had lamented that Prime Minister Imran Khan and federal ministers violated the electoral code of conduct by running political campaigns and urged the CEC to take notice.

GB has rejected opposition: Shibli

— Rules out any intention to privatise PTV

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and broadcasting Shibli Faraz has said the people of Gilgit-Baltistan have rejected the hollow narrative of the opposition. He said the successful public meetings of PTI in Gilgit-Baltistan and public support show their confidence in the leadership of Imran Khan and suggest the party's electoral victory. The Minister said to include Gilgit-Baltistan in the national mainstream for development is Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision and promise.



Later in a news conference, Shibli Faraz has said the government does not have any intention to privatise Pakistan Television. He said the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan was making efforts to changing Pakistan on the model of Riyasat-e-Madinah despite all hurdles and difficulties.

"We have decided our destination and with the grace of Allah, the ultimate aim of the prime minister is to change Pakistan on the model of Riyasat-e-Madinah and traditions of Islamic history and caliphs." To another question, he said the government is dismayed at the incidents of violence in the country.

Danish envoy lauds Pakistan's energy policy

NIHAL MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Energy Omar Ayub says the government has planned to transform outlook of energy market under new Alternative Renewable Energy Policy. Talking to Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan Lis Rosenholm in Islamabad on Friday, he said in this regard, the government has set an ambitious target to introduce 25 percent renewable energy by 2025 and 30 percent by 2030. He said this includes 45 percent share of hydel power generation and 10 percent of nuclear energy into energy mix of the country. While explaining the investment potential in power sector,

Continued on Page 06

Pak worried about rising Islamophobia

DNA

NEW YORK: Voicing concern over rising Islamophobia in the world, Pakistan has urged the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) to take urgent steps to instill a better understanding of the dangers of incitement to hatred and discrimination based on one's religion. During a debate on the annual report of the 47-member Human Rights Council in Geneva, Pakistan Representative Qasim Aziz said stoking Islamophobic hysteria not only undermines the freedom of religion of Muslims but also poses serious challenges to the societal cohesion and democratic credentials of our societies. He expressed concern over global resurgence in intolerance, discrimination, racism and violence against minorities and other vulnerable groups in many countries.

1,376 new cases, 30 deaths reported

FIAZ CH.

ISLAMABAD: The total active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan on Friday were recorded 16,242 as 1,376 more people tested positive for the deadly virus during the last 24 hours. Thirty corona patients, 28 of whom were under treatment in hospital and two out of hospital died on Thursday, according to the latest update issued by the National command and Operation Center (NCOC). No COVID affected person was on ventilator in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Gilgit Baltistan (GB) and Balochistan, while 130 ventilators elsewhere in Pakistan, out of 1,870 allocated for COVID-19 patients, were occupied.

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Biden builds tempo with lead in swing states

The US state of Georgia says it will recount votes from the election in which Joe Biden has eked out a razor-thin lead over President Donald Trump

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: The outcome of the US presidential election remained in the balance on Friday as a handful of battleground states complete their vote counts and thousands of ballots are still left to be counted. Former Vice President and Democrat Joe Biden overtook Republican President Donald Trump in the number of ballots counted in the battleground, a must-win state for Trump that has long been a Republican stronghold. Biden now has a 917-vote advantage. As Biden moved closer to winning the White House,

Trump adopted a fighting posture, making false claims to undermine a vote that was not going his way. Biden has racked up at least 264 of the 270 electoral votes that he needs. Donald Trump has amassed 214 electoral votes so far, and is still in contention in several states that would afford the Republican incumbent a path to re-election. States yet to finalize winner: Alaska — 3 votes (Trump leading convincingly), Nevada — 6 votes (Biden leading with thin margin), Pennsylvania — 20 votes (Trump leading with thin margin), North Carolina — 15 votes (Trump leading), Georgia — 16 votes (Biden leading with

US secret service beefs up Biden's protection

NEW YORK: A squad of US Secret Service agents is heading to former Vice President Joe Biden's home in Wilmington, Delaware, to protect him ahead of the possibility that he will soon declare victory in the presidential election, The Washington Post reported Friday. The move, which has not been officially confirmed by the Biden camp or the Secret Service, is said to move Biden's security detail more closely to that expected of a president-elect rather than a candidate. According to the Post, the move came after the Biden campaign told the Secret Service that he could make a major speech as early as Friday. Biden needs to secure just one more battleground state to claim election victory. Meanwhile, dozens of agents have been providing security for Biden's campaign at the Chase Center on the Riverfront convention center in Wilmington as key battleground states work their way through the count of millions of ballots cast in Tuesday's election. — Agencies

thin margin). Expected to report final vote counts on Thursday night or Friday are Georgia (16 electoral votes), North Carolina (15), and Nevada (6). However, mail-in ballots sent on or before Election Day in North Carolina can be counted until November 12. Three days after Election Day, neither candidate had amassed the votes needed to win the White House. But Biden's victories in the Great Lakes states left him at 264, meaning he was one battleground state away — any would do — from becoming president-elect. By flipping yet another critical battleground state that Trump won four years ago,

Biden placed himself in a comfortable lead, with only 6 electoral votes shy of the presidency. Biden could reach the magic number to gain the White House with a win in either Georgia, North Carolina and Nevada, if he keeps Arizona. Trump needs to capture all three to stay competitive. Meanwhile, several United States TV networks late Thursday halted live coverage of Donald Trump's first public appearance since election night after concluding that the president was spreading disinformation. NBC and ABC News also pulled the plug on their live coverage of Trump.

Briefs

FPCCI panel
calls for
SROs

KARACHI: S.Khalid Tawab, joint presidential candidate of United Business Group and National Business Group for FPCCI elections-2021 on Thursday called for issuance of SROs for the Prime Minister's Industrial Support Programme which included 50 percent discount to SMEs and 25% to other industries on their incremental use of electricity up to June 30, 2021. He was speaking at a ceremony to inaugurate UBG's central election office to aggressively campaign for the group's victory in annual elections of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry. The newly formed alliance would contest against Businessmen Panel led by Tariq Sayed, Mian Anjum Nisar and Haji Ghulam Ali as Patron-in-Chief, Chairman and Secretary General. The elections-2021 are scheduled on December 30. S.Khalid Tawab lauded the announcement by the Prime Minister for giving big relief in electricity tariff to industries especially to small and medium enterprises. He also praised Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf government headed by Prime Minister Imran Khan for announcing that no case against a businessperson about sales or income tax would be forwarded to National Accountability Bureau. This would create confidence of the business community into the government and now they would better focus to their businesses. — APP

SIU Karachi
arrests two
extortionists

DNA

KARACHI: The Sindh Police's Special Investigation Unit (SIU), CIA Karachi arrested two extortionists from near Shahabuddin Market near Saddar. According to a press note on Friday, the SIU arrested Ghulam Qasim s/o Ghulam Hussain and Allah Dina s/o Ghulam Haider in an under investigation extortion case No. 647/2020 u/s 385/386/34 PPC of Khawaja Ajmir Nagri police station. Arrested accused had demanded extortion money of Rs. 500,000 and also collected Rs. 20,000 from a citizen. Further investigations are underway.

TDCP to
lease out all
resorts in
Punjab

DNA

MULTAN: Government has decided that Tourism Development Corporation Punjab (TDCP) lease out all its resorts to encourage private sector and ensure international level facilities to tourists, says TDCP General manager (Operations). Asim Raza told APP that a dynamic involvement of private sector would speed up tourism sector promotion. He said that a mega Rs 100 million project to upgrade landscape at picturesque Taansa Barrage would encourage private sector to launch services in surrounding areas. He said that TDCP would lease out all its resorts for 20 years adding that resort at Nankana Sahib has been leased out to Pearl Continental group while the one at Bheera has also been leased out to some private party. Asim said that remaining thirteen (13) resorts in Punjab would also be leased out to private sector. Asim disclosed that TDCP would maintain a strict monitoring of the resorts during post-lease period to ensure improved services adding that private sector would not be allowed to sell services or products at heavy price. It would also be ensured that the private parties would provide a hygienic atmosphere to the people that would not be hazardous to health of the people. TDCP would inspect resorts every month and issue certificates to the companies and those which would fail to get certificates would have their lease cancelled as per the agreement, Asim Raza said.

Pak, Uzbekistan to strengthen ties
through academic cooperation

Various academic collaborations between Punjab University, Lahore and Tashkent State University, Uzbekistan including student, teacher exchange programs as well as joint research initiatives were also planned under the ambit of Regional Integration Center

DNA

LAHORE: On 6th November 2020 a meeting was held between Lieutenant Colonel Saadullah Tashmatov, Chargé d'affaires, Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Islamabad, Management Center for Global & Strategic Studies, Islamabad and Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar, Vice Chancellor, University of the Punjab, Lahore. Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar, Vice Chancellor, University of the Punjab, Lahore, stated that Pakistan and Uzbekistan enjoy cultural and historical ties and we look forward to further strengthen our bilateral relations with the Republic of Uzbekistan through academic cooperation. He further appreciated CGSS for its contribution in strengthening people to people contact in the Eurasian region and for providing opportunities to students of Pakistan specially students of Punjab University. Lieutenant Colonel Saadullah Tashmatov, Chargé d'affaires, Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistan stated that he is delighted to visit Punjab University, Lahore



that is known as one of the best University in the world. He extended his appreciation to the management of Punjab University for their professionalism and discussed that institutions in Uzbekistan will definitely collaborate with various departments of Punjab University. During the meeting it was also discussed that the Government of the Republic

of Uzbekistan will collaborate with the Fine Arts Department of Punjab University to promote cultural linkages between Pakistan and Uzbekistan, through this initiative students of Punjab University will get a chance of international exposure and acknowledgement of regional audience as well. The establishment of Zaheer Ud Din Babar chair in

Punjab University, Lahore was also brought under consideration, to create opportunities of academic cooperation between Punjab University and institutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Various academic collaborations between Punjab University, Lahore and Tashkent State University, Uzbekistan including student and teacher exchange pro-



grams as well as joint research initiatives were also planned under the ambit of Regional Integration Center. It was decided that Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad will facilitate Punjab University and institutions in Uzbekistan in promoting joint collaborations and projects. Other diplomats from the Embassy of Republic Uzbekistan

to Pakistan and Various Deans of Departments were also present during the meeting. The meeting was also attended by: Lt Col Khalid Taimur Akram (Retd) , Executive Director, CGSS Ms. Minahil Shawal Afridi, Research Executive, CGSS Ms. Palwasha Nawaz, Project Executive, CGSS

Lt Col Saadullah Tashmatov, Charge de Affairs, Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan Mr. Jasur Saidahmedov, Third Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan Mr. Nazim, Second Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan Ms. Dilnoza, Representative of Women Association of Uzbekistan

JI Chief criticizes
NAB silence on
corruption cases

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Jamaate-Islami Emir Senator Sirajul Haq has criticized the silence of the National Accountability Bureau on corruption cases against the members of federal cabinet and many other powerful who are sitting around Prime Minister Imran Khan. Addressing an oath taking ceremony of the newly elected office bearers of the Jamaat-e-Islami Mardan chapter here on Friday, he said the PTI claimed to introduce a powerful and across the board accountability drive during its election campaign in 2018 but after coming into power it even made the anti-corruption drive more controversial than the past. If voted to power, he vowed, the JI would put all those people into jails who looted the country's resources and stashed billions of rupees in foreign banks. The fact was

that, he said, the mafias had been ruling the country since its birth and they did nothing for the welfare of the people. All three so-called mainstream political parties, he said, proved to be the sides of same coin and they just deceived the masses during their turns in power. Therefore, he said, the time had approached the people of Pakistan made decision to get rid of the status quo parties for the betterment of the country and their own. The country, he said, could no more afford the agents of western powers and international lending agencies. The JI, he said, started a movement against the anti-public policies, inflation and unemployment of this government from November 1. The campaign, he added, would continue till the achievement of its logical objectives. He said a corruption free Islamic welfare state was the destination of the JI movement.

Elite force not to be
used for unnecessary
duties: IGP

LAHORE: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Inam Ghani Friday said that Elite force was a modern trained and specialised operational force of the Punjab Police Department which could only be used in the field during operations to eliminate terrorists and criminal elements. He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting on professional affairs of the Elite force at the Central Police Office here. He said that the profes-

sional training provided to the Elite force was the best combination of physical, mental and moral training due to which the personnel of the Elite had always thwarted intentions of terrorists and criminal elements while performing their duties. The services and capabilities of expert instructors of modern policing and crime fighting should be fully utilised to maintain and further upgrade the quality of the department. — DNA

All conspiracies against govt
would be failed: Dr Firdous

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Chief Minister Punjab on Information Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan Friday said that all conspiracies against democratic government would be failed whereas the opponents of government would face frustration. Talking to a private news channel, she expressed her complete confidence over the leadership of chief minister and said Punjab government was fully committed to serving the masses and no one will be allowed to hinder it.

She further claimed that Prime Minister Imran Khan has successfully been leading the nation and country towards the goal of prosperity through economic and political stability. She added that her government's allied partners are standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the government whether it is the Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) or other political parties, they are determined to put the country on the road to progress. "Instead of speaking out against the government, and trying to lead the people astray, the opposition should

fulfill their role in parliament and help the government in legislation," she stressed. With the joint efforts of PTI government and its collision partners we will complete our tenure and will put country on path of progress, she hoped. Replying to a query, she also said that i accept this tremendous responsibility in Punjab and i will try and do my level best to deliver according to the wishes of people and for the better future of the province. "The purpose of every step we take is to promote the welfare of the public," she said. She also expressed the confidence

that Punjab province will succeed in achieving the millennium development goals for the progress of its people with active support of its collision partners. She alleged that the opposition parties during their past regimes totally ruined the national economy and now they were wondering how it has started improving. Replying another question about GB elections, she said the masses have become politically mature now and they will foil all anti-democratic attempts, adding, PTI government would win the election with majority.



HUNZA: Youth Ambassador of the German Embassy in Islamabad Marion Pfennigs exploring beauty of Pakistan at Husaaini bridge Hunza the northern areas. — DNA

‘Massacre repeated in Kashmir to
shift its muslim-majority’

Jammu massacre was worst in human history after World War-II and Indian state orchestrated and executed this genocide plan and hence it should be declared as a terrorist state, Afridi demanded

DNA

MIRPUR: Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir Chairman Shehryar Khan Afridi on Friday warned that Indian regime is replicating the Jammu massacre in Muslim-majority Kashmir Valley to bring about a demographic change in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir but Pakistan would never allow this sinister plan to be executed. Addressing a seminar held to pay tributes to the martyrs of Jammu Massacre, here, Shehryar Afridi said that India was implementing a systematic ethnic cleaning of Muslims from Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and regimes after regimes were executing the cleansing plan under a well thought out demographic change strategy. He said that in 1947, in between 250,000 to 400,000 residents of Jammu - mostly Muslims - were mercilessly murdered by Hindu zealots. Jammu massacre was worst in human history after World War-II and

Indian state orchestrated and executed this genocide plan and hence it should be declared as a terrorist state, Afridi demanded. He said that Jammu Martyrs' day is observed to remember the sacrifices of the martyrs when Dogra ruler's force and armed Hindu fanatics had killed Muslims in Jammu. Terming November 6, 1947 as the darkest chapter in the Kashmir history, Shehryar Afridi said that the Hindu terrorist groups committed the genocide in the name of sending the Muslims to Pakistan. He said that children and women were also killed while many women were raped and kidnapped. "The massacre of the Muslims of Jammu is a glaring example of systematic crimes against humanity in the Illegally Indian Occupied Kashmir. Muslims of Jammu have devoted their life, wealth, dignity, relatives and business in the name of Pakistan. The martyrs of Jammu played their part, now their struggle will be taken to logical end," Afridi said and added that the sacrifices of

Jammu martyrs "will not go waste". "Struggle against the Indian aggression would continue until the complete success," he said and added that Pakistan and its people would remain at the forefront to take the Kashmiri freedom struggle to the next level. He said that those who were martyred by the Indian forces in 1947 were the actual torch

bearers of Kashmir Liberation Struggle and raised slogans of accession with Pakistan. He lauded the efforts of Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights for raising the voice of oppressed Kashmiris. Responding to questions being raised about the reports of provincial status being accorded to Gilgit Baltistan (GB), Afri-

di urged Kashmiris not to be trapped in the fake news being projected by Indian media. "The provisional provincial status to GB would be in line with the United Nations Security Council resolutions," he asserted. "Kashmir case was for completing the agenda of Pakistan which has been left over from history," he said. "India would soon be disintegrated due to its increasing fault lines while the world was raising fingers over the humanitarian crisis developing in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir," Afridi said. He said that Kashmir Committee has formed its advisory boards to develop separate strategies on lawfare, culture, social media and digital space. He accused the political leaders of the country of hypocrisy and lying on the issue of Gilgit Baltistan and said that during the briefing all parties had agreed to giving provisional provincial status to GB for empowering the locals and development of the region.

PIA finalizes
direct flights
to KSA from
Oct 18

DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan International Airlines will start its direct flights to and from the Saudi city of Al Buraida, capital of Al-Qassim region, from October 18, said Abdullah Khan the spokesman of national flag carrier here on Friday. The decision was said to be in view of a sizable presence of Pakistani workers in Al Qassim located at the north-central part of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Mentioning that these Pakistanis (expatriates) seeking, for quite sometime, facilitation in terms of reduced duration of the journey and avoidance of unnecessary hassle caused due to connecting flights, he said first of these flights will be between Multan and Al-Qassim. PIA spokesman sharing further details of the arrangement said initially two flights, one each from Multan (Wednesday) and Islamabad (Friday) would be flown to and from the Saudi destination. With a baggage limit of 40 Kilo-grams an introductory fare package is also being offered to the intending passengers, said Abdullah Khan. According to him the Saudi Airport authorities have also arranged to present a water cannon salute to the first ever flight between the two cities.

Stakeholder
hails red bull
half courts

DNA

LAHORE: Ouj-e-Zahoor, the official of the Pakistan Basketball Federation had stated at the start of the tournament, "If there were 10 steps to take the game forward in the country, the tournament would take Pakistan to step five." As the tournament, played in the novel 3x3 format, climaxed with Markhors crowned the country's inaugural champions this week, it's not only brought new talent to the fore but at the same time has provided the game a lift-off. "The outcome is amazing," said Ouj, who was actively involved in the organization of the National finals, which brought the tournament to a close after regional qualifiers at five different venues. "There are a lot of things we can look forward too." Former player Mehmood Ahmed Nasir said the platform provided by the tournament is limitless. "It's great for the young players," said Mehmood. "A lot of young players will come out of this venture as it doesn't restrict participation. If those young players are good enough, they might as well be spotted by the Pakistan Basketball Federation and they can have a future as professional players." The tournament provided an opportunity for many clubs to take part.

Briefs

NUST' Global Virtual Job Fair in two weeks

DNA

ISLAMABAD: NUST Placement Office (NPO) will arrange a 'Global Virtual Job Fair' in collaboration with Women Engineers Pakistan and the World Bank South Asia WePOWER Network in the month of November. According to NPO, this virtual job fair will be held from November 20-21 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm (Pakistan Time). This year with the drastic impact of COVID-19 in every sector, the Pakistani workforce has been facing unprecedented challenges. As an innovative solution, National University of Science and Technology (NUST) has joined forces as Academic and Outreach Partners with Women Engineers Pakistan and the World Bank South Asia WePOWER Network, along with other communities to help organize Pakistan's largest virtual job fair with a mission to help connect employers and job seekers with digital ease. This event is completely free of cost, and features some of the biggest companies in Pakistani science, technology, engineering and energy fields. The aspiring participants can get detailed information about the event through NUST Placement Portal. Considering the lapse in hiring and internships this year, NUST also encourage the students to take part in STEM Forward Pre-Event Professional Development Workshops as well. The three pre-event workshops are being arranged for the aspiring students who intend to attend the virtual job fair and apply for the employment opportunity.

1345 houses vacated from illegal occupants

ISLAMABAD: The Estate Office has vacated around 1345 houses from illegal/unauthorized occupants in the federal capital with the help of local administration. Sharing the ministry's endeavours for streamlining the allotment process, official sources in the Estate Office said that as many as 2245 houses were allotted to the government employees on merit basis. They said the Ministry of Housing and Works had completed the data entry process for all allotments of government accommodations (category wise) and make it available at the Estate Office website to ensure transparency in the allotment process. The allottees can check the allotment status in the category of their respective department on the website, they added. The sources said the personal data including Computerized National Identity Cards (CNIC) and date of birth have been excluded from the data entered on the website in order to ensure security of personal data. – APP

Two abducted youngsters recovered

MULTAN: Police have recovered two abducted youngsters and arrested five criminals during a special operation launched for this purpose under the supervision of senior police officers, police said on Friday. According to police spokesperson, Abdul Ghaffar s/o Ashiq Hussain informed police about abduction of his two cousins Muhammad Tayyib and Hafiz Ghulam Yaseen on November 05. The police registered the case no 1079/20 against five accused Ibrahim, Abdul Basit, Shahbaz, Asghar and Khurram residents of Kot Chatta DG Khan under section 365/TP and started the investigations into the incident. SHO Mumtazabad police Shoban Khalid Goraya along with his team led by SDPO Azhar Raza Gillani under supervision of SP Cantt division Muhammad Maaz Zafar raided at Head Dumri Dunyapur road and recovered the abducted youngsters by arresting the all accused. – APP

RCCI to organize CPEC CARs business moot

The Rawalpindi Chamber understands that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a game changer for the entire region, especially for Pakistan, and will pave the way for enhancing linkages with Central Asian countries, he added

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A three-day business conference on CPEC Central Asia organized by Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) will be held in Gwadar from November 16 to 18 aiming to explore trade and investment opportunities in Gwadar and to cement trade ties and linkages with Central Asian countries. This was stated by RCCI President Mohammad Nasir Mirza while addressing a press conference at chamber house here on Friday. He said that top government officials including Chief Minister, Governor Balochistan, Ministers, senior government officials, ambassadors and business and industrial delegates will attend the three day conference. The Rawalpindi Chamber understands that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a game changer for the entire region, especially for Pakistan, and will pave the way for enhancing linkages with Central Asian countries, he added. The three-day conference will include presentations on key topics and on-the-spot visits of ongoing development projects, he said. He said that the chamber has always taken the lead in many matters. We want the business community to play its full role. Nasir Mirza



added that the chamber is also planning to hold a construction Trade Fair in Rawalpindi next month titled Build 2020. He said that the construction sector can be developed as more than 40 allied industries are associated with this sector. Increasing employment opportunities will re-

duce unemployment in the country, he further added. The Build 2020 Trade Fair will be held from December 18 to 20. Group Leader Sohail Altaf said that RCCI was in touch with the concerned ministries, especially the Foreign Ministry, regarding the convening of the conference

so that the NOC could be issued to the ambassadors soon. He said that PIA chairman Arshad Malik who had visited the chamber a few days back had also assured full cooperation. Senior Vice President Osman Ashraf, Vice President Shahraiz A Malik, former Presi-

dents Zahid Latif Khan, Saboor Malik, Chairman Gwadar Conference Muhammad Badar Haroon, Chairman Build 2020 Trade Fair Sardar Tanveer Sarwar, members of the executive committee and members of the chamber were also present on the occasion.

PMA warns increasing cases if SOPs are ignored

ISLAMABAD: Secretary-General of Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) Dr Qaiser Sajjad Friday warned that the burden on hospitals and health facilities across the country will further increase if the citizens does not adhere to the standard operating procedures (SOPs) devised to curb the spread of second wave of Covid-19. Talking to a private news channel, he expressed his serious concerns on increasing number of COVID-19 cases in the country urged the provincials and federal government to take appropriate emergency measures to manage the coming situation as second wave of coronavirus is more aggressive than before. Dr Qaiser cautioned that situation can get worst if health-related guidelines were neglected in the public gatherings, adding, the good news is that we do understand more about COVID-19 transmission than we did when lockdown measures were first imposed. He said that the world is facing the second strong wave of the coronavirus pandemic, adding, that the second spike could be lethal for Pakistan as well. "I could say that second wave is already started, because the number of cases is increasing day by day in Pakistan and deaths were also recorded," Dr Sajjad said. He warned that hospitals would once more overflow with patients if people did not adhere to standard operating procedures like social distancing, wearing masks and using sanitizers. "Instructions have been issued to administrations across the country to ensure that precautionary measures are followed. But like in the past, success is impossible without the cooperation of the people," he stressed. He regretted that we are opening up across the country, but many people are not social distancing, many are not wearing their masks. "We must act responsibly, and avoid an acute national health emergency," he said, adding, if infections continue at this rate, we will push our health system to its limit". – DNA

Shafqat emphasizes over standardization of exam system

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Shafqat Mahmood has directed the secretary IBBC to work on standardization and modernization of examination system. He was talking to the newly appointed Secretary IBCC, Dr. Ghulam Ali Mallah who called him at his office. Shafqat Mahmood also emphasized over improving the quality of service delivery at IBCC and developing an effective mechanism on modern lines to update the students about the status of their applications. The minister was also apprised by new initiatives to facilitate the students. The Secretary IBCC informed that number of bank

branches had been increased from 280 to 1400 across the country for deposit of IBCC fee. A courier company has been assigned for collection and return of application for equivalence and attestation of certificates. He briefed the minister that IBCC would automate all the processes to ensure transparency and improve efficiency in service delivery and to ensure the quality of Equivalence Certificates, QR Code would be printed on these certificates. The website of IBCC will be revamped. The record of equivalence and attestation will also be available on IBCC website for authenticity and students would also get facility of on-line application submission and fee deposit.



ATTOCK: Prime Minister Imran Khan addressing upgradation ceremony of Hassan Abdal railway station. DNA

Police ordered to mobilize security apparatus

The Inspector General of Police was briefed about overall law and order situation, security measures in the city and strategy to combat crime

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police have decided to tighten security in the city, erect more police pickets and ensure extra deployment in various areas to avert any untoward incident. The decision to this effect was made by Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfiqar khan in a meeting presided over by him. , DIG (Operations) Waqar Uddin Sye, DIG (Headquarters) Muhammad Saleem, all SSPs, AIGs, SP Special Branch, Zonal SSPs, all SPs from Security Division and Additional SP attended the meeting. The IGP was briefed about overall law and order situation, security measures in the city and strategy to combat crime. Islamabad police chief directed for effective security measures in the city besides enhancing vigilance and patrolling steps. He asked to

maintain high alert security and ensure strict checking at exit and entry points of the city. He directed for effective steps to combat crime and make Islamabad crime free city by ensuring arrest of criminal elements. He said that SPs should brief their subor-



dinates including those performing duties at police pickets and ensure provision of bullet proof jackets and masks to them. He also stressed to adopt decent attitude during interaction with citizens and follow policy of 'Phele Salam – Phir Kalam'.

He directed for extra deployment of police personnel and security measures at important locations of the city including buildings, markets, important chowks, signals and masjid as well imambargahs. The IGP directed to ensure high vigilance and strict patrolling measures in various sectors and residential areas of the city. Community policing is the best way to ensure friendly police ecology and officials should involve notables of their respective areas in policing affairs, he maintained. The IGP directed SP (Investigation) to ensure crackdown against car lifters and their facilitators. He also appealed all the citizens to remain extra vigilant and inform police in case of observing any suspect. The IGP said that policemen showing good performance would be encouraged while strict disciplinary action would be taken against those involved in corruption.

PNCA to participate in "Annual Lok Mela"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) will be participating in "Annual Lok Mela" of Pakistan at Lok Virsa from November 7 to 15. In this mega event PNCA will present puppet shows from 11:30am to 12:30pm and folk music theatre of Fazal Abbas Jutt and team from 01:00pm to 04:00pm at main arena (Pindaal) Lok Virsa. The puppet show will be comprised of following short entertaining stories "Happy Life, Jhoot Ki Saza, Romali Dance, Qamar Tarbooz + SOPs, Sindhi Jhoomer, Meer Adnan, Leva Dance, Paanch Chohay, Bhangra Dance and Jeway Pakistan", an official said on Friday. He said that the puppet shows aims to promote and preserve the dying art of puppetry through educating the children and norms using puppets as tools in a soft and subtle manner. The shows will feature theme-based puppetry that usually revolves around current issues including women and children related issues, education and environment to educate the audience especially children through infotainment. He said that Fazal Jutt theatre has arrived in federal capital to perform on dozens of folk stories, written centuries ago by saints of the sub-continent to promote the message of love and harmony among the masses.

New shipping policy to lift Maritime sector

ISLAMABAD: The new Shipping Policy will lift the Maritime sector in Pakistan to new heights which had never been witnessed before. According to Ministry of Maritime Affairs, now shipping companies can now take advantage of liberal fiscal concessions and low markup rates offered by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) under the Long Term Financing Facility (LTFF) to acquire ships flying Pakistan flag. An official told APP that the new policy will reduce the annual freight bill of more than US\$ 5 billion on Pakistan, adding that it will also generate employment opportunities for our seafarers/allied sectors. The new shipping policy aims at incentivizing the private sector to participate in the mercantile shipping business and would lift Maritime sector to new heights, Pakistan resident ship owning company would be defined as a company registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan and having its own seaworthy vessels registered under Pakistan flag. No federal tax would be levied to the detriment of Pakistan residentship owning companies during the exemption period. – APP

Govt to construct 31 parks across country

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Climate Change has finalized a plan to develop 31 national parks across the country under Ramsar Convention through Protected Areas Initiative project to improve conservation and strengthen biodiversity and ecosystems. According to the details received through official sources, the national parks would be developed in Punjab, Sindh, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. A sum of Rs 571.58 million has been reserved for community development parks conservation. The overall objective of Protected Areas component under the 'Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme' was to improve the overall conservation of the existing Protected Areas; encourage eco-tourism, community engagement and job creation through the conservation and also to improve quality and sustainable management of these areas. Adding that the impact of the project would reflect through the management planning of the national parks and its infrastructure; boundary demarcation; pathways; safeguarding biodiversity and ecosystems. – APP

Briefs

Citizens Club
in FJ Park
should be
restored

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of people from different walks of life in Islamabad was held under the chairmanship of Waqar Bakhtawari, Chairman of Ba Waqar Pakistan. It was decided to take steps for the revival of the Islamabad Citizens Club.

The participants in the meeting agreed that the Islamabad Club is not doing enough to provide club facilities to the citizens of Islamabad and it has become almost impossible to get membership there for the people including businessman, journalists, teachers, doctors, engineers, and officers below twentieth grade. Therefore, it is imperative that Islamabad Citizens Club be set up and completed on an urgent basis.

Online '100th
Exhibition'
inaugurated

ISLAMABAD: An exhibition titled "The 100th Exhibition" on Friday inaugurated online here at Gallery 6 Islamabad, presenting the artworks of 42 established emerging painters, sculptures and print makers.

In a statement, Gallery 6 said that "we scheduled our 12th anniversary celebration through "The 100th Exhibition" on 20th March 2020 but later postponed due to spread of COVID-19 pandemic in the country. As the virus spread is surging again, we have decided to launch the exhibition online. The artworks can be viewed at the Gallery between 11 am to 7 pm. The gallery, since its establishment in March 2008, has held 99 exhibitions at its premises. Participating artists includes A.S Rind, Abid Hasan, Abrar Ahmed, Ahmed Ajaz, Ajab Khan, Akbar Hafeez, Akram Dost, Akram Spaul, Ali Sajid, Amna Manzoor, Anjum Ayub, Arjuman Faisal, Asad ur Rehman, Asma Abbasi, Asrar Farooqi, Farrukh Shahab, Hajra Mansur, Iram Wani, Irfan Gul Dahri, Javed Qamar, Mansoor Rahi, Masood A. Khan, Mehwish Azam, Mohammad Ali Bhatti, Moughrees Riaz, Muhammad Sajjad Akram, Naqsh Raj, Nazeer Ahmed, Nisar Ahmed, Rahat Naveed Masood, Rahman Zada, Raja Najmul Hasan, Rashid Arshed, Sadaf Farasat, Sadia Arif, Samra Cheema, Shahida Manzoor, Shiblee Muneer, Sumera Jawad, Tahir bin Qalandar, Unab Sumble and Wasil Shahid. — APP

Police ordered
to mobilize
security
apparatus

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police have decided to tighten security in the city, erect more police pickets and ensure extra deployment in various areas to avert any untoward incident. The decision was taken by Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfiqar in a meeting along with DIG (Operations) Waqar Uddin Sye, DIG (Headquarters) Muhammad Saleem, all SSPs, AIGs, SP Special Branch, Zonal SPs, all SPs from Security Division and Additional SP. The IGP was briefed about overall law and order situation, security measures in the city and strategy to combat crime. Islamabad police chief directed for effective security measures in the city besides enhancing vigilance and patrolling steps. He asked to maintain high alert security and ensure strict checking at exit and entry points of the city. He directed for effective steps to combat crime and make Islamabad crime free city by ensuring arrest of criminal elements. He said that SPs should brief their subordinates including those performing duties at police pickets and ensure provision of bullet proof jackets and masks to them. He also stressed to adopt decent attitude during interaction with citizens and follow policy of 'Phele Salam - Phir Kalam'. He directed for extra deployment of police personnel and security measures at important locations of the city including buildings, markets, important chowks, signals and masajids as well as imambargahs. The IGP directed to ensure high vigilance and strict patrolling measures in various sectors and residential areas of the city. — APP



ISLAMABAD: November 06 – A group of Qawwal performing on stage during the opening ceremony of Folk Festival of Pakistan "LOK MEA" at Lok Virsa Shikarpur. — DNA

Business community demands
end of hike in property tax

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan ICCI said that there was no example of making such unprecedented increase in any tax in one go and urged that MCI/CDA to reverse this unjustified decision to save the business community

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The business community in a meeting at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has called upon the Municipal Corporations Islamabad (MCI) to urgently withdraw the 300 percent hike in the property tax in Islamabad. They said that making exorbitant increase in property tax in one go was a great injustice to the residents of Islamabad. Chairing the meeting, Sardar

Yasir Ilyas Khan ICCI said that there was no example of making such unprecedented increase in any tax in one go and urged that MCI/CDA to reverse this unjustified decision to save the business community from unnecessary financial burden. He said that businessmen were not against the payment of taxes, however, any tax rationalization should be done in a gradual manner instead of putting enormous burden on them, which was totally unjustified. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that ICCI had obtained

a stay order from the Islamabad High Court against this measure of MCI and the court had directed the MCI to charge property tax on the basis of previous rates till the decision of the case. However, it was unfortunate that instead of complying with the court's orders, MCI has issued new bills of property tax on enhanced rates including interest of previous months, which was not acceptable by any standards. He said that for making increase in any tax, MCI should have held its public hearing, but these re-

quirements were not fulfilled for making increase in property tax, therefore, there was no justification for its continuation. Ms. Fatma Azim Senior Vice President and Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI said that many affairs of MCI have been transferred back to CDA and urged that Chairman CDA to take back unjustified decisions made by the MCI in order to provide relief to the business community and the citizens of Islamabad. They urged that MCI to ration-

alize all taxes including property tax to make them affordable for taxpayers. Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi former President ICCI, Khalid Chaudhry and others speaking at the occasion said that MCI had also increased the trade license fee and signboard tax and urged that these taxes should also be revised. They said that a DMA of CDI in the past had reached a verbal agreement with ICCI to charge signboard tax @ of Rs.60 per square foot, which should be implemented in letter and spirit.

IG stresses for
community policing

He said public trust on police was improving due to friendly culture and initiatives like 'Pehly Salam phir Kalam'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Inspector-general of Islamabad Police Amir Zulfiqar Khan Friday stressed that the Capital Police would be reformed into a modern force by replacing the old Thana culture with the friendly policing to get the public trust revived. He said public trust on police was improving due to friendly culture and initiatives like 'Pehly Salam phir Kalam'. All the officers and officials of police would further improve their performance as well as their behaviour so that the complainants will consider them their well-wishers, he expressed these views while talking to Radio Pakistan. He said that the community policing has its roots in

police-community relation, adding, the image of police could only be improved by ensuring public-friendly policing and protecting wealth and lives of people. He added all police force needed to fulfill their responsibilities because respect could not be earned without showing best performance. Our major challenge is to deal with the menace of terrorism and incumbent government has initiated a number of programs in this regard, he mentioned. He further said that several training sessions are in progress for police officials of Islamabad Police. IG said that short-term refresher courses and workshops for officials should be completed as early as possible.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of China to Pakistan Nong Rong called on Chairman CPEC Authority Asim Bajwa and discussed great potential in Phase II of CPEC cooperation. — DNA

Ehsaas to structure 'One window
Initiative', says Dr Sania Nishtar

Physical Ehsaas center with hardware and prominent signage, android App and web interface would be at the front end, whereas open APIs architecture along with a guiding policy will work at the back end

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Sania convened a meeting today to structure the One Window Ehsaas, which is a single-window information and service approach for better access to multiple Ehsaas programmes. Leads from all executing agencies of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division (PASSD) including the BISP, Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund, Trust for Voluntary Organizations and Higher Education Commission joined the meeting. Secretary PASSD and Additional Secretary PASSD were also present. The meeting shaped up structural plan for One Window operation. "The basic structure would be comprising of a front end and a back-end", said Dr Sania. "Physical Ehsaas center with hardware and prominent signage, android App and web interface would be at the front end, whereas open APIs architecture along with a guiding policy will work at the back end. In the initial phase work has commenced

on the first prototype of the Ehsaas physical centre and digital interfaces" she further added. Through one window stop shop as one of the 135 Ehsaas programs and policy actions, the initiative aims to create awareness, integrate delivery of services

under the Ehsaas umbrella, ensure transparency and improve government-to-citizen service delivery. With an aim to extend maximum facilitation and information on Ehsaas to the disadvantaged populations, the government plans to open the

first Ehsaas Physical Centre in Islamabad and launch #Ehsaas-Digital by March 2021. Ehsaas has introduced several programs targeting 14 disadvantaged groups and now envisages a Single Window Service. The one-window operation would as-

sist beneficiaries of social protection besides reducing duplication. The initiative will optimise efficiency and co-ordination of multiple programs at service points, data streams and digital platforms. All the information about Ehsaas programs and government's digital resources including eligibility, updates, forms, web links, check in portals and general public information will be made accessible as a public good in these sites that would create a window for integrated human development in the country. Likewise, Ehsaas physical centres will feature Ehsaas Registration Desks, Ehsaas payment rooms with ATMs, Ehsaas Nashonuma hall with complete facilities (registration, anthropometry, payments) and desks of Wa-seela-e-Taleem, One Woman One Account, Ehsaas Interest Free Loans, Ehsaas Amdan, Ehsaas Tahafuz, Ehsaas survey along with One Woman One Account training room, Ehsaas' partners hall (with periodic exhibits by partners regarding their services) and Ehsaas Information room.

Lok Virsa's
"Annual Folk
Festival" starts

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Federal Education, Professional Training, National Heritage and Culture Shafaqat Mahmood on Friday inaugurated the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage's (Lok Virsa) 10-day folk festival. Addressing the ceremony, he said that the government is committed to promote art and culture of the country and such events are necessary for promotion of traditional heritage. He said that the objective of the festival was to reinforce and strengthen national integration by promoting the cultural heritage of Pakistan through active participation of all provinces, Gilgit Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir. He said that this unique event has now become a symbol of the federation's recognition and patronage to our rich cultural diversity and active participation of the people. He said that festival also provides a much needed economic opportunity to hundreds of poor and under privileged craftspeople from all over country to sell their products over a period of one year to public directly. He said that the government was striving hard to keep its culture and heritage alive. He thanked all provincial departments for cooperating in Lok Mela and appreciated the efforts of ED Lok Virsa Talha Ali Khan for arranging a mega cultural event. Executive Director Lok Virsa Talha Ali Khan said that the aim to arrange Lok Mela every year was to bring festivity, culture and colour of Pakistan, artisans and folk artists from all parts of the country who participate by bringing with them their creativity in arts, crafts and innovation.

Protest rallies
held against
French
President

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Like other parts of the country, protest rallies continued in the city against the publications of blasphemous cartoons and intolerable statement of the French President Emmanuel. In this connection, a rally was organized by the Jamiat Ulema Islam (JUI) here at Jamia Islamia, Sadder in which a large number of people participated. The protesters chanted slogans against France and called for boycott of French products. Meanwhile Pakistan Tehreek Insaf (PTI) Youth wing staged a protest demonstration outside Rawalpindi Press club against French President Macron for his anti-Islam statement. The protesters were holding placards inscribed with anti-France slogans also chanted slogans against the French government. They also asked the government to expel the French Ambassador from Pakistan.

NTC
announces
hearing to
remove RD

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Tariff Commission (NTC) on Friday announced hearing in the study for removal of Regulatory Duty (RD) on the import of Truck/Bus Radial Tyres. The National Tariff Commission (NTC) has initiated an inquiry and would welcome views/ suggestion and proposal from all parties having interest in the business relating to or associated with the import, export, manufacturing, marketing and use of truck/Bus Radial Tyres (PCT. No.4011.2091), said a press release issued by NTC here on Friday. The NTC has directed that the views/ suggestions may be sent within 10 days of issuance of this public notice, to the secretary, NTC office in Islamabad. A public hearing on the issue is scheduled to be held online on November 10, 2020 on Zoom application (Zoom link will be generated and sent to the interested parties who registered themselves for hearing). Further, all the parties having an interest in the business relating to or associated with the import, export, manufacturing, marketing, and use of Truck/Bus/ Radial Tyres are hereby advised to get them self registered with the commission latest by November 8, 2020 for participation in the public hearing by providing name of the participants with their telephone numbers, FAX and emails to the secretary to NTC on the Fax No. 051-9221205.

America decides

BIDEN at 253 and Trump at 214 – and this has been the situation on American news channels now for the past hours (at the time this editorial is being written). So one can safely say we are not yet completely clear about who the next president of the United States of America is to be – at least by Thursday night Pakistan time. But we can also say at this point that it does seem likely that Joe Biden will turn power and the White House back to the Democrats after a stint of what can only be called chaotic Republican rule under current President Donald Trump. Of course, with specific states still to be declared, there is time for the difference between the two to be made up. In the meanwhile, in what many around the world find amusingly familiar to their own American-intervened lands, Donald Trump is trying everything he can to undo this, unleashing a series of legal battles, which many experts believe will lead nowhere. In some cases, Republican protesters have tried to stop votes from being counted. There appears to be little logic, beyond the issue of whether Trump is winning or losing in that particular state. All this has added a further ugliness to what was already an ugly electoral process.

The main question, though, is of what the future of America is to be. It has become a country badly divided, with race and class the main issues of divide – further divided into ethnicity, gender, origin, and even on whether people belong to a rural or urban area. After a bitterly polarised four years of the Trump White House, the country does not look like it's on the road to healing. What is of a lot of importance is also the fact that the Democratic Party may not be able to retain the Senate, which will mean a tough time for a Democratic president if he is elected. There is also the matter of conservative judges placed during the Trump years. All in all, a tough road ahead no doubt for Biden if he does take the White House. Meanwhile, the rest of the world waits to see who takes over the White House next.

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

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Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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



Covid-19 spreading

COVID-19 was not beaten, only beaten back. The government has sounded unnecessarily belligerent in its reactions to the uptick in Covid-19 cases, which on Tuesday saw the largest number of patients testing positive in three months: 1313. This also meant that the number of cases continued to grow by over 1000 cases a day all week. The government may like to claim it has achieved victory over the coronavirus, but the figures show that not only is the coronavirus resilient, but the expected second wave is upon us. Not just winter itself, but the gatherings that come with it are going to make matters worse. There is going to be the usual rush of weddings, which have evolved into multi-function events, as well as many one-off events which are traditionally held in the summer.

The government has been sending out signals that it has adopted the ostrich-like attitude of pretending that nothing is happening. Education Minister Shafqat Mahmood's announcement that schools will not be closed is of a piece of the problem, along with Prime Minister Imran Khan ruling out lockdowns. The government should not be moving itself into a corner this way and should not take any course of action with such certainty. Mahmood showed intelligence by leaving himself a little wriggle room, saying that there would be a review at the upcoming education conference.

Moreover, the government should be aware that things will only get worse – not just as the weather gets worse, but as the winter smog sets in. Last winter, the almost total shutdown had not just closed factories, but taken vehicles off the road, meaning that the smog was not as bad as it could have been. However, with the economy making the government to avoid another lockdown, the smog is likely to be a major negative, as both open factories and vehicles belch smoke into the air.

The government has tried to do something about the situation by making the wearing of facemasks mandatory, and imposing punishments for failure to comply. It remains to be seen whether this was enough. However, the government needs to keep an open mind about the steps it must take.

Documenting the abuse of Palestinian children

Chris Doyle



“A majority reported they had endured a distressing or violent arrest or detention, in most cases at night; a coercive interrogation environment; physical and emotional abuse in detention; and a denial of essential services including an adequate education – all of which constitute a breach of their rights enshrined in international law,” SCF said. The report somewhat surprisingly backs off when using the term coercive interrogation

WHO thinks children should be tortured or prosecuted systematically in a military court? Who believes children should be shoved into crowded jail cells during the coronavirus pandemic and denied family visits? Me neither. Yet Israel, that supposed solitary beacon of democracy in the Middle East, does exactly that to Palestinian children, and more.

Much of this has been reported on by the UN and human rights groups for some time, but it is brought into sharp focus following a report from Save the Children (SCF), published last week, titled: “The impact of the Israeli military detention system on Palestinian children.” It is a searing indictment of the Israeli authorities, and a worthy addition to the voluminous but damning high-quality research into this issue.

SCF surveyed more than 470 Palestinian children across the West Bank. They were 12-21 years old at the time, and had all been arrested or detained as children, between the ages of 10 and 17 years.

“A majority reported they had endured a distressing or violent arrest or detention, in most cases at night; a coercive interrogation environment; physical and emotional abuse in detention; and a denial of essential services including an adequate education – all of which constitute a breach of their rights enshrined in international law,” SCF said.

The report somewhat surprisingly backs off when using the term coercive interrogation. It is torture, plain and simple. SCF is not the first to make this charge, but Palestinians wonder why American and European ministers, among others, say nothing?

The report states that the occupation has “impacted every aspect of their lives, from their safety and development to their psychosocial wellbeing and mental health.” Even going to school, past settlements and military checkpoints, can be traumatic. Over 10,000 Palestinian children have gone through Israeli detention in the last 20 years.

The impact is huge, with the children suffering from “anxiety, depression, behavioral changes, eating and sleeping disorders, and physical symptoms including chest pains, exhaustion, and numbness,” SCF said.

According to international law, detaining children should be an option of last resort. What is

seen consistently with the Israeli occupation is that this is systematic, used not just as a means of controlling a subject population, but dominating and intimidating it.

One of the reasons the Israeli military does not require a huge presence in the West Bank to control 2.7 million people is the way in which the courts and detention process break the will and spirit of the occupied population, starting from childhood. Arrests of children are frequent. Around half of Palestinian children detained are arrested at night. Often a child will wake up to find fully armed Israeli soldiers in their bedroom. That is frightening enough, but then typically they are taken from their homes with no adult and stuffed in the back of a military jeep. They get taken to a settlement usually, to await interrogation.

Detention has become normalized for Palestinian children. It is a painful rite of passage from childhood to adulthood.

Most children report that they were not allowed any sleep prior to interrogation, with 89 percent reporting being blindfolded or hooded during detention. Nearly all the children get strip-searched. One boy, Issa, was shot at a checkpoint. He was interrogated before being taken to hospital. A gun was placed on the table in front of him when he was questioned. No child reported having a lawyer present during interrogation. Typically, the children sign confessions in Hebrew, which they cannot understand.

The majority of children are arrested for stone throwing. This typically happens close to Israeli settlements or checkpoints, which are hard to distance oneself from in today's West Bank. These are friction points. According to Military Court Watch, the Palestinian children who were detained in 2019 lived on average within 900 meters of a West Bank settlement.

If an Israeli settler child throws a stone, it is dealt with through the Israeli civilian legal process, with all the proper safeguards one should expect. Two peoples, two different legal systems exist in one territory.

In many cases, the local Israeli commander picks up Palestinian children almost at random every time there is a stone-throwing incident. They need to do this to maintain the climate of deterrence, or

there will be riots every day. Not once in numerous visits to Israeli military courts have I seen evidence being presented to demonstrate that a particular child was the one guilty of throwing a stone.

Israel is the only country in the world that systematically prosecutes children through military courts. It would seem that these are mightily successful. Of military court, one of two in the West Bank, boasts a 99.74 percent conviction rate based on its own figures.

Perhaps the failure to get to 100 percent is some banal statistical anomaly, but surely the Syrian and North Korean regimes would be proud. Every Palestinian child knows that if they plead guilty, they will be given less jail time, and that to fight the charge is pointless.

On my first visit to one of these courts, I was convinced my eyes were playing tricks. A 14-year-old was led into the court, at the heart of an Israeli military base, in leg-irons. A senior British politician I was accompanying described it as a processing center. Justice and rule of law were glaringly absent.

The period of detention is shattering for the children. About 60 percent are imprisoned in Israel, a violation of Article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Conditions are poor in overcrowded cells, but children are also placed in solitary confinement. According to Amina, who was 15 when detained: “You do not feel like a human being in that place. We were treated like animals.”

Palestinian prisoners, including children, are still held in overcrowded jail cells during the pandemic. Children report that they were not even told about the pandemic when in Israeli jails. To add to this, visitation rights were suspended. They can in theory phone their families every two weeks, though in reality this has meant around a month. In July, the first child detainee was diagnosed with the virus, followed by a 14-year-old in September.

Detention has become normalized for Palestinian children. It is a painful rite of passage from childhood to adulthood. What has also become normalized is the international reaction. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is far from being resolved, but surely the minimum one should expect is clear, principled opposition to the abuse of children.

– *Courtesy: Arab News*

Dangerous game of targeting institutions!

Attiya Munawer



Indeed, the Armed Forces of Pakistan are capable of meeting the requirements of the defense of the homeland and responding to any external aggression and thwarting any conspiracy of the enemy to undermine the security of the country by virtue of their professionalism. Unfortunately, despite the ongoing political confrontation in the country

THE trend of politics in Pakistan is becoming dangerous, both the government and the opposition are pursuing their own interests while enjoying politics and governance, while the people are being pushed into the mill of inflation and unemployment that it has become difficult even for white-clad people to maintain their dignity. The job of the government and the opposition is to discuss public issues and find solutions to their problems, but both of them not only seem completely oblivious to these important points but also try to make the institutions controversial by dragging them into the politics of blame. Surprisingly, this work is done by anti-national external forces, for which they carry out organized propaganda campaigns and buy anti-patriotic elements from within the country and join them, but here the important politicians of their own dear country do this work. Which politics and what good of the country and nation is hidden in it, it is clearly an attempt to weaken the institutions and spread chaos in the country which is a very dangerous process.

It is clear that constitutionally the role of the armed forces is to protect geographical boundaries and provide assistance when called upon by the government, but traditionally the armed forces in Pakistan have played a role in balancing political crises. It has been the policy of political leaders in every era of power to work together with the military leadership in the name of national stability, especially when General Pervez Musharraf took matters into his own hands; all the members of the opposition were among those who distributed sweets.

Today, the same political leaders are talking about staying within the constitutional limits

and not interfering in politics. On the one hand, they prevented from interfering in politics; on the other hand, they try to put all their shortcomings in the account of national institutions. Those who spread this impression, whether government ministers or opposition leaders are not benefactors of both the state and state institutions.

The Fifth Generation Hybrid War seeks to create gaps and misunderstandings between the institutions and the people, which is currently being worked on in the country, This impression is being reinforced not only by the opposition but also by government ministers. Indeed, the Armed Forces of Pakistan are capable of meeting the requirements of the defense of the homeland and responding to any external aggression and thwarting any conspiracy of the enemy to undermine the security of the country by virtue of their professionalism. Unfortunately, despite the ongoing political confrontation in the country and the demands of national security and national interest, Pakistan's forces are not being avoided from being dragged into politics, while Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa has assured the national political leadership that the Armed forces of Pakistan avoid getting involved in politics and resolve your own administrative and political issues in the relevant forums.

Despite this, especially the opposition leaders are not shying away from targeting the army in the politics of the blame game, while our machiavellian enemy India, waiting in this atmosphere of confrontation, is getting a rare opportunity to celebrate and foster more conspiracies against the security of Pakistan. There is no denying the fact that the Pakistani opposition is fueling India's anti-Paki-

stan propaganda. Former Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq's contradictory and indecent statement in the National Assembly regarding Abhinandan, an Indian prisoner of war, has given India a rare opportunity to make the Pakistan army controversial. Instead of being ashamed of his statement and apologizing to the nation, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq is threatening to reveal more secrets by offering explanations, PML-N leader Khuram Dastgir also said that should not go to the bottom of the matter, otherwise, they will make terrible revelations. The public is fed up with the threats to the state's national security agencies. Let the Leader of the Opposition do what he has to do now. Let us see how much you will fall by breaking the repeated pledge to protect national secrets.

It is a shame that politicians used to quarrel with each other, but now they are pursuing their national security. A self-interested political party is speaking against the integrity of Pakistan to please its leaders. The laxity of the leadership of national institutions is beginning to encourage the anti-national forces. So, the national security agencies should not be lenient to even those who are hostile to the country, especially those who sit outside the country and speak out against Pakistan every day should be dealt with severely. The country's political leadership will never be able to move forward in politics with the dangerous game of targeting institutions, so the country's political leadership should realize that if this country and its institutions exist, so is their politics, and if there is no country, then their politics will not exist and there will be no pleasures to which everyone has become accustomed.

Attiabutt121@gmail.com

Briefs

Azerbaijan, Tajikistan eye cultural cooperation

FOREIGN DESK

BAKU: Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan have discussed the prospects of the cultural cooperation between the two countries. First Deputy Minister of Culture, Acting Culture Minister Anar Karimov has recently met with Ambassador of Tajikistan to Azerbaijan Rustam Soli. The meeting focused on cultural cooperation between the two countries, further expansion of exchanges in various fields of culture, and the development of joint action plans in this direction. Anar Karimov touched upon the traditional ties of friendship and partnership between Azerbaijan and Tajikistan. The sides exchanged views on holding of mutual cultural days, student exchange as well as joint projects aimed at promotion of cultural heritage of both nations. Expressing gratitude for the warm reception, Ambassador Rustam Soli touched upon bilateral relations, noting that Tajikistan attaches great importance to relations with Azerbaijan. Anar Karimov also said that since September 27, the Armenian armed forces have carried out large-scale military provocations on the frontline, shelling Azerbaijani settlements with heavy artillery, resulting in numerous deaths and injuries among civilians. A number of civilian objects, residential buildings, various structures, including the sites of cultural importance were heavily damaged.

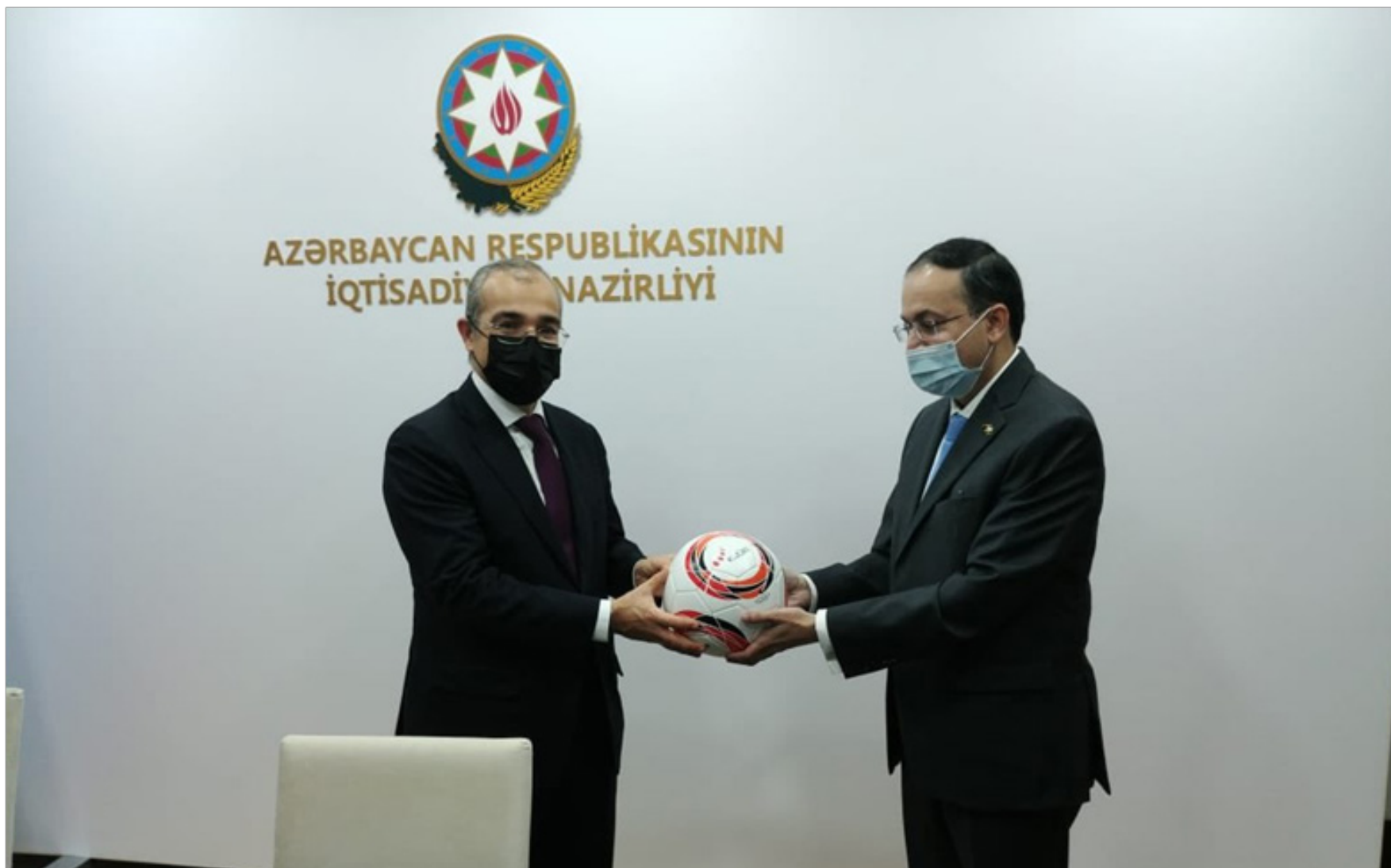
Xi steers trail-blazing CIIE into global trade

SHANGHAI: Chinese President Xi Jinping gave another shot in the arm to the China International Import Expo (CIIE), a major platform he initiated to bolster global trade, by announcing a fresh round of opening-up measures. "Our aim is to turn the China market into a market for the world, a market shared by all, and a market accessible to all," Xi said while delivering a keynote speech via video at the opening ceremony of the third CIIE that was convened as scheduled following the country's successful containment of COVID-19. To achieve such an aim, Xi stressed nurturing new pacesetters of opening up, growing foreign trade innovatively, improving business environment, and deepening bilateral, multilateral and regional cooperation. He said the country will continue to leverage the pioneering role of pilot free trade zones (FTZs) and free trade ports in steering opening up, introduce a negative list for cross-border services trade and open still wider in areas like the digital economy and the internet. The catalog of technologies prohibited or restricted from import will be shortened, foreign-related legal framework will be more open and transparent, and intellectual property protection will be strengthened, according to Xi. — APP

‘Negative trends eroding EU values’

MONITORING DESK

ANKARA: A number of malignant rising trends in Europe erode the values represented by the EU, Turkey's foreign minister said on Friday. "Trends such as populism, racism, and Islamophobia that are rising in Europe have eroded the values represented by the EU itself," Mevlut Cavusoglu told his counterparts in the opening speech for the informal meeting of South-East European Cooperation Process (SEEC). Cavusoglu, chairing the meeting in Turkey's Mediterranean province of Antalya, said the union was the pioneer for change and development for many regional countries in the integration process, especially in 1990s and the beginning of 2000s. Turkey, a country which has integrated with the EU in many areas, wishes the bloc to be successful in line with its foundation ideals, Cavusoglu stressed.



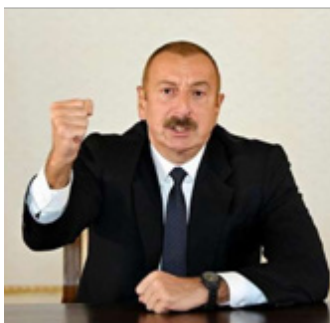
BAKU: Ambassador of Pakistan to Azerbaijan Bilal Hayee called on Mikhayil Jabbarov, Azerbaijan's Minister of Economy to discuss prospects of deepening economic engagement between the two brotherly countries. Presented him a football which is a signature product of Pakistan. — DNA

‘Armenia used ceasefire for attacks against Azerbaijan’

I many times said that all those who live in Nagorno-Karabakh will continue to live there in peace and dignity. Armenians are our citizens. There are thousands of Armenians who live in different parts of Azerbaijan

BAKU: Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has said that Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan wanted the ceasefire to get more military assistance for further attacks against Azerbaijan. President Ilham Aliyev made the remarks in an interview with the Spanish EFE news agency on November 4. Azerbaijan has repeatedly stated that humanitarian ceasefire agreements that Armenia and Azerbaijan reached on 10 October, 17 October and 26 October through the Russian and US mediations were violated by Armenia. "He wants to win time, he wants to have the ceasefire in order to get some more military assistance. He wants to use this ceasefire in order to launch new attacks on Azerbaijan and to regain back the territories which were liberated. That's what he is after," the president said. Ninety-two Azerbaijani civilians have been killed and hundreds of others have been injured in Armenia's indiscriminate missile attacks on Azerbaijani civilian settlements and cities. Armenia violated the three truce agreement that entered

force on October 10, 16 and 26. "All three times, it was Armenia's deliberate, aggressive attack on us, and we had to respond, we had to defend ourselves," he said. The president said that on the sixth week of the war in Nagorno-Karabakh, the Azerbaijani armed forces show dominance on the frontline. "And during this time on the battlefield Azerbaijan liberated a large part of its territory which was under occupation for almost thirty years, and successful counter-offensive operation of the Azerbaijani army continues," he said. The president said that Azerbaijani army was liberating the country's internationally recognized lands and restoring territorial integrity. "By the way, we implement the United Nations Security Council resolutions, which demanded the withdrawal of Armenian troops from our territories but were not implemented by Armenia for almost thirty years," he added. Aliyev stressed that "actually 4 of the 5 occupied districts have already been liberated, either completely or partially. Today we are in an active phase of de-occupa-



tion of other districts which have been under occupation". Speaking about the time-table with dates of the Armenian troops' withdrawal from occupied Azerbaijani territories, Aliyev urged Armenia to publicly make a statement about the withdrawal from the occupied lands. "The time-table for withdrawal from part of Aghdam district which is still under occupation and from Kalbajar and Lachin should be presented to us... So we expect from Armenian prime minister to say openly, publicly that they will withdraw from Kalbajar, Lachin and the remaining part of Aghdam," he said. Aliyev said that

if Pashinyan, "the person who is responsible for this bloodshed makes such a statement, we are ready to stop immediately". "We need a precise time-table for Kalbajar, Lachin and part of Aghdam to be liberated. And then, I think the peace will come to the region," he said. The president said that Armenia was not quite clear while talking about compromises. "When they talk about compromise they do not say anything concrete. They talk only about self-determination. But self-determination is not a compromise on their side. They should be more accurate in their position because it is very ambiguous now," he said. Aliyev described any further meetings with the Armenian prime minister as useless. "No point in that at all. I had many meetings with him in the past two years. But all of them were absolutely useless and senseless," he said. The president said that Pashinyan had done everything to destroy the negotiation process. "Therefore, at this point, I don't see any sense in meeting with him. Our foreign

ministers met recently in Geneva. And I think, this is the proper format now for the communications" the president said. Speaking about the role of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs' role in the resolution of the conflict, Aliyev said that they did not use all their tools which they have in order to exert pressure on Armenia to vacate the occupied territories. "The basic principles which are on the table now, it is the principles which were elaborated with the assistance of the Minsk Group. So, they worked, they tried. But they did not use all their tools which they have in order to press Armenia to liberate the territories. Each of these countries unilaterally has enough levers on Armenia, whether it's military support, political support, economic support, diaspora support etc," he said. He said the countries in question failed not only to put sanctions but also to make any statements in this regard. Aliyev stressed Azerbaijan did not use any banned weapons during the operations in Nagorno-Karabakh. — APP

‘Armenian diaspora financing terrorism in Azerbaijan's lands’

BAKU: Presidential aide Hikmat Hajiyev has said the Armenian diaspora is financing terrorism in Azerbaijan's occupied lands, Azertag reported on November 6. He added that Armenia finances its army by funds raised by its diaspora through NGOs and charity foundations to compensate losses on the battlefield. "The Armenian diaspora has actively worked in this sphere over the past 30 years and deceived foreign taxpayers. Illegal funds were transferred to the so-called regime in Azerbaijan's occupied lands without any mechanism of control, which means the financing of terrorism," Hajiyev said. He noted that contribution is made to further attacks against civilians through the funds channeled into the financing of the Armenian

armed forces in Azerbaijan's occupied lands. "This is not the first case the Armenian diaspora abroad abuses the NGOs and charity foundations and channels the raised funds into the illegal activities on occupied territories, the strengthening of occupation and the arms purchase for the occupying army," Hajiyev said. He stressed that the relevant correspondence among the Armenians living abroad on social media proved the case. Under the provisions of the 1999 International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, as well as UN Security Council Resolutions 1373 (2001), 2178 (2014), 2195 (2014) and 2347 (2017), the activities by non-commercial organizations in the above-mentioned sphere are assessed as financing terrorism. — APP



VIENNA: Ambassador of Pakistan to Austria Aftab Ahmad Khokhar met with Ambassador of Philippines Maria Natvidad and discuss to further enhance cooperation and collaboration between Pakistan and Philippines in Vienna. — DNA

Japan's Prime Minister Suga voices caution about COVID-19 resurgence

The Japanese leader's comments came on the heels of new daily infections in Japan topping the 1,000-mark for the first time since Aug. 21 the previous day, as Japan's health ministry said it had confirmed clusters of infections at more than 100 locations across Japan

FOREIGN DESK

TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga on Friday urged the nation to be extremely cautious amid signs of a resurgence of the novel coronavirus as cooler temperatures are seeing more people staying indoors. "We have to watch the situation with a stronger sense of caution than before," Suga said in a session of a Diet committee. The Japanese leader's comments came on the heels of new daily infections in Japan

topping the 1,000-mark for the first time since Aug. 21 the previous day, as Japan's health ministry said it had confirmed clusters of infections at more than 100 locations across Japan in the week through Monday. This, the ministry said, was an increase of 60 percent, taking the total number of clusters to 103. According to the ministry, the majority of clusters, at 29, were detected at company and government offices; 20 clusters meanwhile have been found at places serving food and drink. Eighteen clusters have also been



found at welfare facilities, the ministry said, adding that schools and medical facilities comprised the

remainder of clusters detected. The latest data from the ministry also revealed that clusters were confirmed at 341 sites across Japan between Oct. 5 and Nov. 2, which is the equivalent of 20 percent of the total number of clusters detected to date. The clusters have not been confined to just urban areas either, experts said, with clusters of infections being detected in Japan's northernmost prefecture of Hokkaido as well as northeastern regions including Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures. As the temperatures in these

northern regions drop earlier than southern areas as winter rapidly approaches, more people are tending to stay indoors to keep warm, sometimes in premises or rooms that are not well ventilated. Nationwide on Friday, 1,140 new daily COVID-19 infections were confirmed, marking the second straight day the figure has surpassed 1,000. Japan's cumulative total now stands at 106,221, not including those related to a cruise ship that was quarantined near Tokyo earlier in the year. Enditem

Pentagon denies report on Esper's resignation

MONITORING DESK

WASHINGTON: Chief Pentagon Spokesman Jonathan Hoffman Thursday denied media reports that Secretary of Defense Mark Esper had prepared a letter of resignation. "The NBC story is inaccurate and misleading in many ways. To be clear, Secretary of Defense Esper has no plans to resign, nor has he been asked to submit a letter of resignation," Hoffman tweeted. Citing three defense officials, NBC reported earlier in the day that the Pentagon chief had "prepared his letter because he is one of the Cabinet officials long expected to be pushed out after the election." Esper is helping lawmakers draft legislation to remove Confederate names from military bases, which could lead to a further rift between him and President Donald Trump, the report said. For months, U.S. media has been reporting about Trump's frustration with Esper, who opposed using active-duty troops against civil unrest in June when Trump threatened to send military forces to crack down on nationwide demonstrations against racial injustice. At a press briefing in August, when asked if he would fire Esper, Trump said that he "considers firing everybody." Esper took office as the 27th U.S. defense secretary in July 2019. Esper's predecessor Jim Mattis left office in December 2018 after clashing with Trump over the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Syria. Enditem

Bilawal says was shocked by Nawaz' statement

From Page 01

No one person can be held responsible for bringing Imran Khan to power." Bilawal said the incumbent government has lost the trust of the masses and blamed it for rising inflation and the current economic crisis. "The country is going through a difficult period," he said, adding that a progressive democratic force is the only way out. "Even a weakened democracy is much better than dictatorship," he asserted. The PPP chairman said his party's fight for democracy was three-generation strong. "We are pushing for civilian governance and a strong democracy through democratic channels."

Danish envoy lauds Pakistan's energy policy

From Page 01

The Minister said the government would induce renewable energy-based power plants through open and transparent competitive bidding process, which would lower the cost of production of electricity. The Danish Ambassador, while appreciating the government's commitment to raise the share of renewable clean and green energy, said the new policy is more transparent as it provides a level playing field for all.

China opposes U.S. decision on ETIM

FOREIGN DESK

BEIJING: China on Friday deplored and firmly opposed the recent U.S. decision to revoke its designation of the East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM) as a terrorist organization. The decision exposed the current U.S. administration's double standard on counter-terrorism and its repulsive practice of condoning terrorist groups as it sees fit, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin told a daily press briefing. "Terrorism is terrorism. The United States should immediately correct its mistakes, refrain from whitewashing terrorist organizations, and stop reversing the course of international counter-terrorism cooperation," Wang said. Noting that the ETIM is an internationally recognized terrorist group listed by the United Nations Security Council, Wang said the group has long been engaged in terrorist and violent activities, causing heavy casualties and property losses and posing serious threats to security and stability in China, the region and beyond.

Briefs

UK's first city-wide virus testing kicks off

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool on Friday began England's first city-wide trial of coronavirus testing in an attempt to prevent hospitals becoming overwhelmed during the country's second wave of the pandemic. All of the northwestern city's 500,000 residents as well as people working there will be offered repeat tests, even if asymptomatic, under the pilot, which will initially run for two weeks.

Liverpool last month became the first region to enter the most severe tier of regional lockdown as it battled a spike in cases, followed by the nearby city of Manchester. A month-long nationwide lockdown came into force on Thursday as cases began to spiral in all parts of England.

Britain is already grappling with the worst toll in Europe with over 48,000 dead after testing positive for the disease. Liverpool mayor Joe Anderson said the pilot could save lives and "get the city out of tier three restrictions". Matthew Ashton, the city's director of public health, told the BBC the pilot could last longer, saying they "want to make sure it is long enough for us to be able to see the impact". "The point of this is to get the city tested," he said.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the kind of cheap new tests being deployed in Liverpool "can be a massive and possibly decisive use to us in this country in defeating the virus". The tests involve swabs and new "lateral flow" tests, akin to pregnancy tests, which can provide a result within 20 minutes. — APP

Haftar's forces must withdraw before talks

FOREIGN DESK

TRIPOLI: The Libyan army on Friday called for a withdrawal of warlord Khalifa Haftar's forces before a meeting of the Joint Military Commission in the city of Sirte in the next few days. "The supporting forces of the Sirte and al-Jufra operations [of the Libyan army] welcome holding the Joint Commission (5+5) meeting in Sirte in the upcoming days," read a statement from the Libyan military.

The statement stressed the "necessity of taking out the militias of the [Russian] Wagner and the Janjaweed and the withdrawal of Haftar from the scene." It said the Libyan army would not hold any meetings in an area that is under the control of foreign mercenaries.

On Wednesday, the 5+5 Joint Military Commission agreed on the implementation of a permanent ceasefire in Libya. The agreement came in a meeting in the town of Ghadames, which also saw a military subcommittee being formed to oversee the withdrawal of foreign militias.

US pushes \$2.9bn armed drones sale to UAE

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: The United States's State Department has given Congress notification it plans to sell 18 sophisticated armed MQ-9B aerial drones to the United Arab Emirates in a deal worth as much as \$2.9bn, people briefed on the matter have told the media.

The move came on the heels of last week's notification of a potential sale of F-35 fighter jets to the oil-rich Gulf state and one of Washington's closest Middle East allies. The sale would mark the first armed drone export since the Trump administration reinterpreted a Cold War-era arms agreement between 34 nations to allow US defence contractors to sell more drones to allies.

Reuters reported the UAE has long shown interest in buying drones from the US and would be among the first customers in line after US export policy changed this summer. A \$600m deal to sell four unarmed but weapons-ready MQ-9B SeaGuardian drones to Taiwan was the first to be formally announced to Congress on Tuesday. This informal notice for the Reaper-style drones is the precursor to the State Department's formal and public notification.



CAIRO: Ambassador of Uzbekistan in Egypt Oybek Usmanov presented a certificate to the chairman of the committee on social solidarity, family and disabled persons of the House of Representatives of Egypt, Professor Abdulhadi al-Qasabi. — DNA

‘Immediate de-escalation’ of Ethiopia tensions urged

Long-running tensions erupted into armed conflict this week between Addis Ababa and the Tigray region, whose leaders effectively ruled the country for three decades until Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed came to power

ADDIS ABABA: UN chief Antonio Guterres called on Friday for the immediate de-escalation of tensions in northern Ethiopia where fighting has erupted between federal forces and troops in the Tigray region. Long-running tensions erupted into armed conflict this week between Addis Ababa and the Tigray region, whose leaders effectively ruled the country for three decades until Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed came to power. "I'm deeply alarmed over the situation in the Tigray region of Ethiopia. The stability of Ethiopia is important for the entire Horn of Africa region," Guterres wrote on Twitter. "I call for an immediate de-escalation of tensions and a peaceful resolution to

the dispute." Abiy, the winner of last year's Nobel Peace Prize, announced Wednesday that he had ordered military operations in Tigray in response to an "attack" by the region's ruling party, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), on a military camp there. "Our country has entered into a war it didn't anticipate. This war is shameful, it is senseless," Ethiopia's deputy army chief Berhanu Jula told a press conference Thursday. The TPLF denies the attack occurred and accuses Abiy of concocting the story to justify deploying the military against the party. Tigray president Debretsion Gebremichael said Thursday that fighting was taking place in western Tigray, and



that federal troops were gathering on the border in neighbouring Amhara and Afar regions. A diplomatic source said there were probably casualties on both sides after heavy fighting and artillery shelling Thursday on one of the main roads linking Tigray to neighbouring Amhara region. An aid worker, speaking on

condition of anonymity, said 25 wounded soldiers had been admitted to a health centre in Amhara on Thursday, without specifying which side they were from. Internet and phone connections in Tigray have been cut, making any tolls difficult to verify. "Lengthy and bloody" -

The International Crisis Group said in a statement that unless the fighting was urgently halted, the conflict "will be devastating not just for the country but for the entire Horn of Africa". The ICG said prolonged fighting could draw in neighbouring Eritrea, whose President Isaias Afwerki is close to Abiy and who is a "sworn enemy" of the TPLF which ruled Ethiopia when it

fought a war with Eritrea. And given Tigray has powerful military forces, with an estimated 250,000 troops, a war could be "lengthy and bloody" in Africa's second most populous country, it said. It could also further destabilise the diverse nation, split into ethnic-based federal states, which has seen multiple outbreaks of ethnic violence in recent years. "Immediate, concerted mediation - local, regional and international - is needed to avert a descent into a broader crisis," said the ICG statement. The TPLF dominated politics in Ethiopia for nearly three decades before Abiy came to power in 2018 on the back of anti-government protests. — APP

OSCE slams Trump's allegations of US electoral fraud

FOREIGN DESK

WASHINGTON: An international election observer mission to the US has concluded there was no evidence of election fraud and Tuesday's presidential vote was "competitive and well managed," despite "logistical challenges" as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) noted statements made by President Donald Trump about deficiencies within the country's electoral system were baseless and eroded trust in democracy. "Baseless allegations of systematic deficiencies, notably by the incumbent president, including on election

night, harm public trust in democratic institutions," Michael Georg Link, the leader and special coordinator of the short-term OSCE observer mission, said in a statement Wednesday. Trump has repeatedly claimed without evidence that the US electoral system is vulnerable to voter fraud. "Nobody - no politician, no elected official - should limit the people's right to vote," Link added. "Coming after such a highly dynamic campaign, making sure that every vote is counted is a fundamental obligation for all branches of government," Link said, referring to the Trump campaign camp suing to stop the vote counting process in the crucial states of Michigan and Pennsylvania.



ISLAMABAD: The School at the Russian Embassy to Pakistan hosted the International Educational event "Great Ethnographic Dictation". More than 25 students and their parents tested their knowledge of the culture of peoples living in Russia. — DNA

Armenians, Azerbaijanis can coexist in peace: Tural Ganjaliyev

Although we are currently living in a state of intense war, I still believe in the possibility of coexistence of the Armenian and Azerbaijani communities within the internationally recognized borders of Azerbaijan, head of the Azerbaijani community in Azerbaijan's Upper Karabakh region said

DNA

BAKU: Despite an ongoing escalation of tensions, Armenian and Azerbaijani communities may still live together after the nearly three-decade illegal occupation by Armenian forces is ended, according to an Azerbaijani official. "Although we are currently living in a state of intense war, I still believe in the possibility of coexistence of the Armenian and Azerbaijani communities within the internationally recognized borders of Azerbaijan," Tural Ganjaliyev, head of the Azerbaijani community in Azerbaijan's Upper Karabakh region, told a Turkish news agency in an exclusive interview. Ganjaliyev, who is also a member of the Azerbaijani parliament, recalled that prior to the Armenia-Azerbaijan Upper Karabakh conflict nearly 30 years ago, the two communities "experienced a peaceful coexistence." Ganjaliyev underlined that today,

the goal of Baku is to liberate all the occupied territories, adding his country will continue its military operations until all the lands occupied by Armenian forces are rescued. Fresh clashes broke out on Sept. 27, and since then, Armenia has repeatedly attacked Azerbaijani civilians and forces, even violating three humanitarian cease-fire agreements since Oct. 10. To date, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has announced that over 200 villages as well as several settlements and cities of Azerbaijan have been liberated from Armenian occupation. Ganjaliyev stressed that the Azerbaijani government has a "special plan" for the repatriation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees to their homeland in the liberated territories. He highlighted that after the liberation of all territories from occupation, the implementation of this plan will begin in stages. "Of course, all these will not happen in one day. These areas must first be



cleared of mines, then critical infrastructure must be built there, and then people must gradually return to their places," he added. Azerbaijan currently hosts around 1 million refugees and IDPs who were forced to leave their homes due to the conflict initiated by the Armenian forces. The Azerbaijani deputy reiterated that from the first days of the current ongoing conflict, the Armenian Armed Forces shelled civilians and settlements along the front line, adding they didn't shy away from firing ballistic missiles at large cities far

away from the conflict zone such as Ganja, Barda, Mingachevir and other regions. "All this is a gross violation of international humanitarian law, especially the 1949 Geneva Conventions, and is a war crime," he said. On Oct. 28, a deadly missile attack by Armenian forces on Azerbaijani civilian settlements in the city center of Barda left at least 21 people dead, including five women, and wounded 70 people, including eight children and 15 women. The two cluster Smerch missiles, which are prohibited by international law, were fired around 1 p.m. local time (0900GMT) targeting the densely populated area with commercial establishments in Barda, according to Azerbaijan's Prosecutor General's Office.

Noting that Armenia's political and military leadership bears full responsibility for such crimes, Ganjaliyev said Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have confirmed the use of prohibited ammunition by Armenian forces against civilians in

Azerbaijan. "As you can see, Armenia's policy of ethnic cleansing and genocide against Azerbaijanis continues, and in essence, there is no big difference between what happened 30 years ago and what is happening now." To date, more than 90 civilians have lost their lives, including 11 children and infants, and over 400 people, with at least 36 children among them, have been injured in recent attacks by Armenian forces, according to Azerbaijan's Chief Prosecutor's Office. Some 2,971 houses and 100 multi-apartment residential buildings have been destroyed and 502 civilian facilities damaged as well. Ganjaliyev went on to say that thanks to the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, the people are living "their happiest days" as their hearts fill with joy hearing of new villages and cities being liberated from occupation. "Today, thousands of people sit in front of the television and eagerly await the news of the liberation of their occupied villages," he said.

COVID-19: India tops 8.4M case mark

MONITORING DESK

NEW DELHI: India's coronavirus cases Friday topped the 8.4 million mark after the country found 47,638 new infections in the last 24 hours, the Health Ministry said. The country recorded 670 virus-linked deaths in the last 24 hours, bringing the total to 124,985.

According to the ministry, there are 520,773 active cases in the country with 7.76 million recoveries.

While India overall is witnessing a steady decline in cases, many cities, including the capital New Delhi, are seeing huge spikes in infections. Officials in many states and cities, including New Delhi, have banned firecrackers as experts fear their use during festivals can increase pollution levels, thus putting people at risk. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Thursday said on Twitter that coronavirus cases are on the rise due to festival season and pollution, adding that they decided to ban firecrackers and ramp up medical infrastructure in public hospitals.

US: Michigan judge dismisses Trump campaign lawsuit

FOREIGN DESK

WASHINGTON: A Michigan appeals court judge denied US President Donald Trump's attempt Thursday to halt vote counting in the pivotal state on allegations Republicans were not granted access to view the counting of absentee ballots. Judge Cynthia Stephens said the suit was filed too late, after ballots had already largely been counted, and was filed against the wrong defendant. The campaign had sued Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson. "In this instance, where the issue is the day-to-day conduct of a vote count, the individuals who bear that responsibility, absent the secretary of the state removing them from their responsibility because of misfeasance of malfeasance, lies with the local election officials," she said during a virtual hearing. "The relief that is being requested in substantial part is completely unavailable through the secretary of state." Stephens said she will issue a written order after the hearing, but said it would not be available Thursday.

Iman Jodeh, pioneering Palestinian

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: Born and raised in the US to Palestinian immigrant parents, activist and academic Iman Jodeh this week made history as the first Muslim woman to win a seat in the Colorado state legislature. Jodeh, a Democrat, secured her seat in the House of Representatives of the Western state by beating her Republican rival, Robert Andrews, on Tuesday, the US Election Day. Jodeh's feat followed the trail blazed by fellow Palestinian Muslims Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar, who in 2018 won seats at the national level, in the US House of Representatives. "We did it! I ran to make the American Dream a reality for everyone," Jodeh tweeted after her victory. "I am a proud Muslim, Palestinian American, and first generation American." This is how she described the quality of her family's journey, who in 1974 immigrated from Palestine to the US in search of "safety and freedom," according to her campaign website. She also voiced pride in the five-decade struggle of her parents, who started "from scratch" and worked to establish and develop small projects while taking care of their four children. On her relationship with Palestine, Jodeh stressed that her parents wanted them to preserve ties to their heritage, history, culture, and language, and so would arrange family trips back to Palestine during the summer. She underlined that at a very young age, visiting her homeland raised her awareness of war, violence, and oppression, in contrast to the atmosphere of safety, peace, and freedom in Aurora, Colorado's third-largest city.

Briefs

WEF lauds
NAB's
awareness
strategy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Justice (R) Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB chaired a meeting to review Awareness and Prevention Strategy of NAB. The meeting was attended by Hussain Asghar, Deputy Chairman, NAB, Asghar Haider, Prosecutor General Accountability (PGA), Zahir Shah, DG Operations and other senior officers of NAB at NAB Headquarters. The Chairman NAB said that NAB's Awareness Strategy has been appreciated by World Economic Forum and Transparency International Pakistan in order to aware people about the ill effects of corruption which is an honor for Pakistan due to NAB's efforts. The Chairman NAB said that NAB is mandated to carry out Awareness and Prevention functions against corruption in pursuance of Section 33-C of National Accountability Ordinance (NAO), 1999. He said that NAB's awareness and prevention strategy remained very successful in 2019 in order to aware people about the ill effects of corruption. Under NAB's Awareness and Prevention Strategy, NAB has been engaging different Governmental, Non-Governmental Organizations, media, Civil Society and other segments of society to join hands with NAB's awareness and prevention efforts in order to aware people especially students in Universities/Colleges at an early age.

PIA aircraft
develops fault
moments
before take-off

DNA

LAHORE: A Quetta-bound Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) aircraft developed a technical fault moments before take-off at Jinnah International Airport, Karachi on Friday. The national flag carrier's PK-352 flight had to return to the airport's terminal from a take-off point after the pilot of the aircraft reported a technical fault in its cockpit. A spokesperson for the airline confirmed the news. He said the aircraft is being replaced with another one, after which the flight will depart for Quetta at 7pm. Sources at the airport said the flight was already 45 minutes late.

Pakistan has rich
potential to export
vegetables to China

Chinese government is strengthening vegetable quality certification systems for green vegetables and we avoid highly toxic pesticides in production

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The 15th episode of Pakistan Academy of Sciences Agriculture Policy Debate with the topic of "Vegetable Seed Production and Supply Chain" was held here, underlining the prospects of enhancing vegetables' export to China. According to a report published by Gwadar Pro, speakers and discussants from Pakistan on the occasion shared their views on the current situation, issues and solutions of vegetable seeds in Pakistan. Participants from China also introduced the current situation and development trend of China's vegetable industry, and mentioned that in the future Pakistan has potential to export vegetables to China. Gu Wenliang, Agricultural Commissioner of Chinese Embassy in Pakistan said that in the future Pakistan has potential to export vegetables to China. In past decades, the vegetable industry of China has made great progress. Last year, China has exported 11 million tons of

Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan
explore business avenues

Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan visits Lahore and Gujranwala chambers; met with the newly elected Presidents, urges businessmen to invest in his country

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Within the framework of a working trip to Lahore and Gujranwala, Punjab province of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Erik Beishembiev, Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic met with the newly elected Presidents of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Lahore and Gujranwala, Mr. Mian Tariq Misbah and Mr. Umar Ashraf as well as honorary Members of both Chambers. During the meetings, the prospects for expanding trade and economic ties between Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan and establishing direct business contacts between Kyrgyz and Pakistani private enterprises



were discussed, which will be facilitated by coordination and support of efforts from the state structures of the two countries. During the meetings, Erik Beishembiev noted Kyrgyzstan's interest in attracting Pakistani technologies and investments in agriculture, textile and pharmaceutical industries, taking into account the possibility of creating joint ventures to export products from Kyrgyzstan to the EU and EAEU countries. In turn, the Pakistani side noted its firm intention to strengthen trade and economic ties with the Kyrgyz Republic, and also confirmed its readiness to visit our country on a business visit at the earliest opportunity to study investment projects.

Russia approves
new structure
for Gas Pipeline
with Pakistan

"Officials in the Petroleum Division, previously influenced by a certain lobby, sought inclusion of ETK in place of TMK through wrong accusations that top man of TMK, Pumpyansky, is on the watchlist of US"

ISLAMABAD: The North-South Gas Pipeline project has received a new push with Russia providing it a new structure, media reported. The Russian Ministry of Energy has offered TMK and ETK with its state-owned company Federal State Unitary Enterprises (FSUE). Senior official privy to the development said the project had seen "many upheavals but the Russian side remained stuck to the project knowing the fact that Pakistan got structures changes several times. "Officials in the Petroleum Division, previously influenced by a certain lobby, sought inclusion of ETK in place of TMK through wrong accusations that top man of TMK, Pumpyansky, is on the watchlist of US, and afterwards the Russian MoE extended the structure with ETK as was demanded by top mandarins." "But later on, sense prevailed with inputs from international law firms which opined that TMK is a better structure for the project, and the same was found in internal inquiries coupled with due diligence on part of some powerful circles." With a net worth of \$9 billion, TMK is listed at the London Stock Exchange and has reported profits \$1 billion. The company is seen to have positive track record with US government by the S&P and Moody's. Publicly available data shows it hasn't been subjected to any investigation or sanction by the US administration. ETK is not a listed company hasn't been rated by S&P or Moody's, media reported. "The Russians provided ease to Pakistan by offering companies TMK and ETK in the structure under state-owned company FSUE - putting the ball in Pakistan's court to select a better structure for the project," said the official. - DNA

Jahangir
Tareen
returns to
Pak from UK

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: PTI's 'isolated' leader Jahangir Tareen arrived in Lahore on Friday after spending several months in the United Kingdom. He was accompanied by his son Ali Tareen. Earlier this year, a sugar inquiry commission - formed on the directives of the premier to probe the rise in the price of the commodity - had revealed names of many bigwigs, including Tareen, who had allegedly benefitted from the crisis. Tareen - a close confidant of Prime Minister Imran Khan - had 'quietly' departed for London in June despite being a prime suspect in the sugar scam.

'Pakistan, China may explore
new retail cooperation'

DNA

BEIJING: China is willing to share experience with Pakistan with regard to the development of new retail business. Both the countries may conduct in-depth discussions on the development of new retail business and make joint efforts to explore new retail business in the region so as to speed up the economic recovery during and after the pandemic, Cheng Xichong, visiting professor at Southwest University of Political Science and Law, senior fellow of the Charhar Institute said on Friday. Under the unprecedented pandemic situation, the economy of all countries in the world has declined. India's economy fell sharply by 23.9% in the second quarter of this year. By contrast, China's GDP

grew by 0.7% in the first three quarters of this year. The economic situation in the first quarter was serious with a negative growth of 6.8%, but it grew by 3.2% in the second quarter and 4.9% in the third quarter, he said in an article. He said, recently, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) predicted that China's economic growth will reach 1.8% this year, and China is expected to become the only country to achieve positive economic growth among the world's major economies. One of the important reasons for China's rapid economic recovery is that China has focused on both pandemic prevention and control and economic recovery at the same time. At the height of the pandemic, China launched online economy in due course

of time. When the pandemic was basically under control, China adopted a combination of online and offline measures to restore economic development. In this regard, he introduced the practice of Taobao which is a popular online shopping and retail platform in China. It was founded by Alibaba Group in May 2003. It has nearly 500 million registered users and more than 60 million regular visitors every day. At the same time, the number of online products per day exceeds 800 million, with an average of 48,000 items sold per minute. Taobao Special Edition launched the first "1-yuan experience store" in Shanghai last October. According to the official introduction, the store selected commodities from 1.2 million merchants to sell at a price of 1 yuan.



ISLAMABAD: Governer SBP Dr Reza Baqir called on FM Shah Mehmood Qureshi. - DNA

Saudi
princess
robbed in
Paris heist

PARIS: Thieves have taken some 600,000 euros worth of high-end goods from the Paris home of a Saudi princess, a source close to the case said on Friday. The 47-year-old princess, who had not set foot in the apartment since August, discovered on returning that bags, watches, jewellery and furs worth about \$720,000 were missing. The princess, whose name was not revealed, was hospitalised in a state of shock and has not yet spoken to police. The thieves appear to have entered the apartment, situated near the swank Avenue George V in the heart of the French capital, without using force, the source close to the case said. - APP

Welfare of
prisoners
top priority:
Chohan

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Prisons Fayaz ul Hasan Chohan has said that special focus will be made on the welfare of the prisoners and their families. He said this while presiding over a meeting held in connection with Jail Reforms here on Friday. He said that strict action would be taken over inhuman treatment with prisoners in any jail. Minister said that in the light of Islamic and humanitarian principles special work would be carried out to make prisoners productive citizens. Improvement in Punjab Prisons department would be made under the slogan 'Nafrat Insan sai Nahi Juran sai Hai', he added. He further said that work had been started to make parole laws more beneficial for the prisoners. Fayaz ul Hasan Chohan had sought proposals for making amendment in proposed laws for the welfare of prisoners. - APP

Five more
succumb to
coronavirus
in Punjab

DNA

LAHORE: At least five more people succumbed to coronavirus during the past 24 hours in Punjab. According to a spokesperson of the Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department, five more people died from Covid-19, taking the death toll in the province to 2,390. The spokesperson maintained that 321 more people were diagnosed with the coronavirus in the province in 24 hours. He said that 312 more people recuperated from the disease during the period and added that the province has registered 105,856 cases of coronavirus so far. Earlier on November 5, the novel coronavirus had claimed five more lives and infected 338 people during the past 24 hours in Punjab on Thursday.

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A sister concern of

Daily
Islamabad POST11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza,
G-8 Markaz, ISLAMABAD-PAKISTAN
Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165