



# Islamabad POST

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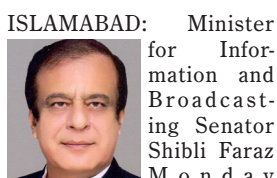
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## Briefs

### Victory in GB shows trust of people

RANA FARRUKH

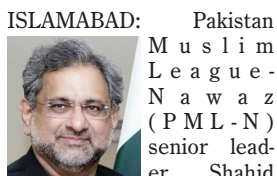


ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz Monday said the victory of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf in the election of Gilgit-Baltistan was an expression of trust by the people in the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

In a tweet on social media platform Twitter, he said the people of Gilgit-Baltistan completely rejected the narrative of Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) and put a stamp on the truth of ideology of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

### Khaqan sees foul play in GB elections

DNA



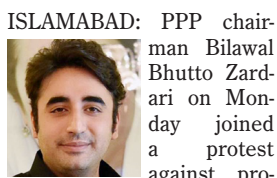
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on Monday accused caretaker setup in Gilgit-Baltistan of influencing the general election process of the region.

Addressing a press conference in federal capital, former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said that in order to rig election against PML-N, six candidates of the party were pressurized.

He further said that federal ministers openly violated election code of conduct and Centre took control of powers of the public of Gilgit-Baltistan.

### Bilawal gives protest call in GB

IBRAR KHAN



ISLAMABAD: PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Monday joined a protest against projected results of Sunday's Gilgit-Baltistan polls.

"My election has been stolen," he wrote on Twitter. "I will be joining the people of Gilgit-Baltistan in their protest shortly."

A short while later, the PPP chairman addressed political workers at a gathering. "Your mandate has been stolen," he told them.

"Our candidates were pressurised," he said, alleging that the polls were rigged.

# PM urges nation to follow SOPs

Says decision regarding closure of schools and educational institutions will be taken after a week

NAVEED MIRAJ / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has urged the nation to strictly observe Standard Operating Procedures against Corona virus to contain the spread of second wave of the pandemic. He was addressing a press briefing after presiding the National Coordination Committee meeting in Islamabad today.

The Prime Minister said the government has decided to put restrictions on public gatherings that are not associated with businesses. He said marriage ceremonies will be limited to allow 300 people maximum. The Prime Minister said decision regarding closure of schools and educational institutions will be taken after a week, observing international trends and increase in Corona cases in the country. He warned of increasing burden on hospitals and existing health facilities if people do not follow standard operating procedures seriously. He said if people follow SOPs in letter and spirit, the spread of disease could be curtailed. He also regretted that in last few days Corona cases in Pakistan have

## 2128 people test virus positive

ISLAMABAD: Two thousand one hundred twenty-eight (2128) people tested positive for Covid-19 and nineteen more died due to the virus in the country during the last twenty four hours.

The figure of patients recovered from the virus has reached 323,824. There are now 28,048 active cases in the country. (Detailed news on Back Page)

increased by 4 times. The Prime Minister asked the Tiger Force and general public to update the government administration regarding any kind of violations to SOPs.

"We were observing how many cases were there in the provinces. I wish to tell you that God was especially benevolent towards us. We are a very lucky nation — see our neighbours Iran and India — so God was especially kind to Pakistan, we were saved from the havoc the coronavirus wreaked in the rest of the world and in our neighbouring countries."

# Palestine president lauds Pakistan role

Mahmoud Abbas writes letter to Prime Minister of Pakistan; extends gratitude for supporting Palestine cause

DNA

RAMALLAH: President Mahmoud Abbas, a letter he sent to the Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, praised Pakistan's positions in support of the Palestinian cause. "We followed with great interest and gratitude your last televised interview, and your honorable statements about the official Pakistani positions that are firm and supportive of the just Palestinian cause," read President Abbas' letter.



President Abbas stressed that Pakistan is a source of pride for every Palestinian in the world as well as for every Pakistani citizen. "We highly appreciate your adherence to your positions in support of the Palestini-

an people to obtain their legitimate rights, despite the pressures that you are subjected to, which confirms your courage, originality and the strength of your resolve, and your commitment to support the causes of peoples demanding justice," President Abbas said in the letter. The president wished the Prime Minister of Pakistan good health, happiness and success, wishing the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, its president, government and people, continued progress and prosperity.

# China for resolving Kashmir as per UNSC resolutions

BEIJING: While reiterating China clear and consistent position on Kashmir issue, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson on Monday called for resolving the longstanding issue properly in accordance with the United Nations Charter, the UN Security Council resolution and the bilateral agreements for regional peace and stability. Our position on Kashmir issue is clear and consistent. It



is an issue between India and Pakistan left over from the history. It should be properly

resolved in accordance with UN charter, Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreement, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian said during his regular briefing while responding to a question regarding the current situation on the Line of Control (LoC) and unprovoked, deliberate and indiscriminate targeting of the civil population along the LoC by Indian troops. — Agencies



**FAISALABAD:** Ambassador of Italy Andreas Ferrarese visiting IPTTC stall after inaugurating Italy-Pakistan Textile Technology Centre. — APP

## Syrian embassy opens condolence book

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Syria in Pakistan has opened a condolence book for condolences on the sad demise of Walid Al Muallem Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Syria.

The condolence book will be opened at the Syrian embassy H No 43-A, School Road, F 6/2 on Tuesday November 17, 2020 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Related News on Page-07

## WHO staff infected with virus

**Raul Thomas, who heads business operations at WHO, emailed staff noting that five people tested positive**

GENEVA The World Health Organization has recorded 65 cases of the coronavirus among staff based at its headquarters, including at least one cluster of infections. The revelation comes amid a surge of cases in Europe, host country Switzerland, and the city of Geneva, in particular, and the email said about half of the infections were in people who had been working from home. But 32 were in staff who had been working on premises at the headquarters building, indicating that the health agency's strict hygiene, screening and other prevention measures were not sufficient to spare it from the pandemic.

Raul Thomas, who heads business operations at WHO, emailed staff on Friday noting that five people — four on the same team and one who had contact with them — had tested positive for COVID-19. While the email did not use the term "cluster," one is generally defined as two or more cases in the same area.

# Italian envoy calls for transfer of tech

Italy is planning to issue long term visas to Pakistani people which would further strengthen ties between the two countries

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Italian Ambassador to Pakistan Andreas Ferrarese on Monday stressed the need for exchange of students and faculty for transfer of technology and knowledge sharing for consolidating bilateral relations.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of Italy-Pakistan Textile Technology Centre (IPTTC) at National Textile University (NTU) here, he underlined the importance of joining hands to work together for new dimensions in various fields.

He said that bottlenecks would be removed through bilateral cooperation. He said that a big portion of Pakistani community was

working in Italy which was doing a wonderful job for the development of Italy.

"Italy is planning to issue long term visas to Pakistani people which would further strengthen ties between the two countries", he said, adding that Italy was making investment in Pakistan particularly in the field of technology so that students could harness their skills.

Speaking on the occasion, NTU Rector Prof. Dr. Tanveer Hussain, said the establishment of IPTTC was made possible by the cooperation and support of Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Italian Embassy in Pakistan, Islamabad, Italian Trade Agency, ACIMIT, PISIE and Pakistan Ministry of Commerce. The IPTTC

is equipped with state-of-the-art garments dyeing, washing and finishing equipment, he said and added that the technology Centre would strengthen ties between the two countries and would help the denim industry to improve the quality of garments through research and innovation.

He further said that innovation in the textile products was the only key to enhance the profitability and access the new markets.

Ambassador of Pakistan to Italy Jahuar Saleem, Italian Trade Commissioner to UAE, Pakistan and Oman Amedeo Scarpa and President of ACIMIT (Association of Italian Textile Machinery Manufacturers) Dr. Alex Zucchi, also joined the function through video link.

# Citizens of 46 countries can visit Pakistan sans visa

There were 12 countries with whom Pakistan has Visa abolition agreement only for Diplomatic Passport holders

ISLAMABAD: Citizens of 46 countries can visit Pakistan without visa has visa owing to Visa Abolition Agreement. Official sources told that however Passport is a mandatory requirement for international travelling.

These countries were included Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyz Republic, Libya, Maldives, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Netherlands, Philippines, Romania, Turkey, Sri Lanka and South Korea etc.

They said there were 12 countries with whom Pakistan has Visa abolition agreement only for Diplomatic Passport holders, while the number of countries where the holder of Diplomatic and official Passport holders of 32 countries



also could visit without obtaining visa. Further the holder of Ordinary Passport (Green) could visit two countries without obtaining visa. — Agencies

# GB People rejected Nawaz's narrative

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhry has said that people of Gilgit-Baltistan have rejected Nawaz Sharif and Maryam's narrative against state institutions.

Fawad Chaudhry, in a tweet, said that public of Gilgit-Baltistan have rejected Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and company.

On the other hand, Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar congratulated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) candidates over victory in Gilgit-Baltistan elections and said people expressed complete faith in the leadership and policies of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

## Zardari granted exemption

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An accountability court in Islamabad approved on Monday former president Asif Ali Zardari's plea for exemption from appearance in the Thatta water supply case.

Farooq H Naek, who is representing Zardari in the case, said that some members of their legal have contracted the novel coronavirus.

The NAB prosecutor said that other suspects couldn't be presented in court because of the TLP protest against France.

The court proceedings were adjourned because of it too.

## Inside...

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Mining volume of Thar II Coal mine project r 117 mn tons — Page 08

# Terrorism: India can't refute Pakistan's proofs

Dossier presented by Pakistan extensively documents India's active planning, promoting, aiding, abetting, financing and execution of terrorist activities against Pakistan

ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday categorically rejected the Indian Ministry of External Affairs' denial of the irrefutable evidence provided by Pakistan on Indian state sponsorship of terrorism. Fully exposed, India has typically resorted to sophistry, obfuscation and re-fabrication. Bland denials and re-gurgitation of old litany of charges, however, will not change facts.

The Dossier presented by Pakistan extensively documents India's active planning, promoting, aiding, abetting, financing and execution of terrorist activities against Pakistan.

Since 2001, Pakistan has faced more than 19,000 terrorist attacks

on its soil and suffered 83,000 casualties. The direct economic losses have been upward of US \$ 126 billion. As a result of India's sponsorship of terrorism, from across our borders, Pakistan continues to suffer immensely.

Meanwhile, India has mischievously masqueraded as a 'victim' of terrorism and sought to mislead the international community by hypocritically levelling terrorism-related allegations against Pakistan. It has also conducted false flag operations in IIOJK and inside India to malign Pakistan. That façade has now been removed and the world can see the real face of India — one blackened by its decades-long state-terrorism in IIOJK and state-sponsored terrorism and destabilization efforts in Pakistan.

The most familiar and undeniable face of India's state-sponsorship of terrorism against Pakistan is Commander Kulbhushan Jadhav — caught red-handed in March 2016. His complicity in subversion, sabotage and terrorism in Pakistan is part of the incontrovertible evidence against India.

The world is also familiar with "saffron terror" orchestrated and unleashed by the RSS-BJP zealots against Muslims in India and against Pakistan. Masterminds of Mecca Masjid, Ajmer Dargah, and Samjhota Express terrorist cases, like Swami Aseemanand, have been granted full state protection and acquitted in complete travesty of justice after having confessed to India's National Investigation Agency (NIA).

Open threats to Pakistan by Indian civilian and military leaders, India's sinister design to subvert China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and public statements by noted Indian politicians and senior security officials on 'teaching Pakistan' a lesson through use of terrorism constitute further incriminating evidence.

The presence of ISIL and AQIS in India as highlighted in recent UN reports indicate that India is emerging as a hotbed of UN designated international terrorist organizations and posing a great risk to the region.

Recent revelations by FINCEN files illustrate how India uses its financial system for money laundering and other illegal activities such as terrorism financing — bra-

zenly and with impunity.

Use of terrorism as an instrument of state policy by India makes it culpable under international law, UN sanctions regime, and international counter-terrorism conventions. It is the collective responsibility of the world community to hold India to account and take practical steps to proceed against the Indian nationals involved in patronage of terrorist entities.

We also expect the UN counter-terrorism bodies to proceed on the basis of concrete evidence provided by Pakistan and urge India to renounce use of terrorism as an instrument of state policy. The UN must also play its part in dismantling of the Indian terrorist infrastructure, details of which have been provided in the Dossier.



## Briefs

## Power supply to remain suspended

DNA

PESHAWAR: Peshawar Electric Supply Company (Pesco) will suspend power supply to various localities in view of maintenance work on Tuesday. The company's spokesman said that power supply would be suspended from 132 KV Shahi Bagh Grid Station on Tuesday (November 17) from 8AM to 12PM. As a result, consumers of 11 KV Naguman 1, Charsaddar Road, Latif Abad feeders will face inconveniences. Similarly power supply will remain suspended from 132 KV Pabi Grid Station on November 17 from 8AM to 12PM, resultantly consumers of 11 KV New Jaloza, Panakot, Pabbi City feeders will experience outage. Maintenance work would also be carried on power supply lines from from 132 KV Tank Grid Station on November 17 from 9:30AM to 3PM, so power supply would suspend for consumers of 11 KV Wana feeders. Other areas that will face outage on Tuesday include consumers of 11 KV Karak 1,2, T/Ship Karak, Sabir Abad 1,2, Ahmad Wala, High Way, Bogra, Chakdara feeders and areas were fed by of 11 KV Bathkela Express, Thana, Aladhand, Bathkela, City Bathkela feeders.

## Life of Holy Prophet (PBUH) a beacon for humanity

LAHORE: Punjab Irrigation Minister Muhammad Mohsin Leghari has said the sacred life of Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) is a beacon for the entire humanity. In his message to mark the Shan-e-Rahmatul-Lil-Alameen (Peace Be Upon Him) week here on Monday he said the humanity could get rid of all problems by following the glorious life of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) in letter and spirit. He further said, "The best way to express love with Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) is to follow the splendid teachings of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) in real sense." He appreciated the government for observing Shan-e-Rahmatul-Lil-Alameen (Peace Be Upon Him) week. — APP

## 8 died, 11 injured in Nowshera road mishap

PESHAWAR: At least eight people were killed and eleven others sustained injuries when a passenger van skidded off the road and fall into a ditch on Kaka Sahib Road in Nowshera district on Monday. Police and rescue workers said the van (P-2362), carrying passengers from Kaka Sahib to Nowshera Cantt fell into a ditch after its driver, Usman, son of Taj Muhammad lost control of the vehicle due to over speed on slippery road. The rescue teams shifted the bodies and injured to Nowshera Medical Complex. The hospital sources said initially five passengers died of their injuries while later three more succumbed to their wounds carrying the number of dead to eight. The dead included two women, the hospital sources said adding eleven people including children and women were under treatment. — APP

## Indian troops launch CASOS in Baramulla

ISLAMABAD: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), Indian troops launched cordon and search operations in different areas of Baramulla and Pulwama districts. The troops launched operations in Pattan and Keeri areas of the Baramulla district, police said, Kashmir Media Service reported. Indian Army soldiers along with personnel of paramilitary forces and police sealed all entry and exit points of the villages and started search operations. — APP



LAHORE: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing a gathering in Lahore. Chief Minister Usman Buzdar is also seen. — Shahbaz Sindhu

## Faisalabad rally for following teachings of Prophet (PBUH)

They said that insolence in the name of PBUH is not acceptable at any cost. They said that to observe the week we would clear to the world that the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is a benefactor of humanity

ASHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: 16 November 2020: Shaan Mustafa (PBUH) grand rally was organized by the district administration in connection with the celebrations of Shaan Rehmat ul lilalameen (peace be upon him) Week in which Member Provincial Assembly Firdous Rai, Additional Commissioner Ayub Khan, Additional Deputy Commissioners Fazal Rabi Cheema, Umar Maqbool, CEO Education Ali Ahmad Sian, Director Labor Malik Munawar Awan, Civil Defense Officer Rana Abbas, Administrative Officer Riaz Anjum, Members Peace Committee Maulana Muhammad Riaz Kharal, Aslam Bhalli, Mumtaz Hussain, Cha-cha Abdul Rashid, teachers, students and Civil Society members were present. The rally started from District

Council Chowk, passed through Khaliq Qureshi Road, Press Club, Kachehri Bazar Chowk and ended at Chowk Clock Tower. The participants of the rally greeted Durood o Salam. The speakers said that on the instructions of Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar, a week is being observed to pay homage to the Holy Prophet (PBUH) in which all departments, institutions and civil society is participated. They said that insolence in the name of PBUH is not acceptable at any cost. They said that to observe the week we would clear to the world that the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is a benefactor of humanity. They said that It is the happiness of us to being a Muslim and desired of every Muslim to sacrifice his life for the honor of the Holy Prophet. They urged the Muslim Ummah unity to deal with the conspiracies of the infidels.

They said that it is very important to highlight the importance of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) and for this purpose the Punjab government has decided to celebrate Shaan Mustafa week.

They said that our Prophet (PBUH) is a mercy not only for Muslims but for all religions. They said that our faith is not complete without believing in the Prophet (PBUH). Meanwhile Naat competitions was held in different schools of Tehsil Chak Jhumra in connection with the celebrations of Shaan Musrafa Week. The students paid homage to the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and recited the Holy verses. On this occasion, recitation of Holy Quran and the Durood-e-Salam was also read. Assistant, Commissioner Dr. Zunera Aftab said that Rehmat-e-Alam (PBUH) Week is being celebrated in a grand manner during which various aspects of the life of the

benefactor humanity will be highlighted the life of (PBUH).

She said that by organizing full-fledged celebrations, It will be clarified that Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (PBUH) is a great humanity. Meanwhile, in connection with the celebrations of Rehmat ul lilalameen (PBUH) Week, Khatam-ul-Quran and Durood-e-Salam were recited in government schools across the district. In this regard, Quran was recited at MC Girls Elementary School Millat Colony. The students recited the Holy Quran while a ceremony of Durood o salam was also organized. On this occasion, the principal of the institution Musarat Parveen said that the Holy Prophet (PBUH) was sent as a mercy for all the worlds. The birth of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) is a springboard for humanity drowning in sobs, withers and ignorance. The benefactor

of humanity, Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) became an example to the world through his high character and the Holy Prophet (PBUH) gave an ideal social and economic system in a short period of time. His life is embodied in the Qur'an which contains complete guidance. Later in connection with the celebrations of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) Week, the Qur'an was recited in the Divisional Information Office in which the participants recited the Qur'an while Durood o salam was also offered in honor of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). Director Public Relations Tariq Javed, Information Officer Muhammad Awais Abid, Assistant Faiz Rasool, Stenographer Muhammad Faisal Baig, Clerk Liaqat Ali, Rizwana Latif, Shafqat Hussain, Fahad Fayyaz, Mohammad Shahid, Mohammad Siddique, Mohammad Anwar and others participated.

## Rain injures two women, damages two houses

The PDMA said kitchen of a house in Matta tehsil of Swat district collapsed due to persistent rain that injured two women

PESHAWAR: Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Monday informed that recent rains caused injuries to two women in Swat district while two houses were partially damaged. The PDMA said kitchen of a house in Matta tehsil of Swat district collapsed due to persistent rain that in-

jured two women. The women were shifted to THQ Hospital where they were being treated for head injuries. It said upper parts of Swat districts also received snowfall and work was underway to clear the roads. The PDMA was in constant contact with district administrations to provide any

needed assistant. The PDMA had also issued letters to all district administrations on November 10 for adopting precautionary measures to cope with any situation. It said the control room of PDMA was functional round the clock and public could contact on helpline 1700 in case of any situation. — APP

## Speedy recovery of Murad Ali Shah prayed

DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MPA Bilal Ghaffar has prayed for the speedy recovery of Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, who tested positive for the coronavirus. He expressed his concerns over the growing number of coronavirus cases in the province. Bilal called upon the people to adhere to the government's Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and should avoid to engage in unnecessary activities.

## Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI: Five ships, African Wagtail, Pan Crouc, Sky Ploeg, Hai De Li and Stena Clear Sky carrying Containers, Coal, Chemicals, Palm oil and LNG were allotted berths at Bulk Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Chemicals Terminal, Liquid Terminal and Elengy Terminal respectively on Sunday. Meanwhile three more ships, GT Star, PGC Perikis and Tomson Gas carrying Palm oil and LPG also arrived at outer anchorage of Port Qasim during the last 24 hours. A total of twelve ships were occupied at PQA berths to load/offload Containers, Coal, Chemicals, Sugar, Soya Bean, Palm oil, Mogas, LNG and LPG respectively. Out of them, Gas carrier 'Al-Saad' sailed out to sea on Monday morning, and three more ships, Diva, Gas Athena and Clear Ocean Moritz are expected to sail from PQEPT, SSGC and FOTCO on same day (today) in the afternoon. Cargo handling remained upward trend at the Port on Sunday where a cargo volume of 226,413 tonnes, comprising 205,532 tonnes imports cargo and 20,881 tonnes export cargo, inclusive of containerized cargo carried in 1,657 Containers (558 TEUs imports and 1,099 TEUs export), was handled during last 24 hours. — APP

## Kashmir settlement stressed

ISLAMABAD: In Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), Jammu and Kashmir Youth Social Forum has stressed the need for resolution of the Kashmir dispute to end sufferings of the Kashmiri people. The demand was raised at the party meeting, presided over by its Chairman Umar Aadil Dar, in Srinagar, Kashmir Media Service reported. The meeting discussed the present Social and political situation in IIOJK and took stock of the organizational affairs besides issues confronting the social evils. Umar Adil Dar prayed for those who lost their lives and property due to Indian shelling along the Line of Control in Azad Kashmir and expressed concern over the escalating tension on the border. He asked India and Pakistan to avoid the path to confrontation and resolve the Kashmir dispute for restoration of peace in the region. — APP

## Aleem Khan congratulates PM Khan

LAHORE: Punjab Senior Minister Abdul Aleem Khan on Monday congratulated Prime Minister Imran Khan on the victory of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in Gilgit-Baltistan elections. In a statement issued here, he said the people of Gilgit-Baltistan showed complete trust and confidence in the leadership of PM Imran Khan and his vision and policies aimed at uplift of people of the country. He said that results in Gilgit-Baltistan election proved that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was the most popular party in the country, and added that a new area of progress and prosperity would begin in Gilgit-Baltistan. He said that Ali Amin Gandapur, Syed Zulfiqar Abbas Bukhari and Murad Saeed also deserved to be congratulated on the success of PTI in Gilgit-Baltistan. Senior Minister hoped that all political parties would accept the results "with open heart". He said the success of PTI buried once for all the useless narrative propagated by the opposition. — APP

## Augustine congratulates winners of PTI from GB

LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Human Rights and Minorities Affairs (HR&MA), Ejaz Alam Augustine on Monday congratulated winning candidates of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) from Gilgit-Baltistan. In a statement, he said that according to unofficial results from Gilgit-Baltistan PTI candidates were winning the election. The provincial minister said that people of Gilgit-Baltistan rejected the narrative of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), adding that they endorsed the view point of Prime Minister Imran Khan. He said that once again the majority of people expressed confidence over policies and vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan and this proved that "PTI is the most popular party of the country". — APP

## People of Gilgit rejected PDM: Haleem Shaikh

KARACHI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Parliamentary leader in Sindh Assembly Haleem Adil Sheikh Monday congratulated the people of Gilgit-Baltistan for their peaceful elections and said the people of GB rejected the narrative of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM). Addressing a press conference at Huaind Lakhani secretariat here flanked by PTI leaders Jan Sher Junejo and Ali Mir Jat, he said the GB elections were held in free and fair atmosphere. He said the conspiracies of PML-N had been foiled as the party's narrative had been rejected by the people of Gilgit-Baltistan. He said the people of Gilgit are educated and they took their own decision after listening to all parties. Haleem said the country's economy was moving in a better direction while the value of Pakistan's currency was also being strengthened against the US dollar. He said Maulana tried

his best but got nothing in GB elections. He said Bilawal Bhutto promised that his party would serve the Gilgit on the pattern of Sindh, adding, the people of Gilgit did not voted for PPP as they were aware of worsening conditions of Sindh. The PTI leader alleged that the resources of Sindh were utilized for Pakistan Peoples Party (PP) electoral campaign in GB. He said Imran Khan would fulfill his promises made with the people of GB, adding, the PTI's war against corruption would be continued. He praised the police performance in Alisha case and demanded that the sections of the Zainab Act should be included in this case. He said the arrested accused should be given exemplary punishment. He said the standard operating procedures (SOPs) set to prevent coronavirus should be strictly followed as the cases were increasing rapidly. — APP

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Briefs

AIOU

postpones papers in twin Cities

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) postponed today's (November 16, 2020) papers in Rawalpindi city and Islamabad region. As per a notification issued by the Controller's office, due to some unforeseen reasons the university postponed final papers of various subjects of BA, BS, B.Ed, M.Ed, MA and MSc programs that were scheduled for today (Monday, November 16, 2020) in Rawalpindi city and Islamabad Region. Students of other parts of the country would appear in their examination as per previous schedule. According to the notification new date for the revised schedule of the postponed papers will be announced later. According to another notification of the university, examination centre no. 177 (Tanvir Hussain Shaheed Model Collage for Boys (IMCB), Street No. 43, G.7/4, Islamabad) has been shifted to Examination Center No. 171 (Azaan Khan Shaheed Model School for Boys Street No. 10, F-8/3, Islamabad) With effect from 16th November, 2020 onwards. Revised Roll No Slips will be issued to all concerned students, however already issued Roll No. slips shall also be valid for the time being.

World Day for Tolerance marked

ISLAMABAD: World Day for Tolerance was marked on Monday across the globe including Pakistan to educate people about the importance of tolerance and the negative impacts of intolerance. The Tolerance Day a time for people learned about respecting and recognized the rights and beliefs of others. Many educators used the theme of this day to helped students in classrooms or in lecture theatres understand issues centered on tolerance and human rights. Human rights activists used this day as an opportunity to spoke out on human rights laws, especially with regard to banning and punishing hate crimes and discrimination against minorities. In 1996 the UN General Assembly invited member states to observe the International Day for Tolerance on November 16, with activities directed towards both educational establishments and the wider public (resolution 51/95 of 12 December). – APP

IBCC, IUCPSS join hands for conducting career counseling

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Inter Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC) and Inter University Consortium for Promotion of Social Sciences Pakistan (IUCPSS) have joint ventured for conducting awareness and career counseling sessions among students. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) have been signed in that regard between both the organizations, a press release said here on Monday. Under the agreement, both organisations will cooperate and collaborate through fostering mutual cooperation and collaboration, conducting joint awareness and career counseling sessions, advocacy seminars, consultative workshops, conferences, competitions, Student Convention & Expo and other academic activities. It was also agreed to promote curricular and co-curricular activities. Speaking on the occasion, Secretary IBCC Dr Ghulam Ali Mallah said that students are future leaders, hence, as per mandate of the IBCC, a comprehensive leadership training program would be launched for the position holders of all intermediate boards across Pakistan.

# Fawad urges COMSATS' member states to deal with pandemic

Working in close proximity of the Secretariat, my Ministry is a witness to the hard work and devotion with which the organization is striving towards its mission at the highest and the grass-root levels alike

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has established cooperative relationships in S&T with a number of countries and establishment of various Centers of Excellence in Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Artificial Intelligence and Allied Technologies; Advanced Technologies in Biomedical Materials; Mineral Resources Engineering; Agriculture Food Technologies; and Railway Engineering are underway, all under the Ministry's Knowledge Economy Initiative. These remarks were a part of the fourth Ministerial-level Consultative Committee Meeting of the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) headed by the Federal Minister for S&T, Chaudhry Fawad Hussain, with participation of 30 delegates from 19 countries. The meeting was an august gathering of three Ministers, a vice minister and other high-level government officials belonging to Iran, Jordan, Pakistan, Sudan, Yemen, Turkey, Bangladesh, Somalia, Zimbabwe, China, Colombia, Egypt, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Palestine, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, and Uganda. The participants deliberated on a 9-point agenda during the meeting virtually hosted from COMSATS Secretariat, Islamabad. In his message, the Chair-



person highlighted Pakistan, the host country of COMSATS Secretariat, as an ardent supporter of COMSATS' mandate since inception. "Working in close proximity of the Secretariat, my Ministry is a witness to the hard work and devotion with which the organization is striving towards its mission at the highest and the grass-root levels alike", remarked the Minister. Mr. Fawad lauded COMSATS' efforts for imple-

menting the decision of the previous meeting and urged his counterparts in the 26 other Member States to duly support COMSATS' operations by all means, especially more regular Annual Membership Contributions. He urged COMSATS' Member States to work collaboratively for dealing with the menace of COVID-19 pandemic and help address the associated socio-economic challenges. Speaking on the occasion,

the Secretary to the Committee and Executive Director COMSATS, Dr. S.M. Junaid Zaidi, remarked that scientific collaboration is an important area for South-South and triangular cooperation. He encouraged the Member States to use COMSATS' forum to incubate partnerships and find new innovation approaches to support and speed up the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The meeting also had the

participation from international organizations including: The South Centre, Switzerland; International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), Italy; United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Thailand; The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), Italy; and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Pakistan. COMSATS Cent-

res of Excellence in China, Colombia, Egypt, Gambia, Iran, Indonesia, Jordan, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Syria, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, and Turkey provided the perspective of the COMSATS' Network of International S&T Centres of Excellence that has been engaged in scientific cooperation through regular annual meetings. Ambassadors and diplomats of Member States in Islamabad also attended the meeting.

## No decision on school closure taken: Education Ministry

ISLAMABAD: The decision to close schools across Pakistan will be taken November 23, Federal Education Minister Shafqat Mahmood has said. After the meeting of the National Command and Operation Centre and education ministers of all the provinces, it was decided that educational institutions across the country will not be closed yet. Mahmood said that after the meeting on November 23, it will be decided whether winter vacations will be extended or the schools will be closed. The education ministers of all provinces agreed that markets and businesses should be closed first, not educational institutions. The All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association have appreciated the government's decisions well. Earlier, Murad Raas, the education minister of Punjab has said that no immediate decision was taken on the matter of closing schools in the province. Earlier in the day, Special Assistant to Punjab Chief Minister Firdous Ashiq Awan said that the government will not go for a complete lockdown. A micro smart lockdown will be imposed in areas most affected by the virus. In the last 24 hours, over 2,100 COVID-19 cases were reported across Pakistan. So far, 7,160 people have lost their lives to the virus. Health experts have warned that the country is battling a second wave. – DNA



**ISLAMABAD:** Editor daily Islamabad POST Ansar Mahmood Bhatti, High Commissioner of Maldives Ms. Farzana Zahir and DHM Mr. Rilwan posing for a picture after meeting at the Maldives High Commission. – DNA

## CDA carries out beautification of Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: The work on development and beautification of Islamabad is underway under Capital Development Authority (CDA). According to detail, the works of CDA in last one month include carpeting of important roads, lane marking, restoration of lights, restoration of lights in various parks, upgradation of more than 50 parks, addition in the facilities of clean drinking water, resolution of the issues being faced by the business community, anti encroachment operation, restoration of infrastructure and others. Upon the special directions of the Chairman CDA, Aamir Ali Ahmad the administration of CDA is actively working on all developmental and other projects in Islamabad. The authority has conducted a number of operations against the encroachments and occupation of government land by the land mafia. In these operations the CDA successfully removed the encroachments and retrieved the illegally grabbed land. Besides this, CDA has taken remarkable steps for resolving the issue of water being faced by the masses of capital. The work of CDA to enhance the beauty of capital and maintain the cleanliness in the city is continued with full pace. – DNA

## ECC forms committee to decide timeline for mango, kinnow export

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet at Cabinet Division Monday constituted a committee to decide a timeline for export of Mango and Kinnow after due consultation with the stakeholders. The committee consisting of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of National Food Security and Research, according to press statement issued by the Finance Ministry here. The meeting of the cabinet committee was chaired by Advisor to the Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue, Dr. Abdul Hafeez Sheikh while among others it was attended by Minister for Industries and Production Hammad Azhar, SAPM on Revenue Dr. Waqar Masood, SAPM on Petroleum Nadeem Baber and Advisor to the PM for Institutional Reforms and Austerity Dr. Ishrat Hussain attended the meeting. Governor SBP Dr. Reza Baqir also participated through video link. The ECC approved budgetary allocation in favour of NITB for provision of ICT services at the PM Office for PM Kamyab Jawan Programme for FY/2020-21 to the tune of Rs53m as requested by the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication. – DNA

## PM approves establishment of National Job Portal

RAJA PERVAIZ

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister on Monday approved establishment of National Job Portal to provide immense opportunities of employment to the country's youth. The Prime Minister gave the approval in a meeting with Special Assistant on Youth Affairs Usman Dar. The Prime Minister said the PTI government was committed to fulfilling another promise with youth. Terming the youth as asset for the country, he said empowering them was the top priority of the PTI government. Usman Dar gave a briefing to the Prime Minister on Kamyab Jawan programme and apprised of the progress made in providing loans to youth. He also updated the Prime Minister on National Job Portal. In view of the increasing number of coronavirus cases in the country, it was decided to reassign the Tiger Force.

## Governor Punjab felicitates President GB election victory

DNA

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar called on President Dr. Arif Alvi and discussed administrative and political affairs, besides matters of mutual interest during a meeting at the Governor's House here on Monday. Governor Punjab felicitated the President on the success of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in the Gilgit Baltistan (GB) Legislative assembly election 2020, adding that the victory reflected party's popularity and people's confidence in the policies of the PTI government. President Dr. Arif Alvi said prosperity of the country was the top-most priority of the government, adding that the machinations of the detractors to destabilize the government will be foiled. Dr. Arif Alvi said there was need to unite against the anti-state elements in the country, adding that the nation was united under the banner of PTI and the allied political parties. The President also hailed Governor Punjab's scholarship scheme for the students of Balochistan, GB and ex-FATA districts. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar said the masses had rejected the narrative of disruption and anarchy during the GB election, adding that 220 million people stand beside the government's stand-point. Sarwar said the detractors of the government should concede election in the GB, adding that the opposition should refrain from politics of division and divide in the country.

## IRSA releases 115,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 115,000 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 62,500 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1505.83 feet, which was 117.83 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 42,700 cusecs and outflow as 65,000 cusecs. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1193.05 feet, which was 153.05 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 7,800 cusecs and 38,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 78,300, 52,100 and 9,400 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 5,100 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 2,000 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala. – APP

# Waseela-e-Taleem initiative to help enroll out-of-school children

The stipend given to the children had also been modified as per Ehsaas' new Stipend policy under which the children of poorest families would now be provided conditional cash grants of Rs 1500 for boy child and Rs. 2000 per quarter for girl child on attainment of 70% attendance in the school

ISLAMABAD: The massive reforms being introduced for expansion of the Waseela-e-Taleem initiative under Ehsaas would help support vulnerable households through providing educational stipends for the education of their children and significantly contribute to enroll out-of-school children. Pakistan has 19.1 million out-of-school children who need to be enrolled for improving the literacy rate which is directly linked to the development of nation and the country. According to an official source, Pakistan had been running an Ed-

ucation Conditional Cash Transfer program for primary school going children called Waseela-e-Taleem since 2012 in the selected districts. The program encountered a number of challenges including high administrative cost, weak compliance monitoring system, low stipend amount and high error and fraud due to a paper-based approach, hindering the result oriented impact. However, now the reforms being introduced in the program included expansion of Waseela-e-Taleem initiative to all the districts of the

country, new stipend policy, digitized mechanism and cost-effective institutional infrastructure. This comprehensive and deep-rooted reform was designed and deployed over the last year and a half, as a result of which far reaching changes had been made in the program. Listing the four key pillars of reforms, the official source disclosed that end-to-end digitization of a number of processes was being introduced which were previously managed manually. Besides this, apps had been developed which were used

by staff to register children and monitor compliance. Secondly, the cost-effective changes in institutional infrastructure were made to expand this program nationwide eliminating the reliance on non-governmental organizations which has reduced the operational cost from eight percent to three percent. The stipend given to the children had also been modified as per Ehsaas' new Stipend policy under which the children of poorest families would now be provided conditional cash grants of Rs 1500 for

boy child and Rs. 2000 per quarter for girl child on attainment of 70% attendance in the school. The program was being expanded to all districts of the country so that the children of far flung areas can get benefit out of this initiative. Education Conditional Cash Transfers was an important pillar of Ehsaas and included in the Ehsaas framework as Policy #73 'Education Conditional Cash Transfers'. The overall budget for the Waseela-e-Taleem initiative this year was Rs. eight billion, the source added. – APP



## Briefs

9 held during  
crackdown  
against  
criminals

DNA

ISLAMABAD, November 16, 2020: Islamabad Police have arrested nine 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 Zulfiqar 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, Aabpara police arrested two namely Nabeel and Shahzad recovered 15 liters alcohol wine and 112 gram Ice from their possession. Karachi company police arrested an accused Shahbaz and recovered 10 wine bottles from him. Sabzi Mandi police arrested an Afghan national accused cheema wali living illegally. Khanna police arrested an accused Tariq involved in theft case. CIA police team arrested an accused an accused Waseem Raza and recovered 30 bore pistol from him. Bhara Kahu police arrested accused Sharfat and recovered 230 gram hashish. Ramana police arrested accused Umair Ashraf and 30 bore pistol from him. Sihala police arrested accused Noor Muhammad and recovered 1135 gram hashish from him. Cases have been registered against these nabbed persons and further legal proceeding is underway against them.

PSX loses  
64 points  
to close at  
40,504 points

ISLAMABAD: The KSE-100 index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Monday closed at 40,504 points against 40,569 points on the last working day, with a little negative change of 64.6 points (0.16%). A total 181,446,328 shares were traded during the day compared to the trade of 243,084,683 shares the previous day whereas the price of shares stood at Rs6.177 billion against Rs7.895 billion previous day. As many as 366 companies transacted shares in the stock market, 142 of them recorded gain and 202 sustained losses whereas the share price of 22 companies remained unchanged. The three top traded companies were K-Electric Ltd with a volume of 24,905,000 shares and price per share of Rs3.57, Maple leaf with a volume of 14,488,245 and price per share of Rs40.36 and Sui North Gas with a volume of 14,165,402 and price per share of Rs47.14. — APP

Green  
materials can  
power smart  
devices at  
home, office

ISLAMABAD: A team of researchers has discovered that new green materials currently being developed for next-generation solar panels could be useful for indoor light harvesting, paving the way to power smart devices using ambient light at home or office. In smart devices like smartphones, smart speakers and wearable health and wellness sensors, the can deplete quickly and contain toxic and rare environmentally damaging chemicals, Science Daily reported. One way to power them is by converting indoor light from ordinary bulbs into energy, in a similar way to how solar panels harvest energy from sunlight, known as solar photovoltaics. However, due to the different properties of the light sources, the materials used for solar panels are not suitable for harvesting indoor light. Now, researchers from Imperial College London, Soochow University in China, and the University of Cambridge have detailed a novel way in a paper published in the journal Advanced Energy Materials. "By efficiently absorbing the light coming from lamps commonly found in homes and buildings, the materials we investigated can turn light into electricity with an efficiency already in the range of commercial technologies," explained study co-author Dr Robert Hoye from the Department of Materials at Imperial. — APP

Relentless pursuit of nuclear tech  
by India a danger for region: Mazari

US wants Indian hegemony in the region and Pakistan cannot accept it. Pakistan needs to have a reality check of our relations with US. Reassessment of security threats for Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad organized an online international conference on the topic of "Emergence of Regional Security Structure in the Backdrop of Rising Asia". This session was aimed to discuss various issues and topics related to security challenges and issues which have been raised in Asia and how a new regional security system is emerging with the rise of Asia. Ms. Minahil Shawal Afridi, Research Executive, CGSS welcomed all the esteemed panelists in the conference and gave a brief overview of the purpose for holding this International Online Conference. Dr. Shireen Mazrari, Federal Minister of Human Rights, Government of Pakistan emphasized that since Pakistan has three nuclear armed States in its vicinity, Pakistan needs to revise its policies and ties with the US. She further said that relentless pursuit of nuclear technology by India is a danger for the region and gives India combat cloud capacity. Post 9/11, Pakistan's external threats became more acute especially in the form of Afghan war and India and US are creating threats by their strategic alliance for China and this region at large. In the end, she gave her observation that Pakistan cannot have a strategic partnership with US anymore because of their demands of pulling strings on relations with China and US-India military cooperation. US wants In-



dian hegemony in the region and Pakistan cannot accept it. Pakistan needs to have a reality check of our relations with US. Reassessment of security threats for Pakistan. Ambassador Riaz Hussain Khokhar, Former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan spoke about relations between Pakistan, China and India. He gave his opinion that relations between Pakistan and China are deep-rooted and many prominent Pakistani and Chinese presidents in the past have put their efforts to expand this relationship. However, India China relations have been tumultuous because India thinks it is a rival of China in this region. He warned the audience that Indian threats to Pakistan are real. US policy of containment of Central and South Asia is to shrink Chinese, Iranian and perhaps Pakistani presence in this region by backing India. India is also misusing Afghanistan against Pakistan for many years now. Pakistan should rely on its strength and should eliminate threats against it with the help of unwavering Chinese support. Dr. Farid Shafiyev, Chairman of Center of Analysis of International Relations, Baku, Azerbaijan. The esteemed panelist highlighted and appreciated Pakistan's role in helping Azerbaijan in Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and discussed prospects of projects between Azerbaijan and other regional countries including Pakistan. He also suggested that, to improve regional stability in the region, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and other countries should engage in joint projects for mutual development.

4 Policemen injured in TLP rally  
Islamabad clashes, roads blocked

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Four policemen among nine injured in TLP rally clashes in Islamabad Sunday night. Photo: KHROfficial. Nine people, including four policemen, were injured in clashes between law enforcement and members of the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan on Sunday night. No critical injury has been reported. The protestors vandalized the metrobus near Rawalpindi. The DC for Islamabad said that the Islamabad Expressway from Zero Point till Khanna Bridge will stay sealed. "Everyone is requested to please use alternate routes," he tweeted. "Apologies for inconvenience. We are trying our best to clear the route." TLP head Allama Khadim Hussain Rizvi had said that they will hold the rally to protest the publication of blasphemous caricatures in a French magazine, and against the country's president Emmanuel Macron for his anti-Islam remarks. Rizvi has not, however, joined the rally or dharna. The party demands that Pakistan sever diplomatic ties with France. The rally started from Liaquat Bagh, Rawalpindi in the evening and faced heavy tear gas shelling from police at Murree Road. The protestors managed to reach the Faizabad Interchange, where they faced more tear gas shelling throughout the night. A contingent of 2,500 policemen and over 700 FC jawans has been deployed at different points of the city. Containers block all major routes towards Islamabad. However, there were reports that all roads were clear except for the expressway. Mobile and internet networks were shut Sunday night. This has created a partial vacuum around the story. The pictures and videos of the clashes between the TLP and the Islamabad police are being circulated by the TLP's supporters with grainy images and footage arriving on the internet hours later. A massive traffic jam was witnessed in Islamabad and Rawalpindi on Monday due to a sit-in by the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) at Faizabad Interchange. Long queues of vehicles were seen on major thoroughfares of the twin cities as the traffic gridlock piled misery on commuters. Authorities have installed blockades at the entry points of the capital to stop the protesters from entering the city. SSP Traffic Islamabad tweeted that inter-provincial traffic has increased on the Expressway and Kashmir Highway because of the rally, which is why roads nearby have been closed. He said that additional Islamabad traffic police have been deployed. People are requested to follow the traffic plan and avoid unnecessary travel. Heavy traffic from Lahore to Rawalpindi should take T-Cross Rawat route Heavy traffic coming from Peshawar towards Chungi No. 26 will be moved to the Motorway Traffic from Kulsom Plaza, Jinnah Avenue going towards Express Chowk will be closed from both sides. People can take Nazimud din and Margalla Road. Traffic from Geo Chowk towards Poly Clinic, Fazal-ul-Haq Road is closed from both sides. People can take Luqman Hakeem Road. Faizabad is closed from all four sides. Traffic from Rawal Dam towards Faizabad is closed from both sides.



ISLAMABAD: Roads of Islamabad closed due to TLP dharna. Cellular service is also shut down for two days in the Capital due to which residents are facing severe difficulties. — DNA

President  
meets Ch  
Shujaat,  
inquires  
after health

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi visited Pakistan Muslim League (Q) president Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain in Lahore and inquired after his health. The President wished Chaudhry Shujaat the best of health and prayed for his early recovery.

Public hearing  
on proposed  
landfill  
Tuesday

ISLAMABAD: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Pakistan will conduct a public hearing on the permanent landfill, proposed by the Capital Development Authority (CDA) near Sangjani, on Tuesday. According to an official of EPA, all the relevant stakeholders had been informed about the public hearing to hear their arguments for and against the initiative. To the surprise of many, the capital city has been lacking a permanent landfill site since its inception in 1967 and the plans for its development in past could not be materialized for one reason or another. During the past, the civic agencies including CDA and Metropolitan Corporation of Islamabad (MCI) have selected multiple sites like Kurri landfill and others but unfortunately all kind of waste is still being stashed in sector I-12 where the citizens are bearing the brunt of that makeshift arrangement. "Yes, the city has been deprived of a permanent landfill for the last several decades and this time also some miscreants are making all-out efforts to disrupt our plan of setting up a landfill on scientific pattern near Sangjani," CDA Director Sanitation Department Sardar Khan Zimri said while talking to APP. He said the development of scientific landfill near Sangjani was an initiative of paramount importance for people of Islamabad as its population had doubled in the last two decades. — APP

Looted items worth  
millions of rupees  
recovered

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have arrested 197 outlaws during last week and recovered looted items worth millions of rupees from them including gold ornaments, cars and bikes, a police spokesman said. Following directions of Inspector General of Police Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfiqar Khan, he said that Deputy Inspector General of Police (Opera-

tions) Waqar Ud din Syed directed all police officials to accelerate efforts against anti-social elements and ensure their arrests. As per orders of Islamabad police chief Muhammad Aamir Zulfiqar Khan, renewed efforts were made and police achieved remarkable success. Owing these efforts, 18 accused were arrested involved in dacoity/robbery/burglary/theft and car theft while 41 absconders were held during the same period.

Motorbike, three wheeler sales  
increase 18.96 % in 4 months

ISLAMABAD: The sale of motorbikes and three wheelers in the country witnessed an increased of 18.96 percent during the first four months of financial year (2020-21) as compared to the corresponding period of last year. During the period under review, as many as 624,030 motorbikes and three wheelers were sold in July-October (2020-21) against the sale of 524,528 units in July-October (2019-20), showing growth of 18.96 percent, according to the Pakistan Automobile Manufacturers Association (PAMA). The sale of Honda motorcycles went up by 20.55 percent from 335,134 units in last year to 404,005 units during current year whereas the sale of Suzuki motorcycles witnessed decrease of 4.17 percent from 6,917 units to 6,628 units. Similarly, the sale of Yamaha motorbikes also went down from 8,707 units to 8,823 witnessing decreased of 21.63 percent while the

sale of Ravi motorbikes witnessed a sharp decline of 55.53 percent from 5,289 units to 2,352 units during the period under review. The sales of United Auto motorcycles increased by 17.76 percent from 113,887 units to 134,120 units while the sales of Road Prince motorcycles also increased by 19.40 percent from 42,795 units to 51,099 units. Meanwhile, the sale of Road Prince three wheelers witnessed an increase of 66.40 percent from 2,459 units in last year to 4,092 units in the current year while the sale of Saggar three wheeler also rose by 49.21 percent from 3,501 units to 5,224 units. The sale of Qingqi three wheelers has shown increase of 105.76 percent by going up from 3,324 units to 6,840 units whereas the sale of United Auto three wheelers also rose 33.19 percent from 2,118 units to 2,821 units, the data revealed. — APP

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## Efforts needed for interfaith harmony: Dr. Ashrafi

Any Group, individual and Organisation can't be allowed to impose their thinking on others: Ashrafi

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Endeavours will be made at every forum and level for interreligious dialogue and interfaith harmony in the country. Constitution of Pakistan have categorically defined rights for Muslims and minorities living in Pakistan. Any group, organization and individual can't be allowed to impose their thinking on others, said Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, Chairman Pakistan Ulama Council, Special Representative to Prime Minister on Religious Harmony. Talking to visiting delegates of different religious schools of thought here on Monday, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, Special Representative to Prime Minister on Religious Harmony said that consultation is being made with political and

religious leadership of the country including Council of Islamic Ideology to restraint Child Marriage issues. Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi also announced that Interreligious Harmony Councils are being established all over the country from December 01, 2020 to ensure interfaith harmony and inter-religious dialogue in the country with objectives to promote Religious Harmony and leniency among faithfuls of different religions and religious sects. Teachings of Quran-o-Sunnah and Islam use to command to ensure respect and honour for all the Heavenly Religions. He said that elements responsible for fanning Blasphemy instances wants to make interreligious clashes, said Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi. He added that freedom of expression does not mean to target and undermine religious sentiments



of the faithfuls of other religions. Misuse of blasphemy laws has been contained to a large extent in the country, said Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi adding that Constitution of Pakistan categorically defines rights for each and every Pakistani irrespective of their reli-

gious faiths. He said that any Organization, individual and group can't be allowed to impose their thinking and beliefs on others. Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi also stated that Islam does not allow to force anyone to accept Islam. He said consultation is being made at a larger extent to ensure restraints against Child Marriages. Responding to a question, Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi said that Prime Minister Imran Khan has been making coordination with all the Islamic world following the situation of publication of blasphemous caricatures in France. Pakistan playing its effective role in this situation. On call of the government, Rehmatul Al-Alameen week is being observed all over the country. To address issues faced by Non-Muslim communities living in Pakistan, a mechanism is being devised on permanent footings to address these

issues, said Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi. Responding to another question, Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi said that it is responsibility of the state to take action against killing of any person in the country. The federal government has sought report from KPK provincial government against killing of Qadianis in Peshawar and effective action has been directed in this regard, said Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi. On this occasion, leading Ulemas and religious schools including Maulana Ziaullah Shah Bukhari, Maulana Muhammad Khan Leghari, Maulana Muhammad Shafi Qasmi, Allama Tahirul Hassani, Maulana Hafiz Kazim Raza, Maulana Ubaidullah Gormani, Maulana Aseer ur Rehman Saeed, Maulana Abubakar Sabri, Maulana Hafizur Rehman and others were also present.



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## Corona care

If anyone thought the second surge/wave of the Covid-19 virus was going to in any way be gentle, and that we could get away with the bare minimum precaution, they were very obviously wrong. In Pakistan, the total active Covid-19 cases on Saturday were recorded at 24,938 with 2,165 new cases reported during the last 24 hours. Fatalities are increasing as is the case count. According to a new poll conducted in the country, people are more aware of the Covid danger than before, and are more worried too, given the lack of SOPs. So then what is it that is making people throw any and all caution to the wind and do away with the tried, tested and safe measures of controlling this virus? For traders, businesses and industry the very obvious answer is: money and profit. For example, as per news reports, the Karachi Marriage Hall, Lawn, Banquet Owners Association has rejected the NCOC's new SOPs for marriage halls. For them, and one would assume a host of businesses, strict SOPs translate into loss of business. While one can certainly empathise with the sentiments of business owners, and more so of those daily wagers that depend on these businesses, it would be unwise to be bullish about the SOPs right now because if the situation gets worse a complete lockdown would be the only inevitable outcome. A virus that has killed more than 1.3 million people around the world is not going to wait for anyone or anything. The only way to combat it is by ensuring people take it seriously. Unfortunately, it is exactly this missing seriousness that is leading to this seemingly more lethal second wave gaining fervour in the country. We have seen people crammed into small shopping areas, restaurants full of happy clueless diners, weddings being arranged like the coronavirus never happened, large political gatherings and events from both the government and the opposition, and of course schools reopening. None of these has helped the people's case against Covid-19. A far more practical way forward would have been to ask workplaces to ensure Work From Home policies for any and all staff that can manage work while home, and to make sure events such as weddings or any other celebrations were kept to the bare minimum, in open air, and with no more than a handful of people. Also important was to rethink the school reopening because expecting children to wear masks and adhere to distancing SOPs is a fantasy and nothing more. For the safety of all, we need the government to either ensure all SOPs are complied with – something we don't see happening much – or come up with some other way to keep the people safe.

## Equal access

In a country like Pakistan the question of online learning remains one fraught with many hazards. While the HEC deserves some credit for keeping education going through internet-based online learning despite the Covid pandemic, key issues have been pointed out. The most prominent among these is the unequal availability of wi-fi and computer technology to students across the country. In particular, there have been multiple complaints from Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, the former Fata areas and other remote areas from where students have complained that they do not have any access at all to the internet. In some cases, these unfortunate students were simply asked by their educational institutions to drop a semester. Many have lost a year of education in any case, since they could not effectively access the internet and follow the online lectures. In the former tribal areas, wi-fi services have in some cases been switched off years ago during the struggle against militancy and never restored while other students have reported having to climb high hills in order to gain even partial access to lectures online. Absence of electric power for long periods additionally hampers students while girls face further handicap in that they are less likely to have access to wi-fi or computers. The failure to solve these problems means some students were effectively discriminated against. Of course, this situation should never have been allowed to develop. Solutions were not offered and the result is a huge loss notably to students from remote areas who are in the first place less likely to gain entrance to places of higher learning. This for them is nothing short of a disaster. The problem is to some degree a universal one with the same issue debated at length in the US where students who are attending less elite colleges and belong to underprivileged groups are often less able to properly follow online education given the lack of facilities available to them. As is the case here, these students are also less likely to be able to get help from parents and other persons in their circle of acquaintanceship. In our own country we do not know how long the pandemic may affect learning. It is possible new waves of the virus strike. It is essential we find the right way to make learning even and ensure no one is left behind because of where they live or to which family they belong.

# The SCO promotes inter-civilization dialogue

Vladimir Norov



The SCO is a unique example of symbiosis of peoples, cultures, traditions, customs and mindsets.

The association space includes 18 countries with more than 3 billion people representing almost 200 nationalities. Our peoples are united by common destinies, historical memory, long-standing close contacts and ties. And most importantly, mutual trust and respect for each other make us one. The SCO's transparency and openness have become an integral feature. The Organization strictly follows the principles set out in the SCO Charter, including its non-targeting against other states and international organizations; actively develops contacts

EVERY year on November 16 the world celebrates the International Day of Tolerance. On this day in 1995 UNESCO member states adopted the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and the Program of Action. "Tolerance" in the Declaration is understood as "respect, acceptance and proper understanding of the rich diversity of our world's cultures, our forms of expression and ways of expressing human individuality". The Declaration proclaims "recognition that human beings are inherently different in appearance, position, speech, conduct and values and have the right to live in peace and preserve their individuality". The declaration addresses threats to humanity posed by intolerance and offers methods and programs to combat intolerance. Special UNESCO prize named after Mr. Madanjeet Singh - Indian artist, writer and diplomat, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador - is dedicated to propagation of tolerance and non-violence ideals to the International Day of Tolerance. It was established in 1995 and is awarded every two years to institutions, organizations or individuals for significant contributions and effective artistic, cultural or communication activities aimed at creating an atmosphere of tolerance and non-violence.

A total of 18 laureates have received this award. And here I am proud to note that five times they were representatives of the "SCO family" countries. Among the award winners were representatives of India, Pakistan, Russia and South Asian countries.

This year the Madanjeet Singh Prize was awarded to the Conflict Resolution Center of the Democratic Republic of Congo in recognition of its work on human rights protection, liberation of children from military camps, as well as their rehabilitation and reintegration into their native communities.

**SCO - space for tolerance, cultural diversity and joint development**

In the conditions of modern international relations, I believe that maintaining and strengthening tolerance at the interstate level directly depends not only on the desire and efforts of individual countries, but also on the model of interaction.

20 years ago, the heads of six countries - Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan - wishing to reveal the enormous potential of good neighborliness, unity and cooperation between the states and their peoples, announced the establishment of one of the largest international organizations to date.

The SCO is a unique example of symbiosis of peoples, cultures, traditions, customs and mindsets. The association space includes 18 countries with more than 3 billion people representing almost 200 nationalities. Our peoples are united by common destinies, historical memory, long-standing close contacts and ties. And most importantly, mutual trust and respect for each other make us one. The SCO's transparency and openness have become an integral feature. The Organization strictly follows the principles set out in the SCO Charter, including its non-targeting against other states and international organizations; actively develops contacts and cooperation with other international and regional organizations, primarily the UN and its institutes. I also cannot but emphasize that in our "family" each country has equal weight and equal voice. Invariably, all decisions within the SCO are taken only and exclusively on the principle of consensus. Nobody is left unheard, everybody brings their own vision to further development.

Today, we can confidently note that the "Shanghai spirit" has introduced a new trend in theory and practice of modern international relations, implementing the uni-

versal aspiration for globalization and close integration. No matter how acute the issue is, each side is striving to find the way towards mutual consent.

It is on this basis that we promote and develop multidisciplinary cooperation, maintain and strengthen peace, security and stability in the region, and contribute to building a new democratic, just and rational political and economic international order.

**Principles of coexistence**

Today the world has entered in an era of profound transformation and large-scale globalization. The desire for peace, development, equitable and mutually beneficial cooperation, and the formation of a community of global peace and prosperity is becoming increasingly important.

There are high rates of economic growth, humanity is becoming more and more mobile and new technologies are being actively developed. At the same time, global challenges and threats, as well as factors of uncertainty and unpredictability, are increasing in the world.

There are still unresolved issues and new regional and local conflicts are emerging. Under these conditions, the most important task is, undoubtedly, the protection of peace and universal development. In the foreground there is a need to build a universal, integrated, transparent security and sustainable growth architecture in the region based on the principles of the rule of international law, non-use of force or threat of use of force, respect for territorial integrity, state sovereignty and independence of countries, open, equal and mutually beneficial cooperation. In this regard, the ideas of tolerance are more relevant in the present time than ever.

I believe that the solution of this problem lies in the concept of implementing tasks in different directions. First of all, it is necessary to strengthen security and stability, in particular to actively resist various manifestations of terrorism, extremism, to provide information security, to fight any manifestations of discrimination against people. Economic cooperation is also an important element in ensuring stability in the SCO region. Joint development of infrastructure and communications, implementation of multilateral projects to improve the welfare and quality of life of citizens is one of the priority tasks in cooperation between the SCO member states.

**Cultural symbiosis**

I would like to emphasize separately that the key factor in strengthening the spirit of tolerance in the SCO region is its rich cultural potential, as well as its diverse ethnic and religious composition. The member states traditionally advocate the development of inter-civilization dialogue, strengthening ties in educational, cultural, humanitarian and tourism areas, contributing to further strengthening of good neighborhood, friendship and cooperation relations, directing efforts to multiply cultural diversity, to cooperate in the study and protection of cultural and natural heritage of the region.

In June 2019, in celebration of the 19th anniversary of the Organization was presented a large-scale project - "Eight Wonders of SCO". It is a series of thematic presentations, initiated on tourism topics. Its main goal is to present the national wonders of the eight member states through the presentation of national wonders, to present widely the tourism resources, projects, cultural and creative products and culture of the SCO countries. To date, as part of this project we have conducted a series of presentations of sites of the eight SCO member states in Beijing, Tashkent, Xi'an, St. Petersburg, Dushanbe and Helsinki. The International Day of Nowruz is actively celebrated, which was included in 2009 in the list of intangible cultural heritage of mankind as a cultural tradition of many

peoples, symbolizing friendship, mutual understanding, harmony and creativity.

An important sporting event in the activities of the Organization is the SCO Kunming Marathon, which gathers tens of thousands of people from around the world, and is an important factor in the integration of peoples, promoting cultural exchanges and cooperation. Its international status is also being strengthened. In March 2020, the International Association of Athletic Federations awarded the marathon a silver license, making it a world-class sporting event.

I would like to remind you that marathons of the SCO were held in other member states of the organisation, in particular in Nur-Sultan (Kazakhstan) in June 2017, as well as on the shore of Lake Issyk-Kul in Kyrgyzstan in May 2019, and we plan to further expand the geography of the marathons.

Great importance is also attached to working with young people, their upbringing in a spirit of patriotism, respect for diversity of cultures, the development of skills for independent thinking and developing judgments based on moral values.

**"Shanghai spirit" of mutual aid**

The issue of maintaining tolerance is of great importance this year in the context of the coronavirus pandemic. It has exacerbated the socio-economic situation in many countries around the world, significantly increased political tensions between major powers and had a significant impact on the familiar lifestyle of millions of people. The threats to global security began to grow.

The pandemic has clearly demonstrated the interconnectedness of all countries on the planet. However, it is not without regret that solidarity and joint efforts to counteract COVID-19 are giving way to isolationism, there is a transition from globalization to localization, and persecution of one's own benefit is at the forefront. These approaches are splitting society, provoking the rampant traditional security threats and unconventional challenges, which include xenophobia and the escalation of intolerance.

Building on the "Shanghai spirit", the SCO countries have effectively exchanged experience in the fight against coronavirus, as well as mutual humanitarian, financial, medical and technical assistance. The existing mechanisms for cooperation in the sphere of health care and sanitary-epidemiological well-being were fully utilized within the SCO. In general, under current conditions, close coordination of activities of international organizations to combat pandemics and the growing cross-border threats and challenges is required.

According to UN Secretary General António Guterres, SCO is a reliable partner of the UN and a leading player in regional diplomacy of Eurasia, actively promotes cooperation to solve the most acute security problems facing Eurasia today - in particular, the fight against xenophobia, incitement of hatred and extremism.

I note that the acceleration of large-scale changes in the modern architecture of international relations opens new opportunities for interaction and strengthening of contacts. But, at the same time, it imposes a huge responsibility on all participants, both before their countries and before all of humanity.

As negative ideas and trends spread, it is necessary to support the dialogue of cultures and nations.

I am confident that SCO will continue to be faithful to the "Shanghai spirit", will continue to promote and popularize the ideas of tolerance and humanism in the name of strengthening the world order and maintaining tolerance.

– *The writer is the SCO Secretary-General*

# PNS Tabuk: Another Feather In The Cap

Zubeda Anjum Niazi

Pakistan's Ministry of Defense Production signed a deal with Dutch contractor Damen Shipyards Group in 2017 for two offshore patrol vessels. Similar to the first ship PNS YARMOOK; PNS TABUK is multi-purpose 2300 tons warship built by the Damen Shipyard. Traditionally, ships in the Pak Navy are named after historical events or figures

AS a responsible and futuristic force with the intention to maintain regional peace, Pakistan Navy has continually sought to fortify national security against the pervasive threats. The strategic environment of the region is becoming complex day by day therefore Pakistan is also upgrading its arsenal so as to counter the threat and ensure peace of the region by maintaining a balanced naval force. Consonantly, Pakistan Navy has been assiduously active to make the maritime frontier of Pakistan impregnable by employing a credible deterrence approach. Thus, Pakistan Navy over the recent years, with the intention to maintain its sustained lethality and credibility, has inducted various vessels in the fleet with the potential to perform a wide range of missions. PNS TABUK corvette is one such acquisition by Pakistan Navy with the capability to add significant defensive and offensive skills to the navy through modern strategic sea deterrent.

Study results show that the introduction of smaller combatants into the fleet will not only increase capacity to conduct maritime operations, but it will also free other critical assets for more efficient mission distribution. Pakistan's Ministry of Defense Production signed a deal with Dutch contractor Damen Shipyards Group in 2017 for two offshore patrol vessels. Similar to the first ship PNS YARMOOK; PNS TABUK is multi-purpose 2300 tons warship built by the Damen Shipyard. Traditionally, ships in the Pakistan Navy are named after historical events or figures. PNS TABUK is named after the War of TABUK (Ghazwa-e-Tabuk) held in 630 A.D. against

the Byzantines. Corvettes, during the Age of Sail, were one of the smaller warships having a single deck of guns. They are very closely related to sloops of war. In history, the role of the corvette consisted mostly of coastal patrol, fighting minor wars, supporting large fleets, or participating in show-the-flag missions.

Designed by the British naval designer William Reed, the modern corvette appeared during World War II for the first time, as a convoy escort vessel and an easily built patrol vessel. In the late 20th and early 21st centuries, contemporary navies began a trend towards smaller and more navigable surface capability which led to the induction of the corvette into the fleet. Corvettes have a displacement between 500 and 3,000 long tons and measure 180–420 ft (55–128 m) in length. They are usually armed with medium and small caliber guns, surface to air missiles, surface to surface missiles and anti-submarine weapons. The Pakistan Navy has always aimed to contribute towards national security. In this regard, Pakistan Navy will utilize the corvette for peacetime patrolling and conventional wartime operations as the ship would contribute towards achieving sustained maritime order through Pakistan Navy Regional Maritime Security Patrols (RMSP) initiatives.

The Damen offshore patrol vessel range has been developed for navies and coastguards to accomplish an assortment of missions, including humanitarian tasks, military security and safety. The newly inducted ship is a cutting-edge anti-ship and electronic warfare platform that has a terminal defense system and advanced

self-protection. It is also capable of performing diverse maritime operations and can transport UAV (Unmanned Air Vehicle) and helicopters, concurrently.

The ship has two high-speed RHIBs (rigid-hulled inflatable boats) of medium size. Damen has a record of building about 40 vessels of the security and defense sector which include quite a few sophisticated vessels made for Royal Netherlands Navy along with the flagship of Romanian Border Police demonstrating its professionalism and capability for shipbuilding. Contemporarily, maritime security has immense significance for economic growth and expansion because of its connection with the state's economy. The economic potential of the Gwadar deep seaport has drawn a myriad of perils that the Pakistan Navy has to deal with. The newly inducted corvette PNS TABUK along with the PNS YARMOOK will prove to be a force multiplier for the Pakistan Navy in the long run. Furthermore, the expansion of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Pakistan about 350 nautical miles away from the coast, has increased responsibilities of the Pakistan Navy. The development of the deep seaport of Gwadar as part of the CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) has made Pakistan a fundamental trade platform.

The acquisition of PNS TABUK will help Pakistan to secure its Sea lines of Communication (SLOCs) more efficiently in the IOR by neutralizing the Indian threat. In this respect, PNS TABUK being a technologically advanced vessel will amplify Pakistan Navy's capabilities to deal with challenges to preserve peace and stability in the IOR.



## Briefs

**Venezuela to buy 10 million doses of Russian vaccine**

CARACAS: Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has said that his government has agreed to buy 10 million doses of Russia's Sputnik V vaccine against Covid-19. The vaccines will come in the first quarter of 2021, Maduro said at an event in Caracas broadcast on government television, adding that "Venezuela will manufacture the Russian vaccine in the Venezuelan laboratories." In August, Russia became the first country to register a vaccine against Covid-19, which it named Sputnik V, after the world's first satellite launched into space in 1957. However, the announcement has been met with skepticism in the international community. Its developers reported initial test results showing the vaccine to be 92 percent effective, two days after pharma giant Pfizer and Germany's BioNTech said Phase 3 results found their vaccine to be more than 90 percent effective, injecting hope into the battle against the virus. In early October, Venezuela began participating in the Sputnik V clinical trials phase, with some 2,000 volunteers participating – among them Maduro's son Nicolas Maduro Guerra. Since the pandemic arrived in Venezuela in March, the government has confirmed 96,933 infections and 848 deaths. But opposition figures and non-governmental organizations question the figures, saying that due to underreporting, they could be much higher.

**Japan exits recession**

TOKYO: Japan's economy grew 5.0 percent in the third quarter, government data showed Monday, as signs of recovery began to emerge after the worst GDP contraction on record. A rise in domestic demand as well as exports helped drive the quarter-on-quarter growth, after the coronavirus pandemic and a consumption tax hike slammed the economy into reverse earlier in the year.

**Merino resigns as Peru president**

LIMA: Peru's President Manuel Merino resigned Sunday, just five days after taking office, sparking celebrations in the capital Lima following street protests against him and the ousting of his popular predecessor. "I want to let the whole country know that I'm resigning," Merino said in a televised address, a day after a police crackdown on protesters left at least two people dead. Merino, 59, resigned shortly after a crisis session of Congress called on him to quit power before 6:00 pm (2300 GMT) or face censure. Congress is expected to appoint a new president – the South American country's third in a week – in a new session called for 6:00 pm. Thousands have taken to the streets in days of protests against Merino following the ouster of his predecessor Martin Vizcarra, who was impeached on corruption allegations on Monday. Congress' ultimatum came after the health ministry said two protesters were killed on Saturday during a massive and peaceful march in Lima, which was repressed by police firing shotgun pellets and tear gas. Merino said that in order to avoid a "power vacuum" the 18 ministers he swore in on Thursday would temporarily remain in their posts, though almost all had resigned in the wake of Saturday's deadly protest. The resignation was greeted by noisy celebrations in Lima, with demonstrators taking to the streets sounding horns and banging pots. – APP

# Pakistan to be special partner at CAEXPO in Nanning, China

Eight high-level forums will be held during the event covering the fields including China-ASEAN FTA, health, international industrial cooperation, technology transfer, information harbor, statistics, insurance, and electricity

BEIJING: Pakistan will be a special partner country at the forthcoming 17th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) scheduled to be held on November 27-30 in Nanning, Guangxi province of China. The CAEXPO will be co-sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce of China and its counterparts in the 10 ASEAN member countries as well as the ASEAN Secretariat. With rigorous epidemic prevention and control, the CAEXPO will be held both physically and "on cloud". The opening ceremony will be held online with the main venue set up in Nanning Convention and Exhibition Center. A number of major events will be held to send a new signal of China-ASEAN cooperation to businesses around the world. For the first time, an exhibition area will be set up for Guang-

**China's consumer spending picks up in October**

BEIJING: China's retail sales continued a general recovery in October, official data showed Monday, on the back of a national holiday and policies aimed at boosting spending. Although China has largely brought the coronavirus under control, spending has been slower to recover as the world still grapples with the impact of the pandemic. Beijing's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said Monday that retail sales in the world's second-largest economy had risen 4.3 percent on-year last month. At a press briefing, spokesman Fu Linghui said the pandemic "has dealt a second blow to countries" including the United States and those in Europe, and that global recovery had "further stalled" as a result. "The domestic economy

is still in recovery, with multiple challenges to be conquered before a full recovery," Fu said. The figure is lower than the five percent growth expected by analysts polled by Bloomberg, but still continued an upward trend as spenders gradually began to open their wallets again, particularly around the October 1 national holiday. – APP

AN FTA, health, international industrial cooperation, technology transfer, information harbor, statistics, insurance, and electricity. Nearly 100 people including eight Consuls General and other diplomats from 16 countries' Consulates General in Guangzhou–Pakistan, Cambodia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Nepal, Philip-

and large foreign companies such as Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), Thailand Board of Investment, American Chamber of Commerce in South China, Mitsubishi Corporation, Marubeni (Guangzhou) Trading Co., Ltd.; and journalists from major Chinese media outlets were also present. Diyar Khan, Consul General in Guangzhou of Pakistan, Special Partner of 17th CAEXPO and Karol Peczak, Head of the Department for Economic Affairs, Communication and Public Diplomacy in the Guangzhou Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, Special partner of the 16th CAEXPO made remarks. Wang Lei, Secretary General of the CAEXPO Secretariat, briefed the audience on the features and achievements of the CAEXPO and the new highlights of the event. – APP

## Joan Mir wins first MotoGP world championship

DNA

VALENCIA: Suzuki's Joan Mir won the MotoGP world title on Sunday a week after finally securing his maiden Grand Prix triumph at the same Valencia circuit. The 23-year-old from Mallorca inherited the crown left vacant by the injured six-time champion Marc Marquez when finishing seventh in the Valencia Grand Prix won by Italy's Franco Morbidelli. The ecstatic new champion better known for diligence and perseverance, was able to make a rare celebration. Pulling wheelies and screeching his smoking tyres in front of the paddock, there were no fans but his family where there to celebrate too.

"I've been fighting for this all my life, I can neither laugh nor cry but I'm flooded with emotions," said Mir. This was the first MotoGP title won by a Suzuki rider since 2000. As this often chaotic and memorable season entered its end game Mir's guts and endurance saw him emerge as a worthy

champion. Mir's championship has been a model of consistency with three second places and three thirds before a single win from 13 races. Born in Palma, he first rode a motorcycle at a nearby track aged six, under the watchful eye of his father. Many years later the early promise delivered a world title. "It really hasn't sunk in," said Mir at the finish line. "It's a wonderful moment and I'm so happy." - Cat-and-mouse - After a season of solid consistency, Mir held a 37-point lead meaning he only needed to finish on the podium in the penultimate race to secure the title, while fourth would have been enough if neither Alex Rins nor Fabio Quartararo won. Frenchman Quartararo ruined any chance he had of prolonging the title race with a fall that put him out of the race. The 21-year-old had often looked the most likely inheritor to Marquez. But the Yamaha-SRT rider championship was already in a serious wobble when he hit the deck on the first lap of last weekend's race and his luck did not improve on Sunday.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of People's Republic of China Nong Rong in a meeting with Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani. – DNA

**Waugh captures spirit of India through camera lens**

DNA

SYDNEY: Australian great Steve Waugh has long held a deep affection for India, first touring the country in 1986. But his experiences were all too often fleeting glimpses, before he got the chance to return and photograph everyday cricket in the sport's powerhouse. Travelling from one ground to the next as a player, and function to function as Australia's captain, Waugh felt he never got to properly see and feel the melting pot of life in the teeming, South Asian nation. But those small peeks into backstreets and alleyways from Kolkata to Jodhpur never left his mind. Waugh, one of most successful skippers in cricket history, recalls being overwhelmed by "the absolute and complete bombardment of my senses", and vowed to one day go back when his star was shining a little less brightly. "It's something that's always been in the back of my mind, I was always fascinated by what I saw out of the bus window, everyday life, the spirit of the people," Australia's most capped player told AFP in an interview. "I couldn't comprehend really how important cricket was to the people and how it was almost a religion."

## Euro heroes Scotland's unbeaten run ended

Scotland still top Group B2 of the Nations League with a four-point lead over the Czechs, who they will face in their opening game of the Euros

DNA

TRNAVA: Scotland failed to follow up their heroics of reaching a first major tournament for 22 years as Steve Clarke's men were beaten 1-0 by Slovakia on Sunday, their first defeat in 10 games. Jan Gregus's deflected strike on 32 minutes decided the meeting of two teams who qualified for Euro 2020 this week as a much-changed Scotland were left to rue not taking a series of chances. A first defeat in 13 months for the Scots means they have to wait to secure top spot in Nations League Group B2. That could still happen on Sunday if the Czech Republic fail to beat Israel or if Scotland are victorious when they travel to Israel on Wednesday. "I thought the performance was good, just a little bit wasteful," said Clarke. "We certainly deserved to get something out of the game. It's not a backwards step. "The chances came along,

we couldn't quite finish them. Pleased with the team, without the result." Clarke made eight changes from the side that beat Serbia on penalties on Thursday to reach the European championships. However, the visitors still enjoyed the better of the chances and will feel aggrieved not to have at least extended their unbeaten run. "There is a way to finish a run like that and it's a performance like that," said Ryan Christie, who became a national hero with his goal against Serbia. "I'm still trying to work out how we didn't score tonight." Oli McBurnie scored one of Scotland's five successful penalties in midweek but the Sheffield United striker is still searching for his first international goal from open play and wasted two huge chances to give his side the lead. Craig Gordon returned in goal for the first time in over two years but was helpless when Gre-

gus's shot clipped Kenny McLean and flew into the bottom corner. Stuart Armstrong was inches away from an equaliser just before half-time as he flicked Christie's excellent through ball wide. After the break it was Slovak goalkeeper Marek Rodak who ensured his side took all three points. First the Fulham stopper made an incredible save to deny McLean's header from Kieran Tierney's cross. Then with the last action of the game, Leigh Griffiths thought he had earned a point with a powerful low shot that Rodak turned behind. Scotland still top Group B2 of the Nations League with a four-point lead over the Czechs, who they will face in their opening game of the Euros. Slovakia, who qualified for Euro 2020 with a playoff win over Northern Ireland on Thursday, remain bottom of the group with four points from five games.

## New virus outbreak hits Australia

SYDNEY: A sudden coronavirus cluster emerged Monday in an Australian city that had gone seven months without a significant outbreak, with the virus again escaping from the country's hotel quarantine system. South Australia state reported four cases had been detected in Adelaide on Sunday, before the cluster grew sharply overnight to 17 people Monday – the largest there since April. "We just kept getting positives coming off the machine," chief health officer Nicola Spurrer told public broadcaster ABC. Spurrer said it was "very clear" the cluster was linked to a hotel used to quarantine travellers returning from overseas, where one of the infected people works. "We haven't got the genomics yet, but I'm absolutely certain it has come from a medi-hotel," she said. Officials moved quickly to

contain the outbreak, ordering hundreds of people to isolate while closing linked schools and businesses. South Australia last detected a Covid-19 cluster outside border quarantine in August, when health authorities swiftly prevented the small handful of cases spreading using similar measures. But there are fears the latest outbreak has the potential to infect high-risk populations, with a prison guard and aged care workers reportedly among those testing positive. It comes just as Australians were breathing a collective sigh of relief after squashing a second-wave outbreak in Melbourne that originated from security bungalows at hotel quarantine. Melbourne, which recorded thousands of cases and hundreds of deaths in recent months, has now gone more than two weeks without a single new case. – APP

# India has become source of regional unrest

BEIJING: In recent years, India has been making enemies on all sides, creating regional tensions. In the north, India illegally crosses the Line of Actual Control and frequently invades Chinese territory. In the west, India opts for resorting to unprovoked and indiscriminate fire of all calibers including artillery and heavy mortars along the Line of Control in various sectors of AJ&K, resulting in a large number of civilian casualties. Although Nepal is very small, India also wants to occupy some pieces of its land, Cheng Xizhong, visiting professor at Southwest University of Political Science and Law and former Defense Attache in South Asian countries said on Monday. He opined that in Narendra Modi's first five-year term, India's economy showed a good momentum of development, and the country with the largest population in South Asia was expected to get rid of poverty. However, starting from Modi's second term,

India seems to be less interested in continuing to develop its economy, but more interested in making trouble inside and around the country. Therefore, many scholars believe that India has entered a period of making trouble. The more troubles India makes, the poorer it will be. It is estimated that India's per capita GDP may not be as good as Bangladesh's in 2020 which means that India will become the third poorest country in South Asia. The per capita GDP of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Maldives is higher than that of India. With the continuous development of the China-Nepal interconnection and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, it is very likely that the per capita GDP of Nepal and Pakistan will surpass that of India, and then India will become the poorest country in South Asia. Now, the novel coronavirus pneumonia in India is more and more serious. The number of confirmed cases is close to

9 million, and the death toll is over 130 thousand. Globally, the novel coronavirus pneumonia is the most serious in the United States, but the severity in India is likely to outweigh that of the United States, because India has a large population base. India's economy is in a sharp decline, falling 23.9% in the second quarter of this year. At the same time, India's domestic political, ethnic, religious and interregional contradictions have become more and more complex, and large-scale civil unrest is likely to break out at any time. Under this situation, Modi administration is not focusing on solving domestic problems, but trying to divert the attention of the domestic people and fool the people. To this end, Modi administration launches attacks from all sides, provoking trouble with all neighboring countries, and even has launched "proxy war", that is, using extreme and terrorist forces to undermine the social

stability and economic development of the neighboring countries. Now, India has become the source of regional unrest. On November 13, Indian Army shelled Pakistan without any reason along the Line of Control in AJ&K, killing at least one Pakistani soldier and four civilians. Since the beginning of this year, Indian Army has violated the cease-fire agreement 2737 times along the Line of Control in various sectors of AJ&K, killing 25 people and seriously injuring 218 civilians. On November 14, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi presented evidence at press conference, accusing India of planning terrorist attacks against Pakistan in Afghanistan and India's planned targets include the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor projects. Foreign Minister Shah Qureshi said Pakistan is submitting the evidence to the United Nations and calling on the international community to jointly condemn

India. He also warned that "without the intervention of the international community, it is difficult to guarantee peace in South Asia, which has nuclear weapons. We have irrefutable facts, and through this dossier we will show to the international community what India is doing. "The dossier claims to have substantive evidence of India's active sponsoring of terrorism inside Pakistan. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Director General ISPR, unveiled details that included audio conversations between people identified as Indian intelligence agents and terrorists inside Pakistan. In addition, DG, ISPR also said that India has established a 700-member militia group to undermine the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. "The money allocated to this militia group is 60 million U.S. dollars, and there are 10 Indian intelligence agents in the decision-making committee of the militia group." – APP

**Pro-Europe challenger wins Moldova presidency**

CHISINAU: Pro-European challenger Maia Sandu has won the second round of Moldova's presidential election and is well ahead of the pro-Russian incumbent with almost all ballots counted, according to the central election commission. The former prime minister was leading Sunday night with 57 percent of the votes over Igor Dodon's 44 percent, with the full results expected Monday. With 99 percent of the votes tallied by late Sunday, according to the Moldovan Central Election Commission website, Sandu's expected victory may be ill-received in Moscow. The tiny ex-Soviet nation is under the watchful eye of Russia, which wants polarised Moldova to remain in its sphere of influence at a time when several Kremlin-aligned governments are rocked by political unrest. Celebrations broke out overnight in front of opposition headquarters in the centre of the capital Chisinau, with supporters chanting: "President Maia Sandu" and "a country for young people". In the first round vote earlier this month, the 48-year-old centre-right politician won a surprise victory against Dodon. Earlier on Sunday, as polling stations closed, she said she was "confident that the voice of the nation will be heard". She added that "today, you have the power to punish those who robbed you, who reduced you to misery and forced you to leave your home", a clear allusion to her rival who has been targeted with accusations of corruption. The appeal has resonance in one of Europe's poorest countries where as many as 40 percent of citizens are estimated to have travelled abroad to work. – APP

**Seven dead in Hong Kong apartment fire: officials**

HONG KONG: Seven people were killed and several others were injured when a blaze tore through an apartment in Hong Kong on Sunday, the deadliest fire to hit the finance hub in nearly a decade. The Government Information Service said 17 victims were taken to hospital after the fire broke out in Jordan district shortly after 8:30pm (1230 GMT). Seven died while seven others were listed as being in critical condition. Live television images showed paramedics and firefighters frantically trying to perform chest compression on unconscious victims in the street outside the apartment block. The South China Morning Post said the fire was the worst since a 2011 blaze that killed nine people. Hong Kong has some of the world's most densely populated – and tallest – apartment blocks. Deadly fires used to be a regular scourge, especially in poorer neighbourhoods. But in recent decades safety measures have been ramped up and such fires have become much less commonplace.

**Sabalenka beats doubles partner**

LINZ, AUSTRIA: Belarusian Aryna Sabalenka finished the 2020 WTA season in style, winning her third title of the year with a straight-sets victory over her doubles partner Elise Mertens in the Linz final on Sunday. Top seed Sabalenka saw off the second-seeded Mertens 7-5, 6-2 to tie Simona Halep for most tournament triumphs in the coronavirus-disrupted season. The usual year-ending WTA Finals in China were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, leaving the event in Austria as the last of the campaign. Sabalenka has now won nine straight matches after also taking the title in Ostrava last month. It was the 22-year-old's eighth career title. Belgium's Mertens remains without a trophy since the Qatar Open in February 2019. – APP



## Briefs

## Tiger suffers horror-show 10 at par-3 12th

DNA

AUGUSTA: Defending champion Tiger Woods made a nightmare 10, his worst score on any major hole, on the par-3 12th at Augusta National in Sunday's final round of the Masters. The first double-digit major score by the 15-time major winner dropped him from 3-under to 4-over for the tournament.

Woods sent his first two shots into Rae's Creek, the water in front of the tricky 155-yard layout in the heart of fabled Amen Corner.

He punched his third from a rescue area into a bunker, then blasted out of the sand only to roll the ball down a slope and back into the creek. Woods finally chipped onto the green with his eighth and two-putted to end the horror show. Success at the 12th was one of the things that helped Woods capture his 15th major title and fifth green jacket a year ago. Woods was bothered by back issues for the second day in a row, using his wedge to support his weight as he climbed out of the bunker behind the green after finishing his sand blasting.

## Uzbekistan to boost trade with Afghanistan

DNA

TASHKENT: Uzbekistan plans to increase two-way trade with Afghanistan to 2 billion U.S. dollars by 2023 and resume direct flights between the two countries starting next year, a presidential decree announced on Monday. According to the schedule, Tashkent to Kabul and Tashkent to Mazar-i-Sharif regular direct flights are planned to be launched in January 2021. The document envisages the acceleration of projects on the extension of existing railway and power transmission lines to Afghanistan, and increasing volume of the transit goods by simplifying customs procedures on the borders.

Uzbekistan also plans to reduce the prices of key commodities such as cement, iron, liquefied gas, flour, wheat, eggs and vegetable oil exported to Afghanistan. Uzbekistan shares a border line with Afghanistan in the south, and has been participating in the socio-economic revival and regional infrastructure projects, including building railways and electricity lines, of the war-torn country.

## COVID-19 may have appeared in Italy earlier than thought

DNA

ROME: The coronavirus may have been circulating in Italy since September 2019, three months before it first emerged in China, according to a study released Sunday by the National Cancer Institute (INT) in Milan. If true, it would mean that the virus was present in Italy three months before it was first reported in China in December 2019, and five months before the first official case was recorded in Italy on Feb. 21, 2020. The INT research showed that 11.6 percent of the 959 healthy volunteers who participated in a lung cancer screening trial between September 2019 to March 2020 had developed COVID-19 antibodies well before February. Giovanni Apolone, a co-author of the study, said that four cases from the study dated to the first week in October last year, which means those people had been infected in September. The northern region of Lombardy, whose capital is Milan where the pandemic first emerged in late February, had previously reported an unusually high number of cases of severe flu and pneumonia in the last quarter of 2019 in a sign that COVID-19 may have circulated earlier than previously thought.

## ‘Pakistan provides best attractions to tourists’

He further said, “religious tourism, adventure tourism and historical tourism in Pakistan are all potential areas that travel agencies can explore

DNA

BEIJING: After COVID-19, Pakistan will engage more with the travel agencies so that more Chinese people can travel to Pakistan, said Mahmood Akhtar, deputy consul general of Pakistan in Chengdu, China. In an interview to Gwadar Pro in Chengdu, he said, “Our prime minister and our government are focusing on tourism. The facilities have already been improved and will be improved

further in the northern areas and across Pakistan. Last year, we have found that 20% to 30% of visas issued from our area alone are tourism visas. And people visiting Pakistan had great tourism experience.” Masood Akhtar added, “Western paradise in Chinese literature is in Pakistan, what more potential does Pak-China tourism has. Pakistan is situated at the confluence of many civilizations, and it's a repository of history over thousands of years. He further said, “religious tour-



ism, adventure tourism and historical tourism in Pakistan are all potential areas that travel

agencies can explore.

In China, Buddhism came from Pakistan, the area is known as Taxila and Pushklatwari valley. Chinese monk Xuanzang traveled there for Buddhist scripture around 1500 years ago. His one dress is still in one monastery in Chengdu. The area of Pakistan at that time was called Xitlan, which means Western Paradise.” The story of Xuanzang going on a pilgrimage to Xitlan for Buddhist scriptures is the origin of Journey to the West, one of China's four classic novels, which is popular

among Chinese of all ages for periods, while Chinese people hardly know that Xitlan is in Pakistan.” “The second is adventure tourism.” According to Mahmood Akhtar, out of 15 highest mountains around the world, seven mountains are in Pakistan, including the second-highest mountain. Mahmood Akhtar also mentioned the uniqueness of Pakistan's food. “In Pakistan, we have a special combination of food that came from the Middle East, South Asia and Central Asia, including Chinese influence.”

## Libya talks end without naming govt but UN vows to continue

They were charged with laying out a roadmap towards elections, setting the mandate of an interim executive and naming its members

GAMMARTH: UN-led talks aimed at appointing an executive to help lead Libya out of a decade of conflict ended Sunday without discussing names, the world body said. “We have agreed to reconvene in about a week in a virtual meeting (to agree on the selection mechanism for the coming authority,” the UN's interim Libya envoy Stephanie Williams told journalists. But she said “no names... were discussed” during the meetings in neighbouring Tunisia. Libya has been riven by conflict since the 2011 NATO-backed uprising that toppled and killed veteran dictator Moamer Kadhafi. The latest phase in renewed efforts for peace in the North African country brought together 75 delegates selected by the UN to represent a broad range of constituencies. They were charged with laying

out a roadmap towards elections, setting the mandate of an interim executive and naming its members.

But observers have criticised the way the delegates were chosen and cast doubts over their clout in a country where two administrations, as well as an array of armed groups and foreign powers, are already vying for power. Libya is currently dominated by a unity government in Tripoli that emerged from previous UN-led talks in 2015, and its rival, the eastern-based House of Representatives elected the previous year and which never recognised the unity government. In 2019, HoR-allied commander Khalifa Haftar, who was backed by Russia and the United Arab Emirates, launched an offensive to seize Tripoli. But after a year

of bloody stalemate on the edges of the capital, his forces were repelled by pro-unity government forces boosted by Turkish military support. Military talks led to a formal ceasefire deal in October, and recent developments on parallel economic and political tracks have raised hopes for progress. Williams said Sunday she was “very pleased with the outcome” of the Tunisia talks. But observers have noted major obstacles to a lasting solution. Jalel Harchaoui, a Libya specialist at the Clingendael Institute in The Hague, warned that foreign interests could easily derail the process. “The UN's biggest difficulty is that there are permanent Turkish and Russian military bases and Emirati officers on the ground,” he told AFP. But the UN's former envoy to Libya and the architect of the

current UN process, Ghassan Salame, told AFP on Friday he had higher hopes than ever for peace, citing “an accumulation of positive factors”. He noted that Libyans were increasingly hostile to foreign interference and the presence of mercenaries. Salame also said Turkey and Russia could see the fruition of infrastructure contracts worth billions of dollars, signed with the Kadhafi regime, but which Libyans were still keen to honour. Williams on Sunday vowed to push onwards with the necessary steps for naming an interim executive. But Harchaoui noted that for such an administration to be accepted, “there need to be names for each of the main posts.” “Until this step is fulfilled, a deal won't lead to anything concrete,” he said. — APP

## Syrian FM Walid dies

DAMASCUS: Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem died at dawn on Monday, the Syrian Foreign Ministry announced, according to the Syrian national TV. The official announcement is yet to name the cause of al-Moallem's death. Born in 1941, al-Moallem studied economics and political science at the Cairo University in Egypt and graduated in 1963. He started working in the Syrian Foreign Ministry in 1964 and had been sent to work with Syrian diplomatic missions in several foreign



countries. He had served as the Syrian ambassador to the United States from 1990 to 1999, during

which he participated in the Syrian-Israeli peace talks. In 2005, al-Moallem was named as deputy foreign minister when he was also tasked with managing the Syrian-Lebanese relations at a difficult time following the assassination of Rafic Hariri, former prime minister of Lebanon. Al-Moallem was appointed foreign minister in 2006 and held the post until his death. The top Syrian diplomat was married and had three children. He also released four publications during his lifetime. — APP

## India's death toll surpasses 130,000

NEW DELHI: India's COVID-19 tally reached 8,845,127 on Monday as 30,548 new cases were registered across the country in the past 24 hours, said latest data released by the federal health ministry. With 435 deaths since Sunday morning, the total death toll in the country due to the pandemic mounted to 130,070, added the ministry's data. Still there are 465,478 active COVID-19 cases in the country, while 8,249,579 people have been successfully cured and discharged from hospitals so far. In the wake of a surge in COVID-19 cases in Delhi over the past few days, a high-level meeting was held in the Indian capital to take stock of the situation. Chaired by federal Home (Internal Security) Minister Amit Shah, it was decided at the meeting to double the testing capacity and also provide more intensive care unit (ICU) beds to the city.

## Vaccine hopes help push Asian equities higher

HONG KONG: Optimism about a virus vaccine helped push Asian markets higher Monday while traders were also cheered by a pledge from President-elect Joe Biden's team that they were not planning an economically damaging nationwide lockdown despite surging cases.

However, while there is growing expectation a treatment will be available in the new year, gains were tempered by worries about a spike in the disease in the US and across Europe.

After a painful October, equities have enjoyed a huge bounce this month af-

ter Biden's election win, which was followed by news that Pfizer and BioNTech's vaccine candidate had proved 90 percent effective, lifting hopes the world can soon begin returning to normal. “The vaccine enthusiasm booster shot remains the dominant narrative, even with surging infections across the US: now more than 1 million since the start of November,” said Axi strategist Stephen Innes. “Indeed, the vaccine could prove to be the ultimate market backstop and recessionary economic plugger.” Tokyo led the gains, jumping 1.7 percent, helped by news that the

world's number three economy had surged out of recession in the third quarter, expanding a forecast-beating five percent thanks to a pick-up in domestic demand and exports. Sydney rose 1.2 percent before trading was suspended owing to what the stock exchange said were data issues. Seoul, Taipei and Singapore added more than one percent, while Hong Kong, Shanghai, Jakarta and Wellington were also up. The gains came after another strong performance on Wall Street, where the S&P 500 finished at a record high. — APP

## Algerian president hospitalised

ALGIERS: Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, hospitalised in Germany since late last month after contracting the novel coronavirus, has finished treatment and is undergoing tests, the Algerian presidency said Sunday.

Tebboune, who is 74 and a heavy smoker, has been treated in a specialised hospital in Germany since October 28. He was transferred there from a hospital in the Algerian capital shortly after going into self-isolation following reports of novel coronavirus cases among his aides. “Medical staff caring for him have said that President Tebboune has finished the prescribed treatment protocols and is currently undergoing post-protocol medical tests,” a presidency statement said.

The statement was released on Tebboune's instruction to “inform the public of the evolution of the state of his health”, according to the presidency. Last Sunday, the presidency had said that Tebboune was “in the process of completing his treatment... and his state of health is constantly improving”. Some newspapers close to the authorities had last week reported his “im-

minent return” to Algeria.

Tebboune's illness meant he was out of the country for a referendum on November 1 on a revised constitution seen as aiming to bury a mass protest movement and boost the president, elected on a record low turnout last December.

The constitutional referendum, which passed with two-thirds of the vote, saw participation plunge to new lows, with just 23.7 percent of registered voters casting ballots, according to official data. Tebboune was admitted to “one of the largest specialised hospitals in Germany” to undergo “in-depth medical examinations”, the presidency had announced previously. For many Algerians and among local media, the developments have recalled the absence of former president Abdelaziz Bouteflika, who suffered a stroke in early 2013 and stayed in hospital abroad for nearly three months. Very weakened physically, Bouteflika remained in power upon his return, despite major after-effects and rarely leaving his medicalised residence. He was re-elected in 2014, but his decision to seek a fifth term in 2019 sparked an unprecedented protest movement, which led him to resign in April last year. — APP

## SMEs in Karachi facing hardships

ATAHR SUFI

KARACHI: President North Karachi Association of Trade & Industry (NKATI) Faisal Moiz has said that although North Karachi was the biggest industrial zones of Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) but unfortunately, all these SMEs, who play a major role in the economic development of the country, were facing a lot of hardships because of harassment and demand for bribe by the corrupt officials of Employees Old Age Benefit Institution (EOBI), Sindh Employees Social Security Institution (SESSI) and other government agencies. “It is high time that these SMEs, who are dealing with 22 government agencies, must get relief. We have to raise a strong voice against this injustice and corruption so that the

relevant Ministers could take notice and strictly deal with all the wrongdoings going on at SESSI and EOBI”, he added while speaking at a meeting during his visit to the Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI). President KCCI M. Shariq Vohra, Senior Vice President Sagib Goodluck, Vice President Shamsul Islam Khan, KCCI Managing Committee members and NKATI members attended the meeting. President NKATI suggested that in order to minimize the grievances being faced by the industries and SMEs in North Karachi industrial area, the government must look into the possibility of introducing ‘One Window Facility’ as the businessmen and industrialists were fed up of dealing with so many agencies and cumbersome procedures.

## Turkish firms keen to set up industrial units

He said that the Turkish investors should bring technology and expertise and set up industrial units in Pakistan to capitalize on the emerging investment opportunities in construction and other sectors that would also help in maximizing economic growth and increasing exports of our country

RANA FARRUKHI

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Turkish companies visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry and showed keen interest to set up industrial units in Pakistan to start production activities to meet the needs of the construction industry. Mustafa SAK, President, ADO Group, Kamil Arsalan, Chairman of the Board, Bricks Plus and Mustafa Orhon, Area Manager, NG Kutahya Seramik Porselen Turizm were in the delegation. Shafiq Akbar, Chairman, Imarat Group of Companies also accompanied the Turkish delegation. M. Ejaz Abbasi former President ICCI, Ch. Naseer, Aslam Khokhar and others were also present at the occasion. After giving a warm welcome to the Turkish delegation, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry briefed them about the potential business and investment opportunities in Pakistan's real estate and construction sector. He said that Pakistan was a big market with huge demand for housing units and commercial buildings. He said that the current government has announced a very attractive construction pack-



age to boost construction activities in the country and it was the right time for foreign investors to explore Pakistan's real estate and construction industry for JVs and investment. He said that the Turkish investors should bring technology and expertise and set up industrial units in Pakistan to capitalize on the emerging investment opportunities in construc-

tion and other sectors that would also help in maximizing economic growth and increasing exports of our country. He assured that ICCI would extend all possible assistance and facilitation to Turkish investors for JVs and investment in Pakistan. Speaking at the occasion, Mustafa SAK, President, ADO Group said that they have seen

huge potential for investment in Pakistan and they wanted to set up industrial units to produce construction material and products to meet the needs of the local construction industry. They said that their collaboration with Pakistani counterparts would be beneficial for both Pakistan and Turkey. He said that Pakistan

and Turkey have worked to negotiate a preferential trading agreement, aiming to considerably increase trade and investments, especially in transport, telecommunications, manufacturing, tourism and other industries and hoped that its finalization would further increase the volume of bilateral trade between the two countries. Shafiq Akbar, Chairman, Imarat Group of Companies said that Pakistan has limitless potential in construction and other sectors of its economy, which must be fully tapped by the Turkish investors. He also highlighted the benefits of such business initiatives for Pakistan and the industries connected to real estate and construction. He said that Imarat Group was working to bring more investors from Turkey to Pakistan that would not only benefit them, it would also further strengthen the bonds of friendship between Turkey and Pakistan. Ms. Fatma Azim, Senior Vice President and Abdul Rehman Khan, Vice President ICCI thanked the Turkish delegation for visiting ICCI and hoped that their investment in Pakistan would encourage more Turkish investors to tap Pakistani market for JVs and investment.

## U.S. soldiers, civilian in S. Korea test positive

SEOUL: Eleven more U.S. soldiers and one individual in South Korea tested positive for COVID-19, the U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) said Monday. The USFK said in a statement that 12 USFK-affiliated individuals were confirmed with COVID-19 after arriving in South Korea between Oct. 29 and Nov. 12. Seven service members arrived at Osan Air Base on U.S. government-chartered flights from the United States on Oct. 29 and Nov. 2, 3, 8, 11 and 12. The Osan Air Base is located in Pyeongtaek, 70 km south of Seoul. Four service members and one civilian contractor arrived at Incheon International Airport, west of Seoul, on international commercial flights on Nov. 6, 8, 9, 10 and 12. The confirmed patients have been transferred to designated isolation facilities at Camp Humphreys and Osan Air Base, both of which are located in Pyeongtaek. The total number of infections among the USFK-affiliated personnel rose to 337, according to Yonhap news agency. — APP



## Briefs

## British PM self-isolating

DNA

LONDON: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is self-isolating after someone he was in contact with tested positive for the coronavirus, a spokesman said Sunday. "He will carry on working from Downing Street, including on leading the Government's response to the coronavirus pandemic," the Downing Street spokesman added. His confinement comes as negotiations with the European Union over Brexit enter a decisive final sprint, with critical announcements being trailed - ahead of Johnson's isolation - by Downing Street to tackle the virus. The prime minister was informed that he should self-isolate after being contacted by the country's Test and Trace scheme. Johnson was hospitalised with the coronavirus in April. This time around, "the PM is well and does not have any symptoms of Covid-19", the spokesman said. A source added that Johnson, who was severely affected during the earlier bout, feels "good" and that the PM would continue to work, "in particular to lead the government's response to the coronavirus pandemic". Downing Street has not said how long Johnson will be in isolation for. However, the UK National Health Service rules state individuals should isolate for 14 days. The PM intends to address the country during his confinement, Downing Street said. The announcement came after Johnson met a small group of MPs at Downing Street on Thursday for around 35 minutes, including one who subsequently developed symptoms of Covid-19 and has now tested positive. Johnson's self-isolation risks upsetting a busy week as the UK enters its third week of reimposed restrictions and the PM was due to chair a series of key Covid-19 meetings. The renewed stay-at-home restrictions and business closures came into force earlier this month and have been met with scepticism that they can halt the worst death toll from the virus in Europe.

## Rupee sheds 01 paisa against US dollar

ISLAMABAD: The exchange rate of Pakistani rupee loses 01 paisa against the US dollar in the inter-bank trading on Monday and closed at Rs158.17 against the previous day's closing of Rs158.16. Meanwhile, according to Forex Association of Pakistan, the buying and selling rates of dollar in the open market were recorded at Rs157.5 and Rs158.5 respectively. In inter-bank trading, the price of euro appreciated by 83 paise and closed at Rs187.69 against the last day's trading of Rs186.86, State Bank of Pakistan reported. The Japanese Yen remained unchanged to close at Rs150, whereas an increase of Rs 1.09 was witnessed in the exchange rate of British Pound which was traded at Rs 209.19 against Rs 208.10 in the previous day. The exchange rates of Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal also remained unchanged to close at Rs43.05 and Rs42.16 respectively. - APP



**GWADAR:** Diplomats of various countries, and Governor Punjab being briefed about CPEC project during their recent visit to Gwadar. Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry facilitated the visit. - DNA

## Mining volume of Thar II Coal mine project r 117 mn tons

Song recalled, at the beginning of the construction of Thar project, Pakistan relied heavily on the import of crude oil, diesel oil and natural gas for energy supply, and the utilization of coal was limited

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The mining volume of Thar II Coal Mine Project has reached 117 million tons by the end of last month, and production value has reached Rs 5.3 billion " according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Monday. In an interview, the spokesmen of That Project Song Jiayu and Feng Hongchao said, the annual coal output of Thar project is stable

at 3.8 million tons which provides high-quality coal for pithead thermal power stations. Song recalled, at the beginning of the construction of Thar project, Pakistan relied heavily on the import of crude oil, diesel oil and natural gas for energy supply, and the utilization of coal was limited. It resulted in a serious imbalance of energy supply in Pakistan and restricted the development of the domestic economy. Therefore, the Pakistani govern-

ment has attached great importance to Thar project, aiming at improving the utilization of coal and optimizing the energy structure. "Both Pakistani and Chinese personnel of Thar project stick to our posts day and night, not only ensuring the normal construction of the project, but also completing the annual goals of coal production with high quality and quantity, so as to ensure the coal providing for thermal power stations. The project has effectively alleviat-

ed the shortage of local power resources and optimized the energy distribution in Pakistan," said Song. The project has also contributed to local employment and economic prosperity. Before it was launched, the residents in Thar region existed on primary agriculture and husbandry, and lived in poverty. In order to solve their livelihood problems, the project has recruited a large number of Pakistani staff and taught them the mining

construction skills. At present, there are more than 500 Pakistani employees, accounting for more than 85% of the total employees of the project. It has brought them good income and a comfortable living environment. "On the macro view, the increase of income has stimulated consumption, which plays a significant role in boosting local economic growth and brings sustainable development to the Sindh province," says Feng.

## Banking sector Investments surge by Rs2 trillion: SBP

ISLAMABAD: The investments of the banking sector, amid weaker demand for advances and abundant liquidity, surged by Rs2 trillion during the first half (H1) of Calendar Year 2020 (CY20), State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Reported. According to Mid-Year Performance Review of the Banking Sector (January-June 2020), the investments in government securities explain more than 90 percent (Rs1.9 trillion) rise in investment flows during the reviewed period. Also, banks invested in TFCs/Debentures to the tune of Rs130.9 billion

during H1CY20. Further analysis of the investments in government securities revealed that the banks' stock of market treasury bills (MTBs) Pakistan Investment Bonds (PIBs) increased by Rs862.3 billion and Rs863.5 billion, respectively. In the backdrop of Covid-19 outbreak, the maturities between 1 year to 10 years in March 2020 show downward trend, indicating market expectations of decline in policy rate owing to the anticipated softening in economic activity. PIBs increased as they attempted to lock their funds

at higher prevailing rate of return. However, the report emphasized that after April 2020, banks' bidding in treasury bills significantly reduced. The government reduced its auction target from Rs2.8 trillion in Q1CY20 to Rs2.2 trillion in Q2CY20. On the contrary, the target for PIBs (including fixed rate and Floaters) increased to Rs 625 billion in Q2CY20 from Rs450 billion in Q1CY20. Moreover, the government introduced 3-year and 5-year tenure bonds in floater category during Q2CY20, indicating its desire to improve

its debt maturity profile. It is pertinent to mention here that despite elevated economic stress driven by the COVID-19 pandemic, the assets of the banking sector witnessed a decent expansion of 7.8 percent during H1CY20, according to the report. The report attributed the growth to the robust increase in investments, funded by surge in deposits, adding that advances, on the contrary, observed mild downturn owing to the economic slackness caused by the disruption in the business activities after the outbreak. - APP

## Early snowfall breaks previous records: PMD

ISLAMABAD: Early heavy snowfall in November occurred in Nathiagali and other hilly areas had broken the previous fifteen years record. This was revealed by a spokesman of Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) Dr Khalid Malik while talking to APP on Monday. Similarly he said the snowfall recorded in other areas including Kalam 38 inches, Malam Jabba 14, Chitral 03, Dir 01 whereas snowfall was also occurred at Astore, Naran, Kaghaan, Skardu and Babusartop. He said PMD had issued advisory for the tourists to save them from any inconvenience. He stressed the tourists to get information of roads situation prior to leaving for such areas to avoid inconvenience during the journey. People should follow the instructions while driving and bring raincoats and warm clothes with them to save themselves from intense cold, he added. - APP

## US adds 1 million Covid cases in less than a week

DNA

WASHINGTON: The US surpassed 11 million coronavirus cases Sunday, adding one million new cases in less than a week, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. The dizzying rise came as cities and states across the United States were implementing new restrictions to try to halt the spread of the virus, with stay-at-home orders set to be imposed on Chicago Monday. The US had crossed the 10 million case threshold on Monday, November 9. As of 8:30 pm Sunday (0130

GMT Monday) - just six days later - the Johns Hopkins University real-time tracker showed that the confirmed US caseload stood at 11,025,046. There have been 246,108 deaths in the country. Both are the highest tolls in absolute terms in the world. The US has seen a worrying surge in coronavirus cases since the start of November, forcing local and state officials from coast to coast to take more drastic steps to reduce the disease's spread, with many hospitals already warning that they are running out of resources. In addition to the stay-at-

home orders in Chicago, the country's third biggest city, its biggest - New York, the epicenter of the country's spring outbreak - is also rushing to fend off a second wave with new restrictions on bars and restaurants. New York schools will remain open Monday, even though New York City mayor Bill de Blasio had warned that they could switch to fully remote learning by then. President Donald Trump promised Friday that the first Americans would start receiving a vaccine in "a matter of weeks," but said he remained firmly against new lockdowns.

## Justice Qaiser takes oath as PHC's Acting Chief Justice

PESHAWAR: Justice Qaiser Rashid Khan on Monday took an oath as Acting Chief Justice Peshawar High Court. Governor Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Shah Farman administered the oath to the judge in a ceremony held at the Governor House. Besides senior lawyers, elected representatives of the Peshawar High Court Bar Association and judges of PHC, Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan and provincial ministers including Taimur Salim Jhagra, Shaikat Yousafzai and Kamran Bangash attended the oath-taking ceremony. - APP

## Commander Qatar Emiri Air Force Visits Air Headquarters Islamabad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Staff Major General (Pilot) Salem Hamad Eqail Al-Nabet, Commander Qatar Emiri Air Force, along with his delegation visited Air Headquarters, Islamabad today. Upon his arrival, the distinguished guest was received by Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force. A smartly turned out contingent of the Pakistan Air Force presented Guard of Honour. The visiting dignitary also paid homage to Pakistan Air Force martyrs by laying a floral wreath



at Yadgari-Shuhada (Martyrs' Monument). Later, the General had a detailed meeting with Air Chief. Both the Commanders discussed various matters pertaining to mutual interest. Commander Qatar Emiri Air Force lauded the professionalism of Pakistan Air Force personnel and the exceptional progress made by PAF over the years, especially through indigenization. The Air Chief highlighted brotherly relations and collaboration between the two sides. Both the dignitaries agreed to further augment the already existing cordial relations between the two air forces.

## 2,128 new virus cases reported; 19 deaths

KHAYYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The total active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan on Monday were recorded 28,048 as 2,128 more people tested positive for the deadly virus during the last 24 hours. Nineteen corona patients, who were under treatment in hospital died on Sunday, according to the latest update issued by the National command and Operation Centre (NCOC). No COVID affected person was on ventilator in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), and Balochistan, while 206 ventilators were occupied elsewhere in Pakistan, out of 1,859 allocated for COVID-19 patients. Some 29,511 tests were conducted across the country on Sunday, including 11,353 in Sindh, 11,361 in Punjab, 5,112 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), 437 in Balochistan, 304 in GB, and 944 in AJK. Around 359,032 people have recovered from the disease so far across Pakistan making it a significant count with over 90 percent recovery ratio of the affected patients. Since the pandemic outbreak, a total of 356,904 cases were detected so far, including AJK 5,455, Balochistan 16,407, GB 4,452, ICT 24,218, KP 42,370, Punjab 110,450 and Sindh 155,680.

## SC adjourns review petitions in Qazi Isa case

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Monday adjourned hearing of the review petitions in Justice Qazi Faez Isa case till December 8 without any proceedings. A six-member larger bench of the apex court headed by Justice Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Manzoor Ahmed Malik, Justice Mazhar Alam Khan Miankhal, Justice Sajjad Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhter and Justice Qazi Muhammad Amin Ahmed heard the review petitions and adjourned the case on the plea of advocate Munir A Malik. During the course of proceedings, the court directed all the petitioners to submit written arguments before the next date of hearing. Sarina Isa wife of Justice Qazi Faez Isa also appeared before the bench and stated that her petition regarding formation of larger bench should also be heard. Justice Bandial responding that her petition would be heard later. - APP

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