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Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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UNICEF Chief condemns abuse of minor girl

CIIE to promote Pak exports to China: Moin

Pompeo heads to Europe and Middle East



Briefs

Palestine envoy grateful to Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Palestinian ambassador Ahmed Ameen acknowledged the support of Pakistan for Palestinian state. In a statement, the ambassador said, "I heartily extend sincere thanks to Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for their continuous support to Palestine cause and highly appreciate Imran Khan, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on his recent statement, as Prime Minister said that "Our position about Israel is very clear, Pakistan can never recognize Israel" and the founder of Pakistan Muhammad Ali Jinnah had made it clear long time ago that Israel would not be recognized until just and fair solution of the Palestinian problem is given". I thank Excellency Imran Khan, and every single individual of Pakistan for supporting Palestine on the all the International Forums of the World.

PDM to decide about talks with army: Bilawal

DNA

GILGIT: PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) is the platform which will decide whether political parties should engage in a dialogue with the armed forces or not. "We believe the right to form a government or the right to employment is sought through democratic means," said Bilawal during a press conference on Friday. "These will be taken through elections, we will not request for them," he added. The PPP leader said that the people of Gilgit-Baltistan will vote for the party and enable them to form their government with a clear majority so that the PPP's manifesto can be implemented in the province. "As far as talks with the armed forces are concerned, if talks will be held, then PDM is the platform that will decide that," he said.

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Romanian built PNS Tabuk inducted into Pak Navy fleet
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PM announces packages for Balouchistan

Addressing notables of South Balochistan in Turbat, he said young people, especially students

BUREAU REPORT / DNA

TURBAT: Prime Minister Imran Khan has announced to introduce 4G internet services and Naya Pakistan Housing Scheme in Balochistan for the benefit of common people. Addressing notables of South Balochistan in Turbat on Friday afternoon, he said young people, especially students of the province, can take maximum benefit from fast internet facilities in the age of information technology.

The Prime Minister said under the Naya Pakistan Housing Scheme poor people can get loan from designated banks on five percent interest to have their own house. Imran Khan said it is part of his faith that no nation can progress unless it lifts its weaker segments.

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PM's visit to bring prosperity: Shibli

FIAZ CHAUDHRY / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz said on Friday that Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to Balochistan would be a harbinger of prosperity for the people of Balochistan. In a tweet regarding Prime Minister's visit to Balochistan, he said the development of Balochistan will lead to the development of the country. "We will alleviate the sense of deprivation of the people of the province through economic and social development," Shibli Faraz remarked.

FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAYS

Indian attempts against Pakistan not to succeed

ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan on Friday rejecting the gratuitous remarks by the Spokesperson of Indian Ministry of External Affairs regarding state of minorities in Pakistan, said such "desperate attempts will not succeed in diverting attention from India's domestic and foreign policy failures".

The Foreign Office termed the remarks as "baseless oft-repeated allegations regarding terrorism" said, "regurgitation of fabricated accusations by India does not turn a falsehood into truth". The FO said as a perpetrator of unabated state-terrorism in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) and systemic state-sponsored discrimination against

Continued on Page 06

India suffered heavy losses: ISPR

RAWALPINDI: On night 7/8 November 2020, reportedly Indian Army had an encounter with few freedom fighters in District Kupwara, well within Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir territory, opposite Neelum valley, wherein it suffered few casualties including 4 soldiers. To ward off the humiliation faced by Indian Army in front of domestic audience, instead of finding the reasons from within and addressing the same, on 13 November 2020, Indian Army opted for resorting to unprovoked and indiscriminate fire of all calibers, including Artillery and heavy mortars, along LOC in various sectors of AJ&K. The targeted areas included Neelum Valley (Nekrun, Kel, Sharda, Dudhial, Shahkot, Jura, Nauseri sectors), Leepa Valley (Danna, Mandal and Kayani sectors), Jhelum Valley (Chham and Pandu sectors), and Bagh Valley (Pirkanthi, Sankh, Haji Pir, Bedori and Kailer sectors). In this deliberate attempt, Indian Army did not limit itself to engagement of Army Posts / positions, rather, in utter disregard to all international obligations and human rights, targeted civil population resulting serious casualties to innocent civilians to include 4 x shaheed and 12 injured.

Continued on Page 06

World must benefit from vaccine: WHO

GENEVA: The head of the World Health Organization hailed the rapid progress towards a Covid-19 vaccine but insisted Friday that every country had to reap the benefits. "A vaccine will be a vital tool for controlling the pandemic, and we're encouraged by the preliminary results of clinical trials released this week," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said, in closing the WHO's annual assembly. US pharmaceutical giant Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech announced Monday that their candidate vaccine had proven 90 percent effective in ongoing final phase trials involving more than 40,000 people, less than a year after the novel coronavirus emerged in China. "Never in history has vaccine research progressed so quickly. We must apply the same urgency and innovation



to ensuring that all countries benefit from this scientific achievement," said Tedros. Tedros said the pandemic had shown there was an urgent need for "a globally-agreed system for sharing pathogen materials and clinical samples", to facilitate the rapid development of Covid-19 vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics as "global public goods". He said the system could not wait for bilateral agreements that could take years to negotiate. "We are proposing a new approach that would include a repository for materials housed by WHO in a secure Swiss facility; an agreement that sharing materials into this repository is voluntary; that WHO can facilitate the transfer and use of the materials; and a set of criteria under which WHO would distribute them," said Tedros. – DNA

CIIE to promote Pakistan's exports to China: Moin

It has provided very efficient, affordable and modern transport facilities to the people of Lahore. This is an area of the transport sector, which is a very important area of cooperation between our two countries

DNA

BEIJING: Pakistani Ambassador to China Mion ul Haque said that China International Import Expo (CIIE) is the flagship event of China and it fully supports the exports of Pakistan's products here. Talking to China Economic Net (CEN), Mion ul Haque stated that he was extremely happy to represent Pakistan in the recent Third China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai. "It is very important even for

Pakistan to promote and to showcase Pakistan, strengthen various sectors, and to promote Pakistan's exports to China", the ambassador added. He further said that the president of Pakistan was one of the first leaders who delivered the address there. While in the first CIIE, which was held in 2018, Pakistan's prime minister attended the event and he was a keynote speaker and we had a large Pakistani pavilion. President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi applauded the special and sole Pakistan-China relations and ap-

preciated China's efforts that had successfully dealt with COVID-19 pandemic through a special video



message at the third CIIE.

Answering the question about Orange Line metro in Lahore, Mr. Moin ul Haque stated that it is a very important project under China Pakistan Economic Corridor.

It has set on a new trend and a very first project in public transport sector and it's Pakistan's first metro project.

"It has provided very efficient, affordable and modern transport facilities to the people of Lahore. This is an area of the transport sector, which is a very important area of cooperation between our two countries.

And we hope that such projects will be also developed in other cities of the country by cooperation with China", he said.

It is worth mentioning that under China Pakistan Economic Corridor, the flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative, Pakistan's first metro "Orange Line" has started commercial operations in the traditional eastern city of Lahore last month.

The 27km Orange line has 26 stations, considerably reducing travel time from a two-and-a-half-hour by bus to 45 minutes by Orange Line.



MUZAFFARABAD: Send off ceremony was held at Presidency, AJK for scholarship awardees to Turkey by Higher Education Council of Turkey. President AJK presided over the ceremony and Turkish Ambassador Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul attended as chief guest. – DNA

Turkish govt scholarships for AJK students

DNA

MUZAFFARABAD: 10 Students and faculty members from AJK university will be going to Turkey for studies in different disciplines. In this regard a send off ceremony was held at Presidency, AJK for scholarship awardees to Turkey by Higher Education Council of Turkey. President AJK Sardar Masood Khan presided over the ceremony and Turkish Ambassador attended as Chief Guest.

The AJK President in his speech thanked the Turkish government for providing the scholarships. The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Sardar Masood Khan said that Turkey has emerged as a centre of hope for the Muslim world, and the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has risen as a symbol of the renaissance of Islam.

Continued on Page 06

Highest single day cases since July

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan recorded 2,304 new coronavirus cases in the past 24 hours – a 27% jump (around 500 new cases) over the previous day. The last time Pakistan reported over 2,000 cases was July 16.

The virus claimed 37 lives in a day – another high in four months, while the number of active cases shot up to 23,641 across the country. A total of 36,923 tests were conducted across the provinces, with the case positivity rate registering at 6.4%. Till now 153,051 coronavirus cases have been confirmed in Sindh, 108,822 in Punjab, 41,472 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 16,274 in Balochistan, 23,122 in Islamabad, 5,139 in Azad Kashmir and 4,416 in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Trump takes a dig at firms aiding China

The order listed 31 companies Thursday it said China was using for the "increasing exploitation" of US investment capital to fund military

China greets Joe Biden

DNA

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order banning Americans from investing in Chinese firms that are deemed to be supplying or supporting Beijing's military and security apparatus. The order listed 31 companies Thursday it said China was using for the "increasing exploitation" of US investment capital to fund military and intelligence services, including the development and deployment of weapons of mass destruction. US-China relations have deteriorated sharply during Trump's presidency, and

BEIJING: China congratulated US President-elect Joe Biden on Friday after he was declared winner of the American election. "We respect the choice of the American people. We express our congratulations to Mr Biden and Ms Harris," said foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin at a press briefing, referring to incoming vice president Kamala Harris.

this was the latest in a series of executive orders and regulatory actions that have targeted China's economic and military expansion. Under his "America First" banner, Trump has portrayed China as the great-

est threat to the United States and global democracy, pursued a trade war with it, harangued Chinese tech firms, and laid all the blame for the coronavirus pandemic at Beijing's door.

Continued on Page 06

Pak, Kazakh student programs stressed



ISLAMABAD: Rector of NUML, M.Jaffar presenting a souvenir to Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan A. Rakhmetullin. – DNA

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan A. Rakhmetullin met with the Rector of the National University of Modern Languages of Pakistan M.Jaffar.

During the meeting, the sides discussed issues of establishment of cooperation with Kazakh universities. In particular, the need to exchange students, improve

the skills of Kazakh and Pakistani teachers, as well as to organize seminars for students in order to be acquainted with the cultures of the two countries.

The rector of the University expressed interest in establishing cooperation with the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, and confirmed the readiness of the University's management to organize various conferences and seminars for the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Pakistan condemns shooting at Saudi embassy

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday strongly condemned the shooting incident that targeted the Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the Dutch capital, The Hague. The shameful attack blatantly violated all international laws and norms. Pakistan appreciates prompt action by the Dutch authorities and hopes the perpetrators will soon be brought to justice, said a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It said, Pakistan expresses solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We stand by the Kingdom against any threat to its safety and security.

'Economy heading in right direction'

RAWALPINDI: Provincial Minister of Prisons and Colonies, Fiaz ul Hasaan Chohan Friday said that all the economic indicators are positive as the government has made all the efforts to overcome challenges and bring the country out of economic crisis. Addressing a press conference here in Rawalpindi Arts Council (RAC), he said that the first and last criterion of any economy is the current account deficit. He said before PTI government there was a deficit of 25 to 30 billion every year which has been eliminated. – APP

Briefs

Punjab
reports 601
new cases, 17
deaths

LAHORE: COVID-19 has claimed more than seven lives and infected 601 people during the last 24 hours in Punjab.

According to a spokesperson of the Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department, 17 more patients succumbed to the deadly virus in 24 hours, surging the death toll to 2,455 in the province. He maintained that the province reported 601 new cases of COVID-19, taking the overall tally of people infected with the pandemic to 108,822.

The highest number of cases were reported in Lahore, where 245 new infections emerged, while 102 in Rawalpindi, 47 in Multan, 23 in Bakhar, DG Khan 12, Khanewal 13 and 18 cases were registered in Faisalabad during last 24 hours.

Out of 108,822 total number of COVID-19 patients, 97,692 have recovered their health in Punjab so far.

Punjab government has imposed smart lockdown in various localities of Lahore, Multan and Rawalpindi after a sharp increase in coronavirus cases. In Lahore, smart lockdown has been imposed in New Muslim Town C Block, Iqbal Town Raza Block, Sikandar Block and Umar Block, Garden Town, Cavalry Ground, DHA Phase One A and Phase 6.

In Multan, areas including Naqshband Colony, Gulgasht Colony, Mepco Colony, Khawaja Abad, Multan Kutcheri and Saadat Colony have been put under smart lockdown.

Meanwhile, Fauji Foundation, University New Lalazar, Girls High School Kahuta are also under smart lockdown slapped by the Punjab government. — APP

MNA
appreciates
work of
FDA, WASA

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Under the arrangements of Faisalabad Development Authority (FDA) and Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA), a sewerage scheme is being undertaken at a cost of Rs 4.00 million to resolve the chronic issue of drainage of waste water of Chak No.119 JB Samantha adjacent to FDA City housing scheme. This was disclosed by FDA Director General Muhammad Suhail Khawaja during meeting with MNA Raja Riaz Ahmed. Additional Director General Amer Aziz, WASA officer and notables of Chak No.119 JB were also present in the meeting. Giving details of the sewerage scheme, the FDA Director General informed that during the visit of the site, it was decided to devise a scheme to redress the drainage issue of village. He told that sewerage pipes of suitable size would be laid to connect the line with main disposal station sargodha road after keeping in view of all technical aspects. He maintained that all arrangements had been finalised to start the sewerage scheme.



TURBAT: Prime Minister Imran Khan addressing students at University of Turbat. — DNA

JI Ameer Sirajul Haq for
dialogue on electoral reforms

Presenting a 11-point charter, he said Pakistan needed civilian supremacy and democratic system based on the founding principles of this country

DNA

LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Senator Sirajul Haq has said that political parties should initiate a dialogue on wide-ranging electoral reforms for transparent and accountable election system to improve the quality of future polls in the country. Presenting an 11-point charter of demand during a press conference at Mansoor on Friday, he said Pakistan needed civilian supremacy and democratic system based on the founding

principles of this country.

"A PDM leader held the military establishment responsible for the rigging in General Elections of 2018. The prime minister endorsed his [PML-N supremo's] statement by also admitting establishment's interference in the polls. "What will be use of elections if the blame game continues in the future," he questioned, asking the political parties to sit together on one point agenda of electoral reforms. There was an urgent need to end the culture of dragging institutions into politics

and also curtail the institutions' interference into political matter. Sirajul Haq said Islamic system and interest free economy was the only way forward to put the country on track. He highlighted the need for bringing reforms in education and health sectors, saying millions of poor could not afford sending their children to schools because of expensive schooling. Similarly, he regretted, government health sector was deteriorating with every day passing, which needed wide ranging reforms focusing poor and lower

middle class benefits. The JI chief said a free and independent media was a vital component for the development of Pakistan. The present and previous governments, he added, made interferences to curb the media freedom and put it under their control. The JI, he said, wanted the media should be allowed to work independently. He also called for across the board accountability and powerful justice system. He said rulers had put the country's sovereignty at stake by deepening economic crisis. The rulers, he said, should immediate-

ly find way to get the country out of economic crisis and say goodbye to the international lending agency. The government, he said, should announce 25 percent to 50 percent decrease in prices of food commodities and petrol and gas. The rulers, he said, should grant interest free loans to youth and create job facilities for millions of jobless people. He demanded provincial autonomy and equal share of provinces in CPEC. He said election should be held on the basis of proportional representation.

Yasmin Rashid
urges masses to
follow SOPs

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid on Friday urged masses to wear face masks amid the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic in the province. "The situation can go out of control if precautionary measures are neglected", she said while talking to a private television channel. Dr Yasmin Rashid has warned the public about the worse Covid-19 situation ahead which could be further deteriorated if they would not practice precautionary measures. She expressed her serious concern over the spread of second wave of Covid -19 pandemic and advised to follow government's SOPs strictly as our hospitals may not be able to cope with the fast increasing number of patients. "The second wave

of coronavirus will be more dangerous than the previous one due to changing weather conditions; the threat is real but no one seems to be taking it seriously," she remarked. She said the provincial government had yet not taken any decision on the closure of markets and we are not in favour of market closure but if business community would not follow government guidelines then we definitely will move for this step as well. "The government will go for closing of the shops, even bazaars and markets in case of non-observance of SOPs," she warned. "Everybody should realize their responsibility and ensure social distancing," she said. Yasmin said the traders association were responsible to ensure compliance of SOPs but those were being violated in the markets and thus increasing risk of the outbreak.



ISLAMABAD: Indonesian Ambassador Adam M. Tugio calls on Muhammad Sualeh Farooqi, federal secretary commerce. — DNA

DC visits
Sahulat
Bazaar

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali has directed that there should be no shortage in making the Sahulat bazaars in line with the public expectations and the in-charges should be present till the closing hours of the bazaars and keep a close watch on the availability and quality of essential items. He issued this directive after paying a surprise visit to the Sahulat bazar at Jinnah Colony and Kaleem Shaheed Colony and checking the availability and quality of fruits & vegetables, imported sugar and flour on the stalls. The Deputy Commissioner urged to check the quality of potatoes, tomatoes, ginger and other vegetables and fruits and sell the items as per the price lists. He expressed frustration over the presence of some substandard items at a stall and urged the in-charges that the quality will not be compromised with the availability of affordable items. The Deputy Commissioner said that the concerned in-charge would be held responsible if any complaint was received from the Sahulat bazar about the sale of substandard item. He cleared that hundred percent availability of items is being ensured and monitoring is being carried out by other officers including Additional Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners, While price checks are also being carried out in general markets and bazaars, food vendors are being forced to sell items as per price list for which the price control magistrates are active. He informed that bidding process is also being monitored in the fruits & vegetable market. He clarified that no one will be allowed to exploit the consumers.

Fake rulers
do not care
about people:
Maryam

DNA

SWAT: Former first daughter and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) vice president Maryam Nawaz on Friday asked those who had made tall claims of development to tell whether they have built a single hospital in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. "These fake rulers do not care about the people," she said. Addressing a public rally in Swat on Friday, she said that an incompetent government is ruling the country and the selected rulers have put country's peace at stake. Taking a jibe at the government, the PML-N vice president said that copying former Punjab CM and party president Shehbaz Sharif, the government tried to start a metro bus project in the province but there were incidents of buses of Peshawar Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) catching fire. "If the mandate of the people is not respected then there would be inflation, there would be a price hike for commodities and there would be lawlessness," Maryam added.

MoCC to enhance
wildlife research

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Climate Change (SAPM) Malik Amin Aslam Friday said boosting forestry and wildlife research in the country can significantly help stem over-exploitation of forest and wildlife resources and promote their sustainable management. He remarked that low policy priority, lack of development vision on the part of forest planners and managers, lack of funds for forestry and wildlife research and capacity-building of forest experts during years of preceding governments have long blocked efforts for the conservation and protection of the country's forest and wildlife resources, the development of effective research and development, said a news release issued here. "Given the reasons of research and monitoring gaps, the forest and wildlife resources, which feed various socio-economic goals including poverty reduction, environmental development and climate change resilience, have suffered only over-exploitation, increasing country's vulnerability to climate change-induced disasters, air pollution and loss of overall biodiversity in the country," the PM's aide pointed out. He emphasized that however removing the constraints to the enhanced forestry

and wildlife research is vital to enabling research institutions and researchers to plug the forestry research gaps to meet sustainable forestry and wildlife for achieving various socio-economic and environmental development goals through sustainable management of the forest and wildlife resources in the country. "Bringing the issues that hold back forestry and wildlife research to the attention of wider audiences, of policy-makers and planners is key to drawing attention to identifying appropriate solutions to the problems that forestry and wildlife research is presently facing the country," Malik Amin Aslam suggested. He told media further that as a part of the Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision and programmes for protection and conservation of country's ailing forestry and wildlife resources through research-based sustainable management, a national forest and wildlife research and monitoring center has been established in picturesque Nadi Banglew forest area of Balakot town in Mansehra district, which he inaugurated recently to plug the research and monitoring gaps. The forest and wildlife research center has been established jointly by the Ministry of Climate Change Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Forest and Wildlife Department in collaboration with the UN Development Programme Funded Sustainable Forest Management project.

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Briefs

SC takes measures for corona

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan Friday issued guidelines to avert the potential threat of coronavirus infection to the Judges, staff, lawyers, litigants and security staff of the august court. The august Court has been issuing circulars, guidelines and advisories from time to time for the staff, lawyers, litigants and security personnel in Courts and offices all over Pakistan. Keeping in view the 2nd wave of Coronavirus (Covid-19) and to avoid spread of Virus, different preventive measures in the vicinity of Supreme Court Building has been taken. According to measures only lawyers and those litigants who were pleading in person or persons summoned by the Court or issued notices by the Court could attend the Court. All other persons/potential visitors were advised to avoid visiting the Court and may collect information through phone from Supreme Court helpline (1818), he added. Wearing of face mask and getting checked of fever/temperature was mandatory for all the persons on entering in the premises of the court's building at Islamabad and Branch Registries at Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta. Entry of people without face mask, temperature/fever/symptoms checking and passing through disinfectant tunnel was banned forthwith. - APP

GB musical night held at Annual Lok Mela

ISLAMABAD: A colourful Gilgit Baltistan musical night with variety of traditional songs here on Friday was held at Lok Vira as part of 10-day long Lok Mela (Festival). Eminent Folk artists and musicians including Kshahif, Abid Khan, Tanveen Ahmed, Junaid, Mnzoor Baltistani, Abdul Majeed, Nuaman, Mubarak Ali Sawan, Masood Ehsan, Ghulam Hussain, Waji Haider, Rizwan Muhammad Ameen, Amir Aman Hunzai and others enthralled the audience at the Open Air Theatre. Famous Sheedi Leva dance group and exclusive sword dance entertained the on-lookers with their distinctive attire and unique dance moves. The GB pavilion, a group of young artists and musicians in traditional dress attracted visitors with their spellbinding performance. In addition to the provinces, the GB has participated in the festival with a contingent of more than 40 master artisans, folk artists, musicians and officials. Folk Festival 'Lok Mela' continues in which provinces across the country are highlighting the beauty of their culture through shows of arts and crafts in provincial pavilions. - APP

SC approves PBA appeal for hearing

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Friday suspended high court and the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) order regarding issuance of new TV channels license and accepted the Pakistan Broadcasters Association's (PBA's) appeal for hearing. A three-member bench of the apex court headed by Justice Mushir Alam and comprising Justice Yahya Afridi and Justice Qazi Muhammad Amin Ahmed heard the case. During the course of proceedings, the court directed the PEMRA to hear the PBA in accordance with the law and make a decision without being affected by the previous decision. It added that PEMRA should hear the PBA on December 7 or any other suitable date and decide the matter afterwards. Advocate Faisal Siddiqui counsel for PBA said that according to the law, members had to state the time and place of the meeting in the notice. He said that the competent authority did not decide on the application of PBA. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Officials from Allama Iqbal Open University and Zong exchanging memorandum of understanding (MoU). - DNA

Zong provides taleem internet bundle to AIOU

According to the agreement, Zong will provide AIOU Taleem Bundle to the students and employees of AIOU on subsidized rates which can be used to access AIOU online services

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University and Zong signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) at the main campus of the university. According to the agreement, Zong will provide AIOU Taleem Bundle to the students and employees of AIOU on subsidized rates which can be used to access AIOU online services like Aaghi LMS, AIOU Live (FM radio/TV), digital library and university website, etc. Prof. Dr. Nasir Mehmood, Dean Faculty of Education chaired the MoU signing session. Professors,

principal officers of the university, and senior management of Zong telecommunication network participated in the MoU signing ceremony. Sohail Nazir Rana, Registrar AIOU, and Mr. Farhan Zakir, Director Government and Corporate Sales Services, Zong signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations. During his address to the participants, Mr. Moied Javed, CCO, Zong highly appreciated the role of AIOU in promotion of education. He said that AIOU is one of those national institutions of the country which contribute tremendously to the progress and development of the country.

He further said that he was impressed by the infrastructure of the university. He proposed multiple possibilities of further collaboration between AIOU and Zong including interconnectivity of all 54 regional offices of the university through a single networking operation and collaboration of AIOU with a higher education institution of China specialized in online education for bring further improvements in AIOU's online education system and delivery mechanism. Mr. Ajmal Farooq, Director ICT, AIOU briefed the participants about the ongoing automation and digitalization processes of

the university. He said that AIOU is primarily focusing on converting all of its academic and administrative operations and procedures from manual to digital. He termed the agreement as a landmark achievement in facilitating the students to participate in online academic activities. He further informed that 89 percent of the students were able to connect to Aaghi LMS successfully and attended their online classes in spring 2020 semester. While speaking on this occasion, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mehmood said, "AIOU is imparting low cost education to almost 1.4 million students and by joining hands with

Zong and other telecom companies AIOU would be able to improve its reach and accessibility". He, further, informed that 54 percent of the students enrolled with AIOU are females who come from distant regions of the country. Owing to cultural and financial issues, AIOU remains the only hope of education for them serving as a social welfare enterprise and nearly 36 lac students have so far graduated from the university. Director Regional Services, Inam Ullah Shaikh, and Treasurer of AIOU, Dr. Aamer Shah, also spoke on this occasion and termed the agreement as beneficial for both the parties.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Hamza Shafqat in a meeting with President ICCI Sardar Yasir. - DNA

MediaTekHelio G80 Bodes well with the gaming enthusiasts!

ISLAMABAD: Infinix Mobility Limited is yet again transcending its way towards the launch of Note 8 with the ground-breaking technology. The Note series, that has never ceased to amaze its users, is this time coming with a meticulously designed processor of MediaTekHelioG80 from MediaTek's G-series chipset domain. MediaTekHelioG80 are specially designed octa core gaming chipsets that have revolutionized the mid-range mobile market. MediaTekHelio G80 chipset is known for its seamless gaming experience that provides smoother performance in heavy-loading game engines! It can run multiple games like PUBG, Fortnite, Asphalt, Call of Duty etc. in high settings. This year owing to the pandemic, a lot of people have been home stricken and spent most of their time on mobile phones playing games. PUBG became so popular that every mobile manufacturing company thought of providing the best gaming experience to its end user in relatively low price. So considering the holistic market of gaming enthusiasts, Infinix has geared its focus to provide a better gaming experience in its note series with MediaTekHelio G80. - DNA

Health officials propose sealing six schools

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The district health office of Islamabad has requested the district administration to seal six schools in the capital after teachers and students there contracted the coronavirus. In a letter, the health office stated that these schools had reported coronavirus cases and therefore should be shut down: Islamabad Model College (girls campus) F-6/2 Islamabad Model College (boys campus) G-7/4 Islamabad Model College F6/3 Islamabad Model College (girls campus) 1-10/4 Islamabad Model College Golra Bahali Institute H-8/4

The district health officer has recommend shutting these schools for a week for disinfection and to trace contacts. Seven other schools that were previously closed down have been allowed to reopen. Earlier this week, authorities sealed four educational institutes in the city after COVID-19 cases were reported there. As of Friday morning, Pakistan has reported 352,296 cases of coronavirus, out of which 321,563 people have recovered. In the last 24 hours, over 2,304 new cases were reported and 37 people lost their lives to the virus. Experts have warned that Pakistan is currently experiencing a second wave of the coronavirus as cases are rising steadily.

PTCL clarification

ISLAMABAD (DNA) This is with reference to news published in your esteemed blog titled 'Poor PTCL Services Irk Customers' dated October 25, 2020. PTCL would like to clarify that matter has been investigated and subsequently revealed that customer Anser Mehmood Bhatti was facing issue regarding PTCL services due to cable damage that has been rectified by our technical teams. We are glad to share that all services are working fine and customers are satisfied with the experience. However, we regret any inconvenience caused to our valued customers. PTCL endeavors to provide convenience to its valuable customers and ensures better experience. In case of any complaint, PTCL helpline 1218 is available 24/7, where customers can easily talk to our Customer Support Representatives as per their ease. - DNA

Work on pedestrian bridges underway

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Developmental work by Capital Development Authority (CDA) is underway in the city. The work on construction of pedestrian bridges for those who walk in surrounding of Itwar (Sunday) Bazar, Faisal Avenue, and G-7 has been started. According to detail, the pedestrians were facing problems due to rush of Itwar bazar. The rush of people and pressure of traffic have been causing accidents. Besides this, traffic was also remain jam due to rush. Women, children, and disables were used to face huge difficulties due to this rush. CDA has started work on construction of pedestrian bridge to overcome the problems of masses. On the other hand citizens were also facing difficulties in crossing the Faisal avenue so a bridge is also being constructed between Faisal Avenue and G 7. Chairman CDA, Aamir Ali Ahmad is taking great interest in all the developmental projects. He often visits the work sites to inspect the work. The Chairman has directed the relevant authorities to ensure the timely completion of the projects.

RWP Police launch search operation in various areas

RAWALPINDI: The police on special directives of City Police Officer (CPO) on Friday launched a search operation in Dheri Hassanabad and adjoining areas in the jurisdiction of Civil Line Police Station, said a police spokesman. He informed that heavy police contingents, elite force, special branch personnel and ladies police under the supervision of SHO Civil Line Police Station conducted search operation in the area and searched 161 houses while 296 persons were also interrogated. The police also checked particulars of various 81 tenants, he added. The spokesman said the search operations to net criminals and proclaimed offenders were regularly being conducted in different areas of the district to ensure law and order. - APP

Abasyn University closed over virus fears

RAJA PERVAIZ

ISLAMABAD: The administration of Abasyn University has decided to close down its Islamabad campus for academic activities from November, 15th (Monday) due to precautionary measures for COVID-19 pandemic. According to a notification issued by university additional registrar on Friday, "All the classes will be conducted online during this period as per timetable." "The scheduled on-campus academic activities will resume on Monday, November 30, 2020," read the notification.

IRSA releases 122,300 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 122,300 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 46,900 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbella Dam was 1509.87 feet, which was 1223.87 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 25,900 cusecs and outflow as 65,000 cusecs. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1196.60 feet, which was 156.60 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 8,700 cusecs and 45,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 78,300, 50,700 and 9,300 cusecs respectively. - APP

Qaiser urges regional countries to join CPEC

The Speaker NA said CPEC project was a multifaceted project that would change the destiny of people of the region including Pakistan by ushering a new era of progress, prosperity and development

DNA

PESHAWAR: Speaker National Assembly, Asad Qaiser here on Friday said that regional countries including Afghanistan have showed keen interest to become part of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Asad Qaiser said CPEC has attracted a number of countries of the region and showed strong commitment to become part of the multi-billion dollar project due to its enormous economic and trade benefits. Likewise, he

added that Afghanistan Government had also expressed commitment to become a partner in the mega project. He was addressing the dialogue titled "Role of Parliament in promoting Investment, Trade and People to People exchange under the CPEC," organized by National Assembly Secretariat, Islamabad here at local hotel. The function was also addressed by KP Chief Minister, Mahmood Khan, Chief of Parliamentary Committee on CPEC, Sher Ali Arbab and others speakers. The Speaker National Assembly

said CPEC project was a multifaceted project that would change the destiny of people of the region including Pakistan by ushering a new era of progress, prosperity and development. He said KP was located in strategic position that would largely benefited from CPEC. He said solid efforts would be made on Parliament level to ensure maximum benefits from projects under the CPEC for KP. Similarly he was also playing part in getting due rights of the province including its share on account of the hydel power profit.

Asad Qaiser said administrative officers concerned were directed to expedite work on their part on cases pertaining to KP's rights and CPEC projects and forward it to Islamabad at earliest for further progress in this regard. He said this region had suffered the most due to Afghanistan conflict and resultantly business and trade activities got adversely affected in the entire region including KP. Asad Qaiser said Peshawar used to be a trade and business center in the past and constructive efforts were being made to make it again a hub of business and

trade. In this regard, he added that a friendship Group had been revived with Afghanistan. He said lasting peace in Afghanistan was vital to take full advantage of CPEC by Central Asians Republics (CARs) and Kabul. The Speaker said the government was committed to promote trade and business relations with neighboring countries including Afghanistan. Asad Qaiser added that he would be visiting Afghanistan along with a delegation in December that would help further strengthen relations between the two countries

Briefs

Police nab eight fireworks dealers

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Rawal Division Police in their ongoing operation against lawbreakers conducted raids in different areas and arrested eight fireworks dealers.

According to Rawalpindi Police spokesman, Gungmandi police conducted raids and rounded up seven fireworks dealers namely Javed Mehmood, Shah Rukh Ali, Khalil Akram, Asim, Sajjad, Sikandar alias Chana and Ahmed Abdul besides recovering huge quantity of fireworks items. Waris Khan police also apprehended a firework dealer, Mubeen Javed for possessing fireworks items. The spokesman said, on the directive of City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi, a special grand operation against fireworks dealers was launched here in the city and police parties arrested the accused from different areas. He informed that cases have been registered against the dealers.

Police held three kite sellers

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police in their crackdown against kite sellers and kite flyers conducted raids in different areas and arrested three besides recovering 450 kites and 32 kite flying string rolls from their possession.

According to a police spokesman, Naserabad police arrested Taj Muhammad, Atif Ibraheem and Bilal Ahmed and recovered 350 kites with 30 string rolls, 50 kites with one string roll and 50 kites and a string roll from their possession respectively. Separate cases have been registered against all the accused. He said, Police on the directives of City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi Muhammad Ahsan Younas were conducting raids against the kite flying ban violators and taking action in accordance with the law.

Rain spell to decrease smog level

ISLAMABAD: Spokesman Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) Dr Khalid Malik on Friday said that the rain spell which would enter from Sunday would decrease level of smog in the country. Talking to APP, he said the rain spell would provide relief to the patients of allergy. Health Expert Dr Arif Maheed said impacts of smog would prove harmful in situation like Covid-19 pandemic. It was mandatory for the people to wear mask while going outside to save them from diseases, smog and skin irritation. He advised the people to stay at homes in the evening time to secure them from seasonal allergies, adding allergies develop when the body's immune system overreacted to something in the environment. – APP

Healthy lifestyle key to avoid diabetes

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Like other parts of the globe, the World Diabetes Day will be marked on Saturday (tomorrow) across the globe including Pakistan which aims to increase an awareness of the effects of diabetes and the complications caused by the disease. Talking to APP, Diabetologist & ex Chairman, Department of Medicine, PIMS, Dr Jamal Zafar said people of all age group no matter what he or she is or an old or young were suffering from diabetes and the reason behind it was their bad eating habits, imbalance lifestyle and avoiding daily exercises. He also underlined the need to avoid junk fizzy drinks which could lead to various types of diseases. According to a survey that had conducted in 2017, 26% people above the age of 20 were suffered more from this chronic disease. He advised people to be aware about the fact that every after three months they should visit hospital for complete blood glucose (sugar) test. No negligence relating to health issues would be compromising as health is wealth for every individual he added.



ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas, President ICCI, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas, Special advisor to CM Punjab, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Zafar Bakhtawari, Ajmal Balouch, Khalid Chaudhry, Sardar Tahir Mehmood and others pose for a photo. – DNA

NAB strictly pursuing the policy of “Accountability for all”

NAB strongly believes in conducting the inquiries and investigations of white collar crimes on scientific lines that too after collecting solid evidence as per law

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of National Accountability Bureau (NAB) was held under the chairmanship of Honorable Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB to review overall performance of NAB at NAB Headquarter. Hussain Asgar, Deputy Chairman NAB, Syed Asghar Haider, Prosecutor General Accountability (PGA), Zahir Shah, DG Operations NAB and other senior officers of NAB were present at the meeting. While DG's of all regional bureaus attended the meeting via video link. Honorable Justice Mr. Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB said that NAB is strictly pursuing the pol-

icy of accountability for all. NAB is an apex anti corruption organization of the country which has assigned a gigantic task of eradication of corruption and to recover looted money from corrupt elements. Chairman NAB said that taking mega corruption cases/white collar crime cases to logical conclusion is top most priority of NAB. NAB strongly believes in conducting the inquiries and investigations of white collar crimes on scientific lines that too after collecting solid evidence as per law. During the meeting, it was informed that out of 179 mega corruption cases, NAB had filed 97 corruption references in different accountability courts, while 57 references

had been taken to logical conclusion. Currently, out of 179 mega corruption references, 10 inquiries and 15 investigations are under process. The meeting was informed by DG operations, that out of 179 mega corruption cases, NAB had filed 97 corruption references in different accountability courts, while 57 references had been taken to logical conclusion. Currently, out of 179 mega corruption references, 10 inquiries and 15 investigations are under process. The meeting reviewed the latest progress on Reko Dek project reference filed in Accountability Court Quetta about causing a loss of billions of rupees to the national exchequer.

The meeting also reviewed latest progress on the cases against former Prime Ministers Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Shaukat Aziz, Raja Pervez Ashraf, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, former President Asif Ali Zardari, former CM Punjab Shahbaz Sharif, former CM Balochistan, Nawab Aslam Khan Raisani, Sardar Sanaullah Zerhi, CM Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah, former CM Sindh Syed Qaim Ali Shah, Ishaq Dar, Khawaja Saad Rafique, Dr Asim Hussain, Ahsan Iqbal, Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, Sarwar Khan, Noor ul Haq Qadri, Dr Zafar Mirza, Babar Khan Ghouri, Manzor Wasan, Agha Siraj Durrani, Syed Khursheed Shah, and

others. The Honorable Chairman NAB directed all Regional Bureaus for logical conclusion of all cases as per law. He said that NAB's top most priority is to eradicate the menace of corruption with zero tolerance in order to ensure corruption free Pakistan. The performance of nab has been lauded by the reputed national and international organizations. The World Economic Forum and Transparency as NAB has recovered Rs. 466 billion since its inception with a conviction ratio of 68.8 percent. Chairman NAB directed the officials to complete complaint verifications, inquiries and investigations so that the looted amount could be deposited in the national exchequer.

12 held during crackdown against criminals

Aabpara police arrested a bootleggers namely Muhammad Aamir and recovered four wine bottles and four tin beer from him

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police have arrested 12 accused during the last 24 hours in its crackdown against drug pusher and criminal elements and recovered narcotics and wine from them, a police spokesman. Following directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Muhammad Aamir Zulfar Khan, Deputy Inspector General of Police (Operations) Waqar Ud Din Syed issued directions to all zonal officers for renewed efforts against those involved in anti-social activities. Owing these efforts, SP (Rural Zone) Farooq Amjad Butter constituted police team under the supervision of DSP Qasim Niazi including SHO koral police station Inspector Asjad Mehmood, ASI Muhammad Rasheed along with others that apprehended a bootlegger Asad Mehmood from Burma Stop and recovered 72 wine bottles from him.. Case has been

registered against him and further investigation is underway from him. Meanwhile Aabpara police arrested a bootleggers namely Muhammad Aamir and recovered four wine bottles and four tin beer from him. Sabzi Mandi police arrested a drug peddler namely Yaseen and recovered 550 gram heroine from him, While police team also arrested two professional Alm-Seekers namely Ghulam Muhammad and Aamir. Cases have been registered against these nabbed persons and further legal proceeding is underway against them. During special checking in the whole city, police teams nabbed seven proclaimed offenders. DIG (Operations) Islamabad Waqar Uddin Syed has said that these social evils would be curbed and those backing drug peddlers and professional beggars would be dealt with iron hand. He further emphasized that this campaign would continue till elimination of anti-social elements.

Scientists asked to adopt biotech for rapid yield growth

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam on Friday advised the scientists to adopt advance biotechnology tools as genomics strategy for rapid yield enhancement of other crops such as wheat, sugarcane, oil crops, and horticultural crops. He also stressed the need to develop like Green

Super Rice techniques to improve local animal breeds through genomics based research. Imam visited Green Super Rice (GSR) fields at National Institute for Genomics and Advanced Biotechnology (NIGAB) and discussed its future scope in other crops. Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali, scientist in genomics and biotechnology, member Plant Sciences Division,

PARC briefed the Minister about the Green Super Rice project and activities of biotechnology institute. Using latest technique of genome based breeding by design; NIGAB scientists in collaboration with international scientist and Chinese partners have developed these rice varieties. The yield potential of

selected rice varieties ranges from 80 to 120 mounds per acre. Dr Ali, explained that with extra long grain there are good chances to capture the export market of rice internationally. This project is very important to rapidly enhance the yield of rice as desired in Primer Minister Rice productivity enhancement Initiative. – APP



ISLAMABAD: A monkey presenting antics to attract customers' attention. Due to coronavirus parks in the Capital have been closed due to which business of such people has badly affected. – DNA

Awareness stressed on 'World Diabetic day' to be observed today

He further called for active physical activities young generation, adopting a healthy lifestyle, regular monitoring and awareness education as a few measures to prevent and counter the disease and its complications

ISLAMABAD: Senior Diabetologist Dr. Obaid Ahmed Hashmi on Friday expressed serious concern over growing rise in number of diabetes cases in country and urged the government should take emergency steps to create an aggressive mass awareness campaign to help control over this disease. Speaking on a private news channel in connection with 'World Diabetes Day' to be observed on Saturday (tomorrow) across the world including Pakistan, Dr. Obaid Ahmed Hashmi described the sit-

uation as alarming and said the number of diabetic patients was continuously rising where mostly youngsters and women both are at high risk of being diabetic patient due to change in their lifestyles. About 80 lakh people have been suffering from diabetes in the country, he said, adding, diabetes had become endemic in Pakistan and now every fourth Pakistani was a diabetic while millions including 9.7% women ratio were about to get affected with the disease due to their unhealthy lifestyle. "Most of the common

people are still not adequately aware of the risks of the silent killer disease which gradually destroys the immune system of human body," he said. He said the aim of observing this day is to create more media awareness and impart basic knowledge about Diabetes among general public and various programmes have also been taken to observe the World diabetic day across the country to make people aware of diabetes. It was an effort to improve the quality of life of the diabetics and help them get good

blood sugar control by making changes in their lifestyle and eating patterns, he added. He further called for active physical activities young generation, adopting a healthy lifestyle, regular monitoring and awareness education as a few measures to prevent and counter the disease and its complications. "The disease is growing in Pakistan faster like other third world countries, whose basic reason is sedentary lifestyle among the people," he said. He explained that diabetes is a chronic disease

that occurs either when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin or when the body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces. Insulin, a hormone that regulates blood sugar, gives us the energy that we need to live. If it can't get into the cells to be burned as energy, sugar builds up to harmful levels in the blood. To prevent diabetics, Expert suggested people to take balance diets, doing physical works, control body weight, keep themselves away from mental stress and quit smoking.

Rupee gains 17 paises against US dollar

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The exchange rate of Pakistani rupee strengthened by 17 paises against the US dollar in the interbank trading on Friday and closed at Rs158.16 against the previous day's closing of Rs158.33. Meanwhile, according to Forex Association of Pakistan, the buying and selling rates of dollar in the open market were recorded at Rs157.6 and Rs158.4 respectively. In interbank trading, the price of euro appreciated by 20 paises and closed at Rs186.86 against the last day's trading of Rs186.66, State Bank of Pakistan reported. The Japanese Yen remained unchanged to close at Rs1.50, whereas decrease of 87 paises was witnessed in the exchange rate of British Pound which was traded at Rs 208.10 as compared to its last closing of Rs208.97. The exchange rates of Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal declined by 05 paises each to close at Rs43.05 and Rs42.16 respectively.

Folk singers from Punjab enthrall audience

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Folk singers from all over Punjab with their unmatched performance are enthralling in Punjab pavilion in ongoing lok mela at Lok Virsa. Famous singers like Zafar Lohar, Bashir Lohar, Shoukat Dholi, Iram Abbasi, Sain Riaz, Azam Hussain, Saem Iqbal, Hamza Ali and others were among the daily performers at the pavilion. Tourists from all over the country and diplomats are enjoying the daily musical performance of folk singers and many of them dance on the drum beats. Executive Director Al Hamza Arts Council Saman Rai also visited the Punjab pavilion and admired the work of master artisans. She said that, the government should help the artisan to showcase their work to international level and urged that all the provinces should arrange 'Lok Melas' (Festivals) like this in the provincial capitals to spread the cultural heritage in every corner of the country. Lok Mela will be continued till November 15 at Shakarparian.

SSGC, SNGPL irate with OGRA

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Gas distributors for Pakistan have opposed on Friday Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) decision to slash down Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) prices after scrapping the benchmark of factoring in losses and leakages of gas in systems to the consumer bills. According to the gas distributors, Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) and Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) the decision was taken without taking them in confidence and it will hike the deficit already faced by them in gas distribution. The decision is unfair and contradictory to law, SSGC spokesperson noted. It may be noted that OGRA had earlier allowed gas distributors to charge 11 to -17 per cent of unaccounted-for-gas (UFG) from LNG consumers in the tariff. However, day before yesterday, the regulatory slashed the rate to about 6 pc after Economic Coordination Committee realized how much UFG could be collected from domestic consumers and advised OGRA to accordingly regulate it. SSGC and SNGPL have taken up the issue and have said they are deliberating over the new notification.

Covid danger

THE coronavirus pandemic is no doubt one of the worst dangers modern humanity has faced all over the world. Other than claiming lives across the globe, the Covid-19 pandemic also presents another quite different type of danger. This danger has been highlighted by both Unicef and the WHO which say that the pandemic has stripped them of resources and attracted attention away from other global diseases and towards the virus, creating a situation where other dangerous diseases which kill children in particular are being neglected.

As an example, UN officials have pointed to Nigeria where the attention remained focused on Covid-19, and has drawn away attention from efforts to eradicate or keep under control other diseases including measles and yellow fever which kill children each year in that country. The same problem is seen in countries around the world, causing a problem which could have long-term effects. In Pakistan we have seen the drive against polio being hit very badly by the coronavirus which has made it impossible to reach many children and to keep up the effort made to eradicate the disease by ensuring every child receives the necessary vaccination. It will take a long time to recover from the setback caused by this problem which hit the world so suddenly and with such lethal consequences. In Nigeria, the UN says that 54 percent of children are still to receive the second dose of the measles vaccine which is essential to making it effective in keeping away the disease. This is not the only problem faced by one of the poorest countries in the world. The yellow fever vaccine program intended to protect children against the disease which is rampant across Africa has also been affected – with the result that Nigeria alone has recorded 70 fatalities due to the disease. This is not a problem that is going to be resolved very quickly. World leaders need to recognise the requirement for more funding as well as changed tactics so that apart from the coronavirus other diseases can also be kept in check and finally defeated.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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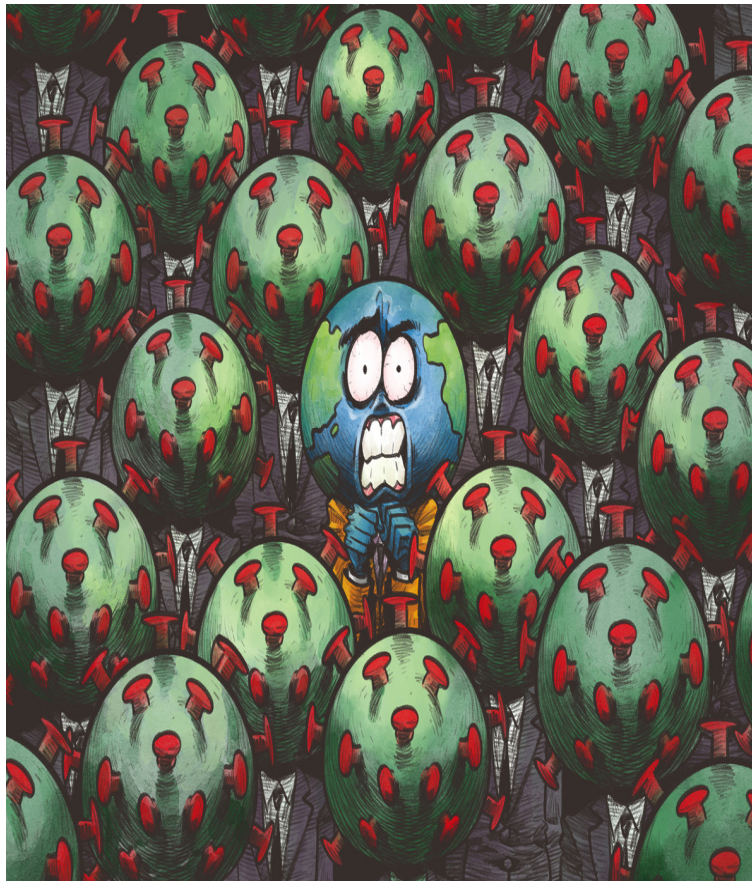
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Government versus PDM

THE PDM comprises 11 parties. Two of these are moderate mainstream parties who happen to be traditional rivals. Unlike them, the JUI(F) draws support from religious seminaries as does JAH, another alliance component. Nationalist parties are secular outfits drawing support from their respective ethnic groups. Some of the alliance components have at times aligned themselves with the PPP or PML(N) or both. There are enough differences between the allied parties but unlike PTI leadership these are led by hard-headed politicians. The alliance which has already held three mega rallies remains united and is now bracing for a fourth one in Peshawar to beard the lion in his den.

The PML(N), PDM's main source of strength in Punjab remains united, defying several timelines for a split announced by PTI leaders. Despite facing hardships both the soft liners and the hard liners remain united over Nawaz Sharif's combative narrative.

The PTI government has also tried to cause estrangement between the PPP and PML(N) by allegedly engaging elements in the ISI and Rangers, who are technically under PM's control. The attempt boomeranged and caused embarrassment to the military, which was unnecessarily dragged into an ugly political standoff.

Attempts were made to use Bilawal's "It saddens me to see Generals names being taken at rallies" to incite the PML(N) against PPP. The PML(N) leaders however did not take the bait. Bilawal backtracked by maintaining that the PDM had not barred the allies from taking names during rallies.

The PPP and PML(N) have displayed more maturity than many had expected during the ongoing Gilgit-Baltistan elections. Despite the stiff electoral rivalry, the leadership of the two parties maintained amicable relations.

JUI(F) Secretary Information Hafiz Hussain Ahmad had lashed out at Nawaz Sharif on a TV show for the latter's anti-establishment stance. This was considered to be a divisive move and his party promptly removed him from the office.

The PDM has yet to go through several endurance tests, the most challenging being resignations from the assemblies. Unless it qualifies in all these, it would be premature to pass judgment over the alliance's mettle

Science diplomacy

Dr M Ali Hamza



Science diplomacy is an engagement for scientific collaborations among nations to address global problems and to build productive international partnerships. The term encompasses formal and informal technical, medical, research-based, academic or engineering exchanges in the general area of international affairs. Science diplomacy relatively a less utilized approach to diplomacy and has gained attention recently

IMPRESSION management is a deliberate subliminal process in which individuals, communities, and nations endeavor to influence the perceptions of others about a person, object, or a happening, by setting and supervising information in social interaction. It is not a new phenomenon, rather existed for centuries in different shapes. Impression management is commonly used as an alternative toones' presentation, in which an entity tries to influence the perception of one's own image. The idea of impression management initially practiced through face-to-face interaction, but later expanded with an invention of modern tools such as computer-mediated interaction, broadcasting technology, internet based platforms, podcasts, social media etc. The concept is related to academic fields of study such as economics, politics, psychology and sociology as well as practical fields, for instance corporate communication, industry linkages and development of social cognition.

If taken in account only last 100 years, we can clearly witness the invasions, destructions, foreign occupations, industrial revolution, knowledge creation, and a buzz word "the innovation" happening at high velocity. On a parallel track we have observed that the progressive nations spending billions of dollars in establishing, maintaining and enhancing their positive impression. The British Empire invaded unstopably and brutally tainted and tarnished all the cultures, but still the colonized minds see them with respect and honor because they established an image of technologically advanced, scientifically systematic, caring, progressive, learned and soft empire. Americans slaughtered red-Indians, bombarded Vietnam, engulfed the gulf, destroyed the world harmony, but still they have guts to be called advocates of peace due to their impression of being economic might

through science and technology.

This all just did not happen. Nations built these images not only through wish and desire but with intentional focus, adequate design of purpose, and well thought execution strategy. Beside economic, political and other impressions, the impression of science loving society is what the world is doing. As we listen to present Govt. showing concern for applied research, declares full commitment and offers a plan for high budget chunk in pursuance of S&T, there it needs to work on science diplomacy as well.

Science diplomacy is an engagement for scientific collaborations among nations to address global problems and to build productive international partnerships. The term encompasses formal and informal technical, medical, research-based, academic or engineering exchanges in the general area of international affairs. Science diplomacy relatively a less utilized approach to diplomacy and has gained attention recently. It is a phenomenon of the 21st century, and number of factors continue to drive this trend, but the most important one is the recognition of major global challenges and realization that science with its applications are part of the cause as well as the cure.

As a result, while much of the international science regime is still focused on discovery, there is an increasing demand for the integration of science cooperation in international relations. Science diplomacy began to surface following the end of the Cold War. Toward the last decades of the 20th century, much of the focus of science diplomacy moved beyond the role of science as a bridge to diplomatic dialogue and more toward the role of science interactions as the basis for addressing key global challenges. The new millennium encouraged strategic partner-

ships to promote activities of international cooperation and compromise on issues with a heavy scientific input and a global concern, such as environmental degradation, hygiene & sanitation, biosafety etc.

This involved even the development of strategic scientific relations between historical or potential rival countries or blocs: especially between the West and former Soviet Union countries, as a way to promote scientific cooperation to the extent that it could hedge against diplomatic failures and reduce the potential for conflict.

At first glance, scientists and diplomats are not obvious companions, because science is a quest for truth and diplomacy is an honest act of lying abroad for the good of one's country. Regardless, science diplomacy is gaining tract worldwide. The unambiguous reality of human civilization is that we now are globally interconnected. Pakistan being a major player in regional as well as global activities immensely needs to exploit the vacant area of diplomacy: use science in and for diplomacy, and do diplomacy for science. We need to train our scientists to engage in this cause of scientific connectivity to play their role in local-global applications of science. The journey to international relations through science can begin through communicating science to own masses.

The ministry of science & technology needs to inspire and fund the projects that flourish love of science in young energetic academicians and students. Science has to be a way of life. In the words of Brian Greene: a string theorist "Science is a perspective. Science is the process that takes us from confusion to understanding in a manner that's precise, predictive and reliable a transformation, for those lucky enough to experience it, that is empowering and emotional."

Formation of a new defense bloc is inevitable

Attiya Munawer



The United States, as a superpower, is well aware of Indian thinking, yet relies more on India than Pakistan. The United States has put behind Pakistan's friendship and especially Pakistan's role and sacrifices in the Afghan war. Agreements with India on modern defense technology, while sometimes arms embargoes on Pakistan

A NEW alliance is emerging in the face of the rapidly changing situation in the region, with the Pak-China Alliance, Pak-Iran relations as well as Pak-Russia war games indicate that a new bloc of these four countries will emerge in the region, while India is trying to isolate Pakistan at the international level. It is trying to isolate Pakistan on diplomatic, economic and financial issues. The CPEC was attacked under the same agenda. The blood of innocent people was shed in Kashmir. Attempts are also being made to disrupt relations between Russia and Pakistan with the US-Afghan agreement. Pak-Russia relations have been strained in the distant past due to India's joining the Russian camp. It was only natural for India to become cold-blooded in its relations with Russia when it joined the US camp in view of the changing winds. The US not only welcomed India but instead of giving the status of front line ally with Pakistan at the behest of India, it adopted a parrot-like attitude.

Thus, seeing the changing attitude of the United States, Pakistan became closer to China and relations with Russia have also become warmer as tensions have eased. Russia and Pakistan need each other in view of the changing situation in the region. If Russia, China and Pakistan are getting closer today in terms of defense, then the United States has a deliberate role to play. The United States wants to make India the leader of the region, because its target is China, but Pakistan has always been India's target. With regard to Russia, the United States does not have a soft spot, so the situation is forcing Pakistan, China and Russia to form a strong defense bloc. The formation of a Pak-China friendship defense bloc has become indispensable for thwarting India's nefarious aims and for lasting peace in the region. There is no doubt that Pakistan and China have met each other's trust in every hour of trial. The Soviet

Union was once an equal superpower to the United States. When the Soviet Union disintegrated, China began to take its place in an imperceptible way and today it has become an economic and defense power against the United States. The idea of the United States being the only superpower in the world is fading. China's rapid economic and defense strides are a blessing in disguise for the United States. The United States is struggling to stop China from stepping forward, President Trump's efforts to put India in front of China at the expense of Pakistan have failed, India stood in front of China intoxicated with the prospect of becoming a regional superpower but it has done its own misfortune.

Despite this, the US continues to pat India. The US has signed agreements with India for the supply of advanced defense technology, equipment and weapons. The US wants to make India stronger than China. Although India is afraid to stand up to China, it is getting arms and resources from the US in the name of teaching China a lesson so that it can use them against Pakistan.

The United States, as a superpower, is well aware of Indian thinking, yet relies more on India than Pakistan. The United States has put behind Pakistan's friendship and especially Pakistan's role and sacrifices in the Afghan war. Agreements with India on modern defense technology, while sometimes arms embargoes on Pakistan, sometimes a reduction in the Coalition Support Fund and sometimes everything is stopped. There is no objection if India detonates a nuclear device but if Pakistan detonates in response for its own defense, sanctions are imposed.

This duplicity of the United States is becoming dangerous for the region. In the Afghan war, Pakistan sided with the United States beyond its capabilities, but the United States occupied Afghanistan and infiltrated India, which is still conspiring against Pakistan on Afghan soil and play-

ing a game of terrorism here. The United States has always looked the other way. At India's behest, the United States has opposed Pakistan's bid to become part of the CPEC, urging it to pull out. If the US had made plans for Pakistan like China and kept India in its limit and resolve the Kashmir issue, then Pakistan would have leaned towards the US, but the US used Pakistan for its own interests and backed its arch enemy India.

The arrival of President Joe Biden in the United States after President Trump will not make any difference. President Trump has done nothing for the Kashmir issue despite his promises and to hope from President Joe Biden is to deceive oneself. So, resolving the Kashmir issue has never been a priority for the United States, Britain and the United Nations and like them, the world has used only oral deposits. Trump seemed to stand openly with India, in such circumstances; it was natural for Pakistan to look to China. However, Pakistan does not want to spoil its relations with the United States, but it must also ensure the protection of its interests. Pakistan's relations with Russia and Iran have improved, the bitterness of the past has been forgotten, and the military exercises between Pakistan and Russia are a reflection of the strong friendship and mutual trust. On the other hand, the visit of the Iranian Foreign Minister to Pakistan is a step towards improving relations. The United States is also barring Turkey from buying the S-400 air defense system from Russia in a bid to maintain its independence in the region, while Turkey considers the acquisition of the system essential for its defense. In this scenario, a defensive bloc is emerging in the region, including China, Pakistan, Russia, Iran and Turkey. The United States is pushing them towards this new defense bloc.

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Briefs

Liverpool's Salah tests positive for Covid-19

CAIRO: Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah has tested positive for Covid-19 while on international duty for Egypt without showing any symptoms, the Egyptian Football Association announced Friday. Medical swabs on the national team "showed that our international player, Mohamed Salah, Liverpool star, was infected with the coronavirus", it said in a tweet, adding he was "not suffering from any symptoms". The announcement comes as Egypt prepare to tackle Togo at home on Saturday in an Africa Cup of Nations qualifier. The tweet said other members of the Egyptian national team tested negative. Salah was observing medical protocols agreed in consultations between doctors in Egypt and Liverpool, a coronavirus hotspot, and self isolating in a Cairo hotel room. — APP

India suffered heavy losses: ISPR

From Page 01

In response to this provocative act, Pakistan Army gave a befitting reply to the Indian Army, and effectively targeted those Indian posts which engaged innocent civilians. As a result, substantial losses, both in terms of men and material, have been incurred on to Indian troops which have also been accepted by Indian Media. Indian's confirmed losses are much more than being acknowledged. In this valiant act, 1 x brave soldier of Pakistan Army embraced shahadat while 5 others got injured. Such cowardly acts of targeting innocent civilians reflect sheer lack of morality, utter unprofessionalism and total disregard to human rights by the Indian Army and are also clear violation of cease fire understanding of 2003. It is once again reiterated, that Pakistan is a peace loving country and Pakistan Army pursue the same aspirations. However, we stand committed to defend the motherland and our Kashmiri brethren even at the cost of our blood and lives. We assure, that all such provocative acts shall continue to be responded in the same coin.

Turkish govt scholarships for AJK students

From Page 01

He appreciated the Turkish government for adopting a principled stand on the Kashmir issue and the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people. "The boldness which the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had demonstrated first in his address to the parliament of Pakistan and later to the UN General Assembly condemning unlawful actions taken by India in occupied Jammu and Kashmir last year, and the forthright support he had declared to the liberation struggle of Kashmiri people, has no precedence," he added.

Nadal desperate to prove himself

DNA

LONDON: Rafael Nadal says he is determined to improve his poor record on indoor courts as he bids to win the ATP Finals for the first time in his illustrious career. Just one of the Spaniard's 86 singles titles has come on an indoor hard court, back in Madrid in 2005. Nadal has earned a berth at the end-of-season ATP Finals every year since that year but has been forced to withdraw on six occasions. Speaking Friday ahead of this year's tournament at London's O2 Arena, he said there were a number of factors for his failure to shine indoors, including fatigue at end-of-season events and a preference for other surfaces. "We can find excuses or reasons but at the end of the day the numbers are the numbers," Nadal said. "I think I have played less indoors than in other places without a doubt." The second seed, who drew level with Roger Federer on 20 Grand Slams by winning last month's French Open final, said his game was not ideally suited to fast courts.



BUENOS AIRES: Lionel Messi of Argentina controls the ball as Paraguay players chase him. — DNA

Danish activists arrested for plotting Qur'an burning

In a Facebook post on October 30, Paludan said he had informed the French consulate in Copenhagen of his intention to burn a Qur'an at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris on November 11

FOREIGN DESK

BRUSSELS: Five Danish far-right activists suspected of planning to provoke Muslims in Belgium by burning a Qur'an have been arrested and ordered out of the country, officials said. According to their group's Facebook page, those arrested are members of "Stram Kurs" or "Hard Line" — a group led by Danish anti-Islam and anti-immigration militant Rasmus Paludan.

According to the site, Paludan himself was arrested in neighboring France and has also been expelled. Stram Kurs is known in Scandinavia for acts of provocation and Belgian authorities believe the group planned a Qur'an burning in Molenbeek, a Brussels district with a large Moroccan population. The alleged plan forms part of the case sent by the police to the public prosecutor's office in Brussels, a source close to the investigation told AFP. Sammy Mahdi, Belgium's

secretary of state for asylum and migration and himself the son of an Iraqi refugee, welcomed the five arrests. "They were ordered to leave the country quickly, which they did," his office said. "The stay was refused because these men represent a serious threat to public order in Belgium. Another man was recently arrested in France for the same reason," the statement continued. The statement did not identify Paludan by name, but added: "Germany has also

taken a similar decision with regard to this man, considered by the security services a preacher of hatred." In August, clashes broke out in Malmo in southern Sweden when far-right provocateurs burned a Qur'an. Residents protested by attacking the police and several officers were hurt. Paludan, a lawyer by training who lives in Denmark, was initially expected to attend the demonstration, but Swedish authorities prevented him from

entering the country. "In our society, which is already very polarized, we don't need people who come to spread hatred," Mahdi said. "I don't care whether they are left-wing or right-wing extremists, I care about the safety of our citizens," he added. In a Facebook post on October 30, Paludan said he had informed the French consulate in Copenhagen of his intention to burn a Qur'an at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris on November 11.

China finds virus on packaging of Brazilian beef

The beef had entered the country at Qingdao port on Aug. 7 and it reached Wuhan

WEB DESK

BEIJING: The Chinese city of Wuhan said on Friday it had detected the novel coronavirus on the packaging of a batch of Brazilian beef, as it ramped up testing of frozen foods this week as part of a nationwide campaign. The Wuhan Municipal Health Commission said in a statement on its website it had found three positive samples on the outer packaging of frozen, boneless beef from Brazil. The beef had entered the country at Qingdao port on Aug. 7 and it reached Wuhan on Aug. 17, where it remained in a cold storage facility until recently. The novel coronavirus first emerged in the central Chinese city late last year, at a market, and has gone on to spread around the world. The beef shipment's exporter registration code was 2015, the commission said, which refers to a plant owned by Marfrig Global Foods S.A., accord-

ing to a Reuters search. Marfrig could not immediately be reached for comment. More than 100 staff at the Wuhan facility had undergone tests, it said, and 200 environmental samples had been taken. After taking drastic measures to control the spread of the virus in the population this year, China began in late June to test imported food for the virus too. By September, it had only found 22 positive samples out of almost 3 million but with some port workers recently discovered to be infected with the virus, it stepped up testing and disinfection of food imports this week. Chinese authorities also found the coronavirus on the packaging of Argentinian beef this week, and another imported beef sample was found to be positive in Shandong, that province said on Friday. China is the world's top beef buyer and Brazil and Argentina its largest suppliers.

Russia-backed conference on Syrian refugees dismissed

DNA

NEW YORK: The US State Department on Thursday dismissed as a distraction a Russian-backed conference in Damascus that called for the return of millions of Syrian refugees to the war-ravaged country. Richard Albright, deputy assistant secretary at the Bureau

of Population, Refugees and Migration, said it is no more than a show that bears no relation to the grim reality of the situation in Syria. Joel Rayburn, the US special envoy for Syria, said the conference was "just a dog and pony show meant to distract from the fact that the Russians and the Assad regime have not done what the international community has been pressing

them to do, which is to end the war and move to a political solution under UN Security Council resolution 2254." During the joint briefing, Albright also accused Russia and the Syrian regime of using refugees as "political pawns" to lend legitimacy to the regime. "This blatant disregard for the lives at stake is reprehensible," he said, pointing out that the position of the UN is

that conditions in Syria are not yet conducive to the safe and sustainable return of refugees. "The few returns that have taken place have all too often been met with secondary displacement, continued dependence on international assistance and, in some cases, forced conscription, detention, forced disappearances and other human-rights violations," Albright added.



RABAT: Pakistan ambassador in Morocco Hamid Asghar Khan had an excellent interaction with the President of the Region of Layoune at the Diplomatic Foundation with their Excellencies the Ambassadors of Cameroon, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Tchad, Niger, Yemen and UAE. — DNA

UN reports 869,770 measles cases in 2019

Mr Rahul Roy-Chaudhury, Senior Fellow for South Asia at the International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS), London, believed that the recent violent border clashes between Indian and Chinese troops had resulted in a deterioration of bilateral relations between the two countries.

DNA

UNITED NATIONS: Measles killed an estimated 207,500 people worldwide last year after a decade-long failure to reach optimal vaccination coverage, resulting in the highest number of cases for 23 years, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) and US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) said in a joint report on Thursday. The death toll in 2019 was 50 per cent higher than a historic low reached in 2016, and all WHO regions saw an increase in cases, adding up to a global total of 869,770.

This year there have been fewer cases, but the COVID-19 pandemic has further set back vaccination efforts, with more than 94 million people at risk of missing measles vaccines in 26 countries that have paused their vaccination campaigns, including many countries with ongoing outbreaks. "Before there was a coronavirus crisis, the world was grappling with a measles crisis, and it has not gone away", Henrietta Fore, UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) Executive Director, said in a statement. "While health systems are strained by the COVID-19 pandemic, we must not allow our fight

against one deadly disease to come at the expense of our fight against another." Measles is entirely preventable, but success requires 95 per cent of children to be vaccinated on time with two doses of measles-containing vaccines (MCV1 and MCV2). MCV1 coverage has been stagnant globally for more than a decade at between 84 and 85 per cent, while MCV2 coverage has been steadily increasing but is still only at 71 percent. Natasha Crowcroft, senior technical advisor on measles and rubella at the WHO, said that the good news was that measles vaccinations had saved more than

25.5 million lives globally since 2000. But the low vaccine coverage meant the number of unprotected children was growing every year. "The big issue is not actually large holes in coverage, it's the stalling in coverage", Dr. Crowcroft told a news conference in Geneva. "It's a bit like, you know, tinder for a forest fire, it reaches a point where an outbreak really takes off. And that's what we saw in 2019, with the almost explosive outbreaks in areas that have had inadequate coverage over many years", Dr. Crowcroft said. "If you have coverage around about that 80 per cent level,

then you get the sense that things are going okay, but they're not really, and eventually you see these large outbreaks." Weak health systems and the inability to reach children were the main problem globally, and vaccine hesitancy was an additional problem in some countries, she said. Last week UNICEF and WHO issued a joint call to action to avert major measles and polio epidemics, calling for an additional \$255 million over the next three years to address dangerous measles immunity gaps in the 45 countries at the highest risk of an imminent outbreak.

All to play for in HBL PSL 2020 playoffs

LAHORE: All eyes will be on Karachi's National Stadium as the much-awaited HBL Pakistan Super League 2020 playoffs get underway tomorrow Saturday afternoon with the table-toppers Multan Sultans taking on Karachi Kings in the Qualifier. The tournament returns to action after an eight-month gap, as it was postponed on 17 March due to Covid-19 pandemic. Until then, cricket fans, both in Pakistan and across the world, had remained glued to the riveting T20 action that saw some nail-biters with the fight for the four playoff spots going down to the wire. The 2017 champions Peshawar Zalmi edged past defending champions Quetta Gladiators on net run-rate to sneak through to the playoffs by grabbing the fourth spot, while Islamabad United, the two-time champions, finished their campaign on the last spot on the table. — APP

Trump takes a dig at firms aiding China

From Page 01

Thursday's order prohibits US companies and individuals owning shares in any of the listed companies, which include major telecommunications, construction and technology firms such as China Mobile, China Telecom, video surveillance firm Hikvision, and China Railway Construction Corp. Current investors will have a year to divest from the Beijing-linked companies, according to the order. News of the move, which will come into effect on January 11, reverberated on the stock market in Hong Kong Friday. Shares in state-owned China Telecom dropped more than nine percent, China Mobile fell six percent and China Railway Construction Corp lost more than five percent. — Agencies

PM announces packages for Balochistan

From Page 01

He said our objective to uplift Balochistan is not only limited to mere announcements of projects. He said we will fully focus on the development and progress of Balochistan to bring the province at par with other parts of the country. The Prime Minister said he is happy that Punjab Government has made an investment in education and health sectors of Balochistan. Highlighting importance of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor for the development of Balochistan, Imran Khan said Gwadar Port offers massive connectivity to China, which is the fastest progressing country in the world. He said current volume of Chinese trade is around 2,000 billion dollars and Pakistan, especially Balochistan, can benefit from this. The Prime Minister said no loan in last four months was taken, while domestic market witnessed record sale of cement, iron, and automobiles, which shows upward trajectory of country's economy. During his day-long visit of Turbat, Prime Minister Imran Khan performed laid foundation stone for extension of Turbat Airport, 200 Beds Makran Medical Teaching Hospital, University of Turbat Phase-II and Hoshab - Awaran Section of M-8. The Prime Minister was also briefed about the progress on Basima - Khuzdar Road N-30 and Development Package for South Balochistan. The Prime Minister inaugurated the Daar-ul-Ehsaas for orphaned and poor children where free shelter, food and education would be provided.

Indian attempts against Pakistan not to succeed

From Page 01

its own minorities, India was in no position to pontificate on the issue of terrorism or minority rights elsewhere. "If anything, these will further undermine India's credibility as a responsible country," it said. The Foreign Office said India must eschew the use of state-terrorism as an instrument of state policy and end its egregious violations of human rights of the Kashmiri people in IIOJK. It called upon India to resolve the Jammu & Kashmir dispute according to UN Security Council resolutions, and take concrete steps to safeguard the minorities including their right to life and protection of their places of worship.

Briefs

Govt. collects Rs142.977 bn oil, gas royalty

ISLAMABAD: The government has collected around Rs 142.977 billion royalty from Exploration and Production (E&P) companies operating in different oil and gas producing districts across the country, during a period of 21-months. "From August 18, 2019 to May 5, 2020, an amount of Rs142.977 billion has been collected from different E&P companies, out of which Rs 51.196 billion were received on the account of crude oil and Rs 91.781 billion for natural gas extraction," according to an official document available with APP. During the last two years, the E&P companies have added 9,444 BPD (Barrels per Day) oil and 218 MMCFD (Million Cubic Feet per Day) gas in the national pool against the depletion of 9611 BPD oil and 279 MMCFD gas from the operational wells.

While, the companies had acquired around 5,110 2D Line-Kilometer and 2,693 Square-Kilometer seismic data to assess the potential of hydrocarbon deposits in different pockets, besides making 26 oil and gas discoveries in various exploratory blocks. During the period, the government granted 10 licences and extended 124, granted 15 leases and extended 48, drilled 142 wells including 50 exploratory and 92 appraisal/development, approved 404 well notices, commenced 140 wells and the number of miscellaneous wells stood at 264. Pakistan has large sedimentary area of 827,268 in which only 1,123 exploratory and 1,496 appraisal/development wells have been drilled so far with an average well drilling density of 3.0 wells per 1,000 square kilometers. — APP

Pakistan's debt to GDP ratio declines to 98.3 %

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's total debt and liabilities to GDP (Gross Domestic Product) ratio has declined to 98.3 percent in September 2020 from 99.5 percent in same month of last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported. According to latest data released by the central bank, the debt to GDP ratio in June 2020 was 106.8 percent while in June 2019 it was 105.9 percent. The data showed that in September 2020, total GDP of the country at current market price, had increased to Rs 45.567 trillion compared to Rs 41.726 trillion in same month of last year. The data showed that the country's total debt and liabilities by end of September 2020 stood at Rs 44.8 trillion compared to Rs 41.51 trillion in same month of last year and Rs 44.55 trillion in June 2020. Meanwhile the gross public debt to GDP ratio also down from 82.1 percent last year to 81.1 percent in the corresponding month of current year. The amount of gross public debt by end of first quarter of current fiscal year was recorded at Rs 36.94 trillion while that in same month of last year was Rs 34.24 trillion.

Sri Lanka to use drones to monitor isolated areas

DNA

COLOMBO: Sri Lankan Police will use drone cameras to monitor the movement of people in areas declared as isolated due to a vast spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in recent weeks, local media reported Friday. The drones will be flown over areas under lockdown in the Western Province, including several areas within the capital Colombo. Police Spokesperson DIG Ajith Rohana said the assistance of the air force had been sought for this operation and they would use high tech drones to monitor any illegal movements within the isolated areas. Police said at least 20 people were arrested for stepping out of their homes in the lockdown areas till Friday morning. Air force Spokesman Group Captain Dushantha Wijesinghe said it had deployed three teams for this purpose and six to 10 drones will be used, on the request of the police. He said the drones will monitor the main routes and areas in an isolated area to see if any gatherings are ongoing, or playgrounds are being used, or if there are any movements on roads or any shops being kept open.

Denying Biden victory, Pompeo heads to Europe, Mideast

The seven-nation trip is aimed at shoring up the outgoing Trump administration's priorities, notably its anti-China and Iran policies, and will include visits to Israeli settlements in the West Bank that have been avoided by previous secretaries of state

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: After refusing to acknowledge President Donald Trump's loss in last week's election, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo left Friday on a trip to Europe and the Middle East, to countries where leaders have all congratulated former vice president Joe Biden for his victory. The seven-nation trip is aimed at shoring up the outgoing Trump administration's priorities, notably its anti-China and Iran policies, and will include visits to Israeli settlements in the West Bank that have been avoided by previous secretaries of state. But the usual foreign policy issues are likely to be overshadowed by the extraordinary moment in global politics: Most of the world

has accepted the results of America's election, while the United States' top diplomat — as well as its president and much of his Republican Party — have not.

Pompeo's trip comes days after he raised eyebrows by dismissing a reporter's question about the presidential transition by saying "there will be a smooth transition to a second Trump administration." He appeared to be speaking in jest and went on to say, in a more serious tone, that the world should be assured that the State Department will be functional and successful with the president who takes office Jan. 20. But those comments and subsequent statements in interviews with conservative media did not acknowledge that it's Biden who will become president then. Pompeo's weeklong tour takes



him to France, Turkey, Georgia, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Saudi Arabia. The leaders of each of those countries have offered public congratulations to Biden. Four of those countries — France, Turkey, Georgia and Qatar — have had a fractious relationship with the Trump administration and it

was not clear if Pompeo would hold public engagements with any of their leaders. Pompeo has had a notoriously frosty relationship with the press and it was also unclear if he planned to take questions from reporters.

In keeping with Trump's refusal to concede and orders for Cabinet agencies not to cooperate with the Biden transition team, the State Department has not been involved with facilitating Biden's calls to foreign leaders, according to officials familiar with the process.

Pompeo's ardent support for Trump, who has claimed without evidence that the election was beset by fraud, threatens to hurt America's standing in making pronouncements about other countries' democratic shortcomings. On Thursday, Pompeo weighed in

on Hong Kong's legislature, and he has in recent weeks denounced alleged electoral problems in Belarus, Tanzania and Ivory Coast. Yet, at his news conference Tuesday, Pompeo roundly dismissed a question about whether Trump's unfounded protests have created problems for US credibility. "You asked a question that is ridiculous," he responded. "This department cares deeply to make sure that elections around the world are safe and secure and free and fair, and my officers risk their lives to ensure that that happens." Biden has already spoken with the leaders of Australia, Canada, Japan and South Korea and fielded congratulatory notes on social media and elsewhere from others. Yet, Pompeo said he would carry on as if there was no change.

China to become world's largest civil aviation market

BEIJING: China is still on track to become the world's largest civil aviation market with strong growth despite the near-term challenges, said Boeing's latest market forecast. China's airlines are expected to acquire 8,600 new airplanes valued at 1.4 trillion U.S. dollars over the next 20 years, said Boeing's annual China market forecast. It reflects an expected robust recovery of the Chinese market following the COVID-19 pandemic, said the forecast. Boeing also forecasts that China's market will generate demands on commercial aviation services valued at 1.7 trillion U.S. dollars and 750 new and converted freighters over the next 20 years. China has achieved a remarkable recovery in the civil aviation sector with the government's effective pandemic control and the resilient economy, according to Richard Wynne, managing director of China Marketing with Boeing Commercial Airplanes. "While COVID-19 has severely impacted every passenger market worldwide, China's fundamental growth drivers remain resilient and robust," said Wynne. — APP

Thousands rally in Armenia against disputed deal

Armenia agreed to cede parts of the region to Azerbaijan as well as other territories controlled by Armenian separatists since 1990s

DNA

YEREVAN: Thousands of furious protesters rallied in the Armenian capital for a fourth day running on Friday demanding Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan resign over a controversial peace agreement with Azerbaijan. Pashinyan announced the Moscow-brokered agreement Tuesday, ending more than six weeks of intense fighting over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh that left at least 1,400 dead and displaced tens of thousands. Armenia agreed to cede parts of the region to Azerbaijan as well as other territories controlled by Armenian separatists since the 1990s. The decision sparked fury in Armenia, where demonstrators stormed and

ransacked government buildings and have since staged daily demonstrations in Yerevan, demanding that Pashinyan step down.

On Friday, several thousand protesters gathered in downtown Yerevan's Liberty Square, many holding placards that read "Nikol traitor." "Who are you to give up our lands, you had no right to do this!" Artur Beglarian, one of the demonstrators who was wounded in action in Karabakh, shouted through a loudspeaker. "Our soldiers were fighting heroically," he said, addressing the crowd from a wheelchair. Vardan Voskanyan from the opposition Homeland party said: "The man who signed this agreement has no right to live in our country." "We need a leader who will change this shameful agreement for the better."

Egypt reports 214 new virus cases

DNA

CAIRO: Egypt confirmed on Thursday late night 214 new COVID-19 infections, bringing the total cases registered in the country since the outbreak of the pandemic to 110,095, said the Egyptian Health Ministry. Meanwhile, 12 patients died from the novel coronavirus in the past 24 hours, raising the death toll in the country to 6,417, while 98 others completely recovered, increasing the total recoveries to 100,760, the ministry's spokesman Khaled Megahed said in a statement. Total COVID-19 recoveries in Egypt currently amount to 91.5 percent of the total cases registered in the most populous Arab country. Over the past nine days, COVID-19 daily infections in Egypt started to exceed 200, after they have been below 200 since Sept. 1. Egypt announced its first confirmed COVID-19 case on Feb. 14 and the first death from the viral disease on March 8. Around mid-June, Egypt saw a peak of COVID-19 daily infections and fatalities before they started to gradually decline in the first week of July. Amid declining COVID-19 infections and deaths, Egypt has been easing relevant restrictions over the past three months as part of a co-existence plan to maintain anti-coronavirus precautionary measures while resuming economic activities. Heading a ministerial committee handling the coronavirus crisis, Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly has repeatedly urged citizens recently to stick to the anti-COVID-19 precautionary measures, warning that the government might have to impose stricter measures if the cases continue rising.

China's airlines maintain safe record

BEIJING: China's civil aviation sector maintained a safe record in October, with passenger and cargo volume striving to recover to pre-pandemic levels, the country's aviation regulator said Friday. Airlines flew a total of 50.32 million passengers in October, representing about 88.3 percent of the volume registered in the same period last year, Wu Shijie, deputy director of the Office of Aviation Safety of the Civil Aviation Administration of China, said at a press conference. The air cargo volume reached 621,000 tonnes last month, down 6.8 percent year on year, Wu said. The punctuality rate of Chinese airlines reached 91.7 percent, up 10.6 percentage points from September, Wu said. — APP

S. Korea to produce Russian vaccine

SEOUL: South Korean bio company GL Rapha will produce over 150 million annual doses of Russia's COVID-19 vaccine for global distribution, Russia's sovereign wealth fund said Friday. The Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) said GL Rapha will begin manufacturing Sputnik V in South Korea next month, which it described "the world's first registered vaccine" based on "human adenoviral vector-based platform." "The parties intend to commence production in December 2020 and a rollout of the Sputnik V vaccine in January 2021," the RDIF said in a press release posted on a website. "RDIF and GL Rapha will supply over 150 million doses per year produced in South Korea for global distribution." The first interim analysis of the Sputnik V vaccine in Russia has demonstrated 92 percent efficacy against the new coronavirus based on 20 confirmed cases, the Moscow-based fund said. RDIF said it has received over 1.2 billion doses of the Sputnik V vaccine orders from over 50 countries, including South Korea, India, Brazil, China, adding 500 million doses can be produced outside Russia under contracts with international partners. The Sputnik V vaccine was developed at the National Research Centre for Epidemiology and Microbiology in Moscow, and its clinical trials have been announced in the United Arab Emirates, India, Venezuela and Belarus, it said. —

Pak Business Community hails Govt of Iran decision

Iftikhar Ali Malik said In recent times, both countries are making serious efforts to overcome persistent irritants for stronger bilateral relations

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Pak business community Friday hailed the decision of Iran government for opening another border point to increase volume of bilateral trade between two Muslim countries. Talking to a high level delegation of Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry jointly led by its Senior Vice President Hanif Gohar and Vice President Chaudhry Zahid Iqbal Arain here today, President SAARC Chamber of commerce and Chairman United Business Group veteran trade leader Iftikhar Ali Malik said that it's good decision of Iran to further strengthen and deepen bilateral cooperation in trade with Pakistan. The volume of two-way trade between Pakistan and Iran is negligible and the mutual trade

of two countries does not match their respective potentials," he said. Currently, the bilateral trade stands at \$359 million including exports to Iran amounting to \$36 million against its imports at \$323 million he added. Iftikhar Ali Malik said In recent times, both countries are making serious efforts to overcome persistent irritants for stronger bilateral relations. Both sides are committed to exploring areas of mutual economic interests including trade and gas pipeline projects. Iran, being rich in its natural resources of oil and gas, is crucial for an energy deficient country such as Pakistan. Hanif Gohar SVP FPCCI said that increased bilateral cooperation, particularly better trade and economic ties, would be mutually beneficial for the two countries. He said Iranian proposed new state of the art modern "Rim-

dan" border crossing point is believed to be suitably located for export and import of fruits, livestock, construction material and petroleum products. Chaudhry Zahid Iqbal Arain said that it's another good omen that both sides mutually agreed to set up joint economic commission for steering bilateral trade and economic ties. He said Pakistan faces a serious challenge of trade deficit with exports around \$21 billion and imports \$48.51 billion. Moreover, given demographic challenges, Pakistan's latest challenges include; the balance of payment deficit, development of the energy sector, and increase in foreign investment to reach the optimal economic growth required for the employment of the increasing urban population, particularly those under twenty-five he concluded.

Malaysia records smaller contraction

The agri sector slightly dropped 0.7 percent due to the decrease in fishing and rubber sub-sectors

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's economy decreased at a slower pace of 2.7 percent in the third quarter from the double-digit decline of 17.1 percent in the second quarter of 2020, said its central bank on Friday. Bank Negara Malaysia, the central bank, said in a statement that the improvement largely reflected the reopening of economy from the COVID-19 containment measures and better external demand conditions. The improvements in growth were seen across most economic sectors, particularly in the manufacturing sector, which turned positive following strong electrical and electronic (E&E) production activity, said the central bank.

According to the Malaysian Statistics Department, the manufacturing sector grew 3.3 percent compared to a decline of 18.3 percent in the previous quarter, supported by electrical, electronic and optical, vegetable and animal oils and fats, and food processing products. The agriculture sector slightly dropped 0.7 percent due to the decrease in fishing and rubber sub-sectors. The services sector recorded a smaller drop of 4 percent, an improvement from negative 16.2 percent in the second quarter of 2020 due to the better performance in finance and insurance, as well as information and communications sub-sectors. — APP



CANBERRA: Australia's Royal Military College honoured Pakistani Cadet Graduate Lt Nasir Selhria at a service with an inscription on a memorial stone. Lt Selhria gave his life performing his duties in North Waziristan on 4 September 2020. — DNA

Emirates announces half-year performance

This dramatic revenue decline was due to the COVID-19 pandemic which brought global air passenger travel to a halt for many weeks as countries closed their borders and imposed travel restrictions

ATHAR SUFI

KARACHI / DUBAI: November 12, 2020: The Emirates Group today announced its half-year results for its 2020-21 financial years. Group revenue was AED 13.7 billion (US\$ 3.7 billion) for the first six months of 2020-21, down 74% from AED 53.3 billion (US\$ 14.5 billion) during the same period last year. This dramatic revenue decline was due to the COVID-19 pandemic which brought global air passenger travel to a halt for many weeks as countries closed their borders and imposed travel restrictions. As part of pandemic containment measures, Emirates and dnata's hub in Dubai also suspended scheduled passenger flights for 8 weeks during

April and May.

The Group is reporting a 2020-21 half-year net loss of AED 14.1 billion (US\$ 3.8 billion). The Group's cash position on 30 September 2020 stood at AED 20.7 billion (US\$ 5.6 billion), compared to AED 25.6 billion (US\$ 7.0 billion) as at 31 March 2020. His Highness (HH) Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman and Chief Executive, Emirates Airline and Group said: "We began our current financial year amid a global lockdown when air passenger traffic was at a literal standstill. In this unprecedented situation for the aviation and travel industry, the Emirates Group recorded a half-year loss for the first time in over 30 years. "As passenger traffic disappeared, Emirates and dnata

have been able to rapidly pivot to serve cargo demand and other pockets of opportunity. This has helped us recover our revenues from zero to 26% of our position same time last year.

"The Emirates Group's resilience in the face of current headwinds is testimony to the strength of our business model, and our years of continued investment in skills, technology and infrastructure which are now paying off in terms of cost and operational efficiency. Emirates and dnata have also built strong brands and agile digital capabilities which continue to serve us well, and enabled us to respond adeptly to the accelerated shift of customer and business activities online over the past 6 months."

Sheikh Ahmed added: "We would like to thank our customers for their continued support, and express our appreciation for the combined stakeholder efforts that have made it possible for Dubai to resume aviation and other economic activity so quickly and safely. No one can predict the future, but we expect a steep recovery in travel demand once a COVID-19 vaccine is available, and we are readying ourselves to serve that rebound. In the meantime, Emirates and dnata remain responsive in deploying resources to serve our customers and meet demand. "We have been able to tap on our own strong cash reserves, and through our shareholder and the broader financial community, we continue to ensure

we have access to sufficient funding to sustain the business and see us through this challenging period. In the first half of 2020-21, our shareholder injected US\$ 2 billion into Emirates by way of an equity investment and they will support us on our recovery path." The Emirates Group's employee base, compared to 31 March 2020, is substantially reduced by 24% to an overall count of 81,334 as at 30 September 2020. This is in line with the company's expected capacity and business activities in the foreseeable future and general industry outlook. Emirates and dnata continue to look at every means to protect its skilled workforce, including participating in job saver programmes where these exist.

Briefs

ASEAN
calls for
enhancing
women's role

DNA

HANOI: The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) late Thursday convened the first-ever ASEAN Women Leader's summit via video link, discussing women's role in the bloc's development amid COVID-19. The event, held within the framework of the 37th ASEAN Summit and related summits, offered the group's leaders a chance to talk with female leaders in the region and at international organizations about how to further uphold their role in the process of building the ASEAN Community following the COVID-19 pandemic. Speaking at the event, Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc described women as an indispensable part of the process of building peace and sustainable security. The Vietnamese leader wished that the summit would offer important orientations to help ASEAN women contribute more widely and effectively to the process of building the ASEAN Community as well as actively join efforts to ensure peace, security, as well as sustainable and inclusive development in the region. At the event, Vietnamese National Assembly Chairwoman Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan called for ensuring legitimate economic and health benefits for women via effective and timely measures. ASEAN needs to put women into the focus of reconstruction and recovery, enhance women's leadership and voices in decision-making, and increase their economic status to narrow the development gap and strengthen ASEAN Community's resilience against external shocks, Ngan said. She called on ASEAN to take new, creative and effective approaches to uphold women's role in every aspect, especially in terms of the benefits from digital technology. Ngan also announced that Vietnam will hold the ASEAN High-level Forum on women's role in comprehensive and sustainable recovery next year. -

New bench
to hear
Cynthia's case

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice Islamabad High Court (IHC) Justice Athar Minalah on Friday shifted the case pertaining to American blogger Cynthia D. Ritchie to another bench on the request of former Interior Minister Abdul Rehman Malik. The chief justice ordered to shift the case to the court of Justice Aamer Farooq for further proceeding. It may be mentioned here that earlier, the chief justice Islamabad High Court was hearing this case. Abdul Rehman Malik had raised the objection on bench and requested the chief justice to form another bench for hearing the matter. A single member bench comprising Justice Aamer Farooq would pick up this case on Monday for hearing.

Romanian built PNS Tabuk
inducted into Pak Navy fleet

The impressive ceremony was attended by Chief Naval Overseer (Romania), Ship's Crew and Senior Management of DAMEN Shipyards, Gorinchem and Galati

DNA

BUCHAREST: Commissioning Ceremony of Pakistan Navy Ship TABUK was held at Black Sea port of Constanta, Romania. Contract for two Corvettes for Pakistan Navy was signed between Ministry of Defence Production Pakistan and M/s DAMEN, Romani. First ship of class, PNS YARMOOK was commissioned earlier this year, whereas, PNS TABUK has also joined Pakistan Navy Fleet. PNS TABUK is a multipurpose and highly adaptive platform of medium size and tonnage. The ship is equipped with state of the art electronic warfare, anti-ship & anti-air weapons/ sensors along with modern self-protection and terminal defence systems. The ship is capable to



Newly Commissioned Pakistan Navy Ship TABUK operating at Sea. Inset is the handing/ taking over signing ceremony between Pakistan Navy and DAMEN Shipyards Officials onboard PNS TABUK (F-272) held at Constanta, Romania

perform a variety of maritime operations in a complex maritime environment and can em-

bark multirole helicopter and an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) simultaneously. While address-

ing the ceremony, Commanding Officer of PNS TABUK, stressed upon the significance of this pro-

ject and laid emphasis on the additional set of capabilities added to the Pakistan Navy sphere of operations with the induction of these potent platforms. He further highlighted the impact of these platforms to ensure forward presence and perpetual readiness in the area of operations while being deployed on PN's initiative of Regional Maritime Security Patrols in the Indian Ocean Region.

He also acknowledged the professional competence and ship-building acumen of DAMEN Shipyards and showed confidence in prospects of future cooperation in delivering cutting edge naval technologies to Pakistan Navy. The impressive ceremony was attended by Chief Naval Overseer (Romania), Ship's Crew and Senior Management of DAMEN Shipyards, Gorinchem and Galati.

Indian
diplomat
summoned
at FO

NAVEED MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: A senior Indian diplomat was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Friday to register Pakistan's strong protest over ceasefire violations by the Indian occupation forces along the Line of Control (LoC) the other day (November 12), resulting in martyrdom of a civilian and serious injuries to three others.

Due to indiscriminate and unprovoked firing by the Indian occupation forces in Rakhchikri and Khanjar Sector of the LoC, 55 year old Muhammad Bashir s/o Shah Wali, resident of Tari Band village Rakhchikri Sector embraced shahadat; 23 year old Naveed Iqbal s/o Haji Iqbal; 45 year old Farzana Kausar w/o Haji Iqbal and 19 year old Tayyabah Kausar w/o Naveed Iqbal, residents of Samni village Khanjar Sector, sustained serious injuries.

Condemning the deplorable targeting of innocent civilians by the Indian occupation forces, it was underscored that such senseless acts are in clear violation of the 2003 Ceasefire Understanding, and against all established humanitarian norms and professional military conduct.

Passenger
offloaded after
found corona
positive

RAJA PERVAIZ

ISLAMABAD: A Saudi-Arabia-bound passenger was offloaded from the flight at Islamabad International airport after he was found COVID-19 positive. As per details, a passenger named Shahzaib was denied boarding to Jeddah-bound international flight PA-210 from Islamabad airport after his COVID-19 test report was found positive during checking by the staff of the airlines.

The airport sources said that the passenger was sent home for quarantine. Last week, Saudi Arabia had allowed international airlines to fly in pilgrims with valid visas which it had earlier suspended due to novel coronavirus spread.

Saudi Arabia had allowed all the airlines to resume flight operations bringing in visitors with a valid visit and Umrah visas in the country. General Authority of Civil Aviation had officially issued a notification to that effect and this applies immediately.

Chinese enterprise
promotes Pak agri
development

"We hope that through digital agriculture, we can help Pakistani friends improve the grade and added value of agricultural products"

ISLAMABAD: Chinese enterprise could help to promote Pakistan's digital agriculture development, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Friday. Speakers at the 14th episode of PAS Agriculture policy debate suggested the application of machine vision based intelligent sprayer for site-specific usage of agrochemicals to tackle the challenges posed by weeds to Pakistani agriculture.

The debate was the part of webinar series themed "Weed Ecology and Management". Machine vision and intelligence are two key points of digital agriculture which is the trend for the future. In recent years, China's digital agriculture has been developing rapidly and has great potential for cooperation with Pakistan.

Currently, Farmland Digital Integrated Management System implemented in east China's Shandong Province by Shandong ARK IT Company has matured in operation and the company is carrying out digital agriculture construction in Pakistan. While providing high-quality drip irrigation and sprinkler irrigation equipment, the company can also help Pakistan's small farmers and large-scale plantations save costs and increase efficiency by providing artificial intelligence technology. "Current measures for notifying farmers when to plant or how to control diseases and insect pests, taken by the agricultural sector of Pakistan, tend to serve individual farmers by making phone calls and sending messages, which is low-efficient for large-scale planting base. Our system can help Pakistani friends to better and faster transform towards digital agriculture." Qi Haitao, General Manager of Shandong ARK IT Company, spoke to Gwadar Pro. The Farmland Digital Integrated Management System was launched in 2019, with a construction scale of about 1200 mu. It is the first rural demonstration project on digital agriculture in Zibo City, Shandong Province in 2020. - DNA

'Large-scale manufacturing
growth increased 10pc'

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar has on Friday said that Pakistan's large-scale manufacturing has shown robust growth with more than 7% jump in July to September as compared to last year. The federal minister took to Twitter and said September growth is more than 10% versus last year September. He said all signs are of strong economic recovery but also warned that the biggest risk is if we allow covid to increase by making poor choices. Asad Umar added that India's economy has suffered recession for 1st time since

its independence, with a 23.9% and 8.6% contraction in last 2 quarters. He said this is what happens when you mishandle covid. Pakistan must not allow our success and its economic benefit to be squandered by lowering our guard, he remarked. However, the minister feared that this achievement could be squandered if the precautionary measures were not followed by the people. "All signs are of strong economic recovery. Biggest risk is if we allow COVID to increase by making poor choices," he said in his tweet. Asad Umar said the Indian economy suffered recession for first time since its independence, with a 23.9% and 8.6% contraction in last 2 quarters.

"This is what happens when you mishandle Covid." "Pakistan must not allow our success and its economic benefit to be squandered by lowering our guard," he added. Meanwhile according to the reserve bank of India, the Indian economy entered into a technical recession for the first time in history at the end of the first half of 2020-21, according to the reserve bank of India. After an unprecedented decline of 23.9 per cent in GDP in April-June as estimated by the National Statistical Office on August 31, the central bank has now cast that Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for July-September quarter is set for a contraction of 8.6 per cent, the Bank reported.

17 dead, 601
new cases
in Punjab

LAHORE: A sudden surge in the cases of COVID-19 was observed on Friday when 17 deaths and 601 new cases of coronavirus were reported in Punjab. According to spokesperson of Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department, the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 108,822 while so far the total number of deaths in the province has been recorded as 2,455 altogether.

P&SHD confirmed that 245 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Lahore, 2 in Kasur, 6 in Sheikhupura, 2 in Nankana Sahib, 102 in Rawalpindi, 1 in Chakwal, 4 in Jehlum, 1 in Attock, 8 in Gujranwala, 3 in Mandi Bahauddin, 7 in Sialkot, 2 in Narowal, 11 in Gujrat, 18 in Faisalabad, 6 in Toba Tek Singh, 47 in Multan, 9 in Vehari, 13 in Khanewal, 5 in Chiniot, 5 in Sargodha, 4 in Mianwali, 2 in Khoshab, 23 in Bahawalpur, 12 in Dera Ghazi Khan, 1 in Lodharan, 23 in Bhakkar, 8 in Layyah, 3 in Rahimyar Khan, 10 in Muzaffargarh, 3 in Sahiwal, 1 in Okara, 7 in Pakpattan and 7 new cases of COVID-19 have been reported in Bahawalnagar district during the last 24 hours till filing of this news. Punjab health department has conducted 1,726,421 tests for COVID-19 so far, while 97,692 confirmed patients recovered altogether in the province. - APP

New York rolls out curbs as
virus grips US, Europe

WASHINGTON: Bars and restaurants in America's biggest city will close early from Friday as the coronavirus outbreak surges across the United States and Europe, where Greece is being forced into a nighttime curfew. It comes as the US, already the world's hardest-hit country, experiences its third and worst-by-far spike in infections, and large parts of Europe shut down again to tackle the illness. New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo has announced that all establishments licensed to sell alcohol, including bars and restaurants, should close at 10 pm. Also launching new restrictions is Greece, which begins a nighttime curfew Friday after its leader said the country had been overwhelmed by a "tsunami" of infections. New York was the early epicenter of America's coronavirus pandemic, but hotspots have since popped up across the country, leaving practically no region in the US unaffected. On Thursday, America's third biggest city, Chicago, issued a new stay-at-home advisory, with the mayor calling on its 2.7 million people to scrap Thanksgiving plans and avoid travel. "Every single one of us needs to step up and 'Protect Chicago' right now, or 2020 could go from bad to worse," said a note on the city's website. - DNA

UNICEF condemns abuse of minor girl



SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: UNICEF expresses its deep shock at the abuse of a four-year-old Pakistani girl and her mother in Kashmir, in the Sindh province of Pakistan.

Main suspect killed by
accomplice, say police

KARACHI: The prime suspect in the Kashmir gang-rape - wherein a woman and her child were sexually abused - has been killed by an accomplice, police in Larkana said Friday evening, in what comes as the latest development in the horrific case. According to the deputy inspector-general (DIG) of police for Larkana, Nasir Aftab, the main suspect who was arrested following the Kashmir gang-rape, Rafiq Malik, was shot dead by an accomplice as police drove him to an area to identify the whereabouts of others suspected of committing the crime. After seeing him with police, Rafiq's accomplices opened fire at him, causing the suspect to be injured, DIG Aftab said. - DNA

According to media reports, the girl and her mother were detained and sexually abused by several men for days. The police managed to find and rescue the child after the perpetrators let her mother go. "UNICEF strongly condemns this vicious attack on a child"

said Aida Girma, UNICEF Representative in Pakistan. "We offer our deepest sympathy to the family affected by this horrific act and share hopes for her full recovery. UNICEF is supporting the Child Protection Authority and social welfare officers in

Kashmore and Larkana to ensure that appropriate support and services are extended to the child and her family. "While it is encouraging to see that the police managed to rescue the child and arrest one of the alleged perpetrators, greater efforts must be made to develop mechanisms that help prevent sexual abuse against children. We need to make sure that victims can access appropriate counseling and treatment, and that perpetrators are held accountable," Ms. Girma added. Every child has the right to be protected from all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse. UNICEF will continue to work with federal, provincial authorities and communities to put in place effective, preventive mechanisms and improve the safety of children.



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