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While I may be the first, I won't be the last: Kamala Harris

German envoy lauds winners of Unity Day quiz



Pakistan hopes reduction in the US offenses



Briefs

Palestinian President greets Biden

DNA
RAMALLAH: President Mahmoud Abbas offered today his congratulations to the President-elect Joe Biden on his victory as President of the United States of America for the coming period, and to his elected Vice President Kamala Harris as well. President Abbas said he was looking forward to working with the President-elect and his administration to strengthen the Palestinian-American relations and to achieve freedom, independence, justice and dignity for our people, as well as to work for peace, stability and security.

Defeated leaders met again: Shibli

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz said on Sunday that the defeated leaders who were flag bearers of political hypocrisy will have a gathering today (Sunday). In a tweet, he said that they would give justifications for their defeat and disgrace. He said that instead of showing remorse, those who plundered public resources were showing their shamelessness.

Imran's time has come, says Siraj

DNA
BUNER: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Siraj-ul-Haq said that Donald Trump has lost, now it is Imran Khan's turn, people distrusted the Prime Minister. Addressing a rally in Buner, Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami said that the PTI government was a continuation of previous governments, the people had distrusted Imran Khan, now he would resign and go home or take a U-turn. He said that he is not ready to tolerate corrupt and capitalist system, PDM and PTI have their own statement, our statement is to bring Islamic system in this country.

Ready to work with Joe Biden, says PM Khan

PM greets President elect and vice president; says Pakistan will wish peace in Afghanistan



A.M.BHATTI/DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has greeted US President-elect Joe R Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris on winning the US general presidential election 2020. Prime Minister said that Pakistan will continue to work with the US for

peace in Afghanistan and in the region.

"Congratulations Joe Biden and Kamala Harris", said the prime minister in his Tweet on Sunday. He said he was looking forward to President-Elect Biden's Global Summit on Democracy & working with him to end illegal tax havens & stealth of nation's wealth by corrupt leaders.

We will also continue to work with US for peace in Afghanistan and in the region," he tweeted. Democrat Joe Biden has won the White House, defeating Donald Trump and ending a presidency that convulsed American politics, shocked the world and left the United States more divided than at any time in decades. President Dr Arif Alvi also greeted Joe Biden and Kamala. In a tweet, the President said we are looking forward to an improving US role towards world peace especially in Afghanistan, as well as the entire region. The President said Pakistan looks forward to our continued long-term friendship and a dignified relationship.

UAE allows alcohol consumption

UAE has also scrapped punishment for allowing unmarried couples to live together

NEWS DESK

DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Saturday relaxed its Islamic laws that deal with personal freedoms, loosening alcohol restrictions and criminalising "honour killing". The development comes a few weeks after US President Donald Trump brokered a historic peace deal normalising relations between the UAE, Israel, Sudan and Bahrain. In its legal reforms, the UAE has also scrapped punishment for allowing unmarried couples to live together. Though authorities used to look the other way in

the case of foreigners, especially in Dubai, there was always the threat of punishment lingered on in tourists' minds. The Gulf country has also criminalised the "honour killings" custom, according to which a male relative could escape prosecution for assaulting a woman who was seen as bringing disgrace or dishonour to the family. Human rights groups have lashed out at the UAE and other Gulf countries in the past, accusing them of killing hundreds of women over activities such as eloping, fraternising with men or anything of a similar nature which could be seen as bringing "dishonour" upon the family. — Continued on Page 06

PDM leaders discuss political situation

NAVEED MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the opposition alliance Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) is underway to discuss the overall political situation of the country. The participants of the meeting, who are meeting first time after an interview of Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, are deliberating upon the alliance's future course of action and its November 22 meeting scheduled to be held in Peshawar. Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) is being represented by former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi while another former prime minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf is representing the People's Party.

PML-N to win GB polls: Maryam

GILGIT: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Vice President Maryam Nawaz on Sunday urged the people of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) to vote for PML-N for the development in the region. Addressing a public gathering in Jaglut, Maryam Nawaz said: "Vote for PML-N if you want to see development in GB." The PML-N leader maintained that PML-N carried out record development project in the region and added that she saw many of them while traveling to Jaglut. She added that there is no place for 'turncoats' in Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and said to place them at their right place.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Germany Bernhard Schlagheck interacts with winners of Germany Unity Day quiz. The ambassador had a great time exchanging views & ideas on so many topics. The ambassador said that these young individuals are a reflection of the amazing talent. — DNA

Azerbaijan captures Karabakh's main city

Shusha, which Armenians call Shushi, is of cultural and strategic importance to both sides and is located 15 km (nine miles) south of the enclave's largest city Stepanakert

DNA

BAKU: Azeris celebrated on the streets of Baku after President Ilham Aliyev said on Sunday his country's forces had taken Shusha, the second-largest city in the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave, but Armenian officials denied the city had been captured. Shusha, which Armenians call Shushi, is of cultural and strategic importance to both sides and is located 15 km (nine miles) south of the enclave's largest city Stepanakert. At least 1,000 people have

Azerbaijan appeals to notice Armenian eco-terrorism

BAKU: Sabina Aliyeva, Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of Azerbaijan has appealed to the international organizations concerning the eco-terrorism of Armenia in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and its intentional fires aimed at destruction of forests of Shusha. On 5 November 2001, November 6 was declared as the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict in accordance with the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/56/4. — Detailed news on page 6

Azerbaijan," Aliyev said, announcing that Baku's troops had taken Shusha/Shushi. In Baku, Azeris gathered in large numbers to celebrate, waving flags and chanting slogans, while drivers sounded their car horns. Officials from the Nagorno-Karabakh region and Armenia's Defence Ministry denied Aliyev's statement. "Shushi remains an unattainable pipe dream for Azerbaijan. Despite heavy destruction, the fortress city withstands the blows of the enemy," the Nagorno-Karabakh Rescue Service said.

NCOC issues new SOPs for marriage ceremonies

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a bid to stem the spread of COVID-19, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) issued new standard operating procedures for marriage ceremonies. According to the NCOC, the wedding events amid the second wave of COVID-19 should be organized while taking care of the precautions and SOPs pertaining to gatherings to minimize the chances of spread. Only outdoor wedding events are allowed, in which the number of the guests must not exceed 1,000 individuals with mandatory arrangements for seating of each individual at least 6 feet apart, read the statement.

Pak-Russia joint military drills start

SHUJAAT HAMZA

RAWALPINDI: The special forces of Pakistan and the Russian Federation joined hands for a two-week counterterrorism exercise, 'Druzha V', the military's media wing said Sunday. In an update on Twitter, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said the Druzha V opening ceremony was held at Tarbela on Sunday. "Pak-Russian Federation Special Forces are participating in two weeks long counterterrorism exercise," the statement added. "National anthems of both countries were played at the start of the



ceremony." The ceremony was attended by the Russian ambassador to Pakistan, Danila Ganich, the ISPR added. As per the statement, senior officials from the armies of Pakistan and Russia were present on

the occasion. The Russian special forces had arrived in Pakistan on Thursday for a two-week long military training aimed at sharing the experiences of both the armies in the counterterrorism domain.

Inside...

- Govt taking measures to quell smog: Amin Aslam — Page 02
- Lok Mela symbol of Nation's unity: DG PNCA — Page 03
- FPCCI stresses investment for environmental improvement — Page 04
- 'Islam' is not in crisis, liberalism is — Page 05
- Pakistan thumps Zimbabwe to clinch T20 series — Page 06
- CPEC lays foundation for Pak's industrial development — Page 07
- Overseas Pakistani says he is cheated; seeks PM help — Page 08

Nagorno-Karabakh is Azerbaijan

THE valiant nation of Azerbaijan is set to regain its lost territory called Nagorno-Karabakh as the Azerbaijani forces have already re-taken a number of surrounding areas of the occupied territory. Both countries went into war when Armenians on September 27, 2020 attacked Azerbaijani areas killing innocent people. Then Armenia attacked second largest city of Azerbaijan called Ganga where many innocent people were killed and scores of others left wounded. The international community then moved and tried to broker a peace deal. Russia jumping into the fray, facilitated a meeting of leadership of both countries and 'succeeded' to win a temporary ceasefire. However ceasefire could not last for long as both sides accused each other of violating the ceasefire. It was Armenia that resorted to attack those cities which had nothing to do with the conflict while Azerbaijani forces kept their fight limited

to the conflict zone only. Now when the conflict has already taken a heavy toll especially on the innocent people of Azerbaijan, what will happen next and what will be the likely future of Nagorno-Karabakh? That is the question all stakeholders are trying to find an answer. Turkey, as we know, has openly supported Azerbaijan while Russia has shown cautious response to Armenian call for help for Russians can only help Armenia if any of the Armenian territory is attacked. And the Russians have categorically conveyed this to the leadership of Armenia as well. Azerbaijan leadership on the contrary is exercising maximum restraint despite provocations by the Armenians. Attack on cities like Ganja in fact is a sort of provocation. Armenia wants Azerbaijan to lose its cool and attack Armenia to take revenge and thus it could tell to the world, especially the Russians that look Azerbaijan has

COMMENT

Ansar M Bhatti

attacked Armenia so come to its rescue. Armenia so far has not been able to garner support of the international community in its favour that is why its frustration is increasing with the each passing day. So much so, Iran, which used to support Armenia in the past, has now openly supported the Azerbaijani stand. The Iranian president in

a recent message made it clear that Nagorno-Karabakh belongs to Azerbaijan. On diplomatic front this is ostensibly considered a major achievement for Baku. As regards Pakistani stand, our government, establishment, civil society and media have wholeheartedly been supporting Azerbaijan. In a rare show of solidarity with the government and people of Azerbaijan the members of civil society arranged memorial corners in different places in order to pay homage to the brave Azerbaijani forces. Media support has also been forthcoming. Pakistani newspapers and periodicals published a number of articles highlighting various aspects of the issue. The Azerbaijani embassy in Islamabad spearheaded by Ambassador Ali Alizade has also been very instrumental in projecting and promoting the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh. Likewise disseminating of latest information about the

ongoing conflict also contributed greatly towards keeping the media fraternity abreast with what was happening on ground. There are loud and clear calls from the international community and Azerbaijan that Armenia must be tried for war crimes as it has killed many innocent people. This demand makes sense and the world must take note of it because any complacency in this regard would encourage acts of aggression even in the prospect. As rightly said by President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan that Azerbaijan is close to victory, which was a matter of days now. Azerbaijan this time would like to take this conflict to its logical end, which means it will re-gain control of Nagorno-Karabakh. The Armenian adventure has provided the Azerbaijani leadership with an ample chance of turning this act of aggression into an opportunity and thus settle this issue once and for all.

PPP not to leave people alone: Bilawal

DNA

GILGIT: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Sunday said that his party will not leave the people of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) alone. Talking exclusively to a private television channel, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that PPP will provide the masses their constitutional rights. He maintained that Gilgit-Baltistan will be given provincial status and the people will get the right to rule soon. Responding to a question, Bilawal said that conspiracies to keep PPP out of the polling process will not succeed. He maintained that rigging will not be allowed in the polls. Bilawal claimed that PPP will win the elections in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Briefs

Industry making expansion: FPCCI

DNA

KARACHI: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) has said that the industry in the country has been making expansion in various sectors due to business-friendly policies and positive initiatives of the government, as the CPEC round II is generating demand while the construction package has also started giving results.

FPCCI President Mian Anjum Nisar in a statement issued here on Sunday, observed that the SBP's concessionary financing Temporary Economic Refinance Facility for plant and machinery imports is attracting an overwhelming response, as Rs388 billion loans for 372 projects have been requested to the banks and out of which Rs157 billion for 203 projects have been approved, which is surely good for industrial expansion both in exports and local sectors. He said that growth in construction sector will have a great impact on economic development and job creation. "We appreciate the efforts of the government to cut power tariff for SMEs which covers almost 90 percent of the industry and especially the efforts of the SBP to promote economic growth in the country and provide liquidity and other support to businesses during Covid-19 are really appreciable."

Minister visits Sahulat Bazar

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Provincial Minister for Public Prosecution Ch. Zaheeruddin visited the Sahulat bazar at Jhang road and checked the availability, quality and prices of essential commodities. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali, ADCG Umar Maqbool, Assistant Commissioners Syed Ayub Bukhari also accompanied him. Provincial Minister visited bazar and checked the availability, quality of imported sugar, flour, fruits and vegetables, pulses, meat and other groceries. He clarified that Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Bazar was directly monitoring the prices of the items so there was no scope for overcharging. "Items are available in the bazars at a lower price than the general market and the administrative machinery is mobilized to make the markets more accessible to the public," he said. The provincial minister said that providing relief to the people was the agenda of the government and they would go to the utmost to control the prices. Talking to media persons, the provincial minister said that unjustified increase in prices of essential commodities would not be tolerated under any circumstances. He said that price control magistrates are active in general markets and bazars.

Mineral-rich tribal areas awaiting exploitation: UBG

KARACHI: Central leader of the United Business Group (UBG) Atif Ikram Sheikh on Sunday said erstwhile FATA is full of natural resources which are enough to change the fate of the country. The mineral resources found in tribal areas should be exploited without any delay so that the local population can get jobs, he said. In a statement issued here today, he said that the region has been brought to the national mainstream which was the beginning of a new era of prosperity. Atif Ikram Sheikh who has served as Chairman PVMA and VP FPCCI said that many businessmen who left that area under fear has come back and playing their role in national development. He said that South and North Waziristan are full of precious stones, gold, silver, copper worth billions of dollars, granite, marble and 36000 million tonnes of chromate.



HUNZA: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing an election procession in Hunza. -DNA

Govt taking measures to quell smog: Amin Aslam

Talking to media over growing challenge of Smog in Pakistan, he pointed out that burning of rice crop residue, burning of dirty fuel sources in traditional brick kilns, solid waste burning, factories are the typical causative factors of smog

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Malik Amin Aslam, on Sunday said tackling smog-forming pollutant sources was the most effective way to quell the growing challenge of smog that causes serious health hazards and environmental hazards during winter months. Talking to media over growing challenge of Smog in Pakistan, he pointed out that burning of rice crop residue, burning of dirty fuel sources in traditional brick kilns, solid waste burning, existing aging urban transport system, factories and are the typical causative factors of smog, which starts blanketing country's various parts, particularly those in northern Punjab provinces, from November and continues till March, said a new release issued here. "However, smog, which is the worst form of the outdoor air pollution, would continue to devour the



country's gains in public health, environmental and economic sectors as long as these very sources of smog remain unaddressed," he cautioned. Referring to the recent introduction of the Rice Straw Shredder and Happy Seeder technology in Sheikhupura district on Friday (November 6, 2020), Aslam said the much-needed technology has been finally launched and being provided to the farmers, which

would help avoid burning of the paddy crop residue and instead convert the residue into organic fertilizer for boosting fertility of their farmlands. He informed that around hundreds of the pairs of rice straw shredder and happy seeder technology were being provided to the farmers under a joint multi-billion rupees initiative launched jointly by the Agricultural Engineering Division (Lahore) of the Punjab Agricul-

ture Department and the Federal Ministry of Climate Change. The technology is being introduced across the country under the government's ambitious national project 'Mechanised Management of Rice Crop Residue' for which Rs 30 billion are being spent for disbursement of the 50,000 units of the rice straw shredder and happy seeder technology to the farmers to stem the stubble burning, which is among

the key causes of smog in winter, Malik Amin Aslam elaborated. He hoped, "Provision of the new technology would prove a great milestone of successful environmental governance by the present government and help quell exacerbating challenge of the smog, which also reflects the Prime Minister Imran Khan-led government's commitment towards taming the smog and protect public health and environment from the heinous pollution." Dubbed as 'the silent killer', smog is composed of a mixture of air pollutants from the various sources that poses grave risk to the human health and environment. Various human health problems such as emphysema, asthma, allergies, chronic bronchitis, lung infections, coughing, irritation of the eyes, chest, nose throat infections and various cancers are caused or exacerbated by the effects of smog. Various studies show that birth defects and low birth weights are other consequences of the smog problems.

RCCI welcomes reduction in power tariff

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) President Mohammad Nasir Mirza has said that Prime Minister Imran Khan has provided a huge relief to the industrial sector by announcing reduction in electricity tariffs and other incentives. The Rawalpindi Chamber welcomes this decision. Addressing the second executive meeting, RCCI President said the relief package would benefit small and medium enterprises (SMEs), reduce electricity tariffs by 50 per cent on surplus consumption, and reduce other industries by 25 per cent. The government has abolished peak hour tariff and reduced tariffs on used electricity, is a laudable step. The President said that traders and industrialists appreciated the decision of the Prime Minister as the industrial sector was badly affected due to the Coronavirus. The government has already provided a number of incentives to the business sector, including soft loans, reduction in interest rates, as well as other financial decisions and manufacturing services that still need more help to grow economically.

Daraz 11.11 brings 1000 local and int'l brands

DNA

LAHORE: Daraz is bringing the biggest sale of the world, better known as 11.11, from 11th November to 17th November in Pakistan. This year there are 15 million products on which you can avail discounts worth up to Rs. 50 Crore. The platform houses both international and local brands to suit every individual's shopping taste. There are 100 exclusive electronic item launches during the 11.11 sale including iPhone 12, OnePlus 8T and the Vivo20 and a lot of more electronic items such as mobile phones, tablets, smartwatches and many more at the best prices this 11.11.



LAHORE: Special assistant to CM Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan met with speaker Chaudhary Pervaiz Ilaahi and inquired about Chaudhary Shujat Hussain's health at service hospital - DNA

'Iqbal awoke Muslims of sub-continent'

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar has said that Iqbal awoke the Muslims of the subcontinent from the ignorance through his enlightened poetry and thoughts. In his message to mark birth anniversary of poet of the East Sir Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal, the CM said that Iqbal was a torch preacher of unity and solidarity of Muslims. Allama Iqbal made humanity the object of his message by rising above racial and geographical boundaries. The message of the poet of the East still provides guidance to us, he said and added that Iqbal invigorated the young generation for marching towards revolution and highlighted the glory of Islam. Pakistan will become a moderate and a welfare state by following the thoughts and philosophy of Allama Iqbal, he added. He said the best way to pay homage to Allama Iqbal was to implement his thoughts and philosophy. Through his thought-provoking poetry, Allama Muhammad Iqbal gave us a lesson of self-respect, high morals, justice, straightforwardness and democracy, he said and added that the vision of a new Pakistan was exactly in accordance with the ideas and philosophy of Allama Iqbal. The CM said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government will bring Pakistan of Quaid-e-Azam and Allama Iqbal on the road to prosperity and development, adding that Prime Minister Imran Khan was giving a practical shape to Iqbal's Pakistan. He said Prime Minister Imran Khan saved the nation from the corrupt and gang of plunderers and was determined to reshape Pakistan according to the ideas and philosophy of Allama Iqbal. - DNA

Winning accolades for initiating a flagship program

The incentives offered by the government to housing sector would help achieve the target of constructing five million houses and creating 15 million jobs," said Mohsin Sheikhan, Chairman Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has won accolades on way to the accomplishment of yet another herculean task to build five million houses for homeless poor in the country. He stood tall among his contemporaries by leaping forward in materializing a dream which his opponents could just think of as builder community in the country eulogized him for removing hiccups to make Naya Pakistan Housing Program, a success. After the relentless efforts he put in during last two years, the program is now on ground and builders are jubilating and praising him for giving them level playing field to lend a hand in the government efforts for construction of five million houses. Series of meetings and deliberations personally chaired by the Prime Minister coupled with his unflinching commitment paved way for his dream to come true. These efforts made the builder community to eulogize this program with hopes that the target of five million houses was doable. "The incentives offered by the

government to housing sector would help achieve the target of constructing five million houses and creating 15 million jobs," said Mohsin Sheikhan, Chairman Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD). Welcoming incentive package, he said, it was the PTI government that declared the housing sector as an industry for the first time in 70 years history of the country. "If initially, the government starts with one million houses, it would create 2.5 million jobs and revive 40 to 72 allied industries. The package would be very useful for the construction industry," he said. He said that Covid-19 had slowed down economic growth across the world but hoped, "brisk advancement on this project would help bring an economic turnaround. The construction industry is the backbone of our economy and its progress would help overcome housing units shortage, result in the growth of allied industries and jobs creation." Chairman Naya Pakistan Housing and Development Authority (NAPHDA) Lt Gen (R) Anwar Ali Hyder has expressed hope that simplified documentation

process and other measures to ensure ease of doing business would help attract more investors to the housing and construction industry. He said the investors, investing in housing and construction industry till December 31 would not be asked for their income source. "Earlier, it was difficult for the builders and developers to get approvals, but now the government has eased the 'Approvals Regime' to facilitate the housing construction sector." He also mentioned the government's vision of incentivizing the construction industry for the benefit of multiple industries, overall economic activity and jobs creation. The government desires the builders and developers to take full advantage of this package and start their projects before December 31. Abid Qayyum Sulehri, an economist and Executive Director SDPI, saw the construction sector as a future driving force for the economy and appreciated incentives for the construction industry that would finally benefit the poor. Builders and real estate agents have also seen this package as a major initiative for

the revival of the sector as they hoped the government incentives would definitely restore the confidence of the local and foreign investors. Commenting on the government's initiative, a leading property developer and businessman Ejaz Gohar was of the view that it was the first plan, which would make it affordable for low and middle-income people to build houses with low rate mortgage financing. The commercial banks would allocate five per cent of their portfolio for the construction activities, he said and noted that some Rs 20 trillion was circulating in the informal unregistered economy and now was the opportunity for the people to get the huge amount of money declared by investing in the real estate sector by December 31, 2020. "Now low-income people can build a house of 5-marla with mortgage financing at 5 per cent." Ejaz said the mortgage financing was started in the United States 82 years back to kick-start its economy and Pakistan was far behind in terms of the home mortgage financing as compared to the developed world.

After the announcement of the special package, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) decided to set a mandatory target for banks to extend mortgage loans and financing for developers and builders. Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Mortgage Refinance Company (PMRC) Mudassar Khan said PMRC was providing refinancing facility backed by funding from the World Bank and the government. Mudassar said they have made long-term affordable housing finance a reality now with disbursements reaching Rs.15 billion to 11 partner banks and financial institutions through their conventional and innovative Islamic refinancing products. PMRC had also introduced a risk-sharing facility as a trustee for the government to encourage banks to lend for low-cost housing. It had jointly with the insurance industry created a new conventional and Takaful product for low-income housing under the Naya Pakistan Program. "The PTI government deserves credit as not only it did not shy away from the challenges and remained focused on the task but

also elicited participation from the private sector in a positive manner," said Muhammad Ejaz, Director, Arif Habib Corporation Limited. He said the government undertook an elaborate process of consultation and engaged all relevant stakeholders. Instead of rushing to force any half-baked plan, it maintained steady and gradual progress towards developing an effective system through creating and reforming institutions. At the same time, he said, creation of ease-of-doing-business and reforms in the foreclosure laws would enable institutional funding support, which was extremely positive. Muhammad Ejaz, Director Arif Habib Corporation further said, "Key factor is an investor. Giving them confidence by giving the construction sector the status of the industry would help motivate them to invest more in this sector. We are grateful to the PTI government for these initiatives," said Chief Executive Officer of Makeen Marketing Pvt. Limited Hassan Talal, a builder associate of Capital Smart City, Bahria Town, Blue World City, Lahore Smart City and other projects.

Briefs

PAL to hold 'Iqbal Ambassador Conference'

ISLAMABAD: On occasion of the birth anniversary of Allama Muhammad Iqbal, Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) will hold an "Iqbal Ambassador Conference" on November 10 at President Secretariat. Minister for Education and Professional Training, National History and Literary Heritage, Shafiqat Mahmood and Ambassadors of different countries to Pakistan and Pakistani Iqbal Scholars will attend the conference. The Ambassador to Pakistan will shed light on Iqbal's works in their countries. According to an official, the conference will open new doors for the promotion of Iqbal's art, personality and philosophy. He said that work has been done on Iqbal in many countries of the world similarly Allama Iqbal has addressed many personalities and many countries of the world in his poetry and thought. These references will be promoted in this conference and progress will be made in the promotion of Iqbal's thought and philosophy in these countries. - APP

NUST 'Global Virtual Job Fair' from Nov 20-21

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. Detailed information about the event is available at the 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.

MoHR facilitates 108,065 people

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Human Rights helpline (1099) for Legal Advice on Human Rights Violations provided its services to 108,065 people from January 2020 till September 2020. According to details, legal services were provided to 3,464 people, legal advice and referral through calls to 2215 and legal advice and referrals through letters to 34 people and legal advice was provided to 107 people visitors through applications, fax and emails. The helpline officials did 8360 follow-up calls while 13178 violence victims were called back during this time span, an official of MoHR told APP. The officials said objectives of the Helpline for legal advice on Human Rights violations were in line with the social sector programmes of the government. - APP

Lok Mela symbol of Nation's unity: DG PNCA

PNCA participation will add colors to Lok Mela as popular Folk artists Fazal Jutt and his team are entertaining the audience by presenting Folk stories like Heer and other stories and music in his own unique style

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Lok Mela is a symbol of national unity and presents the true picture of diversity of Pakistani culture this was stated by Dr. Fouzia Saeed, Director general Pakistan National Council of the Arts. The event provided unique opportunity to the artists from every corner of the country to gather and provide opportunity to the visitors to get familiar with the folkloric life, art and music of Pakistan which otherwise is not possible for everyone, she added. PNCA participation will add colors to Lok Mela as popular Folk artists Fazal Jutt and his team are entertaining the audience by presenting Folk stories like Heer and other stories and music in his own unique style. He performs daily at 2pm and the national puppet theatre of PNCA is presenting daily puppet shows at 11 am at the Lok Virsa open air theatre. The Lok Mela, and as an annual event is very popular among the masses and people from all walks of life visit the Mela to have a look at Pakistani art and craft. The diplomatic community and expats in Pakistan also do take special interest and avail the opportunity to have a look at the Pakistani traditional life culture and cuisine as every province presents their traditional food and music at their pavilions. It is also a source of promotion of tourism. The DG PNCA said that Lok Mela should also be arranged at all provincial capitals to provide opportunities to the people of these areas as well to have a look of their own traditions and culture which would create the sense of ownership among these people.



12 security cameras installed at Sabzi Mandi

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A total of 12 cameras at main gates of Sabzi Mandi and 164 CCTV cameras at shops have been installed after coordination of police with traders as the latter were sensitized about proper security measures in the area. Such coordination is being ensured following directions of IGP Islamabad

Muhammad Aamir Zulfiqar Khan ad DIG (Operations) Waqar Uddin Syed under platform of Neighborhood Watch System. On Sunday, SP Industrial Area zone Zubair Ahmed Sheikh alongwith DSP Khalid Awan, SHO Sabzi Mandi, Chairman market Committee Khushdil Khan Hoti visited the sabzi mandi and checked the security arrangements along with Chairman Mar-

ket union Abdullah Hanif and other traders. Due to efforts of police and Neighborhood Watch Committee, it was told that 164 shop keepers have installed new CCTV cameras while 12 cameras have been already installed at main gates of Sabzi Mandi. Three safe city cameras are already functional there while 30 guards are performing security duty in Sabzi Mandi to maintain peace.

On the occasion, Committee members and security guards were also briefed about preventive measures of Covid-19. The visiting officials of Islamabad police were ensured full cooperation in implementation of SOPs to avoid spread of coronavirus. Police efforts to ensure security were also lauded and every possible cooperation was assured to further improve it.

E&P companies make 90 discoveries in last six years

ISLAMABAD: Exploration and Production (E&P) companies have made around 90 oil and gas discoveries in different parts of the country during the last six years. The companies found 12, 24, 17, 22, 12 and 3 hydrocarbon deposits in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 respectively, out of which 10 were discovered in different parts of Punjab, 69 in Sindh, eight in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and three in Balochistan, according to an official document

available with APP. The E&P companies, during first two years of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, made 26 finds and added 9,444 BPD (Barrels per Day) oil and 218 MMCFD (Million Cubic Feet per Day) gas in the national pool against the depletion of 9611 BPD oil and 279 MMCFD gas from the operational wells. While, the companies have acquired around 5,110 2D Line-Kilometer and 2,693 Square-Kilometer seismic

data to assess the potential of hydrocarbon deposits in different pockets during the two-year period. Pakistan's total sedimentary area is around 827,268 square kilometers, out of which 320, 741 KM or 39 per cent of the area was under exploration. The country's existing gas production stood at around 3.7 billion Cubic Feet per Day (BCFD) against the demand of 6 BCFD, adding the gas reserves were depleting at the ratio of 9.5 per cent per year. - APP



MoCC to launch 'Olive Tsunami' project soon

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) would soon launch 'Olive Tsunami' project to increase the quantity of fruit trees like mulberry and Whortleberry in various areas of the country. A senior official of Forest department on Sunday said, "We were also in touch with Ministry of Food and Agriculture and Research in this regard". MoCC was planning to plant these kinds of trees in areas of Chakwal, Hangu and KP, he told APP. He added that an estimated amount of Rs 1.2 billion has been allocated for the project as government was taking positive initiatives for the development of forestation in the country. Olive is considered to be the most useful and beneficial fruit which is why various steps have been taken for its promotion in ongoing project under 'Ten Billion Tree Tsunami programme.' - APP

IEP holds awareness session on AI

The Resource Person explained the importance of using CCTV cameras for surveillance to detect dubious activities

ISLAMABAD: The institution of Engineers Pakistan, Rawalpindi-Islamabad Center (IEP-RIC) has held an awareness-session on use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for peace and security aimed at acquainting the budding professionals with modern gadgets, applications and techniques. The session was specially arranged by the IEP-RIC for the graduate engineers for keeping them abreast with the application of AI for monitoring and tracking various kinds of crimes and acts of terrorism, a news release said on Sunday. Dr Mudassar Raza, who is working with COMSATS, was the Resource Person. He said that some of Pakistani languages are in the danger zone adding that PAL has begun work on short term and long-term projects for 72 languages. - APP

Jaun Elia remembered

ISLAMABAD: Eminent Urdu poet, scholar and philosopher Jaun Elia was remembered on his 18th death anniversary yesterday, media reported. Born in 14 December 1931 as Syed Sibte-e-Ashgar Naqvi in Amroha, Jaun Elia began writing poetry at the age of 8 but published his first collection, Shayad, when he was 60. During his youth, Pakistan became an independent Muslim state. He therefore, migrated to Pakistan in 1957, and decided to live in Karachi. Jaun Elia was the brother of Rais Amrohvi and Syed Muhammad Taqi, who were journalists and psychoanalysts. His poetry collections included Sukhan Meri Uda-see Hai, Zakhm-e-Umeed, Mubada, Tumharey Aur Mere Darmiyan, Daricha Haye Kheyal, Qitaat, Jaun Elia Ki Tamam Ghazlain (parts I-III) and Inshaye aur Mazaameen. Jaun Elia died on 8 November 2002 in Karachi at the aged of 70. - APP

ANF seizes drugs valuing US\$ 67.871 million

ANF Rawalpindi, the staff of Police Station Regional Directorate Rawalpindi, establishing a naka near Motorway Link Road, Tehsil & District Islamabad, stopped Daewoo Bus and recovered 4.400 Kg Hashish from shoulder bag of the accused Rafiq Ahmed resident of Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: The Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) has seized 1922.148 Kilograms (kg) narcotics valuing US\$ 67.871 million internationally by conducting as many as 17 counter-narcotics strikes throughout the country. According to ANF weekly report, a copy available with APP, the Force also arrested 19 culprits including 3 ladies and impounded 7 vehicles. The seized drugs comprised of 1782.3 Kg Hashish, 8,698 Kg Heroin, 51,600 Kg Opium, 78 Kg Amphetamine and 1.550 Kg Roche Tabs (Rivtril Clonazepam). ANF Balochistan, the staff of Police Station Regional Directorate

Balochistan, Quetta recovered 1669 Kg Hashish from a dry rainy nallah at Killi Dolangi Tehsil Gwadar and District Qilla Abdullah. In another operation, the staff of Police Station Gwadar recovered 78 Kg Amphetamine (with packing) from Kalar Kolanch in mountain hidden in bushes at District Gwadar. In third operation, Police Station Quetta recovered 6 Kg Opium and 21 Kg Hashish alongwith Motorcycle at Pishin road near Yaro Chowk District Pishin. ANF Rawalpindi, the staff of Police Station Regional Directorate Rawalpindi, establishing a naka near Motorway Link Road, Teh-

sil & District Islamabad, stopped Daewoo Bus and recovered 4.400 Kg Hashish from shoulder bag of the accused Rafiq Ahmed resident of Islamabad. In another operation, Police Station ANF Islamabad, intercepted a suspected consignment at Air Express International Courier Service, GPO Al-Aman Plaza Rawalpindi and apprehended an accused namely Irtaza Ali resident of Rawalpindi who was trying to book parcel/consignment on behalf of Syed Ali Hamza Kazmi resident of Rawalpindi to Saleem a resident of UK and recovered 2.340 Kg Heroin which was concealed in polythene

shopping bags. In third operation, Police Station Dina intercepted a Toyota Corolla Car during a naka at Tarakai Toll Plaza, Main G.T Road Sohawa, District Jhelum and recovered 2 Kgs Hashish from secret cavities of the said vehicle. Two accused namely Shehzad Akhtar, Rana Muhammad Arshad residents of AJK were arrested on the spot. In fourth operation, Police Station Dina apprehended a lady accused namely Mehr Zarin resident of Swabi during a naka at Tarakai Toll Plaza, Main G.T Road, Shoa-wa, District Jhelum and recovered 2.200 Kg Heroin from lady purse

of arrested lady accused. In fifth operation, the staff of Police Station Dina intercepted a Suzuki Alto Car during a naka at Motorway Link Road, Tehsil & District Islamabad, and 3.300 Kg Hashish recovered from the personal possession of arrested accused namely Shakeel Khan (Driver), Abid Khan and Muhammad Jalal residents of Peshawar. In sixth operation, the staff Police Station Regional Directorate Rawalpindi establishing naka near Motorway link road Tehsil & District Islamabad and recovered 2.200 Kg Hashish from arrested accused, Muhammad Rahim resident of Charsadda. - APP

Lok Virsa to hold Balochistan Musical Night

ISLAMABAD: National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) would hold "Balochistan Musical Night" tomorrow (Monday) to celebrate the rich Balochi culture at annual Lok Mela. The night will feature renowned artists and musicians to enthrall the audience with their outstanding performances. Balochistan pavilion has been setup by the Balochistan Directorate at the festival to show Balochistan's rich culture and traditions. Beautiful culture of Balochistan will be highlighted through embroidery, dresses, music and food, which is typically a rare find in Islamabad, an official said on Sunday. He said that the Balochistan contingent will feature crafts people, folk artists, folk musicians and dance groups. Balochi musicians will mesmerize the audience with their melodious voices. Special Balochi Dance has been prepared to captivate the audience with performances. - APP

PAL to promote Pakistani languages

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) has started a project for promotion of literature in 72 languages spoken in Pakistan. The project would offer element of culture to celebrate and value the Pakistani Languages by showing its origin, history and influences through literature. The project would establish a "Museum of Pakistani Languages" to examine the history, impact, and art of languages in incredible manner. According to an official, the main purpose of starting the said project is to bring people closer to their language, showing that it is they who are the real "owners" and agents of change. He said that some of Pakistani languages are in the danger zone adding that PAL has begun work on short term and long-term projects for 72 languages. - APP

1,08,680 drivers fined during ongoing year

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has issued 1,08,680 fine tickets during the ongoing year to those drivers involved in careless driving on roads. Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Farrukh Rasheed said that special squads have been constituted to take action against careless drivers putting their own and others lives at risk. He also asked to adopt decent attitude with road users and ensure implementation on policy of 'Phele Salam-Phir Kalam'. He said that all officials have been directed for strict action against those involved in careless driving and ensure steps for safe road environment in the city. He said that directions have been made to ensure renewed efforts for awareness about traffic rules among citizens by ITP education wing. He directed ITP's teams to visit educational institutions to create traffic sense as several students have joined ITP as traffic volunteers. - APP

125 person held over SOPs violations

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has arrested 125 individuals and sealed 77 shops over non-compliance of anti-coronavirus Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) across the city during the last week. The authorities imposed fine of Rs1,91,500 to shops by conducting 1,1,62 inspections, an ICT spokesman told APP on Sunday. ICT has sealed four hotels, three wedding halls and nine restaurants during this time span. The teams of law enforcement agencies including police, rangers and officials of district administration intensified crackdown against those who were not wearing face masks. - APP

Briefs

Govt to construct 31 National parks

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.

Officials informed APP that 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 conservation of parks.

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 conservation and also to improve quality and sustainable management of these areas.

He said impact of the project would reflect through management planning of the national parks and its infrastructure; boundary demarcation; pathways; safeguarding biodiversity and ecosystems. - APP

Date for SSBC challenge extended

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The aspiring student with great business ideas can become the part of the second batch of Student Startup Business Center (SSBC) Challenge 2020 after extension in the closing date for applying till November 15.

According to an official source, the closing date for applying in the challenge has been extended to facilitate those who were unable to apply due to the COVID-19 pandemic. SSBC is a joint initiative of the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC), Promotion of Education in Pakistan Foundation (PEP) and the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), aiming to support and launch student start ups.

The initiative is aimed at promoting the talented student and entrepreneurs through enhancing their practical learning experience at the university. NUST SSBC is situated within TechOne Incubator NUST and offers free co-working space, seed funding, incubation facilities, and opportunities to participate in national and international events.

SSBC focuses on driving innovation and entrepreneurship and using linkages with the industry to identify value-added opportunities that can be commercialised.

In order to be eligible for the SSBC Challenge 2020, participants must either be final year Bachelors students, Masters students, or PhD students from constituent schools and colleges of NUST. The winning teams will receive seed funding, one-year co-working space free-of-cost, and access to all incubation facilities. - APP

'Govt to improve literacy rate among women'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Secretary Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) Munaza Hassan said Government was committed to improve literacy rate among women.

In a statement here on Sunday, she said an educated girl was the guarantee to informed decision-making, valuable economic partnerships and safe motherhood. Adding that female students must be encouraged and prioritized for various initiatives taken by the government. She said an educated, healthy and empowered woman on the decision-making table best personifies the state of peace and progress.

This would help to improve health indicators and also facilitate de-radicalization.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) Maulana Fazal ur Rehman addressing to the media after the PDM's meeting. - DNA

FPCCI stresses investment for environmental improvement

Environmental investments not only bring financial benefits to the corporate sector but also cut down pollution, said Munir Ahmed, Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director and Dy. Convener FPCCI Central Standing Committee on Environment

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a webinar said government, corporate sector and experts make a dynamic triangle for an urban sustainable adaptation model. Corporate sector shall come out of discretionary social charity and environmental services to social investment plans at district level including environmental interventions. The experts said Environment is not limited to tree-plantation or water conservation. It starts from the provision of safe drinking water to sanitation, waste collection to its segregation and disposal, clean air to cost-efficient green energy and a healthy environment. The webinar was organized by the Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) and the Federation of Pakistan Chambers

of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Central Standing Committee on Environment and Climate Change. The speakers included Water and Climate expert Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) Director General Farzana Altaf, Executive Director Devcom-Pakistan and FPCCI Deputy Convener of Central Standing Committee on Environment and Climate Change Munir Ahmed, Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) head of women entrepreneurship Fouzia Qazi, Preston University Disaster Research Institute Director Dr. Allah Wadayo Baloch, and National Institute of Population Studies (NIPS) research fellow Aneela Bibi.

Water and Climate expert Ali Tauqeer Sheikh presented a sustainable urban adaptation model which he said should be based on the synergy and trust of the stake-

holders. "The government should bridge the trust deficit and engage the local businessmen into the local environmental solutions with small investments at the district level. For the large interventions, the government should give incentives and invest in from the public exchequer. All the interventions for the investments shall be prepared by the independent experts with the consultation of local communities and civil society groups." AT Sheikh said we need to understand that the government is short of funds for sustainable urban adaptation while businessmen lack sufficient knowledge and expertise for unconventional investments. Corporate sector can fill the investment gap while the environmental experts can equip the corporate sector with knowledge. It could be a win-win situation for all.

Pak-EPA Director General Farzana

Altaf said businessmen are always receptive if approached rationally to convince them. The sector I-9 steel industry in Islamabad was polluting the air. We approached them with a carbon-selling model. One adopted and seven others followed him. They all recovered their investment in the first six months by selling carbon to other manufacturers they collected from the chimneys of their industries. Awareness in the first step that is needed where the expert could help the government and the corporate sector. Collaboration and enforcement come at a later stage, she said.

Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director and Dy. Convener FPCCI Central Standing Committee on Environment Munir Ahmed said "Environmental investments not only bring financial benefits to the corporate sector but also cut down environmental degradation and

pollution. Capital Development Authority (CDA) should develop public-private partnership models to engage local industry, corporate sectors and traders for sanitation, water conservation, waste management and air pollution. Ahmed said the civil society and experts should pilot an awareness campaign on environmental investments with the support of Pak-EPA for the twin-cities. We all need clean, green and sustainable cities but no one likes to lead and take initiative.

RCCI executive member Fouzia Qazi said they have launched some environmental improvement initiatives and the RCCI members would be interested to be part of urban management schemes if invited by the government. She said women entrepreneurs can contribute in awareness raising campaigns to reduce consumption, and management of the domestic waste.

255 new Corona cases reported in capital: NCOC

ISLAMABAD: National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) on Coronavirus Sunday said that 255 new COVID-19 cases were reported from the federal capital during last 24 hours. According to an official of NCOC, as many as 302 cases were reported on Saturday which was the highest number of cases reported in a day during last one month. He said that so far 21,557 cases were reported from the federal capital while 238 deaths were reported from Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) while 18,971 patients had been recovered completely.

Meanwhile, on the direction of Ministry of National Health Services, the district administration of Islamabad had continued smart lockdown in different streets of Islamabad to reduce transmission of the infection in selected streets and other sectors of Islamabad. As per direction of District administration, five sectors will be sealed in the next 24 hours for emerging as Covid hot spots included G-6/2, G-9/1, G-10/4, I-8/3 and I-8/4. Schools, Mosques, shopping centers and parks will be closed and assistant commissioners of the areas will ensure arrangements. Residents have been asked to cooperate with the administration in its efforts against corona. They also started taking actions on violation of SOPs related with the Corona while visiting marriage halls, markets and petrol pumps by its inspection teams. The administration also sealed schools, shops, workshop and restaurants on violation of SOPs.

The inspection teams also issued notices to marriage halls besides imposing fines on owners of different shops. Assistant Commissioner (Saddar) in crackdown against marquee in E-11 on violation of timings and COVID SOPs particularly not wearing masks, also sealed three marquee while managers of three other arrested and lodged FIRs on gross violation of SOPs. Commenting on the situation, an official of Ministry of National Health Services said that several local level administrative decisions were made to control the disease. - DNA

Chances of smog in Capital

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

Parliamentarians asked to fulfill assets' submission requirement

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has drawn attention of members of the parliament and provincial assemblies towards mandatory requirement under Section 137 of the Elections Act, 2017 on submission of yearly statements of assets and liabilities.

According to ECP, all parliamentarians have to submit to the ECP by December 31st, 2020, yearly statements of assets and liabilities including their spouse and dependent children as on the preceding 30th day of June on Form-B.

It added as per reproduced requirement, every member of an assembly and Senate

will submit to the Commission, on or before December 31st each year, a copy of statement of assets and liabilities including assets and liabilities of his spouse and dependent children as on the preceding thirtieth day of June on Form B. The commission, on the first day of January each year through a press release, will publish the names of members who failed to submit the requisite statement of assets and liabilities within the period specified under sub-section (1).

The Commission will, on the sixteenth day of January, by an order suspend the membership of a member of an assembly and Senate who

fails to submit the statement of assets and liabilities by the fifteenth day of January and such member will cease to function till he or she files the statement of assets and liabilities.

The ECP said that the prescribed form along with instructions and guidelines prepared in this regard can be obtained free of cost from the Election Commission Secretariat, Islamabad, offices of Provincial Election Commissioners in each Province, Senate Secretariat, National Assembly Secretariat and Secretariats of Provincial Assemblies. Form can also be downloaded from the ECP's website www.ecp.gov.pk. - APP

NLPD to hold two-day Int'l Iqbal conference

ISLAMABAD: In connection with birth anniversary of Poet of the East, Allama Muhammad Iqbal, National Language Promotion Department (NLPD) will organize a two-day "International Iqbal Conference" on November 9 and 10.

Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, National History and Literary Heritage, Shafaqat Mehmood will be the chief guest of the conference aimed to explore new aspects of Iqbal's philosophy and poetry. According to an official of NLPD, Parliamentary Secretary, National Heritage and Culture Division will also participate in conference to share her thoughts about Poet of the East. Renowned literary figures includ-

ing Prof. Fatah Muhammad Malik, Iftikhar Arif, Khalid Masood, Dr Basera Ambreen, Dr Rauf Bareekh, Dr Saeda Tahir, Dr Aena Sawarwa, Dr Ibraheem Muhammad Ibraheem, Dr Ali beyat, and Dr Asman Belan from Turkey would also participate, he told APP. He said Eminent Scholar from all over the country and abroad would express their views at this conference. From Allama Iqbal's family, Justice (Retd) Begum Nasira Javed Iqbal, Senator Waleed Iqbal, Muneeb Iqbal and Iqbal Salah-ud-din would attend the conference.

The conference would shed light on contributions of the great poet for Urdu literature and his role in the creation of Pakistan, he stated. - APP

'No one allowed to disrespect our Prophet (SAW)'

PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for Interfaith Harmony Noorul Haq Qadri Sunday strongly condemned blasphemy caricatures recently published in France and said that Prime Minister Imran Khan and Turk President Tayyip Erdogan have sent condemnation letters on this heinous act to all Islamic countries.

Addressing a National Meelaadun Nabi Conference held at Mula Gori here, he said each and every Muslim has a great respect for their Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and no one would be allowed to target the personality of Hazrat Muhammad (peace be upon him). He said action taken by both the Muslim's leaders was commendable and we would never be resisted for sacrifices in future on protection of personality of Prophet (PBUH). He said voices on blasphemy have been raised on the parliament's floor while the protest demonstrations against French government are being held in different countries across the globe.

He said the preaching of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) has given the beacons of righteous for humanity and following his teachings is a success in this world and in the hereafter. He said we can shed our blood for the sake of our prophet's disrespect.

Federal Minister welcomed holding of Meelaadun Nabi Conference and said that we are real followers of Prophet (PBUH) and relations of love and respect with our preacher (PBUH) would be continued till death. - APP

Science Day celebrations to be held at COMSTECH

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The World Science Day for Peace and Development will be celebrated on November 10 (Tuesday) at COMSTECH under this year's theme "Science for and with Society". The convening power of the World Science Day provides us with an opportunity to share good practices and provide guidance to improve the inter-linkages between science and society to resolve global challenges such as the current pandemic.

The mega event will be organized by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in collaboration with Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS).

Organization of Islamic Cooperation Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH), Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECOSF), Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) and Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS). Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Chaudhry Fawad Hussain will be the chief guest on the occasion while renowned Scientist, Dr Atta-ur-Rahman will deliver key note address virtually on the topic "Enhancing national capacities for evidence-based policy making".

Aerial firing creating nuisance for residents

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Residents living in the jurisdiction of Waris Khan Police Station have complained aerial firing a constant nuisance for them creating a lot of problems for the locality.

The residents of the area also alleged that police and district administration are not taking any action, fearing that this can be resulted in death or injury of anyone if not checked. Fireworks and aerial firing have not only become a routine in marriages in this area but considered to be a part of celebrations. Whereas Waris Khan police conducted operation, and arrested three accused disturbing peace of people through loud music. The arrested accused were identified as Babar, Akhtar and Faisal. The sound system was also recovered from the possession of the accused and a case was registered under Sound Act against all of them.

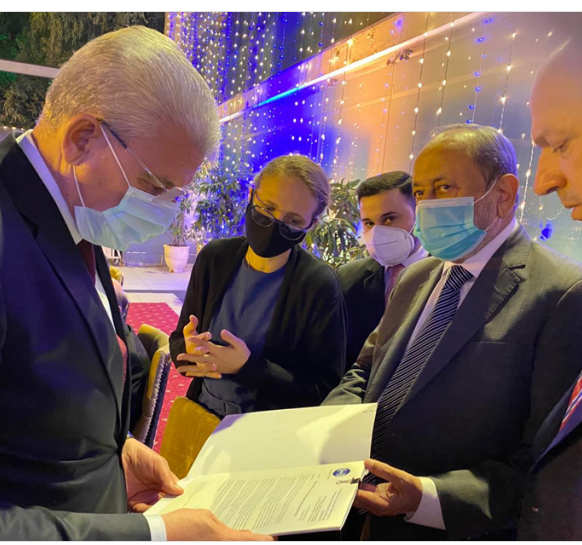
COMSATS extends membership offer to Bosnia

The brief meeting was held during a dinner hosted by the Ambassador of Bosnia to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Sakib Foric, in honor of Honorable Chairman of the Presidency. On the occasion, Dr. Zaidi apprised the Honorable Sefik Dzaferovic of COMSATS and presented him with COMSATS' membership documents

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Executive Director of the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), Dr. S. M. Junaid Zaidi, met the Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, H.E. Mr. Sefik Dzaferovic, during his recent state visit to Pakistan and extended the offer of COMSATS' membership to the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The brief meeting was held during a dinner host-

ed by the Ambassador of Bosnia to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Sakib Foric, in honor of Honorable Chairman of the Presidency. On the occasion, Dr. Zaidi apprised the Honorable Sefik Dzaferovic of COMSATS and presented him with COMSATS' membership documents. The Honorable Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia & Herzegovina was briefed that the President of Ghana, Honorable Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, is the incumbent Chairperson of the Commission on Science



and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), which at present has 27 countries from across the globe as Member States. It was also highlighted that COMSATS has three statutory bodies; the Consultative Committee (comprising the national focal points in Member States); the Coordinating Council (comprising the heads of Network of International S&T Centers of Excellence; and the Technical Advisory Committee (comprising senior scientists and technologists from the North and the

South. It was also noted that COMSATS Network of S&T Centers at present has 24 scientific and academic institutions as members. The dinner was also attended by various dignitaries, including the President of Azad Jammu Kashmir, H.E. Mr. Masood Khan; Federal Minister for Interior, H.E. Mr. Ijaz Ahmad Shah; State Minister for Climate Change, Ms. Zartaj Gul; Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Sohail Mahmood; and Ambassadors of Azerbaijan, Jordan, Turkey and Palestine.

The right to protest

POLICE brutality and undue use of force are terrible occurrences everywhere around the world and need to be immediately investigated in order to preserve the integrity of law and order. The stakes become even higher when undue force by officials is applied during a protest—it threatens both the right to life and right to protest. Law enforcement officials are meant to protect peaceful protestors, not put their lives at risk.

That is why the recent incident of a death of a farmer, by alleged police brutality, is so deplorable. The protest had been arranged legally by a group of farmers who had gathered on Tuesday for demanding fixing the support prices of wheat at Rs2,000 and of sugarcane at Rs300 per 40 kg, and introducing a flat rate of Rs5 per unit for farm tubewells. These were reasonable demands that farmers had every right to register their protest for. Instead, one of the protesters, Ashfaq Langrial, expired during the protest under mysterious circumstances, with his fellow protestors claiming that it was due to police torture and inhaling fumes from chemical-mixed water used by the police water-cannon against the protestors.

The death of a protestor because of alleged police brutality is horrific and holds a lot of weight—it is an attack against free speech and protest. Protest is the fundamental right of every citizen, yet unfortunately this right does not seem to be taken seriously by the state. Too many small protests, particularly by non-influential and underprivileged groups like farmers are met with police harassment regularly. Measures like water cannons or fumes require a strict threshold of violence to be used; yet this threshold is rarely respected, with law enforcement regularly using these tactics to disperse protestors.

The government has been claiming how tolerant it is by allowing the PDM protests—it needs to walk the walk by investigating police misconduct in these smaller, less-televised protests also. This death needs to be investigated, the victim's family given justice and the claim of alleged use of chemicals in water needs to be taken very seriously.

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Joe Biden's policies for the US

MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

THE era of Donald Trump as President ends. With it ends the period of confusion and chaos. President-elect, Joe Biden and Vice President-elect, Kamala Harris envision bringing prosperity to the US and bridge the relationships with their allies. The damage that Trump did to US national politics and international relations is expected to be undone with Biden-Harris taking oath and entering the White House in January 2021. There was a stark difference between Donald Trump and Joe Biden. Where Trump never held any government office when he assumed Presidency in 2017, Biden comes with credible and substantial experience. He was a US Senator from Delaware (1973 - 2009) and the 47th Vice President of the US (2009 - 2017). Biden-Harris and their administration is expected to make appropriate changes to the many sectors of the country that were mishandled by Trump. During his speeches leading to the 2020 US elections, Biden talked about Covid-19, climate, economy, healthcare, foreign policy, among other important topics. It is believed that he will address them once he enters office of the President in January 2021. According to Biden, he envisions establishing a national contact-tracing program. There will be ten testing centers in every state so most number of people can take benefit from it. Biden also focuses on climate change. He assured that the US will be re-joining the Paris climate agreement once he becomes the President. He also wants to see the US reach net-zero emissions by 2050. At the economic forefront, Biden wants to raise taxes for high earners to generate possibilities to pay for investment in the public services sector. This tax augmentation will affect those who earn more than \$400,000 a year. Moreover, the current federal minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour, which Biden has called for raising it to \$15 an hour.

'Islam' is not in crisis, liberalism is

Asad Dandia

Today, Muslim communities are spending less time seeking a seat at the table and more time building tables of their own, without having to pander to power. They are articulating a consciousness with an acute awareness of the various structures of Islamophobic violence that have in large part been responsible for shaping their global dispossession, subjugation, surveillance and more. And yes, that includes challenging the state violence exerted by places like the US and France. Like other traditions that challenge the hegemony of the dominating global order of racial capitalism and white supremacy, be it Black, Indigenous, Marxist or feminist traditions

EARLIER this month, French President Emmanuel Macron declared in an address to the nation that "Islam is a religion that is in crisis today all over the world". In the same speech, he unveiled a political programme for strengthening laïcité, France's unique iteration of secularism that stringently restricts religion in the public sphere. Since then, a brutal decapitation of a schoolteacher, the vicious stabbing of two Muslim women and diplomatic spats have reignited global anxieties about the entanglement between Islam and laïcité. Much has been written about France's weaponisation of laïcité to discriminate against Muslims and on the history of French liberalism as a rationale for the brutal colonisation of millions of peoples across Asia and Africa – what it called its "mission civilisatrice" (civilising mission). This violence is as much part of French history as its revolutionary triad of liberté, égalité, and fraternité (liberty, equality and fraternity). It is only the latter, however, that is ever mentioned as France's contribution to modernity. There is seldom a reckoning with the dark underbelly of liberalism, and the unparalleled violence that was, and continues to be, meted out to its historic Others. But Muslims – having borne the brunt of French (and other) colonialism, imperialism and racist violence – know it all too well. Indeed, for many, Macron's call for an "Islam of the Enlightenment" is viewed as the latest development in that history.

When I first read Macron's remarks about Islam in crisis, the immediate question that occurred to me was: Who is this "Islam" and has anyone checked up on them? The truth is that the trope of "Islam" as Enlightenment liberalism's oppositional foil has been discussed so much that it need not be examined here. Let us, however, take Macron's statement descriptively: Is Islam in crisis? To answer that question, we would have to begin with defining the terms. If by "Islam", Macron means Muslim minorities in North America and Western Europe, then on the contrary, there has never been a more exciting time to be Muslim. In fact, it is precisely in "the West" – which Macron and his predecessors have long positioned as the antithesis of "Islam" – where some of the richest discourses among Muslims are emerging. The advent of mass literacy, mass migration and information technology (including social media) have collectively facilitated a vibrant cultural and intellectual transformation among Muslims in the Global North, the likes of which preceding generations could never have imagined. Never have more Muslims been so actively engaged in creatively studying, interpreting, contesting and embodying their tradition as they are today.

Muslim women are bringing to the fore their subjectivities to assert their agency and challenge traditional authority in exegesis, ethics, politics and more, without the need for white liberal saviours. Black Muslims and Muslims of African descent, whose long history of resistance in the Americas is well-documented, are at the forefront of social justice organising, calling on people to think more capaciously about imagining a world beyond policing, prisons and the

carceral logics of nation-states.

The growing body of scholarly literature on Islam in the English language, be it in academic settings or in normative confessional settings (with the two often cross-pollinating one another) – led by Muslims – further bears witness to the flourishing of Islam in the West. It is safe to say that English, once a language of Empire, reclaimed by its subjects and their descendants and now globalised, is as much an "Islamic" language as are Persian or Malay.

In the immediate aftermath of 9/11, Muslims – particularly in the United States – were compelled to position themselves as loyal patriots committed to the myths of American exceptionalism in order to avoid being suspected of being a fifth column. For a long time, Muslims sought a "seat at the table" to demonstrate this loyalty.

Today, Muslim communities are spending less time seeking a seat at the table and more time building tables of their own, without having to pander to power. They are articulating a consciousness with an acute awareness of the various structures of Islamophobic violence that have in large part been responsible for shaping their global dispossession, subjugation, surveillance and more. And yes, that includes challenging the state violence exerted by places like the US and France. Like other traditions that challenge the hegemony of the dominating global order of racial capitalism and white supremacy, be it Black, Indigenous, Marxist or feminist traditions – all of which intersect and inform each other – the Islamic tradition has carved its place as one that has its own critiques to offer, drawing from a 1,400-year heritage spanning from the Americas to Morocco to Indonesia. I would argue this is a testament to the richness and vibrancy of the Muslim community than to its stagnation or backwardness. But what if by "Islam", Macron meant the Muslim world?

There is no doubt that the "Muslim world" (in quotes because the category is not without its problematics) is struggling. The aftermath of the Arab Spring has thus far had mixed results, most devastating in Syria, Libya and Yemen. The Israeli occupation of Palestine and the Indian occupation of Kashmir continue unabated. Right-wing nationalist movements have either overtaken or are gaining ground in Turkey and Pakistan. Dissidents continue to be imprisoned in Iran. The Gulf Arab monarchies marshal a façade of social liberalisation that is overshadowed by the quashing of political rights. Iraq and Afghanistan remain entangled in myriad power struggles amid the fallout of America's forever wars. The Balkans are seeing a revival of the same exclusionary nationalism that led to the Bosnian genocide. Meanwhile, Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar and Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang face genocide in the present day.

While many of these crises overlap, each of them is also the consequence of particular historical circumstances that demand rigorous analyses which are beyond the purview of this essay. Even a cursory glance at the factors that shaped them makes it very clear that these crises can hardly be boxed into a totalising discourse about "Islam in crisis" –

a discourse which serves as nothing more than a cover to avoid grappling with the very complicated histories that brought the "Muslim world" to where it is today.

What is overlooked is that despite all of this, the spirit of the Arab Spring is alive and well and has extended to Iraq, Algeria, Sudan and Lebanon in the last year. Palestinians and Kashmiris maintain their decades-long struggles for justice and rights against ostensibly liberal democracies. Women's and minority-led movements in Turkey, Pakistan and Iran continue to galvanise against discrimination, patriarchy and state violence. We ought to interrogate the kind of liberalism where American and French warplanes and corporations can permeate borders in one direction while refugees are kept out from the other; where the advancement of this liberalism depends on the entrenchment of illiberal regimes and policies; where what was previously colonial exploitation by imperial metropolises is now translated into postcolonial extortion, sanctions and threats via international institutions and corporations.

When the world at large is witnessing an unprecedented surge in far-right movements, the breakdown of governing institutions, skyrocketing inequalities and impending climate catastrophe, it astonishes that one could suggest that Muslims or "Islam" are uniquely in crisis. We would do better to understand that our challenges are interconnected, and to suggest that "Islam" is the sole – or even a meaningful – unit of analysis or explanatory factor for crisis is tenuous at best. It is in fact liberalism – the political philosophy birthed out of the Enlightenment which marshalled freedom, equality, and autonomy – that is in crisis. Its ideals are hardly exclusively of European provenance, being as they are present in numerous non-European traditions, but it is Europe's stream that dominates the global terrain today. From the left, liberalism is charged with being founded upon violent and racist dispossession of its historic Others and birthing the system of global inequality that exists today. Its staunchest critics from this side include American philosopher Cornel West and Indian writer Pankaj Mishra. These critics argue that the "chickens have come home to roost" for liberal states, as the violence they wrought upon the world's masses has now exposed their cracks, which can no longer be veiled by the veneer of equality and freedom, which were conditional to begin with.

While critics from the left may cherish the freedoms of liberalism with the aim of transcending them through political economy, liberalism's critics from the right – such as American scholars Patrick Deneen and Adrian Vermeule – castigate its very foundations. They view it as an atomising and suffocating ideology that untethers human beings from any sense of community or social commitment to one another. While the left and right may disagree on the solutions, both know that the time for liberalism's reckoning has come. Even American political scientist Francis Fukuyama, patron-saint of liberalism, is sounding the alarm bells.

– Courtesy: Al Jazeera

COVID-19: We mustn't let this crisis go to waste

Hafed Al-Ghwell



The pandemic has also hit the service and informal sectors at a time when the region needed the latter to take on its usual role as a buffer to global economic shocks, as happened in 2008. Poverty rates are now climbing while shrinking middle classes face tremendous pressure as fewer and fewer options are left for govts to address these runaway crises

CCOVID-19 has affected Middle East economies, societies and even politics in an unprecedented way. A stinging economic shock, with three times the losses incurred during the 2008 financial crisis, has shut down potential paths to recovery. The climate of uncertainty has exacerbated political fractures, giving rise to tensions in society, especially among unemployed young people facing a bleak future. This situation is not helped by dilapidated healthcare infrastructure and cultural norms not accustomed to social distancing, lockdowns and quarantines.

Curiously, the region has fared better than most parts of the world in terms of curbing the spread of the coronavirus and limiting the death toll. However, reliance on oil and gas exports, poor regional integration and excessive dependence on the EU and US for trade or investment will combine with depressed energy prices to ensure that the region will face long-term economic pain. The IMF and the World Bank project global GDP contraction of between 4 and 5 percent, but at least 5.4 percent in the Middle East. Worse, a sustained recovery is unlikely to begin before the end of 2021, assuming a vaccine is made available to most of the world's population in 12-18 months. For an oil-dependent region, as long as low global energy prices persist, even these projections appear optimistic. This year alone, exports of hydrocarbons from the region declined by as much as 40 percent. Demand will remain low for the foreseeable future as countries resume lockdowns, reducing overall economic activity – making it harder for the world's economies to consume through an oil glut caused by over-supply.

Pandemic recovery is not the only challenge facing the Middle East. As climate change takes center stage in the world's legislatures, the region's oil and gas dependent economies will have to adjust projections of peak demand and how to emerge from it unscathed. Conventionally, low oil prices would have resulted in sharp demand growth as importers stock up to lock in more profits. But these are unprecedented times and OPEC models dependent on adjusting supplies and quotas to maintain a consensus price are increasingly unreliable. More countries are increasingly shunning fossil fuels in favor of renewables, because of climate legislation and growing pressure from the public. This does not bode well for the Middle East, since countries will need substantial revenues to absorb IMF predictions of as much as \$221 billion in deficit spending or replenishing rapidly shrinking reserves.

Ultimately, rosy projections not grounded in reality will not serve the Middle East well or make the job of Arab governments easier. The greatest asset to climbing out of this crisis is to confront ugly truths and uncomfortable realities. Deficits aside, while it is wise to prioritize diversifying the economic mix and expanding revenue sources, such transformations cost time and money. And therein lies the problem – time is fast running out, and many governments cannot find adequate funding to pursue diversification, let alone ensure its success.

Fortunately, for the wealthy Gulf region, much of the foundations for these transformations have already been laid, so there is still room to fund generous stimulus packages and mount an effective pandemic response. The rest of the region, however, is doomed to coping with low energy prices over the next few years, plugging holes where necessary and weighing the economically prudent but politically suicidal option of increasing taxes during a recession. It will require careful planning and management, with little room for error, to guide economies through a rocky and unpredictable recovery path. Failure to do so will result in a number of countries facing the realities that now beset Iraq.

Oil revenues fund more than 90 percent of Iraq's essential expenditure. However, sustained low oil prices have left a 40 percent gap in the budget, meaning critical needs are either underfunded or face painful cuts.

The ramifications increase exponentially when factoring in Iraq's high levels of social unrest and political uncertainty, the pandemic and a mostly stalled postwar recovery. Already, Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt are faced with some of these same factors. They cannot rely on inflows from the Gulf region to address issues of decreasing remittances, political insecurity, unemployment and declining tourism. The pandemic has also hit the service and informal sectors at a time when the region needed the latter to take on its usual role as a buffer to global economic shocks, as happened in 2008. Poverty rates are now climbing while shrinking middle classes face tremendous pressure as fewer and fewer options are left for governments to address these runaway crises. Libya, Syria and Yemen also face exceptionally challenging circumstances and remain stark examples of what happens when governments take their eye off the ball.

All is not all doom and gloom, however. A few bright spots offer opportunities for the region to reshuffle its priorities.

For instance, China's growing demand for hydrocarbons, petrochemicals and fertilizers is a welcome reprieve for Gulf region economies seeking to obtain crucial export revenues from East Asia's pandemic recovery. China's economy is projected to grow by 1.9 percent this year, which elevates its profile as an important trade partner and a means for some of the region's economies to recover. However, China's plan to take its currency international would move trade away from the US dollar, eroding Washington's influence in the Middle East. It is an uncomfortable prospect for countries that benefit heavily from the US global security umbrella. Additionally, a likely US response via a revival of the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), for instance, could stall progress on China's Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) investments, as well as force the region to choose between geopolitical and geoeconomic rivals.

In Washington, a Biden administration would undoubtedly shift US policy in the region, given a presidential election platform that emphasized climate change priorities and making the US carbon neutral by 2050. Should a Biden White House reduce or eliminate fossil fuel subsidies and spearhead an aggressive reduction in hydrocarbon investments, Middle East oil and gas economies would benefit in the short term from the drop in US supply.

Over the long term, investment in renewables could boost funding in Gulf economies already investing heavily in the industry, particularly in solar power, green hydrogen and green ammonia. Additionally, multilateralism is a better guarantee of the region's peace, security and stability – far better than the transactional foreign policy of the outgoing administration. Ultimately, rosy projections not grounded in reality will not serve the Middle East well or make the job of Arab governments easier. The greatest asset to climbing out of this crisis is to confront ugly truths and uncomfortable realities. It also offers opportunities often missed because of the relative ease and convenience of exporting hydrocarbons. COVID-19 has severely diminished the capacity of the region's external partners to arrive and "save the day." The Middle East must not only work on surviving the pandemic and dealing with its side effects. The region needs more integration to build resilience and remain globally competitive, which means solving regional issues internally instead of looking to troubled and often uncommitted partners. There is still hope.

– Courtesy: Arab News

Briefs

Turkey's
opposition
hails Biden

MONITORING DESK

ANKARA: Turkey's main opposition leader late Saturday congratulated the incoming US president and vice president on their electoral victory.

"I would like to congratulate Joe Biden for his election as the 46th President of the United States of America and Kamala Harris as Vice-President," Kemal Kilicdaroglu, leader of the Republican People's Party (CHP), said in English on Twitter. "I look forward to strengthening Turkish-American relations and our strategic alliance," he added.

Biden on Saturday won the crucial state of Pennsylvania, and with victory there surpassed the necessary 270 Electoral College delegates needed to claim the White House, according to The Associated Press and other news organizations.

'Scores busted
over drug
trafficking'

KABUL: Counter Narcotic Police of Afghanistan (CNPA) arrested at least nine suspects charged with drug trafficking, after security police carried several operations through northern provinces of the country, said the Ministry of Interior Affairs in a statement Sunday. "Nine drug traffickers arrested & 33kg of illicit drugs confiscated during several separate Counter-Narcotics operations carried out by CNPA in Kabul, Badakhshan & Kunduz provinces," said MoIA in a tweet.

Officials did not provide further details on the identity of the suspects but said their cases have been referred to "related departments" for investigation. "The arrestees' files have been referred for further investigation to the related departments," the MoIA added. The arrest came at a time local security departments throughout Afghanistan are given "shoot" order following concern over growing insecurities, including arm robberies and kidnapping.

China to build
Sichuan-Tibet
Railway

FOREIGN DESK

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping has urged efforts to advance the construction of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway project with high quality.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the instruction ahead of the beginning of the construction of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway's Ya'an-Nyingchi section on Sunday. Xi identified the project as a major measure in facilitating the Party's general plan for governing Tibet in the new era, and stressed the project's important role in safeguarding national unity, promoting ethnic solidarity and consolidating stability in border areas.

The project would significantly contribute to the economic and social development of the western region, especially in Sichuan Province and Tibet Autonomous Region, said Xi.

Underlining the complex geological and climatic conditions, as well as fragile ecological environment along the project line, the president called for leveraging the Chinese socialist system's advantage of concentrating resources to get things done to accomplish this historic task, which is arduous but glorious. The construction should be carried out in a scientific, safe and eco-friendly way, Xi added.



RAWALPINDI: A view of cricket match playing between Pakistan and Zimbabwe teams during 2nd T20 International (ODI) cricket match at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. – APP

Pakistan thumps Zimbabwe
to clinch T20 series

Chasing an easy target of 135, Pakistan lost only two wickets to complete a comfortable victory in only 15.1 overs here at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Sunday. Young Haider Ali and skipper Babar Azam smashed fifties and added 100 runs

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan proved too strong for Zimbabwe as they won the second Twenty20 international by eight wickets in Rawalpindi on Sunday, taking an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series. Riding on half centuries from skipper Babar Azam (51) and 20-year-old Haider Ali (66 not out), Pakistan made short work of a modest 135-run target, achieving victory with 29 balls to spare. Zimbabwe, who were

sent in to bat, never recovered from early strikes by paceman Haris Rauf (3-31) and spinner Usman Qadir (3-23) as they were restricted to 134-7 in 20 overs. Haider, playing only his third international match, cracked three sixes and six boundaries in a 43-ball knock and was declared man of the match. Azam, ranked second in the world T20 batting rankings, smashed eight fours and a six off just 28 balls, the fastest of his 16 T20 international fifties. Haider and Azam added 100 for the second wicket, taking away

the game from Zimbabwe despite losing opener Fakhar Zaman for just five in the third over. Zimbabwe fast bowler Blessing Muzarabani took two wickets for 33 runs, including Azam. Khushdil Shah cracked the winning boundary in his 11 not out. The last match of the series is scheduled for Tuesday, also in Rawalpindi. "It... (is) nice when young players perform," said Azam, praising Usman and Haider. "I played my early cricket with Usman so it was good to see him bowl like that." "Overall, it's a good show

by some talented players." Zimbabwe skipper Chamu Chibhabha deplored another low score. "It was a good batting wicket but we could not get full advantage of that and it was once again a below-par total," said Chibhabha. Zimbabwe managed 156-6 in the six-wicket defeat in the first T20 on Saturday. Earlier on Sunday, Ryan Burl (32 not out) and Wesley Madhevere (24) were the main scorers for Zimbabwe, with Burl smashing the last ball of the innings for a big six. Pakistan's Rauf,

who took 20 wickets in last year's Big Bash in Australia, removed Brendan Taylor (three) and Chibhabha (15) in successive overs. Donald Tiripano (15) added 30 for the seventh wicket with Burl before falling to Rauf in the 19th over. Usman, son of the late Pakistan star spinner Abdul Qadir, chipped in with the wickets of Madhevere, Sikandar Raza (seven) and Elton Chigumbura (18) to further derail Zimbabwe. Pakistan's Ahsan Raza became the first umpire to officiate in 50 T20 internationals.

15 American
presidents
served as VP

MONITORING DESK / DNA

WASHINGTON: US President-elect Joe Biden is set to become the 15th American vice president to return to the White House as commander-in-chief and the first in 27 years, after George H.W. Bush in 1989. Biden served two terms as vice president to President Barack Obama from 2009 to 2017.

Here are US vice presidents who rose to the Oval Office: John Adams: First US vice president, served two terms under George Washington and then was elected president Thomas Jefferson: Vice president to John Adams, then defeated Adams in the 1800 election Martin Van Buren: Served as vice president to Andrew Jackson during his second term, then was elected president John Tyler: Rose to presidency after William Henry Harrison died after just 31 days in office Millard Fillmore: Rose to presidency after William Henry Harrison died after 1 year in office. Fillmore was the last US president not affiliated with the Democratic or Republican parties Andrew Johnson: Vice president to Abraham Lincoln, he became president after Lincoln's assassination in 1865

Chester Arthur: Rose to presidency after William Henry Harrison was assassinated after seven months in office Theodore Roosevelt: Rose to presidency after William McKinley's assassination, then was elected to full term Calvin Coolidge: Vice president to Warren G. Harding; became president after Harding's death, then was elected to full term Harry Truman: Vice president to Franklin D. Roosevelt; became president after Roosevelt's death in 1945, then was elected to full term Lyndon Johnson: Vice president to John F. Kennedy, assumed the presidency following Kennedy's assassination in 1963, then was elected to full term Richard Nixon: Two terms as vice president to Dwight Eisenhower. Following presidencies of Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson, was elected twice to presidency Gerald Ford: Appointed vice president by Richard Nixon after resignation of Spiro Agnew; became president after Nixon resigned. Ford is the only person to serve as vice president and president without being elected George H.W. Bush: After two terms as vice president under Ronald Reagan, elected to presidency for single term.

Azerbaijan appeals to notice
Armenian eco-terrorism

Not surprisingly yet in 2006 the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/60/285 on "The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan" has also called for assessment of and counteraction to short and long-term environmental degradation of the region

DNA

BAKU: Sabina Aliyeva, Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of Azerbaijan has appealed to the international organizations concerning the eco-terrorism of Armenia in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and its intentional fires aimed at destruction of forests of Shusha.

On 5 November 2001, November 6 was declared as the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict in accordance with the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/56/4. Unfortunately, it should be said that ecological terror does not bypass Azerbaijan either. As a result of the continued around thirty-year military aggression of Armenia, the nature, biological diversity, water reservoirs of Azerbaijan, as well as the environment of the areas under the occupation have been seriously affected, which consequently, caused to destruction and severe damage of the environment. As a result of military operations and use of internationally prohibited weapons by Armenian armed forces, not merely the natural environment has



been exposed to physical and chemical pollution, but various species of rare plants and animals, flora and fauna biodiversity have been destroyed. Chemical pollution of fresh water sources resulted in violation of self-regulation process in rivers and lakes, as a result of which water ponds become more hazardous and dead zone.

Not surprisingly yet in 2006 the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/60/285 on "The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan" has also called for assessment of and counteraction to short and long-term environmental degradation of the region. In 2016 Parliamentary Assembly of the

Council of Europe adopted Resolution No.2085 titled "Inhabitants of frontier regions of Azerbaijan are deliberately deprived of water", demanding the immediate withdrawal of Armenian armed forces from the concerned region and allowing access by independent engineers and hydrologists to carry out a detailed survey on the spot. Within this period of time, natural resources in the occupied areas of Azerbaijan have been plundered, 163 mineral resources deposits, including gold, mercury, copper, lead, zinc, coal and others, also forest cover, rare trees have been subjected to illegal exploitation by Armenia.

Starting from September 27, 2020, Armenian army continues its crimes against peace and humanity targeting the densely populated civilian settlements, social cultural and strategic objects of Azerbaijan by using heavy artillery special missile systems and banned weapons. In response to another provocation and the continued occupation by Armenia, since 27 September 2020, Azerbaijani military successfully continued its counter-offensive operations to restore its territorial integrity in conformity with international law and universally recognized state borders.

Japan may
shelve
imperial
succession

MONITORING DESK

TOKYO: The government may shelve any decision on how to achieve a stable imperial succession despite the Diet calling for a swift report of discussions on the matter, government sources said Saturday.

Many government officials believe it is premature to draw up a clear idea, given that public opinion regarding imperial succession remains divided, the sources said. With only three heirs to Emperor Naruhito, who ascended the throne in May last year – his younger brother Crown Prince Akishino, 54, his nephew, Prince Hisahito, 14, and Prince Hitachi, his 84-year-old uncle – finding a resolution has become more urgent.

Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako have one daughter, Princess Aiko. The imperial house has been shrinking partly due to the 1947 Imperial House Law that states only men in the paternal line can ascend to the chrysanthemum throne. It also requires women marrying commoners to abandon their royal status.

Sarfaraz,
Salahuddin
fined for code
of conduct
breaches

DNA

KARACHI: Sindh First XI captain Sarfaraz Ahmed has been fined 35 per cent match fee for a level 1 offence relating to use of inappropriate language during his side's first-class Quaid-e-Azam Trophy match against Northern at the UBL Sports Complex in Karachi.

The incident happened on Saturday when Sarfaraz repeatedly made inappropriate comments against an umpiring decision during the day's play. Sarfaraz was reported by on-field umpires Faisal Afridi and Saqib Khan for the violation of article 2.21 of the PCB Code of Conduct for Players and Player support Personnel.

Sarfaraz pleaded guilty and accepted the sanction proposed by match referee Mohammad Anees. In a separate incident, Central Punjab batsman Usman Salahuddin has been fined 20 per cent match fee for a level 1 offence relating to conduct that is contrary to the spirit of the game during his side's first-class Quaid-e-Azam Trophy match against Balochistan at the National Stadium Karachi.

Georgia
protesters
demanding
snap polls

DNA

TBILISI: Thousands of opposition supporters rallied Sunday in ex-Soviet Georgia to demand a snap vote after the opposition accused the ruling party of rigging tightly contested parliamentary elections.

The ruling Georgian Dream party led by billionaire ex-prime minister Bidzina Ivanishvili – which won the October 31 polls with a two-percent margin – has flatly denied the accusations of electoral fraud. But all of Georgia's opposition parties have refused to enter the new parliament, sparking fears of another political crisis.

UAE allows
alcohol
consumption

From Page 01

The Gulf country has also warned men of harassing women or stalking them, adding that those found guilty of the offenses will be punished. "There will be tougher punishments for men who subject women to harassment of any kind, which is thought to cover street harassment or stalking," media reported. The government defended the overhauling of Islamic laws, saying that it was an attempt to consolidate "tolerance principles" into the country's laws and ensure a better investment environment.

"I could not be happier for these new laws that are progressive and proactive," said Emirati film-maker Abdallah Al Kaabi. "2020 has been a tough and transformative year for the UAE."

The trade union movement and new Uzbekistan

Today, the state is taking all measures to achieve the goals of the Action Strategy for the priority areas of development of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021

DNA

TASHKNET: In recent years, when it comes to Uzbekistan - the most dynamically developing state in Central Asia - the international community is increasingly using the term "New Uzbekistan". This is due to large-scale reforms carried out in all spheres of the country's life under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. The election of Uzbekistan in October this year to the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) was a vivid confirmation of the renewed image of the country and international recognition

of the democratization processes taking place in it. It is noteworthy that among the newly elected members of the HRC, Uzbekistan became the country that received the largest number of votes - it was supported by 169 states. Today, the state is taking all measures to achieve the goals of the Action Strategy for the priority areas of development of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021. The Federation of Trade Unions of Uzbekistan actively participates in these processes, which, being the largest non-governmental public organization in the country, unites 14 branches and 14 territorial associations with a total number of



members of more than 5.5 million people. Moreover, today the Federation of Trade Unions of Uzbekistan, as a member of the General Confederation of Trade Unions, acts as an independent and equal social partner of the Government

in matters of labor protection, ensuring the rights and freedoms of workers. This is largely because, for the first time in the history of independent Uzbekistan in 2019, trade unions managed to achieve the adoption of the law of the Republic of Uz-

bekistan "On Trade Unions", which was highly praised by the International Labor Organization (ILO). The adoption in 2016 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On labor protection" in the new edition also contributed to the increase of the public authority and social role of the Federation. Also, a positive role was played by the country's ratification of the ILO Convention "On Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize in Trade Unions" and Uzbekistan's accession to the Protocol to the ILO Convention "On Forced Labor". These documents endowed the trade unions of Uzbek-

istan with unprecedented rights and powers in the field of labor protection, allowing them to actively support and contribute to the implementation of dynamic reforms and transformations in all spheres of life of the state and society. Thus, finally, the role of the country's trade unions has been raised to the highest level, even when compared with the standards of the International Trade Union Confederation. And we can state that today in the new Uzbekistan fundamentally new contractual-legal mechanism for protecting the socio-economic rights of workers has been created and is starting to operate actively.

Briefs

Japan's Suga
congrats
Biden

FOREIGN DESK

TOKYO: Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga on Sunday congratulated Democrat Joe Biden on his election as the next U.S. president, expressing a desire to bolster bilateral ties. "I look forward to working with you to further strengthen the Japan-U.S. Alliance and ensure peace, freedom, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond," Suga said in a Twitter post.

Under a postwar security treaty, Japan hosts around 55,000 American troops in exchange for help in defending against potential threats, including missile attacks from North Korea. Suga, who took office in September after his predecessor resigned for health reasons, has said the alliance will remain the focus of Japan's foreign policy. Among bilateral issues, Suga and Biden will need to address the sharing of costs for stationing U.S. troops as well as trade negotiations initiated by outgoing President Donald Trump, who had complained about the U.S. trade deficit with Japan. Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi on Sunday also offered his congratulations to Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, saying in a Twitter post that he looks "forward to working closely with the new administration to further promote Japan-U.S. relations and to overcome challenges the world faces."

Portugal
to impose
virus curfew

LISBON: Portugal will introduce a curfew across most of the country from Monday in an effort to combat surging coronavirus case numbers, Prime Minister Antonio Costa has announced. The measures will be in effect all weeknights and from 1pm on weekends for at least two weeks, Costa said after an emergency cabinet meeting late Saturday.

It comes a day after the country declared a state of emergency over the pandemic, with the daily number of new infections tripling to 6,000 since early October. "The only way to control the pandemic is to avoid social interaction," said Costa, adding that the measures were necessary to avoid the reintroduction of the stricter lockdown authorities imposed during the spring.

Costa said the restrictions would apply to around 70 percent of the population. Several European countries have introduced new movement restrictions in an effort to control a fierce second wave of infections across the continent. Greece became the latest European nation to enter lockdown on Saturday, with people there only allowed to leave home if they receive authorisation from a mobile phone request. Poland was also imposing fresh measures on the weekend with the closure of most shopping centres. - APP

Haniyeh
urges to
scrap 'deal of
the century'

FOREIGN DESK

GAZA CITY: Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh has called on US President-elect Joe Biden to pull back outgoing President Donald Trump's so-called "deal of the century". In a statement, Haniyeh asked the Biden administration to abolish the US recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and the embassy move to the holy city. Trump's "deal of the century" refers to Jerusalem as "Israel's undivided capital" and recognizes Israeli sovereignty over large parts of the West Bank.

The plan, which has invited a storm of condemnations from the Palestinians, calls for the establishment of a Palestinian state in the form of an archipelago connected by bridges and tunnels.

Haniyeh urged Biden "to correct the path of US unfair policies towards our [Palestinian] people which made the US a partner [to Israel] in oppression and aggression".



KUWAIT CITY: PAKISTAN ambassador to Kuwait, Sayed Sajjad Haider met with Spanish ambassador to Kuwait Miguel Jose and discussed bilateral ties between both countries, at Pakistan embassy Kuwait - DNA

CPEC lays foundation for
Pak's industrial development

The way the CPEC projects have been implemented over the last five years and the results that have emerged show that the purpose of building CPEC is not to benefit certain areas but to promote development across Pakistan

DNA

BEIJING: The projects being implemented under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative would not only benefit certain areas but to promote development across Pakistan, China Radio International (CRI) Urdu commented. "The way the CPEC projects have been implemented over the last five years and the results that have emerged show that the purpose of building CPEC is not to benefit certain areas but to promote development across Pakistan," CRI Urdu commented on the progress made in the construction of CPEC projects.

It said, infrastructure, construction of industries and elimination of energy shortages are to provide an environment for Pakistan according to its resources which will also benefit the people of Pakistan and will guarantee a bright future. The Orange Line Metro Train in Lahore is the first electric public transport project, the launch of which has not only increased travel facilities for the people but also created new employment opportunities. In the last five years, CPEC projects have created 55,000 direct jobs in the road infrastructure sector, of which 48,000 have been created specifically for local Pakistanis. According to a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, major projects with a direct investment of

US\$25 billion have been completed since the inception of CPEC. The projects completed under CPEC are part of The Belt and Road. Shipping cargo started at Gwadar port during the first six months of this year. Up to 20,000 tons of goods were delivered from shipping cargo to Afghanistan. Employment opportunities were also created through shipping. There is no doubt that these projects have improved infrastructure as well as energy supply and employment opportunities. According to economist Hollis B. Channery's proposed two-gap model, developing countries need to introduce foreign investment and stimulate exports to boost their national economies. In this regard, CPEC has been instru-

mental in advancing Pakistan's development. The CPEC has addressed the issue of limited investment potential. Inadequate savings and shortage of foreign exchange in Pakistan and provided a high quality axis for Pakistan's economic growth. Pakistan's GDP growth rate is significant and it has created 70,000 jobs in Pakistan. Since its inception, CPEC has considered the elimination of energy shortages in Pakistan as an important sector of construction. Over a five-year period, energy projects under the CPEC framework added 3340 MW of electricity to Pakistan by early April 2019, accounting for 11% of the country's installed capacity. The shortage of electricity has

been greatly reduced and in addition to power generation projects, China built the Matiari-Lahore an 878km-long, 660 kV HVDC transmission line project in Pakistan - the world's second HVDC transmission line to extend the life of Pakistan's power grid. The construction of CPEC is progressing rapidly, significantly reducing Pakistan's energy problem and improving transportation infrastructure has laid a foundation for Pakistan's industrial development. In the next phase, industrial cooperation is the focus of CPEC's construction and development. Given the pace of projects, their completion and results, it can be said that CPEC is undoubtedly a new impetus for Pakistan's sustainable development.

African leaders
welcome Biden's
US election win

FOREIGN DESK

JOHANNESBURG: African leaders have welcomed the incoming US president on his electoral victory, expressing hope that Joe Biden's win will boost trade and other relations between the continent and the US. "We congratulate President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris and the American people on your election. We look forward to working with you and deepening our bonds of friendship and cooperation," South African President Cyril Ramaphosa wrote on Twitter late Saturday. Biden, 77, defeated incumbent Donald Trump Saturday, making him the first former vice president to win the Oval Office since George H. W. Bush, who won in 1988 after eight years under Ronald Reagan. Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari also congratulated Biden "on his election at a time of uncertainty and fear in world affairs." "President-Elect Biden's remarkable track record gives us hope that he will add value to the presidency and world affairs. We look forward to greater cooperation between Nigeria and

the United States, especially at economic, diplomatic, political, and security levels," Buhari tweeted.

Also Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa offered his "huge congratulations" to Biden and wished success in leading the American people and growing cooperation between the two nations. Zimbabwe has been facing the US and EU sanctions for years over rights abuses and irregular elections during the leadership of late President Robert Mugabe. Zimbabweans now hope the new US administration might lift the sanctions, allowing it to benefit from trade deals and international assistance. In his congratulatory message, President Macky Sall of Senegal said his country looks forward to continuing its excellent relations of friendship and cooperation with the US. Gabon President Ali Bongo Ondimba also took to Twitter to congratulate US president-elect and vice president-elect over election win. "Our countries have always been staunch allies," Ondimba said, adding that he is looking forward to growing the bilateral relations much stronger.



BAKU: Foreign minister of Turkey Mevlut Cavusoglu met with the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev and congratulated him on the flying flag in Shusha. - DNA

Joe Biden
should play
role for
Kashmir

DNA

BRUSSELS: The Chairman of Kashmir Council Europe (KCEU), Ali Raza has said, suitable settlement of Kashmir dispute is essential for peace and development in South Asia and newly elected US President, Joe Biden should play significant role in this regard. Ali Raza in a statement issued in Brussels, while felicitating newly elected President of the US Joe Biden, said, "We congratulate you on your historical victory as president-elect of the United States."

He said, the new American President should use his good offices and influence for a peaceful solution of the Kashmir dispute. He urged the US President-elect not to ignore security issue in South Asia especially the Kashmir dispute because this issue is essentially related to peace of the whole region.

The KCEU Chairman said, the Kashmiris are struggling for their right to self-determination, which was promised by India and has been mentioned in the UN resolutions on Kashmir.

Polling
underway in
Myanmar

DNA

ANKARA: Voting in general elections is underway in Myanmar on Sunday amid COVID-19 measures. A total of 5,643 candidates are contesting 1,171 national, state and regional seats up for grabs. Aung San Suu Kyi's ruling National League for Democracy (NLD) is largely expected to win the polls. The NLD won 2015 elections by a landslide. More than 37 million voters from a population of 56 million will decide the fate of candidates representing more than 90 parties.

Observing mask and social distancing rules, voters are casting their ballots at around 50,000 polling stations. It is second general election since the end of nearly 50 years of military rule in 2011.

Polls are being held in the backdrop of concerns about oppression of opposition parties and the disenfranchisement of minorities, including the persecuted Rohingya community. Myanmar's bicameral parliament, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, is divided into the Amyotha Hluttaw, the 224-member House of Nationalities or upper house - and the Pyithu Hluttaw, the lower House of Representatives with 440 seats. - APP

Mexico leader
refuses US
election
winner

WEB DESK

SAN LUIS POTOSI: Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said Saturday he would refrain from declaring either candidate in the US elections a winner. It was a matter of respect and "political decency," he said. "We are going to wait that all pending legal issues are resolved. We don't want to be reckless. We must respect the autonomy of other countries," he said at a news conference in Tabasco State in southern Mexico.

Joe Biden was declared the winner of the presidential election after he received 290 Electoral College votes, more than the 270 needed to become US president. The Mexican leader decision was informed by his experience when he ran for president for the first time. The 2006 elections saw Felipe Calderon become president of Mexico.

US Election 2020: Change in White House

MUNAZA KAZMI

A change in the White House will also alter Pakistan's relationship with India. Well, it is unlikely that the diplomatic relations between Washington and New Delhi will change significantly under Biden

PAST decades witness, a change in the White House is always followed by a shift in foreign policy of Islamabad. Moreover, every United States president comes with a new dogma that pointedly influences global geopolitics. Hence, it is predictable with Joe Biden taking the presidential position, Pakistan's relations with the US and its allies will take a new turn. By retracting the history, it could be assumed, with Biden's holding of the White House, things might start in a refreshing manner. Since, Biden has historically looked upon Pakistan as a strategic regional ally. During his tenure as the Chairman of the Senate Foreign

Relations Committee, Biden along with Senator Richard Lugar, promulgated the Enhanced Partnership Act with Pakistan 2008. Their efforts to strengthen the US-Pakistan relationship later culminated in the famous Kerry-Lugar-Berman Act 2009 after Senator Kerry became the Chairman of SFRC. The main aim of Biden's effort was to improve the political and economic situation in Pakistan for regional stability. Similarly, Biden also sees Pakistan as a valuable and trustful ally in the context of the Afghan problem. Since during his visit to Kabul as the vice president of the US, Biden advised to be "Silent" to Hamid Karzai when he demanded that the US should pressurize Pakistan diplomatically to curb its support for the Afghan Taliban. Biden countered

this by asserting that "Pakistan is fifty times more important than Afghanistan for the US". Furthermore, a change in the White House will also alter Pakistan's relationship with India. Well, it is unlikely that the diplomatic relations between Washington and New Delhi will change significantly under Biden, since India's economic influence in South Asia makes it the only formidable force against Chinese expansionism. However, the Biden administration would likely strive to improve Indo-Pak relations through dialogue - something he explicitly endorsed during the Vajpayee-Musharraf talks as a US senator. Moreover, it is likely that, the US will diplomatically pressurize India to curb its human rights violations in Kashmir, as hinted

at by Biden's running Vice President Kamala Harris. Finally, now when the power is transferred to Biden. The change might be what the people in the red-zone desire but cannot openly express. Though, Biden's historical position and his views regarding Pakistan suggest that under him the Washington-Islamabad diplomatic exchange will flourish, and the US might resume its civil-military assistance to Pakistan. However, the point to ponder is that, the new administration might induce Islamabad to move away from Beijing's influence because of the strained US-China relationship. Therefore, maintaining a good balance between the two powers is a job Pakistan's foreign policy experts should undertake.

Briefs

China, India hold meeting

DNA

BEIJING: China and India had a candid, in-depth and constructive exchange of views on disengagement in the 8th round of China-India Corps Commander Level Meeting.

The meeting was held along the Line of Actual Control in the Western Sector of China-India border areas, Ministry of National Defense (MND) of China said in a statement on Sunday.

Both sides agreed to earnestly implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, ensure their frontline troops to exercise restraint and avoid misunderstanding and miscalculation, said the statement.

Both sides agreed to maintain dialogue and communication through military and diplomatic channels, and, taking forward the discussions at this meeting, push for the settlement of other outstanding issues, so as to jointly maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas.

They also agreed to have another round of meeting soon, according to the statement.

It may be mentioned that both the Chinese and Indian armed forces had held the 7th round of military commander-level talks at the same venue on October 12.

Islamabad govt schools have few science teachers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad has 424 government schools and very few science teachers, according to a private television channel report Sunday.

Some schools have no science teachers for their senior classes, leaving students who want to study science with no choice but to drop the subject.

"I wanted to become a doctor and got good marks but there were no science teachers so I had to abandon that dream," one student said. This student and others at the Saidpur government school are at a loss, as they haven't had a science teacher for a while.

According to the Directorate of Education, 25 years ago there were 424 government schools in Islamabad and today the number is the same. There haven't been any new recruitments since 2009, so the number of teachers has dwindled.

Overseas Pakistani says he is cheated; seeks PM help

When Siddiqi gave termination of contract notice, he was threatened with more court cases including accusation that he had given a car that was old model and non-custom paid

NAVEED MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: A US citizen and a doctor of Pakistani descent, Muzamil Siddiqi has approached the Prime Minister to help him after being defrauded of tens of millions of rupees by the relatives of a media owner.

In an appeal sent to the prime minister, Siddiqi alleged that one Adil Shah who introduced himself as director of an Islamabad-based English daily newspa-

per and also made him to meet another director of the media house convinced him to invest in Rawal Lake Entertainment Zone located on Rawal lake which was a leased land from CDA by one of the companies operated by Adil Shah under the name of "Horse and Horseman Pvt. Ltd."

The US based Pakistani doctor agreed to invest Rs. 30 million for development and expansion of facilities on the leased land and to build restaurant, deck on Rawal lake and club house. They

convinced the investor that the time was short and he should sell his residential plot to raise money quickly so that investment could take place.

He alleged that the facts about the leased land were deliberately and willfully hidden from him as it later emerged that the company was a defaulter of CDA and SECP and had no NOC from CDA to build any structures on the leased land. Meanwhile, he was forced to accept payments that against his plot in the form of two cars from an-

other friend of Shah, a car dealer, gave Siddiqi one car and promised to pay rest in cash. Later Siddiqi was asked to accept another car as he was threatened with court cases. Both cars were adjusted on very high prices making him suffer losses.

In the while Adil who received the amount in the shape of one car and some cash stopped sharing details of the investment and refused to give any monthly profit which was agreed to be rupees 5 lac.

When Siddiqi gave termination

of contract notice, he was threatened with more court cases including accusation that he had given a car that was old model and non-custom paid.

Siddiqi has requested the Prime Minister to direct the law enforcement agencies to investigate the fraud and help him recover his loss of rupees 50 million.

It may be mentioned here that FIA, NAB and various other investigating agencies, upon the plea of Siddiqi, had sought an inquiry into the matter.

Pakistan hopes reduction in US offensives



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Pakistan's Senate Foreign Affairs Committee Mushahid Hussain hoped that under new US President elect Joe Biden the intensity of the US aggressive approach and policy, especially towards Iran and China will decrease.

In a tweet on Sunday, Mushahid Hussain has expressed his satisfaction with Joe Biden's victory in the US presidential election. "President Biden is good news for Pakistan: he knows Pakistan quite well," he said. He added that the US won't have aggressive foreign policy with little appetite for new wars, either with Iran and China. Pakistani officials and political party leaders congratulated Joe Biden on his victory over Donald Trump.

Congratulating Joe Biden and his Vice President Kamala Harris, Pakistani President Arif Alavi expressed hope that the United States could play a better role in regional peace and stability, especially in Afghanistan. Some members of the cabinet also congratulated Joe Biden in messages and stressed Islamabad's readiness to work closely with the new Washington administration. Leaders of Pakistan's opposition, including politicians from the Muslim League-Nawaz party, criticized Trump's ambitious approach and praised the victory of Joe Biden and his deputy.

Ahsan Iqbal, a member of Parliament from Muslim League Nawaz wrote on his Twitter account: USA makes correction for 2016 mistake. Prime Minister Imran Khan last night congratulated Joe Biden on his victory in the US presidential election and his deputy Kamala Harris and announced his readiness to work with the new government on peace in Afghanistan and the region.

Joe Biden was elected the 46th President of the United States with 290 electoral college votes against only 214 electoral college votes of Donald Trump, while Kamala Harris was elected as the first woman Vice President.

In his first tweet after announcing his victory in the US presidential election, Biden wrote: "I will be the president of all Americans, whether those who voted for me or those who did not vote for me." - DNA

Bank manager arrested for harassing woman

ISLAMABAD: Human Rights Minister Shireen Mazari on Sunday confirmed that an employee of a top Pakistani bank caught harassing a woman on video has been arrested and "issued letter of dismissal".

Mazari's tweet came a few hours after a video went viral on social media wherein a man, identified as Usman Gohar and likely in his mid-30s, was caught on video sexually harassing a woman, groping her as she stood by his desk, and then taking his seat as if nothing happened.

Noting that the deputy commissioner of Islamabad, Muhammad Hamza Shafaqat, informed her of the bank employee's arrest, the minister lauded the federal capital's authorities, including the administration and the police, for "quick action". - DNA

Islamabad subsectors go under lockdown

The development came a couple of days after the KP government imposed a targeted lockdown in certain areas of Peshawar due to a rise in cases

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: A smart lockdown has been imposed in the federal capital with authorities deciding to seal certain sectors in the city where coronavirus cases are on the rise.

The lockdown will be effective in Islamabad's targeted locations from Monday, November 9, according to a notification released by the Islamabad deputy commissioner. "Subsectors 1-8/3, 1-8/4, G-9/1, G-10/4 and G-6/2 Islamabad are hereby sealed (locked down) w.e.f. 10.00 A.M. 09.11.2020 in larger public interest until further orders," read the notification.

"The exemptions to this order include essential services and supplies like pharmacy, patients for medical aid, rationing, drinking water supplies and emergency etc," it added further.

The notification called on local police to cordon off the sub-sectors to ensure the spread of the virus is curbed. "The Sub-Divisional Magistrates Industrial Area, City and Shalimar, ICT Islamabad are hereby directed to execute the orders in their subdivisions and to ensure uninterrupted supply of food/edibles inside the infilled sub-sectors," read the notification.

The development came a couple of days after the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government imposed a targeted lockdown in certain areas of Peshawar due to a rise in coronavirus cases. Pakistan has seen a surge in COVID-19 cases in the past couple of months, notable since the country decided to relax business timings, re-open restaurants and schools as well as other educational institutions across the country. The Pakistan Medical As-

sociation (PMA), while appealing to the people to follow the coronavirus SOPs, had warned them against a "more lethal" second wave of the disease, reported Geo News on Saturday. Hailing the government's decision to impose fines on those not wearing masks in public, the PMA urged the government to take strict action against those not following the COVID-19 SOPs. "The virus has claimed lives of at least eight doctors in the past three weeks, said the PMA in a statement. They also suggested the government organize a mask distribution drive, ensure prices of masks and sanitisers were controlled. The PMA had also sought personal protection equipment for doctors and paramedical staff from the government and demanded the release of funds promised under an already announce package.

Biden calls America 'a beacon' for the globe

DNA

NEW YORK: US President-elect Joe Biden has thanked American voters for delivering "a clear victory" for him in the fiercely-fought election, calling America a "beacon for the globe" and promising to lead it by setting an example. "Tonight the whole world is watching America and I believe at our best, America is a beacon for the globe. We will lead not only by the example of our power but by the power of our example," Biden said in Wilmington, Delaware, before a mask-wearing crowd watching from their cars and trucks, honking in support and waving American flags.

He vowed to heal a nation torn apart by deep political and racial divisions and promised to hear the concerns of both Americans who voted for him and the tens of millions who supported President Trump. The president-elect said he would leave behind this "grim era of demonization in America" and do his best to "unify" the country at a moment of historic civil unrest.

Biden's passionate victory speech focused on domestic issues, especially bringing the nation together and pulling it out of the coronavirus crisis. The brief reference to the world spoke of US power and its leadership, with the warning to those betting against it.



He said his task is "to make America respected around the world again." "This is a great nation. It has always been a bad bet to bet against America. We are good people. This is the United States of America," Biden added. He appealed directly to the more than 70 million Americans who cast their ballots for Trump, saying he understands their disappointment and wants to return to an era where people are able to remain friendly despite their political differences.

"For all those of you who voted for President (Donald) Trump, I understand your disappointment tonight," Biden said. "I've lost a couple myself. But let's give each other a chance. It's time to put away the harsh rhetoric, to lower the temperature. To see each other again. To listen to each other again. And to make progress, we have to stop treating our opponents as our

enemies. They are not our enemies, they are Americans."

"This is the time to heal in America," Biden added. Biden will face many difficult and immediate challenges upon being sworn into office on January 20. There has been a resurgence in the deadly coronavirus pandemic that has killed more than 230,000 people in America, wreaked havoc on the economy and torn at the nation's social fabric. Biden will likely lead a divided government, as Republicans remain favoured to keep control of the Senate and the Democratic majority in the House is expected to be the smallest in decades. Trump is not expected to concede the race, which was called in Biden's favor Saturday morning after four days of vote counting. Trump's campaign is flooding several states with legal challenges and making unsubstantiated claims about the election having been stolen through fraud.

Trump's four years in office exposed the deep political polarization that has overcome the nation and been exacerbated by the pandemic, economic anxiety and social media. Biden addressed all of those challenges in his victory speech, pledging to restore an atmosphere of decency and compromise, rather than one of political warfare and brinkmanship. "I pledge to be a president who seeks not to divide, but to unify," Biden said.

Another leader part ways with PML-N

LAHORE: Another Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader has resigned from the party over the controversial statement of Ayaz Sadiq. As per details, Rozeena Alam has resigned from her basic party membership.

In her statement, Rozeena said that she was hurt by the statement of party stalwart in the National Assembly against state institutions. After being dejected she is tendering her resignation from the PML-N, Rozeena Alam said. Yesterday, former Chief Minister of Balochistan Sardar Sanaulah Zehri and General (retired) Abdul Qadir Baloch on Saturday had announced to quit Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and threw a challenge towards his former party to win even a single seat from the province without their support. - DNA

Afghan forces suffer casualties

DNA

KABUL: At least four Afghan security forces were killed and six others are reported wounded in the last 24 hours. According to the Afghan media, Taliban attack in various areas of the northern province of Baghlan.

The attacks targeted security outposts in Baghlan-Markazi, Nahrin district, and the centre of the province Pule Khumri. Two of the wounded soldiers in Nahrin district are reported to be in critical condition, both have not yet been transferred to the hospital as the highway leading to the centre of the province is blocked by the Taliban.

The wounded soldiers are expected to shift through air support

According to reports 10 Taliban militants are also among the dead and wounded as the battle turned fierce. Taliban yet to comment on the incident.

On the other hand, the Afghan Ministry of Defence reported that 31 Taliban fighters were killed and 15 others were wounded in counter-attacks by ANA forces in Ghazni, Helmand and Khost provinces.

Earlier on Saturday, a Taliban suicide bomber attacked an army base in southern Helmand province killing four civilians and two soldiers, officials said.

Omar Zwak, spokesman for the provincial governor in Helmand, said three civilians and two soldiers were wounded in the attack in Nad Ali district. He said the bomber was a Taliban fighter who targeted the base using a mini-van, said Mr Zwak.

Maj. Abdul Qadeer Bahadorzai, the army corps commander's spokesman in the south, confirmed the attack. He said the death toll could change. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but Taliban insurgents announced the start of their annual spring offensive on Wednesday even as insurgents are already regularly launching attacks and battling security forces.

2 Kashmiri youth martyred by Indian troops

DNA

SRINAGAR: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Indian troops in their fresh act of state terrorism martyred two Kashmiri youth in Kupwara district, on Sunday.

The troops martyred the youth during a cordon and search operation in Machil area of the district.

An Indian Army officer, two soldiers and a BSF trooper were killed in an attack in the same area. The slain officer was identified as Lieutenant Anuja.

Balochistan reports 14 more novel virus cases

DNA

QUETTA: Balochistan health officials have announced 14 more cases of COVID-19 in the province in last 24 hours.

Total count of coronavirus cases in the province has reached to 16,055 after detection of 14 new cases in Balochistan, a spokesperson of provincial health department said in a statement.

Three more patients were recovered, leaving 218 active cases in Balochistan, spokesperson said.

Provincial health department said that 98 percent coronavirus patients have recovered to health in Balochistan. The death toll by COVID-19 in Balochistan has been 154, according to the health department report. The death rate by the disease remained at one percent of the total cases, officials said.

CIIE first post-Covid Pakistani expo

BEIJING: China International Import Expo (CIIE) organized its first exhibition after the spread of Covid-19 pandemic. "The 3rd China International Import Expo (CIIE) is the first exhibition we have attended since the Covid-19 outbreak. Our sales were very good last year, so I believe this year will be the same," Ali, owner of Benav Enterprises said on Sunday.

This time, Ali brought Pakistani wood products, blankets, shawls, leather goods, furs, etc to the expo. "Our products represent Pakistani culture and are handmade. Our furniture is made with safflower pear wood, which is not the same type of wood as Hainan huanghuali. It is cheaper than huanghuali and generally made in Lahore, Sillanwali, Chinot and Karachi city in Pakistan. Our leather goods are imported from Pakistan's Sialkot and other cities and processed in south China's Guangzhou city," he told CEN.

Ali said that thanks to the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement, China's import tariffs on Pakistani products are relatively low, so we got many orders from China. - APP

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