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Ursula Leyen: It is when we manage to join forces

Detailed News On Page-01

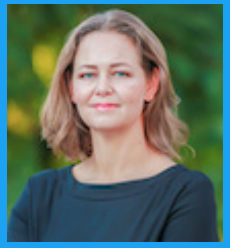
Japan reaffirms commitment to Afghan peace

Detailed News On Page-01



Danish envoy for preventing the violence

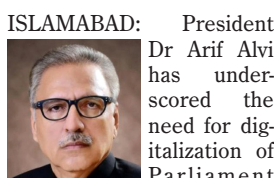
Detailed News On Page-01



Briefs

President for digitizing Parliament

DNA



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has underscored the need for digitalization of Parliament to ensure efficient secretariat and Committee management as well as decision making. He said that it was essential to incorporate Information Technology (IT) into both Houses of Parliament that would enhance its efficiency and would help establish effective monitoring and control system over legislative business. He stated this while chairing a meeting on President's Initiative for Cyber-Efficient Parliament, at Parliament House Wednesday.

FM to attend OIC ministers' moot

STAFF REPORT



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi will lead Pakistan's delegation to the 47th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) being held in Niamey, Niger, on 27-28 November 2020. Representatives of 57 OIC Member States and 5 Observer States are expected to attend the meeting. During the two-day session, the CFM will discuss a wide range of issues confronting the Muslim world with particular focus on combating Islamophobia and defamations of the religions.

Danish envoy for preventing violence

SHUJAAT HAMZA



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan, Lis Rosenthal has vowed to play her part in eliminating the violence against women. In her message, the ambassador said, "This International day to end violence against Women, I reaffirm my commitment to prevent & condemn all gender-based violence! It exists in every country & community. Breaking the silence is the first step! Every one of us has a role to play & need to Stand Up, Speak Up and Spread the Word".

Japan renews commitment to Afghan peace

MATSUDA Kuninori, Ambassador of Japan celebrates successful conclusion of the 2020 Afghanistan Conference in Geneva

A.M.BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: MATSUDA Kuninori, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, has celebrated the successful conclusion of the 2020 Afghanistan Conference in Geneva on 23rd to 24th November co-hosted by the Government of Afghanistan, the Government of Finland and the United Nations. The ambassador reiterated his resolve to work with Pakistan on realizing peace and stability in the region. At the conference in Geneva, H.E. MOTEGI Toshimitsu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, sent a video message to share Japan's continuous commitment to promote peace, prosperity and self-reliance of Afghanistan. Foreign Minister MOTEGI stated, "Japan has actively contributed to reconstruction of Afghanistan, including through hosting pledging conferences on Afghanistan twice and providing assistance amounting to 6.8 billion USD." The Minister also stated that Japan would continue to stand with the Afghan

Government and its people. "We work on providing assistance from 2021 to 2024, maintaining the amount comparable to the past four years, which was 180 million USD per year. Moreover, with progress in the peace process, we are ready to consider additional support", the Minister said. Ambassador MATSUDA underlined the importance of the ongoing Afghanistan peace negotiations and the critical role of Pakistan. "Japan welcomes the Afghanistan peace negotiations and strongly hopes that they will lead to peace and stability in Afghanistan and the region. We highly appreciate the significant effort by the Government of Pakistan to facilitate the Afghan peace process. I look forward to continuing working with Pakistan to reinforce peace and stability in the region, including through various proceeding projects of counter-terrorism and strengthening border security, and support for the host communities of Afghan refugees in the northwest region of Pakistan, especially in the fields of health, education, water and sanitation."



ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner Dr. Christian Turner showing his pledge for women empowerment in Pakistan on International Day for the elimination of violence against women. – DNA

Postings and transfers in Pakistan Army

Those promoted Major-General Akhtar Nawaz, Major-General Sardar Hassan Azhar Hayat, Major-General Asif Ghafoor, Major-General Salman Fayyaz,

NAVEED MIRAJ

RAWALPINDI: As many as six Major Generals have been promoted to the Rank of Lieutenant General. Those promoted Major-General Akhtar Nawaz, Major-General Sardar Hassan Azhar Hayat, Major-General Asif Ghafoor, Major-General Salman Fayyaz, Major-General Sarfraz Ali, and Major-General Muhammad Ali. According to ISPR, Lt-Gen Ghafoor has been posted as Inspector-General Communication and Information Technology, Lt-Gen Muhammad Abdul Aziz has been moved to IV Corps



(Lahore), Lt-Gen Muhammad Waseem Ashraf will be heading II Corps (Multan), Lt-Gen Hayat has been posted as Military Secretary, Lt-Gen Khalid Zia will lead XXXI Corps (Bahawalpur), Lt-Gen Sarfraz will be the new southern command and Lt-Gen Naadeem Ahmed Anjum is appointed V Corps (Karachi). Other appointments include Lt-Gen Majid Ehsan as Inspector-General Arms, and Lt-Gen Syed Muhammad Adnan as Inspector-General Training and Evaluation.

US is back and ready to lead: Joe Biden



NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: America is back and ready to lead - that was the message from president-elect Joe Biden as he prepares to take office in January. His words were a sign that the "America first" policy of incumbent Donald Trump will be set aside for one that is more focused on working with the country's allies. In his first interview since being confirmed as the next president, Mr Biden told NBC: "America is back - we're at the head of the table again."

Pak records 3000 cases

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan recorded the highest single-day spike of 3,009 coronavirus cases in over four months, taking the cumulative tally to 382,892. According to the NCOC, the SARS-CoV-2 virus claimed 59 lives across the country in the past 24 hours. Pakistan's death toll now stands at 7,803. The number of active cases has jumped to 41,115 while 1,867 patients are under critical care. The positivity rate remains stagnant for the third consecutive day at over 7%. With the COVID-19 pandemic progressively getting worse in Pakistan, the government has placed fresh restrictions across the country.

'No pressure to recognize Israel'

Pakistan has friendly relations with Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and UAE and will not recognize Israel until the Palestine issue is resolved

ABID RAZA

PM directs support to textile sector

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has directed the Commerce and Industries Ministries to ensure all necessary support to the textile sector. In his tweets on Wednesday, he pointed out that Faisalabad textile industry is seeing a massive rise in demand and export orders. He said his instructions to the relevant ministries are aimed at enabling the textile industry meet their growing demands. Imran Khan said the textile sector is one of a number of positive developments in our economy despite COVID-19. – DNA

had said that Pakistan will never recognise Israel until Palestine are given their due rights" he added. Responding to a query about whether the government will allow the Opposition to continue to hold public rallies, he said that no such activity must take place which causes coronavirus to spread rapidly.

Continued on Page 06

Opp politicizing virus situation, says Shibli Faraz



RANA FARRUKH

ISLAMABAD: No members from the Opposition parties attended the Parliamentary Committee on Coronavirus chaired by National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser at the Parliament House on Wednesday. Addressing a

press conference after the meeting, Federal Minister for Information Shibli Faraz said the opposition leaders were missing in the meeting. "They attended previous four meetings and submitted suggestions to contain coronavirus spread. We implemented those important recommendations." "Today's meeting was attended by PTI lawmakers and coalition partners. The intention behind this meeting was to reach a consensus on strategy to contain the rising spread of COVID-19 in the country."

Continued on Page 06

India martyrs civilian along LoC

DNA

RAWALPINDI: India martyred a Pakistani father of three daughters when its forces opened unprovoked firing at the Line of Control (LoC), the Army's media wing said Wednesday, in what marks New Delhi's yet another ceasefire violation (CFV). According to the director-general of the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Maj Gen Babar Iftikhar, the unprovoked firing occurred at the Bagisar Sector along the LoC, wherein Indian forces targeted civilian population.

Pakistan condemns Afghan blasts

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Wednesday strongly condemned blasts in Bamyan city, which resulted in loss of precious human lives and injuries to several others. In a statement issued by the Foreign Office, Pakistan conveyed deepest condolences to the bereaved families and pray for speedy recovery of those injured in these gruesome attacks. "The statement further said Pakistan has noted with concern that as there is progress in the Afghan peace process, the increased terrorist attacks on civilian targets, including educational institutions.

Norway threatens Afghanistan with aid cuts

Our support and further levels (of support) will be assessed on the basis of the authorities' efforts against corruption," Foreign Minister Ine Eriksen Soreide

WEB DESK

OSLO: Norway will keep aid to Afghanistan at a high level until 2024. However, Norway could reduce the aid if the peace talks and anti-corruption efforts fail. Norway announced its position during a donor country conference for Afghanistan. "Norway will maintain development assistance at a high level until 2024 and provide around NOK 650 million in development assistance and humanitarian aid in 2021. "Our support and further levels (of support) will be

assessed on the basis of the authorities' efforts against corruption," Foreign Minister Ine Eriksen Soreide (H) said. She added that satisfactory progress in the peace process is also important. Finland hosted this year's donor country conference in collaboration with Afghanistan and the UN. Due to the corona situation, the conference was held digitally. At a similar donor country conference in 2016, the global community managed to scrape together around USD 15 billion in aid to Afghanistan. This time, expectations have



been more subdued, and sources in diplomacy say - according to the news agency DPA - that the sum will probably be lower than in 2016. At the same time, several large donors linked new conditions to the aid, just like Norway. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani has estimated that aid covers about 75% of the country's public spending.

The conference takes place in what the Ministry of Foreign Affairs calls a turning point for Afghanistan, not least in light of the ongoing peace negotiations with the Islamist group Taliban in Doha. At the same time, there are prospects that the United States and NATO will reduce their military presence in the country. Soreide nevertheless believes that there is reason for cautious optimism. "A peaceful solution is crucial for sustainable development, and our support will be assessed in the light of progress in the Afghan peace ne-

gotiations," she added. The EU stated that the organization would provide EUR 1.2 billion in aid to Afghanistan over the next five years. "Our assistance will support the Afghan authorities' goals of democracy, sustainable development and modernization, help lift people out of poverty, improve governance, reduce corruption, and improve the daily lives of Afghans," EU Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen said. The EU has also made support conditional on the peace process, but Brussels also warned against making aid a political instrument.

Inside...

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Briefs

COMSTech
Int'l
workshop on
AI Concludes

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The 2-day workshop and exhibition on artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare concluded today evening. Over 100 people participated, 10 companies and 2 labs exhibited their AI products for healthcare, 9 experts gave poster presentations and 17 speakers from Pakistan, UK and Austria gave lectures. The topics of the lectures were on AI based diagnosis in cardiology & radiology, Applications of machine learning in healthcare, AI & IoT projects with agile excellence, brain computer interface for neurobotics & neurorehabilitation, design and analysis of wearable on chip processor for chronic neurological disorders detection, intelligent devices for patients monitoring and rehab, high performance clinical and genome analytics, brain tumor segmentation and survival prediction, ALBASR: AI based ophthalmology grader, AI based cancer diagnostic system, convolutional neural networks for glioma tumor grading using MRI images, intelligent electronic health record, Smart medicare system, global regulatory framework of artificial intelligence, AI for radiographic COVID-19 detection, Pakistan health information exchange, application-oriented AI research in healthcare, and Omni channel smarter safer health care delivery.

TPL becomes
Pakistan's
first member
of UNEP FI

DNA

KARACHI: TPL Insurance has joined the United Nations Environment Program Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) by signing its Principles of Sustainable Insurance (PSI). This is the first time an Insurance Company in Pakistan has become a signatory to UNEP FI's PSI. The UNEP FI is a strategic partnership between the UN Environment Program and the global financial sector to advance sustainable finance. More than 300 financial institutions work with UN Environment to understand emerging environmental, social and governance issues, why they matter to the finance industry, and how to address them in banking, insurance and investment decision-making and market practice. TPL Insurance will be a part of the global community of banks, insurers and investors committed towards sustainable development. The Company will continue to put sustainability at the heart of its business strategies and long-term plans, working with key stakeholders to raise awareness of actions to be taken to manage the country's Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) issues. The insurer will implement UNEP's extensive knowledge and best practices into its business frameworks - benefiting from UN expertise, a global learning network and fora.

Ahmad
Mukhtar
passes away

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A senior leader of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and former defence minister Chaudhry Ahmad Mukhtar passed away in Lahore on Wednesday. He was 74 years old. As per details, he was reportedly suffering from Alzheimer's disease and admitted to Lahore's Shalimar Hospital. He had also undergone surgery in the United States (US) sometime ago. His funeral was held today at T Block mosque in DHA, private channels reported. Mukhtar was the brother of renowned industrialist and former Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) chairman Chaudhry Ahmad Saeed who passed away in 2018. Born in Lahore on June 22, 1946, Mukhtar received his Master of Science degree in Operational Management from California, USA, and also earned a diploma in Plastic Technology from West Germany. A businessman by profession, Mukhtar entered politics in 1990 as a member of the PPP.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Imran Khan has visited the residence of senior political leader Chaudhary Shujaat Hussain in Lahore and inquired about his health and prayed for early recovery. - DNA

SCCI to remove hurdles in trade
among Pakistan, Uzbekistan

The participants on the occasion identified the bottlenecks and impediments that were impeding trade relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan and central Asian countries and underlining the importance of joint efforts and strategy to address all those hurdles

PESHAWAR: Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Sherbaz Bilour has emphasized that a joint mechanism should be evolved to remove hurdles in the way of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Uzbekistan as well as the rest of the regional countries.

This, he said during a meeting with Uzbekistan Deputy Chairman Railways, Coal and Mineral, Khayitboy A Omonov here on Wednesday. Engineer Manzoor Elahi, senior vice president, Junaid Altaf vice president and former president Faiz Muhammad Faizi former president of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry were present in the meeting. The participants on the occasion identified the bottlenecks and impediments that were impeding trade relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan and central Asian countries and underlining the importance of joint efforts and strategy to ad-



dress all those hurdles. Enhancement of bilateral trade volume between Pakistan and regional countries is the need of the hour, which can help to improve the country's economy as well as bring reduction in cur-

rent trade-deficit and enhance exports, they stressed. Sherbaz Bilour while speaking on the occasion anticipated that the huge potential exists to enhance mutual trade and economic

relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. However, he stressed the need for formulating a joint mechanism and serious efforts from both sides to remove problems which are impeding bilateral

trade between them.

The participants agreed on exchange of trade delegations, organizing exhibitions, business to business meetings and taking benefits from each other's experiences. SCCI chief stated that Pakistan and Uzbekistan should initiate joint ventures, bilateral agreements and programmes to fully exploit the potentials and opportunities, and each other's experiences which would be beneficial to strengthen the economy and trade of the both countries. Khayitboy A Omonov in his speech said his country wants to further improve bilateral trade and economic relations with Pakistan. However, he said both countries should take serious efforts in this regard. Earlier, SCCI office bearers pointed out impediments and problems in the way of bilateral trade and gave a number of proposals to address them amicably. - APP

FPCCI demand
inclusion of
raw materials

DNA

LAHORE: Mian Anjum Nisar, President of The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry said that the amendments cover limited industrial raw materials for inclusion in the 12th Schedule through SRO 1240(1)/2020 dated 20th November 2020. Federal Board of Revenue has allowed a list of industrial raw materials for benefits under 12 Schedule. The anomalies committee of FBR declared very few raw materials not to be included in the finished goods and allowed to pay 2 percent income tax instead of 5.5 percent this of course resolves an important issue of commercial importers but there is still a long list of raw materials to be considered the same way. The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Com-

merce & Industry has been emphasizing for the removal of duties / taxes on the industrial raw materials. However, the SRO 1240(1)/2020 dated 20-11-2020 cover a limited item that does not support industry, while there is an exhaustive list of industrial raw materials already contained in rescinded SRO 1125(1)/2011 dated 31-12-2011. In order to further facilitate the industry there is an immediate need to revise the list of industrial raw materials as per SRO 1240(1)/2020 dated 20th November, 2020. Mian Anjum Nisar, President of The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry strongly recommends addressing the grievances of the industry at the earliest and resolving the issues being faced by the industry through amendments and inclusion of all raw materials in the said SRO.

Punjab on
path of real
development:
Firdous Ashiq

LAHORE: Special Assistant Chief Minister of Punjab on Information Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan said that Punjab is on path of real development as per the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan. Firdous Ashiq Awan, in a series of tweets, said that CM Usman Buzdar managed to pass record 58 bills of public welfare from the provincial assembly and despite difficult economic situation, government started work on 9 hospitals and 7 universities. She further said that under the leadership of CM Buzdar, government is working on priority basis for betterment of every sector of life. Sehat Sahulat Program, pension for over 60 years old people, Insaf Medicine Card and other such projects are proof of people friendly policies of CM Punjab. Firdous Ashiq Awan also said that government believes in practical steps instead of just prayers. - DNA

Second PPSC (KP) reviews
progress of GLOF-II Project

DNA

ISLAMABAD: UNDP in Pakistan held the second Provincial Project Steering Committee (PPSC) for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) to review the progress of the Scaling up of Glacial Lake Outburst Flood Risk Reduction in Northern Pakistan (GLOF-II) Project. Chaired by Nauman Afridi, Chief Economist, Planning and Development Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the agenda of the meeting was to review the progress of the Annual Work Plan (AWP) 2020, endorse the most vulnerable valleys under the project, and to review the AWP for 2021, in consultation with the Provincial PSC members. Attendees of the meeting included Chief Foreign-Aid, Representatives of line Departments, PDMA, PMD, Agriculture, Forest and Environment, and GLOF-II Project

members. Following the welcome remarks by the Chair, and Office In-charge GLOF II project, a progress update on the AWP 2020 was provided by relevant line department of KP. Since project activities started in KP after transfer of funds in June 2020, the aim of the PPSC is to review and discuss the progress achieved against each agreed activity. The implementation status and consolidated progress to date of the approved activities under AWP 2020 in notified valleys was presented along with challenges, and lesson learnt to set basis for the AWP 2021 PPSC approved all the activities proposed for the year 2021 including the three valleys remaining for KP for National PSC to notify. Key activities in 2021 would include development of small-scale infrastructure, irrigation channel repairs, slope stabilization activities, community-based

interventions by establishing safe-havens, safe access routes, and kitchen gardening. PSC members also discussed the provincial planning for disaster risk reduction including mock drills to be conducted in the vulnerable valleys, particularly GLOFs, to be incorporated in the provincial contingency planning. As a pre-requisite to the National PSC, all future activities under AWP 2021 must be endorsed at the provincial level. As of now, the five-year project, funded by the Green Climate Fund is extensively working in the northern areas of the country to strengthen the technical capacity of sub-national decision-makers to integrate climate change, and disaster risk management into medium- and long-term development planning, to help communities adapt to the impacts of climate change particularly GLOFs.

Pak will not
recognize
Israel:
Ashrafi

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Representative on Religious Harmony Allama Tahir Ashrafi says Pakistan will not recognize Israel until just settlement of Palestine issue is found. Talking to media persons he said Pakistan has a clear stance on Kashmir and Palestine issues that they should be resolved as per the aspirations of Kashmiris and Palestinians. Allama Tahir Ashrafi said India has been sponsoring terrorist organizations. He urged the international community to take its notice. The Special Representative said the incidents of forced marriage of non-Muslims and other such developments will be examined and facts about them will be brought forth. He urged the Ulema to play their role in spreading awareness among people about the precautionary measures against Coronavirus.

Police arrest
son of ex-PM
Gillani

DNA

MULTAN: Police on Wednesday arrested Ali Musa Gillani, the son of former Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani after he reached Chehlyak police station in Multan to stage a protest. According to details, Ali Musa Gillani went to the Chehlyak police station to express solidarity with the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) activists, who were arrested by the police for taking out a rally in the city. As soon as he reached the police station, the cops also apprehended him. The PPP activists have gathered in large numbers outside the police station to protest over the arrest of Yousaf Raza Gillani's son. PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also condemned the arrest of Ali Musa Gillani and termed it hooliganism from the incumbent selected rulers. "The government elected through rigging is now bent upon suppressing people's voice," he said adding that those trying to stop anti-government protest will not succeed in their efforts. Bilawal Bhutto said that holding a peaceful protest was a constitutional right and barring it was against the constitution. He demanded of the Punjab police authorities to immediately release Ali Musa Gillani. It is pertinent to mention here that the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) is planning to hold a massive power show in Multan on November 30 and Yousaf Raza Gillani on November 12 claimed that it would be the largest political rally in the region. He said that PPP has submitted an application to DC Multan for permission of venue at Qilla Kohna Qasim Bagh and has assured the administration that all the SOPs regarding Covid-19 would be followed.

2.5 million
customers
visited Daraz

DNA

LAHORE: Daraz concluded annual and biggest to date e-commerce shopping extravaganza of Pakistan with -11.11 (GyaraGyara) - with great success. The flagship sale brought a plethora of discounts worth Rs.50 Crore on over 15 Million local and international products with discounts from leading brands (Unilever, Nestle, P&G, RB, Haier, TCL, OnePlus and Xiaomi) & payment partners (HBL, Easypaisa, VISA & Standard Chartered bank). The campaign broke previous records as the platform witnessed 2.5+ million active users within 24 hours and generated 2+ billion cumulative page views during the 7-day period. Daraz, Alibaba Group's leading South Asian entity enjoyed unparalleled popularity amongst its customers despite of the COVID pandemic and declining purchasing power. The platform's footprint further expanded in all corners of the country with sellers and customers not only from main metropolitan but also from semi-urban geographies including Khanewal, Gujranwala, Sialkot and Multan and other 150 cities and districts. Mobiles & Tablets along with Groceries came forward as the most selling categories with Xiaomi, Realme and Infinix taking a lead along with P&G and Nestle from FMCGs.

Naval chief for following Iqbal's message

The Naval Chief underlined that young students must comprehend the message of Allama Iqbal and shape their personal lives to become the 'Shaheen' of Iqbal to improve the condition of our beloved homeland

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Two-day International Conference on 'The Relevance of Iqbal's Quranic Wisdom on Youth Education and Development' was organized by Bahria University Islamabad Campus. The objective of the event was to pay tribute and inculcate the philosophy of Allama Muhammad Iqbal in the young generation. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi graced the occasion as Chief Guest of the Inaugural session through video link. Eminent Speakers included Senator Waleed Iqbal, Guest of Honor Ambassador of Turkey, H.E. Mr. Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul, Guest of Honor Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran, H.E. Mr. Seyed Mohammad Ali Hossein, Dr. Baseera Ambreen, Director Iqbal Academy, Professor Dr. Moenuddin Nizam, and Professor Dr. Shahid Siddiqui shared their intellectu-

al thoughts on the subject. The conference dynamically explored Iqbal's philosophical and practical guidance through academic exercise and probed ways for its implementation in different domains of an Islamic State. Chief Guest of the ceremony, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi in his remarks emphasized the attendees to benefit from the

intellectual discourses presented in the conference. The Naval Chief underlined that young students must comprehend the message of Allama Iqbal and shape their personal lives to become the 'Shaheen' of Iqbal to improve the condition of our beloved homeland. Earlier in his welcome address, Rector Bahria University Vice

Admiral Kaleem Shaukat thanked worthy guests and speakers for their presence. Rector BU eloquently expressed that based on the philosophy of Iqbal, Bahria University aspires to provide all the opportunities to our youth for exploring beyond horizon. The Online Conference actively explored different aspect of Iqbal's Philosophy for practical

incorporation of his relevant theories in education and youth development programs. The two-days event included key note speeches, panel discussions and research paper presentations related to Iqbal and his wisdom. Bahria University is promoting intellectual thoughts and visionary message of national heroes and scholars through academic and literary pursuits. Bahria University has 'Iqbal Chair', a body which specifically focuses on objectives for implementing teachings of Iqbal amongst university students in an organized manner. Speakers shared poetry of Allama Iqbal with the students and emphasized on Iqbal's concept of self-awareness, self-empowerment, self-discovery, knowledge and research. Students also presented Kalam e Iqbal and were motivated by the poetry. Good number of students, faculty and guest scholars participated in conference which was also broadcasted live through BUTV, Bahria University's web TV channel.



Briefs

Capital residents face low gas pressure

ISLAMABAD: The residents of Islamabad on Wednesday demanded the authority concerned to take notice of long hours gas load shedding as the low gas pressure in several localities causing problems for the people. Talking to a private news channel, people of G-6, G-7 and F-6 have appealed the authorities concerned for taking steps to enhance gas pressure in parts of capital without further delay. A resident of F-6 said the heaters and geysers are switched off permanently due to low gas pressure in the pipelines. Another housewife Samra Subhan said that, "We are unable to cook food because the gas pressure remained zero. Muhammad Javed also said that with the start of cold season and lack of piped gas for heating they use traditional stoves using firewood as an expensive source for heating." The gas shortage has increased the problems of people because of cold weather, he added. - APP

FACE to arrange musical night

ISLAMABAD: Foundation for Arts, Culture and Education (FACE) will arrange an exciting musical night titled "Inteha Ho Gayi Intezar Ki" on November 27 for music lovers of twin cities. Featuring, an Islamabad based vibrant and passionate singer Adnan Qureshi, the musical night was likely to provide an opportunity to people from Rawalpindi and Islamabad to come and enjoy musical night with peaceful and mesmerizing ambience. According to an official, emerging dance groups will also entertain the on-lookers with their distinctive attire and unique dance moves. He said that Adnan has performed in various competitions and stage shows nationally and internationally adding that he will enthral the audience with his melodious performance. Children under 12 not allowed and strict SOPs will be followed with participants bound by rules to practice social distancing, use face masks and hand sanitisers, he stated. - APP

IESCO circle In-charges to hold Katcharies

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) circle in-charges would hold regular online Katcharies in all five circles of the company for immediate rectification of consumers complaints. According to a spokesman of IESCO, SE Islamabad circle Fazal Rabi will hold online Katchary on November 26, SE Rawalpindi circle Muhammad Zubair Khan on November 27, SE Attock circle Faisal Sharif on November 30, SE Chakwal circle Muhammad Iqbal on December 1 and SE Jhelum circle Muhammad Aslam Khan on December 2 from 12:00 noon to 01:00 pm. They will attend consumer calls of relevant circles on FM 100 Radio Station phone number 051-111-111-100, he said. Complaints/suggestions can also be forwarded on SMS No. 3636. - APP

IRSA releases 109,500 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 109,500 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 59,600 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1493.90 feet, which was 105.90 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 24,100 cusecs and outflow as 70,000 cusecs. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1186.45 feet, which was 146.45 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 8,000 cusecs and 22,000 cusecs respectively. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas, President ICCI chairing a meeting of business community to discuss the issue of timings for markets. Ms Fatima Azim SVP, Abdul Rehman Khan VP ICCI and others are also present. - DNA

Business community warns against changing timings

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, ICCI said that the prolonged lockdowns and early closure of businesses over the past few months due to Covid-19 pandemic has destroyed many businesses and rendered hundreds of people jobless

FIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: The business community in a meeting at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry has warned against any move of the government to reduce the timings for markets and commercial centres as it would be destructive for the business activities and prove more harmful for the overall economy by making several businesses file for bankruptcy. They said that Sindhi has reduced timings for markets up to 6:00 pm, but it was not acceptable for the business community of the province as it would cause them great business loss. They said that no such move should be considered

for Islamabad to save the businesses from further losses. Chairing the meeting, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that the prolonged lockdowns and early closure of businesses over the past few months due to Covid-19 pandemic has destroyed many businesses and rendered hundreds of people jobless and cautioned that any further lockdown in markets or early closure of businesses would create more problems for the business community and lead to harmful consequences for the economy. He said that many members of the business community were facing great problems in payment of rents, utility bills, salaries, taxes

and loans as they were still struggling for the revival of businesses after the lockdowns. He called upon the government to take measures for strong enforcement of SOPs in markets and commercial centres to curb the spread of Covid-19 pandemic instead of considering early closure of businesses. He said that on the one hand, catering services were allowed in aircrafts in a closed environment, but on the other hand, restaurants were banned from indoor serving of customers, which was not justified. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that reducing business timings would create more rush in markets leading to further problems for the traders and customers.

He said that in order to reduce rush in markets and commercial centres, the government should further enhance the timings for opening and closing of businesses so that people could do shopping as per their convenience. He said that despite suffering great losses over the past few months, the business community of the federal capital had extended full cooperation to the local administration in dealing with Covid-19 pandemic and would cooperate with the government this time as well to implement SOPs for preventing the spread of Covid-19. He also emphasized upon the business community to act on the policy of No Mask No Entry in their businesses to help the gov-

ernment in controlling the Covid-19 pandemic. Ms. Fatma Azim Senior Vice President and Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI said that the government has banned indoor functions in restaurants and wedding halls/marqueses, which was affecting these businesses and would render over 10,000 workers jobless. They appealed to the government to allow restaurants, wedding halls and marqueses to open one side and hold indoor functions in order to control the outbreak of coronavirus. They also appealed to the masses to wear masks while visiting the markets as their cooperation was very important in keeping the Covid-19 pandemic under control.

OPD closed at PIMS hospital due to virus

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad's largest government hospital, Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), has announced limiting its medical services for patients due to the spread of coronavirus pandemic during its second wave in the country. The hospital's spokesperson said in a statement that the central outpatient department (OPD) service was closed except the OPDs of gynaecology and children section. Dr Waseem Khawaja added that the emergency section of the hospital will be fully functional amid the current situation. The decision for the closure of OPD service was made in view of the rising number of coronavirus cases and surgeries will only be conducted in an emergency case. The OPD service will be restored after witnessing improvement in the pandemic situation, added Dr Khawaja. Earlier in the day, it emerged that twelve more health professionals have been infected by the novel coronavirus at Lahore's Mayo Hospital. As per details, the health professionals including nine doctors have gone into isolation after being confirmed with the COVID-19, said the hospital administration. Dr Asad Aslam said after a number of infections, more than 50 health professionals are undergoing COVID-19 diagnosis tests. He has appealed for a minimum number of attendants to the hospital along with the patients, as a precautionary measure. Pakistan has recorded fresh 3,009 COVID-19 cases and 59 deaths due to the virus in the last 24 hours. In the past 24 hours, 59 more people succumbed to the disease, taking the death toll to 7,803. 1,214 patients have recovered from the virus during the last 24 hours and 1,867 patients are in critical condition. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOCC), with fresh inclusion of the infections in the country the national tally of cases now currently stands at 382,892, whereas, the active cases stood at 42,115. A total of 41,583 tests were conducted across the country during this period. 332,974 people have recovered from the deadly disease while 5,297,703 samples have been tested thus far. - DNA

CDA taking steps for neglected sectors

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The work of Capital Development Authority (CDA) in sector E-12 and its sub sectors E-12/2 and E-12/3 is underway. The survey of mentioned sub sectors has been completed and the developmental work in the sector will be completed within the time period of 3 years. The contract of developmental work has been given to MS Mumtaz and Co. However, the work on service road of E-12 is in its final stage. The DWP's session has approved PCI of Rs 6630.2 million for the development of the said sector. According to a press release of the CDA, the current administration is actively taking steps for the development of the neglected sectors. The developmental work has been started in the residential sectors. Sector E-12 is one of those residential sectors which have been neglected since a long time. However, the administration of CDA took proactive steps to initiate the developmental work in the sector. CDA opened bidtings for the development of sector E-12.

No compromise on public health: Ali Muhammad

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan Wednesday invited opposition to join government in fight against second wave of COVID-19 as public health was a priority for Prime minister Imran Khan. Talking to PTV news, he said Prime Minister Khan was monitoring the anti-coronavirus measures on daily basis and all political parties must fulfill their responsibility as well, adding, government also invited

opposition to give productive suggestions and avoid mere criticism because it was time to shun differences to fight the deadly virus collectively. Ali Muhammad asked the opposition to show maturity and abide by the orders of the Islamabad High Court about the pandemic. He said politicians holding rallies would be responsible for any loss of human life due to COVID-19. He said government categorically stated that the

opposition's hue and cries were aimed to protect its political reputation and its protest would not effect the government. This was time for opposition move jointly as a nation as government was taking tough decisions regarding pandemic, he added. He said the government would continue its smart lockdown policy during second wave of the COVID-19 without putting additional pressure on the common man. - APP

Wrong parking aggravates traffic flow in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI: Illegal and wrong parking coupled with encroachments are aggravating traffic flow on city roads and cantonment areas particularly in all business hubs of the city and parking rules violations need to be checked strictly by CTP. In almost all commercial areas of the city, the shopkeepers display their items on the footpaths creating problems for the pedestrians. Large portion of footpaths and streets are encroached by the vendors,

forcing pedestrians to leave footpaths and put their lives in danger walking on roads. Wrong parking and encroachments at footpaths and roadsides are not only affecting smooth movement of pedestrians, but also aggravating traffic flow on all city roads as they are the main hurdle in smooth flow of traffic. Though, the city traffic police and civic authorities had launched a special operation a few months back, pushing the encroachers back and

cleared several areas, but no permanent solution to the problem could be brought. The situation is worst in Raja Bazaar, Bohar Bazar, Banni Chowk, Circular Road, Murree Road, Pindora Road, Tench Bhatta, Sarafa Bazaar, Mochi Bazaar, Sadiqabad, Satellite Town and other roads. A shopkeeper in Banni area, Mushtaq talking to APP said the vendors encroach footpaths and roads violating the orders of the administration. - APP

RTA conducting raids to ensure SOPs

RAWALPINDI: Regional Transport Authority (RTA) Rawalpindi is conducting raids to ensure implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued by the Punjab government for public transport to prevent the spread of COVID-19. According to Secretary Regional Transport Authority, Rawalpindi, Ghulam Abbas Mehr, the authority on the directives of Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi, was imposing fines and issuing challan slips to the violators. The vehicles of violators were also being impounded, he added. He said, 207 PSVs were issued challan slips while 191 were impounded during last week and imposed fines amounting to Rs 185,500 over Standard Operating Procedures violations. He said, the operation would continue and the vehicles found involved in violating the Standard Operating Procedures would be imposed fines or impounded. No one would be allowed to put people's lives at risk, he said adding the violators of the coronavirus-related Standard Operating Procedures would be dealt with an iron hand. He said the crackdown had been launched after increase in the number of coronavirus cases in the city. The administration had allowed public transport to operate in the district under Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). - APP

RCB issues notices to 90 non trade license holders

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) issued 90 notices to the shopkeepers running their businesses without trade licenses in Rawalpindi Cantonment Board areas during last week. According to details, Rawalpindi Cantonment Board had decided to take strict action in accordance with the law against non trade license holders. RCB, Food Control Department in this respect conducted operations against non trade license holders and served warning notices to over 90 bakeries, general stores, dairy shops, medical stores, chicken shops and others in different areas of Dhoke Syedan Road, Kalma Chowk, Bakra Mandi, Afshan Colony, Dhoke Mustakeem Road, Saham Road, Tench Bhatta, Masrial Road and other areas. The department also received a large number of applications and issued new licenses to 300 shopkeepers who had met all the requirements during the current month (November). - APP

Recent rain spells bring early winter: PMD

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Recent spells of rain, which have brought intense early cold in most parts of the country, has changed the trend of winters in month of November as compared to previous year. Spokesman Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) Dr Khalid Malik told APP here on Wednesday that these intense weather conditions would persist for next three days. He said usually these rains, that brings down the temperature to zero, occur in mid of December every year, however, he said this year it was an early onset of chilly weather in most parts of the country including upper region. He told that these intense chilled weather conditions would start in the mid of December and would prevail till February in various parts of the country. Talking about the cold winds that entered Sindh region during last 48 hours, he said the westerly cold wave was affecting upper and central parts of the country whereas hilly areas of Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and North Balochistan would remain under the influence of cold winds.

Govt strives to foster healthy lifestyle: Bukhari

Commissioner Rawalpindi said with the help of Global Active Project, they wanted to introduce a culture that could promote a healthy lifestyle in the society

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Syed Zulfikar Abbas Bukhari Wednesday said the government was striving to foster healthy lifestyle among masses, particularly youth through promotion of sports and games across the country. Addressing the inauguration ceremony of 'Global Active Cities' project, launched by the district administration of Rawalpindi, he said Prime Minister Imran Khan attached great importance to the promotion of healthy lifestyle in the country through games and sports. Congratulating Commissioner Rawalpindi division captain (Retd) Muhammad Mahmood over the project launch, he said the officer had set an example for the entire country by taking this initiative, adding "It is an honor for the country that three districts of Rawalpindi Division have become



a part of the international framework under which sports and healthy lifestyle will be promoted in the society." He said sports would be promoted in Rawalpindi division

under the Global Active Cities project and people would be encouraged towards healthy living. "Our religion also teaches us to live a healthy life. Obesity, overeating and sluggishness are bad habits that have no place in our religion," he remarked. Former test cricketer and fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar said that Captain (Retd) Muhammad Mahmood was an officer who adored sports and healthy lifestyle, adding that he was the first commissioner of Rawalpindi who invited him in the commissioner's office for physical exercise. He said he used to walk from Dhok Kala Khan to Kachehri Chowk, besides riding a bicycle on the same route for physical fitness. Commissioner Rawalpindi said with the help of Global Active Project, they wanted to introduce a culture that could promote a healthy lifestyle in the society. He said that there were many playgrounds in Rawalpindi and they would be further improved and equipped with more facilities under this project.

Briefs

Police arrest bike lifter after encounter

RAWALPINDI: Naseerabad Police on Wednesday claimed to have arrested a suspected bike lifter during an encounter. According to police spokesman, Naseerabad police patrolling party intercepted two suspected bike riders in Dhoke Lakhu area but, they opened fire on the police party. As a result, in cross firing, a suspected bike lifter identified as Suleman received bullet injuries and rounded up by the police party. He was shifted to hospital for medical treatment while other managed to escape from the scene. The spokesman informed that the suspected bike lifter had remained a jail bird and wanted in different cases including dacoities. He said, police were making efforts to net his accomplice. Superintendent Police (SP) Potohar Syed Ali said the suspected bike lifter who managed to escape would also be sent behind the bars. He appreciated immediate reaction of police party and performance of the police team. — APP

Six renting rules violators booked

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police have registered cases against six property owners and tenants over violation of Punjab Information of Temporary Residence Ordinance 2015. According to details, Pirwadhai Police conducted raids under National Action Plan and arrested Hamza Khan, Aziz Gul, Nehal Khan, Hukam Shah, Gulzar Ali and Zubair Muhammad on violation of Punjab Information of Temporary Residence Ordinance. Superintendent Police (SP) Rawal, Muzhar Iqbal had directed the Rawal Police to conduct operation against violators of the Ordinance. He directed the officers to ensure the strict implementation of the law. He warned that those officers and officials found guilty of negligence in this regard will face stern departmental action. A police spokesperson said that cases will be registered under the Punjab Information of Temporary Residence Ordinance against those who fail to register their tenants. Under the ordinance, details of new tenants should be provided to the police within 24 hours of handing over possession of the property, he explained.

13 outlaws including criminal gang held

DNA
ISLAMABAD (DNA) - Islamabad Police have arrested 13 outlaws including a member of street criminal gang held and recovered narcotics and weapons from them, a police spokesman said. Following directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Muhammad Aamir Zulfikar Khan, Deputy Inspector General of Police (Operations) issued directions to all zonal officers for renewed efforts against those involved in anti-social activities. SP (Saddar-Zone) Muhammad Sarfraz virk constituted police team under the supervision of SHO Shalimar Police Station Inspector Arshad Ali ASI Muhammad Abbas along with others succeeded to arrest a member of street criminal gang, identified as Sher Khan Alias Multani and recovered one 30 bore pistol along with ammunition used in crime. Case has been registered in Shalimar Police Station and further investigation is underway from him. Moreover SP (City-Circle) Omer Khan constituted special anti-drug police team under supervision of DSP Hakim Khan including SHO Bhara Khau Police Station Sub-inspector Shokat Mehmood Abbasi along with others officials. This team nabbed 03 accused Syed Arslan Ali, Adeb Kiyani, and Irfan-Ullah and recovered two 30 bore pistols and 315 gram hashish from him. Mean-while Industrial-Area police apprehended Arslan Hussain and recovered 1.258 kilogram hashish from him. Ramana police arrested an accused Zain and recovered one 30 bore pistol along with ammunition from him.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Narcotics Control, Muhammad Azam Khan Swati called on by Egyptian ambassador Tarek Mohammed Dahroug at his office. — DNA

UNHCR to mark 16 days of activism against GBV

Individuals, institutions and organizations across the world plan activities to highlight that violence against women is a breach of human rights, calling for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls

ISLAMABAD: UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency Wednesday organized a number of activities across Pakistan in collaboration with UN agencies, its partners and refugees to mark the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. An international campaign that runs from 25 November through 10 December every year, said a press release issued here. Individuals, institutions and organizations across the world plan activities to highlight that violence against women is a breach of human rights, calling for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls. To support this initiative, started by the first Women's Global Lead-

ership Institute in 1991, the United Nations Secretary-General's UNITE by 2030 to End Violence against Women campaign by 2030 (UNITE campaign) calls for global action to increase awareness, galvanize advocacy efforts, and share knowledge and innovations. This year's theme is "Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!" which focuses on the COVID-19 crisis. While keeping in mind COVID-19 SOPs, UNHCR's offices across Pakistan have planned activities that focus on combating violence against women and girls, including to emphasize the positive role of individuals. The UNHCR Representative in Pakistan, Noriko

Yoshida, said that arranging such activities are aimed at expressing solidarity with survivors of violence and raising awareness about discriminatory practices against women. "Everyone has a role to play to end violence against women and make the world a safer and prosperous place to live in," she said. She further said that COVID-19 has exacerbated the risks of gender-based violence for women and girls, including those forcibly displaced, adding that prevention and response are life-saving, and this must be maintained as essential during COVID-19 lockdown. In Islamabad, UNHCR, together with its partners, aims to hold a vir-

tual power talk event in December. It will be an opportunity for refugee youth and academics to discuss and shed light on the voices of women during the COVID-19 crisis and their resilience and efforts to act as agents of change in their communities. In Peshawar, UNHCR and UN Women held an opening ceremony on Wednesday to mark the start of the 16 Days of Activism. On the occasion, the speakers, including female parliamentarians, called for collective efforts to prevent and address the issues of gender-based violence. Students also performed a role play underlining the risks of gender-based violence in the

COVID-19 pandemic. Female Afghan refugees also narrated their stories and shed light on how they pursued their ambitions amid challenges. In Quetta, a seminar was held on Wednesday in Pishin City on the theme of "Ending violence against women". The speakers included religious scholars and other notable community members. To mark the last day of the 16 Days of Activism on 10 December - Human Rights Day - UNHCR will also hold an event in Quetta with refugees and Pakistani host community members. The event will include experience-sharing by female social change promoters from the refugee community. — APP

Painting competition on Ertugal Ghazi held

DNA
RAWALPINDI: A painting competition based on photos of famous character of the Ottoman Empire Ertugal Ghazi entitled 'Dirilis Ertugal' was arranged among young talent under auspices of Punjab Council of the Arts. Chairperson, National Commission for Children Rights Afshan Tehseen Bajwa was chief flanked by Moosa Reza

Effendi, Director PUCAR Waqar Ahmed and organizer Syed Mostehsan Abbas. More than 50 students participated in the competition. Addressing at the certificate distribution ceremony Afshan Tehseen Bajwa said that those nations lived for long time who remembered their heroes forever. She said that Ertugal Ghazi founded the Ottoman Empire, which his son Usman transformed into a great empire.

Expert calls China's poverty alleviation model 'visionary'

DNA
ISLAMABAD: China's poverty alleviation achievements "gave a hope to the developing countries in rest of the world including Pakistan to look up to a model to follow," a Pakistani expert has said. "China had set the target of poverty alleviation in 2020, and the admirable thing is that it achieved it despite pandemic," said Ghulam

Samad, senior research specialist at the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Institute. According to a report from the International Monetary Fund, the global economy is projected to contract by 4.4 percent in 2020, while China's economy is expected to grow by 1.9 percent, the only major economy to register positive growth in the pandemic-hit year. "There is a lot for the world to learn

from the Chinese experience of poverty alleviation," said Samad, stressing particularly "the sincerity of the leadership to the cause of serving people and making their life better, and formation of a comprehensive strategy and policy to achieve it." China's great success in poverty alleviation and its expanding economy, the Pakistani expert summarized, lies in bridging "the gap between the rich and poor" and "pro-

viding basic necessities to all people of the country." Days ago, with the final nine counties shaking off poverty, China has removed all its 832 impoverished counties nationwide from the poverty list, a globally significant milestone of poverty reduction for the world's most populous country. "The lives of people get a lot better when the leadership work for them and fulfill the promises made to the public," Samad said.

Barrister Sultan calls on PTI chief organizer

ISLAMABAD: President, Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Barrister Sultan Mahmood on Wednesday called on Chief Organizer PTI Saifullah Khan Nyazee and discussed the overall political situation of AJK and organizational affairs. Senior Vice President PTI Arshad Dad was also present on the occasion, said a press release. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Organizer said that after historical victory in Gilgit-Baltistan, PTI has started work on devising strategy for the elections in AJK. During meeting, they principally agreed to contest the upcoming elections for the legislative assembly

of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) without making electoral alliance with any political party. Saifullah Nyazee said that PTI has emerged as a powerful party in AJK, adding that under the leadership of Barrister Sultan Mahmood, PTI AJK was united and fully prepared for the elections. He said that with massive elections campaign, PTI would also get two third majority in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. He announced that an high level Parliamentary Board would be constituted soon for the nomination of suitable candidates of the party. He asked the workers to start preparations, adding that soon will announce future strategy. — APP



ISLAMABAD: PTI Azad Jammu and Kashmir president Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry called on chief organizer Saifullah Khan Niazi. — DNA

NAB Recovers record Rs 363 bln, says Chairman

According to a press release, Chairing a high level meeting held to review the two years performance of bureau, he said that the bureau has put its energies together to take the under trial cases to logical conclusion by setting aside political influence pressure

DNA
ISLAMABAD: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Chairman Justice (Retd) Javed Iqbal on Wednesday said a record sum of Rs. 363 billion have been recovered directly or indirectly from the corrupt elements in the last two years. According to a press release, Chairing a high level meeting held to review the two

years performance of bureau, he said that the bureau has put its energies together to take the under trial cases to logical conclusion by setting aside political influence pressure. Chairman said encouraging results of the policy of awareness, prevention and enforcement has already started pouring in. NAB has concentrated on pursuing corruption, misappropriation in government funds, abuse



of authority, money laundering and cheating the people at large cases. He said NAB has received

75,268 complaints in the last two years, out of which 66,838 were disposed of. Action was taken on 2,417 complaints while 2,036 complaints were disposed of. In the last two years - NAB has approved 1,240 inquiries while some 1,220 inquiries were disposed of. NAB has also accorded approval to conduct 432 investigations during the last two years. Out of which 415 inquiries have been concluded. NAB has

filed 332 corruption references. Out of which 270 investigations have been completed. Chairman said NAB's priority is to eradicate corruption and manage the return of the looted money of the people. He directed the concerned to conclude the complaint verifications, inquiries, investigations as per law, so that the looted money could be recovered and be deposited in the national exchequer.

SC adjourns Daniel Pearl murder case

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday adjourned hearing of a case against acquittal of accused by the Sindh High Court (SHC) in American journalist Daniel Pearl murder case till the first week of December. A three-member special bench of the apex court headed by Justice Mughir Alam and comprising Justice Qazi Muhammad Amin Ahmed and Justice Manzoor Ahmed Malik heard the appeals filed by the government and Pearl's parents challenging the acquittal of the previously convicted men by the Sindh High Court (SHC). The court adjourned hearing of the case over written application of Advocate Faisal Siddiqui, counsel for Daniel Pearl's parents. The court also rejected a plea by Sindh government against acquittal of accused in Daniel Pearl case. Justice Mughir Alam said that the counsel for Daniel Pearl's parents could not appear due to personal engagements. He said that video link facility was available in SC Karachi Registry and lawyers used to appear through video link from Karachi Registry. The counsel for the Sindh government pleaded the court to adjourn the case for a week and suspend SHC order regarding release of the accused. The counsel for the accused said that the accused was in jail since 19 years. The SHC had announced verdict in Daniel Pearl murder case on April 2. — APP

Health department conducts tests of judicial staff

ISLAMABAD: District Health Department team on Wednesday conducted COVID-19 tests of all judicial staff at judicial complex Islamabad after three more positive cases identified there. The decision was taken after the coronavirus was confirmed in two members of the judicial staff including a policeman in the Judges Squad. After this, the Judicial Complex administration decided to conduct corona tests of judges and other staff. The administration wrote a letter to the district administration in this regard. The health team reached the courts and conducted tests of all the staff of the Judicial Complex. — APP

Smooth traffic flow to be ensured: SP Traffic

ISLAMABAD: Senior Superintendent (SP) of Police (Traffic) Farrukh Rasheed on Wednesday directed Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) to ensure smooth flow of traffic at JP road, Srinagar (Kashmir) Highway, Islamabad expressway and take strict action against those creating inconvenience for the road users. He said special squads have been deputed at Islamabad Expressway, JP road, Srinagar (Kashmir) Highway and other important boulevards to ensure smooth traffic flow. He said complaints about any inconvenience to people could be lodged with ITP Helpline 1915 or 051-9261992-93 which would be addressed promptly. Following the directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfikar, the Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) said ITP was taking steps to ensure safe road environment in the city with maximum convenience to road users. He said special squads have been constituted to ensure implementation on traffic rules and also smooth traffic flow in busy areas. He further directed to ensure traffic discipline in the city and take action against violators without any discrimination. Meanwhile, the spokesman said 5, 97, 766 vehicles and bikes have been fined during the current year for hampering smooth flow of traffic and involvement in over-charging, over-loading and misbehaving with passengers. He added that 143627 trucks, 35340 buses and pick-ups, 70,264 wagons, 56,608 cabs and 7709 other vehicles were fined during the period over these violations. Efforts were underway to ensure smooth traffic flow in the city and cooperation of road users in crucial to overcome traffic related problems, the SSP (Traffic) said. — APP

Textile policy

THE government's textile policy 2020-25 has received appreciation from the All-Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA). The approval of the new strategy makes it one of the few occasions when APTMA seems satisfied with the incentives given and cooperation promised by the government. Indeed, the 2020-25 policy sounds like a progressive and innovative one for the textile sector. Given the vitality of the textile industry for our economy, the new guidelines will support export-led growth. The new textile policy contains subsidies and lower tax rates that will give a boost to our textile industry, which nowadays is an ailing industry. The 2020-25 policy replacing the previous one of 2014-19 is laden with recommendations and a 4-tier strategy to achieve the export target of \$25.3 billion by 2025. Though the benchmarks may seem unachievable given our previous failures, APTMA is hopeful that the tariff cuts will prove instrumental in achieving the export increase identified. Moreover, the consistency in electricity and gas tariffs will also attract investment in textiles and apparel value chain. The new textile policy is indeed a genuine show of the developmental model where the state enables a select industry to put the overall country on the path of economic stability. From reduction in tariffs to the establishment of the Brand Development Fund (BDF) to the Long-Term Financing Facility (LTFF) and Export Financing Scheme (EFS), the government has taken every possible step for the revival of the textile industry. Now it is up to the players in this industry to play their role. The mill owners and textile product manufacturers must broaden the range of garments and made-ups. The manufacturers should make special efforts to widen the production base to include value-added products. Hopefully, the textile sector will exploit the offered incentives to help the government achieve the ultimate aim of production maximisation, job creation and the realisation of export-led growth.

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Transferring jurisdiction

THE business community had been trying for a year to escape the National Accountability Bureau (NAB)'s jurisdiction. After extracting promises from the Prime Minister and pushing for the inclusion of clauses in the NAB ordinance to insulate the business community from NAB, it seems they are successful—the NAB chairman has confirmed that the accountability body was not pursuing the sales and income tax-related cases of the business community and had transferred all of them to the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) as per law. This step was necessary. First, it was in line with the law, as the NAB ordinance in 2019 curtailed some of the powers of NAB and stated that the amended ordinance will not be applicable to matters related to federal or provincial taxes, duties, levies or imposts. Secondly, while it may seem a loss to the anti-accountability drive that corrupt practices in the business community will not be prosecuted by NAB, it is important, in order for any objective to be achieved, that clear demarcations and lines are drawn and each institution is given its own task. NAB had too much on its plate—by prosecuting so many cases of several jurisdictions, it was allowing a lot of mix-up, consequently drawing a backlash. With a backlog of cases, the body was investigating and arresting many people, while the courts had not yet reached a conviction, which naturally drew criticisms. Restricting its jurisdiction and assigning responsibility to other investigative bodies will allow things to proceed more smoothly and in an organised manner. However, vandals in the business community should not cheer yet. It is now the responsibility of the FBR to pick up where NAB left off. While its goal should be to crack down on illegal practices, FBR must keep all investigations fair and non-political to keep the morale of the business community.

Children's rights are of universal value

Vladimir Norov



SPECIAL TO ISLAMABAD POST

Pakistan has ratified a number of international treaties providing special protection for children, including the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989, the International Labour Organization's Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention of 1999, the SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution of 2002 and others

WORLD Children's Day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1954. It is celebrated on November 20 as a day of world brotherhood and understanding of children, dedicated to activities aimed at ensuring the welfare of children around the world. Ensuring the rights of the child is one of the global issues of our time, in which the entire world community is interested.

Each state is guided by the understanding that human progress and general development are impossible without improving the status of women and children and ensuring their rights. It is in the family that a child receives the physical and spiritual development that allows him or her to become a full member of society, capable of an independent life.

Today, more children and adolescents are enrolled in preschool, primary and secondary education than ever before. At the same time, according to the UN, about 113 million children in the world do not attend school for one reason or another. 97% (about 110 million) of them live in the so called "third world" countries: 48.5 million people – in countries of South and South-East Asia; 42.3 million people – in countries of Africa.

Shortages of qualified teachers, poor quality teaching materials, ad-hoc classrooms, and poor sanitation make it difficult for many children to learn. An estimated 617 million children and adolescents around the world are unable to achieve minimum levels of proficiency in reading and mathematics, although two-thirds of them are in school. Children in rural areas are more than twice as likely not to attend elementary school as their urban peers. In conflict zones, 27 million children are out of school. Without life-long learning skills, children face greater obstacles to potential employment at a later age. They are more likely to suffer adverse health outcomes and less likely to participate in decisions that affect them, compromising their ability to build a better future.

In addition, in the current situation, the closure of schools and universities due to coronavirus has disrupted the full educational process for approximately 1 billion students and schoolchildren in 160 countries. COVID-19 has also caused major disruption to child health services. According to UNICEF, a study in 77 countries found that in 68% of them, the pandemic affected the organization of regular child health checkups and immunization services.

SCO member states attach great importance to ensuring the rights of children and youth, and work is focused on ensuring the rights of young people, their self-expression, disclosure of their creative potential, as well as creating favorable social conditions and opportunities for education and employment. Kazakhstan continues to improve legislation to protect children's rights, including children with mental and physical disabilities, children in vulnerable situations, and children in conflict with the law. In 2016, the institution of the Commissioner for Children's Rights was established by presidential decree. In 2019, the President signed a law "On introducing amendments and additions" to some legislative acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan on issues related to the activities of organizations that perform functions to protect the rights of the child. In particular, the law provides for the establishment and operation of centers to support children in difficult situations, as well as the inclusion of these centers in the list of organizations that carry out functions to protect the rights of the child.

Pakistan's existing legislative and policy framework for child protection includes commitments of the country that is a signatory to various international treaties and conventions, provisions of the national constitution, federal and provincial laws, including criminal and sharia law, and na-

tional policies and action plans related to children.

Pakistan has ratified a number of international treaties providing special protection for children, including the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989, the International Labour Organization's Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention of 1999, the SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution of 2002 and others.

Russian legislation enshrines child rights at the federal level. All relations between children and parents are set out in the Family Code and a number of other legal acts. In 2009, a presidential decree established the post of the Presidential Commissioner for Children's Rights. At the time of signing the decree, children's ombudsmen were already functioning in 18 regions of the country. Exactly one year later there were 48 of them, and by the end of 2010 there were 62. Significant work was done to ensure that each region of Russia had a person in charge of children's issues. And by the beginning of 2015 the establishment of the institute was almost completed in all 85 regions. The most important result of the Commissioner's activity is real assistance provided to applicants in protecting the rights and legal interests of minors. Children's rights are also regulated by the country's Constitution and other laws and regulations. In Tajikistan the National Commission on the Rights of the Child was established, which coordinates the implementation of international obligations of the Republic in the field of children's rights and within its authority implements the state policy to ensure the rights and interests of the child and regulates issues related to the education and upbringing of children.

Foundations and non-governmental organizations that provide social assistance to children are active in the country. One such foundation is the Lona Charitable Foundation, established in 2009, and throughout its activities provides practical assistance to sick children with cancer and children with body burns. The Foundation also provides material assistance to poor families, boarding schools, nursing homes and orphanages.

In the legal system of the Republic of Uzbekistan, more than 100 legal acts have been adopted related to rights and protection of children. In particular, the Law "On guarantees of children's rights" reflects guarantees of children's rights to life, freedom and personal inviolability, state support to families raising children, as well as to rest and leisure, health care, education and others.

Under the Constitution, the rights of minors are protected by the state. The post of Deputy Commissioner for Human Rights of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Ombudsman) – Commissioner for the Rights of the Child – has been introduced in the country. A single system of continuous education has been introduced in the country, aimed at radical reform of the education sector. In addition, Uzbekistan pays close attention to the development of children's sports and creativity.

At the Bishkek summit of SCO in 2019, the SCO heads of state expressed their support to the initiative of the Uzbek side to prepare a draft UN Convention on the Rights of Young People and expressed their intention to conduct coordinated work on this issue.

According to experts, the significance of this UN Convention for the SCO countries is that it takes into account international and national experience in regulating current aspects of the protection of youth rights and aims to increase efforts at international, regional and national levels to meet the needs of young people, strengthen capacity and guarantees of rights, freedoms and support the interests of young people in all their diversity around the world.

The Convention will be a timely and effective response to the challenges and opportunities faced by states and the world community as a whole in harmonious development of young people, realization of their enormous potential for the well-being and sustainable development of the SCO countries.

As for the work carried out within the SCO, I would like to note that one of the main tasks of the SCO, according to its Charter, is to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the international obligations of member states and their national legislation.

In this regard, through the SCO Youth Council and other relevant mechanisms, extensive work has been initiated to develop youth cooperation aimed at promoting physical, mental and spiritual development of the young generation, involving them in large-scale plans for joint development. Regular discussions, conferences, cultural and sporting events, as well as youth forums are held, aimed at revealing the creative, social, educational, spiritual and moral potential of the young generation, strengthening friendship and mutual understanding, as well as the development of good neighborly relations, strengthening interethnic and interfaith cooperation.

I would like to emphasize the importance of the Exhibition of Children's Paintings of the SCO countries held in June 2020 on the theme "Unity in the fight against the epidemic, protection of the common home". In their works the participants not only revealed the theme of fighting the virus, but also reflected the ideas of peace, friendship, joint support and aspiration for development – the ideas of "the Shanghai spirit". It is gratifying that the young generation of SCO shares the principles of mutual support from an early age and calls for solidarity.

In addition, the SCO is taking measures aimed at counteracting the involvement of young people in terrorist, separatist and extremist structures. In particular, as a result of the SCO summit in Qingdao in 2018, the heads of state adopted a Joint Appeal to youth and the Program of Action for its implementation, which are focused on active involvement of young people in creating a decent future, promoting physical, mental and spiritual development of the younger generation. The documents emphasize the utmost importance of ensuring favorable social and economic conditions, availability of opportunities for education, self-expression, disclosure of creative potential and realization of work for young people.

I express confidence that the young generation of SCO member states will make a worthy contribution to the development and prosperity of their countries, strengthening regional and global stability and security, dialogue between peoples, cultures and religions.

– The writer is the Secretary General of SCO

Admiral Fasih Bokhari sounds the "Ring off Main Engines"

Muhammad Azam Khan

Admiral Bokhari had a distinguished career in Pakistan Navy. He held numerous command and staff appointments. This included command of a Daphne class submarine and a tour of duty as Commander Submarines and Commander of a Destroyer Squadron. The late Admiral assumed charge as Commander Pakistan Fleet in 1995 and was later appointed Chief of the Naval Staff in May 1997. He was a graduate of French Naval War College

ADMIRAL Fasih Bokhari, the former Chief of the Naval Staff, Pakistan Navysounded "Ring off Main Engines" one last time. The Admiral passed away peacefully in the small hours of November 24. The term, "Ring off Main Engines" was common in earlier nautical jargon. It was an order to the marine engineering staff onboard to "Shut Down the Engines" once the ship returned from sea and finally secured alongside at the Port. In submarines this term is worded as "Finish with Main Motor". In his professional life, the late Admiral must have given such orders on numerous occasions while commanding various warships and submarines. This time however it was to be a final trumpet.

Born and destined to be a sailor and gifted with stunningly handsome appearance, the Admiral exuded looks of no less than an American or British officer. He belonged to a Persian pedigree. Admiral Bokhari's extraordinary command over French and English language added to his aura. On many occasions, American and British officers unconsciously took him to be one of them. Admiral Bokhari had traits which qualified him to be man of high integrity. This strength showed right through his long yet brilliant career including Command of Pakistan Navy as Chief of the Naval Staff.

Admiral Fasih joined Pakistan Navy in January 1959. The young naval cadet was soon sent to Britannia Royal Naval College at Dartmouth, UK for initial training. He earned his commission in Pakistan Navy in May 1962. Later in 1964, the late Admiral joined the elite group of Submarine Service of Pakistan Navy. Little did the youthful naval officer then know that he is ordained to make history in the North Arabian Sea.

As an exuberant Lieutenant, Fasih Bokhari was Operations Officer onboard PN submarine HANGOR when war broke out between India and Pakistan in December 1971. Under the Command of then Commander later Vice Admiral, Ahmad Tasnim, HANGOR was operating in North Arabian Sea, off the Indian coast of Kathiawar. In the early hours of 9 December, 1971,



HANGOR picked up two contacts. Both were identified as warships. After tracking the two enemy ships for almost entire day, HANGOR'S moment came that night at around 2000 hours.

Pakistan Navy submarine fired the torpedos, a down-the-throat shots at one of the enemy warship. It was three minutes to 2000 hours. As the first torpedo ran, no explosion was heard. Without any wait however, the control team onboard HANGOR sprang to action. The team that included the young spirited Lt Fasih Bokhari prepared another shot. A second torpedo was fired. Five anxious minutes later at 2019a loud explosion was heard. The torpedo had found its mark. This was Indian frigate, INS KHUKRI. The ship received a hit right in the explosive stowage

compartment. The Indian frigate sank in minutes, taking entire crew of officers and sailors onboard to the bottom of the sea.

This sinking of an Indian Navy warship restored the balance of power in North Arabian Sea during the 1971 war. It also thwarted further missile attacks on Karachi planned by the Indian Navy. From 9 December until 13 of December, 1971, Indian Navy committed whatever it had in its arsenal to hunt and destroy PN submarine HANGOR. Luck however was with HANGOR. Indian Navy finally aborted the chase as HANGOR safely returned to Karachi. Reportedly, at no moment during the entire ordeal did young Lt Fasih show any signs of anxiety or fright. Like so many of his teammates onboard, he too was truly fearless.

Admiral Bokhari had a distinguished career in Pakistan Navy. He held numerous command and staff appointments. This included command of a Daphne class submarine and a tour of duty as Commander Submarines and Commander of a Destroyer Squadron. The late Admiral assumed charge as Commander Pakistan Fleet in 1995 and was later appointed Chief of the Naval Staff in May 1997. He was a graduate of French Naval War College. The Admiral distinguished himself through induction of French Agosta 90-B class submarines in Pakistan Navy.

Admiral Fasih Bokhari held a confident belief that future wars in the region will be fought not on land but rather at sea. He posited cogent and persuasive reasons to support his argument. Concurrently however, the Admiral was strong advocate of peace and maritime cooperation between India and Pakistan. This fact has been acknowledged even by his adversaries. Former Indian Navy Admiral, J.G. Nadkarni wrote that Pakistan had sensible mariners in decision-making positions who were keen to have agreements with the Indian Navy. In Admiral Fasih, Pakistan Navy and indeed the country has lost a valuable veteran whose intellect and personality inspired several generation of officers. Rest in peace dear Admiral.

– The writer is a former naval officer.

Briefs

Japanese PM Suga meets Chinese FM

FOREIGN DESK

TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga on Wednesday met here with visiting Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and both sides agreed to enhance bilateral relations. Wang said that after the establishment of the new Japanese government, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Suga reached important consensus on improving bilateral ties, which has enabled a stable transition for bilateral relations and provided a clear direction for developing bilateral relations in the next stage. After years of efforts, Wang said, China-Japan relations have returned to the right track and both sides should cherish the hard-won situation. Going forward, China is willing to work with Japan to build a bilateral relationship that will meet the requirements of the new era, he said while expressing China's hope for realizing such a bilateral relationship at an early date for it to bear fruit, benefit the two peoples, and lay a solid foundation for the 50th anniversary of the normalization of China-Japan diplomatic relations in 2022.

Aus Open 'most likely' to delay due to Covid-19

SPORTS DESK

MELBOURNE: The Australian Open next year is 'most likely' to delay by a week or two, the Victoria State Sports Minister said on Wednesday. The grand slam is scheduled to take place in Melbourne from January 18 to 31. However, the negotiations between the state government, Tennis Australia and health officials about the possible delay in the tournament next year is underway with no definite changes announced yet. Talking to journalists in Melbourne, the Victorian Sports and Tourism Minister, Martin Pakula said, "There are a number of potential dates on the table. I've seen reports that suggest that it's likely to be delayed by a week or two. I think that's still 'most likely.'" The Labor Party representative said that unlike in French Open, the delay in the Australian grand slam will be relatively shorter. "As you know, the French Open was delayed by many months and Wimbledon didn't occur at all. I still think it's much more likely that it will be a shorter rather than longer delay," he added. The state premier Dan Andrews was also confident that the tournament would go ahead but with slightly changes in the schedule due to the pandemic. Standing firm on quarantine requirements, the 48-year-old added that he can't 'jeopardize' his state's coronavirus-free status for a tennis tournament.

Syria claims Israel struck areas south of capital

WEB DESK

DAMASCUS: Syria's military said Israeli warplanes carried out airstrikes to the south of the capital late Tuesday, state media reported. The Syrian media said the attack was directed from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights against a mountain, adding property damage occurred as a result. Israel has occupied most of the Syrian Golan Heights since the 1967 Middle East War. Since the beginning of the Syrian crisis in 2011, Israel has carried out hundreds of airstrikes against targets in Syria, including against military sites of the Bashar al-Assad regime and Iranian-backed groups. Syria has been locked in a vicious civil war since early 2011, when the Assad regime cracked down on pro-democracy protests with unexpected ferocity. Since then, hundreds of thousands of people have been killed and more than 10 million others displaced, according to UN officials.



NEW YORK: Ambassador Munir Akram, permanent representative of Pakistan to the United Nations holding press briefing on Pakistan's dossier on Indian sponsored terrorism. – DNA

Iran and US can return to time before Trump: Rouhani

We hope that in its first steps, the next US administration will explicitly condemn Trump's policies on Iran," the president Rouhani said, calling the policies "anti-human rights and terroristic"

FOREIGN DESK

TEHRAN: Iran and the United States can fully reverse four years of Donald Trump and return to conditions before his presidency, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has said. In a televised cabinet speech on Wednesday, Rouhani said if the incoming Joe Biden administration has the political will, Iran-US relations could be very different. "Iran and the US can both decide and announce that they will return to conditions on January 20, 2017," he said. "This can be a great solution to a large number of issues and completely change the path and conditions." However, Rouhani outlined what Iran would expect

of future President Biden. "We hope that in its first steps, the next US administration will explicitly condemn Trump's policies on Iran," the president said, calling the policies "anti-human rights and terroristic". He also said a Biden administration would have to "make up for the incorrect policies" of his predecessor without further elaborating. The president said Iran's policy has always been clear and is based on "commitment for action, de-escalation for de-escalation, and respect for respect". In May 2018, Trump unilaterally withdrew from a landmark nuclear deal reached between Iran and world powers in 2015 and imposed harsh economic sanctions on Tehran.



The sanctions only intensified as Iran started battling the deadliest outbreak COVID-19 pandemic of the Middle East, which has now killed nearly 50,000 people. Iran has called the "maximum pressure" campaign of the Trump administration an instance of "economic and med-

ical terrorism", and has said a future US administration would have to pay compensation. The Iranian president on Wednesday also said the defeat of Trump in the US presidential elections signals that Iranians emerged victorious from an "economic war". "One of the great manifestations of the victory of the Iranian nation and the certain defeat of the enemy in this economic war is the end of the Trumpism era," Rouhani said. "This person committed the worst crimes in US history against independent nations, especially the Iranian and Palestinian nations." According to Rouhani, the past three years signal a new "holy defence" only second to the

deadly eight-year Iran-Iraq War that ended in 1988. In both wars, he said, Iran stood alone while foes supported from both the West and the east attacked. Rouhani's remarks come one day after Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Iran will resist and choose the path of "defusing sanctions and overcoming them" until a time when countries that target Iran come to the realisation that sanctions are useless. "We tried the path of lifting sanctions once and negotiated for years, but it led to no results," Khamenei said. "If we can overcome sanctions through hard work and innovation and taking problems as they come, and the other side sees that sanctions are ineffective, they will gradually stop sanctioning."

Football legend Maradona dies aged 60



SPORTS DESK

BUENOS AIRES: Football legend Diego Maradona, one of the greatest players of all time, has died at the age of 60. The former Argentina attacking midfielder and manager suffered a heart attack. He had successful surgery on a brain blood clot earlier in November and was to be treated for alcohol dependency. Maradona was captain when Argentina

won the 1986 World Cup, producing a series of sublime individual performances to lead his team to glory. In a statement on Twitter, the Argentine Football Association expressed "its deepest sorrow for the death of our legend", adding: "You will always be in our hearts." Maradona played for Barcelona and Napoli during his club career, winning two Serie A titles with the Italian side. Maradona scored 34 goals in 91 appearances for Argentina, representing them in four World Cups. He led his country to the 1990 final in Italy, where they were beaten by West Germany, before captaining them again in the United States in 1994, but was sent home after failing a drugs test for ephedrine.



LAHORE: Players struggling to get hold on the ball in a match between Samba Bank and Pricemeterpk played at Aibak Ground Polo Club as part of Happy Cow Polo for Peace-II for Pakistan Polo Cup. – DNA

China, Germany ready to boost vaccine co-op

China is actively fostering a new development pattern and steadfastly expanding domestic demand and opening-up, which will bring new opportunities to Germany, Xi pointed out, adding that China also hopes that Germany and the European Union (EU) will be open to Chinese enterprises

FOREIGN DESK

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping said that China stands ready to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with Germany on COVID-19 vaccines and push for the vaccines to be fairly distributed as a global public good, especially for the benefit of developing countries. Xi made the remarks in a phone conversation with German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Recalling that he and Merkel both attended the Group of 20 summit days ago, Xi noted that both sides advocate upholding multilateralism, boosting international cooperation, joining forces against the coronavirus disease, reinvigorating the world economy, and jointly tackling global challenges. Currently, with Europe and some other regions in the world facing the test of a second wave of the pandemic, it remains a top priority for all parties to work together to fight the epidemic, Xi stressed. Since the onset of the pandemic, he noted, China and Germany have kept communication in a flexible way, with practi-

cal cooperation continuing to advance. China is actively fostering a new development pattern and steadfastly expanding domestic demand and opening-up, which will bring new opportunities to Germany, Xi pointed out, adding that China also hopes that Germany and the European Union (EU) will be open to Chinese enterprises. He suggested that the two sides maintain mutual respect and always stick to the overall direction of dialogue and cooperation as well as the general principle of mutual benefit. He also conveyed his hope that the new round of China-Germany intergovernmental consultations will make plans for the two countries' cooperation in various fields. Pointing out that China-EU cooperation is gaining more global and strategic significance in the complicated international situation, Xi said the two sides need to enhance mutual trust and cooperation, strengthen exchanges and mutual learning, safeguard multilateralism and improve global governance. He recalled that a number of consensus were reached during his video conference with

Merkel, European Council President Charles Michel and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in September, adding that they are all being implemented. China, he added, is ready to maintain continuous close communication with the EU on their major agendas for the next phase and strive to conclude China-EU investment treaty negotiations as scheduled. He also called for joint efforts to promote the establishment of China-EU dialogue mechanisms on environment and climate as



well as digital cooperation, make China and the EU green partners and digital partners, and inject robust impetus into the development of the China-EU comprehensive strategic partnership under the new circumstances. For her part, Merkel noted that the world is undergoing profound changes and that Europe is facing the impact of a second wave of the pandemic. The fact that China has done a good job in COVID-19 prevention and control and taken the lead in economic recovery is good



news for German enterprises, she said, expressing the hope that the two sides will increase communication on vaccine cooperation and push forward cooperation in such fields as trade, investment and new-energy vehicles. The German side, she added, congratulates China on having signed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership trade deal with relevant parties, and hopes to step up efforts with China to push for concluding negotiations on the EU-China investment treaty by the end of this year. Germany highly appreciates China's announcement of its medium- and long-term targets and visions for climate change response, and hopes to deepen bilateral cooperation in such areas as climate change and ecological environment, added the Chancellor. Germany stands ready to continue to maintain close communication with China over major Germany-China and EU-China political agendas for the next phase, she said, adding that she will stay committed to pushing for sustained and sound development of Germany-China and EU-China relations.

NZ's Barclay named new ICC chairman

SPORTS DESK

AUKLAND: The former New Zealand Cricket boss needed a two-thirds majority of the 16-person ICC board and received the all-important 11th vote from Cricket South Africa. Khwaja had been the interim chairman since Manohar stepped down in July. "It is an honour to be elected as the Chair of the International Cricket Council and I would like to thank my fellow ICC directors for their support," Barclay said in an ICC statement. "I hope we can come together to lead the sport and emerge from the global pandemic in a strong position and poised for growth." Barclay has said he will push to protect bilateral international series and his election could end plans for an extra ICC global event, an idea backed by Khwaja. "I look forward to working in partnership with our Members to strengthen the game in our core markets as well as grow it beyond that ensuring more of the world can enjoy cricket," Barclay added.

'No pressure to recognize Israel'

From Page 01

"We must never allow any such activities which cause people to gather. We know that when people have close contact, the virus spreads at a very fast rate. "Which is why I had appealed to people before as well [...] we had put off our own rally. And I had said that until the situation is brought under control, until the curve of infections is brought down, no rallies will take place," said the prime minister. PM Imran Khan said that there are two projects which are "very important for Pakistan", namely the Ravi River project in Lahore and the Bundal Island project in Karachi.

Opp politicizing virus situation, says Shibli

From Page 01

Termining opposition parties' boycott of the meeting as 'irresponsible', Faraz said the current situation concerns the entire country in terms of economy, population and health. "Boycotting a meeting on the country's health and economic situation is not a good decision," he added. "We expect the opposition to cooperate with the government and not politicise the pandemic." "Our strategy to limit infections during the first wave has been commended by the world. And now that we are experiencing the second wave, we need to strategise again. This is not to score points." He said the social activities that increase coronavirus spread should be stopped and only economic activities should be allowed to stay open. Ahead of the meeting, Faraz said an important issue such as the coronavirus should not be politicised. "We hope the opposition leaders will participate in the meeting and give their recommendations on dealing with the pandemic."

PL welcomes decision to allow crowd

SPORTS DESK

LONDON: On the directives of Prime Minister Boris Johnson, the UK government gave permission to allow as many as 4000 spectators in the stadium during Premier League contests. "Fans have been greatly missed at Premier League matches and therefore we welcome the PM's announcement today regarding the return of supporters for the first time since March, albeit at small numbers," the statement read. "Our ambition remains to work with the Government to increase attendance to more substantial levels. Until this can be done, many fans will be unable to attend games and our clubs will continue to operate matches at a financial loss," the statement added. "Premier League clubs have a proven track record of achieving high-biosecurity standards and we believe we can play a significant role in the Government's rapid turnaround testing initiative. It concluded. It must be noted here that prevailing COVID-19 across the world put all public gatherings, concerts, and sports events at stake."

Briefs

Cuba remembers revolutionary leader Castro

WEB DESK

HAVANA: Cuba commemorated the fourth anniversary of Fidel Castro's death Wednesday with homages and media coverage for the man who led the country for almost half a century. After fighting for the liberation of Cuba from foreign domination, the revolutionary leader died Nov. 25, 2016, from natural causes at the age of 90. "All the peace and justice-loving peoples of the world are recalling Fidel's ideas nowadays. All who are pushing for and spreading solidarity to contain the COVID-19 instead of acting with egoism and cruelty are followers of Fidel. All that are confronting exploitation and hegemonic abuses of the imperialism are supporters of Fidel. All that are fighting for a better world are thinking on Fidel," according to the ambassador. He said Cuba's move to send more than 3,700 doctors and nurses to 40 countries amid the pandemic is in line with remarks made by Castro in 2003, in which he said, "Our country could send needed doctors to the darkest corners of the world. Doctors, not bombs."

Don't cut foreign aid, Malala urges UK

DNA

LONDON: Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai has urged Britain not to cut overseas aid, ahead of a major announcement by the country's finance minister on Wednesday. Rishi Sunak was expected to suspend a legal commitment to spend 0.7 percent of gross national income on international development. Reports suggest he will cut the level of aid to 0.5 percent in his Spending Review, as the government seeks to support the coronavirus-ravaged economy and looks for savings from an aid budget worth £15 billion (\$20 billion, EUR17 billion).

In a tweet late on Tuesday, Yousafzai reminded Sunak and Prime Minister Boris Johnson of the 0.7 percent pledge, renewed in last year's Conservative election manifesto. "When you announce spending priorities... I hope you'll deliver on that promise," she wrote.

The Pakistani education campaigner wrote that leaders must "prioritise education" as "Covid-19 could force 20 million more girls out of school". Her plea came as five former prime ministers also opposed the planned cut. Among them was former Conservative leader John Major, quoted by The Times newspaper on Wednesday as saying the spending cut was "morally wrong and politically unwise". Former Labour prime minister Tony Blair said on Saturday that Britain's overseas aid budget had an impact "measured literally in millions of lives".

Bulgaria closes restaurants, schools to fight virus

SOFIA: Bulgaria's government announced Wednesday a return to tougher restrictions, including the closure of restaurants and schools, in a bid to contain a surge in infections and deaths amid a second wave of coronavirus.

"New anti-epidemic measures are coming into force from November 27 until December 21," Health Minister Kostadin Angelov told a news conference after a government meeting early Wednesday. Cafes and restaurants had remained open even as infection and death rates peaked over the past two weeks, but they will now close along with casinos, fitness studios and shopping centres. Universities and schools will fully switch to distance learning and kindergartens will close. Theatres will be allowed to operate at 30 percent capacity, while restaurants will only be able to sell takeaways. Churches and other places of worship will however stay open. Unlike during Bulgaria's tough spring lockdown, the government will not shut public parks and gardens or limit travel. — APP



KUWAIT CITY: Ambassador of the Pakistan to Kuwait Syed Sajjad Haider visited Turkish embassy and met with ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Kuwait Ayşe Hilal Sayan. — DNA

EU reconfirms support for Afghanistan at Geneva moot

Josep Borrell, speaking at the opening session of the conference, said: "With intraAfghan peace negotiations having started, but terrible violence still causing great suffering for the Afghan people, Afghanistan is at a crossroads"

DNA

BRUSSELS: The European Union today reconfirmed its long-standing solidarity and partnership with the people of Afghanistan, pledging support of 1.2 billion over the period 2021-2025 in both long-term and emergency assistance at the 2020 Afghanistan Conference "Peace, Prosperity and Self-Reliance". EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, Josep Borrell, speaking at the opening session of the conference, said: "With intraAfghan peace negotiations having started, but terrible violence still causing great suffering for the Afghan people, Afghanistan is at a crossroads. The Afghan people can count on the European Union's support for a prosperous and peaceful future for their country, but our support relies on democracy, human rights, and social progress being protected."

Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta Urpilainen, who announced the EU's pledge at the conference and participated in a side event on anti-corruption, said: "A pledge of 1.2 billion for the next four years illustrates our commitment to the Afghan people. Our assistance will support the Afghan authorities' agenda for democratic, sustainable development and modernisation, helping to lift people out of poverty, improve governance, reduce corruption and enhance the daily lives of the Afghan people." Commissioner for Crisis Management, Janez Lenarčič, who co-hosted a side event on sustainable peace building, as well as a high-level meeting on international humanitarian law and the protection of civilians in Afghanistan ahead of the conference, said: "We are boosting our humanitarian aid to help those most in need. While it must never become a political instrument, humanitarian assistance, International Humanitarian Law and protection of civilians must be central in the ongoing Afghan Peace Process negotiations. The protection of civilian lives and respect of International Humanitarian Law in conflict cannot wait for the end of the peace negotiations. It must begin now." Significant but conditional support The significant financial commitment demonstrates that the EU is unwavering in its determination to promote a peaceful, democratic, sovereign and prosperous Afghanistan, deserved and long awaited by its people, and makes clear that EU development assistance is based on clear conditions and principles. These conditions are laid out in a paper co-authored by the EU and other key international partners of the country, which combined provide 80% of international assistance to Afghanistan. As reiterated by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell and Commissioner Urpilainen at the Conference, the EU's support to Afghanistan is conditional upon an inclusive, Afghan-owned, Afghan-led peace process that builds on the

political and social achievements of the last 19 years. Preserving democratic pluralism, the constitutional order, institutional transparency and accountability, and the rule of law, further promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially for women, children and minorities and including freedom of media, and pursuing sustainable peace, development and prosperity, are essential for Afghanistan's future. Many of the principles for EU and international support are reflected in the Joint Political Communiqué and the Afghanistan Partnership Framework, which were adopted at the Conference. The EU's development assistance is subject to adoption of the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework along the lines proposed by the European Commission on 2 June. This assistance will support implementation of the second Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework covering the period of 2021-2025. The EU's support will also help to address growing poverty

levels in Afghanistan in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Alongside development support, the EU will also continue to provide impartial, life-saving humanitarian assistance, boosting the coronavirus response as well as assisting victims of conflict and forced displacement, including with emergency food provision, protection services to address gender-based violence, the education of children, as well as advocacy for respect of International Humanitarian Law by all parties to the conflict. In 2016, the EU similarly pledged Afghanistan 1.2 billion euros over a four-year period. Actual payments in 2016-2020 exceeded 1.75 billion. In 2002-2020, the European Union has committed in total more than 5.1 billion to Afghanistan. Afghanistan is the largest beneficiary of EU development assistance in the world. EU support aims to preserve the political and development achievements of the last 19 years and is guided by strong democratic and human rights principles.

'Corona has damaged developing economies a lot'

DNA

KARACHI: Chairman of National Business Group of FPCCI, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Wednesday said coronavirus has damaged developing economies while the response of the developed countries have left much to be desired. The irresponsible attitude of developed countries may result in bankruptcies in poor countries triggering another serious global crisis, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that repayments of all the loans taken by underdeveloped countries should be immediately stopped while the process to write off loans should be initiated. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that dozens of countries including Pakistan are not prepared to face another wave of the virus which will also hit the developed countries. He said that who will buy the products of western countries in case the economics of the third world are damaged by the second wave of the virus. lukewarm response of the west in against their own interest as they are dependent on raw material and labour from poor nations.

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FAISALABAD: Ambassador of Spain Manuel Durán visited St. Raphael's hospital in Faisalabad and met with two Spanish Sisters who have devoted their lives to help the needy in Pakistan. Sister Juana (102 years old) and Sister Pilar. — DNA

Azerbaijani leader slams pro-Armenian states

No one should worry, especially the leaders of Western countries which ignite Islamophobic sentiments, those who have turned a blind eye to the insults of Islam and even justified those who are insulting it. They have no right to talk about it," Aliyev said

FOREIGN DESK

BAKU: Azerbaijan's leader on Monday criticized the leaders of some Western countries who "remained silent" over the destruction by Armenian forces of Azerbaijani cultural and religious monuments in the occupied territories. Addressing the nation in front of Aghdam Mosque during his visit to the region recently liberated from Armenian occupation, President Ilham Aliyev said that after the end of the war with Armenia, some "leaders from Western circles" have been raising the question of what will happen to Christian temples in the liberated lands under the control

of Azerbaijan. "They express these concerns both during conversations with me and in their official statements. No one should worry, especially the leaders of Western countries which ignite Islamophobic sentiments, those who have turned a blind eye to the insults of Islam and even justified those who are insulting it. They have no right to talk about it," Aliyev said. He stressed that all the temples in the territory of Azerbaijan are "historical assets" of the country. "Who can criticize us? Those who shut down mosques? Can those throwing the heads of killed pigs into Muslim mosques teach us a lesson and express concern? They do not need to express any con-

cerns. All our historical sites are protected by the state." Islamophobic cases of insulting Muslim foundations, mosques and places of worship have repeatedly taken place in certain European countries over the years. "The savage enemy kept cows and pigs in this mosque. These pictures are available on the internet. They kept pigs in the liberated Zangilan mosque, in the Jabrayil mosque," Aliyev said. He reiterated his country's close partnership with UNESCO but stressed that those willing to come and visit the Christian temples should come to Azerbaijan liberated territories and see what "the wild Armenians" have done there. Aliyev highlighted that

a few years ago, the ambassadors of Minsk Group co-chair countries visited Aghdam Mosque and conducted fact-finding missions twice, adding they informed him about their visit. "Why didn't they raise this issue? Why didn't certain Western leaders express their concern? Does this mean that Muslim mosques can be insulted, cows and pigs can be kept and destroyed? If so, let them say so, let them deal with the problems in their countries and not interfere in our work. Let no one interfere in our work. We have come here ourselves. We have come here in spite of the efforts of all those countries. We have come in spite of all the provocations. We have shed blood and we are standing on our

land. Let everyone mind their own business." In his speech, Aliyev also thanked the Turkish nation and leader for the moral support during the clashes with Armenia. "It was the Republic of Turkey that supported us morally and politically for 44 days. My brother President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the leaders of several other Muslim and non-Muslim countries. We have achieved this victory through unity, determination, resolve and strength," he said. Armenian forces left Aghdam on Nov. 20, according to the latest Russia-brokered agreement signed between Baku and Yerevan. Along with Armenian forces, the Armenian population who settled in the region during the occupation also left.

Turkey to launch local vaccine by April

FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: As prospective vaccines make headlines worldwide, Turkey is planning to unveil its own local COVID-19 vaccine by April, the country's president said on Wednesday. "We've made good progress on our local vaccine. We plan to bring our own vaccine to market by April at the latest," Recep Tayyip Erdogan told the Justice and Development (AK) Party's parliamentary group. Turkey is closely following vaccine developments in China, Russia, the US, and Europe, the president said. "We've already given pre-orders for some of them. We hope to give first shots of the vaccines by the end of this month," he said. Officials have previously said that healthcare workers and other key figures would get the vaccine first. The vaccines should be used for the common good of humanity regardless of political differences or commercial interests, said Erdogan. "We believe it makes no sense for individual countries to secure themselves before the whole world is freed from the epidemic threat," he said, in what seemed to be a jab at developed nations. Clinical tests of the Turkish vaccine are progressing smoothly, with none of the volunteers exhibiting any side effects, according to recent reports. To date some 44 volunteers are taking part in Phase 1 trials of the Turkish ERUCOVAC vaccine. Since it emerged last December in China, COVID-19 has infected over 59.85 million people and claimed more than 1.41 million lives worldwide, according to a tally by the US' Johns Hopkins University.

COVID-19 deaths near 50.3K in Africa

WEB DESK

ADDIS ABABA: At least 50,296 people have died across Africa due to the novel coronavirus since February, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) said on Wednesday.

The number of cases in the continent now stands at over two million, while more than 1.77 million patients have recovered, it said in its latest update. Of the five geographical regions in the continent, Southern Africa is the hardest hit: 867,000 infections and 22,700 related deaths. North Africa recorded 699,900 cases, East Africa 258,500, West Africa 202,600, and Central Africa 64,300. The public health agency is marking the Africa Mask Week from Nov. 23-30 to "to encourage and increase consistent and proper mask-wearing across Africa." "The key to controlling the spread of COVID-19 in the absence of a vaccine is to adopt the age-old public health strategy of wearing a mask, washing your hands regularly and keeping a safe distance from others," Africa CDC director John Nkengasong said.

China company seeks approval for vaccine

FOREIGN DESK

BEIJING: A leading Chinese company on Wednesday announced it has sought formal approval from authorities to bring its COVID-19 vaccine to the market, state-run media said. Sinopharm's vice-general manager Shi Shengyi said the company has collected data from major countries carrying out its vaccine's clinical trials and the results are expected to be favorable, Global Times reported. Earlier, the company said that it had submitted the vaccine's phase-3 clinical data to China's State Food and Drug Administration and was in the process of giving more detailed data. The company said it is in the final stage before marketization and is now making approval of the vaccine its top priority. The company is expected to release its vaccine's phase-3 data after the government approval. "Our data is evaluated by relevant departments following protocols even stricter than in some Western countries, and we are in close communication with the WHO," the company representative further said. Last month, China claimed that its experimental vaccines for protection against COVID-19 have shown "no adverse reaction". According to Chinese officials, the country has 13 vaccine candidates entering clinical trials, including four in phase-3 trials. Over 100 vaccines to prevent coronavirus are at different stages of development. The US drug maker Pfizer and German biotech company BioNTech last week said that their coronavirus vaccine is 95% effective, upgrading an earlier estimate of 90%.

Briefs

Quetta announces winter break for schools till Feb 28

DNA

QUETTA: More than three months of winter holidays have been announced in schools across the provincial capital starting tomorrow, a letter issued on Wednesday by the District Education Officer (DEO) read. According to the District Education Officer Farzana Ahmadzai, Thursday, November 26, 2020, will be the last day of the academic year in Quetta after which the winter break will commence. Schools will reopen on March 1, 2021, and regular teaching will immediately follow. Per the letter, the annual examinations for the year 2020 will begin from March 10, 2021. "Students should be given date sheets and smart syllabi for the annual examinations," the DEO wrote in the letter. Last week, the Balochistan government had announced that winter vacations in educational institutions will begin on December 1 in view of the second wave of COVID-19.

Pakistan will not recognize Israel: Ashrafi

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Representative on Religious Harmony Allama Tahir Ashrafi says Pakistan will not recognize Israel until just settlement of Palestine issue is found. Talking to media persons in Islamabad on Wednesday, he said Pakistan has a clear stance on Kashmir and Palestine issues that they should be resolved as per the aspirations of Kashmiris and Palestinians. Allama Tahir Ashrafi said India has been sponsoring terrorist organizations. He urged the international community to take its notice. The Special Representative said the incidents of forced marriage of non-Muslims and other such developments will be examined and facts about them will be brought forth.

'COVID-19 positive' lawyer appears before SC

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a dramatic situation, a COVID-19 positive lawyer on Wednesday appeared before the Supreme Court of Pakistan. As per details, Barrister Dr Adnan Khan who was diagnosed with the coronavirus a few days ago appeared before CJP Justice Gulzar for the hearing of the case. "Though I have been tested positive for COVID-19, but appearing before the court", he was quoted as saying before the CJP. The revelation from the lawyer created panic in the courtroom. CJP Gulzar Ahmed asked the lawyer why he has appeared before the court and risking other lives. To this, he stated that he forwarded the plea to adjourn the case hearing for some time three days earlier, after contracting COVID-19 infection, but the case was dismissed and on Wednesday it was an important hearing of the HEC lecturers, that's why he has appeared before the court, Barrister Adnan said.

Gold price drops by Rs300

DNA

KARACHI: The price of gold dropped by Rs300 per tola in the domestic market on Wednesday. A tola of yellow metal reached Rs110,150, according to rates shared by Chairman of the All Pakistan Jewelers Manufacturers Association Muhammad Arshad.

Azerbaijan army moves into Kalbajar district

Azerbaijanis who fled the region nearly 30 years ago are expected to return and local bricklayer Gagik Yakhshibekyan said the Armenians did not want to leave anything behind for them

STEPANAKERT: Azerbaijan said Wednesday its forces had entered the second of three districts to be handed back by Armenia as part of a deal that ended weeks of fighting over the region of Nagorno-Karabakh. The defence ministry in Baku said in a statement that "units of the Azerbaijani army entered the Kalbajar region on November 25" under the deal signed earlier this month by Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia. Wedged between the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region and the territory of Armenia, Kalbajar was initially scheduled for handover on November 15 but the deadline was postponed by Azerbaijan for humanitarian reasons.

"Engineering work has been completed to ensure the movement of our units in this direction, the difficult mountain roads along the route of the troops movement are being cleared of mines and prepared for use," the ministry statement said. Armenia agreed to hand over three districts around Karabakh - Aghdam, Kalbajar and Lachin - as part of the deal that stopped an Azerbaijani offensive that had reclaimed swathes of territory lost to Armenian separatists in a 1990s war. Aghdam was ceded on November 20 and Lachin is to be handed over by December 1. In the days before the



handover, residents of Kalbajar packed all they could take, determined to leave nothing to their long-term foe. AFP journalists saw locals collecting electric cables, loading parts of a hydroelectric power station into a truck and even cutting down trees to take

with them as they left. Azerbaijanis who fled the region nearly 30 years ago are expected to return and local bricklayer Gagik Yakhshibekyan said the Armenians did not want to leave anything behind for them. "So they burn them (their

houses), trees are cut down and people are taking everything away," the 43-year-old told AFP. Clashes between the ex-Soviet rivals over Nagorno-Karabakh broke out in late September, reigniting the long-simmering conflict over the mountainous region. The ethnic Armenian enclave broke away from Baku's control in the 1990s war and declared independence, though it remained internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan. The peace deal was reached after six weeks of heavy fighting that saw Azerbaijan's military overwhelm Armenian separatist forces and threatening to advance on Karabakh's

main city Stepanakert. Under the agreement, Armenia is losing control of seven regions seized during the post-Soviet war in the 1990s, which killed 30,000 people and displaced many Azerbaijanis that used to live there. The separatists are retaining control over most of Karabakh's Soviet-era territory and some 2,000 Russian peacekeepers have been deployed along the strategic Lachin corridor that connects Karabakh with Armenia. Armenians leaving Kalbajar ahead of the handover said they would not consider staying behind and living side-by-side with Azerbaijanis. - APP

PIA introduces new rules for in-flight meal

DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has decided to implement strict COVID-19 precautionary measures amid rising cases of the virus in the country. According to details, the new changes relating to in-flight meal services for domestic and international flights were approved by PIA CEO Air Marshal Arshad Malik. The new SOPs relating to food service for domestic flights include a ban on provision of drinks through a trolley besides also restricting the provision of food and drinks during the flight. The PIA while issuing fresh directions to its flight attendants said the second wave of the COVID-19 has seen an alarming surge. Moreover, for flights to Saudi Arabia, snacks, club sandwiches, bananas, patties and muffin would be served as a meal during the flight. The national flag carrier said that it had taken fresh measures aimed at minimizing contact between the crew members and passengers. Besides these measures, on November 22, the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) introduced "flexible timings" for its employees to mark their attendance with biometric machines amid rising Covid-19 cases.

Crimes against women in IIOJK highlighted

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Wednesday called on the international community, including the United Nations human rights mechanisms and the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict to take cognizance of the crimes against women in the IIOJK and hold India accountable for its failure to uphold its international obligations. "India's use of rape as a weapon of war in the world's most militarized zone has been extensively documented by the UN human rights machinery, global media and independent civil society organizations," the Foreign Office said in a press release issued on the occasion of International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. "This day should serve as a solemn reminder of the need to address the systematic violence against women in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). For several decades, India has employed rape, torture, degrading treatment and killings of Kashmiri women as instruments of its state terrorism in the occupied territory," the FO said. - APP

Pakistan-Turkey ties touching new heights

The PTI Chief Organizer on the occasion conveyed profound grief over the loss of precious lives and properties as a result of the recent earthquake hitting the city of Izmir



SHAHEEN HANIF



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul held a virtual meeting with Chief Organizer Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Saifulah Khan Nyazee, here on Wednesday. According to the details issued by party's Central Media Department, matters of mutual interest as well as bilateral ties between the two countries came under discussion during the meeting. Turkey's successes in expanding its

Textile sector and achievements in Africa through active economic diplomacy were also discussed in the meeting. Both the officials discussed the future of contacts between Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and Justice and Development Party (AK Parti) of Turkey. The PTI Chief Organizer on the occasion conveyed profound grief over the loss of precious lives and properties as a result of the recent earthquake hitting the city of Izmir. He said that both Pakistan and Turkey are linked into deep and historic brotherly ties.

The honourable Turkish ambassador Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul stated that Prime Minister Imran Khan and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan have developed a personal chemistry based on sincerity and mutual respect taking bilateral relations as well as cooperation between the two countries to new heights and depths. PTI's Central Senior Vice President Arshad Daad, PTI Chief Election Commissioner Jamal Ansari and Central Deputy Secretary General Omar Farooq Mayer were also present in the meeting.

Police arrest Gillni's son

DNA

MULTAN: Police on Wednesday arrested Ali Musa Gillani, the son of former Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani after he reached Chehlyak police station in Multan to stage a protest. According to details, Ali Musa Gillani went to the Chehlyak police station to express solidarity with the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) activists, who were arrested by the police for taking out a rally in the city. As soon as he reached the police station, the cops also apprehended him. The PPP activists have gathered in large numbers outside the police station to protest over the arrest of Yousaf Raza Gillani's son. PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also condemned the arrest of Ali Musa Gillani and termed it hooliganism from the incumbent selected rulers. "The government elected through rigging is now bent upon suppressing people's voice," he said adding that those trying to stop anti-government protest will not succeed in their efforts. Bilawal Bhutto said that holding a peaceful protest was a constitutional right and barring it was against the constitution.

Dossier on India's terrorism presented to UN chief

"The UNSC team is also investigating Indian terrorism in Pakistan, which is an open violation of the UN Charter"

NEW YORK: Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Munir Akram met the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday and presented him a dossier which proves India's involvement in terrorist activities across Pakistan. According to Radio Pakistan, the meeting took place at the UN Headquarters in New York during which the Pakistani representative briefed the UN Secretary-General about the contents of the dossier and demanded the UN take notice of the situation. After the meeting, Akram also addressed a press conference and reiterated that India's state-sponsored terrorism in Pakistan was carried out to paralyse the country's economy. "The UN Security Council's team is also investigating Indian terrorism in Pakistan, which is an open violation of the United Nations Charter and international laws," he said. Munir Akram added that Pakistan will also present the dossier proving Indian terrorism to the member countries of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). "India is continuously involved in ceasefire violations along the Line of Control (LoC) and Pakistan reserves the right to defend itself against any kind of Indian aggression," he stressed during the press briefing, adding that India has also been consistently trying to sabotage the developments of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which is crucial to Pakistan's progress. Last week, Munir Akram spoke at the UN General Assembly in New York and 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 (IIOJK). - DNA

UK likely to extend Sharif's visa

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The British government is expected to extend the visa of former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme leader Nawaz Sharif for another six months, sources told media. The sources said that Sharif's visa expired on November 18 and he engaged a legal firm in the UK for an extension in his visa on medical grounds. Sharif said in his application that his treatment in the UK could not be completed due to non-availability of doctors owing to Covid-19 outbreak. Sharif, who was convicted over corruption by the accountability court, had flown to London in November 2019, after the federal government gave him a rare permission to get abroad for medical treatment.

'Small hydropower plants give tangible benefits'

DNA

BEIJING: Small hydropower plants deliver tangible benefits in rural areas of Pakistan, said Zhou Yuxiao, general manager of Chongqing Savy Industries Company Limited, according to Gwadar Pro. At that time, everything got more lively even than the celebration of New Year's Day in each household after the village got electricity, it really changed a lot," Yuxiao told Gwadar Pro, sharing his experience in establishing small, mini and micro hydropower plants in rural areas in Pakistan. This Chinese company has completed the building of over 13 small, mini and micro hydropower plants in Pakistan as of 2019, of which seven have finished installation and trial run and started generating power in Gilgit, four were in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), and another four are now under installation in KP. While citing enthusiastic response from local villagers, he appreciated China-Pakistan friendship, stating it is relatively smooth for a Chinese company to go through customs clearance at the airports for doing business there. Zhou mentioned the support he got from Pakistani local government in connection with safety issues.



JEDDAH: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi made a stopover in Jeddah en route to Niger, where he heading to attend OIC conference. -DNA

'CPEC is win-win project for China-Pakistan'

The Minister said CPEC is a game changer project not only for Pakistan, but also for the entire region, based on the idea of shared development. He said CPEC is a manifestation of China's special relationship with Pakistan

SHUJAAT HAMZA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Shibli Faraz says China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project is a win-win project of China-Pakistan economic cooperation. Addressing a seminar on CPEC on Wednesday, he said besides diversifying Chinese supply lines CPEC will prove to be catalyst for socio-economic development of Pakistan. The Minister said CPEC is a game changer project not only for Pakistan, but also for the entire re-

gion, based on the idea of shared development. He said CPEC is a manifestation of China's special relationship with Pakistan. He said under this project, Gwadar is going to become a hub of economic activities with Middle East and North Africa. He said major initiatives of CPEC include construction of road networks, extending from Gwadar Port to Khunjerab Pass, up-gradation of ML-1, power projects of 10,000 megawatts and Gwadar-Nawabshah pipeline to transport gas from Iran. Shibli Faraz said CPEC is estimated to

generate six to eight billion rupees per annum just in taxes as roads and bridges toll. He said overall, 2.3 million jobs are expected to be created between 2015-2030, resulting in more than 2.5 percent annual rise in GDP. The Minister said CPEC has made a remarkable progress in the first phase. He said majority of the projects planned in the construction, infrastructure and energy sectors have been carried out successfully and many are in the execution stage. He said the second stage will further focus on industrialization,

agriculture, modernization and socio-economic development. Shibli Faraz said the projects in the existing and newly established areas will enhance the capacity of Pakistan ultimately improving the economic competitiveness of Pakistan. He said it is dispensable to counter the negative propaganda aimed at the success of the projects and bilateral ties. He said the benefits of CPEC will reach the gross roots level and benefit Pakistan's population. Addressing the seminar, Minister for Science and Technology

Fawad Chaudhary said the CPEC has a huge future. He said Pakistan has become an attractive market for the Chinese investors. The Minister said that under the CPEC, eleven special economic zones are being established which will promote industrialization in the country. He said we plan to uplift our semi-conductor industry and bring value addition to our products with the cooperation of Chinese friends. The Minister said we have approached the Chinese companies to shift their solar panel manufacturing units to Pakistan.