



Islamabad POST

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

India does not deserve a UNSC seat: Munir Akram

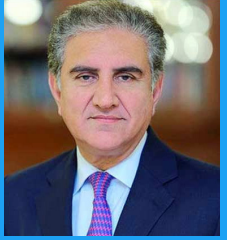
Detailed News On Page-08

UK encourages more students from Pakistan

Detailed News On Page-01

Pak promoting tolerance, says FM Qureshi

Detailed News On Page-01



Briefs

President inaugurates eye hospital

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: President Dr Arif Alvi inaugurated eye hospital Layton Rahmatullah Benevolent Trust at Anjuman Islamea Welfare Complex Chinio today (Tuesday). Addressing the inaugural ceremony, the president said that the network of charitable hospitals being run by the LRBT in the country has been rendering national level quality services. He said that these charitable hospitals are providing excellent eye treatment and surgery facilities free of cost for the economically deprived segments all over Pakistan.

Economy improving: Shibli

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz on Tuesday said the economy was improving despite difficulties because of the coronavirus and the opposition's attempts to create hindrances in the way of the government. Speaking at a press conference along with Advisor to the Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue Abdul Hafeez Shaikh, he said there was a good feel factor in the market as the economy's basic indicators are improving. The stock exchange was performing well, the foreign direct investment was increasing and the large scale manufacturing was on the rise, he added.

Ahsan Iqbal talks about rigging

DNA

ISLAMABAD: PML-N secretary-general Ahsan Iqbal has claimed that Gilgit Baltistan Chief Election Commissioner Raja Shahbaz Khan told him "no one listens" to him when Iqbal went to see him at his office. Iqbal made the startling claim on Monday in response to a press conference by the commissioner telling PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari to come to his office, rather than hold press conferences and allege that the election process was "rigged".

PM hints at e-voting system in Pakistan

PM said the constitutional amendment required a two-third majority. It would expose which political party would support or oppose the corrupt practices

NAVEED MIRAJ / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Tuesday said the government had decided to introduce electronic voting in the general election and also move a bill in the parliament to amend the current mode of secret ballot in the Senate polls to show of hands, in a bid to ensure fair and transparent polls. Talking to the media after meeting with the Electoral Reforms Committee, the prime minister said the bill was aimed at discouraging 'vote selling' in the upcoming Senate elections. Imran Khan said the constitutional amendment required a two-third majority. It would expose which political party would support or oppose the corrupt practices, he added. The prime minister said the move was unprecedented on the part of a sitting government and recalled that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf in 2018 had expelled its 20 lawmakers for selling their votes.

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan promoting tolerance, says FM

Kartarpur Corridor by the present government, which also gave the message of religious harmony and coexistence

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi Tuesday said that as against the worldwide rising trends of intolerance Pakistan with a representative parliament and protecting the rights of minorities was promoting tolerance in the country and society. Speaking at a dialogue on the "Importance of Tolerance in Current Era", organized here at



the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in connection with the world tolerance day (November 16) he said with

Continued on Page 06

Oman govt to verify Pakistanis visas

ATHAR SUFI / DNA

KARACHI: The Sultanate of Oman has taken notice of reports regarding the entry of passengers into the country on fake visas and introduced a verification process for those travellers from Pakistan and other Asian countries. According to details, the airlines from these countries have been directed to carry out a verification of Oman's visa ahead of the check-in and boarding processes at the airports.

The verification checking system for visas has been introduced for passengers travelling from Pakistan and other Asian countries to Oman after several passengers had been deported from the Gulf country for holding illegal and fake visas. Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and other national and international airlines have been directed by the Omani authorities to verify the visa carried by the passenger ahead of the check-in process. "No passenger will be issued a boarding card before the verification process," the guidelines issued to the airlines read.

Opp. asked to admit defeat

FAIZ CHAUDHRY / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz Tuesday said opposition should end the bad tradition of not accepting its defeat after elections. In a tweet on social media platform Twitter, he said this kind of attitude was against the democratic norms. He said the emotional statements made by Bilawal Bhutto were devoid of logic and reality. Those lecturing on democracy should adopt a democratic behaviour, he said adding those who were raising the slogan of respect the vote were not ready to honor the Gilgit Baltistan peoples' vote. The minister said all surveys in Gilgit Baltistan showed the ascendancy of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and Imran Khan as a popular leader.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi exchanging views with Ambassador of China to Pakistan Nong Rong, at Naval Headquarters. – DNA

Chinese envoy lauds Pak Navy

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong called on Naval Chief Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi at the Naval Headquarters in Islamabad on Tuesday and discussed matters of mutual interest including regional security situation. The Chinese Ambassador commended Pakistan Navy's efforts for maritime security of the region. Both the sides reaffirmed the commitment to further improve cooperation between the naval forces of the two countries.

Fazl rejects ban on public gatherings

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulama-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Tuesday rejected a ban imposed by the federal government on public gatherings in the country amid rising COVID-19 cases, media reported. "We reject a ban on public gatherings in the guise of COVID-19 pandemic and they will be held as per schedule," the JUI-F chief said adding that the incumbent rulers are used to rigging and their tactics are aimed at pressurizing the opposition leaders. He said that it is not a government formed from the public mandate and therefore they would not hold any sort of negotiations with them. "We also reject the results of the Gilgit Baltistan elections," Maulana Fazlur Rehman said. It is pertinent to mention here that PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto and Maulana Fazlur Rehman have rejected the recently-concluded Gilgit Baltistan elections. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in his tweet said: "My election has been stolen."

Trump to speed up troops withdrawal

Under a draft order circulating at the Pentagon, the number of US forces in Afghanistan would be halved from the current deployment of 4,500 troops

NEWS DESK / DNA

ISLAMABAD: US President Donald Trump is pushing to accelerate withdrawals from Afghanistan, Iraq and Somalia by the time he leaves office in January, the US media reported on Tuesday. Under a draft order circulating at the Pentagon, the number of US forces in Afghanistan would be halved

from the current deployment of 4,500 troops. The report said that in Iraq, the Pentagon would trim force levels slightly below the 3,000 troops that commanders had previously announced and in Somalia, virtually all of the more than 700 troops conducting training and counterterrorism missions would leave. Last month, Trump also said in his tweet that he wanted all 4,500 US troops in Af-

ghanistan home by Christmas, but top military and national security aides advised against such a precipitous withdrawal. Later on, Trump eventually agreed to the smaller drawdown. According to US media, the Pentagon has issued a notice to commanders known as a "warning order" to begin planning to draw down the number of troops in Afghanistan to 2,500 troops and 2,500 in Iraq by Jan 15.

No pressure on PM to recognize Israel

Prime Minister had clearly articulated Pakistan's position that unless a just settlement of the Palestine issue, satisfactory to the Palestinian people, was found, Pakistan could not recognize Israel

ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Responding to queries about reports in certain section of the media claiming that the Prime Minister said Pakistan was under U.S. "pressure" to recognize Israel, the Spokesperson rejected the reports as fabrication. The Spokesperson said the Prime Minister had clearly articulated Pakistan's position that unless a just settlement of the Palestine issue, satisfactory to the Palestinian people, was found, Pakistan could not

recognize Israel. The Prime Minister had stressed that Pakistan's policy in this regard was rooted in Quaid-e-Azam's vision. The Prime Minister's remarks are an unequivocal reaffirmation of Pakistan's position on the subject, leaving no room for baseless speculation. For a just, comprehensive and lasting peace, Pakistan will continue to support a two-state solution in accordance with the relevant United Nations and OIC resolutions as well as international law, with pre-1967 borders and Al-Quds Al-Sharif as the capital of Palestine.

Pakistan reports 2,050 new cases

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Pakistan has reported 33 deaths in last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 361,082. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 7,193.

According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 2,050 persons have been tested positive for COVID-19 in 24 hours. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pandemic in terms of cases followed by Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad. Till now 156,528 coronavirus cases have been confirmed in Sindh, 109,911,047 in Punjab, 42,615 in KPK.

Pakistan, Afghan to exchange E-Data

DNA

KABUL: Abdul Razak Dawood, Advisor to PM on Commerce and Investment during the 7th meeting of Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Coordination Authority (APTTC) remarked that new era between both the countries has begun and assured his full support to the people of Afghanistan to develop better future for the next generation. He said that we are committed for greater integration and ready to work together for the prosperity of the region. The meeting was held to review and renegotiate The Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement which is going to expire in February 2021. Muhammad Suleh Ahmad Faruqi, Federal Secretary of Commerce and Investment and Mr. Abdul Karim Malik Yar, Afghan Deputy Minister For Investment and Trade along with their respective teams deliberated upon in detail all aspects of the Transit Trade Agreement between both the countries and showed their full commitment to streamline existing procedures to boost bilateral trade.

UK encourages more students from Pakistan

Last year, over 5,000 students from Pakistan were granted a UK student visa – a 20% increase on the previous year. In addition, 93% of Pakistani students were successful in receiving a student visa – showing that the vast majority of UK student visa applicants are granted

A.M.BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: The UK minister responsible for visas and immigration has encouraged even more students from Pakistan to choose the UK as a place to study as we mark International Students Day. Kevin Foster MP, Minister for Future Borders and Immigration, used the annual celebration of international students to make clear the UK is open to students, highlighting visa flexibility around Covid-19, as well as the new Student Route, as reasons to continue choosing the UK for study. Last year, over 5,000 students from Pakistan were granted a UK student visa – a 20% increase on the previous year. In addition,

93% of Pakistani students were successful in receiving a student visa – showing that the vast majority of UK student visa applicants are granted. In addition, the UK's new Student Route promises to make it even more streamlined and convenient for Pakistani students, with benefits such as applying up to six months in advance, and additional opportunities to extend student visas from inside the UK. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the UK was among the first countries to introduce visa flexibility for students, including permitting remote study for the whole 2020-21 academic year and replacing thousands of expired visas free of charge so Pakistani students could still travel.



Furthermore, in Summer 2021 the UK will be introducing the Graduate Route, a new post-study work visa that will allow eligible students two years (or three years for PhD students) to stay back after they graduate to work, or look for work in the UK.

Kevin Foster MP, Minister for Future Borders and Immigration, said: "Pakistani students have always been a huge part of our community – and we look forward to welcoming more to our world leading Universities. Put simply, we want the best and brightest to study in the UK, which is why we have made it easier to apply. "The UK will always value and welcome international students, and whether now or in the future, we want Pakistani students to choose the UK as the place to fulfill their potential." The British Deputy High Commissioner, Mike Nithavrianakis, said: "Last year, over 5,000 Pakistani students were successfully granted a visa – a 20% increase

on the previous year. This is a testament to the strengthening links between the UK and Pakistan. "But, more than that, each successful visa means another student heading to the UK, to build their career, expand their horizons and find out more about all that the UK has to offer. We hope that this continues, and that many more students from Pakistan follow their compatriots on this journey." The Student Route and Graduate Route are part of the UK's new points-based system, the new system of visas and immigration that the UK is opening in January 2021. This will create a fairer, clearer system, where what matters is the skills an individual has rather than their nationality.

Inside...

President stresses women involvement in development – Page 02

Experts discuss outcome of the SCO leaders' summit – Page 03

COMSTech webinar explores paths for vaccine development – Page 04

New Algeria' faces domestic, regional challenges – Page 05

'Indian real face exposed as sponsor of terrorism' – Page 06

Azerbaijan vows to protect all Christian churches – Page 07

'Good is news is that economy is picking up' – Page 08

Briefs

UoS's four teachers among top 2% scientists

SARGODHA: Four scientists from University of Sargodha (UoS) have figured among the top two percent scientists of the world in a list compiled by the prestigious Stanford University, USA. The Stanford University has recently released the global list that represents the top two per cent of the most-cited scientists in various disciplines. The exhaustive list has 1,59,683 scientists, doctors and engineers. The list classified the scientists based on career-long citation impact until the end of 2019 and also for the single year (2019). According to the report, 81 Pakistani scientists have been ranked in the top 2% scientists world-wide for their career-long citation impact while citation impact in a single year includes 243 Pakistani scientists among the top 2% scientists.

The scientists who have made it to the Stanford list from Sargodha University are Dr Muhammad Afzal (Agriculture Sciences), Dr Farooq Anwar (Chemistry), Dr Muhammad Nawaz Tahir (Physics) and Dr Muhammad Saleem (Chemistry - Bhakkar Campus). Dr Muhammad Afzal is serving as Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and his research focus is on "Integrated Pest Management (IPM) technology and Biological Control of Insect Pests." Dr Farooq Anwar is currently working as Director Institute of Chemistry and Director Office of the Research Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC). He works in the area of "Analytical Chemistry" while Dr Muhammad Saleem is serving in the Department of Chemistry, Bhakkar Campus and his area of research is "Organic Chemistry." — APP

KP new economic zones to attract investors

PESHAWAR: Realizing the importance of vibrant industrial sector for economic stability and employment generation, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has lunched five economic zones in last six months like attract Rs. 330.5 billion investment. The documents of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KPEZDMC) shows that these economic zones will create total 330,796 employment opportunities with 94,060 directly related and 236,736 indirectly. The provincial government established KPEZDMC with a task to facilitate focused industrial growth aiming to reduce poverty and gearing towards economic prosperity. The KPEZDMC is focused on provision of investment friendly industrial infrastructure in KP through one window facilitation centers. The Jalozi economic zone, Nowshera economic zone, Raskhali special economic zone, D.I Khan economic zone are launched under 3-year industrialization roadmap of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. — APP

Dist admin hold Naatiya mushaira

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: As many as 1701 Quran Kareem and 10.03 million Darood were recited on the first day of Shaan Rahmatullil Alameen week by the students of different educational institutes. This was stated by Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali while participating as a chief guest in Naatiya Mushaira held at Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan Auditorium under the arrangements of the district administration. ADCF Afifa Shajia, Director Arts Council Sofia Bedar, Administrative Officer Riaz Hussain Anjum, Mohammad Sadiq and others besides poets, students and members of civil society were also present. Dr. Anwar Mahmood Khalid presided over the Natiya Mushaira while Sahibzada Arif Hussain Bukhari, Kausar Ali, Dr. Zafar Hussain Taskeen, Dr. Shahid Ashraf, Prof. Akhtar Butt, Prof. Naseem Sahrai, Safia Hayat, Farhat Siddiqui, Prof. Tahir Siddiqui, Dr. Jafar Hassan Mubarak, Prof. Riaz Qadri, Prof. Saeeda Rasham, Prof. Naveeda Kausar, Kainat Ahmad and other poets recited Naat and glorious Praises of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali said that the celebrations of Shaan Rehmatullil alameen were in full swing in the district. He said that it is an honor to participate in such blessed gatherings. He said that it is not possible for anyone to narrate the glory

of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and this Naatiya Mushaira is a humble endeavor in connection with the celebrations of Shaan Rehmatullil Alameen (PBUH) Week. Meanwhile a Sirat Conference and Mehfil Naat was organized by the Tehsil Saadar Council which was presided over by Chief Officer Muhammad Ashraf Malik. Narrators on Sirat-ul-Nabi and well-known Naat reciters presented Naat during the event. Tehsil Officers Faiza Tauseef, Saeed Malik, Mohammad Waqas, Office Superintendent Mian Farooq, Madam Hajira, In-Charge Darulaman Sofia Rizwan and others were also present. Prof. Jafar Qamar Sialvi offered special prayers for the survival, security and supremacy of Islam in Pakistan. Later, recitation of Holy Quran and Durood Salam ceremony was also organized at govt educational institutes. Assistant Commissioner Jarawala Zain-ul-Abidin supervised the event. He informed that during the week various programs are being organized to highlight the aspects of the life of the benefactor of humanity. In this regard, the students recited the Holy Quran at the end, Durood and Salam was also recited. Students of different schools said that the Holy Prophet (PBUH) was sent as a mercy for all the worlds. He taught equality, forgiveness and justice. His life is the embodiment of the Qur'an in which there is complete guidance for us. The secret of success in the hereafter of him.



LAHORE: President Dr. Arif Alvi awarding medals among the position holder students during 3rd Convocation of the Pakistan Institute of Fashion and Design (PIFD) at PIFD. — DNA

President stresses women involvement in development

He said that the West gave rights to women about 200 years back, while Islam did the same thing about 1400 years ago. "Since Islam is a complete code of life, we must always seek guidance from our religion on all aspects of life"

DNA

LAHORE: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday underlined the need for necessary measures to ensure women involvement in the development process so as to make them functional part of society. Addressing the 3rd convocation of Pakistan Institute of Fashion and Design (PIFD) here, he said that since we have our own values, we do not need to look towards West

for adopting everything. He said that the West gave rights to women about 200 years back, while Islam did the same thing about 1400 years ago. "Since Islam is a complete code of life, we must always seek guidance from our religion on all aspects of life," he added. The president said that the government and the employers should make adjustments in such a way that a working woman should feel comfortable on her return from maternity leave, adding that

these things should be taken into account consciously. He said that investment made by parents, society and the government in education of women should not be wasted and the country should benefit from their abilities and skills. He said that it was not necessary for women to work from eight to five in an office; they might work from home in the present era. He said that although the ratio of female students in universities was higher than male students,

the situation was contrary in the institutions as far employment situation is concerned. He said this anomaly must be removed by giving equal job opportunities to both genders. The president congratulated the graduating students and their teachers. He also gave away certificates and gold medals to the successful students. Earlier, in her welcome address, PIFD Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Hina Tayyaba Khalil congratulated the gradu-

ating students and highlighted the hard work and commitment of the faculty in their efforts to support students throughout the process to ensure that they come up to the standards of the institute and to prepare them for their future endeavours. As many as 845 student of bachelor programme from batches of 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 were awarded degrees whereas seven students of MPhil from batch of 2019 also received degrees.

Two more incidents of child abuse surface

DNA

LAHORE: Two more incidents of sexual violence against children came to the fore in Punjab on Tuesday. A five-year-old boy was allegedly subjected to sexual abuse in Faisalabad's Pathanwala neighbourhood, said police. The suspected culprit managed to flee after sexually abusing the minor. The police said they have registered a first information report (FIR) against the accused. In a separate incident, a seven-year-old boy was subjected to sexual abuse in Lahore's Shahdra. A suspect has been arrested and a first information report of the incident registered, police said. Earlier, on November 10, a horrendous incident of child abuse came to light in Sindh. It was reported that a woman and her four-year-old daughter were sexually assaulted by a gang. The victim woman, who works in Karachi, was lured with a job promise in Kashmore. When she reached there with her four-year-old daughter, the alleged assaulters gang-raped both mother and daughter and left them there for dead.

LCCI urges not to close down halls

LAHORE: The business community has urged the government to review its marriage halls closure decision to save more than 50 industries attached with it and jobs of millions of workers. LCCI President Mian Tariq Misbah, Senior Vice President Muhammad Nasir Hameed Khan, Vice President Tahir Manzoor Chaudhry, along with Chairman Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP) Faisal Jahangir and Patron In-Chief Punjab Marriage Halls Association & President Lahore Marriage Halls Association Mian Muhammad Ilyas made this appeal at a press conference at Lahore Chamber on Tuesday. Chaudhry Muhammad Nusrat Tahir from Pakistan Poultry Association, former LCCI Senior Vice President Ali Hussam Asghar, former Vice President Mian Zahid Jawaid Ahmad, President All Punjab Marriage Halls Association Khalid Idrees, Senior Vice President All Punjab Marriage Halls Association Malik Aqeel, Chairman Lahore Marriage Halls Association Safdar Warrach, Chairman LCCI Standing Committee on Marriage Halls and Caterers Junaid Ahmed Zia also spoke. They said that closure of marriage halls would not only be a big blow to this industry but also put the employment of millions of workers at stake. Government must reconsider the decision to shut marriage halls from November 20. It would be a chain reaction as more than 50 allied industries would be affected badly therefore, government should withdraw the decision of Marriage Hall closure in the larger interest of economy, they added. — APP



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar distributing scholarship cheques among the minority students. — APP

NOVEMBER 2020

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:

www.centrelines.com.pk

www.dnanews.com.pk

www.islamabadpost.com.pk

@ Postislamabad / @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

IslamabadPOST

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

Briefs

PNCA to hold photography competition

ISLAMABAD: National Council of Arts (PNCA) will hold First Photography Competition titled "Islamic Unity" on November 22. In collaboration with Embassy of Iran-Pakistan, the subject of photography will be Solidarity, Harmony and Unity among Islamic world. According to an official, the date for submission of amateur and professional photographers was from November 2 to 21. He said that photographs must be Digital size 300dpi, 4800 to 6000 px with age below 16. First prize and second prize winners will get 35000 and 27000 while third and forth prize winners will get 2000 and 13000. Each participants will send one entry on following mailing address ummahpic2020@gmail.com, he stated. – APP

AIOU announces results

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University(AIOU) has announced the results of programs offered in spring 2020 semester including postgraduate and bachelor's programs as well as diploma in forensic Science. According to a press release on Tuesday, it is stated that the results have also been uploaded on the university website and result cards are being dispatched to the students. Upon the special directives of the Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof Dr Zia Ul-Qayyum, examinations department has expedited the results compilation process for the rest of the educational programs to follow university's academic calendar in true letter and spirit. Prof Dr Zia Ul-Qayyum has directed the heads of all academic, administrative and servicing departments of the university to implement academic calendar in true spirit not only to main academic discipline but also to save precious time of 1.4 million students enrolled in different educational programs of the university at various levels.

40 parking lots in green belts demolished

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) has demolished 40 different types of structures established for parking purpose by eight public and private offices. During the recent operations conducted in Mauve Area, Sector G-9 & G-10, the source said that forty (40) different types of structures established for parking purpose by eight public and private offices have been demolished. He said that parking have been established in different green belts especially on 6th Avenue and Mauve area etc by Government offices and various other offices. Some of these parkings have been allowed by the CDA/ MCI while some are illegal, the source said adding that further survey is also underway in the Capital and such structures in various areas would be demolished. He said that CDA is vigorously taking actions against encroachments and illegal constructions in the city. In this connection, operations are being conducted all over the city and encroachments on the state land are being demolished. During last month, he said that Enforcement Directorate of the Authority carried out anti encroachment operations in areas including Barri Imam, Islamabad Express Highway, Orchard Scheme, Sector F-6, F-7, G-9, G-8, G-7, G-11, I-8, I-9, Margalla Town, Khan Pul, Park Road, Jabba Teli and other areas and demolished several illegal constructions from the state land. Teams of CDA also removed several obstacles / encroachments from the parking areas in Sector E-11 while road side encroachments from Khanapul area and Park road were also removed in other anti-encroachment activities. The source said that such operations would remain continue and illegally occupied green belts or other lands would be vacated from encroachers. – APP

Experts discuss outcome of the SCO leaders' summit

Pakistan strongly advocates the idea of global harmony and multilateralism, think tank of SCO member states should debate more on the Afghan peace process

DNA

ISLAMABAD: CGSS participated at the video conference with the SCO partners on "The main outcomes of the SCO Heads of States Council Meeting". The Conference was organized bythe Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies (ISRS) under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The aim of the conference was to hold an expert discussion dedicated to the results of the Summit of the Leaders of the SCO countries. Moreover, the event provided an opportunity to determine the prospects for the development of cooperation through the prism of the proposals and initiatives expressed by the SCO leaders. The Conference was attended by the representatives of the Think Tanks of the member states of SCO. Lt. Col Khalid Taimur Akram (Retd), Executive Director, Center for Global and Strategic Studies, Islamabad presented speech on the current state of cooperation within the SCO. He appreciated the effort of ISRS for organizing such important online sessions. He highlighted aboutmain contours of the recent SCO conference. He mentioned the efforts of SCO states that they have a major role in promoting regional peace and stability. He also



highlighted and appreciated the exceptional idea of His Excellency President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, of developing a comprehensive plan for rebuilding Afghanistan. He concluded by saying that Pakistan strongly advocates the idea of global harmony and multilateralism. He also provided the idea that the think tank of SCO member states should debate more on the Afghan peace process. Ms. Minahil Shawl Afridi, Research Executive, Center for Global and Strategic Stud-

ies, Islamabad discussed the existing potential of SCO and what can be the areas that member states can cooperate to enhance the potential. She highlighted some potential areas where SCO member states can integrate more in futuroto preserve ecosystem and environment, cooperation in health care sector, cooperation in higher education and promote cultural exchange program and tourism activities. She stated that regional prosperity is one of the important concern of SCO and in this regard peace

in Afghanistan is imperative to the stability of region. She also mentioned and appreciated the role of Uzbekistan Government in promoting regional peace by facilitating the Afghan peace process. Other speakers of the Member States highlighted the importance of recent SCO summit and also mentioned the role of each state in development capabilities of the SCO. They agreed that SCO is becoming more attractive for other countries which provide great opportunities for SCO states to work with

the world. They also suggested that cooperation can be enhanced in the sectors of economy, cultural development, infrastructure building, mutual cooperation, medical field, digitalization, health care, security and defence system. The participantshighlighted the role of SCO member states for their efforts and effective role inAfghanistan peace process and emphasized on the technological development that it is rampantly evolving. The experts that attended

the Online Conference are as below:
Mr. Sanjar Valiyev, Deputy Director of the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies (Uzbekistan)
Mr. Alisher Kadirov, Head of Department, Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies (Uzbekistan)
Mr. Sanat Kushkumbaev, Deputy Director of the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies (Kazakhstan)
Mr. Atar Zafar, Senior Fellow, Indian Council on International Affairs (India)
Mr. Igor Shestakov, Chairman of the "Pikir" Club of Regional Experts (Kyrgyzstan)
Mr. Andrey Kazantsev, Director of the Analytical Center, MGIMO (Russia)
Mr. Daniyar Kurbanov, Director of the Information and Analytical Center for International Relations under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Uzbekistan)
Mr. Yerlan Madiev, Head of the "Chinese and Asian Studies" Program, Institute of World Economy and Politics, (Kazakhstan)
Mr. Sun Zhuangzhi, Director of the Institute of Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (China) Mr. Muratbek Imanaliev, Advisor to the Director of the National Institute for Strategic Studies (Kyrgyzstan) Ms. Dina Malyшева, Head of the Central Asia Sector, Center for Post-Soviet Studies, IMEMO RAN (Russia)

Wildlife Information Center set up

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) in collaboration with KP forest and Wildlife department and UN Development Programme Funded Sustainable Forest Management project established first Wildlife Information Center (WIC) at Balakot in Mansehra district. The main purpose of such information center was to focus on various sub sectors of forest and wildlife including forest biology, wildlife, forest economics, fisheries and watershed management, forest carbon sequestration measurements, human-wildlife conflicts and human-forest socio-economic relationship. This was disclosed by an official of the Forest Department, Raja Omer while talking to APP on Tuesday. He said Pakistan is home to rich and diverse flora and fauna in a wide range of habitats from sea level to high elevation areas in the mountains, including around 177 mammal and 660 bird species.

“Winter Food Festival” from Nov 27

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Three day long “Winter Food festival” will be held from November 27 to 29, aiming to provide healthy environment and different types of food to citizens of twin cities at Ayub Park. Multiple cuisines will be placed including desi, chinese, continental, italian and other types of food. The festival will include variety of events including fashion Show, cultural dances, musical concerts, stalls, fun activities and much more. It would be the biggest festival of the year to enthrall the people of twin cities with so much enjoyment and pleasure, an organizer told on Monday. He said that it was a family ambience event that has specifically been arranged to enhance the cuisine and cultural activities and provide healthy entertainment to citizens of Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

PEC awards to acknowledge excellent engineers

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) has announced “PEC Excellence Awards” to decorate those outstanding engineers who have made notable impact in national interest and contributed significantly to the country's social and economic development. These awards would help promote and encourage engineering community encompassing industry, academia, research and development, policy formulation and allied aspects for their continued role in national development on the lines of other Civil Awards, an official from PEC told APP. As many as 24 awards would be conferred upon the outstanding engineers in six categories. The last date to apply for the awards is December 04. Listing the details of the categories, the official informed that the ‘Lifetime Achievement Award’ would be given to the ten eminent Pakistani engineers in recognition of their valuable contributions for the betterment of engineering profession as well as society through their professional acumen over the whole of their career. The ‘Academia and Re-

search award’ will be conferred upon the three best engineers from academia and research making impact on quality of education and innovation through Research and Development for the betterment of the society as a whole. Three awards in the category of ‘Technology and Process Development’ will recognize engineers for their individual or team work, who have made significant technical contributions to the advancement of technology or process development adding to the economic development as well as societal benefits. Accomplishments must be supported through well-documented evidence. Three awards in the category of ‘Innovation and Industrial Project’ will be given with the focus on applicant's contribution in the form of some novel idea translated into product, patent or process; otherwise taking up an industrial project making contribution as industrial problem solving, commercialization/ upgradation of a product/ technology/ process, which are significant achievements in national interest as socio-economic venture. – APP

Violin classes to be held from Nov 19

ISLAMABAD: Rung School of Music and Arts will start Violin classes, aiming to bring out hidden musical talent from November 19. The classes were aimed to get excellent training and develop great boldness by being exposed to wide range of musical and creative opportunities. Trained violin teachers will help to learn violin playing the right way.

“Through our Violin lessons, classes, teaching programs and courses we bring to our students musical experiences and musical memories”, an official said on Tuesday. He said that we believe that if our students can use their hands, then they can play an instrument. He said that they will also get exposure through training programs and workshops. – APP

Specific mouthwash can kill virus within 30 seconds: study

ISLAMABAD: A scientific study conducted at Cardiff University, Wales, United Kingdom has found that a specific mouthwash containing 0.07 per cent of cetylpyridinium chloride (CPC) can kill coronavirus within 30 seconds. The preliminary findings, which are yet to be peer reviewed, come ahead of a clinical trial investigating whether over-the-counter mouthwash can reduce the levels of coronavirus in a patient's saliva. These findings support an-

other recently published study which identified that CPC-based mouthwashes are effective in reducing the viral load of coronavirus. Scientists conducted tests in a laboratory mimicking the conditions of a person's nasopharynx and oropharynx passages, using mouthwash brands such as Dentyl. A 12-week clinical trial at the University Hospital of Wales will now help determine the effectiveness of mouthwash in reducing the COVID-19 viral load in patients' saliva.

Dentyl will be the only UK mouthwash brand used in the trial, and the findings will be published in early 2021. Professor David Thomas, from Cardiff University who is leading the clinical trial, said: “Although this in vitro study is very encouraging and is a positive step, more clinical research is now clearly needed. “We need to understand if the effect of over-the-counter mouthwashes on the COVID-19 virus achieved in the laboratory can be reproduced in patients, and we look forward to completing our clinical trial in early 2021.” Dr Nick Claydon, a specialist periodontist, said the research was “very valuable”. He said: “If these positive results are reflected in Cardiff University's clinical trial, CPC-based mouthwashes such as Dentyl used in the in vitro study could become an important addition to people's routine, together with hand-washing, physical distancing and wearing masks, both now and in the future.” – APP

ward to completing our clinical trial in early 2021.” Dr Nick Claydon, a specialist periodontist, said the research was “very valuable”. He said: “If these positive results are reflected in Cardiff University's clinical trial, CPC-based mouthwashes such as Dentyl used in the in vitro study could become an important addition to people's routine, together with hand-washing, physical distancing and wearing masks, both now and in the future.” – APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Iran Mohammed Ali Hosseini signing the condolence book on the sad demise of Foreign Minister of Syria. The Syrian mission opened condolence book. – DNA

ICCI for withdrawing hike in property tax

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President ICCI said that the exorbitant hike in the property tax has plunged the widows, senior citizens and other low income residents of Islamabad into deep financial problems

ISLAMABAD: The business community in a meeting at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has urged the Municipal Coporation Islamabad (MCI) and Capital Development Authority (CDA) to withdraw 300 percent increase in property tax. They urged to urgently withdraw this increase as it has made the federal capital the costliest city of Pakistan and created immense problems for the residents. Chairing the meeting, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President ICCI

said that the exorbitant hike in the property tax has plunged the widows, senior citizens and other low income residents of Islamabad into deep financial problems as it was not possible for them to pay this massively hiked property tax. He said that there was no example of making such unprecedented increase in any tax in one go and urged that MCI/CDA to reverse this unjustified decision to save the business community and the residents of Islamabad from unnecessary financial burden.

He said that business community was not against the tax obligations, however, any increase in taxes should be made gradually instead of putting enormous financial burden on them in one go. He was of the view that for making increase in any tax, MCI should hold its public hearing and added that this requirement was not fulfilled in the instant case, which makes this increase illegal. He appealed to the Prime Minister and the Chairman CDA for urgent withdrawal of 300 percent hike in

the property tax to save the citizens of Islamabad from great troubles. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that FBR had imposed 16 percent GST on services provided by the underwriters, indenters, commission agents and auctioneers in Islamabad despite the fact that Sindh and KPK had reduced GST on these services from 16 percent to 3 percent and 2 percent respectively. He said this unjustified hike in GST on services has made these businesses uncompetitive as they were already paying pro-

fessional tax and 6 percent withholding tax. He appealed to the Advisor on Finance and Revenue and the Chairman FBR to revise 16 percent GST on services in ICT to save these businesses from unnecessary problems. Ms. Fatma Azim Senior Vice President and Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI said that ICCI has filed another petition in Islamabad High Court against the 300 percent hike in property tax to save the citizens from such coercive measures. – APP

Qazi Zafar defends his PhD thesis

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Qazi Zafar Iqbal has successfully defended his PhD thesis from PMAS Arid agricultural university Rawalpindi with a distinguished research profile and has published at least fifty research papers. He is the 1st PhD in Computer Science from this University.



Briefs

Two car lifters arrested

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Golra police has arrested two car lifters and recovered stolen vehicles from them, a police spokesman said. According to details, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfiqar Khan ordered crackdown against criminal elements. Following these orders, DIG (Operations) Waqar-Ud-Din Syed has directed all zonal officers to accelerate their efforts to curb the crime in the city. He said following these directions SP (Saddar -Zone) Constituted special police team under the supervision of DSP Sajjad Haider Bukhari including SHO Golra police station Shams-Ul-Akber, ASI Noor Muhammad and others arrested two car lifters Muhammad Saleem and Atif Mehmood and recovered stolen vehicle recovered from their possession and further investigation is underway from them. DIG (Operations) Waqar Uddin Syed has appreciated this overall performance and directed all police officials to intensify efforts to curb car lifting incidents.

IHC directs FIA to trace accused in fraud case

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday directed Federal Investigation Agency (FIA)'s director general (DG) to arrest a convicted person in case pertaining to looting the people through fraud practices. Chief Justice Athar Minallah conducted hearing into the matter against the accused Shams who was awarded sentence on charges of minting money from people on the pretext of sending them abroad. During the course of proceeding, the guarantor of the accused Nawaz Bhatti appeared before the court and prayed it to grant the time till next month to locate the accused. The bench directed FIA's officials to arrest the convict person after tracing his location. — APP

Search operation in QA Colony

RAWALPINDI: Police on special directives of City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi on Tuesday launched a search operation in Quaid-e-Azam Colony and adjoining areas in the jurisdiction of Saddar Baroni Police Station. Police spokesman said that heavy police contingents, Elite Force, Special Branch personnel and Ladies police under the supervision of SHO Saddar Baroni Police Station conducted search operation in the area and searched 166 houses while 303 persons were also interrogated. Police also checked particulars of various 57 tenants, he added. The spokesman said the search operations to arrest criminals and proclaimed offenders were regularly being conducted in different areas of the district particularly to ensure law and order. — APP

Carpeting of roads and cycle tracks underway

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The work on carpeting of roads and cycle tracks by the Capital Development Authority (CDA) is underway. The department of road maintenance and the department of MPO are jointly working in two shifts. The administration has provided budget for these developmental works. According to a press release of CDA, the work of carpeting and repairing is continued on Jinnah Avenue, 7th Avenue, 9th Avenue, Lehtar Road, Express Way, Fazal e Haq Road, Minister Enclave, Srinagar Highway, IJP Road, F-6, F-7, F-8, G-6, G-7, G-8, G-9, G-10, I-8, I-9, I-10, D-12, and others. CDA is utilizing the services of its departments including MPO and Road Maintenance for carpeting and repairing of roads. Tons of construction material is being prepared on daily basis which is being used for the carpeting and repairing work on roads. By the cooperation of MPO cycle tracks have been constructed on Gomol Road in E 7 Asphalet plant of CDA was not functional for last two years. Therefore, CDA had to pay heavy cost for buying the material.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Iraq Hamed Abbas Lefta signing condolence book on the demise of foreign minister of Syria. The condolence book was opened at the Syrian embassy on Tuesday. — DNA

COMSTECH webinar explores paths for vaccine development

The earlier versions of Biologics were human enzymes, hormones, growth factors and cytokines produced by recombinant DNA technologies. The latest versions are monoclonal antibody (Mab)-type molecules, he explained

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prominent scientists, Professor Dr. Ahmed Abdullah Azad Tuesday speaking at a webinar said many resource and technology poor Islamic countries, with valuable human and intellectual capital, must be provided the opportunity to contribute to competitive research that benefits them and the Islamic world. Prof. Dr. Ahmed Abdullah Azad, is the Chief Research Scientist, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Division of Biotechnology, Melbourne, Australia. He was addressing the webinar on "Opportunities for production of affordable biosimilar medicines and plant-based

novel therapeutics in the Islamic World" arranged by COMSTECH. Dr. Azad was of the view that the pharmaceutical research have huge potential in the Islamic world through multinational and multidisciplinary collaboration between research groups possessing complementary expertise and facilities "Pharmaceutical and biotechnology research in the Islamic world would greatly benefit from access to cutting-edge technologies and uniform and common IP and regulatory guidelines", he said. Dr. Azad suggested that the area of drug discovery and development is promising for Islamic countries to productively collaborate, "rational" bio prospecting of the Biota. COMSTECH, with support of Islamic Development

Bank, could play a catalytic role by enabling and coordinating the development of world-class Biomolecular research capacity in OIC-member countries, he suggested. Dr. Azad pointed out that a substantial amount of material for the production of generic medicines is sourced from developing countries including some in the Islamic world. He explained how the pipeline of new small-molecule drugs, from which generic medicines are copied, have almost dried up as multinational drug companies have turned their attention to a new class of very efficacious protein-based pharmaceuticals (Biologics). The earlier versions of Biologics were human enzymes, hormones, growth factors and cytokines produced

by recombinant DNA technologies. The latest versions are monoclonal antibody (Mab)-type molecules, he explained. These new generation of life-saving drugs are extremely expensive (at least \$50,000 per patient a year) and simply beyond the means of most people and poor countries of the developing and Islamic world, Dr. Azad mentioned. There is, therefore a huge demand for the production of cheaper versions of these wonder drugs, termed Biosimilars, through reverse-engineering and recombinant DNA technology. As most Mab-type Biologics are under patent, copying them into Biosimilars is not easy but luckily Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are

exempt from patent restrictions till 2032, he informed. Dr. Azad's research helped in the discovery and development of the anti-Flu drug Neuraminidase. He led the research in the discovery and development, and commercialisation, of a recombinant subunit vaccine against a highly immunosuppressive virus (IBDV). Dr. Azad has more than 130 peer reviewed papers in international journals and 10 patents. He is Fellow of five science academies, and currently is Secretary General of the Islamic-World Academy of Sciences. Scientists, researchers and experts from Pakistan, Turkey, Iran, Indonesia, Iraq, Ethiopia, Azerbaijan and other countries joined this webinar.



ISLAMABAD: Ajmal Baloch, President, all Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajran is congratulating Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan on being appointed as special Assistant to Chief Minister Punjab. — DNA

Int'l Day of Road Traffic Victims observed

ISLAMABAD: Like other parts of the world, "International Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims" was also observed Tuesday across the country. A private organisation "Youth United to Serve The Nation (YUSTN)" in connection with this International Traffic Day had organized a competition of photo posters on the topic of road safety which was participated by the local students belonging to twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi. The Members of YUSTN while taking to APP stated that there is a need to create awareness among car drivers as well as pedestrians. "It is very unfortunate that one of the main reasons for unnatural deaths is directly associated with careless driving and road accidents," they added. They also welcomed the recently-passed UN General

Assembly Resolution proclaiming the second Decade of Action for Road Safety from 2021 to 2030, and urged the government of Pakistan to include road safety measures in the top priorities. However, a road safety expert, Dr Muhammad Shahid told APP that every year as many as 3700 lives lost on daily basis in traffic accidents around the globe. Dr Mohammad Shahid, who is also associated with the Road safety Council of Pakistan, has further stated that road traffic collisions are a major health and development concern. Road traffic incidents, according to a report, are the leading cause of death for children and young adults between 5 and 29 years old, and ninety percent of victims live in low- and middle-income countries, he mentioned. — APP

Punjab Council of Arts hold Mehfil-e-Sama

Word famous legend Aziz Mian Qawals'son Imran Aziz Mian Qawal gave wonderful performance at Mehfil-e-Sama. Imran Aziz Mian Qawal adopted unique style of his father by presenting qawalies

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Council of the Arts, arranged Mehfil-e-Sama to celebrate Hafta Shan-e-Rahmatulil Alameen on the directions of Government of Punjab. Word famous legend Aziz Mian Qawals'son Imran Aziz Mian Qawal gave wonderful performance at Mehfil-e-Sama. Imran Aziz Mian Qawal adopted unique style of his father by presenting qawalies. He performed more than two hours and mesmerized the audience with famous qawalies and received thunder appreciation. World famous Qawali Nabi Nabi, Allah Hi Jane Kaon Bashar, Ali Ali and others spell bounded the audience. He also addressed the gathering and said that like my



father Aziz Mian Qawal, he expressed his love for Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) through the art of Qawwali. 'Until the Day of Judgment, no one can be equal to the dust of our beloved Prophet (PBUH)', he added. Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed said that Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) is dearer to us than our own lives. 'Our faith is not complete without the love of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH). The west must understand our love for Rasoolullah', he added. He further clarified that there is big difference between freedom of expression and arrogance. Western countries are deliberately playing with the feelings of Muslims. Hundreds of people were present in the Punjab Arts Council to listen to Imran Aziz Mian Qawal.

BISP reference: Court issues arrest warrants

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An Accountability Court (AC) on Tuesday issued bailable arrest warrants against four accused on disappearance in reference against former Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) Farzana Raja pertaining to embezzlement of funds. AC-III Judge Syed Asghar Ali conducted hearing on graft reference moved by National Accountability Bureau (NAB). During the course of proceeding, NAB prosecutor Muhammad Wa-seem appeared before the court and submitted implementation report regarding warrants for accused including Shoaib Khan, Ahsanullah Cheema, Ifat Zahra and Imran Sheikh. The court asked the prosecution if the accused had been shared the copies of reference. To this, the NAB official said that the documents would be submitted here in coming few days. After this, the court adjourned hearing on the matter till November 30. It may be mentioned here that the NAB had named 18 accused in this reference pertaining to embezzlement of Rs 540 millions.

136 patients admitted in quarantine facilities

RAWALPINDI: Around 136 COVID-19 confirmed patients were admitted in various quarantine facilities of the district while the district administration including Health Department have made arrangements to control the situation. Talking to APP, Chief Executive Officer District Health Authority Dr Sohail Chaudhary informed that presently 136 C positive cases were admitted in the various hospitals of the district out of which 28 belonged to Potohar Town, 41 Rawalpindi Cantt, 25 Rawal town, 33 Gujar Khan, 1 Kahuta, 2 Kalar Syedan and 7 Taxila. He further added that 37 patients were admitted in Holy family Hospital, 19 Benazir Bhutto Hospital, 25 Red Crescent and 2 were admitted in the Hearts International hospital who were being provided the best health care facilities. The CEO said that disinfection activities are underway at various places especially where suspected cases were being reported. Meanwhile Deputy Commissioner Capt (R) Anwar Ul Haq told media that all resources are being utilized for controlling the spread of COVID-19 and concerned departments are fully mobilized for carrying out the task. He said that SOPs regarding COVID are being ensured at business centers while action is also being taken against violators. He advised the residents to wear face masks, maintain social distancing, stay at home and follow the health advisories issued by the government. — APP

GM IESCO to hold online Katchary

ISLAMABAD: General Manager Operations Islamabad Electric Supply Company Chauhdary Abdul Razzaq hold online Katchary today, to swiftly address the consumers complaints. According to IESCO spokesman, online katcharies were being conducted regularly and positive response of customers were also receiving. According to schedule, the GM (Operations) IESCO would hold online Katchary on Wednesday at telephone No.051-9253105. He will attend complaints/suggestions of customers from 10:30 am to 11:30 am. SEs of operation Circles would also join Online katchary through video link. IESCO requested valued customers to participate in open katchary for immediate solution of their complaints. — APP

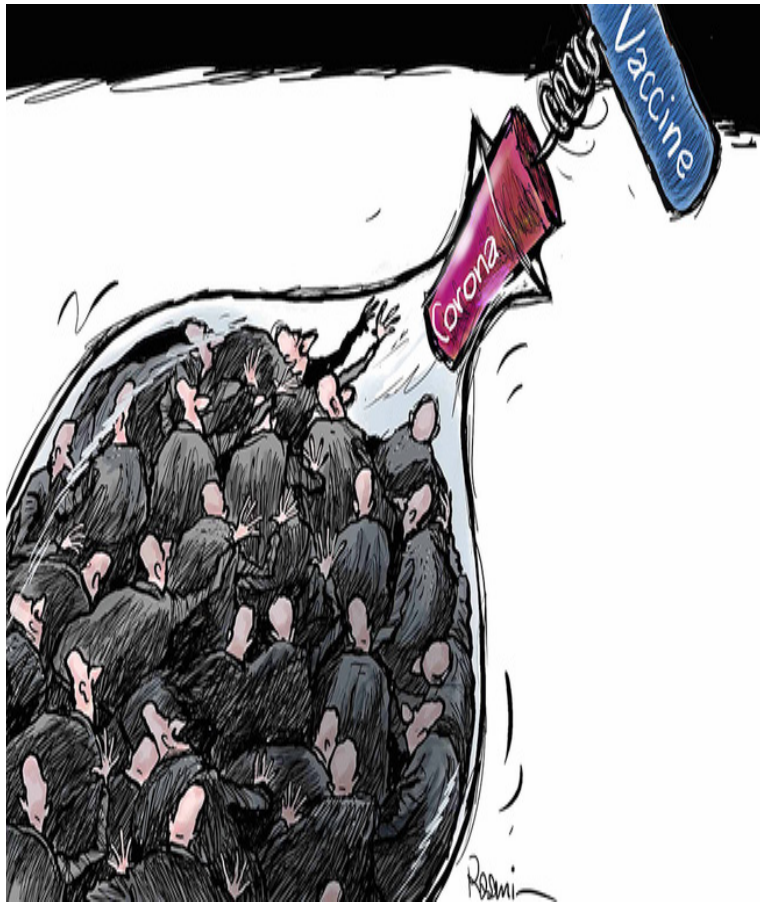
Pakistan, Russia talks

The latest talks to finalise an agreement to start work on the North-South Gas Pipeline Project (NSGPP) shows that Pakistan and Russia are keen on taking strategic engagement further. The discussions in Islamabad are crucial, as they will pave the way to kick-start the much-delayed project. The initiative, stretching hundreds of kilometres from Karachi to Lahore, will be the largest in the history of Russian-Pakistani economic cooperation. Given the current energy crisis in general and our dependence on gas that accounts for nearly 46 percent of Pakistan's total primary energy supplies, the project is of immense significance for Pakistan. Due to past governments' irrational policies and their inability to increase indigenous gas production, the gas crisis is coming sooner than later. The gap between demand and supply has grown to a level that experts estimate that our consumption will surpass indigenous supply by 4.6 billion cubic feet by 2022-23. Therefore, given the delays in the completion of other energy projects, for instance, the Turkmenistan Afghanistan Pakistan India Pipeline Project (TAPI), the most viable option to bridge the growing gap is to prioritise NSGPP. Energy projects are crucial for our economic progress. But the government's inability to solve Pakistan's energy crisis has sapped our economic growth so far. Many industrialists shifted their production units elsewhere, especially to Bangladesh. Nevertheless, the Russian backed project can mitigate the worsening gas shortage and help Pakistan achieve economic stability. Similarly, Russia is interested in the project because it will open up Pakistan's market for Russian companies. The benefits that the two sides will reap from the project make it a win-win deal. What is important now for the two sides is to make these talks a success so that the work can be started on NSGPP without further ado. Moreover, if the project is completed amicably, the possibilities of developing a multi-dimensional relationship between Islamabad and Moscow will grow manifold.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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

Vol: 01 Issue: 201
Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com
Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960
Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



Karachi circular railway

After months of delays and false promises, 14km of the 55km Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) is finally set to become operational starting November 19. Considering that the government mandated restoration of this project began in 2017, progress is clearly quite slow. A lax approach by authorities is evident from the fact that the rest of the project is at a developmental standstill – little to nothing is being done. Why that is so remains to be clarified. It is vital that a more proactive approach is taken towards the construction of this transit system not only for the aid of the people but Pakistan as a whole as well. We may be celebrating the fact that, if nothing else, some headway has been achieved in regards to KCR. However, we must not get distracted from the fact that preparations for the remainder of the project haven't been made. Thus, it is unlikely that its construction will be completed in the near future. It would seem that promises for a fully functioning KCR by 2022 may also be absurdly optimistic if revival of operations is being sought lackadaisically. There are a few questions that also need clarification. The government has ambitious plans for the KCR to be run on electricity. Given that electricity provision is a major crisis in Pakistan, the provision of a steady supply of electricity for the railways seems questionable. How is the government aiming to tackle this conundrum is a concern that needs to be answered as well. We can no longer condone incompetency, delays and uncertainty in regards to Pakistan's development, especially considering that we are making giant positive leaps in all other aspects. Surely, the benefits of such developmental programmes are not lost upon the authorities and a new attitude will be adopted to honour commitments made to the masses.

New Algeria' faces domestic, regional challenges

Short Url



This verbal jugglery has no takers in Hirak. The constitution was shaped by a body of experts nominated by Tebboune, not by a constituent assembly. It provides for an all-powerful presidency that effectively blurs the separation of powers. The president names and can remove the prime minister.

The disenchantment of Algerians with the new constitution promised by President Abdelmadjid Tebboune was apparent in the low turnout in the Nov. 1 referendum: Just 24 percent of the electorate of 25 million bothered to vote. Sixty-six percent of this paltry figure gave its approval to the document. The constitution put forward for national endorsement was the president's response to the demands for sweeping changes in the political order that came from the streets of Algeria. These demonstrations, referred to as "Hirak," began in February last year as a protest against then-President Abdelaziz Bouteflika's decision to seek a fifth term of office. Hirak's demands – articulated by thousands joining the peaceful demonstrations every Friday for more than a year – evolved to seeking a complete overturning of Algeria's authoritarian order, which was marked by

corruption, nepotism and repression, and its replacement by a democratic system that reflected popular aspirations. To achieve this, the call from the street was for a national dialogue followed by a popularly elected constituent assembly. Hirak only met with partial success. Bouteflika stepped down and a large number of his close associates were tried and jailed. But the order did not change. Against Hirak's wishes, the army pushed through presidential elections that, with just a 39 percent turnout, brought Tebboune, an old associate of Bouteflika's, to high office. The latest referendum was Tebboune's attempt to end the Hirak movement's agitations by asserting that its principal demands had been met. Noting that Nov. 1 marked the commencement of the Algerian freedom movement in 1954, a major campaign slogan was: "November 1954: Liberation. November 2020: Change." Tebboune's confident assertion was based on the widespread repression of dissent in the run-up to the referendum. Several of Hirak's protagonists were arrested, along with journalists, social media activists and free press advocacy campaigners, while a French television channel was banned. Critics see no change from the Bouteflika period. The president sought to end Hirak's relevance by including in the preamble of the new constitution a reference that it is the reflection of the "will of the people," expressed through its "authentic blessed Hirak," which has "put an end to (past) errors." This verbal jugglery has no takers in Hirak. The constitution was shaped by a body of experts nominated by Tebboune, not by a constituent assembly. It provides for an all-powerful presidency that effectively blurs the separation of powers: The president names and can remove the prime minister; he can veto laws passed by the national assembly; he nominates a third of the members of the senate; and, as president of the High Council of the Magistracy, he can appoint and dismiss judges. Besides provisions relating to domestic affairs, one aspect of the constitution has important regional geopolitical implications: Articles 28 and 29 provide for cross-border operations by the Algerian armed forces, subject to them being sanctioned by parliament, the Arab League, the African Union and the UN. Though cautiously worded, this

is a change from the earlier constitutional provision that restricted the armed forces' role to defending national borders. The justification for this is that Algeria is in a dangerous neighborhood. There is an ongoing civil conflict in Libya, relatively weak state order in Mali, Niger and Mauritania, which could provide bases for violent anti-state activity, and there has been a proliferation of extremist cadres across the region, including the local affiliate of Daesh, Jund Al-Khilafah, in Algeria. On top of this, a number of extra-regional powers – Turkey, Russia and China – are consolidating their economic and even military presence in North Africa and the Mediterranean. The new constitutional provision thus signals an active Algerian role in the regional security scenario. This factor has already ignited American interest. The US' Africa Command head Gen. Stephen Townsend and then-Defense Secretary Mark Esper were in Algeria in late September and early October, the first visits by senior US officials in several years. Given its substantial military capabilities, shaping a regional role for itself will be a new challenge for Algeria. Algeria is on the cusp of significant domestic and regional uncertainty. While Tebboune is clearly

opposed to fulfilling Hirak's demand to usher in a full-fledged democracy, he perhaps hopes to appease the people with some dose of political reform and also economic benefits, given how parlous their situation is due to the coronavirus disease pandemic. The country's budget for 2021 envisages growth of 4 percent, as against a decline of 4.6 percent this year. Given the higher oil and gas revenues projected for next year, the budget promises a 4 percent increase in subsidies to cover food, health and housing, as well as the development of remote areas hit hard by the pandemic. While Hirak protesters are naturally disappointed with the new constitution, it should be noted that all constitutions are inherently inert; they obtain their life force from the good sense of leaders, the efficacy of watchdog institutions, and the scrutiny of popular opinion. How the nation turns its domestic and regional challenges into vibrant opportunities will determine the emergence of a "New Algeria."

• **Talmiz Ahmad is an author and former Indian ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Oman and the UAE. He holds the Ram Sathie Chair for International Studies, Symbiosis International University, Pune, India. Courtesy Arab News**



India is the world's biggest terrorist!

Attiya Munawer



The evidence of Indian terrorism given by Pakistan is very comprehensive. If the international community still shows indifference, then the fire of Indian terrorism will soon reach their countries.

Not only Pakistan but all the countries in the region are well aware of India's planning and sponsoring of terrorist activities as a state, as it is directly experienced by all. The Pakistani Foreign Office has once again pointed out the fact that India has a hand in fomenting terrorism in Pakistan for which there is solid evidence. According to a report in the leading American magazine Foreign Policy, India is one of the leading countries in the world in terms of terrorist activities. The United Nations has also revealed the presence of terrorist groups in Kerala and Karnataka. But to promote unrest and bloodshed, Indian government is sponsoring the notorious terrorist organization ISIS and this nexus is a major threat to world peace. The report warns the international community in unequivocal terms that Indian terrorism History and details are disappearing from the eyes of the world, but it is a grim fact that India's extremist policy has become a catastrophic threat to the whole world which, if left unchecked, could have dire consequences. It is clear that Pakistan has been informing the world about Indian terrorism, but this time the government has presented irrefutable evidence of Indian terrorism, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Pakistan Army spokesman Major General Babar

Iftikhar held a joint press conference at the Foreign where the audio clips of RAW officers were listened to and a video of the training of terrorists was also shown. The Foreign Minister and the DG ISPR said that the Indian intelligence agency was once again in Pakistan, is financing and training terrorists; India wants to create political and economic instability in Pakistan and is trying to sabotage the CPEC project, providing arms and money from India to terrorist organizations. India has distributed Rs 22 billion to terrorists, India has also formed a militia force of 700 people, which aims to target CPEC, but Pakistan is ready to thwart all conspiracies against the country. While India is planning terrorist activities, it is also trying to bring together the TTP and other banned organizations, the ISPR said that Indian Colonel Rajesh, who is currently in Afghanistan, is in touch with terrorist organizations. The Indian agency RAW funds its front man through third countries and India not only sends money to Afghanistan for terrorism, but also provides weapons, IEDs and suicide jackets to various organizations. Indian agency RAW has also been providing terrorism training to Altaf Hussain group along with providing funding and weapons. Ajmal Pahari has admitted that India trains Altaf Hussain group. Dr. Allah Nazir also had links with Indian agency. He traveled to In-

dia on a fake Afghan passport and has been involved in the Gwadar, Pearl Continental Hotel attack, while the RAW was also involved in the Peshawar Agricultural University and APS attacks. The evidence of Indian terrorism given by Pakistan is very comprehensive. If the international community still shows indifference, then the fire of Indian terrorism will soon reach their countries. It is gratifying that the government has shown courage and decided to bring all the evidence before the world, otherwise efforts have been made to improve relations with India for two and a half years, even previous governments have also remained silent on India's terrorism to establish peace while India has always tried to isolate Pakistan globally by making accusations against Pakistan at every opportunity. Moreover, the cause of Pakistan's troubles in the FATF is Indian propaganda. It is hoped that the new policy of Pakistan to break its silence and named India will change the attitude of the international community. This new policy will make the world believe that Pakistan is a country affected by terrorism, while India is a sponsor of terrorism, even after this, if the international community did not take notice of the sponsorship of Indian terrorism and effective measures were not taken immediately to prevent it. Then, it will mean deliberately endangering world peace.

Briefs

'No bias on platform against conservatives'

WASHINGTON: Twitter chief Jack Dorsey said in remarks prepared for a Senate hearing Tuesday that the social network's filtering during the US election campaign was not a sign of bias, despite claims to the contrary by conservatives. "In the lead up to the 2020 elections, we made significant enhancements to our policies to protect the integrity of the election," Dorsey said in his written remarks, obtained by AFP. "We applied labels to add context and limit the risk of harmful election misinformation spreading without important context because the public told us they wanted us to take these steps." Dorsey has maintained that the filtering is not the result of bias against conservatives, despite claims to the contrary by President Donald Trump and his allies. The platform has begun limiting the reach of many of Trump's tweets, notably those in which the president rejected his electoral loss or questioned the integrity of the voting process. Twitter and Facebook have been facing pressure to remove what many see as harmful misinformation around the elections, while also fighting claims of suppression of certain political views. Dorsey said Twitter continues to seek the right balance. "We want to be very clear that we do not see our job in this space as done," he said. "Our work here continues and our teams are learning and improving how we address these challenges and earn the trust of the people who use Twitter."

Pakistan promoting tolerance, says FM

From Page 01
a distinguished parliament with representation from all segments of society including the minorities. The Foreign Minister said that at a time when there were rising trends of intolerance internationally, the representation of Christians, Hindus, Sikhs and other minorities in the country's parliament besides promoting tolerance gave a message of interfaith harmony and coexistence in Pakistan. He said the launching of Kartarpur Corridor by the present government, which also gave the message of religious harmony and coexistence, was in line the Islamic values and the country's Constitution which provided the protection of minorities and their basic fundamental rights. The Foreign Minister further said that in the current situation of COVID-19 pandemic where people were feeling insecure across the world, the promotion of tolerance was very important. He referred said to the situation in a neighboring country and said she was giving mixed signals with rise in intolerance, extremist ideology taking over and the rights of minorities being ignored through new discriminatory laws. Contrary to that, the Foreign Minister said Pakistan had sent a clear message to the world that all ethnic and religious segments in the country were well protected. He expressed his confidence that the dialogue will help further promote tolerance in the country and society.

Turkey to launch Turksat 5A satellite in December

WEB DESK

ANKARA: Turkey will launch the Turksat 5A satellite in mid-December with the latest technology and more capacity, enabling the expansion of the country's coverage areas, Turksat's general manager said Monday. "This work has two dimensions. The first is to protect and gain our national sovereignty rights, and the second is to create commercial value with it," said Cenk Sen. "In this context, we are designing our new satellites, especially Turksat 5A and 5B, to use them in new coverage areas." The broadcast satellite is expected to spend more than 30 years of its life in orbit, providing television services and improving broadband data networks. It will carry 42 transponders and will be located at a somewhat unused Turkish orbital slot at 31 degrees East.



KABUL: Abdul Razak Dawood Adviser to Prime Minister of Pakistan for Commerce & Investment in a meeting with Chief Executive of Afghanistan Abdullah Abdullah. – DNA

'Indian real face exposed as sponsor of terrorism'

India has been using the sovereign soil of Afghanistan for perpetrating terrorism against the sovereign state of Pakistan, taking a huge toll on human lives", Dr.James Shera said in a statement issued here

LONDON: The United Kingdom (UK) Councillor and former Mayor of Rugby, Dr.James Shera (MBE) Tuesday said that Indian real face had been exposed as a sponsor of terrorism and terror financing in Pakistan to destabilise it. "India has been using the sovereign soil of Afghanistan for perpetrating terrorism against the sovereign state of Pakistan, taking a huge toll on human lives", Dr.James Shera

said in a statement issued here. According to the statement, the councillor also appreciated the efforts undertaken by Government of Pakistan and the Pakistan Army to uproot the terrorism and its by-products from the country. "In the global efforts towards fighting out terrorism, Pakistan has suffered the most in terms of loss of lives of its citizens and economically", Dr. James remarked.

He said, "The recent surge in terrorism activities as stated by Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, in his expounding press conference along with DG ISPR involved perilous threats.We strongly condemn all deceptive, irresponsible, unethical efforts towards destabilising, supporting terrorism or funding terrorism in Pakistan". Dr.James said that India had used the bogey of terrorism to misguide the world

by pretending to be the victim of terrorism and alleged Pakistan as a sponsor of terrorism to vilify it. India,he said was doing it to distract world attention from its crimes against humanity it was committing in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Dr.James further said that arrest of Kulbhusan Yadhav and his confessions, US Secretary for Defence, Chuck

Hagel's statement which surfaced in 2003 that India financed trouble in Pakistan from Afghanistan, Indian political leadership's public statements of using terrorists against Pakistan (Ajit Doval, Manohar Parrikar and others including PM Modi are on record) and now the specific information made public by Pakistan warrant international intervention to investigate and call India to account. – APP

Moderna vaccine results 'stunningly impressive': Fauci

FOREIGN DESK

NEW YORK: The United States's top infectious disease scientist has hailed early trial results from Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine as "stunningly impressive" and says the findings are an emphatic validation of experimental mRNA technology that some had doubted. In an interview with media on Monday, Anthony Fauci said he would have settled for injections that protected 70-75 percent of people from falling sick. "The idea that we have a 94.5-percent effective vaccine is stunningly impressive. It is really a spectacular result that I don't think anybody had anticipated would be this good," he said. Fauci leads the National Institutes of Allergies and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), which began co-developing the vaccine with the US biotech company in January, shortly after China shared the genetic sequence of the new coronavirus. It is based on a relatively new technology that uses a synthetic version of a molecule called "messenger RNA" to hack into human cells, turning them into vaccine-making factories. No vaccine based on this platform has ever been approved. "There were many people who had reservations about using something that had not been tried and true over the years; in fact, some

people even criticised us for that," said Fauci. On Monday, Moderna and NIAID announced their preliminary results based on 95 of the 30,000 volunteers they had recruited who fell ill with COVID-19. Of the 95, 90 had been in the trial's placebo group, and five in the group that received the drug called mRNA-1273, translating to an efficacy rate of 94.5 percent. Fauci recalled that some had questioned whether the vaccine would prevent severe forms of COVID-19, not just mild or moderate cases – and this too had been resoundingly answered. "There were 11 severe events, none in the vaccine group – 11 in the placebo group, so that settles the question of whether it prevents severe disease, which it definitely does." Moderna's findings follow a similarly impressive result from US pharmaceutical firm Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech last week, who reported an efficacy of 90 percent for their vaccine. On Monday, Pfizer also launched a pilot delivery programme for its experimental vaccine in four US states, as the drugmaker sought to address distribution challenges facing its ultra-cold storage requirements. Asked whether it was too early to say if mRNA technology had now been proven, Fauci – who is usually known for his cautious statements – said the jury was definitely in.

Pak women entrepreneur wins 8 Stevie Awards in USA

DNA

WASHINGTON: Syeda Amna Nasir Jamal, a rising women entrepreneur and social activist, won seven silver and one bronze Stevie Awards, widely considered being the world's premier business awards held every year in the USA. She was nominated for all eight categories as a finalist among over 3,500 nominations at the 17th

Annual Stevie Awards for Women in Business that are Female Executive of the Year, Employee of the Year, Female Innovator, Most Innovation Woman of the Year, Woman of the Year, Mentor or Coach of the Year, Most Valuable Non-Profit Response, and Organization of the Year. The Stevie Awards for Women in Business are the world's top honors for female entrepreneurs, executives, employees and

the organizations they run. The Awards for Women in Business are produced by the creators of the prestigious American Business Awards and International Business Awards. Syeda Amna led from the front and spearheaded the campaign of bringing about a revolution through education. "With consistent efforts and dedication to her cause I made it with grace and honor I started my NGO," she said. "I am

focused on raising awareness about education and civic engagement among women," she said. "The idea is to give women skills and confidence to participate as active members of society and politics and work towards making their communities peaceful." She said that "I must say discovering your strengths are a lifelong process. Knowing your strengths will allow you to grow."



KARACHI: Opening players of Lahore Qalandars Fakhar Zaman and Tamim Iqbal entering the stadium in final match of PSL-5 against Karachi Kings. – DNA

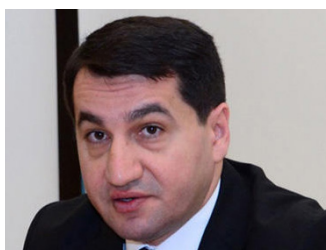
Hajiyev slams Armenia for vandalism

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva are in the centre of Jabrayil after liberation. Everything [is] razed to the ground. President Ilham Aliyev emphasized that all-out reconstruction work will be carried out," Hajiyev wrote

FOREIGN DESK

BAKU: Azerbaijani presidential aide Hikmat Hajiyev has slammed Armenia for acts of vandalism committed in areas that remained under its occupation for nearly three decades. "Magnitude of Armenia's vandalism is beyond any imagination," Hajiyev wrote on his Twitter account on 16 November. He also posted on the tweet a video showing Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev speaking in Jabrayil city on 16 November. "Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva are in the centre of Jabrayil

after liberation. Everything [is] razed to the ground... President Ilham Aliyev emphasized that all-out reconstruction work will be carried out," Hajiyev wrote. To recap, President Aliyev and First Vice-President Mehriban Aliyeva visited Jabrayil and Fuzuli regions on 16 November. On November 10, Azerbaijan, Russia and Armenia signed the trilateral declaration which ended the 30-years-old conflict between Baku and Yerevan over Azerbaijan's Nagorno-Karabakh region that along with the seven adjacent districts came under the occupation of Armenian armed forces in the war in the early 1990s. For about three decades, Armenia



failed to implement the UN Security Council resolutions (822, 853, 874 and 884) demanding the withdrawal of its troops from the occupied territories, which was the main obstacle to the conflict settlement. The OSCE Minsk Group co-chaired by the United States, Russia and France had been mediating the Armenian-Azerbaijani

conflict since the signing of the volatile cease-fire agreement in 1994. The Minsk Group's efforts resulted in no progress as Armenia refused to abide by the UN Security Council resolutions. Under this agreement, Russian peacekeepers are deployed in the region to patrol frontlines. Turkey also takes part in the peacekeeping process. Russia and Turkey signed a deal on creating a Russian-Turkish joint ceasefire monitoring centre. It also envisages the de-occupation of Azerbaijan's Kalbajar, Aghdam and Lachin regions by December 1 as well as the return of Azerbaijani IDPs to Azerbaijan's Nagorno-Karabakh and the sev-

en adjacent regions under the control of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan resumed after Armenia launched large-scale attacks on Azerbaijani forces and civilians on September 27. Five Azerbaijani civilians were killed on the first day of the Armenian attacks. Ninety-three Azerbaijani civilians were killed in Armenian's indiscriminate attacks on Azerbaijani civilians. Azerbaijan launched counter-offensive operations that ended in the liberation of over 300 settlements, villages. Azerbaijan also liberated five city centres and the historic Shusha city.

NASA, SpaceX astronauts arrive at space station

WEB DESK

NEW YORK: Billionaire businessman Elon Musk's private rocket company SpaceX has successfully carried a crew of four astronauts to the International Space Station (ISS), NASA announced on Tuesday. In a statement, NASA said, the SpaceX Crew Dragon Resilience carrying NASA astronauts Michael Hopkins, Victor Glover, Shannon Walker, and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency astronaut Soichi Noguchi, docked to the ISS at 11:01 p.m. EST Monday (0401 GMT Tuesday). The four astronauts have joined the crew of Expedition 64 that includes NASA Flight Engineer Kate Rubins, ISS Commander Sergey Ryzhikov, and Flight Engineer Sergey Kud-Sverchov from Russia, who had arrived at the station on Oct. 14. The SpaceX Crew-1 lifted off Sunday on a Falcon 9 rocket from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The mission is the first of crew missions NASA and SpaceX will jointly fly as part of the commercial crew program. SpaceX's first Crew Dragon carried two NASA astronauts – Robert Behnken and Douglas Hurley – to the ISS in May. The launch was the first crewed mission from the US since the last space shuttle flight in 2011.

PM hints at e-voting system in Pakistan

From Page 01

On the electronic voting, he said consultations with the Election Commission were underway to devise a system based on the data provided by the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA). Besides ensuring transparency, he said, the computerized system would also benefit the nine million Pakistanis living abroad to conveniently poll their votes online. The prime minister thanked the people of Gilgit Baltistan for reposing confidence in the PTI during the recent election and lauded the big turnout even from far-flung areas despite tough weather conditions. He said his government stood by its pledge to grant provisional provincial status to the GB to end the sense of deprivation among its people. Every possible step would be taken to bring development in the area, he added. The GB people, he said, would be kept updated about the steps taken in phases for the establishment of their province. Imran Khan dismissed the allegations of opposition parties of rigging in the GB polls and stressed the need for a spirit among the political parties to accept defeat. He recalled that the purpose behind PTT's demand to open four constituencies after the 2013 general election was to set in place a system of transparent and free polls in future. Even as the skipper of cricket team, Imran Khan said, he had always campaigned for neutral umpires in the matches. The prime minister expressed confidence that with the implementation of electoral reforms, the country would witness a norm among the political parties to have faith in the polling process and accept the results.

Islamabad football trials begin

ISLAMABAD: The two-day trials for the selection of the Islamabad Under-16 football team under Islamabad Football Association (IFA) started here at Mehran Football Ground Karachi Company. According to Muhammad Zaman, Chairman IFA's Normalization Committee, more than 100 players from the federal capital took part in the trials. He said the selected 18-member team from Islamabad would participate in the National Under-16 Football Championship, which was scheduled to be played in Peshawar from November 27 to December 3 this month. A total of five teams were participating in the championship including Islamabad, Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He also directed the officials of the clubs affiliated with IFA to send their players to participate in the trials. – APP

Briefs

Nuclear armament against Iran 'an option'

FOREIGN DESK

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia reserves the right to arm itself with nuclear weapons if regional rival Iran cannot be stopped from making one, the kingdom's minister of state for foreign affairs has said. "It's definitely an option," Adel al-Jubeir told the DPA news agency in a recent interview. If Iran becomes a nuclear power, he said, more countries would follow suit. "And Saudi Arabia has made it very clear, that it will do everything it can to protect its people and to protect its territories." Tehran has been working on the use of nuclear power for decades. In 2015, it signed a landmark nuclear deal with world powers to stop the development of a bomb in exchange for lifting sanctions. But US President Donald Trump in 2018 unilaterally withdrew his country from the deal and brought it to the brink of failure. Trump's administration wants a more far-reaching programme and an end to Iran's regional interference – a position supported by Saudi Arabia. "We believe the Iranians have only responded to pressure," said al-Jubeir. Asked what changes he anticipates could come once President-elect Joe Biden takes charge in January, he said: "We will have to see."

Female police unit to fight online abuse

WEB DESK

DHAKA: Bangladeshi police has launched an all-female unit to tackle a rise in on-line abuse and harassment targeting women, the country's police chief said, as authorities seek to address growing public concern about gender-based violence. Police hope the unit will encourage more women to come forward to report digital abuse, including so-called revenge porn, hacking of their social media accounts and online threats from blackmailers. "We have different teams working with cybercrime in the police... but many (women) don't want to approach these areas, that's why we have created an all-woman team," said Benazir Ahmed, inspector general of police, on Monday. "We believe that women will be more comfortable to speak to the all-woman team... the unit will not reveal the names of the women who complain. This will further encourage them," he told a news conference on Monday. Women account for most of the victims of the nearly 6,100 cases filed under various laws to prevent digital abuse in Bangladesh, police say. Monday's announcement comes as authorities respond to growing concern in the country about an increase in sex crimes, including rape in recent years.

Peru chooses 3rd president in a week

WEB DESK

LIMA: Peru's Congress has chosen legislator Francisco Sagasti as the Andean country's caretaker president, in an attempt to defuse a sharp political crisis after angry protests and the departure of two presidents in the past week. People waved the nation's red-and-white flag and blared horns outside the gates of Congress on Monday as the 76-year-old Sagasti, from the centrist Morado Party, won enough votes to head Congress. This means he will assume the presidency of Peru before national elections called for April. Sagasti will be Peru's third president in a week, after interim leader Manuel Merino resigned on Sunday, five days after being sworn in following the impeachment of centrist Martin Vizcarra. The removal of Vizcarra, who was popular with many Peruvians but angered legislators with his push for anti-corruption measures and attempts to curb parliamentary immunity, sparked days of protests that led to the deaths of two men. "Today is not a day of celebration," Sagasti said, striking a sombre tone in his first words after taking office in Congress. "We cannot go back, bring them back to life, but we can take action from Congress, from the executive, so that this does not happen again," Sagasti, a former World Bank official and engineer, faces a formidable challenge to bring stability to Peru, which was already hard hit by COVID-19 and heading for its worst economic contraction in a century.



BAKU: President of Azerbaijan and Supreme Commander of Armed Forces paying respects to Azerbaijani flag after hoisting it in one of the liberate cities. – DNA

Azerbaijan vows to protect all Christian churches

President Ilham Aliyev's office said he made the promise in a telephone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin, who is deploying peacekeeping forces in the areas under an agreement

DNA

MOSCOW: The president of Azerbaijan is promising that Christian churches will be protected when the strongly Muslim country takes possession of areas formerly controlled by Armenians, as residents burned down their homes and fled in cars and trucks ahead of Sunday's expected takeover. President Ilham Aliyev's office said he made the promise in a telephone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin, who is deploying peacekeeping forces in the areas under an agreement that ended

six weeks of fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the Nagorno-Karabakh region. Ethnic Armenian forces had controlled Nagorno-Karabakh and sizeable adjacent territories since 1994, after the end of a separatist war. Fighting resumed in late September and ended with an agreement that calls for Azerbaijan to regain control of the outlying territories as well as allowing it to keep parts of Nagorno-Karabakh that it seized during the recent fighting. The first of the territories, Kalbajar, was to be turned over on Sunday. But Azerbaijan agreed at the last minute to give Armenian forces and civilians until

Nov. 25 to withdraw. Kalbajar is home to the well-known Dadivank monastery of the Armenian Apostolic Church. On Saturday, a day before the territory's expected handover, workers removed many of the monastery's sacred objects. Azerbaijani presidential spokesman Hikmet Hajiyev said Sunday that the delay was requested by Armenia and granted "taking into account the worsening weather conditions and the difficult mountainous terrain." Civilians fleeing the region caused huge traffic jams on the single

road leading to Armenia. Ethnic Armenian Garo Dadevutsyan wrenched off his home's metal roof in Kalbajar in the last few days, trying to figure out how to destroy it. "In the end, we will blow it up or set it on fire, in order not to leave anything to Muslims," Dadevutsyan said. He piled the roof and family goods onto an old flatbed truck but their final destination was unclear. "We are homeless now. We do not know where to go and where to live ... It is very hard," his wife, Lusine, said, choking back tears as the couple gave

their house a final look. Azerbaijan is about 95% Muslim and Armenians fear that churches would be damaged or closed when it takes control of the territories. "President Aliyev said that Christian churches in Azerbaijani territories, which are returned to Azerbaijan in accordance with the trilateral statement, will also be properly protected by the state. Christians of Azerbaijan will have access to these churches," said the statement from his office. Hundreds, if not thousands, of combatants and civilians have been killed since fighting flared anew in late September.

Pakistan achieves trade surplus of \$210 million with Italy

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has achieved a trade surplus of \$210 million with Italy during the year 2019-20 as the bilateral trade kept on increasing despite COVID-19 and lockdowns. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20, Pakistan's exports to Italy stood at \$731 million and imports at \$521 million. The major exports to Italy include textile, leather, rice, and ethanol, a senior official of Ministry of Commerce told APP here on Tuesday. He said that now Pakistan is market leader in rice and it holds 38% share in Italian rice market and "We exported rice worth \$62 million during the period under review". He informed that Thailand holds 12% share with \$19 million export and adding that the India at number three holds 10% with 17 million in Italian market. The senior official said that the Pakistan embassy in Italy has also shared the strategy

to promote Pakistani products in Italian market. Replying to a question he said that Italian investment in Pakistan in June 2020 increased 45% against the corresponding period. He said that in value terms, the rice export remained \$51.9 million in last year and it has been increased to \$56.4 million in FY 2019-20. The Italian FDI came mainly in energy, Pharmaceutical, chemicals and Information technology sector to enhance the business to business relation between both the countries, he said. He added that major investment came in energy sector from Italian companies. While talking on exchange of agriculture technology between the two sides, he said that recently Pak-Italy Textile Technology Center has been established with Italian cooperation at National Textile University, Faisalabad. – APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Spain Manuel Duran in a group photo with the board of the entrepreneurs' organization .Spain and Pakistan are going to work hand in hand in different and very promising projects!. – DNA

Lifting of Qatar blockade a 'priority': O'Brien

Qatar has been under an air, land and sea blockade imposed by fellow Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members – Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain as well as non-GCC member Egypt – since June 2017

FOREIGN DESK

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump's outgoing administration is working to lift the three-year-old Gulf blockade on Qatar and hopes for progress "in the next 70 days". Qatar has been under an air, land and sea blockade imposed by fellow Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members – Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain as well as non-GCC member Egypt – since June 2017. The blockading states cut diplomatic and trade ties with Doha, claiming it supported "terrorism" and that its ties with Iran were too close. Qatar has vehemently rejected the allegations saying there was "no legitimate justification" for severing relations. US National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien said he is hopeful "an air bridge" allowing flights to and from Qatar to pass over Saudi Arabia and Bahrain

– will be established over the coming weeks. "I would like to see that get done before – if we end up leaving office – I'd like to see that get done in the next 70 days. And I think there's a possibility for it," O'Brien said during a chat with The Hill's Steve Clemons as part of the 2020 Global Security Forum. O'Brien's remarks followed other optimistic comments recently from Trump administration officials that the Gulf crisis could be resolved as part of Washington's efforts to isolate Iran. "It's in America's interest to have harmonious relationships within the [Gulf Cooperation Council] because that provides an important counter-balance to Iran," O'Brien said. O'Brien said a resolution of the Gulf conflict is also aimed at "pushing for more Arab countries to open diplomatic relations with Israel". "It would open up the opportunity for more peace deals with Israel and creating a real economic

opportunity zone across the Middle East and even being able to take that out to other parts of the Muslim and the Arab world." In recent months, the UAE, Bahrain, and Sudan have formalised relations with Israel in deals brokered by the Trump administration, with the Palestinian leadership denouncing the normalisation agreements as a "stab in the back" and a betrayal of the Palestinian cause. The Palestinians fear the moves will weaken a long-standing pan-Arab position calling for Israeli withdrawal from occupied territory and acceptance of Palestinian statehood in return for establishing relations with Arab nations. On Monday, Qatar said the Arab states that establish ties with Israel undermine efforts for Palestinian statehood. "I think it's better to have a united [Arab] front to put the interests of the Palestinians [first] to end the [Israeli] occupation," Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed

bin Abdulrahman Al Thani said. Doha maintains some relations with Israel, though only on matters concerning the Palestinians, such as humanitarian needs or development projects. Qatar supports a two-state solution with occupied East Jerusalem as the capital of a Palestinian state, a stance the foreign minister reiterated. O'Brien also told The Hill the Gulf crisis is a "kind of a family dispute". "And like family disputes, sometimes those are the hardest to solve. But we'd like to get all these cousins back together at the Thanksgiving table, so to speak. And it's something we're working on, and we're going to keep working on it," he said. "As long as the president [Trump] is in office, it's something that'll be a priority." At the online Global Security Forum on Monday, Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed also said there are no winners in the crisis, adding his country is hopeful it

will end "at any moment". On Sunday, however, the UAE's ambassador to the US, Yousef al-Otaiba, told media that he did not believe a resolution to the Gulf crisis was imminent. "I don't think it gets resolved anytime soon simply because I don't think there has been any introspection," al-Otaiba said in response to a question about the standoff. He added Qatar must comply with a list of 13 demands given in 2017 in order for the blockade to be lifted. Those include closing a Turkish military base in Qatar, severing ties with Iran, and shutting down Al Jazeera Media Network. Doha has refused to meet any of the demands. Last week, Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani said his country is ready for dialogue to resolve the diplomatic crisis, but stressed any solution must respect his country's sovereignty.

2.5M Nigerian children suffering from malnutrition

WEB DESK

ABUJA: Around 2.5 million children in Nigeria below the age of 5 are suffering from severe malnutrition, an official said Tuesday. According to Clem Agba, Nigeria's minister of state for budget and national planning, malnutrition remains an issue despite the government's efforts in recent years. Agba said the figure makes Nigeria the country with the second-highest number of stunted children worldwide. He said malnutrition, financial and development problems were on the government's agenda and the government has been forced to create a platform to mobilize nutrition stakeholders to come up with a solution.

3 arrested over Dresden museum jewellery heist

WEB DESK

BERLIN: Police have raided apartments across Berlin and detained three people on Tuesday suspected of involvement in a jewel heist at a museum housing one of Europe's greatest collections of treasures, officers said. Thieves forced their way into Dresden's Gruenes Gewoelbe, or Green Vault museum, in November last year and got away with at least three sets of early 18th-century jewellery, some set with diamonds and rubies, in what German media described as the biggest art heist in modern history. The stolen jewels were worth up to 1 billion euros (\$1.19bn), Bild newspaper previously reported, without giving a source. It said a nearby electricity junction box had been set on fire, cutting the power supply to the whole area. Police were searching 18 apartments, garages and vehicles for the jewellery and other evidence including digital data, clothes and tools, mostly in the city's southern district of Neukoelln, police said on Tuesday. A total of 1,638 officers were taking part in the operation, which could cause serious traffic disruptions through the day, it added.

Russia sees new record in COVID-19 deaths

FOREIGN DESK

MOSCOW: Russia confirmed on Tuesday a record number of coronavirus deaths and recoveries, which were registered over the last 24 hours. The virus claimed another 442 lives, the highest in Russia since the pandemic began, according to the latest government figures. As many as 439 people had died of the novel infection on Nov. 12. The overall virus-linked death toll has now reached 33,931. Recoveries over the past day were also the highest to date as 22,055 virus patients regained health, pushing the tally to 1.47 million. The federation confirmed 22,410 new COVID-19 cases, pushing the caseload to 1.97 million. Meanwhile, for the first time since Sept. 17, the number of active cases slightly decreased from 461,265 to 461,178.

Briefs

NA body
passes CPEC
Authority
Amdt Bill

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Tuesday passed the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority (Amendment) Bill 2020 with majority votes. The meeting chaired by Junaid Akbar, MNA discussed in detail the draft of the Bill and decided to pass it with majority of votes. The Committee inquired from the Ministry of Planning that what salary package was being given to present Chairman CPEC. The Ministry replied that salary was not being paid to Chairman, CPEC and that he had not signed any MoU after the expiry of the CPEC Ordinance. The members who submitted their note of dissent against the Bill included Muhammad Sajjad, Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary, Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhary, Sardar Muhammad Irfan Dogar and Syed Agha Rafiullah. The meeting was also attended by Minister for Planning Asad Umar, MNAs Sher Akbar Khan, Saleh Muhammad, Shaukat Ali, Syed Faiz-ul-Hassan, Nawab Sher, Dr. Seemi Bokhari, Imran Khattak, and Muhammad Sajjad.

AJK decides
to impose
lockdown
for fortnight

DNA

MUZAFFARABAD: Amidst rising coronavirus cases, the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) government decided on Tuesday to impose a complete lockdown across the region for a fortnight starting November 21. This decision came during a meeting of the AJK cabinet that met today with Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider in the chair. The meeting was briefed that the coronavirus situation in the valley has worsened as Covid-19 positivity rate has gone up to 19 per cent. There would be a complete lockdown in all AJK districts with a ban on weddings and other gatherings. All schools and businesses will remain shut during the lockdown. Strict screening at the entry points of the region would be ensured. Besides, the number of employees in government offices will be cut in half as only 50% of them would be allowed to come to offices while the rest would work from home. The total number of Covid cases in the region stands at 5,538, according to the government's portal on Covid-19.

Globally
everyday
3700 lives
lost in traffic
accidents

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Like other parts of the world, international day of remembrance for road traffic victims was also observed in Pakistan. However, this year the day was marked at that time when the roads of twin cities were facing too much pressure due to closure of the Faizabad interchange. Dr Mohammad Shahid, a road safety expert associated with the Road Safety Council of Pakistan, has stated that road traffic collisions are a major health and development concern. According to him, every year numerous precious lives are being lost due to horrific road accidents. He further said that road collisions are resulting in loss of as many as 3700 people around the world on daily basis. On the occasion, local students belonging to twin cities, on the platform of Youth United to Serve The Nation (YUSTN), also organized a competition of photo posters on the topic of road safety. According to students, there is a need to create awareness among car drivers as well as pedestrians.

‘Good is news is that
economy is picking up’

Hafeez Shaikh says that the exports from the country were increasing while the textile sector had received export orders up to December

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue, Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh said Tuesday that economy of the country had picked up as indicated by the performance of both external as well as internal economic sectors. “Good news are coming about economy,” the advisor said during a media briefing here. He was flanked by Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Shibli Faraz. The advisor said that on internal front, the Large Scale Manufacturing had witnessed around 5 percent growth after a long time, with cement sales increasing up to 20 million tons while there had been considerable growth in products of automobiles and fertilizers. Hafeez Shaikh said that the exports from the country were increasing while the textile sector had received export orders up to December. In addition, the rupee has stabilized and in fact has enhanced its value while the foreign exchange reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has risen up to \$13 billion. On fiscal side, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has collected Rs 1340 billion revenues in four months, which is more than the actual target earmarked for the period. In addition, the board is



sued refunds of Rs 128 billion during the four months against the refunds of Rs 50 billion during the same period of last year while the total refunds during the last fiscal year stood at Rs 248 billion. He said that the government had reduced its expenditures while there was no borrowings from the SBP while no supplementary grant was issued. The Advisor said although the COVID-19 pandemic had affected the government's achievements but it successfully

managed to bring the economy out of crisis which was evident from the fact that the whole world was praising Pakistan's way of managing COVID-19. He informed that the government inherited a huge current account deficit which was exceeding \$20 billion and the current government brought down the deficit to \$3 billion in first year and now even it had turned to surplus of over \$792 million. “This issue has been controlled completely now,”

he added. With respect to the domestic economic situation, the advisor explained that as contrary to the past, the governments income was more than its expenditures due to which it was not borrowing from the central bank. He said the PTI government had to pay Rs 5000 billion as interest on the loans taken by the previous governments. He further explained that during four months of current fiscal year, the government's debt did not

increase and remained at the level of Rs 36.4 trillion which was same by end of June 2020. “This is clear proof of maintaining fiscal discipline by the government,” he added. Further, he maintained that the SBP reserves were also touching \$13 billion mark that was encouraging sign. Besides, he said the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) had refunded a record Rs 128 billion during first four months of current fiscal year which was a 100 percent increase as compared to the same period of last year. Similarly, he said during last fiscal year the FBR had cleared the refunds of Rs 248 billion. Hafeez Shaikh said the basic purpose of all the the government's endeavours to increase economic activity was to increase job creation and provide maximum relief to the common people. The construction sector, he said was witnessing a big boom that had helped triggering the economic activities in the country. Under PSDP, he said allocation had been increased and new projects were being initiated specially in the far flung areas. He said during recent months, the profitability of business companies was also increasing as the profitability of top 100 companies had increased by 36% while that of banking sector by 56%.

China, Pakistan explore cold
chain cooperation: Chen Lin

Customers may encounter problems in production and processing, we need to give an overall solution, the cold storage warehouse will be monitored remotely and the company will provide customer service

DNA

BEIJING: China's cold chain technology may help Pakistan reduce loss of agricultural products and increase the added value, Chen Lin, vice president of Hefei Lianhui Refrigeration Equipment Co., told China Economic Net (CEN). There is close cooperation between Chinese and Pakistani rice seed companies. To meet the needs of seed storage in Pakistan, Chen Lin started to build an 800-square-meter seed cold storage warehouse with a rice company in Karachi, Pakistan, in 2017. Chen Lin told the CEN that, they deliver the equipment and cold storage plates to Pakistan, and send technical

personnel for equipment installation and training of Pakistani personnel. “Customers may encounter problems in production and processing, we need to give an overall solution,” he said, adding “the cold storage warehouse will be monitored remotely and the company will provide customer service. Although the cost of cold storage warehouse is not that high, the products stored in it are very expensive. In case of a power failure in the cold storage warehouse, yet without being realized by the company, the loss could be huge. Therefore, the remote monitoring is something like an insurance policy. Even if the warehouse staff don't feel the power failure, the other 3-5 monitoring staff will

receive text messages, ring-tones and other prompts, which can remind customers by phone to minimize the storage risk.” Mangoes & citrus fruits “dormant” for three months in air-conditioned cold storage warehouse, added value doubled In recent years, Pakistan has made breakthroughs in the export of mangoes and citrus fruits to China, however, the country has been upset by preservation problems due to the month-long shipping cycle. In this regard, Chen Lin gave an air conditioning fresh-keeping technology solution. “Under the premise of ensuring the temperature and humidity of the products, the air-conditioned cold storage warehouse can keep the fruits

dormant by adjusting the contents of oxygen and carbon dioxide, thus keeping the fruits in a relatively long storage period,” Chen Lin explained. “Mangoes and oranges can be stored for about 3 months, cherries for 45 days, kiwifruits for 6 months, apples for 3-6 months, and bayberries for about 30 days.” The extension of storage period also brings higher added value. Fruits with higher added value, such as cherries, kiwifruits and golden pears, can be sold at higher prices when stored off-season. Chen Lin further said that pick season kiwifruits are about RMB 30 per kg, and the price could reach RMB 60 per kg during the Spring Festival.

Expo connects Pakistan
companies to Chinese firms

DNA

ISLAMABAD: It is for the first time that Pakistan's small & medium sized local companies have got in touch with the top high-tech Chinese enterprises which offered them a meticulous opportunity to revamp their business practices, earning standards and future development trajectories. The companies took advantage of Pakistan's first ever Offline & Online Pakistan Industrial Expo 2020 that ended here on Sunday. Peng Zhengwu, Deputy Consul General, Chinese Consulate Lahore, expressed these views while

talking to Gwadar Pro. He said that Pakistan Industrial Expo 2020 gave a big push to the industrial cooperation between China and Pakistan on the basis of CEPC Phase I. “It is the right time to promote the business opportunity as the infrastructures of power and transportation are already well in place,” he added. He said that it was also an encouragement to both sides to get more connected, surmounting the perilous challenge of COVID-19 pandemic. “On-line exchanges opened a new gate for the enterprises and this time response remained promising,” he stated.

He added, “It is a manifesto that solutions are always out of questions. The Pakistani side, together with the Chinese partner, has done a great job. As we are pushing forward CEPC Phase II, wonderful visions are just steps ahead. Industrialization, technical advancement and modernization are the salient feature of tomorrow's Pakistan.” In the occasion, Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) general secretary Muhammad Salahuddin Hanif said that expo became heartthrob of those local businessmen hailing from remote areas of Pakistan.

Foreigners
trapped in
elevator

DNA

KARACHI: Some foreigners faced trouble after getting stuck in an elevator near concourse halls at Karachi airport after it developed a fault and stopped functioning. The foreigners got stuck in the elevator started shouting for help after being panicked as emergency button of the lift was not working as well. They remained stuck in the elevator for more than seven minutes before the airport officials arrived in to get them out. The officials of CAA spotted the people trapped in the elevator through the security cameras and immediately moved in to evacuate them.

Bilawal, Maryam
condemn alleged
rigging in GB polls

LAHORE: Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Maryam Nawaz on Tuesday condemned alleged rigging in Gilgit-Baltistan election during a telephonic conversation. During the conversation with Maryam, Bilawal said that securing of more votes by alliance of opposition parties than Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf is proof of government's lack of popularity among masses. Maryam Nawaz said that public of Gilgit-Baltistan stands with narrative of opposition. During the phone call, both leaders also agreed to meet soon.

It is pertinent to mention here that opposition parties have rejected results of Gilgit-Baltistan elections and PPP workers are staging a protest outside Deputy Commissioner's office over alleged rigging in the elections. PPP leader Nafisa Shah said that PTI scored 10 seats through rigging and asked that what happened in last six months that a party which had no candidate for the election few months ago now managed to win this much seats. On the other hand, PML-N senior leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on Monday accused caretaker setup in Gilgit-Baltistan of influencing the general election process of the region. – DNA

Sindh decides not
to close schools for
winter vacations

KARACHI: Government of Sindh has decided not to close educational institutions for winter vacations this year as students were granted extended summer vacations due to first wave of novel coronavirus in the province. According to officials of provincial education department, the matter will be further discussed during a meeting with National Command Operation Center (NCOC) later in the month. On the other hand, Balochistan Education Minister Sardar Yar Muhammad Rind has said that the suggestion of closing educational institutions for winter vacations from December 1 in cold areas is under consideration. Sardar Yar Muhammad Rind said he apprised Federal Minister for Education Shafqat Mahmood of details about institutions in the inter-provincial meeting of education ministers. He said the decisions to extend winter vacations up to three months and to add fifteen holidays this year as compared to the past are also under consideration. – DNA

‘Govt will
not allow
anyone to
take law
in hands’

DNA

GILGIT: The government of Gilgit Baltistan on Tuesday announced that strict action will be taken against elements will try to disrupt law and order situation. Spokesman of Gilgit Baltistan government Faizullah Faraq categorically said that some political parties were trying to make the general election controversial but the government has decided to deal with iron hands. In a statement, he termed the Gilgit-Baltistan election process as fair, impartial, transparent and exemplary. The final results will be displayed after counting the postal ballot papers, he has said. He further said that the government would not allow anyone to take law in their hands after defeat in the elections. He asked the political parties to respect the votes of the people of Gilgit-Baltistan.

Circular
railway to
resume after
2 decades

KARACHI: The Karachi Circular Railway is set to resume operations from Thursday, November 19, after an interval of two decades. Earlier, the Pakistan Railways had announced that the Karachi Circular Railway's operations would resume from November 16. The KCR has two locomotives and 11 coaches – each having the capacity to transport 100 passengers, 64 on seats and 36 standing – all the way from the Pipri station to the Orangi station. According to a Pakistan Railways' statement, the distance between the Pipri and Orangi stations is nearly 60 kilometres. “Four trains in [two directions] will commute the passengers between Pipri and Orangi stations with a uniform gap of three hours,” the statement said. At 7am on November 19, the first train will depart from the Orangi station, followed by subsequent departures at 10am, 1pm, and 4pm. A uniform fare of Rs50 per travel has also been fixed. The Pakistan Railways Pipri Station is near the Pakistan Steel Mills. All the way from Pipri, Landhi, Malir, Drigh Road, Cantt Station till the City Station runs the Pakistan Railways Main Line (ML-1), which is 46 kilometres long. From the City Station towards the Orangi Station, the distance is around 14 kilometres. After the City Station, there are Keamari, Karachi Port Trust, Wazir Mansion, Lyari, Baldia, Gulbai, SITE, Shah Latif, and Orangi stations. – APP

Lyari
gangsters
being used
by RAW: CTD

KARACHI: The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) claimed on Monday that the remnants of the Lyari gang war were being used by a foreign intelligence network to trigger sectarian violence in the metropolis. Speaking at a press conference at his office, CTD DIG Omar Shahid Hamid said that a new pattern of “contract killings” had emerged during interrogation of three held suspects, identified as Mudassir Javed, Haris alias Langra and Abu Sufyan, who were allegedly involved in a recent attempt on the life of Mufti Amin aka Mufti Abdullah in Jamshed Quarters. “The held suspects belong to a group led by Lyari gangster Zahid alias Shooter, who lives in the UAE and works for Indian intelligence agency, RAW,” he said. Apart from Zahid Shooter, another Lyari gangster, Haji, provided funds to members of his gang for carrying out targeted killings in order to create a sense of insecurity and instigate sectarian violence. The officer revealed that a CTD team led by Raja Umar Khattab arrested Haris and Sufyan from Kakri Ground on Sunday night. Their third accomplice, Mudassir Javed, was arrested from the crime scene with the help of area people soon after the botched assassination attempt on Oct 21, he added. – APP

India does not qualify for UNSC seat: Munir

“We have clear and ample evidence of this state-sponsored terrorism,” the Pakistani envoy told the 193-member Assembly

DNA

NEW YORK: Pakistan's Permanent Representative Ambassador to the United Nations Munir Akram on Monday said that India does not even qualify for a seat on the 15-member United Nations Security Council (UNSC) because the state has violated the UN's resolution on Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (ILOJK). The ambassador was speaking at the UN General Assembly in New York. Reaffirming Pakistan's resistance against the addition of permanent members in the UNSC, Akram

made a reference to India without naming it and said that the “South Asian country” has waged 20 wars since independence and fomented terrorism and instability across the region, especially in Pakistan. “We have clear and ample evidence of this state-sponsored terrorism,” the Pakistani envoy told the 193-member Assembly. “One country, most insistent on the Security Council membership, has a proclivity for the use and the threat of use of force; [It] fomented terrorism across our region, violated UNSC's resolutions, and targeted innocent lives at the Line of Control (LoC). This [country] has no qualification for permanent or even non-permanent member-

ship in the Security Council,” ambassador Akram stressed. It should be noted that four countries, including India, Brazil, Germany, and Japan (the G-4) have been seeking a permanent membership at the UNSC. “The reform of the Security Council must be part of a broader revival of the multilateral system as it



was conceived under the Charter. The Council must be made more representative, responsive, democratic, and transparent,” he said. Full-scale negotiations to reform the Security Council began in the General Assembly in February 2009 on five key areas – the categories of membership, the question of veto, regional representation, size of an enlarged Security Council, and working methods of the council and its relationship with the General Assembly. Despite a general agreement on enlarging the Council, as part of the UN reform process, member states remain sharply divided over the details. The G-4 countries have shown

no flexibility in their campaign to expand the Security Council by 10 seats, with six additional permanent and four non-permanent members. On the other hand, the Italy/Pakistan-led Uniting for Consensus (UfC) group firmly opposes any additional permanent members, saying that such a move will not make the Security Council more effective and also undermine the fundamental principle of democracy that is based on periodic elections. The Security Council is currently composed of five permanent members – Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States – and 10 non-permanent members.