



# Islamabad POST

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Japan park symbol of friendship between Japan and Pakistan

Strict restrictions on cards amid Covid19 surge

Babar appointed Test captain of Pakistan team



## Briefs

### Iranian FM arrives on two-day visit

ISLAMABAD: Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif has arrived in Islamabad on a two-day visit and will hold top-level talks on bilateral and regional issues during the visit. Iranian FM Mohammad Javad Zarif is accompanied by a delegation including special envoy for Afghanistan Mohammad Ebrahim Taherian. According to diplomatic sources Zarif will hold meetings with Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa during his visit. He will also attend an event in connection with Iqbal Day celebrations. Earlier, in a tweet, he said Al-lama Muhammad Iqbal was a great Islamic scholar, International poet and tireless promoter of Muslim unity who ties together our two nations. - DNA

### PPP to ensure GB's provincial status

DNA  
GILGIT: PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto said on Tuesday that he will give the people of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) their due constitutional rights which he said they had been deprived of for the past 70 years. Addressing a jalsa as part of his political campaign ahead of the Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly election on November 15, Bilawal Bhutto said that if elected, the PPP will not only turn G-B into a province but it will also transform the lives of its people.

### Babar Azam appointed test captain

LAHORE: Pakistani batsman Babar Azam has been appointed the national team's Test captain, confirmed the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), adding that Azhar Ali has stepped down from the role. "His (Babar Azam's) first assignment will be to captain Pakistan in the ICC World Test Championship fixtures against New Zealand, which will be played in Mount Maunganui and Christchurch from 26-30 December and 3-7 January, respectively," said the PCB in a press release.

## IG Sindh incident Army chief takes action against officers

It has been decided to remove the concerned officers from their current assignments for further departmental proceedings

NAVEED MIRAJ \ DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Court of Inquiry formed on the orders of Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa has recommended the removal of Pakistan Rangers and Inter-Services Intelligence (IS) officials involved in the 'Karachi incident' for creating "an unwarranted situation that led to misunderstanding between two state institutions". The Court of Inquiry has established that on night 18 / 19 Oct officers from Pakistan Rangers (Sindh) and ISI sector Headquarters Karachi were considerably seized with the fall out of desecration of Mazar-e-Quaid.  
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### Action against police officers urged

FAIZ CH

ISLAMABAD, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Shibli Faraz has said that we appreciate the decision of Pakistan Armed Forces on the Karachi incident. He said even on the civilian side, what is wrong should be said wrong. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, the Federal Minister said that the process of self-accountability of the Pakistan Armed Forces came into force over the Karachi incident.

## Japan donates 20 Jasmine trees

Tree planting at the Japanese Park is a small contribution by the Embassy towards a Clean-Green Pakistan initiative of PM Khan: Ambassador Matsuda



ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: MATSUDA Kuninori, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan has said that "Many local residents enjoy visiting Japanese park, this became a symbol of friendship between Japan and Pakistan". The park opened in 1985 after the then Japanese Prime Minister NAKASONE visited Pakistan and donated playground equipment for the children of Pakistan as a

gift from the children of Japan. In 2015 again, Japan refurbished the equipment as the equipment became old. He expressed these views on the occasion of donating 20 Jasmine trees in line with PM Imran Khan's initiative Clean-Green Pakistan. He added, when bamboo trees at the park had fallen due to the heavy monsoon rain this summer, more trees were donated. In order to make the park clean and beautiful, 'tree planting at the Japanese Park is a small contribution by the Embassy towards a Clean-Green Pakistan initiative of PM Khan', said the Ambassador. He also mentioned that the Embassy had planted trees at its compound last November, aiming to contribute to a clean and green Pakistan. Earlier, MATSUDA Kuninori, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, along with the State Minister for Climate Change, Ms. Zartaj Gul planted Jasmine trees at the  
*Continued on Page 06*



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's ambassador-designate to Kazakhstan, Sajjad Ahmed Seehar called on President Dr. Arif Alvi. - DNA

## PM proposes 6-point strategy for COVID-19

Prime Minister speaks at SCO forum; terms exchange of knowledge among SCO countries significant to reduce the risks of virus

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan, at the platform of Shanghai Cooperation Organization, on Tuesday proposed a six-point strategy to galvanize joint efforts including setting up a knowledge bank to counter second wave of COVID-19, policies to mitigate pandemic's economic impact and declaring vaccine a source of global good. Addressing at the 20th Heads of State (SCO-CHS) meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization Council held through video conference, the Prime Minister termed exchange of knowledge among SCO countries significant to reduce the risks of virus, which he said continued to rage the world with 15 million affected and 2 million dead. The heads of State and government from China, Russia, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan addressed the SCO meeting. The 20th Heads of State (SCO-CHS) meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization Council was held through video conference. Imran Khan suggested the SCO states to formulate short, medi-

um and long term policies along with a framework in consultation with World Health Organization to reduce the adverse effects of pandemic.

He stressed that COVID-19 vaccine must be seen as a "global good" for the betterment of mankind rather than restricting it to a certain nations. On other proposals, the Prime Minister called for a multi-year strategy on educational institutes, partnership on scholarships for youth in scientific fields, and also on public health and global economy. Imran Khan lauded China's effective handling of coronavirus and assistance rendered to countries including Pakistan. He said China and Pakistan were also collaborating in vaccine development, which was in phase three after human trials. He mentioned that Pakistan's policy of smart lockdown protected from the worst fallouts of pandemic, saving people both from virus and hunger. He recalled his earlier proposal on debt relief for developing countries and welcomed the measures by G-20 countries to help create fiscal space to deal with aftereffects of pandemic. Under SCO's vision of regional connectivity

and integration, he said, Pakistan and China were pursuing the Economic Corridor under Belt and Road Initiative. He stressed upon equality and sovereignty of states, non-oppression, sanctity of borders and recognizing people's right for self-determination and also strongly supported role of United Nations in securing peace and global development. Imran Khan said peaceful solution to outstanding disputes was important to avert crisis in regional peace. As a shared responsibility, he said, Pakistan supported an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned solution that realized into the Doha peace deal. He warned of the role of "spoilers, within and outside" who did not wish peace and stability to return to Afghanistan. Imran Khan strongly supported China's global data security initiative. He said as Pakistan fought terrorism as frontline state, it was against resurgence of extremist ideologies, racism, neo-Nazim and Islamophobia in the region and world over. The Prime Minister also spoke on issues including climate change, widening inequality among nations, poverty, disease, hunger and illicit money flow to offshore accounts.

### Pakistan virus death toll hits 7,000 mark

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has reported 23 deaths in last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 346,476. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 7,000, Dunya News reported on Tuesday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 1,637 persons have been tested positive for COVID-19 in 24 hours. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pandemic in terms of cases followed by Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad.

### Covid19: Strict curbs on cards

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In view of resurgence of COVID-19 pandemic, the cabinet called for imposing strict restrictions on mass activities, except business and wealth creation, to prevent loss of precious human lives and stalling economic activities in the country. This was stated by Minister for Information and Broadcasting Syed Shibli Faraz, while briefing media in Islamabad this afternoon, about decisions taken in the cabinet meeting, which met in the federal capital today (Tuesday) with Prime Minis-



ter Imran Khan in the chair. The cabinet has also approved wheat support price at the rate of 1,650 rupees per 40 kilograms. He said the support price will enable common people to buy flour on affordable rates as well as farmers to get best price of their crop.

### Detailed assets of PM, ministers revealed

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has released asset details of (MNAs) for the year 2019-20. According to details, PM Imran Khan owns assets worth more than 80 million rupees and four international bank accounts with balance of \$331,230 and 518 pounds. PM Imran also owns four goats worth Rs200,000 while having 19,900,000 in cash. The prime minister has also taken advance worth Rs70 million against 80-kanal land in Ferozwalla. Asad Qaiser also owns assets worth more than Rs80 million while owing debt of 12,600,000 rupees.

### Palestine envoy condoles death of Saeb Erekat

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Palestine Ahmed Ameen has expressed deep sense of sorrow and grief over sad demise Saeb Erekat. In a message the ambassador said, 'I hereby share with deep sorrow the passing away of H. E. Mr. Saeb Muhammad Salih Erekat, Secretary General of the Palestine Liberation Organization and head of the Palestine Liberation Organization - Negotiations Affairs Department, May Allah Bless his soul an eternal Peace in Jannah, Aameen'.

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## Armenia admits defeat as Russia intervenes

Deal ensures a complete ceasefire and cessation of all hostilities is announced in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone effective 00:00 Moscow time on 10 November 2020

DNA

MOSCOW: Russia has brokered a peace deal between Azerbaijan and Armenia thus putting an end to war. The peace deal was signed in the presence of Russian and Azerbaijani presidents. The deal reads as "We, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan I.H.Aliyev, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N.V. Pashinyan and the President of the Russian Federation V.V Putin, declared the following: A complete ceasefire and cessation of all hostilities is announced in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone effective 00:00 Moscow time on 10 November 2020. The Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia, hereinafter referred to as the Parties, stop at their current positions. The Aghdam district is returned to the Republic of Azerbaijan be-

fore 20 November 2020. Along the line of contact in Nagorno-Karabakh and along the Lachin corridor, a peacekeeping contingent of the Russian Federation is deployed in the amount of 1,960 military personnel with small arms, 90 armored personnel carriers, 380 units of automobile and special equipment. The peacekeeping contingent of the Russian Federation is deployed in parallel with the withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces. The duration of the deployment of the peacekeeping contingent of the Russian Federation is 5 years, with automatic extension for the next 5-year periods, if none of the Parties declares intention to terminate the application of this provision 6 months prior to the expiration of the term. In order to increase the effectiveness of control over the implementation of the agreements by the Parties to the con-

### Turkey welcomes Azerbaijan's victory



ISTANBUL: The news of Azerbaijan-Armenia peace deal was welcomed with joy in Turkey as authorities congratulated Baku on its victory wholeheartedly. Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu said Tuesday that a deal to end more than a month of fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh had secured important gains for its close ally Azerbaijan in the conflict with Armenia. "Brotherly Azerbaijan has achieved an important gain on the battleground and table. I sincerely congratulate this sacred success," Çavuşoğlu said on Twitter. "We will continue to be one nation, one spirit with our Azeri brothers." Çavuşoğlu also held a phone call with his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov, on Tuesday over the developments in Nagorno-Karabakh. Later in the day, Çavuşoğlu had a joint press conference with his Kyrgyz counterpart Ruslan Kazakbayev, during which he reiterated his congrats to Azerbaijan. flict, a peacekeeping center is being deployed to control the ceasefire. The Republic of Armenia will return the Kalbajar district to the Republic of Azerbaijan

with Armenia and, at the same time, will not affect the city of Shusha, remains under the control of the peacekeeping contingent of the Russian Federation. By agreement of the Parties, in the next three years, a plan for the construction of a new route along the Lachin corridor will be determined, providing communication between Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia, with the subsequent redeployment of the Russian peacekeeping contingent to protect this route. The Republic of Azerbaijan guarantees security of the movement of citizens, vehicles and goods in both directions along the Lachin corridor. Internally displaced persons and refugees are returning to the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh and adjacent districts under the control of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.  
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## Briefs

## She Loves Tech 2020 inspires thousands

DNA

KARACHI: The first round of She Loves Tech Pakistan finale took place on 6th November 2020 with the support of HBL and UNDP. During the first round, seven finalist startups pitched their ideas in the presence of a strong group of judges. These finalists included The Red Code by Sara Khan, Live Natural by Areeba Zahra, Shama-e-Zindagi by Eesha Babar, Doch by Deedar Mengal, Rinder by Sarah Ashraf, AgriTech by Komal Memon, and Aagah Initiative by Haya Ansari.

The second round was held on 7th November 2020 where APRUS Technologies by Hira Irshad, ScaryAmmi by Ayesha Nasir, Nayab'sRogue by Sayeda Nayab, Mobiliti by Bisma Ejaz, HomeMediq by Saira Siddiqui, Technoknowledge by Romana Rafi, Alif by ArojKhalid and Love for Data by Maira Ata presented their ideas for startup projects. APRUS Technologies by Hira Irshad won She Loves Tech 2020 competition in Pakistan while the runners-up include HomeMediq by Saira Siddiqui and Mobiliti by Bisma Ejaz. Sadaf Abid and all the judges congratulated all the participants and encouraged them to continue to work on their business model & refine it.

## Another doctor dies from corona

DNA

PESHAWAR: Another doctor lost his life in Peshawar, after contracting coronavirus. Dr Bashir contracted coronavirus while discharging his duties and was under treatment. Paying rich tribute to the doctor, the Provincial Doctors Association (PDA) said that the coronavirus has claimed the lives of 21 doctors and 40 health workers in the province so far. Earlier this month, a senior medic named Dr Sultan Zeb died after being diagnosed with the novel coronavirus in Peshawar.

Dr Sultan Zeb was being treated at Hayatabad Medical Complex in Peshawar and was on a ventilator, but he did not survive. Since the pandemic began, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has reported 40,843 cases of the virus. On the other hand, Pakistan's coronavirus death toll has hit 7000 mark with number of total cases in the country surging to over 345,000. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 1,637 persons have been tested positive for COVID-19 in 24 hours. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pandemic in terms of cases followed by Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad. Till now 150,834 coronavirus cases have been confirmed in Sindh, 107,329 in Punjab, 40,843 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 22,110 in Islamabad, 16,152 in Balochistan, 4,830 in Azad Kashmir and 4,378 in Gilgit-Baltistan. — APP

## Development package to be announced soon

ISHAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Thirteen billion rupee development package for Faisalabad will be announced very soon which will be a part of the Annual Development Program of the current fiscal, said Mr. Fiazullah Kamoka Chairman NA Standing Committee on Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs. He was addressing a "Meet the Press" program arranged by Engineer Hafiz Ihtsaham Javed, President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI). The function was also attended by the Mr. Farrukh Habib Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Pakistan Railways, Mr. Shahzad Khurram MNA, Mr. Shahid Ahmed Sheikh Chairman WASA, Mr. Kashif Zia of Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers & Exporters Association (PHMA), Chaudhary Muhammad Nawaz from All Pakistan Cotton Power Looms Association (APCPA), Mr. Arif Ihsan Malik and Mr. Imran Mahmood of All Pakistan Bed sheets and Upholstery Manufacturers Association (APBUMA) in addition to Mr. Talat Mahmood Senior Vice President FCCI.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani exchanging views with delegation of Rawalpindi chamber of commerce and industry (RCCI) at parliament house Islamabad. — DNA

## Experts call for govt steps for women empowerment

TDAP has organized more than 50 women specific local exhibitions, sent many women entrepreneurs on international exhibitions and delegations, sponsored many solo women exhibitions internationally: CRSS seminar

KHAYAM ABBASI/  
DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has a women population of around 49% and just less than 10% of entrepreneurs are women in the country. Government of Pakistan is making all out efforts to pass legislations for the betterment of women folk, yet no specific, sustainable and beneficial facilitation is being carried out to help women earn their own living, to bring them at par with men, to start and run their own businesses and to help them export their products. Fault also lies with the women as they have not been

going in the right direction. Moreover, no coordinated research has been carried out to find the reasons and circumstances till now for resolving the issue. The result of this apathy is that 70% of women businesses die down the very first year, as they cannot survive due to lack of support. The remarks were made by Ms. Roubina Toufiq Shah, former Director General, Ministry of Commerce (MoC) while presenting her keynote during a public-private dialogue on Gender Focused Economic Reforms (GFER), organized by Center for Research and Security Studies (CRSS), Islama-

bad. Commenting on TDAP, she stated that over the years, TDAP has organized more than 50 women specific local exhibitions, sent many women entrepreneurs on international exhibitions and delegations, sponsored many solo women exhibitions internationally and also held multiple seminars and conferences with women participations. Though, these can be termed as practices not a defined policy. This is the very reason that efforts towards gender empowerment in economic domain are not sustainable and fade away eventually. She opined that TDAP policy document needs to revive the specific clauses for gender inclusion.

TDAP should allocate 25% budget quota for women exporters to ensure their participation in TDAP sponsored trade delegations and exhibitions. It should also allocate budget for capacity building programs each year for women start-ups and exporters in all major cities of Pakistan. Women entrepreneurs require handholding, guidance, facilitation, and acceptance from men. Together we can bring the change and ensure gender inclusiveness; working in isolation won't work. In her concluding remarks, she suggested to develop a database of women entrepreneurs and identify the areas they are mostly concentrated, deliberate and solve the

issues of their concern based on global best practices. The relevant ministries and departments should respond by policy changes required. It is also important to provide guidance to women chambers on improving their members' knowledge, vision, access to resources etc. and advise women entrepreneurs to join relevant trade associations to stay in touch with latest trends and opportunities; this will enable them to come into the mainstream of businesses and learn from male counterparts. Mr. Shahzad Ahmad Khan, Director General, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) noted that Strategic Trade Policy Framework (STPF)

2020-25 will be an ever more gender inclusive trade policy and which makes it incumbent for the TDAP to align its policies accordingly. TDAP has an exclusive 10% quota for the participation of women entrepreneurs in the international trade exhibitions, however, the pandemic has put these activities to a halt and until resumption, women should resort to online conduits for communication with the international markets through webinars. TDAP is utilizing an array of digital media tools for awareness and outreach especially during the COVID-19 times and has around 100 webinars on its website related to different products and markets.

## CDA to renovate roads in neglected sectors

The biddings were invited through proper advertisement in Newspapers before starting the developmental work



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Upon the special directions of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) the developmental work in the industrial areas of the

city. The work on restoration of roads and infrastructure in the neglected sectors, I-10 and I-11, have been started. Bidding has been opened for the two ways north road of both the sectors. The biddings were invited through

proper advertisement in Newspapers before starting the developmental work. Different companies and firms have given their technical and financial bids. The period of 6 months has been allocated for the completion of the

said road. The developmental work has been delayed in these sectors like all the other sectors in past. Upon the special interest of Chairman CDA, Aamir Ali Ahmad the developmental work in I-10 and I-11 has been started.

## Banquet owners reject indoor wedding ban

The government has banned indoor marriage ceremonies from November 20 till January 31 amid a sharp increase of coronavirus cases, however, marriage ceremonies can take place at open places following the SOPs

ATHAR SUFI

KARACHI: Karachi Banquet Hall Association has rejected the government's decision to close marriage halls from November 20 after surge in COVID-19 cases. The government has banned indoor marriage ceremonies from November 20 till January 31 amid a sharp increase of coronavirus cases, however, marriage ceremonies can take place at open places following the SOPs. President Karachi Banquet Hall Association, Shariq Memon while talking to a private television channel rejected the impression of violation of the SOPs at the banquets in the city. Memon said that masks and sanitizers are arranged at the main entrances of wedding halls,

all SOPs are also enforced, yet the government has decided to close the wedding halls. There is no justification for the closure. Replying to a question, he said that we [the association] is ready for more stricter SOPs to contain the coronavirus spread, but the government should reconsider its decision. He said around 1.2 million workers are associated with the marriage halls in Karachi only and winning bread and butter for their families adding that workforce from allied industries like flowers, rent a car, beauty parlours, photographers and others is separate. It may be noted that the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) on Friday introduced new instructions amid the second wave of Covid-19.

## PMLN MPA Imran Nazir sent to jail

DNA

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday sent PML-N MPA Khawaja Imran Nazir to jail on 14-day judicial remand in Lahore NAB office clash case.

The police produced Khawaja Imran Nazir before ATC Judge Arshad Hussain Bhutta on expiry of his one-day physical remand. A prosecutor submitted an investigation report and requested the court to grant three days physical remand of the accused for further investigations.

However, the defence counsel opposed the plea and stated that his client had already served four days in custody of police.

The court, after hearing detailed arguments of the parties, dismissed the plea for further physical remand and sent Khawaja Imran Nazir to jail on judicial remand. The court directed for producing him on expiry of the remand term. Meanwhile, the court also issued notices for November 11 on a bail petition filed by Khawaja Imran Nazir in the case. The PML-N MPA through the bail petition submitted that all allegations levelled against him were baseless whereas the other accused had already granted bail in the case. He pleaded with the court for granting the benefit of bail to him. The Chung police had registered a case against PML-N leadership, including Maryam Nawaz and party workers, under section 147, 149, 290, 291, 440, 109, 353 and 186 of Criminal Procedure Code and ATA sections over clash with police on August 11 at NAB office during appearance of Maryam Nawaz before investigation team in connection with illegal transfer of 180 acres land in Raiwind.

## Proclaimed offenders held in Kalat

QUETTA: Levies Force arrested two proclaimed offenders at Karamai area of Kalat district on Tuesday. According to Levies source, acting on a tip of, Levies team led by Tehsil Kalat Muhammad Baloch conducted successful raid at a place and apprehended two proclaimed offenders named Ghazi Khan and Ahmed Khan.

The Levies source said arrested proclaimed offenders were involved in various crime cases in the area. Further investigation was underway. — APP

## PTI to win GB elections: Murad Saeed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Murad Saeed on Tuesday said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) would win a landslide majority in the Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly elections on November 15. Addressing a rally at Daghoni-Ghanchay, Gilgit-Baltistan, the minister said that people of Gilgit-Baltistan would cost votes to PTI in coming elections. He said that PTI after coming to power in GB would bring the area at par with the developed areas. He said that Gilgit-Baltistan is the first gate of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), adding that GB was ignored in CPEC by the previous government, it was the PTI government that announced CPEC projects in GB and allocated economic zone in the region, he added. The minister said PTI government has decided to give status of province to G-B and the credit goes to Prime Minister Imran Khan.

He said that the past rulers did not provided health and education facilities to people whereas the roads of the area also remained in bad condition. The minister said that Gilgit-Chitral road has been made part of CPEC and it would be linked with Swat Motorway to provide modern road facilities to the people of GB. He said that people of GB would be given Insaaf Health Insurance cards and every family would be provided medical cover.

## World Science day celebrated at COMSTECH

Scientific and technological innovation had and will continue to drive massive global transformation and economic gains. We need a responsible science; where fruits of human ingenuity must reach to the one who needs them the most

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: It is an occasion for renewing our commitment to the cause of science for peace and development across the world. It is an opportunity to renew our resolve for the noble purpose of advancing scientific knowledge and its practical application so that human beings everywhere can live their lives in complete peace and freedom in a dignified manner, said the Federal Minister for Science & Technology, Chaudhary Fawad Hussain while addressing at the occasion of World Science Day held at COMSTECH today morning. He emphasized the need of free and equal availability of vaccines and suggested that it must not be allowed to be monop-

olized by anyone in the world. Scientific and technological innovation had and will continue to drive massive global transformation and economic gains. We need a responsible science; where fruits of human ingenuity must reach to the one who needs them the most. Islamic concept of Ilm e Nafay (Knowledge which Benefit) should be the foundation of science, said Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General COMSTECH. Science which was envisaged by great thinkers such as Ibn e Rushd, Ibn e Sina, Galileo and Newton, as common heritage of human intellect and an equalizer has unfortunately become a great divider, he lamented. Dr. Iqbal said that this year's theme of "World Science Day" invites us to go back to the ba-

sics, start looking science from the perspective of a philosopher, embrace the characteristics of logic, reasoning, conceptual rigor, and most importantly argumentation. Two young talented science students from Nawabshah and Sargodha addressed at the occasion and shared their success with the audience which was highly appreciated. Dr. Mirza Habib Ali from PSF proposed that Pakistan must hold a science week every year along with the world science day in his address. Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President, ECOSF, emphasized the critical role of science communication. He said that that Science Communication is extremely critical for well-informed policy making on global complex challenges, such as climate change, food se-

curity and especially during the current pandemics. He urged that we must have a strong science communication system and capacities. Dr. M. Aslam Baig, Secretary General, PAS, said that Pakistan must invest more in S&T to get a slot at the international level. Dr. Baig lamented that there is no national science day in Pakistan and proposed that we should celebrate national science day either on 29th January (birth day of Dr. Abdus Salam only Pakistani Nobel Laureate) or 21st November (the day he died) as national science day. Ms. Patricia McPhillips, UNESCO Representative in Pakistan emphasized the criticality of sharing of scientific data openly with all stakeholders. As COVID-19 spreads rapidly around the

world, crossing geographical borders, it reminds that we all live on one planet. Today, the world is in urgent need of the sharing of scientific information. UNESCO promotes the open science concept to encourage the exchange of global experiences and best practices. Ms. McPhillips specifically noted her appreciation for the two young students, who spoke at the occasion, on their achievements in winning international science awards. UNESCO's initiative to observe the World Science Day for Peace and Development every year since 2001, highlights the role science can play in promoting sustainability, said Amb. Fauzia Nasreen, Adviser, COMSATS and commended UNESCO for far sightedness.



## Briefs

### ICT police compile handbook

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police on Tuesday issued a new hand book featuring modern style techniques for effective investigation in criminal matters.

The handbook has been prepared following the orders of apex court and court's decision while its copy was also submitted with the apex court. The handbook, having versions in English as well as Urdu, provides guidelines for improving investigation process and has information about laws related to crime against persons and property, terrorism, kidnapping and abduction, hurt cases and administrative orders. It has also details about local and special laws while all necessary information has been provided for citizens at website of Islamabad police.

According to details, apex court issued directions to IGP Islamabad and other IGPs to compile handbook within six months having guidelines to improve investigation techniques, eradicate corruption and ensure punishment to perpetrators of various crimes. Following court's direction, IGP Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfikar Khan assigned the task to AIG (Establishment) to compile handbook. AIG (Establishment) Kamran Adil and his team completed the task having all relevant information as how to collect evidences from the crime scene and investigate cases of minor and heinous nature including murder, robbery, theft, cheque dishonor, fraud, forgery, arms and ammunition, narcotics, sexual offences and child abuse cases.

### IHC dismiss case against chairman NADRA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday dismissed a petition challenging the appointment of Chairman National Database Regulator Authority (NADRA) Usman Mubeen. The court termed the appointment of chairman NADRA as lawful.

Justice Aamer Farooq of IHC announced the decision which was reserved on August 13, by the bench after listening arguments from both sides at large. The petitioner lawyer Hafiz Arfat had adopted the stance in the plea that the eligibility criteria for the post had been changed in appointment of Usman Mubeen. Mubeen was on fifth number among the short-listed candidates but he was given undue benefit during the process, he added. However, the deputy attorney general informed the court that Usman Mubeen had been appointed in accordance of law after fulfilling all legal procedure. — APP

### "Int'l Iqbal Conference" concludes

ISLAMABAD: Two-Day long "International Iqbal Conference" to commemorate birth anniversary of Allama Muhammad Iqbal concluded at National Language Promotion Department (NLPD) here on Tuesday. Director general NLPD, Rashid Hameed said Iqbal used both Urdu and Persian poetry as a mean to address the Islamic world especially to the Muslims of subcontinent to convey his thoughts, philosophies and his poetical expression. He said that though his poetry, Allama Iqbal played a very constructive role in enhancing the richness of the Urdu language. He said that NLPD was playing a very active role for the promotion of Urdu language and National unity through organizing such national and international conferences. Prof Dr. Rauf Parekh was of the view that Iqbal gave a new meaning to the word "Lalah" and this accomplishment can only belong to a great poet that he introduced a new meaning and particular usage of a word. He said that Iqbal contributed to the richness of the Urdu language with such precious terms, for which Urdu language is grateful to this day. — APP



RAWALPINDI: President RCCI Mohammad Nasir Mirza presenting chamber memento to Malaysian High Commissioner Ikram Bin Muhammad Ibrahim during his visit to the chamber house. — DNA

## Malaysian ambassador lauds RCCI role in promoting trade

Stresses need to intensify efforts for improving two-way trade between Pakistan and Malaysia that would bring far better results for their economies

ABID RAZA

RAWALPINDI: The Malaysian High Commissioner Ikram Bin Muhammad Ibrahim paid a visit to the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) here on Tuesday. RCCI President Mohammad Nasir Mirza, Senior Vice President Osman Ashraf, Vice President Shahraiz A Malik, members of the executive committee and officials from the High-Commission and members of the RCCI were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the business community, the High Commissioner lauded RCCI efforts in promoting trade activities in the region. High Commissioner Ikram Bin Muhammad Ibrahim also appreciated RCCI for its recent tree plantation drive and assured full support from the embassy in this regard. He said, there is a need to intensify efforts for improving two-way trade between Pakistan and Malaysia that would bring far better results for their economies. Both countries have good potential to enhance cooperation in many fields

including auto-mobile, construction, pharmaceutical, halal food, tourism, telecommunication and renewable energy. Malaysia's famous auto brand Proton will make its pre launch in December 2020 in Karachi, he added. We should encourage frequent exchange of trade delegations to explore all untapped areas of potential cooperation and added that Malaysia has relaxed its visa policy amid Covid-19. He assured full cooperation and assistance for RCCI upcoming events including Rawal International Expo

2021 and other events. He informed that Pakistan and Malaysia were the first two Islamic countries that had signed the FTA a long time ago, but the bilateral trade was still confined to few products. He said there was an urgent need to focus on diversification of trade for improving trade figures. In his welcome address, President RCCI Mohammad Nasir Mirza said that Pak-Malaysia are enjoying cordial relations and stressed that both countries should focus on new products to improve two-way trade. He also emphasized

on further cementing the trade ties and exploring new sectors. He also shared an update on RCCI ongoing activities and future programs. He informed that RCCI is going to organize Gwadar Business Conference focusing on Central Asian Republics (CARs), Build 2020 Construction Trade Fair and Rawal Expo in near future. Mohammad Nasir Mirza said that exchange of trade delegations is direly needed to boost the bilateral trade ties and volume. However, as Corona hit economies all over the world we

should not stop here and increase virtual platforms for improved networking and Ecommerce to support businesses. He said many Pakistani products including rice, wheat, mangoes, halal food, seafood, meat products, cutlery and sports goods, spices, handicrafts, light engineering goods, hospital and surgical equipment, pharmaceuticals and gems and jewelry could find a good market in Malaysia. Later the High Commissioner planted a sapling in the chamber premises to mark RCCI Tree Plantation Drive 2020.

## ICCI calls for exempting markets from smart lockdown

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that ICCI would do strong lobbying for the passage of rent control act from Senate of Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has advised the local administration to exempt all markets and business areas from the imposition of smart lockdown and take measures to ensure the implementation of SOPs in order to curb the 2nd wave Covid-19 pandemic in the federal capital as our economy was not in a position to afford the closure of business activities. He said that the ICT Administration has sealed some subsectors in 1-8/3, 1-8/4, G-9/1, G-10/4 and G-6/2 Islamabad to control the spread of Covid-19, however, he stressed that all markets including small markets should be kept open with SOPs as closure of businesses would lead to more poverty and poverty will kill more people than the coronavirus. He said that the Prime Minister has already announced that business activities would not be

closed due to Covid-19, which was very encouraging and stressed that the ICT Administration should honor the PM's announcement. He said this while addressing the Traders Welfare Association, Sitara Market, G-7 Markaz, Islamabad after administering oath to the newly elected Office Bearers of the Association. Altaf Hussain Shah took oath as President, Khateeb Abbasi Senior Vice President, Raja Imran and Adeel Tufail Chaudhry Vice Presidents, Rana Muhammad Akram Secretary General, Muhammad Jamil Qaooq Joint Secretary, Muhammad Owais Secretary Coord, Muhammad Rahim Khan Secretary Information and Ahmed Raza Chaudhry as Secretary Finance. Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI, M. Ejaz Abbasi, Ahmed Khan UC Chairman, Ch. Yaseen from CDA, Naveed Malik, Yousaf Rajput, Khalid Chaudhry, Raja Hassan Akhtar, Javed Chaudhry, Asif Mehmood, Tehmas Butt, Ch. Irfan, Hamid Miraj, Aurangzeb, Ashraf Farzand and others were also present

at the occasion. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that ICCI would do strong lobbying for the passage of rent control act from Senate of Pakistan. He said that a Committee would be formed consisting of important traders' leaders that would do advocacy and lobbying with the Senators for early passage of rent law from the Senate. He said that ICCI has developed strong liaison with CDA to resolve the key issues of the business community and assured the TWA G-7 Markaz, Islamabad that they would soon see many development works in their market including carpeting of roads, repair of footpaths, restoration of streetlights etc. He assured that ICCI would fully cooperate with TWA Sitara Market in resolving key issues of their market. Ajmal Baloch, President, All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tijarun speaking at the occasion said that promulgation of a balanced rent control act in Islamabad was a longstanding demand of traders of the federal capital. He said that the

National Assembly has already passed the Rent Restrictions (Amendment) Bill 2020 and stressed that the Senate should also pass it without further delay to address the burning issue of the traders of Islamabad. Speaking at the occasion, Altaf Hussain Shah President and Rana Muhammad Akram Secretary General, Traders Welfare Association, Sitara Market, G-7 Markaz, Islamabad thanked the Federal Minister Asad Umar, Ali Nawaz Awan Special Assistant to PM on CDA Affairs and Raja Khurram Shehzad Nawaz MNA for their efforts to get the rent control act bill passed from the National Assembly and hoped that ICCI would play its role for its passage from the Senate. They urged that CDA should complete the construction of a food street and flowers market in Sitara Market. They said that there was a dire need of construction of interlink roads in Sitara Market for facilitation of customers and stressed upon CDA to focus on this issue.

## Child specialists for safe outdoor activities

ISLAMABAD: Child Specialists Tuesday urged parents to encourage their kids for outdoor physical activities during their stay-at-home instead of using various tech gadgets such as mobiles or tablets. Talking to a private news channel, Renowned Child Specialist Dr Naheed explained that increasing physical activity, reducing sedentary time and ensuring quality sleep among children will improve their physical and mental well being along with preventing childhood obesity. She said as the pandemic drags on, it was easy to neglect normal daily routines, however, structured outdoor physical activities were still important for kids adding she said that maintaining regular mealtimes and bedtimes can help child

feel safe and secure. Dr Naheed said slum area kids possessed strong immune system as compared to kids who were pampered at home and avoid physical activities. Lack of exercise lead towards negative impacts on mental health which can compound stress or anxiety that many will experience in the face of isolation from normal social life, she said. Specialist also pointed out exposure to germs builds immunity, and works in the same way as vaccines. She said kids who play in the mud has stronger immune system as well as development of the sensory nervous system that leads to developing fine mental skills and enhancing creativity adding she said natural bacteria help fight against various infections.

## China's poverty alleviation strategy hailed

SHUJAAT HAMZA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) and Center for Chinese Legal Studies, Lahore University for Medical Sciences (LUMS) co-hosted a virtual conference on "Poverty Alleviation, Covid-19, and CPEC" as part of PCI's 'Friends of Silk Road' Initiative. The conference hosted eminent speakers from Pakistan and China and a large audience consisting of students, faculty, and researchers from all over Pakistan. Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation, Dr. Sania Nishtar, was the Chief Guest and Keynote speaker. The conference featured an insightful discussion on Pakistan's existing Poverty Alleviation Strategy, Covid-19's impact on Pakistan's fight against poverty, and CPEC's role vis-à-vis alleviating poverty in the neighboring countries. The main purpose of the conference was to explore the Poverty Alleviation Strategy of China in an attempt to understand how Pakistan can learn from and employ China's best practices. The conference was moderated by Prof Sikander Shah, Director of LUMS Center for Chinese Legal Studies.

In his opening remarks, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Foreign Affairs Committee in the Senate of Pakistan & Founding Chairman, PCI, said that there is a lot to learn from China's poverty alleviation strategy. By lifting 800 million people out of poverty, Chi-

na has made history. Moreover, he said that on Coronavirus too, China had seen success due to timely measures, decisive leadership and cooperation of the people. Senator Mushahid Hussain termed the Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) as the most important diplomatic and developmental initiative of the 21st

Century, with CPEC as its pillar. In her Keynote speech, Dr. Sania Nishtar, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation, briefed the participants about Pakistan's poverty alleviation strategy. She said that framing the issue of poverty with the Chinese experience is a welcome and relevant initiative.

While commenting on the importance of CPEC, she said that CPEC is a paradigm of growth and it will provide a lot of opportunities in terms of job creation helping to alleviate poverty as well. She said that the government of Pakistan has got its own poverty alleviation strategy called "Ehsaas Program" which con-

tains 140 actions and programs. Moreover, she said that the government has planned more action plans to be included in the Ehsaas strategy. She said due to Coronavirus, there was 18% increase in food insecurity in Pakistan. She said a Nationwide Digital Survey was being done to evaluate households and the government was keen to include social protection as a fundamental right in the Constitution, with a whole-of-government approach, involving the Federal and provincial governments. Professor Sikander Shah, Director LUMS Center for Chinese legal studies, offered full support to the government of Pakistan of the academia in regards to devising poverty alleviation strategies. Prof Xia Jingjie, Professor of Economics at the prestigious Peking University, while briefing the participants about China's poverty alleviation strategy, said that hundreds of millions of rural laborers have migrated and worked in cities and hence have been lifted out of poverty. He said that in its rooting-out poverty campaign, the Chinese government adopted a simplified multidimensional poverty standard, i.e., Two-Not-Worries (not worrying about food and clothing) and Three-Guarantees (guaranteeing 9-year compulsory education for children and youth of school age, medical care and housing safety). Moreover, a total of about 800 million poor people have been lifted out of poverty in China over the last 40 years since the country's Reform and Opening up.



## RWMC asks residents not to throw waste

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Waste and Management Company (RWMC) on Tuesday asked the residents not to throw waste in the open. During an ongoing awareness drive to keep the city neat and clean in Fauji colony area, the RWMC communication teams requested the shopkeepers to cooperate with the RWMC teams and throw the waste in the waste bags or put it into the waste holders of company. The teams asked the shopkeepers to place an empty carton or dustbin beside their shop in order to keep the area clean. The teams appealed the people to cooperate with the staff and keep their houses and workplaces dry and clean in order to avoid breeding and growth of dengue larvae. — APP

## IESCO to hold online open Katcharies

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) will hold online open Katcharies in all five circles of the company on Wednesday for prompt redressal of consumers' complaints. According to the schedule, SE IESCO Islamabad Circle Fazal e Rabi will be available on telephone number 051-9260194, SE Rawalpindi Circle Muhammad Zubair Khan on telephone number 051-9292675, SE Attock Circle Faisal Sharif on telephone number 051-4950343, SE Chakwal circle Muhammad Iqbal Khan on telephone number 0543-668500 and SE Jhelum Circle Muhammad Aslam Khan on telephone number 0544-9270377 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. — APP



## Briefs

## Motorway Police arrested car lifter

ISLAMABAD: National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) arrested a car lifter and recovered a stolen vehicle on Monday night. According to details, the motorway police was informed that a jeep Surf KV 15 has been stolen by the area from the jurisdiction of Noon police station Islamabad. Motorway Police was alerted which started to look for the vehicle. They said jeep was traced near Colonel Sher Khan Interchange on Peshawar-Islamabad Motorway. The officers made many efforts to stop the vehicle but the accused sped away. The Motorway Police continued chasing the vehicle and Peshawar Interchange was blocked. Finding the motorway closed, the culprits tried to escape by firing on the police. One of the accused Amir Javed was injured in the firing and arrested whereas his two accomplices succeeded to escape taking advantage of the darkness of night. The arrested car lifter has been handed over to local police for further investigation. — APP

## IHC summons federal secretaries in person

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday summoned federal secretaries of Interior Ministry, Defense and Cabinet in person on next hearing in a matter pertaining to implementation of court orders in a missing person Umer Abdullah case. Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, SP investigation, SHO of relevant police station and investigation officer were also amongst the respondents who were summoned by the bench. Justice Mohsin Akhter Kiyani, hearing the case, expressed annoyance over not implementation of court orders and remarked that why not a contempt of court case should be initiated against the respondents. The bench observed that it had sent the matter to secretary cabinet to take actions against the concerned officers for not implementing the court orders. The IGP's lawyer said that the matter was at the same status and there was no any progress. The court said that five years had passed, when the court decision would be implemented. The petitioner's lawyer said that the commission's report had also arrived and it had admitted that it was a matter of forced disappearance. The court adjourned hearing of the case till January 11, with above instructions. — APP

## CCP issues show cause notices to PSMA

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has issued show cause notices to Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA) and its 84 member mills on multiple instances of prima facie cartelization in violation of Section 4 of the Competition Act, 2010. The show cause notices have been issued after the CCP decided to initiate proceedings under Section 30 of the Act on the recommendations of an enquiry into the anti-competitive activities in the sugar sector. The CCP's enquiry has found multiple instances where the Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA) is acting as a front-runner for cartelization in the sugar industry. Evidence gathered during search and inspections conducted on the premises of PSMA and JDW Sugar Mills seems to suggest these anti-competitive activities have continued since 2010. The impounded data included exchange of emails between a senior official of one of the Sugar Mill (Member of PSMA) and PSMA Punjab zone office bearers regarding sensitive commercial information such as mill-wise, district-wise sugar stock position, and even the quantity of cane crushed, sugar produced, recovery percentage, carry forward old/raw sugar, total sugar, quantity sold, balance and sold percentage.

## CGSS to collaborate with Al-Azhar University Cairo

Various projects of mutual interests were also discussed and it was decided that CGSS will actively engage in activities with different institutions in Egypt



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ISLAMABAD: CGSS management under the leadership of Lt Col Khalid Taimur Akram (Retd), Executive Director, CGSS met His Excellency Tarek Dahroug, Ambassador of

Egypt to Pakistan accompanied by Dr. Amir Nasr Eldin, First Secretary, Embassy of Egypt, Islamabad, Mr. Ahmed Yousoy and Second Secretary, Embassy of Egypt, Islamabad. During the detailed meeting, it was decided that CGSS will collaborate with Al-Azhar

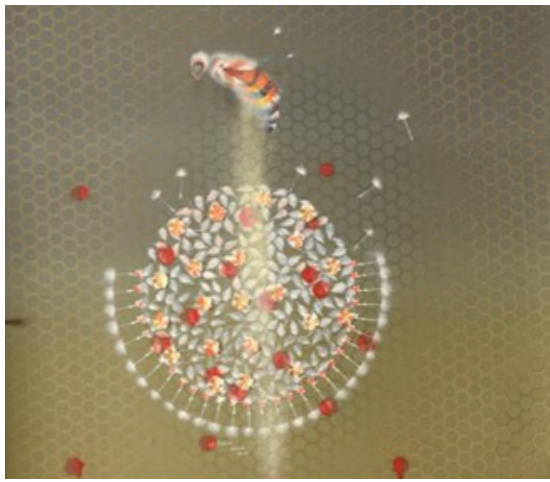
University in Cairo, Egypt in mutual areas of interest including academic exchange programs and joint research activities. It was also discussed that CGSS will work with other universities in Egypt. Furthermore, both parties agreed to collaboratively work for

the enhancement of bilateral relations and people to people contact between both the countries. Both parties also agreed to work for business exploration opportunities to strengthen economic ties between Egypt and Pakistan. Various projects of mutu-

al interests were also discussed and it was decided that CGSS will actively engage in activities with different institutions in Egypt. The meeting was also attended by: Major Gohar Zia (Retd), Member Board of Experts, CGSS

Mr. Tariq Khattak, Member Board of Experts, CGSS Mr. Tariq Qureshi, Member Board of Experts, CGSS Ms. Palwasha Nawaz, Project Executive, CGSS Ms. MinahilShawal Afridi, Research Executive, CGSS Mr. Asad Ur Rehman, IT Executive, CGSS

## Serena hotels' initiative satrang gallery to promote artists



KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Satrang Gallery and Serene Arts is an initiative of Serena Hotels which is dedicated to supporting and promoting the artists and artisans of Pakistan. Asma Rashid Khan, Founder Director Satrang Gallery said, "Satrang Gallery is delighted to exhibit

"Silver Lining" by Rahim Baloch. Rahim's exceptionally detailed vivid blue miniature paintings reveal layers of intricate workmanship reflecting the multiple layers of meaning visible in his work. The artist uses specific natural motifs, repeated symbols and colours to portray contrasting human emotions of love and solitude, as well as bitter

histories and intertwined narratives'. "Focusing on the human state of being, and man's mind. Rahim's artwork expresses sociopolitical messages for change, within his delicate, detailed artwork", she added. Artist Rahim Baloch said, "I use the colours, activities and wonders of nature to express human ideas of love, longing and desire intermixed with solitude, loneliness and nostalgia. My work revolves around being involved and lost in stance; A state of mind where words are worth nothing anymore. The point where this condition rejuvenates one's self. It merely separates one from all the painful factors without escaping from the reality. A journey which starts from the vacuum and ends at filling about blankness". Explaining his artistic work he added, "my entire work shows this transformation in which I create something

which itself is a vacuum and it converts this nothingness into something meaningful and concrete. For instance, if we look at something with concentration we start noticing different images and patterns in it. The design merges into a filling, making an attempt to give a meaningful image to the void in which it exists. It is very similar to when we look at clouds and see different forms and shapes in them. In a similar manner, I see all those things which cause the emptiness and vacuum in my life. From that point onwards, this practice pacifies me and becomes a source of calm and solace. With the realization that I can no longer refute my feelings and emotions, I give them form, shape and a face in my work". Rahim Baloch is a visual artist, graduated from the National College of Arts, Lahore with a B.F.A focusing in the miniature department.

## 'Pakistan will never compromise its stance on Kashmir'

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir Shehryar Khan Afridi Tuesday warned that Indian colonial designs and occupational and expansionist agenda was a major threat to regional and global peace and development. Addressing a seminar hosted by the World Kashmir Forum, he said it was prerogative of the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) to decide through a free and transparent plebiscite whether they want to live with Pakistan or India. Referring to the statement of the United Kingdom military chief General Sir Nick Carter that the threat of 3rd World War is real, Afridi said: "Pakistan and India may head to a nuclear war if Kashmir dispute is not amicably resolved." "The UN and the world need to immediately take practical steps to resolve Kashmir dispute to

help avoid a nuclear war in the region where three nuclear neighbors - Pakistan, India and China are involved in border disputes," he said. Afridi said Pakistan and India had fought three all out wars beside two limited wars on Kashmir. "China and India are locked in another border dispute in Kashmir. Threat of a nuclear war is real now," he said. "Indian occupational regime in IOJK is so fearful that it has put restrictions on the elections of Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association, asking it to first submit explanation over its constitution which states that Jammu and Kashmir is a disputed territory. But such tactics would fail as the people of Jammu and Kashmir have decided to offer any sacrifice required for freedom from Indian occupation," said the Kashmir Committee chairman. — APP

## FGEIs imparts quality education to over 200,000 students

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government Educational Institutions (Cantt/Garrison) Directorate has 355 institutions all over the country, managed through its 12 regional offices and imparting quality education to over 200,000 students from class one to masters level. It is possibly the largest public sector school network nationwide. The Federal Government Educational Institutions (Cantt/Garrison) Directorate has initiated the Pre-Primary classes (Prep) to complete its

educational pyramid. Special arrangements and facilities have been provided at school campuses for young children to promote their interest in educational activities and encourage development of their personalities in a colourful environment. Classes have been successfully commenced at various cantonments from November, 02. The response from the parents was very warm and encouraging. This initiative of the FGEI system will provide a strong foundation for children's learning and subsequent growth in school life.



ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, president Islamabad chamber of commerce and industry is administering oath to the newly elected president of trade welfare association, Sitara market, G-7, Syed Altaf Hussain Shah, sec general, Rana Muhammad Akram and other office bearers. — DNA

## Visitors' interest on peak at Lok Mela

This year, many stalls have been allocated to the female artisans, which created a new look. Women artisans including Rameem Naz in croasia and wool work, Ishrat Safdar in shawl weaving, etc

ISLAMABAD: A large number of people on Tuesday continued visiting vibrant culture of the country at the ongoing folk festival "Lok Mela" organized by National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) in collaboration with provincial and regional culture departments. Visitors were taking keen interest in tradition of all the provinces and regions like Punjab, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan while visiting their pavilions presenting folk music, dance and traditional arts from their respective areas. Visitors were much excited to enjoy the colorful ambience, folk dances, rural music and hoards of artisan stalls. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa pavilion has its own charm. The replica of 'Babe-Khyber' as

entrance to the pavilion stands tall with its grandeur. The pavilion boasts of thirty five diverse craftsmen and craftswomen from different parts of the province. This year, many stalls have been allocated to the female artisans, which created a new look. Women artisans including Rameem Naz in croasia and wool work, Ishrat Safdar in shawl weaving, Noshaba Noshad in Haripur phulkari, Munazza Hayat in handmade motifs work, Farah Naz in cross stitch calligraphy work, etc. Among them, Noshaba Noshad is specialist in 'Phulkari' which is the famous form of embroidery of Hazara region. 'Phulkari' means flower work or flowering on a hand woven coarse cotton cloth. As the tradition of embroidery runs in her family, she attained the mas-

tery in this field from her mother and other female members at the very tender age. Embroidery is the embellishment of any material with patterns or designs done with the needle and thread on material. It reflects the local traditions, culture and physical environment of people and place where it developed. Phulkari is well known for its intricate designs. Silk threads in yellow, shocking pink, white and green are used and darning stitch is employed in vertical, horizontal and diagonal movements to create elaborated geometric and floral patterns. Phulkari is done mostly in shawls and shirts. Male artisans including Waseem and Faheem in lacquer work, Riaz Ahmad in wax printing, Aurangzeb and Abdus Salam in stone carving, Muhammad Khalil in Karakulli

cap, Syed Ahmed Shah in wood art and Khawaja Safar Ali in metal work were appreciated by the visitors. Khawaja Safar Ali is an artisan with excellence of metal work hailing Peshawar. This 74-year old man has dedicated most of his life for making beautiful metal objects used mostly as household utensils. Metal work, which was once common especially in the villages is now slowly vanishing due to its high cost and invasion of imported metal ware, but Khawaja Safar Ali still displaying his prized crafts at his workshop in Misgaran Bazaar. He engraves decorative plates, vases, bowls, 'samavars' (metal water boiling utensil having Central Asian influence) and similar other things in exquisite designs reminiscent of the great Mughal period. The lovely aroma of the

food becomes tempting and irresistible and one cannot help but to settle down for a portion or two of this local delicacy. A performance pit has also been created within the pavilion where musicians from KP are presenting folk Pakhtoon music 'Tunk Takor' whilst playing traditional musical instruments like rubab, table, harmonium, etc. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa musical night is scheduled on Saturday, 14th November at 7 pm at Lok Virsa open air theatre, where eminent folk artists and musicians from different parts of the province will perform live in a concert. KP pavilion has been established at Lok Mela in collaboration with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority. Lok Mela will conclude on Sunday, 15th November at 10 pm. — APP

## IBCC provides one window facilitation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Over the special direction of Federal Minister for Federal Education and Professional Education, Inter Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC), has started various initiatives to facilitate the students and their parents for attestation and equivalence of documents. In this regard, Dr Gulam Ali Mallah, Secretary IBCC signed the agreement with TCS Express & Logistic to avail ILink service to extend the opportunity of submission of Equivalence & Attestation fee at any of the TCS express centers across Pakistan instead of visiting bank in order to facilitate the public under one roof. With this MoU, the applicants can deposit their equivalence and attestation fee at any of the TCS express centers in Pakistan at more than 850 outlets in over 380 cities/towns in the country. Mr Shafqat Mahmood, Federal Minister for Education and Professional Trainings directed Secretary IBCC to take measures to facilitate the students in attestation process through building trust of the students on courier service and organization as their testimonial may remain safe and secure. He also directed that the applicants may also be updated about the status of their applications from submission of the documents till delivery. The Secretary IBCC, along with TCS Service, devised a mechanism to update applications status from submission till delivery. —DNA

## E&amp;T hands over 4 stolen vehicles to Punjab police

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Excise and Taxation (E&T) Department Islamabad had handed over four stolen vehicles to Punjab police for its delivery to their genuine owners, said Director Bilal Azam on Tuesday. Talking to APP, he said the vehicles were stolen from various districts of Punjab. The department had handed over 42 vehicles to the Islamabad Capital Territory, Punjab and Sindh police up to date, he added.

## Policemen encouraged over tracing dacoities

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A ceremony was held here on Tuesday to encourage policemen of Sabzi Mandi police station who successfully traced a dacoity and recovered the looted amount from those involved in the crime incident. According to details, a merchant Syed Kher Uddin lodged a complaint with Sabzi Mandi police station on October 19, 2020 that unidentified persons looted Rs. 3.5 million from his son Syed Kifayat Ullah and assistant Abid Shah at gun point in I-10 Markaz when they were on way to deposit money at bank. Following his complaint, IGP Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfikar DIG (Operations) Waqar Uddin Syed directed SP (Industrial Area) Zubair Ahmed Sheikh to ensure arrest of those involved in looting cash amount. He constituted a team under supervision of DSP Khalid Mehmood Awan including Station House Officer Sabzi Mandi police station Sub-Inspector Muhammad Iqbal, Sub-Inspector Shahid Muneer, Head Constable Liaqat Ali and others.

This team investigated the case through using modern techniques and succeeded to arrest two persons. One of the nabbed persons was the assistant of merchant Abid Shah while other was identified as Fawad Khan. Police team recovered the looted amount worth Rs. 3 million and weapons from the nabbed persons. A ceremony was held at Sabzi Mandi police station to encourage those policemen who traced this dacoity. The ceremony was attended among others by SP (Industrial Area) Zubair Ahmed Shaikh, SDPO Sabzi Mandi Circle DSP Khalid Mehmood Awan, President Fruit Market Babu Muhammad Aleem, Secretary General Muhammad Tahir, Senior Vice President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Muhammad Ali and traders' community.



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

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Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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

## Still together

So far, the 11-party alliance, made up of opposition parties, which has said it is on a mission to overthrow the government, has been able to stand firm. Whether this can continue into the future as we move into what seems to be a long winter is questionable. There have already been differences within the alliance over a number of issues, even over who the alliance says 'selected' Imran Khan as prime minister. This issue once came to the forefront after an interview of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari by the BBC. After a lot of musings over what Bilawal Bhutto meant in his interview, and whether the PDM was facing a potential breakup, Maryam Nawaz jumped in with unequivocal defence for Bilawal's interview – saying she does not believe he intended to hurt the PDM. Whether the PDM can stand against whatever challenges and forces it faces is unclear. The government has taken an increasingly aggressive posture, with Imran Khan addressing rallies of his own and making it obvious that he is not ready to tolerate any kind of street movement from the PDM. Maulana Fazlur Rahman, who heads the movement, is meanwhile anxious to work out a clear-cut charter of democracy that can guide the movement. This is no doubt necessary in light of differences in approach and tactics within the PDM. These are of course pressing questions. Most important of all to the nation is the question of where the PDM is headed. The answer may lie in the matter of whether it can stay strong and maintain its strength. If it can muster up street power, it will need all parties to remain united. Street power belongs essentially to the JUI-F of Maulana Fazlur Rahman. There is also the demand for accountability of leaders within the PTI, which to many may make a great deal of more sense. Much depends on how many people rally behind the PDM, believe its pledges and are able to overthrow the scepticism of parties, which has led them in the past into a future that does not look bright in any sense of the word. The PDM will have to demonstrate it is able to offer a plan that will work for the people.



## Second wave

In the last week of October, the country was warned by Special Advisor to Prime Minister on health Dr Faisal Sultan that a second coronavirus wave had appeared in Pakistan requiring imposition of strict restrictions. He cited the positivity ratio surging to 2.5-2.75% and a significant increase in Coronavirus related mortalities. The SAPM complained that despite the pandemic not being over yet, people were not adhering to recommended precautions as they should, given the pandemic was still far from over. Federal Minister Asad Umar recommended that all employees in public and private offices wear masks. SAPM Faisal Sultan warned that the government would impose a fine on people who did not follow coronavirus SOPs in public places. Two days later the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) made it compulsory for all citizens to wear a face mask when stepping out of their homes. The NCOC called on all provinces to ensure that people wore masks and adhered to standard operating procedures (SOPs), particularly in bazaars, shopping malls, public transport and restaurants. It appears that the plan was not fully discussed with the provinces as the required action still remains to be taken. Directives without enforcement plans are no more than sermons. On Monday the NCOC again warned that there was sharp increase in new cases of coronavirus and the total number of infections and mortalities had increased further. Without getting earlier directives enforced the NCOC has this time issued new guidelines for weddings in selected cities which are to be observed from November 20. While there is no doubt a need to regulate the marriage festivities, which are presently helping in the spread of the pandemic, there is an even greater requirement to enforce wearing of masks and maintaining social distancing by all who come out of their homes. It is a bad policy to change priorities every other week. What is worrisome is that all the four provinces have shown slackness in implementing the coronavirus related SOPs. If the provincial governments have capacity related issues that stand in the way of their carrying out the assignment, it is the NCOC's job to devise ways and means to help them overcome the problem.

# Cursing is catastrophic

Dr. Abdus Sattar Abbasi

We need to turnaround our existing cynicism into trust and respect if we wish to strengthen our society. We have to respect the collective wisdom of the nation instead of taking decisions and developing policies in isolation on the basis of self-declared conjectures of faithfulness and patriotism. If it continues unchecked, it may lead to unprecedented unrest and dismay resulting in social chaos despite strong apparatus to defend the country

Extremely offensive or abusive behaviour has a price, says Craig Pratt a management consultant and an author, "far and away the biggest impact is what happens to people's motivation. If you've ever been in a situation where you feel offended by the behaviour of compatriots – especially if you feel intentionally targeted – you know that you can't bring your best effort to the duties. Emotionally, intellectually and behaviourally,

you're just not going to be all there". Offensive campaigns combined with social insecurity, economic hardships, insufficient facilities, limited opportunities, unemployment and low literacy may eventually disappoint people to expect any good from the state. Morally and psychologically it is a stage where people may exhibit destructive behaviour by damaging even their own interest and become a liability for the society.

Role of the state is to extend conducive living environment to the people. When fellow citizens observe contemptuous responses to any disagreement and sometimes extreme offensive blames to declare someone as traitor inculcates feelings of insecurity and fragility in the social fabric fearing that they will be next with the suspicion that the state doesn't care about thoughts and emotions of their people. Another dangerous trend in the society is to declare people infidel (kafir) on sensitive issues, there are a few instances that people have been marginalized with such declarations due to lack of complete information about the incidence or lack of understanding of Islamic jurisprudence (fiqh) about the matter. Such declarations cause demotivation among masses ultimately leading to lack of productivity and participation in communal and professional endeavours resulting in decline of collective output of the society. Accusing systems, censoring circumstances, criticizing institutions and condemning policies became a norm leading to society-wide disbelief on the capability of the Country to secure interest of common man deep into the streets. Climate of disrespect has flourished to the extent where everyone feels real insecure to exhibit anything out of the box for common good. Recent reports about administrative machinery of the Country avoiding decisions even on vital projects and seeking institutional protection are manifestations of such hostile environment, even sitting ministers in the government publically admitted the fact that the bureaucracy is reluctant to expedite existing projects let alone thinking

for novel solutions to meet urgent needs of the society.

We need to turnaround our existing cynicism into trust and respect if we wish to strengthen our society. We have to respect the collective wisdom of the nation instead of taking decisions and developing policies in isolation on the basis of self-declared conjectures of faithfulness and patriotism. If it continues unchecked, it may lead to unprecedented unrest and dismay resulting in social chaos despite strong apparatus to defend the country, because history clearly suggests a complete inability of nations to withstand severe internal turmoil.

Egregious behaviour often has its roots in a lack of empathy. Such people can say and do outrageous things that cause intense fear, shame or humiliation because they're psychologically incapable of feeling the other person's pain. They also tend to lack insight into their own motivations. These people may have absolutely no idea how insensitive they are. Bullies don't have control of their own lives, says Gary Namie, principal consultant at a Washington based company, and "such people often have deep-seated feelings of powerlessness and low self-esteem. To keep those disturbing feelings at bay, they may go for a cheap power fix by provoking fear, hurt or shame in those around them. The only way to control these controllers is to create an environment where such behaviour simply isn't tolerated". It is the responsibility of those who are at leadership positions in their respective domains to ensure that those who spread intimidation and aggression through bullying and cursing on different social and mainstream media platforms are either trained to behave appropriately or avoided to represent or defend their respective organizations. The first statement of Joe Biden after winning the presidential election is a lesson for all to provide such an atmosphere where self-esteem of both the followers and opponents remains protected.

While the personality of the perpetrator

certainly plays a role, egregious behaviour doesn't occur in a vacuum, says Linda Andrews, health and psychology specialist, "If dealt with promptly and decisively, such behaviour often can be nipped in the bud. On the other hand, if we fail to respond effectively, anyone who might be prone to cruel or vile behaviour may feel that a green light has been given, and the behaviour can quickly escalate to the next level. Letting or patronizing offensive behaviour tacitly encourages not only that individual but also other potential abusers to openly operate. Intentionally or unintentionally, you're setting up benchmarks. Your followers look to you for guidance on what is acceptable and what is not. The absence of a clear 'stop' sign often is interpreted as 'go'."

Extensive internet trolling and recent discourses in the Country are depictive Linda's thesis. It certainly reflects lack of respect and concern for those who are in the camps of your opponents, which is indeed ridiculous, because there is always a chance that those who are rivals today can be friends tomorrow. A famous business maxim 'make new customers but keep existing satisfied' provides exemplary guideline for communal life to build the inventory of loyal people around. Egregious behaviours and campaigns probably eliminate opportunities of attracting masses from other side of the line which can be a disadvantage in the long-run because it is usually impossible to keep your all supporters always satisfied. Cursing and bullying means not only betraying the human values that draw most people to the mainstream in the first place, but also undermining the society's best interests. Entry and exit of supporters is established phenomenon, therefore it will be wise to keep the balance rather validate corroborators instead of depleting potential support.

We need a society free of abusive and hostile surroundings. Leaders of all organizations operating in the Country have to understand the cost of egregious environment which hampers collective objectives of its people.

# Government and opposition are playing on one page!

Attiya Munawer



The people want a non-discriminatory accountability process, but the politics of blame has also made accountability controversial

The ongoing political battle between the government and the opposition is intensifying with each passing day. The pace of politics is not unexpected. Until two months ago, there was a clear stalemate in the situation, but then the PDM was formed and the opposition became active. Nawaz Sharif's speeches have also played an important role in this hot market of politics. It is because of Mian Nawaz Sharif that Prime Minister Imran Khan has also had to be active. He openly criticized in his recent speech and said that

what could be more hostile than that Nawaz Sharif has tried unsuccessfully to incite the army officers against his army chief and chief ISI. Mian Nawaz Sharif is sitting outside talking like wolves, his sons are also sitting outside stealing money and the daughter is taking advantage of being a woman, the opposition movement is not for the people, but to protect the interests of the political elite, the opposition wants to get rid of corruption cases by putting pressure on the government, the people have no interest in the anti-corruption movement of politicians. Only time will tell whether the people have any interest in the anti-government movement or not. However, the blame game on both sides is increasing the confrontation in politics and it gives the impression of personal enmity and revenge. As it unfolds, its debris will eventually fall on the democratic system itself.

There is no doubt that Prime Minister Imran Khan and his party PTI were welcomed by the people in the elections on the basis of their slogan of corruption free society and after coming to power they made their own agenda a top priority for which NAB and The country's high court was already prosecuting the former ruling classes in money laundering and corruption cases. Mian Nawaz Sharif, his daughter Maryam Nawaz and son-in-law Capt (ret'd) Muhammad Safdar have also been convicted in the NAB reference and further references are being heard against him and other members of his family. Similarly, Mian Shehbaz Sharif and his family members are also under NAB cases, while former President Asif Ali Zardari and some of his family members are also under NAB cases, so if there is a thief, he should be found guilty and punishment will

continue to be imposed by the relevant courts. In this regard, Prime Minister Imran Khan's curiosity has its place, but in the rule of law and the administration of justice, if a thief is found guilty, he has to be brought to justice under the rulings of the judiciary. Therefore, it is only appropriate to avoid politics in court cases, because if it is politicized, then the former rulers who have come under the clutches of the NAB have the opportunity to accuse the NAB of bias in its operations and measures and put it in the account of retaliatory political action. The people want a non-discriminatory accountability process, but the politics of blame has also made accountability controversial. This is largely due to the government's uncompromising and harsh attitude, as opposition leaders are constantly called thieves and hostile to the country and if an attempt is made to put them against the wall by blaming them, then in response they will also adopt a bitter tone against the government. In this regard, the political bitterness seems to give the impression of personal enmity which, if continued, will have to be borne by the country and the people as well as both sides, and if the vehicle of democracy derailed, it will probably take an even harder and longer struggle to get it back on track. So it is better not to let this turn come, but both of them are playing on another page, it will be to the detriment of both in the time to come. The government and the opposition need to send a strong message to the entire nation to unite with the Pakistani forces and become a leaden wall for the defense of the homeland in the face of threats from the enemy. So, on this occasion both sides should refrain from dragging the army into politics. It is clear that the government and the opposition

are responsible for dragging institutions into politics, both playing on someone else's page, while Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa has repeatedly assured the national political leaders that the military has no involvement in politics, the army should not be involved in politics and their governmental and administrative political affairs should be decided in the relevant forums. Therefore, keeping the army and its leadership away from their blame game politics would be better for the country and the system. If there is any concrete evidence against Mian Nawaz Sharif to incite the army to revolt against his leadership, then he should be brought to justice in the competent forum. PPP president Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, an ally of the opposition Ittehad PDM, has also expressed reservations over Nawaz Sharif's statement blaming the military leadership and said in an interview with the BBC that the PML-N's Leader cannot speak without proof. In this regard, the PDM will also have to decide its policy regarding Nawaz Sharif's statement; otherwise the survival of the PDM will not be possible. However, Prime Minister Imran Khan and other government dignitaries will also have to reconsider their aggressive stance against the opposition leaders, as it is this stance that allows all opposition leaders to unite on a single platform. If the government really wants to hold the corrupts accountable, then instead of being part of the politics of blaming, it will have to expend its energy on bringing the corrupt leadership to the forefront with strong evidence; otherwise, the opposition will succeed in its goal by playing on the government's page.

The writer is a freelance columnist and blogger. Attiabut121@gmail.com



## Briefs

## PCB gets its first female director

DNA

LAHORE: Alia Zafar has been named as one of the independent directors on the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), becoming the first female to have been appointed to the post in the cricket-crazy South Asian nation. Zafar, a human resources executive, was included among four new PCB directors. The others are finance executive Javed Kurieshi, economist Asim Wajid Jawad, and corporate executive Arif Saeed.

Zafar, who has worked in senior positions in the corporate sector, was appointed for a two-year term. She has also had a stint with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The PCB's new constitution, which came into effect last year, makes it mandatory to include at least one woman among four independent directors on its board of governors. "I welcome the newly-appointed independent members, especially Ms Alia Zafar, the first female independent member, which is a giant step forward in enhancing the PCB's governance structure," PCB chairman Ehsan Mani said on Tuesday.

"The four new members bring with them a wealth of diverse knowledge that will only improve the professional outlook and working of the PCB." The revamped structure of the PCB has resulted in six provincial teams - Balochistan, Central Punjab, Southern Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Northern - competing in premier first-class cricket tournaments. For more than 50 years, banks fielded teams in first-class tournaments alongside city-based teams in Pakistan.

## Japan donates 20 Jasmine trees

From page 01

Park during a tree plantation ceremony.

Mr. Naveed Tareen Khan, Director General Environment, Capital Development Authority, was also present. On this occasion, the Minister and the Ambassador exchanged views on the importance of technical cooperation on the issue of climate change, especially referring to the area of next-generation solar cells, carbon recycling and electric vehicles.

## UK sheds record num of jobs

LONDON: Britain's unemployment rate has jumped to 4.8 percent as the coronavirus pandemic destroys a record number of UK jobs, official data showed Tuesday. The reading for the third quarter compared with an unemployment rate of 4.5 percent for June-August, the Office for National Statistics said in a statement. "The employment rate has been decreasing since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, while the unemployment rate is now rising sharply," the ONS said. "Redundancies have reached a record high," it added. Since the start of the UK pandemic in March, the number of payroll employees has dived by 782,000, the data showed.

In the third quarter, or July-September period, UK redundancies reached a record high 314,000. This surpassed the quarterly record in the wake of the global financial crisis in 2009, the ONS said. "Today's figures underline the scale of the challenge we're facing," finance minister Rishi Sunak said in a separate statement.

"I know that this is a tough time for those who have sadly already lost their jobs, and I want to reassure anyone that is worried about the coming winter months that we will continue to support those affected," he added. The latest figures come with most of the UK in a second lockdown. Consequently, the government of Prime Minister Boris Johnson has extended its furlough scheme paying the bulk of wages for millions of workers until the end of March. - APP

## Australia supports cricket training for blind women

The training builds on Australia's support to PBCC in the formation of Pakistan's first blind women cricket team in 2018, which played its first international Twenty20 game last year

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Australian High Commission sponsored a five-day cricket training for visually impaired women and girls from across Pakistan, organised in collaboration with the Pakistan Blind Cricket Council (PBCC) on 5-10 November.

The training builds on Australia's support to PBCC in the formation of Pakistan's first blind women cricket team in 2018, which played its first international Twenty20 game last year. Speaking at the award-giving ceremony at the conclusion of the training today, the Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan Dr Geoffrey Shaw shared that Australia's support aims to provide more women and girls

with disabilities the opportunity to enjoy sport, compete and demonstrate their ability. Sport can help reduce gender stereotypes and negative perceptions associated with people with disabilities. Australia and Pakistan share a passion for cricket, so we are happy to support the Pakistan Blind Cricket Council's efforts to bring women and girls living with disabilities into the sport," Dr Shaw added. Coach Tahir, who coached the national blind men's team, helped these players push their boundaries.

The Chairman of Pakistan Blind Cricket Council, Syed Sultan Shah, said, "Cricket for the blind is a highly competitive game which enables people with visual impairment to become people of vision - a vision of an accessible future full of exciting opportunities for all."



Two blind factory workers invented blind cricket

in Melbourne, Australia, in 1922 when they improvised the game using a

tin containing rocks. A few years later, in 1928, the first sports ground

and clubhouse for blind cricket was built at Kooyong in Melbourne.

## Boris Johnson to press on with Brexit bill

Anybody who is suggesting that this has been a successful or a good tactic ... doesn't understand the conversations that are happening across the EU right now

DNA

LONDON: Boris Johnson has put himself on a collision course with the Joe Biden administration in the US after Downing Street said it would press ahead with legislation designed to override the Brexit deal on Northern Ireland. Peers inflicted a huge defeat on the government after voting overwhelmingly to remove measures that seek to "disapply" parts of the Northern Ireland protocol - measures that Biden has said would put the Good Friday agreement at risk.

Lords voted 433 to 165 on the amendment tabled by Lord Eames, the former primate of all Ireland, who spoke movingly of the fragile peace in Northern Ireland. Northern Irish peer Lord Empey blamed the "mess" on Boris Johnson's decision to opt for the border down the Irish

Sea last year, a decision Ken Clarke said was one of the most "inferior" options available to the government, which, he said, was now acting like a dictatorship to remedy its errors. No 10 reacted to the defeat by saying: "We will retable these clauses when the bill returns to the Commons." Just before the vote result came in Ireland's foreign minister, Simon Coveney, warned that there would be no Brexit trade deal if the UK passed a bill "designed to break international law". He later told media he thought a deal was still possible but said the bill had damaged trust with the EU and Britain's reputation internationally.

"Anybody who is suggesting that this has been a successful or a good tactic ... doesn't understand the conversations that are happening across the EU right now. This is a tactic that has backfired I think

in a significant way," he said. Lord Judge, a former chief justice of England and Wales, opened the Lords debate on the amendment on Monday by describing the Brexit clauses as "pernicious, lamentable provisions" that had no other purpose than to give unilateral powers to Downing Street to "nullify" international law. The government has previously said the clauses would break international law in a "specific and limited way". Judge said the clauses had not been inserted as "guardian angels, pure and unsullied" into legislation aimed at smoothing trade between Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England after Brexit. "The executive is seeking powers that parliament should never have been asked to give," said Judge, predicting an "overwhelming" majority for the amendment to demonstrate the Lords' discontent with the government.

## PCB and NEOC team up to fight against Polio

DNA

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) of the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme today signed a Letter of Agreement to work together on the mission of polio eradication in the country.

Through this partnership, PCB and NEOC will conduct a wide range of activities to raise awareness on the importance of polio vaccination. Under the partnership, to achieve the shared goal of polio eradication, various visibility campaigns will be organised during cricket events for raising awareness of vaccine acceptance in the country through active involvement of cricketers across Pakistan. PCB Chief Executive Wasim Khan: "The PCB is excited to play its role

in the aspiration to have a polio-free Pakistan. We, as an organisation, are always ready to step-up and use the platform of cricket to help reach out to the population by raising greater awareness of national causes.

"The fight against polio starts with greater awareness and promoting a culture of vaccine acceptance. Protecting our society and keeping our children safe from polio remains our collective responsibility." Coordinator of the National Emergency Operations Centre for Polio Eradication, Dr Rana Muhammad Safdar: "Cricketers, as national heroes are role models for the children and youth of Pakistan. I am glad that they are now formally part of our national mission of polio eradication. Through this partnership, cricketers will play an instrumental role in promoting vaccine acceptance. I believe our

collective efforts will help to achieving the goal of a polio-free Pakistan." Pakistan is one of the two polio endemic countries in the world along with its neighbour Afghanistan.

Pakistan is currently facing a challenging situation in polio eradication with the upsurge of number of polio cases. So far this year, a total of 80 (6 November 2020) polio cases have been reported including 23 from Balochistan, 22 each from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh, and 13 from Punjab. The Government of Pakistan and Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme partners are confident that through this notable partnership between the Pakistan Cricket Board and Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme there will be increase in vaccine acceptance and demand for polio vaccination across Pakistan.

## Hamis congratulates Azerbaijan

MONITORING DESK

GAZA: Palestinian group Hamas on Tuesday congratulated Azerbaijan over the liberation of the Nagorno-Karabakh region from Armenian occupation. Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev announced the end of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict with Armenia under a deal reached early Tuesday to halt fighting over the region, describing the agreement as a defeat to Armenia. "We congratulate Azerbaijan for its victory in the battles and regaining the occupied territory," Hamas spokesperson Sami Abu Zuhri said on Twitter. "This is a natural end of any occupation," Abu Zuhri said, going on to hail Turkish support to Azerbaijan and the Muslim nation and its causes.

Relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia over Upper Karabakh, or Nagorno-Karabakh, have remained tense since 1991, but fresh clashes broke out on Sept. 27.

## Azerbaijan fulfills OPEC+ agreement in October

FOREIGN DESK

BAKU: Azerbaijan fulfilled its obligations under OPEC+ agreement in October 2020, the Energy Ministry has reported.

In October, the daily oil production, including condensate in the country amounted to 675,200 barrels. Out of total daily oil production, crude oil accounts for 587,000 barrels and condensate for 88,500 barrels. It was noted that according to the "Declaration on Cooperation", Azerbaijan, which produced 718,000 barrels of crude oil per day in October 2018, should maintain its production of crude oil at 587,000 barrels during the period of August-December, reducing by 131,000 barrels per day.

Thus, in October, Azerbaijan fulfilled its obligations under OPEC+ agreement with an average daily production of 587,000 barrels.

It should be noted that in order to fulfill the obligations, the daily crude oil production should be reduced from the levels recorded in October 2018, i.e. from 567,000 barrels to 461,000 barrels at Azeri-Chirag-Guneshli block of fields, and from 151,000 to 126,000 barrels at SOCAR (Azneft PU, JV and Affiliated Companies). In April 2020, OPEC and non-OPEC countries entered into agreement on reduction of daily oil production by 9.7 million barrels in May-June and 164,000 barrels for Azerbaijan. On July 31, the first phase of the OPEC+ agreement of April 12 to reduce daily oil production by 9.7 million barrels was completed. In the second phase of the agreement, covering the period from August 1 to December 31, the daily production of crude oil in OPEC+ countries will be reduced by 7.7 million barrels, which is 18 percent less than in October 2018.

## Myanmar's ruling party claims landslide victory

FOREIGN DESK

YANGON: Myanmar's ruling National League for Democracy (NLD) has claimed a resounding victory in Sunday's general election, the second since the military began to withdraw from civilian politics in 2011. Based on its own unofficial tally of votes, the NLD, which is led by Aung San Suu Kyi, expects to win even more seats in parliament than it did in 2015 when it won a landslide. NLD spokesman Myo Nyunt told the Reuters news agency on Monday that it had won many more than the 322 seats in parliament needed to form a government, based on data received from party agents at polling stations nationwide. He gave no specific estimate.

"For the people, for the party, this is such an encouraging election result," he said, adding that the NLD expected to exceed the total of 390 seats it took in its 2015 landslide win. Sunday's election was viewed as a referendum on Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD's fledgling democratic government, which remains popular at home but has seen its overseas reputation battered by accusations of genocide against the mostly Muslim Rohingya minority. The Election Commission had been expected to release results on Monday but had only published a handful by the evening, as candidates and parties posted their own data online. Up for grabs were 315 seats in the 425-member lower house and 161 seats in the 217-seat upper house of parliament.

## US allows use of COVID antibody drug

MONITORING DESK

NEW YORK: The United States's drug regulator has authorised the emergency use of Eli Lilly's experimental COVID-19 antibody treatment for non-hospitalised patients with mild-to-moderate symptoms.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said its authorisation was based on clinical trials showing that the treatment, bamlanivimab, reduced the need for hospitalisation or emergency room visits in COVID-19 patients at high risk of the disease worsening.

It can now be used for treating mild-to-moderate COVID-19 in patients above the age of 12. Those above 65 or with certain chronic medical conditions can also be prescribed the drug, the FDA said.

But the antibody treatment is not authorised for patients who are hospitalised due to COVID-19 or require oxygen therapy due to COVID-19. The FDA said the drug, which US President Donald Trump has praised, had not been shown to benefit such patients and could worsen their clinical status.

A US government-sponsored study of the treatment in hospitalised COVID-19 patients was recently abandoned because the treatment was not shown to be helping.

Also on Monday, US medicine manufacturer Pfizer said its experimental COVID-19 vaccine is more than 90-percent effective, a major victory in the fight against the pandemic that has killed more than one million people, battered the world's economy and upended daily life.

The news sent share markets surging on hopes that the vaccine would help speed up the recovery from the worst global economic downturn since the Great Depression.

## Army chief takes action against officers

From page 01

They were under increasing public pressure to ensure prompt action as per the law. Assessing the response of police authorities against this developing yet volatile situation to be slow and wanting, in a charged environment, the concerned ISI / Rangers officers decided to act, rather over zealously. They were indeed experienced enough to have acted more prudently and could have avoided creating an unwarranted situation that led to misunderstanding between the two state institutions. Based on the recommendations of the Court of Inquiry, it has been decided to remove the concerned officers from their current assignments for further departmental proceedings and disposal at GHQ.

## Maradona progressing well after brain surgery

OLIVOS: Argentine football great Diego Maradona is progressing well after brain surgery on a blood clot and could be discharged this week, his doctor said Monday.

Maradona, 60, underwent surgery last Tuesday to remove a clot lodged between his brain and skull.

"Diego is in the mood to leave, and we are evaluating the discharge that could be tomorrow or probably Wednesday, we have to see the clinical parameters, but the progress is very good," Leopoldo Luque told reporters. Maradona, who went into isolation two weeks ago after one of his bodyguards displayed coronavirus symptoms, had looked unwell during a brief appearance on October 30 at his 60th birthday celebration at the stadium of Gimnasia y Esgrima, the Argentine Primera Division team he coaches. He seemed to have difficulty walking and did not hang around to watch his side's match. The following Monday, he was taken to hospital in La Plata, where the club is based, suffering from symptoms of anaemia and dehydration. Tests revealed the blood clot, after which Maradona was transferred to a specialist clinic in the capital. - APP

## Pakistan win T20 series against Zimbabwe

Electing to bat first after winning the toss Zimbabwe got an impressive start as their captain Chamu Chibhabha played some fantastic shots in the second over of the match with pacer Harfi Rauf conceding 19 runs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan cruised to an eight-wicket win over Zimbabwe at Windaup in the T20 series 3-0 here at Pindi Stadium Rawalpindi on Tuesday. Usman Qadir proved star of the show as he claimed four wickets for just 13 runs in his four overs, helping Pakistan to restrict Zimbabwe to 129 for 9.

Electing to bat first after winning the toss Zimbabwe got an impressive start as their captain Chamu Chibhabha played some fantastic shots in the second over of the match with pacer Harfi Rauf conceding 19 runs. Imad Wasim, who was brought in to bowl in the fourth over gave Pakistan breakthrough, picking up first Zimbabwe wicket when Brendon Taylor came down the crease, flicking the ball away in the air towards deep midwicket where Khushdil Shah took a nice catch on the second attempt. Taylor scored eight runs

off 11 balls. Zimbabwe lost their second wicket in the sixth over when one-down batsman Craig Ervine got a thick outside edge on a good length Harfi Rauf ball and Fakhar Zaman took a nice low forward diving catch at the point. At the end of the power play Zimbabwe

was 39 for two. Zimbabwe captain, who seemed in fine touch for the first time in the series handed over his wicket to Usman when he got the top edge on a leg stump side turning delivery. Haider Ali took the catch at long leg, ending Chibhabha's

innings at 31. He faced 28 balls, hitting three fours and a six. Donald Tiripano was the other main contributor for the visitors as he scored 28 off 22.

Imad Wasim captured a couple of wickets, while pacers Mohammad Hasnain and Haris

Rauf claimed one scalp apiece. In reply, Pakistan gave chance to debutant Abdullah Shafique to open the innings with Fakhar Zaman. Fakhar's bad form with the bat continued as he scored 21 off 24 balls. Abdullah managed to create an impact as he displayed great confidence in his inaugural fixture, scoring unbeaten 41 off 33 balls with the help of four boundaries and a six. Haider Ali, who had scored scintillating 66 in the second T20 once again exhibited his class as he made brisk 27 off 20 balls, smashing two sixes and a four. Khushdil Shah's 36 from 15 balls was a standout performance as Pakistan chased the target in style in just 15.2 overs. For Zimbabwe Musakadza and Shumba took one wicket each. Usman Qadir was declared man-of-the-match as well as man-of-the-series for claiming eight wickets in the series while being economical.





## Briefs

## 'SE Asia's internet economy to pass \$100B'

JAKARTA: Southeast Asia's internet economy will hit \$105 billion this year amid increased e-commerce activity due to the coronavirus pandemic, according to a report published on Tuesday. Despite a global economic slowdown, the gross merchandise value of the region's internet economy has remained steady at an estimated \$100 billion in 2020 and is expected to exceed \$300 billion by 2025, according to the e-Conomy SEA 2020 report by Google, Singapore state investor Temasek Holdings, and business consultants Bain & Company. The report covers the largest economies in the Southeast Asia region - Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Singapore, and the Philippines. It said e-commerce usage surged 63% this year to reach \$62 billion, while travel businesses suffered significant challenges and contracted 58% to \$14 billion. Digital financial services have also seen a significant rise, with the average proportion of cash transactions declining from 48% of the total before the pandemic to 37%, the report said. Singapore's internet economy contracted 24% to \$9 billion as the pandemic strangled the travel sector, while Vietnam and Indonesia continued to rise at double-digit rates, according to the report. With an 11% surge in online users, the region's online economy is expected to triple to \$309 billion in gross merchandise value (GNV) by 2025, it added. - APP

## Turkey appoints ex-Deputy PM as finance minister

## FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: Turkey has appointed former Deputy Prime Minister Lutfi Elvan as its treasury and finance minister to replace President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's son-in-law Berat Albayrak, the country's Official Gazette said on Tuesday. Erdogan accepted Albayrak's resignation late on Monday - a day after he announced on social media that he was quitting for health reasons and would spend more time with his family. Albayrak's surprise statement, in turn, came a day after Erdogan appointed former Finance Minister Naci Agbal as the chief of Turkish central bank. Albayrak, who has four children with Erdogan's daughter Esra, presided over a rough period in the Turkish economy, which is yet to recover from a currency crisis in 2018. After the coronavirus pandemic erupted, Albayrak's stewardship had come under much criticism. The Turkish lira has lost about 30 percent of its value since the start of the year, hitting a record low of 8.58 against the dollar on Friday, while annual inflation has hit 11.89 percent. The lira surged 6 percent against the dollar on Monday, following news of Agbal's appointment and Albayrak's departure. On Monday, newly installed governor Agbal said the central bank would "decisively" use all policy tools to achieve its main goal of price stability. Elvan, from Erdogan's ruling AK Party, was development minister between 2016 and 2018 and before that, served as a deputy prime minister.

## Malaysia reports 869 more cases

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia reported 869 new COVID-19 infections, the Health Ministry said on Tuesday, bringing the national total to 42,050. Health Ministry Director-General Noor Hisham Abdullah said in a press briefing that one of the new cases is imported and 868 are local transmissions. Six more deaths have been reported, bringing the death toll to 300. Another 725 patients have been released after recovery, bringing the total cured and discharged to 30,304, or 72.1 percent of all cases. Of the remaining 11,446 active cases, 82 are being held in intensive care and 27 of those are in need of assisted breathing. - APP



ISLAMABAD: CGSS team lead by Lt Col Khalid Taimur Akram (Retd), Executive Director, CGSS met with Bela Fazekas, Ambassador of Hungary to Pakistan. It was agreed that CGSS will work for the enhancement of people to people contact & for development of business opportunities between both countries. - DNA

## Armenian opposition demands Prime Minister's resignation

Armenian Armed Forces launched a large-scale military attack on positions of Azerbaijani army on the front line, using large-caliber weapons, mortars and artillery on Sept. 27. Azerbaijan responded with a counter-offensive along the entire front

## MONITORING DESK

YEREVAN: The most shameful page of our history has been written today, said Iveta Tonoyan, a member of the Prosperous Armenia opposition party, media reports. "A few hours ago, the Prosperous Armenia and a number of other parties demanded the resignation of the Prime Minister. After all this, the resignation is the least that Pashinyan must do," Tonoyan said. The MP stated that she was near the building of the Armenian government in order to prevent clashes between citizens and the police. "We came to calm the anger of people, which is quite objective and understandable. Here are people whose fathers, brothers and sons fell on the battlefield. And at the same time, secretly, without taking into account public opinion, it was decided

to transfer the lands, give Shusha away with a piece of paper", noted the MP. She added that in the morning of Nov.10 the party will convene a meeting under the chairmanship of the party leader Gagik Tsarukyan, after which she will make a statement. President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and President of the Russian Federation made a joint statement. A complete ceasefire and a cessation of all hostilities in the zone of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict shall be introduced at 00:00 hours Moscow time on 10 November 2020. Armenian Armed Forces launched a large-scale military attack on positions of Azerbaijani army on the front line, using large-caliber weapons, mortars and artillery on Sept. 27. Azerbaijan responded with a counter-offensive along the entire front. Currently, Azerbaijan continues

## Armenians launch protests over Karabakh deal

## MONITORING DESK

YEREVAN: Armenia erupted in protests early Tuesday after Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan admitted defeat by signing a deal with Azerbaijan and Russia to end the conflict in Upper Karabakh. Protesters gathered in front of a government building in the capital Yerevan, breaking windows and chanting slogans against Pashinyan. Some of them entered his office and

called for him to resign. Earlier in the day, Pashinyan announced a deal between Armenia, Russia and Azerbaijan, saying "I made a very hard decision for me and for all of us." "I have signed a statement with Russia and Azerbaijan on the termination of the Karabakh war," he said. Russian President Vladimir Putin announced early Tuesday that Azerbaijan and Armenia have signed a deal to end the conflict in the Upper Karabakh

region, also known as Nagorno-Karabakh. Relations between the two former Soviet republics over Upper Karabakh have remained tense since 1991, but fresh clashes broke out on Sept. 27. Since then, Armenia has repeatedly attacked Azerbaijani civilians and forces, even violating three humanitarian cease-fire agreements. In total, about 20% of Azerbaijan's territory has been under illegal Armenian occupation for nearly three decades.

fighting off the attacks of the Armenian Armed Forces. The conflict between the two South Caucasus countries began in 1988 when Armenia made territorial claims against Azerbaijan. As a result of the ensuing war, Armenian Armed Forces occupied 20 percent of Azerbaijan, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven surrounding districts. The 1994 ceasefire agreement was followed by peace negotiations. President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and President of the Russian Federation made a joint statement. A complete ceasefire and a cessation of all hostilities in the zone of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict shall be introduced at 00:00 hours Moscow time on 10 November 2020. Armenian Armed Forces launched a large-scale military attack on positions of Azerbaijani army on the front line, using large-caliber weapons, mortars and artillery on Sept. 27. Azerbaijan responded with a counter-offensive along the entire front.

## Pakistani products attract visitors at West China expo

BEIJING: Pakistani products have attracted a large number of visitors at the West China (Chengdu) International Supply Chain and Smart Logistics Expo 2020 opened in Chengdu, China. As one of the supply chain representatives in this logistics exhibition, Sichuan Chimbreez Import and Export Company displayed Pakistani wooden furniture, carpets, and clothing, etc. "Our company was founded two years ago in Chengdu by me and my Pakistani partner Khan," said Vivian Yang, co-founder of Sichuan Chimbreez, a Chinese businesswoman. Her business partner Khan is a Pakistani living in Guangzhou, China for

four years, China Economic Net (CEN) reported. "Our main products are Pakistani handicraft, furniture, traditional clothing, as well as Indian and Nepalese cashmere scarves and shawls." According to Vivian Yang, products with South Asian style patterns are especially popular among Chinese customers. "Khan knows more about Pakistani culture, customs, and products than I do. And I can offer some ideas and suggestions from the Chinese perspective," said Vivian Yang, the cooperation of them is complementary. "As a foreigner, my negotiations with Pakistani suppliers may not be as smooth. - APP

## US sanctions more officials over Hong Kong

## China slams US 'interference'

## FOREIGN DESK

WASHINGTON: The United States has slapped sanctions on four more officials in the mainland and Hong Kong, accusing them of threatening the peace and security of the semi-autonomous city over their role in enacting the national security law imposed by Beijing at the end of June. The US Department of State identified the four as Deng Zhonghua, deputy director of the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office; Edwina Lau, deputy commissioner of police in Hong Kong, and Li Jiangzhou and Li Kwaiwah, two officials at the newly established national security office in Hong Kong. "These individuals will be

barred from travelling to the United States and their assets within the jurisdiction of the United States or in the possession or control of US persons will be blocked," said Mike Pompeo, the US secretary of state. "These actions underscore US resolve to hold accountable key figures that are actively eviscerating the freedoms of the people of Hong Kong and undermining Hong Kong's autonomy," he added. None of the four officials could be reached immediately for comment. Hong Kong Chief Secretary for Administration Matthew Cheung said the sanctions were "absolutely unacceptable, a blatant - and I would use the word 'barbaric' - interference".

BEIJING: China on Tuesday condemned what it termed interference in its "internal issues" as the US sanctioned four Chinese officials over the recently passed national security law in Hong Kong. "The purpose of the National Security Law is to protect the vast majority of law-abiding Hong Kong residents... The US sanctioning of four Chinese officials over Hong Kong is blatant interference in China's internal affairs, which seriously violates international law and the basic principles of international relations," Foreign Ministry Spokesman Wang Wenbin told a news conference in the capital Beijing. On Monday, Washington imposed sanctions on four officials in Hong Kong's governing and security establishment over their alleged role in "crushing dissent" in the semi-autonomous region. Beijing has come under criticism for implementing the new law this July which, it maintains, is aimed at tackling unrest and instability.

## EU reaches deal with Pfizer, BioNTech

German Health Minister Jens Spahn said the vaccine is likely to be ready in the first quarter of 2021 and hopes to secure 100 million doses for Germany

## FOREIGN DESK

BERLIN: A European Commission spokesman said Tuesday that the EU had concluded negotiations with Pfizer and BioNTech to secure millions of doses of their coronavirus vaccine. The announcement comes just a day after the companies announced their experimental vaccine was shown to be 90% effective in preventing COVID-19. The Commission is expected to approve the agreement on Wednesday. German Health Minister Jens Spahn said the vaccine is likely to be ready in the first quarter

of 2021 and hopes to secure 100 million doses for Germany. Spahn, who contracted COVID-19 himself in late October, said it's important that Germany and the rest of the EU don't fall behind in the vaccine rollout. "We of course couldn't explain to Europeans and especially to Germans if a vaccine would be available and [distributed] in the USA or in other regions in the world, but not in Germany and Europe." Spahn emphasized that the European Commission had the mandate to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies - not individual states. France, Germany, Spain and others

in the 27-member bloc "absolutely" would have been able to secure national contracts, Spahn said. "The question is, whether that would have reflected our understanding of European solidarity." On Monday, German company BioNTech and US firm Pfizer said their jointly-produced vaccine was 90% effective at preventing COVID-19. The announcement is a breakthrough in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic, although the vaccine is still being tested in Phase II trials. Researchers say they haven't found any safety concerns in their trials, although that will need to continue to be test-

ed. BioNTech said the immunization effect could "last for at least a year" but the duration of the effect remains to be seen. The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine will need to be administered in two injections, meaning that large numbers of doses will need to be produced. Although researchers and health agencies are working as quickly as possible, safety and public trust remain high priorities. The German government and others in Europe have made it clear that they would not rollout the vaccine until they were sure about its safety. German lawmaker Dr. Andrew Ullmann told DW

there had to be a discussion on how any vaccine would be distributed. "We cannot say America first or Europe first," he said. "Because we have a global responsibility in the global health arena." Countries around the world are clamoring to get sign contracts for millions of doses. Germany's Spahn said on Monday the vaccine isn't likely to come onto the market in 2020, but can be expected in the first three months of 2021. The British government, on the other hand, asked its National Health Service on Tuesday to prepare to deploy it from the start of December.

## Europe's largest right-wing rally to go ahead

## FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: The largest right-wing gathering in Europe has been cancelled this year by the mayor of the Polish capital Warsaw due to the coronavirus pandemic, but participants have promised to still attend. The Independence March, which takes place on November 11, has in the past attracted up to 100,000 people from Poland and abroad. This year, however, the atmosphere around the controversial event, which traditionally takes place amid anti-immigrant, anti-Semitic and anti-LGBTQ slogans, has been particularly tense. Over the past few weeks, hundreds of thousands of protesters have taken to Poland's streets calling for abortion rights in what has been the biggest demonstrations since the fall of communism. They are protesting the pro-government Constitutional Tribunal's efforts to ban abortions, even in cases of fetal defects. Some protesters, disgruntled with the Tribunal's decision, have stormed churches and buildings occupied by the Catholic Church's elite. They have voiced their anger with the governing Law and Justice party and the influence the Catholic Church has had on Polish politics. In response, the Independence March Association, the main organizer of the November 11 event, formed units to protect the churches from angry demonstrators. Some clashes took place.

## Justice lawyer quits over 'vote fraud' inquiries

## FOREIGN DESK

WASHINGTON: US attorney general William Barr has allowed prosecutors to probe alleged irregularities in the presidential election, prompting a senior justice department official to quit. The official, Richard Pilger, would have overseen such investigations. Any such cases would normally be the remit of individual states, but Mr Barr said this was not a hard and fast rule. Donald Trump refuses to accept Joe Biden's projected victory, and has made unsubstantiated fraud claims. The president's campaign is seeking an emergency injunction in Pennsylvania to prevent Mr Biden's victory being certified in the state. The president-elect's projected win there on Saturday took him over the threshold of 270 electoral college votes needed to secure victory nationwide. Mr Trump's spokeswoman vowed the legal battle to contest Mr Biden's victory was only just beginning. "This election is not over," White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany told a news conference. "Far from it."

## Brazil halts trials of Chinese vaccine

## WEB DESK

BRASILIA: Brazil's health regulator said on Monday it had suspended clinical trials of an experimental Chinese COVID-19 vaccine after an "adverse incident" involving one of the volunteers, in a surprise to the trial organisers who said that while there had been a death it was not related to the vaccine. The setback for CoronaVac, developed by Chinese pharmaceutical firm Sinovac Biotech, came on the same day US pharmaceutical giant Pfizer said its vaccine candidate had shown 90 percent effectiveness, raising hopes of an end to the pandemic. The Brazilian regulator, Anvisa, said in a statement it had decided "to interrupt the clinical study of the CoronaVac vaccine after a serious adverse incident" on October 29. It did not say where the event took place or what happened, citing privacy regulations. Usually, incidents that prompt the suspension of trials involve death, potentially fatal side effects, serious disability, hospitalisation, birth defects or other clinically significant events.



## Briefs

### Several localities go under lockdown

DNA

LAHORE: Several localities in Lahore, Rawalpindi and Multan have been declared as coronavirus hotspots and put under lockdown with immediate effect, according to notifications from the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department released late Monday, after 400 new cases were reported province wide for the first time since July 18.

The notifications said there had been a "constant increase in positivity percentage and prevalence of Covid-19 in the province of Punjab during the last two weeks which poses a serious and imminent threat to public health", adding that all possible measures needed to be taken to control the spread of the virus.

The notifications said all markets, shopping malls, restaurants and offices would remain closed in these areas while movement would be restricted and all public gatherings would be banned.

Grocery stores, fruit and vegetable shops, tandoors and petrol pumps would be allowed to remain open between 9am and 7pm on all days of the week. Milk shops, fish and meat shops, and bakeries would be allowed to open from 7am to 7pm. All medical services, including hospitals, clinics and pharmacies would remain open 24 hours a day, the notification said.

The measures came as Punjab reported more than 400 daily cases on Tuesday for the first time since July.

### 1,637 new virus cases reported

ISLAMABAD: The total active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan on Tuesday were recorded 20,045 as 1,637 more people tested positive for the deadly virus during the last 24 hours. Twenty three corona patients, 21 of whom were under treatment in hospital and two out of hospital died on Monday, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). No COVID-19 affected person was on ventilator in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Gilgit Baltistan (GB) and Balochistan while 177 ventilators were occupied elsewhere in Pakistan, out of 1,855 ventilators allocated for COVID-19 patients. 31,904 tests were conducted across the country on Monday, including 12,343 in Sindh, 9,130 in Punjab, 4,037 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), 5,065 in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), 528 in Balochistan, 370 in GB, and 431 in AJK. Around 319,431 people have recovered from the disease so far across the country making it a significant count with over 90 percent recovery ratio of the affected patients. Since the pandemic outbreak, a total of 346,746 cases were detected so far, including AJK 4,830, Balochistan 16,152, GB 4,378, ICT 22,110, KP 40,843, Punjab 107,329 and Sindh 150,834. - APP



ISLAMABAD: A ceremony for November 10th, Commemoration Day of Atatürk was held at Turkish Embassy. The Turks commemorate Great Leader Atatürk with respect and gratitude. Ambassador of Turkey Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul laid floral wreath on the occasion. - DNA

## Pakistan could save \$5 bn by scaling up renewable energy

The Variable Renewable Energy (VRE) Integration and Planning Study finds that Pakistan needs to urgently implement a major expansion of solar and wind "variable renewable energy", to achieve a share of at least 30% of total capacity by 2030

DNA

ISLAMABAD: New World Bank study launched Tuesday suggests that a major scale-up of variant renewable energy (VRE) could help Pakistan save US\$5 billion in costs over the next 20 years, mainly from reduced fuel consumption. Pakistan should quickly implement a major scale-up of solar and wind generation, it added. The Variable Renewable Energy (VRE) Integration and Planning Study finds that Pakistan needs to urgently implement a major expansion of solar and wind "var-

iable renewable energy", to achieve a share of at least 30% of total capacity by 2030. This would help lower the cost of power, achieve greater energy security, and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. "A large and sustained expansion of solar photovoltaic and wind power, alongside hydropower and substantial investments in the grid, is both achievable and desirable", says Najib Benhassine, World Bank Country Director for Pakistan. "Such an initiative would lead to immediate and long-term economic and environmental benefits. It would

enhance security of supply as well as positioning Pakistan at the forefront of the global energy transition. We stand ready to support Pakistan in achieving the goal of affordable, reliable power for all by 2030". According to the study, many sources of fossil fuel generation are no longer competitive and should be retired or their use significantly reduced. This includes domestic and imported coal, which is not economical over the next 10 years compared to VRE and has the additional downsides of GHG emissions, air pollution, and use of scarce

water resources. The study, based on an hour-by-hour analysis of all generation options, finds that a substantial and immediate scaling up of VRE capacity represents a "least-cost" strategy for expanding capacity in Pakistan, including consideration of the costs of integrating the variable supply from solar and wind. AShort term reductions in demand growth—even a stagnation in demand as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic—does not impact this finding, and the country's energy policy needs to be considered over much longer time horizons. Even

allowing for the relatively short development and construction times associated with solar PV and wind projects, competitive bidding for new VRE capacity and associated investments in the transmission system should start immediately if Pakistan hopes to reap the cost, energy security, and environmental benefits outlined in the study. We understand that for achieving the renewable energy targets set through Alternative and Renewable Energy Policy 2019, we need to make sufficient investments in the transmission system, including modern automation and control

systems and a reliable forecasting system, says Dr. Khawaja Riffat Hassan, Managing Director, National Transmission & Despatch Company. We are convinced that with political commitment, investment in technical capacity and planning tools, and flexibility on the part of existing operators and investors, Pakistan is in a strong position to reap the benefits of greater reliance on our indigenous resources of solar and wind." Pakistan needs to avoid repeating the cycle of load shedding followed by emergency procurement and oversupply as it has been doing in the past.

## President for boosting ties with Kazakhstan

He said this while talking to Ambassador-designate to Kazakhstan Sajjad Ahmed Seehar

NIHAL MIRAZ

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi has emphasized on expanding bilateral cooperation with Kazakhstan in areas of mutual interest, including political, trade, cultural and defence fields. He said this while talking to Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to Kazakhstan Sajjad Ahmed Seehar, who called on him in Islamabad Tuesday. The President said that regional integration and connectivity were the key drivers of economic development and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

(CPEC), in this regard, offered tremendous opportunities to countries of the region. He stated that Kazakhstan could also benefit from CPEC as it played vital role in promoting regional connectivity. He asked the Ambassador to make endeavors to promote parliamentary and cultural exchanges between the two countries. The President congratulated the Ambassador on his appointment as Ambassador to Kazakhstan and expressed the hope that he would play active role in further promoting economic and political relations between Pakistan and Kazakhstan.

## Pak-Russia joint exercise DRUZHBA-V underway

RAWALPINDI: The special forces of Pakistan and the Russian Federation are actively engaged in joint counterterrorism exercise 'Druzhba V' in Tarbela, the military's media wing revealed in a Twitter update on Tuesday. Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) wrote that troops from both Pakistan and Russia are busy practising counterterrorism drills and procedures, adding that participants will also partake in rappelling and several other sports activities in addition to the military exercise. The ISPR also uploaded a video in which soldiers could be seen engaged in vigorous workout sessions. The Russian special forces had arrived in Pakistan on Thursday, November 5, for a two-week-long military training exercise aimed at sharing the experiences of both armies in the counterterrorism domain. - DNA

## Chinese anti-counterfeiting technology helps Pakistan

DNA

BEIJING: Chinese anti-counterfeiting technology helps Pakistan combat illicit trade, according to a report published by China Economic Net (CEN). Pakistani enterprises of diverse industries exhibited their products at the ongoing 3rd China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai. Among all the exhibits, a small anti-counterfeiting mark unfolds how close the Pak-Sino economic ties are. In Pakistan, tobacco use contributes to a significant number of early deaths, high healthcare costs and lost productivity. Increasing the unit price on tobacco products through taxes is the most effective tobacco prevention and control measure. However, illicit tobacco trade undermines high prices by providing tobacco users with cheaper-priced alternatives.

Therefore, applying tax stamps to tobacco products, which provides documentation that taxes have been paid, is an important tool to combat illicit trade. The 'Tax Paid' stamps now affixed to Pakistan's tobacco products uses the latest Chinese technology. Pakistan's Maalik Creative Engineers (Pvt.) Ltd has established cooperation with China's ASY Group to bring the world leading anti-counterfeiting technologies to Pakistan to support the country more effectively fight illicit trade. "We adopt engraving intaglio, the technology also used in making paper money, to this tax stamp. Micrographics, today's cutting-edge digital image reproduction technology, is also reflected in this stamp. Moreover, there is a QR code to trace it to the source via scanning with mobile phone." Liang Yuanhao, ASY Group President, talked about the ad-

vanced technologies behind the small tax stamp. Besides tax stamps, the Group is also designing anti-counterfeiting packaging for Pakistani products including skincare products as protecting brands against fraud is a global challenge across all industries. "Grey market activities and counterfeiting typically result in negative product performance, poor customer experience and sales fall, all of which can have a noteworthy impact on market value and ultimately damage the brand. We are offering protection for Pakistani brands against forgery," Liang said. The Chinese entrepreneur is planning to set a plant in Pakistan and transfer technology to help improve the country's anti-counterfeiting level. The availability of abundant manpower in Pakistan and lowered freight are major factors attracting investment from China.

## Briefing on national security postponed

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: A parliamentary meeting on national security, that was to be given a briefing by senior military officials, has been postponed. According to a tweet from the National Assembly's official Twitter account, the meeting of parliamentary leaders from the upper and lower house, to be chaired by NA Speaker Asad Qaiser, was scheduled for today. However, it has now been postponed, the tweet said. "The NA Secretariat has issued a notification to adjourn the meeting," it added.

The meeting was supposed to take place in Committee Room Number 2 at 2pm.

According to the NA's Twitter account, invitations were sent to PTT's Parliamentary leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi, PML-N's Khawaja Asif, PPP's Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, MMA's Asad Mahmood and PML-Q's Tariq Bashir Cheema. Furthermore, BNP-M's Akhtar Mengal, MQM's Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and BAP's Khalid Hussain Mangi had also been invited.

## Egypt's Imam to knock int'l courts over blasphemy

DNA

CAIRO: The grand imam of Egypt's Al-Azhar Mosque has vowed to take legal action against all those who insult Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). He asserted the same during a meeting with the French foreign minister on Sunday, media reported. Sheikh Ahmed Al-Tayyeb, the senior-most cleric at Al-Azhar and Egypt's highest Muslim authority, said he would take all those who utter disrespectful words against the Holy Prophet (PBUH) to international courts, adding that Muslims would make it a life-long mission. "We refuse to describe terrorism as Islam. Everyone should stop using that description immediately because it hurts the feelings of Muslims around the world, and it is a description that contradicts the truth that everyone knows," Al-Tayyeb said.

According to the report, French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian was on a visit to Egypt in a bid to ease tensions after anti-France protests erupted across the Muslim world following French President Emmanuel Macron's incendiary comments about Islam.

## NCOC issues fresh SOPs for marriage halls

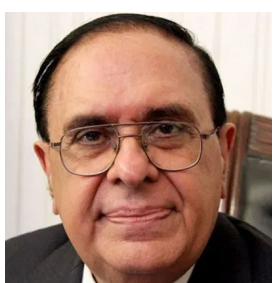
STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) on Tuesday issued revised standard operating procedures (SOPs) for marriage halls after the owners refused to accept previous restrictions amid fears of a second wave of COVID-19 pandemic. The NCOC issued a handout to provincial chief secretaries and health secretaries renewing guidelines for the marriage halls, to be enforced across 20 major cities of the country from November 20. As per the fresh SOPs, outdoor marriage activities would be allowed in 16 cities and upto 1000 guests could attend the ceremony. While the indoor and outdoor arrangements could be made for marriage ceremonies in four other cities. For indoor marriage ceremonies, only 300 guests would be allowed to attend the event at a time while 500 guests could attend the ceremony in an outdoor arrangement. The SOPs for the marriage halls for four cities would come into force from November 13. It is pertinent to mention here that the marriage hall owners on Saturday rejected the ban imposed on indoor gatherings at wedding halls by National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) from November 20. The wedding hall owners summoned a consultative meeting to devise a strategy following the govt order banning indoor weddings from the third week of the ongoing month.

## 'Pfizer vaccine not suitable for Pakistan'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Prime Minister's Taskforce on Science and Technology Dr Atta ur Rehman on Tuesday remarked that the Pfizer vaccine, being celebrated worldwide, is not suitable for Pakistan. "We should not think much about this vaccine, instead focus on other vaccines that are being developed and have seen similar results but haven't been announced with fanfare. They are working quietly," said Dr Rehman. Explaining his reasoning, the scientist said he was cautious because he believes that the vaccine has "five problems" to deal with right now. "The first problem is



that the FDA has not given the approval, the regulatory bodies have to approve and will take two months," said Dr Rehman. He added that the regulatory bodies will have to see the results first then allow the company to move on to the next stage of the vaccine finalisation process. The other problem that the scientist highlighted was that the vaccine needs to be kept at a temperature of -80 °C, which in

his view was a major problem for third world countries, including Pakistan. "The third biggest problem is that you do not know how many days it is effective," said Dr Rehman. He explained that right now there was no "evidence, or any result" that has been seen by Pfizer and BioNTech to determine its effectiveness. The other two problems shared by Dr Rehman was of large scale production which he feels would take a year to reach subject to the vaccine passing all the steps required. The last problem he shared was of the price of the vaccine. Dr Rehman, told a private channel, that 11 other vaccines, apart from the Pfizer one, are in phase 3 clinical trials.

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**Islamabad POST**  
11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza,  
G-8 Markaz, ISLAMABAD-PAKISAN  
Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165

