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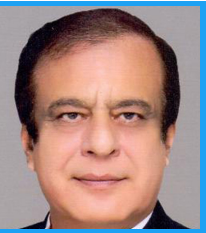
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Allama Iqbal had great affection with Germany: Envoy

China declines to acknowledge Biden's victory

Looters of wealth should be ashamed



Briefs

PM to attend SCO video conference

ANSAR M BHATTI
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan will attend 20th Shanghai Cooperation Organization Council of Heads of State video conference today. The invitation to attend was extended by Russian President Vladimir Putin, who would chair the Meeting. Besides the UN Secretary General and the Secretary General of SCO, Leaders from all eight SCO Member States and four Observer States will attend the conference. The conference will adopt 16 documents including Moscow Declaration reflecting member states' stance on important regional and international issues.

Looters should be ashamed

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz Monday said those, who had looted the public wealth and fled, should be ashamed of their misdeeds. Reacting to a statement of Sindh Information Minister Sindh Nasir Shah, the minister, in a statement, said it was pride of Faraz Ahmad Faraz to point out names of thieves and looters. No flattering poems could be written for the thieves, he added. Instead of launching personal attacks, Shibli Faraz said, "The Sindh government's spokesman should tell about bad governance in the province and about the issues being faced by the people." - APP

PM opposed GB provincial status

DNA
NAGAR: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhatti Zardari on Monday claimed Prime Minister Imran Khan had opposed providing Gilgit-Baltistan status of a province at "every step". "Now at the time of election they [PTI] say they are thinking of giving a provincial status [to GB]," said Bilawal while addressing a public gathering in Nagar. He wondered that Imran Khan was thinking like that then why was it not in the PTI's manifesto.

'Pfizer corona vaccine over 90% effective'

Russia also claims to have manufactured COVID-19 vaccines, which are more effective than the one introduced by Pfizer

NEWS DESK / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Large-scale trials of a coronavirus vaccine candidate produced by Pfizer/BioNTech have revealed that it is 90% effective, said the manufacturer in a statement. In what is being touted as possibly the biggest news regarding the virus ever since it originated, the vaccine's effectiveness can mean in can hit the markets for treatment by the year's end in some countries of the world. The study shows that people who received two doses as part of the trial saw 90% fewer symptomatic cases of Covid-19 than participants who were given a placebo. "Today is a great day for science and humanity. The first set of results from our phase 3 Covid-19 vaccine trial provides the initial evidence of our vaccine's ability to prevent Covid-19," said Dr Albert Bourla, the Pfizer chairman and chief executive. The study focused on 94 participants out of a total number of 43,000 people. *Continued on Page 06*

Global tally reaches 50m

ISLAMABAD: October proved to be the worst month for the COVID-19 pandemic with over 10 million new infections reported across the globe in just 21 days. Global coronavirus infections exceeded 50 million on Sunday, according to a Reuters tally, with a second wave of the virus in the past 30 days accounting for a quarter of the total. The United States became the first country to report more than 100,000 daily cases while a surge in Europe contributed to the rise in world cases. The latest seven-day average shows global daily infections are rising by more than 540,000. The pandemic's recent acceleration has been ferocious. It took 32 days for the number of cases to rise from 30 million to 40 million. It took just 21 days to add another 10 million. - Agencies

China declines to admit Biden victory

While Biden is expected to maintain a tough stance on China - he has called President Xi Jinping a "thug"

BEIJING: China declined Monday to congratulate Joe Biden as the winner of the US presidential election, saying the outcome of the vote was still to be determined. Democrat Biden clinched enough states to win the presidency but incumbent President Donald Trump has not conceded and is making legal challenges to the outcome of the November 3 election. "We noticed that Biden has declared election victory," foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a daily media briefing. "We understand that the US presidential election result will be determined following US law and procedures." After declining to acknowledge Biden's victory despite repeated questions from reporters, Wang said: "We hope the new US government can meet China halfway." In 2016, Xi sent congratulations to Trump on November 9, a day after the election. Relations between China - among a handful of major countries including Russia and Mexico that has not congratulated Biden - and the United States are at their worst in decades over disputes ranging from technology and trade to Hong Kong and the coronavirus, and the Trump administration has unleashed a barrage of sanctions against Beijing. While Biden is expected to maintain a tough stance on China - he has called President Xi Jinping a "thug" and vowed to lead a campaign to "pressure, isolate and punish China" - he is likely to take a more measured and multilateral approach. "We always believe that China and the United States should enhance communication and dialogue, manage differences on the basis of mutual respect, expand cooperation on the basis of mutual benefit and promote sound and stable development of bilateral relations," Wang told the briefing. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Tarek Dahrough, Ambassador of Egypt called on Leader of the House Senator Dr Shahzad Waseem. Wide range of issues were discussed during the meeting. - DNA



RAWALPINDI: Incoming Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa. - DNA

Chinese envoy meets COAS

ABID RAZA

RAWALPINDI: Incoming Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa at General Headquarters, here on Monday. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest including regional security issues, were discussed, said the ISPR DG Major General Babar Iftikhar in a tweet. The two noted the exceptional mutual relations between both countries and pledged to further improve the same, it added. The Chinese Ambassador acknowledged and appreciated Pakistan's contributions for conflict prevention in the region.

Capt Safdar, Kaira test positive



DNA

GILGIT: PML-N Youth Wing President retired Captain Mohammad Safdar and PPP leader Qamar Zaman Kaira have tested positive for the coronavirus while campaigning for their parties in Gilgit-Baltistan, it emerged on Monday. PML-N Youth Wing spokesman Ali Khan Yusufzai said Safdar had complained of flu and fever while campaigning in Skardu. He returned to Islamabad with his wife, PML-N vice president Marayam Nawaz, on Saturday after which he was tested for the virus. Thereafter, Safdar flew to Lahore on Sunday night and was admitted to the Sharif Medical City Hospital on the advice of doctors, Yusufzai said, adding that Safdar's condition is satisfactory. Meanwhile, PPP leader and former information minister, Qamar Zaman Kaira, also tested positive for coronavirus, Sindh Information Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah confirmed in a tweet.

Pak hails reopening of Kartarpur corridor

The corridor was temporarily closed on March 16, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic

NAVEED MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday said as it had reopened the Kartarpur Corridor on June 29, 2020 with COVID related necessary health safety protocols, India had yet to reopen the corridor from its side and allow Sikh pilgrims to visit Kartarpur Saheb. "The corridor was temporarily closed on March 16, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic," the Foreign Office said in a statement issued here on the occasion of first anniversary of the historic opening of the Kartarpur Corridor.

The corridor, inaugurated on November 9, 2019 by Prime Minister Imran Khan on the eve of the 550th birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak, fulfilled the long-awaited desire of Sikh community from all over the world, it added. As the religious places started gradually opening up around the world, Pakistan also reopened the corridor on June 29, 2020 with COVID related necessary health safety protocols, the FO mentioned. "India has yet to reopen the corridor from its side and allow the Sikh pilgrims to visit Kartarpur Saheb," it added. Kartarpur has a special significance in the Sikh religion, as the first Guru of Sikhism, Baba Guru Nanak Saheb, had spent the last years of his life there. The Kartarpur Corridor, also known as the 'Peace Corridor', was a true symbol of interfaith harmony and religious unity, the FO said. Sikh as well as the international community, including United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres, who while visiting Kartarpur described it as the 'Corridor of Hope' immensely appreciated the landmark initiative of Pakistan, it added.

Allama Iqbal had great affection with Germany

DNA

The best way to pay tributes to Allama Iqbal was to understand his message

ISLAMABAD: German Ambassador Bernhard Schlagheck on Monday said Pakistan's national poet Allama Muhammad Iqbal had a great affection with Germany and its culture. Paying homage to Allama Iqbal on his 143rd birth anniversary, the ambassador said Iqbal had a life long affection with the German writers, poets and culture, as among his wonderful books and writings "Eastern and Western Dewaan" was considered to be his master piece by the Germans. Ambassador Bernhard Schlagheck said Allama Iqbal had studied in Germany and keeping in view



his strong affection with Germany and its culture, a road (Iqbal-Ufer) had been named after him in the country. Acknowledging his services that he had rendered in the fields of literature and philosophy, he said, "Muhammad Iqbal roughly around century later responded to the German poetry and its poets with his master piece writing-the 'Message of East'." The envoy said, "There was a kind of ongoing dialogue between these two important thoughts of poets. "I am very grateful for their inspiration in my life and a wonderful opportunity to see, how different cultures have different approaches for solution of societal problems."

Iqbal day observed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The 143rd birth anniversary of Philosopher poet, Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal was being observed with national zeal and fervor on Monday. Various literary, political, social and cultural organizations had arranged special programmes to pay homage to the national poet and to highlight his life and thoughts. The investiture ceremony of change of guard was held at mausoleum of Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal in Lahore on Monday. A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Navy assumed the responsibility of guard from Pakistan Rangers. Station Commander of Pakistan Navy Commodore Naimat-ullah Khan was chief guest on this occasion who laid floral wreath at the mausoleum and offered prayer.

Melania to divorce Trump?



DNA

WASHINGTON: Melania Trump is "counting every minute" to divorce her husband, American president Donald Trump, following his defeat in the US Election 2020, according to a report in Daily Mail, which cited a former aide to the First Lady. "Fellow ex-aide Omarosa Manigault Newman claimed the couple's 15-year marriage was over, adding, 'Melania is counting every minute until he is out of the office and she can divorce,'" the report said. The former aides' claims have sent shockwaves across the US media, as Americans celebrating Trump being voted out more than Biden being voted in.

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NCOC warns of rapidly increasing Covid19 ratio

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: As the second wave of the novel coronavirus has gripped Pakistan, the nerve centre of the nation's fight against the global pandemic has warned that Covid-19 test positivity ratio is "rapidly increasing" in major urban centres of the country. Of the 33,340 lab tests conducted on November 8 across the country, 1,650 came out positive, according to the daily updates released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), which is overseeing the country's battle against the contagion. The deadly virus claimed nine lives during the last 24 hours, taking the nation-

wide death toll to 6,976. Of them, 2,684 died in Sindh; 2,408 in Punjab; 1,288 in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa; 241 in Islamabad Capital Territory; 154 in Balochistan; 93 in Gilgit-Baltistan; and 109 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Globally, the mysterious microbe has infected 50,815,027 people - 1,263,111 of them fatally - in almost every continent except Antarctica. The United States has the most Covid infections (10,288,480), followed by India with 8,555,109, Brazil 5,664,115, and Russia 1,796,132. In its daily meeting convened in Islamabad on Monday, the NCOC was informed that the overall nationwide Covid test positivity ratio is 4.5%. "Positivity ratio in major cities increases

Pakistan reports 1,650 cases in one day

KHAYYAM ABBASI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday has reported 9 deaths in last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 344,839. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 6,977. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 1,650 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 150,169 coronavirus cases have been confirmed in Sindh, 106,922 in Punjab, 40,657 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 21,861 in Islamabad, 16,106 in Balochistan, 4,758 in Azad Kashmir and 4,366 in Gilgit-Baltistan. Furthermore 2,684 individuals have lost their lives to the epidemic in Sindh, 2,408 in Punjab, 1,288 in KP, 154 in Balochistan, 241 in Islamabad, 93 in GB and 109 in Azad Kashmir.

ing rapidly," it added. Giving the breakdown, the forum noted that 15 major cities have high positivity ratio with Hyderabad being at the top with 16.59% positivity ratio, followed by Gilgit with 15.38%, Multan 15.97%, Muzaffarabad 14.12%, Mirpur 11.11%, Peshawar 9.69%, Quetta 8.03%, Islamabad 7.48%, Karachi 7.12%, Lahore 5.37% and Rawalpindi 4.63%. The forum was informed that currently 4,136 micro-small lockdowns are in place across Pakistan. The Test-Trace-Quarantine (TTQ) strategy is being used for control and prevention of Covid-19 spread. The fresh health guidelines will remain in force in 16 major cities until Jan 31, 2021. The NCOC was apprised that 2,811 "oxygenated

beds" were included to ramp up capacity of state-run hospitals and over 13,000 oxygen cylinders were issued to the federating units. The forum appreciated the efforts of the provincial governments for taking prompt and necessary measures in line with the health guidelines for public safety and wellbeing. According to the NCOC stats, there were 18,981 active Covid-19 infections as of November 9. In all, 344,839 Covid infections had been detected in Pakistan since February 26, 2020 - 4,758 in AJK, 16,106 in Balochistan, 4,366 in G-B, 21,861 in ICT, 40,657 in KP, 106,922 in Punjab, and 150,169 in Sindh. As many as 318,881 patients have recovered thus far.

Briefs

Rangers
arrests most
wanted street
criminal

DNA

KARACHI: The Pakistan Rangers Sindh along with Sindh Police apprehended a most wanted accused involved in street crimes and robberies. According to a news release on Monday, accused Abid Ali Sheedi alias Dadda was arrested with the help of CCTV footage in which the accused can be clearly identified looting citizen along with his other accomplice in Azam Basti, Manzoor Colony. During initial interrogation Abid confessed his involvement in number of street crimes he committed in different parts of the megalopolis. Raids are being conducted to arrest his other accomplices. He has been handed over to police for further legal proceedings.

3-member UN
delegation
visits PSCA

LAHORE: A three-member delegation of UN Department of Safety and Security visited Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) here on Monday. PSCA chief operating officer (COO) Kamran Khan briefed the delegation regarding the provision of electronic data evidence and footage to various LEAs in addition to investigative wings of Police. The delegation evinced keen interest in the modern policing system and said that Lahore's rating in the world crime index had improved a lot due to Punjab Safe Cities Authority as the project proved to be a game-changer in the science of policing in Pakistan. The delegates said PSCA project clearly improved Lahore's safety index as per international standards, adding the Authority was taking excellent steps to make Punjab a safer and smart province. The PSCA was an essential to project for law enforcement and traffic management, the delegates said and added the project had significantly improved the flow of traffic and the implementation of laws in the city. Earlier, the delegation was led to various sections of the authority. The delegates expressed satisfaction over the authority's capability to record and produce geo-positioning data and tagging of vehicles within the metropolis by the virtue of ANPR technology and a geo-strategic grid of capacitated CCTV cameras. The visit concluded with the presentation of souvenir shields to the delegates. — APP

Govt decides
to impose
smart
lockdown

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has said that keeping in view the increasing coronavirus cases and for the wider public interest, it has been decided to impose smart lockdown in the affected areas. In a statement on Monday, he said wearing a mask has been declared compulsory. Directions have been issued for the strict implementation of wearing the mask in the markets and bazaars. The Chief Minister said that all necessary steps would be taken to protect the lives of the people of the province. Directions have been issued to the administration and the police for controlling the second wave of corona, he added. He said that the lives of the citizens were most important for the government and no negligence would be tolerated in this regard. The CM said that the number of active corona patients of corona in Punjab has reached 6876, moreover, 345 confirm coronavirus patients have been reported whereas one patient has died during the last 24 hours. As many as 9406 corona diagnostic tests have been conducted which take the number of test to 1680320 in Punjab. As many as 97638 corona patients out of 106922 have recovered while 2408 corona patients have died in Punjab. — APP

PRCS on high alert to deal with
Covid-19 second wave: Abrar

At present, 16 Covid-19 patients are admitted to the Red Crescent Corona Care Hospital (RCCH), out of which 10 are men while six are women. It may be mentioned here that the inflow of coronavirus-affected patients in the RCCH has considerably grown in the recent weeks

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society is on high alert to help tackle the second wave of Covid-19 and is taking all possible steps to augment the government's efforts to fight off the pandemic, said Chairman PRCS Abrar ul Haq during his visit to the hospital. Secretary General PRCS Khalid bin Majeed and officers concerned accompanied him. Abrar ul Haq said all departments of the state-of-the-art medical facility were fully functional and that the medical and paramedical staff was doing its best to treat the patients. At present, 16 Covid-19 patients are admitted to the Red Crescent Corona Care Hospital (RCCH), out of which 10 are men while six are women. It may be mentioned here that the inflow of coronavirus-affected patients in the RCCH has considerably grown in the recent weeks. Talking to reporters on the occasion, he said besides free-of-cost treatment facilities, psychosocial support was also being provided to the patients currently admitted to the RCCH. Abrar ul Haq said the PRCS had taken plenty of initiatives to contain coronavirus as well as to educate the masses about how to avoid contracting the infection since the outbreak early this year.



Secretary General Khalid bin Majeed said the RCCH Medical Superintendent Dr Saim and his team were working day and night to take care of the patients. He said it was due to the team's indefatigable efforts that dozens of corona patients who were almost dead when brought to the hospital recuperated and walked back home fully recovered.

He said the PRCS was in regular contact with the local administration and coordinated steps were being taken to contain the resurgence of the disease. Abrar ul Haq said among some larger-than-life initiatives taken by the PRCS were the launch of Corona Muhafiz Response Campaign, Agahi Helpline and establishment of Red Crescent Corona

Care Hospital in Rawalpindi. He said as the coronavirus continued to wreak havoc across the country with number of cases rising exponentially amid the second wave, the efforts of PRCS to help the vulnerable and save maximum lives will continue with utmost commitment and unflinching resolve until the monster was

completely defeated. He also warned that according to medical experts, the second wave of Covid-19 could be more lethal and hence the masses needed to strictly adhere to safety guidelines and the standard operation procedures as recommended by the government. "Care is the best cure for this disease," he added.

'Industrial
growth among
top priorities
of PM'

KARACHI: Governor Sindh Imran Ismail has said that enhancing industrial production was in top priorities of Prime Minister Imran Khan and recent packages for Industries was a proof of his vision for industrial growth. This he said while talking with a delegation of Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) at the Governor's House here on Monday. The delegation was led by patron of KATI S. M Muneer while other members of the delegation included newly elected president of KATI Saleem-uz-Zaman, Senator Abdul Haseeb Khan, Mohammad Zuabir Chaya, Zaki Ahmed Sharif, Ehtisham Uddin, Danish Khan and Zahid Saeed. The delegation members thanked Prime Minister Imran Khan for announcing package for industries and said that end of peak hour tariff is a welcome step. 50 percent and 25 percent rates on use of additional electricity for small and big industries respectively would accelerate industrial development in the province, they added. They also thanked Governor Sindh for his keen interest in resolving the issues of industrial areas. They recommended constitution of separate industrial chamber to represent specially the export based industries. — DNA

CM Punjab visits Iqbal's
mausoleum, offers Fateha

DNA

LAHORE: Chief Minister of Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar on Monday laid a wreath on the grave of Allama Muhammad Iqbal at

Hazoori Bagh and offered Fateha on birth anniversary of national poet. On the occasion, Usman Buzdar said that Allama Iqbal promoted peace and brotherhood through his poetry and one can achieve success by

following values of the national poet. While praising incumbent Prime Minister, CM Punjab said that Imran Khan is a ray of hope for Pakistan. Foundations of Pakistan were laid on principles of justice, rule of law and

empathy and PM Imran is working for Naya Pakistan according to these values of Iqbal. The 143rd birth anniversary of Philosopher poet, Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal was observed with national zeal and fervor on Monday. Earlier, the investiture ceremony of change of guard was held at mausoleum of Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal in Lahore on Monday. A contingent of Pakistan Navy assumed the responsibility of guard from Pakistan Rangers. Station Commander of Pakistan Navy Commodore Naimat-ullah Khan was chief guest on this occasion who laid floral wreath at the mausoleum and offered prayer. He also penned down his comments in Visitors' book and paid tribute to national poet.

'Maryam
spitting venom
against govt'

DNA

LAHORE: Special Assistant to Chief Minister Punjab, Firdous Ashiq Awan on Monday said that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) vice president Maryam Nawaz is spitting venom against the incumbent government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). In a statement, the special assistant has advised the PML-N leader to change her attitude so that no one will be able to criticize her. We are standing with national dignity and pride for the betterment of the country, she said. Earlier, Firdous Ashiq Awan said that unlike previous governments, the Usman Buzdar administration believes in actually serving the public, not hollow claims and lip-service. She said the real change is that backward districts are being developed under our government.

BBoIT to
organize
Webinar

DNA

QUETTA: Balochistan Board of Investment and Trade (BBoIT)'s Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Farman Zarkoon Monday said BBoIT is launching a series of successful webinars to highlight investment opportunities in Balochistan. In a statement, he said in this context, a webinar for Australian investors would be held from November 11, in which Pakistan High Commissioner to Australia Babar Amin, Consul General in Melbourne, Sardar Adnan Rashid, Consul General in Sydney Muhammad Ashraf and representatives of Australian investors and business community will participate. Balochistan Board of Investment and Trade, CEO Zarkoon will give a detailed briefing to the participants on the investment opportunities of Balochistan, the incentives and facilities provided by the Balochistan government, he said. He said BBoIT had organized successful webinars for investors from China, Turkey, USA, African countries, Japan, and other countries which results have been very positive and a large number of investors and the business community have expressed interest in investing in various sectors of Balochistan and so far we have received several offers on which work is underway. He said several steps are being taken to promote trade relations and attract Australian investors to Balochistan. — APP

Navy assumes guard
duties at Allama
Iqbal mausoleum

DNA

LAHORE: An impressive Change of Guards Ceremony was held at Mausoleum of Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal as the nation celebrates 143rd birth anniversary of National Poet, who with vision of independent state inspired the creation of Pakistan. A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Navy clad in immaculate whites, assumed ceremonial guard duties with traditional spirit and enthusiasm. Meanwhile, the outgoing Rangers ceremoniously moved out of the Mazar lead by their Officer-

in-Charge. Both the outgoing incoming Guards of Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Rangers were inspected by Station Commander (Navy) Lahore, Commodore Muhammad Neimatullah. The ceremonial Guard mounting was followed by floral wreath laying at the Mazar of National Poet by Station Commander (Navy) on behalf of Chief of the Naval Staff, Officers, Sailors and Civilians of Pakistan Navy. Later on, Station Commander offered Fateha and recorded his impressions in the Visitor's Book. The ceremony was observed by military & civil officials, school children and general public.

Welfare of martyrs'
families among
top priorities: IGP

LAHORE: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Inam Ghani said on Monday the honour and dignity of police department was due to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the protection of people so that welfare of the force was one of his top priorities. He directed all RPOs and DPOs to take personal interest in resolving the issues of martyrs' families in their respective regions and districts. He said the constabulary was the face of the police department which represented the police department in its words, deeds and conduct while performing duties at offices, police stations, highways or other points across the province. Their

performance could be further enhanced by resolving their financial, administrative and personal issues as soon as possible so that the Sipah can discharge its duties with full attention, dedication and determination, the IGP maintained. He expressed these views during a meeting with regarding welfare of police officials/officers at Central Police Office. During the meeting, the IG Punjab was briefed that as per his policy, practical steps were being taken on priority basis with regard to the welfare of police personnel so that problems of the police force related to departmental matters could be resolved without any delay. — APP

AJK PM questions global
silence over Indian atrocities

He said the world's biggest terrorist Indian Army is violating basic human rights in occupied Kashmir and there is no area of Occupied Kashmir where the youth are not at the place of burial

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Azad Jammu Prime Minister Raja Mohammad Farooq Haider Khan has said that the International Community have been the silent spectator over the gruesome human rights violations committed by the Indian forces to crush the indigenous freedom struggle launched by the people of Indian Occupied Kashmir. The Prime Minister has urged International Community to come forward and play their role in

solving the longstanding Kashmir dispute rather than preferring trade. In his statement the Premier said the history will never forgive to those who remain silent on the horrific atrocities of human history in occupied Kashmir. He said the world's biggest terrorist Indian Army is violating basic human rights in occupied Kashmir and there is no area of Occupied Kashmir where the youth are not at the place of burial. The Prime Minister also shared the pictures of atrocities of the occupying Indian forces in

IOK. Prime Minister has said that the people of Occupied Kashmir also love humanity and they want the international community to take practical measures instead of statements. He said that coward Indian Army is targeting civilians from across the line of control, many innocent children living on the LOC embraced martyrdom due to Indian firing. He said that Indian Army is engaged in serious human rights violations in IOK and urged the United Nations and other

International Human Rights organizations and institutions to take stock of Indian aggression in Occupied Kashmir. The Prime Minister said the Kashmiris have been rendering matchless sacrifices for attaining their right to self determination as well as in the love of Pakistan and added that Pakistani nation stands with Kashmiri people. He said the time has come that Kashmir Issue should be resolved in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of Kashmiri people.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Shah Farman talking to newly appointed Consul General of Iran in Peshawar Mr. Hamid Raza Ghomi, who called on him at Governor's House. — DNA

DC pays homage
to Allama Iqbal

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Acquisition of knowledge and continuity of practice are the basic ideas of Allama Iqbal, the thinker of Pakistan, on which development and prosperity is possible only by working tirelessly. This was stated by Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali as the chief guest at a function organized by Nazariya Pakistan Forum at Nazariya Pakistan Hall on the eve of Iqbal Day. President Nazariya Pakistan Forum Mian Abdul Waheed, General Secretary Arshad Qasmi, Sahibzada Zahid Mahmood Qasmi, Maulana Riaz Kharal, Dr Iftikhar Naqvi, Haji Muhammad Abid, Prof. Riaz Ahmad Qadri, Mian Rifat Qadri, Prof. Rana Munawar, a large number of teachers and students were present on the occasion of Iqbal Day. The Deputy Commissioner said that on the occasion of Iqbal Day, the country de-

veloped rapidly by making philosophy its leader. This is Iqbal's dream which has to be fulfilled through hard work day and night. He said that every poem of Allama Iqbal highlights his intellectual and constructive quest and Fiqr Iqbal is there to guide us but it is necessary. It is a matter of sincerely adopting the thoughts of Allama Iqbal. He said that Allama Iqbal was a great benefactor of the Muslims of the subcontinent who dreamed of a separate homeland for the Muslims and later his dream was came true. Sahibzada Zahid Mahmood Qasmi said that Iqbal is the bearer of the universal message of Islam. He said that the essence of Iqbal is the message of Iqbal. He said that unity of Muslims is in the message of Iqbal. President Ideology Pakistan Forum said that the purpose of celebrating Iqbal day is to acquaint the new generation with Iqbal's message.

Briefs

RCB held seven truckloads goods

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) has confiscated seven truckloads goods from different markets under its campaign against encroachments. According to RCB Enforcement Wing Incharge, the anti-encroachment operation on the special instructions of Cantonment Executive Officer (CEO) was being conducted on daily basis. He said, the grand clean-up operation against encroachments had further been accelerated. He said, encroachments were removed from Tench Bhatta, Peoples Colony, Bakra Mandi Road, Chor Chowk and Allahabad and seven truckloads goods were confiscated while enforcement teams also removed illegal banners from different areas. The vendors found selling their products while displaying on footpaths and different roads were imposed fines with warnings, he said adding, the encroachments both temporary and permanent were being removed.

ICT farmers get subsidized wheat inputs

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) agriculture department Monday distributed wheat inputs among the local farmers at subsidized rates to boost wheat crop in the federal capital. As many as 45 farmers received wheat seed, certified by National Agricultural Research Centre, fertilizers including diammonium phosphate (DAP), urea and pesticides under the Prime Minister's agriculture initiative.

The initiative was aimed at facilitating and encouraging the small farmers for growing more and more wheat crop, Director Agriculture, ICT, Waqar Anwar told APP. He said the scheme would not only overcome wheat shortage in the country, but eventually help bringing down flour price in coming year. Anwar said wheat inputs have been provided at 50 per cent subsidized rates (50% farmer share and 50% govt share) among wheat farmers for 2 acres land. Each farmer has been given two bags of 50 Kilograms of wheat seed, three bags of urea, three bags of DAP, two packs of pesticides and micronutrients each. - APP

Plastic imports increase 11.55%

ISLAMABAD: The imports of plastic materials into the country has witnessed an increase of 11.55 percent during the first three months of current financial year 2020-21, as compared to the imports of last year. Pakistan imported plastic materials of worth US \$ 518.914 million during July-September (2020-21) as compared to the imports of US \$465.184 million during July-September (2019-20), showing growth of 11.55 percent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. In terms of quantity, Pakistan imported 512,374 metric tons of plastic materials during the period under review as compared to the imports of 345,772 metric tons during corresponding period of last year, showing increase of 48.18 percent in terms of quantity. Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the import of plastic materials also rose by 28.42 percent in September 2020, as compared to the imports of the same month of last year. The plastic imports during September 2020 were recorded at US \$188.431million against the imports of US \$146.735 million in September 2019. On month-on-month basis, the plastic materials imports witnessed grew of 21.82 percent during September 2020 as compared to the imports of \$154.684 million in August 2020, the PBS data revealed. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Chairman New Pakistan Housing Development Authority Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Anwar Ali Haider inaugurating the first fabricated house built by a Korean company. - DNA

Pre-fabricated house in Pakistan inaugurated

Speaking on the occasion, the Chairman said that provision of low-cost houses to the people of low and middle classes were government top priority

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Naya Pakistan Housing Development Authority (NAPHDA) Lt Gen (R) Anwar Ali Haider inaugurated the 1st Pre-Fabricated House in Pakistan here Monday. G-Songuo, in association with Naya Pakistan Housing Development Authority has completed the construction of state of the art modular model house in Islamabad. Speaking on the occasion, the Chairman said that provision of

low-cost houses to the people of low and middle classes were government top priority. The government would provide all out facilities to the builders and other stakeholders to materialize the dream of Prime Minister for provision of accommodation to the poor and middle classes at affordable rate, he said. Briefing the Chairman, the company representative said that the fully furnished single story two bedrooms house was constructed

within seven days. Among many other features, these houses had a lifespan of 50 years, he said. He said G-Songuo's composite insulation wall used in the construction, has 43 times better than traditional brick wall thus making the house more comfortable with significantly reduced utility bills, he explained. He said these houses were also earthquake and fire resistant. G-Songuo could construct one to four story houses and apartment

buildings, he said. He said G-Songuo was keen to start its operation in Pakistan and was also interested to bring its production and technology customization. This would not only fetch foreign investment with transfer of a state of the art technology but also help create job opportunities in high-tech construction and allied sectors, he said. The Korean company representative said that G-Songuo was

highly interested to facilitate PM Imran Khan's vision for 5 million housing by building 18,000 houses and apartments per year with a single production facility. The production numbers could be increased with further production facilities, he said. Later, the Chairman inspected the House. Deputy Chairman NAPHDA Maj Gen (R) Amir Aslam Khan and other senior officials were also present on the occasion. - APP

World Science Day is being marked today

The World Science Day for Peace and Development, celebrated every year on Nov 10, was established by UNESCO in 2001

ISLAMABAD: The World Science Day for Peace and Development is being celebrated today across the country with a number of activities mostly virtual due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Different public and private organizations, educational institutions, science and research based departments will arrange webinars, discussion programmes, competitions and seminars to highlight the importance of scientific knowledge for combating the current challenges. The convening power of the World Science Day provides us with an opportunity to share good practices and provide guidance to improve the inter-linkages between science and society to resolve global challenges such as the current pandemic. The mega event, to mark the day, will be organized at COMSTECH under this year's theme "Science

for and with Society". The event will be organized by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in collaboration with Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), Organization of Islamic Cooperation Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH), Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECOSF), Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) and Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS). Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Chaudhry Fawad Hussain will be the chief guest on the occasion while renowned Scientist, Dr Atta-ur-Rahman will deliver key note address virtually on the topic "Enhancing national capacities for evidence-based policy making". President, Pakistan Acad-

emy of Sciences (PAS), Dr Qasim Jan will speak on key issues concerning people-nature interactions, including some references to nature based-solutions for sustainable development with an emphasis on biodiversity and water issues. Chairman ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), Dr Manzoor Soomro, will speak on improving dialogue among scientists, government and citizen in view of combating global challenges. UNESCO Representative, Patricia McPhillips would highlight the importance of "Sharing in-time knowledge and data" to facilitate greater and timely access to scientific research across the world. Rector COMSATS University Islamabad, Dr Junaid Zaidi will share his views on Strengthening international scientific cooperation to facilitate progress. - APP

AIOU team laid floral wreath on Iqbal's grave

ISLAMABAD: A team of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) visited the tomb of Allama Muhammad Iqbal and laid a floral wreath on the grave national poet and offered Fateha. The team was comprised of members of both Academic Staff Association (ASA) and Employees Welfare Association (EWA) and headed by Zia Baloch, General Secretary of ASA, a press release on Monday said. Professor Zia Ul-Qayyum, Vice Chancellor of AIOU in his message on the occasion of 143rd birth anniversary of great poet and philosopher has said that "AIOU is named after the national poet Allama Iqbal, and the university is making all out efforts to promote his vision and thoughts through academic pursuits". He said that dissemination of the message of "Khudi" of the great philosopher among the new generation for nation-building, national unity, and national integrity is hope of the hour. - APP

"Youth Engagement Night" to be held

ISLAMABAD: National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) will hold "Youth Engagement Night" on November 10 at "Annual Lok Mela". The night aims to promote traditional skills, inculcate awareness among younger generation about the indigenous folk heritage of Pakistan and above all, to create a spirit of peace and unity, strengthen and re-enforce national harmony and integration through a cultural perspective. The main features will include congregation of youth, youth artisans-at-work, live folk musical and folk dance performances by young folk artists, folk musicians and folk dancers, craft bazaar, traditional cuisine of all provinces, etc. The night will present popular national songs, Kalam-e-Iqbal, mystic songs, folk songs and folk dancers, all presented by young artists and folk musicians attired in coloured traditional costumes, an official said on Monday. He said that The ceremony will present popular 'milli naghmas', 'Kalam-e-Iqbal', live folk musical and folk dance performances by young folk artists, folk musicians and folk dancers. - APP

PNCA to hold "Sindhi Cultural Night"

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) will hold "Sindhi Cultural Night" to celebrate the culture of Sindh on November 13. In collaboration with Shah Abdul Latif Social & Cultural Association (ASCA) master artisans, folk artists, rural musicians, instrumentalists and folk dance groups would be participating to exhibit their cultural heritage. Sindhi Musical night will feature eminent folk singers to enthrall the audience with their melodious performances, an official said on Monday. He said that special Sindhi dances has been prepared captivate the audience with commendable performances. Strict SOPs would be followed including social distancing, mask and hand sanitizers. - APP

Folk singers enthrall audience at Lok Mela

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Council of the Arts arranged a Folk Musical Night at Lok Virsa as part of its ongoing Lok Mela. According to Rawalpindi Arts Council, Deputy Director, Member Punjab Assembly, Farah Agha was the chief guest at the programme while Executive Director Lok Virsa, Talha Ali Khan, and Director PUCAR Waqar Ahmed were present on the occasion. Senior Artist Masood Khawaja and Lubna Shahzadi were among the host of the musical night arranged on Sunday. Famous folk singers and musicians including Afshan Zebi, Qurban Ali Niazi, Bashir Lohar, Rizwana Khan, Shoukat Dholi, Sain Muhammad Aslam, Sain Riaz, Sain Iqbal, Versatile Dance Group and Sami Lok dance party performed at the Punjab musical night. The singers got a huge applause for their performances. Farah Agha visited the Punjab pavilion and appreciated the work of the master artisans. She said that Pakistani handicrafts were well known across the world. The demand of handmade items of the country is increasing day by day. The government is trying to introduce artisans at international level, she added. - APP

Rupee advances to Rs 158.91 against dollar

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The exchange rate of Pakistani rupee strengthened by 18 paise against US dollar in the interbank trading on Monday and closed at Rs158.91 against the previous day's closing of Rs159.09. Meanwhile, according to Forex Association of Pakistan, the buying and selling rates of dollar in the open market were recorded at Rs158.9 and Rs159.85 respectively. In interbank trading, the price of euro appreciated by 26 paise and closed at Rs188.70 against the last day's trading of Rs188.44, State Bank of Pakistan reported. The Japanese Yen remained unchanged to close at Rs1.53, whereas an increase of 03 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of British Pound which was traded at Rs 209.03 as compared to its last closing of Rs 209.00. The exchange rates of Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal declined by 05 paise and 04 paise respectively to close at Rs 43.26 and Rs 42.37 respectively.

Authorities urged to ease traffic congestion

RAWALPINDI: The citizens have urged the authorities concerned to take solid steps to solve the problem of traffic jams on the city roads. They called on the authorities concerned to outline a plan to solve traffic congestion in the city as frequent traffic jams on roads, including the road from Center Hospital to Marrich Chowk, Benazir Bhutto Road, Raja Bazar Road, Bank Road, Kutchery Chowk, Saidpur Road, Pirwadhai Road, Tench Bhatta Road, Chungi Road and Murree Road create problems for them. The motorists said that they have to face inconvenience when they reach late at their destinations as traffic is not being regulated properly by the traffic wardens on several roads. Talking about traffic jam in the city, people belonging to different walks of life said several city roads have very much importance for the citizens of Rawalpindi but due to traffic jam which has become a routine matter on these roads, the citizens are suffering great. "Due to traffic jam on Moti Bazaar, our businesses are destroying as the customers especially females do not come to the markets," said a shopkeeper Nadeem. The encroachments by the owners of motorcycle showrooms on Circular Road and their illegal commercial activities on the road have also led to traffic jam problems in the area. - APP

Technological transformation vital for progress

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad and Hanns Seidel Foundation, Pakistan jointly organized a Roundtable Discussion on "Technological Transformation in Pakistan: An Asset or Liability" at Margala Hotel, Islamabad. The discussion commenced with the opening remarks of Mr. Ashfaq Ahmed Gondal, Former Federal Secretary of Information and Broadcasting & Senior Member Advisory Board, CGSS. He stated that technological transformation has become a prerequisite for the development of a state. With the rapid developments in the field of science and technology along with increased digitalization across the globe, the traditional sphere of various sectors in Pakistan such as economy, governance, market-customer relations, healthcare, education and even security has largely transformed. It is therefore imperative to analyze these developments, discuss the challenges and their possible solutions equally. Dr. Steffen Kudella, Resident



Representative, Hanns Seidel Foundation, Pakistan in his welcome remarks stated that Artificial Intelligence will change the world more than anything else. This technological development is one of the greatest challenges of our future. Computers and robots are replacing more and more human jobs. If this trend continues, it could lead to an unequal society in which a very small elite of "technical experts" control the whole economy, and in which most humans become part of a huge

unemployed mass. On the other hand, technological development provides a lot of reason to hope and has positive potential related to health care, traffic control etc. But the question arises, whom does technological development actually serve? Does it serve a tiny elite of people or does it serve all the people? Other panelists stated that we need to see where we stand in digital economy today. We need to create a culture of cyber security in Pakistan. We



Pakistan's are very good in the field of digitization. We have everything but the main thing that we are missing is that innovative people leave Pakistan. We just need to form a comprehensive policy in this regard. We also need to devise an emergency response team at national level. If we are not going to indigenous development than technological development can become a liability. Other panelists of the Discussion included: • Mr. Irfan ul Rehman, Former Head of Cyber Security Opera-

tions, PTCL • Mr. Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, Economic Expert • Mr. Ali Tanveer, Snr Cybersecurity Researcher, National Cyber Security Auditing and Evaluation Lab, NCSAEL • Engr. Tariq Khattak, Managing Director, Clan Strategies The event was attended by approximately 30 participants and was moderated by Lt Col Khalid Taimur Akram (Retd), Executive Director, CGSS.

Briefs

48 paisa increased in power tariff for August

DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Electric Power Regulatory Authority on Monday notified 48 paisa per unit increase in power tariff for August under the monthly fuel adjustment mechanism. The regulator held public hearing on the petition filed by Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA-G) on September 30. The CPPA-G had sought 98 paisa per unit increase in the power tariff for the said month. However, the authority approved 48 paisa increase in the tariff having impact of Rs 7 billion, said a notification issued here. The Authority deducted Rs 404 million on account of previous adjustments and Rs 6.6 billion on provincial basis on account of operation of power plants on RFO/HSD from the cost claimed by CPPA-G, the notification further said. The Fuel Charge Adjustment (FCA) of August would be charged in the billing month of November to all consumer categories of XWDISCOs, except life line consumers and would remain applicable only for one month. The FCA is not applicable to KE consumers.

Bilawal pays homage to Allama Iqbal

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chariman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari paid rich homage to the poet of the East Allama Iqbal on his 143rd birthday here on Monday. He said that Allama Iqbal was not only a great poet but he was also a good philosopher and political figure. He said that the Poet of the East was the thinker and one who struggled for the Muslims of sub-continent. The PPP chairman said that the thinker of Pakistan gave a lesson to the Muslim of sub-continent to get themselves freed from the slavery. Bilawal said that Allama Iqbal was the torch-bearer for the new generation. 'The best way to pay homage to the thinker of Pakistan is to protect rights of democracy,' he remarked. He further said that the PPP in light of the thinking of Iqbal was active for developing equality and broader consensus.

'PTI would bring developments for GB'

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Communications and Postal Services Murad Saeed on Monday said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf after coming to power in Gilgit-Baltistan would bring the area at par with the developed areas of the country. Addressing a public rally at Khaplu, Gilgit-Baltistan, the minister said that in future the people of GB would enjoy all constitutional rights like the other parts of the country with representation in the Parliament. He said that Imran Khan had given constitutional rights to the people of erstwhile Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and he has the credit to give similar rights to the people of Gilgit-Baltistan. Murad lamented that the PPP and PML-N ruled over the GB for decades but instead for working for its development, they plundered its resources for building personal properties. He said that the popular demand of giving GB status of province could not be fulfilled by the rulers, and this credit went to Prime Minister Imran Khan. He said that the GB was neglected in China Pakistan Economic Corridor by the previous government, it was the PTI regime that announced CPEC projects in GB and allocated economic zone in the region. Murad said that the past rulers did not provide health and education facilities and the roads of the areas were in very bad condition. He said that the people of GB have now decided to vote PTI in coming elections. He said that Bilawal Bhutto Zardari by saying that people of GB have no healthcare and education facilities and roads were in dilapidated, had in fact admitted that the PPP government did nothing for the people of GB. — APP

ICCI calls for following principles of Allama Iqbal

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan paid rich tributes to Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal on his 143rd birthday and said that his poetry and teachings provided guidelines to the policymakers and the nation how to make Pakistan as a true welfare state

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has called upon the government to take strong measures for following the principles of Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal, the great Muslim Philosopher and Poet to make Pakistan a progressive and prosperous economy. He said it was high time that the nation should stand united by setting aside all differences and work with commitment, honesty and dedication for the economic uplift of the country. He was addressing as Chief Guest a ceremony organized by the Islamabad Founder Lions Club to celebrate the Iqbal Day. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan paid rich tributes to Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal on his 143rd birthday and said that his poetry and teachings provided guidelines to the policymakers and the nation how to make Pakistan as a true welfare state. He said that Allama Iqbal through his poetry and philosophy had created a revolu-



tionary spirit and enthusiasm in the Muslims of the Sub-Continent for the creation of Pakistan and urged that the nation should follow the same spirit and enthusiasm to make Pakistan a strong economy of the region. He said that the economy of Pakistan was confronted with many challenges and implementation of

the principles of Allama Iqbal would steer it out of difficulties to put it on the path of sustainable growth. He said that we should inculcate youth about the poetry and teachings of Allama Iqbal so that our young generation could drive Pakistan towards fast economic growth and development. Sheikh Amir Waheed,

President, Islamabad Founder Lions Club speaking at the occasion said that Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal had given a wake-up call to the Muslims of the Sub-Continent to rise above mutual differences for launching a strong movement for a separate homeland. He said that Allama Iqbal had rendered

great services for the promotion of the cause of Muslim Ummah and played a prominent role in the renaissance of Muslim society in the Sub-Continent. He said that the best option for the government to make Pakistan a prosperous nation was to follow the principles of Allama Iqbal.

Pakistan's virus positivity rate spikes to 4.5pc

The Chief secretaries of provinces updated the forum on administrative measures implemented as per the fresh guidelines issued by the NCOG

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Center (NCOG) on Monday was apprised that COVID-19 positivity ratio was rapidly increasing nationwide which was 4.5 percent prevailing in the country amid 15 major cities having higher positivity ratio. The NCOG meeting discussed in length recent surge in Covid-19 positivity ratio and recent enforcement measures post National Coordination Committee (NCC) meeting. The Chief secretaries of provinces updated the forum on administrative measures implemented as per the fresh guidelines issued by the NCOG in higher positivity ratio cities in their respective provinces. The Chief Secretaries briefed the Forum on their initiatives particularly administrative measures and enforcement efforts regarding face mask wearing and arrangements for outdoor weddings' modalities to ensure compliance of fresh health guidelines. The

Forum noticed that positivity ratio in major cities was increasing rapidly as Hyderabad was having highest positivity ratio in Pakistan with 16.59 percent positivity ratio, Gilgit 15.38 percent, Multan 15.97 percent, Muzafarabad 14.12 percent, Mirpur 11.11 percent, Peshawar 9.69 percent, Quetta 8.03 percent, Islamabad 7.48 percent, Karachi 7.12 percent, Lahore 5.37 percent and Rawalpindi 4.63 percent. The Forum was informed that 4,136 Micro smart lockdowns were in place across Pakistan. The test, trace and quarantine (TTQ) strategy was being used for disease control and prevention of COVID-19 spread, the Forum was told. The Forum was also informed that recent health guidelines would remain enforce in 16 Major cities till 31 Jan 2021. Around 2,811 oxygenated beds were included to the existing number of the beds to ramp up hospitals' capacity, along with this, over 13,000 oxygen cylinders were issued to various provinces and federating units.

Call for strict adherence to SOPs in fight against virus

ISLAMABAD: Adherence to the health guidelines issued by the government is the sole option for the general public to effectively curb the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic, in addition to extensive support for the collective initiatives at national level. The professionals and officials Monday warned that any disregard of the anti-virus SOPs such as mask

wearing, social distancing and others would ultimately hamper national initiative, the fight against COVID-19. They passionately called for wholeheartedly observing the government's instructions for stemming the contagion spread across the country. "The attitude of locals towards the SOPs seems to be casual and less cautious," said Dr Mehwish, performing duty

at the Emergency Ward of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS). The patients, visiting the emergency wards of hospitals, did not fully care for social distancing, masks and other safety measures, she added. "The patients with normal fever may have the option of Paracetamol to avoid unnecessary visit to the hospital, a risky point in the current scenario," Dr

Mehwish said while talking to APP. There was a section of society who was reluctant to comply with the anti-virus SOPs, said a police official at the Kashmir Highway check post who requested anonymity. He said the motorists were being educated about importance of the guidelines against the virus. "Without the people's cooperation, the fight against COVID-19 cannot be won. — APP

OGRA starts issuing licences for new CNG stations

ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan CNG Association (APCNGA) on Monday said the government is promoting CNG to reduce urban pollution, cut oil import bill and increase employment. The government has taken a number of commendable steps including removing the ban on setting up new CNG stations, said Ghayas Paracha, Central Chairman APCNGA. Now OGRA has started issuing licences for new CNG outlets to those who fulfil all the formalities while the ban on import of CNG kits has also been lifted and import duty, as well as sales tax has been slashed to promote its imports. — DNA

All hurdles removed in provision of economical CNG

DNA

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fulfil all the formalities while the ban on import of CNG kits has also been lifted and import duty, as well as sales tax has been slashed to promote its imports. Ghayas Paracha said that now latest CNG kits would be available in the country that will result in 15 percent extra mileage resulting in savings. He said that availability of private imported LNG and other steps will trigger its usage and conversion of vehicles to environment-friendly economical fuel which will help mass saving up to 40 travelling costs. The business leader

noted that the government decisions will result in new investment, create almost three hundred thousand jobs and this fuel will be made available in the areas where it was not available earlier. Promotion of this fuel will reduce urban pollution by 25 percent within two years, he said, adding that CNG emits significantly less pollution than other fuels, therefore, it is being encouraged by dozens of countries. He requested the government should ensure compliance by different subordinate departments for the success of the initiative.

222 criminals held, looted items recovered

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have arrested 222 outlaws during last week and recovered looted items worth millions of rupees from them including gold ornaments, cars and bikes, a police spokesman said. Following directions of Inspector General of Police Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfikar Khan, he said that Deputy Inspector General of Police (Operations) Waqar Ud din Syed directed all police officials to accelerate efforts against anti-social elements and ensure their arrests. As per orders of Islamabad police chief Muhammad Aamir Zulfikar Khan, renewed efforts were made and police achieved remarkable success. Owing these efforts, 33 accused were arrested involved in dacoity/robbery/burglary/theft and car theft while 30 absconders were held during the same period. — DNA



ISLAMABAD: Participants of National Media Workshop organized by National Defence University attending a briefing session on role of ministry of Information & Broadcasting at Information Service Academy. — DNA

Sania hails advent of MRCP (UK) PACES exams

Dr. Sania stated, "PACES is the largest international clinical exam for post graduate doctors in the world. It is a matter of great pride and achievement for Pakistan that our medical training has been recognised at an international level"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation, Dr. Sania Nishtar was invited as a chief guest at a dinner hosted by the British Council in honour of the Federation of the Royal Colleges of Physicians UK team for bringing first ever MRCP(UK) Clinical exams, PACES to Pakistan. Dr. Sania who herself is a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London was pleased to see the highly prestigious MRCP exam starting in Pakistan. Con-

gratulating the federation team, Dr. Sania stated, "PACES is the largest international clinical exam for post graduate doctors in the world. It is a matter of great pride and achievement for Pakistan that our medical training has been recognised at an international level." Other distinguished guests included Amir Ramzan Country Director British Council, Lt. Gen. Nigar Johar Surgeon General and Maj. Gen. Imran Fazal Director General Medicine Pakistan Army. From the Federation of Royal Colleges of Physicians UK, a very senior team of examiners led by Dr. Donald Farquhar International Medical

Director for MRCP Exams, Prof. Charles Twort, Dr. Peter Newman, Dr. Tanzeem Raza O.B.E. and Dr. Roderick Harvey were joined by their team in Pakistan including Prof. Aamir Ghafoor Khan Lead Examiner for PACES in Pakistan and Head of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at Lady Reading Hospital Peshawar, Prof. Imran Fazal, Prof. Khurshid Muhammad Ultra, Prof. Wasim Alamgir, Prof. Zafar Ali Qureshi, Prof. Shazia Nisar, Prof. Azmat Hayat, Dr. Asim Yousaf, Dr. Muhammad Salim, Dr. Haroon Hafiz and Dr. Mohsin Saif. In Pakistan, the Federation of Royal Colleges of Physicians UK conduct-

ed the clinical exam of the MRCP UK between Nov 6-8, 2020. The MRCP exam was conducted at Pak Emirates Military Hospital Rawalpindi. The exam lasted three days and 45 candidate places were examined. Pakistan is the first country in the world where these international exams have been held in an era of COVID-19 pandemic. Lead Examiner for PACES in Pakistan and Head of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at Lady Reading Hospital Peshawar, Prof. Aamir Ghafoor Khan said, "PACES is an important step in the path for physicians' training to advance in their careers and progress to higher specialist training and

eventually to consultant status. This has been the 15-year long journey to open a PACES Centre in Pakistan." Dr. Donald Farquhar, Federation International Medical Director for Assessment shared, "MRCP exams are offered in 36 countries around the world at more than 100 locations and over 25,000 doctors take the exams each year. The advent of these high-level medical exams in Pakistan will provide doctors with the opportunity to take this high-level examination locally." From now on, MRCP (UK) clinical exams will be held regularly at least twice a year in Pakistan.

Special ITP squads to check noise pollution

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has constituted special squads to check noise pollution which would be authorized to take action against installation of pressure horn in vehicles and impose heavy fines on those using them. According to the police spokesman, Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Farrukh Rashid has constituted special squads to make the capital noise-free. During the ongoing year, pressure horns from 818 vehicles/bikes were removed by the police teams and fine tickets were issued to their drivers. The SSP (Traffic) said that ITP had launched a campaign as the noise pollution affects the nerves and injurious to human health, therefore, strict action would be taken against those installing pressure horns. Special squads of ITP has been constituted to conduct regular checking vehicles involved in creating noise pollution or other environmental pollution in the city. The purpose of this whole practice was to end noise pollution in the city, the SSP maintained. The SSP (Traffic) has appealed the citizens to contact ITP's helpline 1915 or 051-9261992, 9262234 to lodge complaints against those using pressure horns. — APP

IHC seeks comments from defense ministry

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday sought comments from the defense ministry in a petition seeking removal of Lt Gen (R) Asad Durrani's name from the exit control list (ECL). Justice Mohsin Akhter Kiyani conducted the hearing on the petition moved by Asad Durrani for removing his name from the ECL. During the course of proceedings, the representative of defense ministry informed the court that an inquiry was underway against the petitioner and prayed to grant some time to take instructions from his department into the matter. The representative said the inquiry report had been finalized and it would be presented to the relevant authority now. The court noted that the pension of Asad Durrani had been stopped. He was not awarded imprisonment sentence then why his name was required on the ECL, the court asked. At this, the defense ministry requested the court to grant 10-day time to take instructions from the ministry which was granted by the bench. — APP

Activist seeks investigation in transgender women attack

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prominent transgender social activist and political worker, Nayyab Ali has demanded the authorities concerned to urgently investigate the violent attacks on a transgender woman Heera Malik in Islamabad. Heera Malik was allegedly attacked and tortured by some unidentified man on October 31st night, near a traffic signal, in an area of sector F-11, Nayyab Ali told APP. It has been more than a week to the incident and the concerned police station had not registered a First Information Report, shifting responsibility to other police station, she alleged. "On a daily basis, we face stigma and discrimination as well as harassment and exclusion from society. The recent spate of violence is very disturbing for the entire transgender community many are afraid to venture out due to fear of attacks," she said. Ali urged the government to ensure the implementation of transgender rights act in true letter and spirit to prevent such incidents in the future. On Oct. 6, she said another transgender person was seriously injured after being shot on the way home to Shahmansoor after performing in a music concert in Buner. "The authorities must take serious steps to investigate these brutal attacks and killings, besides ensuring their security as they are the most vulnerable community," she said. According to Pakistan's Transgender Association, at least 73 members of the transgender community have been killed since 2015. The group also states that the police regularly fail to document threats made against transgender people. "We demand justice for the victims of these attacks and call on the Pakistani authorities to protect the transgender community in accordance with the law," said Nayyab. She said the rights of transgender people are protected under Pakistani law.

Politicians' words

POLITICAL rhetoric is entering a danger zone. With rallies and jalsas taking place every day, all leaders have ample opportunity to scale up their tempo by going after their opponents. Now the government has also ratcheted up its war of words against the opposition alliance PDM and Prime Minister Imran Khan is himself leading the charge. First in Swat and then in Hafizabad on Saturday, the prime minister addressed political rallies thinly disguised as the launch of schemes. At both venues, the prime minister resorted to incendiary speechmaking and accused the PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif of attempting to incite mutiny in the armed forces. He also said Mr Sharif was trying to bring about a coup. Coming from a prime minister, such words are not only irresponsible, they are also alarming for their possible consequences. The government has adopted an approach that can only create further fissures in an already fractured polity. Whoever is advising the prime minister to adopt this course of action is doing him and his government no favours. In any case, the prime minister should be the last person to speak about mutiny. After all, during his dharna days it was he who advocated repeatedly that citizens should not pay their utility bills as a mark of civil disobedience. He had also said time and again that overseas Pakistanis should not send their remittances through regular banking channels and should instead use hawala and hundi to transfer money. This amounted to rebelling against the state system and was deemed irresponsible in the extreme. The prime minister should recall his own words before hurling accusations at the opposition today. There would be no need for any such controversy if the establishment kept away from politics and concentrated on its primary job. This is what PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari also referred to in his interview with BBC which has stirred a controversy. In fact, in some ways his position is fairly close to that of Nawaz Sharif. The difference is that he has kept his criticism of the establishment's political role more generalised whereas Mr Sharif has named names. The basic thrust of the argument, however, remains valid. Mr Bhutto-Zardari has in many ways justified Mr Sharif's position by saying that as a thrice-elected prime minister, he knows what he is saying and why he is saying it. However, in today's polarised and charged atmosphere, nuances get lost in the constant noise of shouting. All leaders need to weigh their words carefully.

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President-elect Biden

FOR many Americans, at the end of the day Election 2020 was a battle between basic 'decency' and outright bullying – and the decent man won. In what can be easily described a cliff-hanger of an election, Americans have chosen Joe Biden as their 46th president. The 78-year-old will be the oldest president in American history when he takes oath. Accompanying him as his vice president is Kamala Harris, the US's first woman, first Black American and first South-Asian American to become vice president. Now that the battle for the 'soul of the American nation' is over, there is much both Biden and Harris need to focus on. The most obvious issue at hand is the domestic Covid-19 challenge, and there are hopes a more mature leadership will help stem the unbelievably high rate of infection and death in the US. The economy of course figures next, followed by global concerns regarding America's role in trivialising the climate change question during Trump's years. The largest and probably most complicated challenge for the Biden presidency is how to help the US heal and bridge some of the very wide differences and polarisation that has taken over a country that would once pride itself on its diversity, unity and acceptance. President-elect Biden has signalled he would like to be a president-for-all, and said that it's time 'to put the anger and the harsh rhetoric behind us and come together as a nation'. As far as Pakistan is concerned, in President-elect Biden there is a familiar face in the White House. That said, Biden has had history with Pakistan, during his tenure as vice president in the Obama years, and as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC), where he promulgated the Enhanced Partnership Act with Pakistan 2008. This leads to some optimism in there being an understanding of the nuances of Pakistan's domestic and foreign policy challenges. The US and Pakistan have the Afghan peace process as a common agenda, and this is something that Pakistan will be looking at keenly. If there's to be a change in tack, what would that mean for Pakistan and the region on the whole. Then there's India. It is highly unlikely that a Biden Administration will in any way reduce US interest in India. But there is an expected increase in a stronger voice for human rights, which is what people in Occupied Kashmir and even in mainstream India may be looking at. For now, the people of America have a strong reason to rejoice. We hope that once the celebrations are over, instead of ignoring the glaring polarisation within, America begins the slow process of healing and introspection.

Post-Trump United States foreign policy

Maleeha Lodhi



On Afghanistan and the US commitment to withdraw its remaining forces, Biden's policy will not differ much from Trump's. He has long been a critic of America's prolonged military engagement and as vice president had opposed the military surge President Barack Obama ordered in 2009. Asked in an interview earlier this year what he would do if the Taliban ended up in power he said: [I have] "zero responsibility"

NEVER have Americans seen an election in their recent history quite like the 2020 presidential contest. Never has the world watched with such concern the political tensions, bitter rhetoric and legal fights that marked the turbulent run-up to the election. The close race kept people on edge for days following the election as votes were counted in the crucial battleground states. The American people chose Joe Biden to lead their country in what has been described as 'an election of a lifetime' which will have "decade-defining consequences". This has come as a relief to many people in America and beyond. For the international community the overarching question is how the new occupant of the White House will change American foreign policy in the post-Trump era. To begin with, Biden will be preoccupied with managing domestic challenges with the pandemic still wreaking havoc across the country, polarisation undermining national cohesion and racial tensions waiting to be seriously addressed. Uniting a deeply divided country will undoubtedly be his first order of business. As he reiterated after the election: "I will govern as an American president. There will be no red states and blue states. Just the United States of America." The outcome of the Congressional election too will present a challenge as the Senate is likely to remain in Republican control. This will pose formidable problems of divided government and legislative gridlock. Biden will be obliged to deal with an unfriendly Senate which will make governance difficult while his pledge to heal a divided nation will require vigorous efforts. As an op-ed writer asserted in the New York Times, the election will not resolve "America's deepest problems" – social crisis, breakdown of political culture, and feelings of exclusion. That Trump got more popular votes now than in 2016 indicates how widespread support remains for 'Trumpism'. If Trump continues to play an active political role this could further complicate Biden's task. Domestic troubles then will warrant his sustained attention. Biden will depart in fundamental ways from Trump's erratic and unpredictable policies. But

as a course correction is also needed in America's relations with the world this will not wait for the domestic agenda to be tackled. Some argue that this is where Biden may have a less constrained hand. What then is a Biden presidency likely to do? The selection of his foreign policy team will be an early pointer to the foreign policy he will pursue. As someone with rich experience in foreign policy – having long served as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations committee and as vice president – Biden is expected to follow a more traditional approach fundamentally different from Trump's unpredictable and whimsical policies pursued at great detriment to America's global standing. In contrast to Trump's intensely unilateral 'America First' policy, Biden, known as a liberal internationalist, would seek to restore his country's multilateralist credentials. During the campaign he declared that the 'America First' policy had resulted in 'America Alone' and he would seek to 'restore America's leadership'. In broad brush terms a Biden administration is likely to see: the revival of a more stable foreign policy, renewal of commitment to multilateralism, reaffirmation of relations with allies, reversal of Trump's abandonment of the Iran nuclear deal, re-engagement with key international institutions, return to the Paris climate agreement and recommitment to alliances especially Nato. A key priority for Biden will also be to mend America's damaged international reputation evidenced in several surveys. A recent Pew Research survey found that America's global image had plunged to an all-time low. It showed that several countries among Washington's allies have an unfavourable view of the US especially of Trump. Clearly four years of Trump's disruptive impact on the world and the blows delivered to an already fraying rules-based international order have dented America's standing, eroded its influence and diminished its soft power. Biden will try to reverse that. On Afghanistan and the US commitment to withdraw its remaining forces, Biden's policy will not differ much from Trump's. He has long been a critic of America's prolonged military engagement and

as vice president had opposed the military surge President Barack Obama ordered in 2009. Asked in an interview earlier this year what he would do if the Taliban ended up in power he said: [I have] "zero responsibility. The responsibility I have is to protect America's national interest and not put our women and men in harm's way to try to solve every single problem in the world by use of force." A significant departure from Trump's policy would be re-entering the Iran nuclear deal. Biden has repeatedly asserted he would re-commit to JCPOA if Iran complied and seek to strengthen it with partners. He believes this would help to re-establish US credibility. In the Middle East, it remains an open question how Biden's frequent criticism of Saudi Arabia would translate into policy. His support for Israel will continue to be firm, in line with long-standing US policy. The biggest foreign policy challenge will remain America's relations with China – this century's most consequential bilateral relationship with far-reaching global impact – which Trump pushed into a state of intense hostility by his confrontational approach. Given the anti-China mood and bipartisan consensus in the US, Biden will likely adopt a tough line. But while continuing to engage in strategic competition – and containment – Biden will be less combative and abrasive than Trump and look for areas of cooperation on global issues such as climate change. For its part, China will want to stabilise relations by reaching out to President-elect Biden. China's vice foreign minister recently expressed the hope that the new administration would work with China and "meet it halfway to focus on cooperation and manage differences". Predictability and stability in US foreign policy would be the most important change from the Trump years. But it is the home front where bitter discord and divisions have made the country virtually ungovernable that will receive the greatest attention from the next president. A Financial Times editorial put it succinctly: "No postwar president has taken over a more beleaguered nation." The writer is a former ambassador to the US, UK and UN.

– Courtesy: Dawn News

India's paranoia with Pak Navy's expanding footprint

Sohail Khan

Pakistan's current Naval Chief, Admiral Niazi, while being commander of the naval fleet, clarified to the gathering of Exercise Aman, last year that Pakistan Navy believed in enhancing maritime peace and stability through consistent, proactive and forward looking engagement. The Admiral even suggested Pakistan Navy's willingness to work with other navies through the construct, what Robert Kaplan refers to as, 'plug and play' mechanism. He argued for a 'win-win' approach steering clear of bilateral bickering in order to have safer seas

TERMING India's gaze towards Pakistan as 'perpetuated grandiosity', in article titled 'Shattered Myth' (Pakistan Today, 29 Mar 19), I observed that India unyielding disparages Pakistan's name while shying away from accepting or even acknowledging its own failures. Overshadowing and belittling Pakistan's peaceful moves, ceaselessly, remains the top Indian politico-military agenda. No wonder Indian politicians and military men conveniently anchor their strategy on anti-Pakistan rhetoric, which they believe is the best form of personal and professional survival and growth. Indian military and politicians cumulatively attempt to distort Pakistan's positive image to hide behind obvious diplomatic and military setbacks, through convolution of fact and fiction; this is what I call the 'perception inversion', though it's been a long-held cornerstone of Indian strategic community. Of late, Pakistan Navy becomes the latest target of such Indian paranoia. In an article published in the online news portal Daijiworld, on 3 Nov 20, Mr Sumit Kumar Singh, conspicuously leans on the traditional 'perception inversion' while being economical with truth. He slanderously accuses Pakistan Navy of pursuing a "hollow and almost complacent" strategy while referring to PNS Zulfiqar's participation in the Turkish MaviBalina exercise. Throughout his piece, Mr Singh refers to a nameless 'intelligence officer' and builds his arguments in an analytical vacuum devoid of a rationally or academically adequate substance. While repeatedly arguing that what PN Ships Moawin and Aslat had done during the Africa Cruise, in 2019, was a "dishonorable use of the armed forces", Mr Singh blatantly fails to reflect what Ken Booth posits the diplomatic role of the navies. Pakistan Navy routinely operates with other navies in the region through bi- and multilateral maritime exercises. It has been leading the two Combined

Task Forces, instituted under the US initiative of Combined Maritime Forces, since 2004. Pakistan Navy has been steadily enhancing its operational outreach since the mid-90s and now its ships are seen at various seas and ports of call, outmaneuvering India's strategic maritime wit. This has not been taken by the Indian strategic community with ease, and the apparent frustration in Mr Singh's calumnious piece is the reflection of a typical tunnelled Indian mindset that principally draws its strength from hate and malice. Pakistan's current Naval Chief, Admiral Niazi, while being commander of the naval fleet, clarified to the gathering of Exercise Aman, last year that Pakistan Navy believed in enhancing maritime peace and stability through consistent, proactive and forward looking engagement. The Admiral even suggested Pakistan Navy's willingness to work with other navies through the construct, what Robert Kaplan refers to as, 'plug and play' mechanism. He argued for a 'win-win' approach steering clear of bilateral bickering in order to have safer seas for uninterrupted flow and growth of maritime commerce signifying Geoffrey Till's assertion of maritime security to be 'quintessentially cooperative'. Mr Singh switches back and forth in his claims and assertions to link one thing with other, which are diametrically unrelated. Beginning with 'naval deployments', he steps down to Kargil War then brings in the FATF Grey List and then alleges Pakistan to rely on Chinese loans for its defence spending. Such a train of incoherent arguments suggests the deep rooted obsession with Pakistan, which turns even a logical debate into an emotional diatribe leaving a reader in an inconclusive situation. Mr Singh substantially relies on 'perception inversion' as he failingly links Pakistan with terror forgetting Kalbhusan Yadav, the Indian terrorist on a death roll here in Pakistan. One needs to read Elias Davidsson's opus 'the Betrayal of India' (2017) to truly understand the tyranny of

justice in India in matters of terrorism. The Babri Masjid's highly biased Hindu-leaning decision and rampant growth of Hindutva-centric culture in Indian general populace are the signs clear enough to tell who's going where; something which Rana Ayub and Arundhati Roy have been expounding in their writings for a long time. Detection of Indian submarines on two occasions, as these were attempting to sneak into Pakistan's coastal waters, and shooting down of two Indian jets leading to 'tea is fantastic' episode dispels the notion of Indian military being competent and responsible. Post-Pulwama, Indian vessels remained holed up in Oman, to avoid being followed or harassed, as Pakistan Navy ships patrolled the North Arabian Sea. Series of Indian submarine accidents and Indian navy's inability to deploy its carriers 'at the right time, at the right place', are what I term the 'desperation stimuli', which often result in publishing of such notes as the one in Daijiworld. As to what this Daijiworld piece suggests, Pakistan Navy has long time deep military relations with the Gulf countries since 1960-70s in specific areas of professional training, military education and maritime exercises. Pakistan Navy's 27 Oct 20's successful live weapons firing establishes its professional credence and gives an ambiguous message to its friends and allies for keeping the long term partnerships, in professional military cooperation, alive and growing. Pakistan Navy's long term plans include induction of numerous frigates, corvettes, submarines and jet maritime surveillance aircraft. As of last two years, Pakistan ships visited as far as Gulf of Finland to West Africa coast thereby negating the groundless claim of Daijiworld's article of "limited capabilities". Indian strategic community needs to unshackle itself from the delirium of superiority complex and argue for modulation of efforts to make the seas surrounding South Asia as safer, reliable and free for economic and scientific activities.

Briefs

UK, EU resume
crunch Brexit
talks

DNA

LONDON: Britain and the European Union resumed crucial negotiations in London on Monday over a post-Brexit free trade deal, with time running short and both sides saying major obstacles remain. EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier arrived in the British capital late Sunday before another week of talks with his UK counterpart David Frost, as they scramble to find an agreement within weeks. Britain formally left the bloc in January but remains bound by most of its rules and regulations until the end of the year under the terms of its divorce. Parliaments on both sides of the Channel need time to ratify any deal struck, leaving scant time for London and Brussels to find a compromise on key outstanding issues. These include agreeing rules for competition between British and European companies and fishing rights and access. Observers have said they will be cutting it very fine if agreement is not reached by mid-November. In a weekend phone call, Prime Minister Boris Johnson and European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen agreed big differences still need to be bridged after two weeks of "intense" meetings ended last Wednesday. Von der Leyen vowed both negotiating teams would "continue working hard" while Johnson said they would "redouble efforts to reach a deal". However, neither side has indicated yet that they are willing to make the compromises needed for a breakthrough.

Never
accepted 'fake'
govt: Maryam

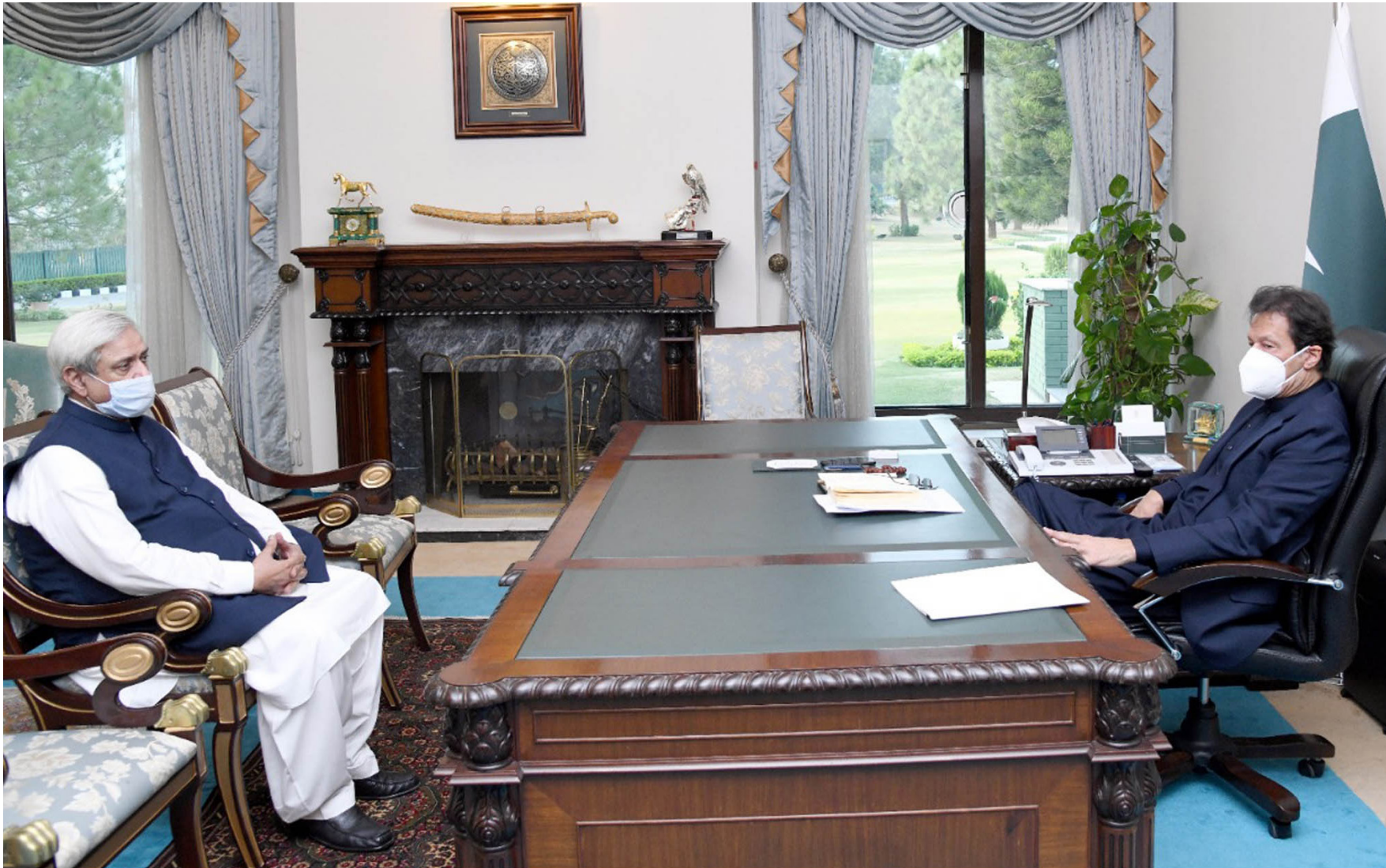
DNA

GOPIS: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) vice president Maryam Nawaz on Monday has said that we have never accepted 'fake' government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Addressing a public gathering in Gilgit-Baltistan's Gopis, the PML-N leader said that it's not in the fate of PTI to serve the general masses. She further promised to make Gopis and Yasin separate districts after winning elections in Gilgit-Baltistan. Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan can only take political revenge from opponents and nothing else, she added. The PML-N leader said that the people of Pakistan are standing with Nawaz Sharif till the end. She further insisted all the women to not sit at home on the day of polls and give vote to PML-N candidate. PTI government is weakening the country from its roots, she claimed. Maryam Nawaz further called government ministers as loose talkers and their party as a 'disease' for the country.

NAB to
eradicate
corruption:
Chairman

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Justice (ret'd) Javed Iqbal has said that cases of misappropriation of government funds, abuse of power, money laundering and large scale fraud comes under the purview of NAB. A statement issued by Justice (ret'd) Javed Iqbal said that NAB is committed to eradicate corruption from Pakistan. The current conviction rate of NAB is 68.88% and it is prioritizing the training of its investigative officers and prosecutors. All the officers have worked hard and performed brilliantly. In total, 75,268 complaints of corruption were received in the last two years, out of which 66,838 were concluded, he said. He said that in order to expedite the conclusion of NAB cases, a period of 10 months has been fixed for investigation, inquiry and investigation of complaints.



ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Food Security & Research Syed Fakhar Imam calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan at Islamabad. – DNA

Tayyip Erdogan questions
efficiency of global system

Stressing the existing global system favored a handful of strong actors over righteous masses and rich over poor people, the president said this system could no longer continue and systematic change was needed

FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: The Turkish president on Monday called for a change of approach in times when the current global system is failing to respond to crises occurring all around world, especially amid the coronavirus outbreak. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan made the remarks at the 12th Ambassador Conference held in the capital Ankara. Stressing the existing global system favored a handful of strong actors over righteous masses and rich over poor

people, the president said this system could no longer continue and systematic change was needed. Erdogan, who had coined "the world is bigger than five" slogan at a UN gathering, said a new establishment based on justice, not power, has to be regulated in order to ensure safety and stability of the common future of human beings. "The tendency of multi-centricity and regionalization is becoming increasingly important in international relations," Erdogan said, adding the global political and economic arena was reshaped



at the time of the outbreak and production and logistic centers were reestablished. Erdogan went on to say that Turkish administrations failed to make the most of previous window of opportunities both following the World War II and Cold War, however, Ankara was now determined to make use of its geostrategic and historical advantages amid the looming pandemic, which has claimed over 1.25 million lives across the world. Acting in line with its human-oriented foreign policy, the Turkish government, ac-

ording to the president, did not turn a blind eye toward people's cry for help across the world as the outbreak escalated. More than 100,000 Turkish citizens were brought back home from a total of 141 countries in line with Turkey's evacuation operations. Another 5,500 foreigners from 67 countries were also evacuated with Turkey's help. Furthermore, Turkey extended a helping hand to 155 countries and nine international organizations struggling to deal with the burdens of the pandemic, according to Erdogan.

Indian court bans
firecrackers

FOREIGN DESK

NEW DELHI: India's environmental court has ordered a ban on firecrackers during the country's biggest annual festival in cities battling hazardously poor air quality, citing a link between pollution and a coronavirus surge. The National Green Tribunal said on Monday the role of pollution in the COVID-19 crisis meant that the ban was needed ahead of Diwali celebrations on Saturday. Traditionally, millions of firecrackers are set off during Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Light, but the practice has been blamed for worsening air pollution – especially in northern India which suffers serious smog every winter. The tribunal, whose powers are similar to a regular court, said pollution caused by fireworks was an "aggravating risk to lives and health". It said a general ban in all cities with rising air pollution should last until November 30. India has the second-highest number of coronavirus infections in the world, at 8.5 million cases, and experts have raised concerns about air pollution worsening the symptoms of respiratory illnesses such as COVID-19. The capital New Delhi and the states of Rajasthan, Haryana, Maharashtra and West Bengal have already

halted or restricted the sale and use of firecrackers. The tribunal said the ban in Delhi, where air quality remained classified in the "severe" category for the fifth day – must be "absolute" because of the pollution crisis and rising COVID-19 cases. State authorities in the rest of the country are considering allowing one-hour windows on Saturday for setting off firecrackers. Pollution in New Delhi had almost disappeared earlier this year when the government imposed a nationwide lockdown to stop the coronavirus. But the curbs have been lifted and the pollution, as well as the virus, are back with a vengeance. Delhi on Sunday reported 7,750 coronavirus cases in a day, a record since the start of the pandemic, with hospitals reporting that intensive care beds are running out. Pollution levels have been at "severe" on the government index for almost a week. Delhi's overall air quality index (AQI), which includes the concentration of PM2.5 particles as well as bigger pollutants, has stayed above 400, on a scale of zero to 500, for five consecutive days, government data showed. The tiny PM2.5 particles can cause cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, including lung cancer, and pose a particular risk for people with COVID-19.

Pakistan Embassy Beijing
observes Iqbal Day

DNA

BEIJING: A special ceremony was held at Embassy of Pakistan on Monday to commemorate the birth anniversary of great poet and philosopher, Allama Muhammad Iqbal with traditional zeal. Deputy Head of Mission, Ahmed Farooq read out messages of President Dr. Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan on the day. Minister (Scientific Affairs) Dr. Arshad Mahmood mesmerized the audience by

reciting a famous poem of the philosopher poet. A group of Chinese students from Urdu Language Department of Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU), especially invited to attend the ceremony, also recited poetry of Allama Iqbal on the occasion. Head of the Urdu Language Department of BFSU, Ms. Zhou Yuan (Nasreen) paid rich tributes to Poet of the East who had inculcated a new revolutionary spirit in the young generation through his poetry and ideas during

the Pakistan Movement. She said Allama Iqbal did promote the message of self-respect for not only youth of the sub-continent, but also the entire world. Eminent Urdu poet and intellectual, Prof Zhang Shixuan (Intikhab Alam), writer of several Urdu books in China also shed light, in fluent Urdu, on the life and multiple aspects of the poetry of Allama Iqbal. He also paid glowing tributes to the life and work of Allama Muhammad Iqbal through his poem which was highly praised by

the audience. In the closing remarks, Ambassador Moin ul Haque welcomed the distinguished guests and lauded Prof. Zhang Shixuan, Ms. Zhou Yuan and the Chinese students for their hard work in promoting Urdu language as well as the poetry of Allama Iqbal in China. He said that Allama Iqbal was a great poet and philosopher of the 20th century who through his poetry, guided the Muslims of Sub-continent to initiate a new political movement which led to the creation of Pakistan in 1947.

Jinnah young writers awards held in Ankara

DNA

ANKARA: Fourth edition of "Jinnah Young Writers Award" essay competition was held in Ankara Monday. Theme for this year's competition was "Jinnah and Atatürk - two great leaders of the 20th century. The event was participated by students, school principals and provincial heads of the Department of Education. Speaking on the occasion, Pakistan Ambassador in Ankara Syrus Sajjad Qazi said Qaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had played a pivotal role in reinforcing eternal brotherhood between Turkey and Pakistan. He said we are working to further promote Pakistan-Turkey ties in the do-



main of economy, trade, defence, education, and people to people contacts to materialize the dream of our founding fathers. Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Minister of Turkey Reha Denemeç said it is our duty to strengthen Turkey-Pakistan brotherhood, established and nurtured by successive generations. Ambassador Syrus Sajjad Qazi

in his remarks said Jinnah Young Writers Award was one of the key initiatives of Pakistan's public diplomacy activities in Turkey. He felicitated the participating students for their deep thinking, high quality information, and passion and perspective contained in the essays and termed their efforts as a valuable contribution to the Pakistan-Turkey relationship.

The Ambassador said Muhammad Ali Jinnah played a pivotal role in reinforcing the eternal brotherhood between the Turkish and Pakistani nations. He said the vision of the leadership in both countries is to transform our historic relationship into a strong strategic partnership. To this end, we are endeavoring to promote Pakistan-Turkey ties in the domain of economy, trade, defence, education, and people to people contacts, he added. Earlier, Ms. Burcu EY?SOY DALKIRAN, Director General of EU and Foreign Relations of the Ministry of National Education gave details about the competition. She said a panel of judges evaluated the 11 shortlisted essays. She expressed the desire to hold similar competition in Pakistan as well.

Shoaib
opposes
Azhar's
removal

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistani pacer Shoaib Akhtar has opposed Azhar Ali's removal from Test captaincy saying the Lahore-born cricketer would give his 100 per cent in the upcoming matches. Pakistan lost the first Test against England in Manchester, despite being in a winning position, during the tour. Akhtar said Azhar Ali should not be removed from the role after one bad game. "I agree that Azhar Ali made a mistake in the second innings of the first Test against England, while fielding, for which he was criticised but to remove him from captaincy, based on that match, would be unfair. I'm sure he will give his 100 per cent in the upcoming matches," he said on his YouTube channel as quoted by cricketpakistan.com.pk. "It is disappointing to see that it's always the players who suffer in such a scenario while the management stays the same," he said. Babar Azam, who leads Pakistan in Twenty20s and ODIs, was the top contender to replace current Test skipper Azhar Ali ahead of Pakistan's tour to New Zealand.

'Pfizer corona
vaccine
over 90%
effective'

From Page 01

These participants were offered the two-dose vaccine and 28 days after they received their first inoculation, remained protected. "To me, this is the best possible outcome," Ugur Sahin, co-founder and chief executive of BioNTech told. Pfizer expects to produce 50 million vaccine doses in 2020 and up to 1.3 billion doses by 2021. The company referred to the development as a "critical milestone in our vaccine development" adding that the welcome news came at a time when hospitals were being filled to their maximum capacity and economies were struggling to remain open. Pfizer said that the vaccine's Phase 3 trial began this year on July 27 and has involved 43,538 participants in total out of which 38,955 have received a second dose of the coronavirus vaccine as of November 8, 2020. "Approximately 42% of global participants and 30% of U.S. participants have racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds. The trial is continuing to enroll and is expected to continue through the final analysis when a total of 164 confirmed COVID-19 cases have accrued," said Pfizer in its press release. The manufacturer further added that the Data Monitoring Committee (DMC) had found no health risks attached with the vaccine and has given the green signal for further studies to be conducted. It said that the study of the virus will also include whether it has potential to protect to those who were previously infected with the virus and those who were infected against "severe COVID-19 disease". The high percentage of those protected makes the findings compelling. In the past, vaccine regulators have said they would approve a candidate that proved itself 50% effective – protecting half of those who get it. The company says there have been no serious side-effects. The welcome news could not have come at a more crucial time as October proved to be the worst month for the COVID-19 pandemic with over 10 million new infections reported across the globe in just 21 days.

Argentina
rocked by
anti-govt
protests

WEB DESK

BUENOS AIRES: Argentines took to the streets Sunday to protest against the administration of President Alberto Fernandez. The demonstrators, who gathered around the obelisk in the central square in the capital Buenos Aires, chanted for "freedom, justice and the constitution." Drivers passing the protest site showed their support by honking. The protests were directed against the planned purchase of a coronavirus vaccine and judicial reform that demonstrators claim would save former president and current Vice President Christina Fernandez de Kirchner from being tried for corruption. In addition to the capital, demonstrations were also organized against Fernandez's government in the cities of Cordoba, Rosario, Mar del Plata, Mendoza and San Carlos de Bariloche.

Belarus opp. leader decries protest arrests

For three months, tens of thousands have taken to the streets of Belarus on Sundays to protest against the disputed re-election of Lukashenko, who has been in power for more than two decades

DNA

MINSK: Belarusian opposition leader Svetlana Tikhanovskaya on Monday denounced a crackdown on peaceful demonstrators after more than one thousand people were detained at a rally against strongman Alexander Lukashenko. For three months, tens of thousands have taken to the streets of Belarus on Sundays to protest against the disputed re-election of Lukashenko, who

has been in power for more than two decades. The Viasna rights group said that police detained 1,048 people at demonstrations on Sunday against the 66-year-old authoritarian leader, who claimed a sixth term in August's disputed election. It was the largest number of protesters that police have swept up since a brutal post-vote crackdown by security services saw nearly 7,000 detained over several days and sparked widespread claims of torture and abuse in detention centres.



"More than a thousand people detained, hundreds of people beaten with feet or batons. Is

this how you represent power?" Tikhanovskaya said in a video on the Telegram messaging app on Monday. Tikhanovskaya, 38, says she was the true winner of the poll and has gained the support of Western leaders, who have refused to recognise the election results. The European Union has slapped sanctions on Lukashenko, 66, and his allies, imposing a travel ban and asset freezes over vote-rigging and police violence. Tikhanovskaya thanked Belarusians

for taking to the streets on Sunday and said members of law enforcement participating in crackdowns on peaceful protesters "are not worthy of being called Belarusians." After months of demonstrations against Lukashenko, she also acknowledged that the protest movement seeking new elections and the peaceful transition of power "turns out to be a marathon." "Together we will achieve everything, even on this difficult road leading to a free country," she said.

Briefs

Biden win to change US-North Korea dynamic

DNA

SEOUL: Headline-grabbing summits between the leaders of North Korea and the United States will be off the agenda for some time, analysts say, after US president-elect Joe Biden characterised Kim Jong Un a "thug", in contrast to Donald Trump's declarations of love. Trump's bizarre diplomatic engagement with Pyongyang veered from mutual insults and threats of war to "love letters" and the first ever meeting between a sitting US president and a North Korean leader.

The two mercurial men met twice more after their landmark summit in Singapore in 2018, but with no concrete progress in denuclearisation efforts.

Now Biden's victory heralds a return to more standard diplomatic norms, analysts say, with his administration wanting to see tangible steps towards denuclearisation and progress at a series of working-level negotiations before any made-for-TV summits. On the campaign trail, Biden said he would not meet with Kim without preconditions and accused Trump of "emboldening" the North Korean leader.

In the final presidential debate last month, the Democrat denounced Trump for befriending Kim, likening the North Korean leader to Adolf Hitler.

"He's talked about his good buddy, who's a thug," Biden said of Kim. "That's like saying we had a good relationship with Hitler before he invaded Europe."

For its part, while Pyongyang's state media has yet to mention the election or the result, it has previously excoriated Biden, with the official Korean Central News Agency calling him a "rabid dog" that must be "beaten to death".

Germany reports more COVID-19 cases

BERLIN: Germany's COVID-19 infections increased by 13,363 within one day to a total of 671,868, official data showed on Monday. The number of deaths related to COVID-19 in the country rose by 63 within one day to a total of 11,352, according to Robert Koch Institute, the federal government agency for disease control and prevention. Germany is currently in a month-long lockdown to slow the spread of the virus. The country has to "pull the emergency brake" to keep the COVID-19 pandemic under control, Minister of Health Jens Spahn said on Tuesday. — APP

India's virus tally reaches 8,553,657

NEW DELHI: India's COVID-19 tally reached 8,553,657 on Monday as 45,903 new cases were registered across the country in the past 24 hours, said the latest data released by the federal health ministry. With 490 deaths since Sunday morning, the death toll in the country due to the pandemic reached 126,611, showed the ministry's data. Still there are 509,673 active COVID-19 cases in the country, while 7,917,373 people have been cured and discharged from hospitals so far. The Indian government has been focusing on ramping up COVID-19 testing facilities across the country. Till Sunday a total of 118,572,192 COVID-19 tests were conducted in the country, out of which 835,401 tests were conducted on Sunday alone, revealed the data from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) on Monday. The capital city New Delhi has been witnessing a spurt in COVID-19 cases over the past couple of weeks, which was termed as the third wave for Delhi. Last week Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced a ban on bursting of all kinds of firecrackers in the run-up to the forthcoming festival of lights Diwali, which falls on Nov. 14, in a bid to control both the air pollution levels and COVID-19 cases in the national capital. — APP



BAKU: On Remembrance Sunday British embassy in Azerbaijan remembered those who sacrificed their lives in armed conflict. Ambassador James Sharp laid a wreath at the monument to those British & Commonwealth servicemen who lost their lives during the World War I & are commemorated in Azerbaijan at Martyrs' Alley.. — DNA

Palestinians recall poet, philosopher Iqbal

We are talking about an Integrative personality that has libertarianism thoughts with a combination of several pieces of knowledge, he was a poet, politician, and economist, said Sari Orabi, a Palestinian researcher in Arab and Islamic affairs

DNA

RAMALLAH: Palestinians recall the poet, philosopher Muhammad Iqbal as the earliest supporter of their cause on his 143rd birth anniversary on Monday. "We are talking about an Integrative personality that has libertarianism thoughts with a combination of several pieces of knowledge, he was a poet, politician, and economist. He was one

of the leaders of the independence movement in India against British colonialism," said Sari Orabi, a Palestinian researcher in Arab and Islamic affairs. As far back as the early 20th century, Iqbal had alerted the Muslim world of the upcoming ploy to create a homeland for the Jews at the cost of Palestinians. Iqbal died in 1938. But his prediction came true within 10 years. As a poet, philosopher, historian, social reformer, and political thinker, he has left a deep imprint

on the critical phase of the modern history of the Indian sub-continent and the Muslim world. A man of such stature deserves remembrance and due recognition by our generation and the generations to come, said the scholar. Iqbal also known as envisioning carving out a Muslim nation in South Asia that later came into being as Pakistan, had attended the General Islamic Conference in Jerusalem in 1931 at the invitation of renowned Mufti Amin

Al-Husseini. "Iqbal's thinking can be summarized in the concept of pride. The Muslims groveling to Allah, and be brave and strong to face challenges posing the Islamic world", Orabi added. Iqbal had advised Arabs to have faith in Allah and Khudi (Ego) and not have any trust in West and the League of Nations, the earlier incarnation of the UN, which was headquartered in Geneva. Speaking to Anadolu Agency, Orabi said Iqbal's concept is still

relevant for Palestinians to remain steadfast towards the goal of achieving freedom. "Iqbal believed so deeply in the potential of the human will. In the light of this there is always a chance to renaissance and facing challenges and resolve current problems in the Islamic world," said the scholar. "He believed in integrating all Islamic ethnicities, and spoke about glories of Arab Muslims proudly, surpassed the ethnic and racial divide," he said.

Australia begins production of COVID-19 vaccine

DNA

SYDNEY: Australia commenced locally manufacturing a COVID-19 vaccine candidate developed by the University of Oxford from Monday, with roughly 30 million doses planned to be made. Despite still undergoing clinical trials, the vaccine, which was co-developed by pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca, is considered one of the more promising vaccines globally. Australian biotech firm CSL has agreements with AstraZeneca and the Australian government to begin pre-emptive production of the vaccine, for release during the first half of 2021 should remaining tests prove successful. "We are undertaking these manufacturing activities at-risk and in parallel with the clinical trials and approvals processes in recognition of the significant urgency of the COVID-19 pandemic," CSL's Chief Scientific Officer Andrew Nash said. It is expected the vaccine will require a two-dose per person regime meaning it could be effectively admin-

istered to 15 million people. However, it will not be released for use until the development process is reviewed and approved by Australia's government regulatory authority, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). Production will take place at CSL's bioreactor facility in the State of Victoria, with the manufacturing process beginning by thawing vials containing vaccine cells which had been frozen under liquid nitrogen. "After growing in the bioreactors, the vaccine is then filtered and purified leaving just the antigen, or vaccine product. It is then ready for final formulation and filling into dosage vials," the company said in a statement. CSL had already manufactured several doses of another COVID-19 vaccine candidate developed by Australia's University of Queensland (UQ), which it is holding in readiness to progress to Phase 2b/3 clinical trials. Further trials on the UQ vaccine candidate are due pending the release and review of Phase 1 clinical trial data.

Scientists measure brain networks in romantic love

BEIJING: An international team of researchers has made an attempt to detect the changes in the brain network organization when one is in a romantic relationship. Scientists have found that romantic love is a complex state similar to addiction. Both can make people undergo changes in the brain region controlling reward and motivation behaviors. But the related changes in brain connectivity networks are yet to be explained. Researchers from China and the United States used functional magnetic resonance im-

aging (fMRI) to compare the whole-brain functional network organization in two groups of volunteers. The "in-love" group had 16 females currently in love and the "single" group consisted of 14 females who have never been in love or a romantic relationship. The human brain is organized into segregated networks with strong within-network connections and relatively weaker between network connections. The "small-world" organization is thought to be essential for maintaining an energetically efficient system as the

brain consumes about 20 percent of the body's energy. Compared with the single group, the love group showed lower network segregation in their fMRI results. Brain connectivity refers to the efficiency of information transfer through the neural network. The "in-love" group showed decreased connectivity in the left angular gyrus, a hub of neural networks involving self-processing. Lower connectivity in angular gyrus may indicate that people in love pay less attention to themselves and more to their lovers. — APP



BAKU: Children are celebrating the national flag day of Azerbaijan and holding flags of Pakistan and Turkey to show solidarity. — DNA

InfraCo Asia establishes infrastructure credit enhancement facility InfraZamin Pakistan

As an initiative of the Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG) InfraZamin aims to fill current gaps in the local credit markets, in order to catalyse greater private sector participation in long-term, local currency financing of infrastructure in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: InfraZamin Pakistan is an innovative, for-profit credit enhancement facility funded with equity capital from InfraCo Asia Investments and Karandaaz Pakistan, provided by the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). InfraCo Asia, via its subsidiary Indus Guarantees Pte Ltd, and Karandaaz held a signing ceremony for the shareholders agreement, setting into motion the operationalisation of the facility. As an initiative of the Private Infrastructure Development Group

(PIDG) InfraZamin aims to fill current gaps in the local credit markets, in order to catalyse greater private sector participation in long-term, local currency financing of infrastructure in Pakistan. InfraZamin will do so by providing guarantees to enhance the credit quality of local currency debt instruments to finance creditworthy infrastructure projects in Pakistan. The first-of-its-kind in Pakistan, InfraZamin was conceived and designed after extensive market study and engagement with the Securities & Exchange Commission of InfraCo Asia (through Indus Guarantees), Karandaaz, and GuarantCo. On the potential of InfraZamin

of a similar facility in Nigeria, Infra-Credit Nigeria. InfraZamin leverages the prior experience of InfraCo Asia and GuarantCo in supporting infrastructure projects in Pakistan, as well as Karandaaz's local market knowledge and track record of investments focused on supporting financial inclusion. Incorporated as a private limited company, InfraZamin will operate on a commercial basis guided by international best practices and local governance standards. Its Board of Directors will include representatives of InfraCo Asia (through Indus Guarantees), Karandaaz, and GuarantCo. On the potential of InfraZamin

Pakistan, Allard Nooy, CEO of InfraCo Asia and prospective Chair of the InfraZamin Board said "As a specialised credit enhancement facility focused on infrastructure in Pakistan, we see significant potential for InfraZamin to 'crowd-in' underused pockets of liquidity in Pakistan's financial markets. PIDG Companies GuarantCo and InfraCo Asia bring with them deep expertise and significant infrastructure and credit enhancement capabilities that will help unlock these opportunities for InfraZamin." Speaking about InfraZamin Pakistan, Ali Sarfraz, CEO Karandaaz said, "Pakistan spends only 2.1% of its

GDP on infrastructure as opposed to 8%-10%, leading to widening infrastructure deficit. InfraZamin Pakistan will not only unlock capital thus boosting much needed investments in infrastructure but also add to the sophistication of Pakistan's financial architecture. The additional investments will support economic growth, create jobs, and ultimately reduce poverty besides invigorating Pakistan's capital markets through cutting edge financial instruments. We are delighted to partner with InfraCo Asia and GuarantCo in setting up this innovative structure and look forward to its success."

119 illegal immigrants rescued off Libyan coast

TRIPOLI: The International Organization for Migration (IOM) on Sunday said that 119 illegal immigrants, among them women and children, have been rescued off Libyan coast.

"While IOM staff were at the disembarkation point to provide emergency assistance, we reiterate that Libya cannot be considered a safe port," the IOM tweeted later Sunday. The IOM recently announced that more than 4,800 stranded migrants in Libya are registered with the Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) program, which, run by the IOM, arranges the return of illegal immigrants stranded in Libya to their countries of origin. Libya has become a preferred departure point for illegal immigrants who attempt to cross the Mediterranean towards European shores, due to the state of insecurity and chaos in the country following the 2011 ouster and killing of its leader Muammar Gaddafi. Thousands of illegal immigrants, who were either rescued at sea or arrested by the Libyan authorities, are detained in the overcrowded reception centers in Libya, despite repeated international calls to close those centers. — DNA

Austria police raid dozens of 'Islamist-linked' addresses

DNA

VIENNA: Austrian police launched raids on more than 60 addresses allegedly linked to radical Islamists in four different regions Monday, with orders given for 30 suspects to be questioned, prosecutors said.

The Styria region prosecutors' office said in a statement it was "carrying out investigations against more than 70 suspects and against several associations which are suspected of belonging to and supporting the terrorist Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas organisations". It stressed "the operation has no connection to the terror attack in Vienna of November 2".

OGDCL produces oil, in 1st quarter

ISLAMABAD: The Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) has produced around 36,221 36,221 BPD crude oil, 904 MMCFD gas and 714 TPD LPG gas during first quarter of the current fiscal year despite coronavirus pandemic and natural decline in existing hydrocarbon deposits. The company, during corresponding period of the last year, extracted 37560 Barrel Per Day (BPD) crude oil, 960 million Cubic Feet Per Day (MMCFD) gas and 702 Ton Per Day (TPD) Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Gas, according to the company's quarterly report available with APP. The company contributed around 47 percent, 29 percent and 36 percent towards the country's total oil, natural gas and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) production respectively during the period under review.

The OGDCL also injected two new wells, producing 65,233 Barrels crude oil and 368 Million Cubic Feet (MMCF) gas, in its production gathering system, besides carrying out 27 work-over jobs at mature fields to arrest natural decline and sustain oil and gas production. However, the report said, oil and gas output of the company was impacted by natural decline at Dakhni, Kal, Pasakhi and Tando Alam fields coupled with non-revival and partial revival of wells. During the three-month period, the company spud four exploratory and development wells including Juna-1, Sheen Dand-1, Nangpir-1 and Qadirpur-62, and completed drilling and testing of seven wells pertaining to previous fiscal year. "Whereas total drilling stood at 17,620 meters." The company, being the market leader in Exploration and Production sector of Pakistan, holds the largest exploration acreage which as of 30 September 2020 stood at 77,591 Square Kilometers (Sq.KM) representing 37 percent of the country's total area under exploration. — DNA

Briefs

EC releases details of senators' assets

RAJA PERVAIZ

ISLAMABAD - The Election Commission of Pakistan has released the details of the financial statements of the senators for the financial year 2019-20. According to details the assets of Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani worth Rs106.3 million while the value of property in Pakistan is Rs55 million. He owns four vehicles. Deputy Chairman Senate Saleem Mandivilla owns assets worth Rs67.7 million. Federal Minister Swati has assets worth Rs810.12 million. Federal Law Minister Farogh Naseem owns assets worth Rs399.6 million, while Federal Minister for Information Shibli Faraz owns assets worth Rs46.7 million. Dr. Shehzad Waheed, Leader of the House in the Senate, owns assets worth Rs202.1 million. His wife's assets are worth Rs172.3 million. Senator Faisal Javed owns assets worth Rs 10 million, while Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi owns assets worth Rs 1.27 billion. Senator Taj Afridi has assets worth Rs167.1 million abroad.

Car bomb hits police base in Kandahar

DNA

KABUL: At least four people have been killed and about 40 people wounded after a suicide car bomber targeted a police base in Afghanistan's southern Kandahar province, a provincial official said. Paramedics have been searching the rubble of homes destroyed by the explosion hours after the attack late on Sunday night in the province's Maiwand district, said Mohammad Ashraf Nadery, the provincial director of Kandahar's public health department. He said those wounded included both soldiers and civilians. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack that comes a week after 22 people, including 18 students, were killed when gunmen went on a rampage at Kabul University, an attack claimed by the ISIL (SIS) armed group. In Pul-e-Charkhi area of the capital, Kabul, a roadside mine blast on Monday wounded at least two civilians, according to local media reports.

China's help sought in reforming cotton Industry

Technology in the seed, machinery, plantation and picking up process, and ginning of cotton are with low quality, which means Pakistan is still using 70 year-old technology in its ginning industry that leads to poor output

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In order to bring qualitative reforms in its acre per yield in Pakistan, China could help Pakistan by providing technology that can improvise seed production and promote mechanization, ex vice chairman Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) Asim Saeed said. While talking to Gwadar Pro, he stated that the current chal-

lenge facing the Pakistani cotton industry is that it cannot obtain the latest technology from local researchers, nor can it attract international companies to settle in. Technology in the seed, machinery, plantation and picking up process, and ginning of cotton are with low quality, which means Pakistan is still using 70 year-old technology in its ginning industry that leads to poor output. Despite the decline in cotton production in Pakistan, the num-

ber of cotton yarn exported to China has still increased in recent months. Asim Saeed explained that the CPEC has had a positive impact on it. "Raw materials of yarn are available in our country and Pakistani yarn is enjoying zero tariffs in the Chinese market meanwhile there is a lot of demand of Pakistani yarn in the Chinese market. If we improve our quality and meet Chinese standards then, under the new tariff regime, we

can substantially enhance our cotton products to China." Pakistan is emphasizing to reduce dependence on imported cotton by cultivating long-staple cotton. According to Asim Saeed, Pakistan is quite suitable for growing long-staple cotton. "We have one of the best soil conditions and canal systems for growing cotton; the climate is favorable and we are hard-working nation that has rich experience in growing cotton from genera-

tions to generations. We have all the capacity and potential to reach target of 20 million bales. Once international seed providers come to Pakistan, they will see a huge advantage." He further called on government, private sector and international supervision to make joint efforts to execute measures to enhance the cotton production. Policies for providing cotton farmers with enough profitability are also needed.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of Industries and Production, Hammad Azhar chairs a meeting with the delegation of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Secretary Afzal Latif is also present. - DNA

APNS hails Mir Shakil's bail

ISLAMABAD: The APNS congratulates Mir Shakil-ur-Rahman, Editor in Chief of the Jang/Geo group on his release on bail after 8 months by the Supreme Court of Pakistan. Mr. Hameed Haroon President and Sarmad Ali Secretary General of All Pakistan Newspapers Society have stated that finally justice has prevailed and Mir Shakil-ur-Rahman has been granted bail by the Supreme Court. Mir Shakil-ur-Rahman was incarcerated for over 8 months by NAB on trumped up charges of a 34 years old private property case. His arrest and prolonged imprisonment was an attempt to muzzle the independence of media and silence the whistle blowers. - DNA

Military to brief political leaders

ISLAMABAD: Military officials will brief parliamentary leaders of both the upper and lower houses on Wednesday on national security issues, according to a statement issued by the National Assembly. The military officials will brief the parliamentarians in a meeting called by National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser, who will also be the chair. The meeting will take place in the Committee Room Number 2 at 2pm. According to the NA's Twitter account, invitations have been sent to PTF'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 have also been invited. The NA also said that invitations have been sent out to GDA's Ghous Bakhsh Khan Mehar, Awami Muslim League's Sheikh Rashid Ahmed and ANP's Amir Haider Azam Khan. From Senate, invites have been sent to Mushahidullah Khan, Sherry Rehman, Muhammad Ali Khan Saif, Mir Akber Ahmed, Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haderi, Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar, Sirajul Haq, Sitara Ayaz, Dr Jahanzaib Jamaldini, Anwar ul Haq Kakar and Aurangzeb Khan. The NA further said that federal ministers Pervaiz Khattak, Ijaz Ahmed Shah, Ali Amin Gandapur, Shafiq Mahmood, Asad Umar, Shibli Faraz. PM's adviser Babar Awan and SAPM Dr Moeed Yusuf have also been asked to attend the session. - DNA

Lahore ranks world's second most-polluted city

DNA

LAHORE: Lahore was the second most polluted city in the world on Monday morning, according to global air quality monitors. As per IQAir, a Switzerland-based, real-time air quality information platform, today at 9 am, Delhi ranked as the most polluted city in the world with an air quality index (AQI) of 719. Lahore came in second with an AQI of 430, which is categorized as "hazardous". An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered good. While anything over 300 is "hazardous" and requires an emergency response. When the AQI exceeds, health experts advise people to avoid outdoor activities and to keep windows and doors closed. Meanwhile, the US Embassy - which also monitors air quality in major cities of Pakistan - placed the AQI as high as 623 for the city of Lahore. After Lahore, the second most polluted Pakistani city was Faisalabad. In order to combat the deteriorating air index, the provincial disaster management authority (PDMA) has to date fined 42,118 vehicles and sealed 53 industries in the Punjab province.

Sale of Pak gem products increase in China

DNA

BEIJING: Building brands, selling goods of high quality and co-working with China to design and produce - Pakistani gem products have embarked on a different path of development in the Chinese market ever since the second phase of Pakistan-China Free Trade Agreement (FTA-II) came into effect. "I use high quality raw stones and high standards of workmanship to make jewelry, providing consumers the best," said Aqeel Ahmed Chaudhry, founder of WINZA from Pakistani gemstone firm Cosmo Enterprises, while talking to China Economic Net (CEN) during the third China International Import Expo (CIIE). Chaudhry, who has been living in China for more than a decade, launched WINZA jewelry store in Shanghai's glitzy business district, producing crowns for champions of International Super Model Contest, Miss Earth and other competitions. Seeking a foothold in the increasingly competitive jewelry market, Aqeel Ahmed Chaudhry has his own strategy. First is to build a brand. "80% of the establishment of a brand depends on people and 20% on products.

Branding is not only about selling things, but also about inheritance, which requires our team to make gems with high quality and high standards, and inject family culture into the inheritance from generation to generation. Our products are designed by my younger sister and 4 Chinese designers." "The second point is the strict selection of raw materials. We select the highest quality raw stone which must be natural, clean and of beautiful color; then we purchase them with high price. Third, high standards of production, control of materials, design, etc. must be adopted. We dare to compete with the world's big brands. Although our company is small, the quantity of products is limited, but it does not mean that the quality is poorer than others," he added. At present, the company's main business is in China. "We import raw materials from Pakistan, Sri Lanka and other countries, and process and sell them in China." Touching on the sales of Pakistani gems in China, Chaudhry said that Pakistani ruby sales in China increased by about 30% over the previous year. Although the sales of emeralds are not as good as rubies, they are unique to Pakistan and we want to pro-

mote them more, he added. Chaudhry, also the director of the Jewelry Committee of Shanghai Mineral Fossil Association, wants to bring Pakistani jewelry culture to more people. "Pakistan is our IP; we want more people to know our country." He said that next year, he plans to open another 2-3 retail stores in China, and plans to open 20 retail stores in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangdong, Shenzhen and other big cities in the next five years. In addition to relying on the brand strategy of climbing up the value chain, winning with cost performance is another path explored by Pakistani gems enterprises. "We'll take this," a Chinese buyer said at booth 6.2 of Pakistan Gem Pavilion during the CIIE. The Chinese buyer told Economic Daily + China Economic Net that the jewelry products purchased from last year's CIIE were good. This time he specially bought one piece for his wife. He thinks that Pakistani tourmaline has both favorable price and good quality. "The tourmaline with good quality sold for more than RMB 10,000 at other booths, while our Pakistani brother sold this one for only RMB 2,000, it's with relatively few impurities," the buyer said.

345 more test positive for corona in Punjab

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: The novel coronavirus on Monday claimed one more life and infected 345 people during the past 24 hours in Punjab. According to a spokesperson of the Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department, one more patient succumbed to the deadly virus in 24 hours, lifting the death toll to 2,408 in the province. He maintained that the province reported 345 fresh cases, taking the overall tally of people infected with the pandemic to 106,922. The spokesperson said that as many as 97,638 people have recuperated from the disease. Earlier on November 8, as many as 369 new cases of the coronavirus had surfaced across Punjab during the past 24 hours, pushing the provincial tally of infections to 165,077.

According to a spokesperson for the Primary and Secondary Health Department, eight more people had succumbed to the highly contagious infections, lifting the total number of people dying from the disease in the province to 2,407. Of the total fresh infections, 154 surfaced in the Punjab capital, 54 in Multan, 24 in Rawalpindi, and 14 in Dera Ghazi Khan. The number of people recovering from the infection had reached 97,614.

Sanaulah summoned in 'assets beyond income'

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has asked Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Punjab president Rana Sanaulah to appear before it for questioning in an assets beyond means case. Sources within the bureau relayed he is required to appear before a combined investigation team (CIT) of the national graft buster on Tuesday at 2pm. He will likely be quizzed about his alleged assets beyond income. The PML-N MNA has been instructed to turn up along with all relevant records. Previously, he had appeared before the bureau on September 10 and provided incomplete documents, the sources said. He is facing charges of accumulating more assets than his sources of income can justify. It is noteworthy that the PML-N leader is also facing a drug case. He was released on bail in December last year, almost six months after his arrest in July. The Lahore High Court (LHC) had granted him bail against surety bonds worth Rs1 million. Rana Sanaulah is named in an FIR related to the violence outside the NAB Lahore office during arrival of PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz there in August last.

Pakistani-American moves SCP for Presidential System

The petition in its content has presented a complete road map of the Presidential form of govt, which it argues should be implemented

ISLAMABAD: A Pakistani-American has moved Supreme Court of Pakistan for the repeal of parliamentary democracy in the country and for the court's directive to the Prime Minister to hold a referendum for the introduction of a Presidential form of government in Pakistan. Currently living in New York, Mr. Hafeez-ur-Rehman Chaudhry on Monday filed a Constitutional Petition through Khalid Abbas Khan advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan, praying that the "matter in question may kindly be referred to the Prime Minister to hold a referendum in accordance with Article 48(6) of the constitution 1973 to obtain votes in Yes or No form." Khalid Abbas Khan, while briefing media, said that the petition has invoked the original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court under Article 184(3) of the constitution. The petition states that the enormous problems faced by the country and people of the country could only be resolved through the introduction of a presidential form of government in Pakistan.

While making federal and provincial governments respondents, the petition states that parliamentary form of the government is the source of political instability in the country. With the introduction of parliamentary form of government the people of Pakistan have been deprived of political justice, which has been promised under the provisions of the constitution. The petition states that under the constitution "the state has to exercise its power through the chosen representatives of the people" and there is no specific provision of the constitution which restricts that the chosen representatives have to be elected under a parliamentary system of government. This could be done under a presidential form of government either. The petition in its content has presented a complete road map of the Presidential form of government, which it argues should be implemented in the country. After the partition of India, Pakistan became an independent state and under Indian independence Act

1947, the government of India Act 1935 became the interim constitution of the country. The Act lacked certain provisions which were required for the functioning of independent government in an independent state. Therefore a constituent assembly was formed to draft a new constitution for the country. The process of constitution making started with a 9 years delay which was very disappointing. Absence of priorities, palace intrigues and infighting resulted in inordinate delay in the process of constitution making in the country. The member parliament remained busy in infighting and unnecessary petty conflicts which resulted in the dissolution of the federal cabinets. The petition states that the people of Pakistan have been deprived of political justice since independence, for instance the ruling parties in Pakistan have always secured less than 51 percent votes in elections which brought them to power. And minority rule is against the very essence of democracy. - Agencies

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