



# Islamabad POST

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**Pak-Indonesia share strong socio-cultural and religious bonds**

Detailed News On Page-08

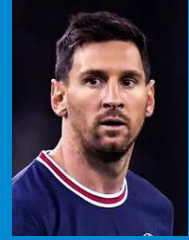
**AUKUS deal a 'danger' to regional stability**

Detailed News On Page-07



**Messi scores 1st PSG goal in UCL win**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Briefs

### Fawad lauds opening of cinemas

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry on Wednesday appreciated National Command and Control Centre's decision to allow opening of the cinemas in eight cities, including Rawalpindi and Islamabad. Tagging a notification of NCOC, in a tweet, the minister expressed the hope that Lahore and Karachi administration would increase the vaccination drive so that cinemas in those cities could be opened in the next ten days. - APP

### Zubair faced threats, says Maryam

DNA  
LAHORE: Stating it categorically that she and her father, former prime minister Nawaz Sharif were enough to keep Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) relevant in the country's politics, party Vice President Maryam Nawaz said on Wednesday that she wished her father back to the country before December. "Nawaz is sick and is currently receiving treatment in London," she said and added she would not let her father to be handed over to the authorities in Pakistan. Making it clear that Zubair Umar would continue to serve as the party spokesman even after his objectionable video went viral on the social media, Maryam said.

### 'No politics on national issues'

STAFF REPORT  
ISLAMABAD: Leader of the House in Senate Dr Shahzad Waseem on Wednesday said there would be a number of opportunities to do politics but being patriot Pakistanis, there should be no politics on national issues and foreign policy. Responding to points raised by Sherry Rehman and other senators in Senate, he said the incumbent leadership of Pakistan was taking best decision in the national interests keeping in view current political scenario of the region.

## Pak rejects references in US senate bill

"We find all references inconsistent with the spirit of Pakistan-US cooperation on Afghanistan since 2001," says the FO spokesperson

ALI FURQAN

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Wednesday described the draft legislation introduced in the US Senate as "completely unwarranted", and "inconsistent with the spirit of Pakistan-U.S. cooperation" in Afghanistan since 2001. "We see that a debate is underway in Washington both in the media and on Capitol Hill to reflect on and examine the circumstances leading to the US withdrawal from Afghanistan," said Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar in response to media queries about draft bill introduced by few U.S. Senators. He said, "The draft legislation introduced in the U.S. Senate by a group of Senate Republicans seems to be a reaction to this debate." "The legislation includes references to Pakistan that are completely unwarranted. We find all such references inconsistent with the spirit of Pakistan-U.S. cooperation on Afghanistan since 2001, including facilitation of the Afghan peace process and during the recent evacuations of American and other nationals from Afghanistan,"

Continued on Page 06

### Sanction Taliban, supporters: US Senators table bill

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: American senators have tabled a bill in the US Senate, demanding a deeper investigation into the Taliban's victory in Afghanistan and sanctions on the group as well as those who assisted them in driving out the Ashraf Ghani-led regime. The 'Afghanistan Counterterrorism, Oversight, and Accountability Act' seeks to establish a task force that will focus on continued evacuation of American citizens, legal permanent residents and Special Immigrant Visa holders from Afghanistan. Introduced by 22 American Republican senators, the bill seeks to tackle issues related to the Afghan withdrawal, such as counterterrorism strategies and

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## Shehbaz slams govt for launching fake cases

"Honour and humiliation both are in the hands of God. I want to reveal the facts," Shehbaz said

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) President and opposition leader in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif lashed out at the PTI government and Prime Minister Imran Khan's cohort for levelling baseless corruption allegations against him and his family members for the last three years saying his and his family's acquittal by the National Crime Agency of the UK had vindicated his position. Addressing a presser at PML-N central secretariat in Model Town, Lahore on Wednesday, Shehbaz Sharif said there was a hullabaloo among the ranks and files of the government

Continued on Page 06

## Fawad rejects Shahbaz' claims



KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry on Wednesday held a press conference in Islamabad to provide details of the money-laundering case against Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Shahbaz Sharif. Responding to Shahbaz's press conference earlier in

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ISLAMABAD: MATSUDA Kuninori, the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, on behalf of the Government of Japan conferring the imperial decoration on Feroz Shah. - DNA

### Restrictions to ease in 8 cities

Restrictions on adults not fully vaccinated from Friday

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiative Asad Umar Wednesday announced relaxation in eight cities with the highest level of COVID vaccination from October 01 (Friday). "The National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) has decided to relax restrictions in eight cities- Quetta, Peshawar, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Muzaffarabad, Mirpur, Gilgit and Skardu," he said while addressing a virtual press talk along with Special Assistant to Prime Minister on National Health Services Dr Faisal Sultan here after chairing the meeting of NCOC. The minister also announced to impose restrictions on adults not fully vaccinated from Friday. Asad Umar said the NCOC had set the target of vaccinating at least 40% of eligible population (15 years and above) which had been met by the 8 cities where the restrictions were being relaxed. He said ban on shrines was being lifted that would be opened completely for the vaccinated people only. Similarly, cinema halls are also going to open from the said date and the entry would be linked to showing vaccination certificate.

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## Pak businessman gets Japanese award

Amb. Matsuda hopes that this contribution will further promote economic relations and understanding between Japan and Pakistan

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Japan has conferred the 2021 Spring Imperial Decoration, "The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette" upon Mr. Syed Feroz Alam Shah, Honorary Technical Advisor, Federal Board of Investment (BoI) and Director of National Engineering Corporation (NEC), in recognition of his dedicated contributions to promoting economic relations and mutual understanding between Japan and Pakistan. MATSUDA Kuninori, the Ambassador of

Continued on Page 06



## FIA to probe corruption in PML-N road projects

PM says the PML-N extorted Rs 200 million per kilometre on construction of every four-lane road

SUJJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday said he had given mandate to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to probe the exorbitant cost incurred on the road construction projects undertaken by the government of Pakistan Muslim League-N. Addressing at the upgradation of Balochistan's

Continued on Page 06



## Diversifying ties with Pakistan my priority: Amb Kistafin

There is a great potential and political will on both sides therefore it is time to start a new chapter in the history of our bilateral relations. The Karakorum Highway is yet another route of transportation that connects four countries namely Kazakhstan, Pakistan, China and Kyrgyzstan



enhanced bilateral relations therefore I am trying to hold such meetings by the end of this year positively in order to give further impetus to our B2B engagement. There is no denying the fact that people-to-people contacts are yet another potential source of building bilateral relations on solid footings. There are a number of similarities between Ka-

zakhstan and Pakistan in the fields of history, culture and religion. It therefore provides us with an apt excuse of building strong people-to-people connections. To achieve this goal, we need to establish links among our youths; intellectuals and our academic institutions. In this regard our first and foremost priority is to establish links among various academic institutions

and I am pleased to share with you that just few days ago we had an online session between the Qaid-e-Azam University and Kazakh Technical University. We are planning to organise a big conference dedicated to cooperation among the Pakistani and Kazakh universities in the fields of science and technology. There is a great potential and political will on both sides therefore it is time to start a new chapter in the history of our bilateral relations. The Karakorum Highway is yet another route of transportation that connects four countries namely Kazakhstan, Pakistan, China and Kyrgyzstan. The highway needs some maintenance work before it is used for goods transportation and I hope it shall be done with our collective efforts but meanwhile yes Afghanistan can be the shortest and appropriate transit route for goods transportation, provided the country is stabilised and peace return to Afghanistan. Our President has stressed that Kazakhstan was ready to hold a constructive dialogue with Afghanistan but first Taliban should demonstrate by their deeds that they have changed their domestic as well international policies.

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## Inside...

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The APT game of Caspian sea - Page 05

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Sania joins UNGA moot on social protection with world leaders - Page 07

Pakistan, Indonesia have huge potential in trade, agri fields - Page 08

## EXCLUSIVE

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

**Ambassador of Kazakhstan Yerzhan Kistafin gave an exclusive interview to Daily Islamabad POST. This was his first-ever interview to any Pakistani media house, after assuming charge of the office of the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan. Ambassador Kistafin recently presented his credentials to the President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi. First part of the interview was published on September 16, 2021.**

### BILATERAL RELATIONS

ON the occasion of presenting my credentials to the President of Pakistan Dr Arif Alvi, the President said that we should develop and strengthen economic cooperation between the two countries. I fully agreed with what the President of Pakistan said because Kazakhstan can serve for Pakistan as a golden gate in terms of

providing access to markets of Central Asia, Euro Asia and Europe. When we talk about bilateral relations it is not only about considering each other as a final point of destination rather we can serve as regional hubs so as to reach out to other countries. We have to create a friendly environment at B2B level. Due to non-availability of direct flights communication between the two countries may be a hurdle therefore my special focus is on resumption of direct flights between the two countries. As you know, we used to have direct flights in the 90s. Towards this end, I have held a few meetings with the officials of Pakistan International Airlines and positive gestures expressed by the officials makes us optimistic that the goal of resumption of direct flights shall be achieved soon. The start of cargo flights is also under consideration and as a matter of fact we wish to start both commercial as well cargo flights ideally simultaneously. Likewise, resumption and reactivation of Pakistan-Kazakhstan Business Council is yet another area I am working on because I strongly believe such bodies can surely play an important role in further strengthening the bilateral ties. Meetings of working groups can also be helpful in materialising dream of





LAHORE: Speaker of the Punjab Assembly, Pervez Elahi, welcomed the ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Maliki, on his arrival at Punjab Assembly. During the meeting, issues of mutual interest between the two brotherly countries were discussed. — DNA

## Re-launching ceremony of LNG plant held

DNA

PESHAWAR: The re-launching ceremony of the Liquid Nitrogen Gas (LNG) plant of livestock held here on Wednesday at the Directorate General Extension, which stopped due to technical reasons. Director General Livestock Dr. Alam Zeb Mohmand while addressing the officers of the Livestock Department said we are working to bring new projects for improving output of the department and to provide assistance and help to poor farmers at their doorsteps. The officers of the Livestock Department expressed their best wishes and pledged to take the compliance of the orders. Director General Livestock Dr. Alam Zeb Mohmand appreciated the services of the existing officers of the Livestock and Dairy Development Department.

## Raghan dam to be developed as tourism spot

STAFF REPORT

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Zakat and Usher Anwar Zaib Khan Wednesday said Raghan small dam at Bajaur tribal district would be opened for tourists and general public after its completion. Talking to tribal elders, the minister said Raghan dam was an ideal picnic spot for tourists, recreational, eco-tourism, adventure sports lovers and would be developed as eco-tourism resort. Besides chairlift, a public park, car parking, walking tracks and other facilities would be provided to tourists and residents of Bajaur at premises of the dam. The minister visited different sections of the dam and directed authorities concerned to take speedy measures for completion of all on-going schemes to ensure its early opening for the general public and tourists. The dam is mainly constructed for irrigation purposes with huge potential to all use its pleasant atmosphere for eco-tourism, he said and added that over 5,500 acres of barren land would be irrigated from the project. A chairlift would also be constructed on the premises of the dam site.

## Over 240 corona, 28 dengue patients under treatment in HMC, KTH

STAFF REPORT

PESHAWAR: The major hospitals of provincial capital have made elaborate arrangements to tackle corona and dengue cases in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where 242 corona and 28 dengue patients are under treatment in Khyber Teaching Hospital and Hayatabad Medical Complex. According to the Hayatabad Medical Complex (HMC) spokesperson currently 146 corona patients are admitted to the hospital including 27 on ventilators. He said that 38 ventilators are reserved for corona patients out of total 68 in the hospitals. He said during the last 24 hours two patients died of corona while 14 were discharged following recovery while 18 new patients were

admitted. While in Khyber Teaching Hospital (KTH), 96 corona patients are under treatment. The hospital's spokesperson said there were 122 beds reserved for corona patients including 28 with ventilators. He said that 18 patients are under treatment on ICU beds while 54 patients are under treatment at HDU beds. He said 24 patients are on low oxygen supply beds. He said one patient died of corona while three new patients were admitted during the last 24 hours, adding 27 beds are currently lying vacant in the hospital for corona patients. Giving details about the dengue disease, the KHT spokesman said that currently 15 dengue patients are under treatment in the hospital. He said that most of the cases

had been reported from adjacent areas of Peshawar city including Tehkal, Academy Town, Sufaid Dheri, Danish Abad, Sarband and Khyber Agency etc. He said that a total of 907 tests were conducted for dengue during the last 24 hours, out of which 245 tested positive and 662 negative. He said that best services and treatment facilities were being provided to patients at the medical ward of the hospital. In HMC, there were a total of 13 dengue patients including the four who were admitted during the last 24 hours. He said that patients got quality treatment and one patient was discharged following recovery. He said that the hospital conducted 369 tests for dengue out of which 86 came positive.

## Communication vital for development: CM

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan on Wednesday said communication is essential for the development of any area while the positive effects of an integrated communication system not only affect the area but also bring about a change and prosperity everywhere. He said that Awaran area of Balochistan is the hub that we will look at in a different way in future saying in our recent development program, we have proposed development projects for construction of roads from Panjgur to Awaran, Awaran to Jhau Bella and Karachi which the completion of the shortest route from Iran to Karachi would be available that the feasibility study of the project is also kept. The CM Balochistan Jam Kamal Khan expressed these views while addressing at the ceremony of Jhal Jhau of groundbreaking for

the highway rehabilitation and up gradation of laying the foundation Stone project. Prime Minister Imran Khan was the chief guest at the event. Deputy Speaker National Assembly Qasim Khan Suri, Federal Minister for Defense Production Ms. Zubaida Jalal, Federal Minister for Communications Murad Saeed, Governor Balochistan Syed Zahoor Ahmed Agha, Senator Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar, Senator Agha Umar Ahmed Zai, Member National Assembly Nawabzada Khalid Khan Magsi and other parliamentarians attended the ceremony. Expressing special thanks to PM Imran Khan in his address, the Chief Minister said many promises were made in the past and the foundation stone of various projects was also laid but in practice we did not see the completion of projects due to non-availability in Balochistan. — DNA



ISLAMABAD: The second day of the capacity building workshop organized by Kamyab Jawan programme is underway. Youth Minister Gilgit Baltistan Raja Nasir Ali Khan and SAPM on Youth Affairs Usman Dar are attending the workshop. — DNA

## President FWCCI for harvesting talent of women

Nighat Shahid says that in order to ensure well-coordinated activities, the work on the construction of FWCCI complex would be started as soon as possible

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FWCCI), President Nighat Shahid said on Wednesday that reorganization of women entrepreneurs at local level and their integration at national and global level was imperative to harvest the benefits of highly qualified and educated feminine talent of the district. Addressing the members of women chamber at FWCCI office, she spelled out her road map with main focus on organizing an international women empowerment conference at Islamabad Convention Centre. She said that FWCCI would launch and organize a

campaign for the mainstreaming of highly educated females in addition to facilitating the existing entrepreneurs. She said that in order to ensure well-coordinated activities, the work on the construction of FWCCI complex would be started as soon as possible. "We will also make best efforts for dedicated women entrepreneurs block and women skill development centre in M-3 Allama Iqbal Special Economic Zone", she added. She was, however, critical of the low participation of women in overall economic activities and said that proportionate representation of women was imperative to achieve the cherished objective of economically a strong and prosperous Pakistan.



She said that corona had contracted the global economies and we in Pakistan could overcome its ill impact by involving and providing collateral and interest free small loans to women from the State Bank of Pakistan and other international institutions.

She said that Pakistani women were well equipped but they need a congenial environment in which, they could start and expand their businesses as an equal partner of the society. She said, "We at FWCCI will create a strong liaison with FPCCI, FCCI and other global women development organizations to ensure the mainstreaming of female population". She particularly appreciated the hard work of Founding President Rubina Amjad and Quratul Ain, and said that with their cooperation we could further spur the economic activities in addition to opening new avenues of progress and prosperity for young and dynamic female startups. About the green technology, she mentioned

unlimited resources of solar energy in Pakistan and said that women must start green projects to meet their domestic need of electricity in addition to selling surplus to the distribution company. About the organizational matters, she said that Standing Committees of FWCCI would be constituted with the clear mandate to point out sector specific problems with tangible solutions so that their genuine demand could be incorporated in policies framed by the government. Speaking on the occasion, former President FWCCI, Tehmina Pasha briefed about her achievements and said, "We have just taken the first step and a long journey is still ahead for which we must collaborate and make concerted efforts".

## DC Faisalabad reviews process of auction at fruit market

Divisional Commissioner Zahid Hussain directs the staff of market committee for issuance of price lists immediate after the auctions

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Divisional Commissioner Zahid Hussain paid a surprise visit to the fruit and vegetable market. GM Abad early in the morning and reviewed the process of auction for different vegetables and fruit. The Divisional Commissioner went to different sheds and stalls and checked the availability of vegetables and fruits. He directed the market committee staff for regular monitoring of the auctions to discourage the unfair increase of prices of wholesale. He also inquired about the terms and conditions of the auctions and said that unjustified price hike could not be tolerated. He also interacted with the commission agents and shopkeepers and said that the divisional and district administration were very serious to control the prices of the essential items. He directed the staff of market

committee for issuance of price lists immediate after the auctions. He asked the DCs and ACs to inspect the cold storage and godowns for assessing the availability of the different items and said that special measures be taken for

the supply in case of shortage any item. He went to farmer platform and checked the facilities and checked the record of Mandi App. He checked the cleanliness situation in the vegetable market and directed the

FWMC to make a necessary arrangements. He also checked the security arrangements. Market Committee representative briefed about the auction process and prices of Potato, Tomato and Onion specially.



## Arts Council holds book launch ceremony of "Subha ka Ujala"

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Arts Council Karachi organized the book launch event of a novel "Subha ka Ujala" written by Farhana Zuberi in the Haseena Moin Hall. Rehana Roohi, Khalid Moin, Auj-e-Kamal, Sabeen Yusuf, Shakeel Khan, Rizwan Jaffer were among the guest speakers whereas the event was presided by Prof. Sahar Ansari. "Our era is moving away from books, in such a situation Farhana Zubair's book is very important, this book will be a guide for the people and they will understand that living the life without the values is not worth it," said Prof. Sahar Ansari. Speaking on the occasion Rehana Roohi said that Farhana Zubair's book is an amazing work for us which she did

with patriotism. She said that this is the first program of the library committee which is named after Farhana. Today the Arts Council Karachi has taken the lead over all the Arts Councils of Pakistan. Auj Kamal said that just as a poet's thoughts need to be read instead of his statements, so too a character needs to be read to know the thoughts of a prose writer. In the story, the thoughts and ideas belong to the author. If you watch Shakespeare's plays, he also conveys his thoughts, & ideas through the characters of his dramas. Expressing her views, Sabeen Saif said that being a poet reading such a huge book was difficult for me but turning the page of "Sabh Ka Ujala" made me feel very good. I congratulate president Arts Council Mohammad Ahmed Shah for organizing this ceremony.

Chairman Talk Show Committee of the Arts Council Mr. Shakeel Khan said that it is our good fortune that the senior literary person Sehar Ansari is among us. I hope people will read this novel. "People say that reading culture is dying and books are off but I believe that books are alive and will remain alive even if in the form of electronic gadgets" Shakeel Khan added. Expressing her views, author Farhana Zubair said that youth are not the future but the present, not tomorrow but today. If you unite and become a voice, everyone will be shaken. Concluding the event author paid gratitude to the president of Arts Council Mohammad Ahmed Shah, Chairman Library committee Iqbal Lateef and all the guest speakers. The event was moderated by Hina Ambreen Tariq.

## NADRA official arrested in CNIC scam

KARACHI: Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Wednesday registered a case against two officials of National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) and a foreign national while arrested an officer of NADRA over illegal issuance of CNIC to a foreign national. According to FIA Sindh spokesman, FIA Anti Human Trafficking Cell Karachi registered a case against NADRA's deputy superintendent Ghulam Ali Babar, deputy assistant director Ghulam Muhammad and a foreign national Muhammad Moin. Muhammad Moin, a foreign national, with the connivance of NADRA officials tempered the facts on NADRA registration form and succeeded in obtaining CNIC. — DNA

## Mansehra police arrest 16 car lifters

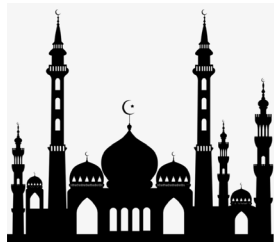
PESHAWAR: Police in Mansehra arrested 16 car lifters and recovered 26 stolen vehicles from their possession. DIG Hazara, Mir Wais Niazi told media persons on Wednesday. He said the Mansehra district police arrested 16 members of three car lifter gangs. The development took place after

police succeeded in tracing the notorious gangs involved in vehicle theft in Mansehra, Battagram and Muzaffarabad. He said 26 stolen vehicles were recovered from the arrested car lifters who belonged to Mansehra, Kohistan, Charsadda, Mohmand and Rawalpindi districts. — News Desk

IESCO TENDER NOTICE				
IESCO seeks to invite sealed tenders from the firms / manufacturers who are pre-qualified / registered with the Chief Engineer (Purchase & Disposal) / Standard & Specification, NTDC Lahore or with WAPDA/PEPCO/any DISCO for the year 2021-22 for supply of following material on free delivery basis to IESCO Regional Stores Rawalpindi / Islamabad / Rajjar & Wah:				
Tender No.	Item Description	WAPDA Specification (amended to date)	Unit	Qty
150	Single Phase Static Meter	DDS-65:2003	No.	60000
151	AAC Ant Conductor	P-63:2007	Km	1000
152	LT SID Cable 2/10mm <sup>2</sup>	DDS-8:2007	Km	1000
153	ACSR Dog 7/1.86	P-50:88	Km	500
154	Insulated Wasp Conductor	P-50:88	Km	350
155	Insulated Rabbit Conductor		Km	210
156	Nut & Bolt Size 5/8"x1.5"	DDS-10	No.	99436
<b>Date of Opening:-</b> Tender will be received on 15.10.2021 upto 10:30am and will be opened at 11:00am on the same date. The tenders will be opened in the presence of participants or their authorized representatives (bearing authority letters) who attend O/O Chief Engineer (Material Management) IESCO Head Office G-7/4 Street No. 40, Islamabad. Material shall conform to relevant WAPDA/NTDC Specifications (amended to date). <b>Terms &amp; Conditions</b> 1. Tenders will be opened on "Single Stage single Envelope basis". 2. The price should be firm and final on FCS basis and without involving any foreign exchange. 3. Tender must be accompanied with Bank Guarantee @ 2% in favour of Chief Executive Officer IESCO Islamabad of the offered quantity valid for 150 days (one hundred and fifty days) in the form of Bank Guarantee/Call Deposit Receipt issued by any scheduled Bank of Pakistan (having rating A+ or above). 4. Tender forms including terms and conditions can be obtained from the office of Material Management IESCO Islamabad against non-refundable amount Rs.2000/- per tender on any working day during office hours till a day earlier from the date of opening of tenders. 5. The bid should be for full quantity of tender and bid for less quantity of tender will not be accepted. 6. No tender will be issued on the date of opening of tenders. 7. IESCO reserves its rights to cancel/reject the conditional bid.				
<b>Chief Engineer (MM)</b> IESCO, Head Office, G-7/4, Islamabad. <b>BEST SERVICES TO VALUED CUSTOMERS IS OUR PRIORITY.</b> PID (I) No. 1993/21				



## SERVICES



### Namaz Timings

Fajr..... 04:25 am  
Zohr..... 12:01 pm  
Asr..... 04:15 pm  
Maghrib..... 05:55 pm  
Isha..... 07:13 pm



### Hotels & Restaurants

Serena Hotel.....111 133 133  
Marriott.....051- 2826121  
Monal.....0334-5421812



### Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949



### Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15  
Bomb Disposal.....15  
Fire Services Rawalpindi/  
Islamabad.....1122 & 16  
Emergency Ambulance..1122  
& Rescue Services.4451122  
Motorway Police....9266044  
Motorway Police..9270601-20  
Women Police Stations  
Islamabad.....9222596  
Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



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Edhi Ambulance.....115  
PIA Flight Info.....114  
PIA Cargo.....9280979  
Railway Inquiry.....117  
Railway Exchange9270831-5  
WASA Rawalpindi..5555489  
CAA.....9281092



### Hospitals

CMH.....5611111  
MH.....561116  
Cantt Hospital...9270907-11  
DHQ.....5556311-4  
RGH.....9290301-7  
Holy Family.....9290322-7  
PIMS.....9261170-79  
Polyclinic.....9218300-09  
Shifa International.4603666



### Departments

CDA.....9221334-43  
CDA.....9208301-04  
Met Office.....9250360-6  
RDA.....5555864  
TMA.....5770886  
Cantonment Board 9270151-3



### Complaints

**Water Tanker Service**  
E-7, F-10 & F-11.....9204654  
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8.....9203883  
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8.....9266316  
Wapda Islamabad....9217579  
Wapda Rawalpindi 111-309-309

### Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224  
Potohar Town.....9209224  
Rawal Town.....5773343

### Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....0331-5022125

# Masood urges extension of CPEC route to Afghanistan

Masood Khan stressed that Chinese role is vital to establish peace in Afghanistan after withdrawal of US troops and establishing peace in the entire region

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: AJK former President Sardar Masood Khan has said that the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan and fragile peace in the region demand extension of CPEC route to Afghanistan. He was addressing an inaugural ceremony of a book “Bagh-O-Bahar” written by Chinese students and translated in Urdu by Pak-China Global Cultural Link “on eradication of Corona Virus” in National Library Islamabad on Wednesday. Masood Khan said that the book represents the message of hope, strength and determination in the youth how to defeat the deadly epidemic and other disasters. He said Pakistan with the help of China has worked with full determination to control the unexpected catastrophe like Corona Virus. He said the Chinese efforts regarding eradication of Corona Virus are appreciable at World level. Masood Khan stressed that Chinese role is vital to establish peace in Afghanistan after withdrawal of US troops and establishing peace in the entire region. Head of Tehreek-e-Nojawan,



Abdullah Hameed Gul in his address said China is pursuing the peaceful policy towards development in a different way which also conveys the message of hope to the world how to overcome difficult situation. He said due to Corona virus, the education system, business and industries had been closed suddenly, but restored with the concerted efforts. He said China's might was not recognized till 70s, but due to the dedicated efforts, hard-work and determination of its people China became a nuclear power and a World Super Power. Since Independence, Pakistan faced worst kind of situation after the death of our two top leaders Quaid-e-Azam and Liaquat Ali Khan, whereas the Chinese leadership remained for the next 30 years and its paved way for the development of China. He said the current leader of China President Xi Jinping has

strengthened bilateral relations with Pakistan, extended full cooperation in every field and stood with Pakistan shoulder to shoulder and helped not only in trade, business and development but at diplomatic level. He said we have to follow the policy of China in the field of technological development. Member of Prime Minister Inspection Commission Syed AbuAhmedAkif said during Covid epidemic, China has once again

proved a true friend of Pakistan. He said the Pakistan appreciates Chinese help in providing vaccine in need of the hour. Deputy Director Chinese Studies Centre at Nust University Zamir Awan said that the book “Bagh-O-Bahar” represents love and affection and the Chinese language is spreading fast in the United States and stressed the need that we should also learn Chinese language. He said Pak-China friendship would be strengthened further to thwart the nefarious designs of the enemy forces. He said with the joint efforts of the two countries we can only overcome the difficulties. Director General National Library while welcoming the guests said that the efforts of children would further strengthen the friendship between the two countries. Director Roots Millennium Sabina Zakir addressing the ceremony said that Roots School plays vital role in strengthening the friendship not at the students' level but also at the national level. He said the Pakistani children would also write a similar book. He said that three ex-Chinese Premiers had also visited the Chinese Language Centre established in Roots School.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov meeting with the Speaker of National Assembly of Pakistan Asad Qaisar. They exchanged views on various matters. – DNA

## Expanding mangrove forests envision climate positive development



project was Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision on Climate Positive Development. The SAPM on his official Twitter handle expressed his views after visiting a mangrove plantation site along with Sindh Forest Department officials. Amin wrote, “Visited the expanding Mangrove forests, under Ten Billion Tree Tsunami with Sindh Forest Department at this amazing site in Sindh-perfectly captures the Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision of Climate Positive Development with Clean Energy and Forests nature-based solutions at one site.” The SAPM tweeted a video showing wind turbines working in the backdrop of mangroves plantation that was thriving, hence showing a set of different environment-friendly solutions to conserving nature, generating power and creating green jobs at once place. – DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam on Wednesday said the expanding mangroves planted under Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Plantation (10BTTP) project was Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision on Climate Positive Development. The SAPM on his official Twitter handle expressed his views after visiting a mangrove plantation site along with Sindh Forest Department officials. Amin wrote, “Visited the expanding Mangrove forests, under Ten Billion Tree Tsunami with Sindh Forest Department at this amazing site in Sindh-perfectly captures the Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision of Climate Positive Development with Clean Energy and Forests nature-based solutions at one site.” The SAPM tweeted a video showing wind turbines working in the backdrop of mangroves plantation that was thriving, hence showing a set of different environment-friendly solutions to conserving nature, generating power and creating green jobs at once place. – DNA

## Webinar on female fiction writers held

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) on Wednesday organized an online seminar on the role of Pakistani women writers in fiction in connection to the Academy's diamond jubilee celebrations. The aim of the webinar was to celebrate the overwhelming response of female writers towards fiction writing which was earlier male dominated. The webinar was presided by Urdu Fictionist Noorul Huda Shah from Karachi, whereas renowned writer Neelum Ahmed Bashir from Lahore was the chief guest. The speakers expressed their views on diverse and multifaceted issues pertaining to fiction writing and highlighted the core issues focused by the modern writers in their pieces of writing. – DNA

# Chairman CDA visits Arts and Craft village

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman CDA along with Member Administration and Member Finance of the authority visited the Arts and Craft village on Wednesday. On the occasion, the administration decided that Arts and Craft village would be revived in accordance with its original theme. The administration further directed that artisan's pavilions will be given to govts of Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jamu Kashmir governments and artists and culture of all regions and areas will be highlighted in these six pavilions. It was also decided

that existing food court will be renovated and after renovation it will be rented out through transparent process. Furthermore it was also decided that Arts and Craft village will be declared Car Free Zone having designated car parking so that people particularly families could be provided a quality recreational venue. Instructions were issued to start rehabilitation work in the arts and craft village. In this connection landscaping of the arts and craft village will be improved, food courts and pavilions will be renovated in addition to provision of missing facilities in the venue. The site has been under adverse possession since its establishment and has remained mostly unutilized.

## CTP launch smog awareness drive

RAWALPINDI: The City Traffic Police (CTP) have launched a smog awareness campaign to sensitize motorists to keep themselves safe during smog season. The campaign has been launched on the special directives of City Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi Rai Mazhar Iqbal with an aim to raise awareness about best practices to keep oneself safe and healthy during smog season. Incharge Education Wing, AjmalSatti said. Therefore, drivers and car owners should maintain their vehicles properly before coming on the roads, he added. The CTP teams are also distributing pamphlets and face masks among motorcyclists, motorists and pedestrians and advising them to avoid waste burning which contribute to smog formation. – DNA

## Admissions closed for continuing students

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has set September 30 (Thursday) as the last day for admission in the programs offered in autumn 2021 semester including PhD/M Phil, Matriculation and FA programs for continuing students only. Previously, the deadline was September 20, however, it was extended till September 30 to facilitate the continuing students, a varsity release said. Continuing students are required to apply online through the given URL on the university website(www.aiou.edu.pk) with their username and password. Username is the registration number of the student while password is the last two letters of their name and last four digits/letters of their registration number. Moreover, admissions are in progress for the programs offered in the second phase of autumn 2021 semester including B Ed, BS and PGD programs. Prospectuses and admission application forms are available online on the university website. Interested candidates may apply in these programs via online mode till October 18, 2021.

## Aftab Shah remembered at condolence reference

NEWS DESK

RAWALPINDI: A condolence reference and poetry recital were organized in the memory of renowned poet, writer and intellectual Syed Aftab Ahmad Shah under the auspices of literary and cultural organization Irtqa in collaboration with Punjab Arts Council on Wednesday. According to a press release issued here, poets across the country participated in the programme and paid rich tributes to the renowned poet Aftab Shah. Muhammad Izhar-ul-Haq and Prof. Sharif Ashraf presided over the program while special guests were Anjum Salimi, SaimaAftab, Fazal Gilani, Afzal Paras and Wafa Chishti.

## Plastic material exports increase 64%

ISLAMABAD: The export of plastic materials from the country has witnessed an increase of 64.49 percent during the first two months of the current financial year (2021-22) as compared to the corresponding period of last year. Pakistan exported plastic material worth \$59.973 million during July-August (2021-22) as compared to the export of \$36.461 million during July-August (2020-21), showing growth of 64.49 percent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). In terms of quantity, the plastic export also rose by 2.06 percent from 40,413 metric tons to 40,972 metric tons, the data revealed. Meanwhile, year-on-year basis the plastic export increased by 70.10 percent during the month of August 2021 as compared to the same month of last year. – APP

## Heart related death rate increasing due to Covid

ISLAMABAD: Cardiologists on 'World heart day' have called on media for creating wide-range awareness among the young population and warned that the heart-related death rate was continuously on an alarming stage worldwide including in Pakistan due to the lingering effect of the Covid-19 pandemic. Talking to a private news channel health experts explained that in Pakistan with every passing hour around 46 persons are dying daily and till 2023 worldwide over 23.6 million people will effect by heart disease. Like other parts of the globe, world heart day was being celebrated in Pakistan on September 29th with an objective to raise awareness among people about cardiovascular diseases (CVD) and measures for their control, experts added. – APP

# RCB seals 5 godowns, serves notices to violators

The CEO urged the residents to play their due role and remove stagnant water from rooftops and other places besides cooperating with the anti-dengue teams

SHUJAAT HAMZA

RAWALPINDI:The Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) under its ongoing anti-dengue drive have sealed five godowns and issued 45 notices besides imposing fines amounting to over Rs 50,000 on the rules violators. According to a RCB spokesman, Cantonment Executive Officer, Muhammad Umar Farooq Ali Malik had directed the authorities concerned to accelerate ongoing anti-dengue campaign and strictly monitor anti-dengue activities in cantt areas. He instructed the officers to utilize all available resources to control dengue. Strict action in accordance with the law would be taken against negligent officials, the CEO warned. He said, Sep-



tember and October, two months are very important regarding control of dengue as most of the cases reported during this period so the teams must focus activities to ensure elimination of dengue larvae. The CEO RCB said, anti-dengue surveillance activities, elimination of larvae, IRS Spray and fogging was being carried out in cantt areas while special teams on emergency basis had also been constituted. He informed that anti-dengue teams visited Chamana-nad, Masrial Road, Allahabad, Westridge Bazar, Afshan Colony,

## Rawalpindi Cantonment Board Lets Make Rawalpindi Cantt Neat And Clean

Gawalmandi, Koh-e-Noor, Mukaram Town, Qasimabad, Milatabad, Shahbaz Town, Naseerabad and other areas during last week and issued 45 notices. Five godowns were also sealed and teams imposed fines amounting to Rs 50,000 to the rules violators while nine cases were also sent to Magistrate who imposed Rs 105,000 fines on violators, he added. He informed that anti-dengue spray was also conducted in over 1500 houses. The CEO urged the residents to play their due role and remove stagnant water from

rooftops and other places besides cooperating with the anti-dengue teams. He said, the citizens were also being educated and informed about importance of sanitation, cleanliness and preventive measures against dengue. Lady health workers during door-to-door campaign are visiting houses to educate the community particularly females about preventive measures against the disease. According to a RCB spokesman, the main focus of the campaign was on public health education. The sanitary staff had been direct-

ed to ensure timely cleanliness and proper solid waste disposal in all areas, he added. RCB teams also visited hotels restaurants workshops tyre shops and junkyard godowns and informed the citizens about dengue and adoption of maximum precautionary measures against dengue. The teams also removed stagnant water and dengue larvae from several breeding sites. The RCB spokesman said vulnerable points were regularly being checked and special inspection was conducted to check dengue mosquito larvae. He urged the citizens to adopt precautionary measures and remove stagnant water from their homes and roof tops as most of dengue larvae and adult mosquito is found in air coolers water drums and scrap items.



## Briefs

## Illegal crushing plants mar environment

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Standing Committee on Climate Change Wednesday was informed that illegal crushing plants established amid alleged consent of the authorities concerned was damaging the scenic environment and greenery near Margalla Hills National Park (MHNP) Khan Pur area. Member National Assembly (MNA) Murtaza Javed Abbasi on his point of order pertaining to illegal crushing plants established in Khan Pur area appeared before the Standing Committee chaired by MNA Syed Mustafa Mahmud. Abbasi told that there were 12 crushing plants being established where three of them were fully functional and rest was in the making. "Despite massive blasting and crushing in the region and direct pollution done in the Khan Pur dam, which is one of the main sources of water supply to the federal capital, no action has been taken by relevant departments," he added. He alleged that Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Environmental Protection Department Punjab had issued no objection certificate and excluded the archeological zone from the National Park which was lying in the vicinity of crushing plants. He quoted the survey conducted by an American non-governmental organization that had reported sound stroke issues among the local masses. — APP

## NIFTH to hold exhibition of leaders

ISLAMABAD: National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (NIFTH) will hold an exhibition of rare documents, books and photographs on founding father Quaid-e-Azam M.A. Jinnah and Shaheed-e-Millat Liaquat Ali Khan on Friday at Pakistan National Monument Museum. The exhibition will be organized in collaboration with National Archives of Pakistan (NAP) and National Library of Pakistan (NLP). Talking to APP, Executive Director Lok Virsa Talha Ali said, NIFTH has established a thematic Museum known as "Pakistan National Monument Museum" at Islamabad depicting history, birth, freedom movement and development of Pakistan after emergence in 1947 in a three-dimensional creative manner. He said Museum would also showcases achievements of our national heroes who contributed for creation of Pakistan. These include founder of Pakistan Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, national poet/ philosopher Allama Dr. Muhammad Iqbal and other prominent leaders. — APP

## Pink Ribbon set to augment Breast Cancer Awareness

ISLAMABAD: Pink Ribbon is all set to augment awareness about breast cancer across the country and to observe the 17th anniversary of PINKtober. Pink Ribbon named October, a global breast cancer awareness month, as PINKtober and was celebrating it since 2004 to raise awareness about this deadly disease. The organization intends to conduct a lot of activities in the entire month and devise programs for every week of October, said a press release. Pakistan has the highest number of breast cancer cases among all Asian countries and as per the statistics one in every nine women in the country is at risk of developing breast cancer. Around 83,000 cases of breast cancer were reported annually in Pakistan and nearly 40,000 women lost their lives to the disease every year in the country. Breast cancer is the leading cause of death among women in the country. Chief Executive Officer Pink Ribbon Pakistan, Omar Af-tab said, "In first week of October, Pink Ribbon will raise awareness on conducting the mammogram test for early detection of Breast Cancer. — APP

## NAB continues to fight against corruption: Justice Javed Iqbal

NAB has rejuvenated by implementing his Accountability for All Policy across the board under the slogan of "NAB's Faith-Corruption free Pakistan"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Honorable Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman, NAB chaired a meeting to review progress on mega corruption cases at NAB Headquarters. He said that NAB continues to give high priority to the fight against corruption. He said that NAB would not spare all those who have after devoured billions of rupees of innocent Pakistanis through corruption and corrupt practices. The NAB has no affiliation with any individual, party or organization but with the country and is performing its duties. He said that eradication of corruption has become the voice of the whole nation as it not only halts the progress of the country but also usurps the rights of the deserving people. Pakistan is facing the challenge of corruption which is the root cause of all problems being endured by the country. He said that NAB has chalked out a comprehensive Anti corruption strategy comprising awareness, prevention and enforcement under "Accountability for All" policy. Besides overhauling and perfecting working procedures in order to make NAB a more credible and reputed organization to eradicate corruption in all its forms and manifestations. The Chairman NAB said that NAB has rejuvenated by implementing his Accountability for All Policy across the board under



the slogan of "NAB's Faith-Corruption free Pakistan." The results have yielded excellent dividends. Well Reputed national and International Organizations like Transparency International Pakistan, World Economic Forum, PILDAT, Mishal Pakistan have not only lauded NAB's efforts for eradication of corruption but in the Gillani and Gallup Survey about 59 percent people have shown their confidence in NAB. He said that NAB during the present management of NAB has brought big fish to justice for the first time and recovered

Rs. 538 billion from corrupt elements directly and indirectly from Oct 2017 to August 2021 that no one previously had ever been able to accomplish since the establishment of the anti-corruption watchdog in 1999, besides overall recovery of Rs. 819 billion, NAB has filed 1274 corruption references in the various learned Accountability Courts which are under adjudication and their approximately worth is 1305 billion. He said that not just in Pakistan alone, NAB has now emerged as a role model for countries under South Asian Association of

Regional Cooperation (SAARC) which includes India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. NAB heads the SAARC anti-corruption forum. It is a focal organization for Pakistan under the United Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). NAB has also signed a unique Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with China to extend co-operation in tackling corruption and to oversee CEPC projects being under process in Pakistan. Among other achievements of NAB, it has established a state of the Art Forensic Science Laboratory in NAB Rawalpindi besides

establishing its own Pakistan Anti-Corruption Training Academy at NAB Headquarters. The academy is meant to train and equip its investigation officers with modern techniques to investigate white collar crimes on the basis of lessons learnt in order to eradicate corruption. He said that NAB has also signed a Memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Higher Education Commission to spread awareness among students at Universities/Colleges level as part of Chairman's vision to make our future leadership aware of the effects of corruption.

## PBM to confer 200 scholarships to UoM

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) would confer the annual scholarships to some 200 deserving students of newly established University of Mianwali (UoM). PBM Managing Director General (DG) Malik Zaheer Abbas Khokhar and UoM Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Islam Ullah Khan signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) the papers and exchanged notes. Addressing the ceremony, PBM MD Malik Zaheer Abbas Khokhar said some 100 scholarships each would be provided to the undergraduate and graduate students. Khokhar welcomed the delegation of UoM and said Prime Minister Imran Khan was the first high profile leader who paid attention to providing education facilities to the people of remote areas. Prime Minister Imran Khan has always stressed and directed to invest in education and help empowering the power segment of society. Responding to a question regarding recruitment in PBM on vacant posts, he said a total of 275,000 applications were received for different posts in PBM. The short listing process of the applicants would be completed within a period of next three months. UoM VC Prof Dr Islam Ullah Khan said he was making efforts to provide financial support to at least 25 percent students of the university from out of a total of 5,000 plus students studying in the university. — APP

## IRSA releases 180127 cuseces water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 180127 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 134835 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1513.16 feet, which was 121.16 feet higher than its dead level 1392 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded at 78700 and 110000 cusecs respectively. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1187.90 feet, which was 137.9 feet higher than its dead level of 1050 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded at 16008 and 30000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded at 109751, 110917 and 66455 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 12800 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 27327 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala. — APP

## Int'l Day of Older Person's to be marked on Friday

ISLAMABAD: International Day of Older Persons will be marked on October 1(Friday) across the globe including Pakistan to recognize the contributions of older persons and to examine issues that affect their lives. International Day of Older Persons is a special day for older persons or senior citizens all over the world. In many countries, politicians make speeches, particularly those responsible for government departments that focus on senior citizens, at this time of the year. Some radios, televisions or newspapers publish interviews with senior citizens on various issues such as achievements they made to create a better society. Other activities surrounding this day included displays of promotional material on the International Day of Older Persons in schools, tertiary institutions, office buildings, and public notice boards; media announcements on the day and activities that promote older persons; and inter-generational cooperation on voluntary activities focused on the environment, health, education or community services. The World Health Organization (WHO), which is the UN's directing and coordinating authority for health related issues, and other groups have been actively involved in promoting public awareness and attention on the International Day of Older Persons. — APP

## PML-N spreading fake news: Shauzeb

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Kanwal Shauzeb Wednesday said that government will not compromise on corruption as Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) was spreading 'fake news propaganda' against their ongoing corruption cases. Talking to a private news channel, she said the opposition's plan to halt accountability and national development will fail, adding, PTI-led government will not back off from its commitment to maintaining rule of law and transparent

accountability. Eradication of corruption has become necessary in order to set the country on the road to progress and the government is committed to rooting out corruption from the country, she mentioned. She said the opposition leader is currently facing money laundering charges in Pakistani courts and hoped that the case of Shahbaz is wrapped up soon so that the people of Pakistan could "get rid of corrupt Sharif family. Kanwal said that elders of the Sharif family had only "promoted a culture of corruption" in past and "destroyed the national economy instead of amending institutional laws of justice.



ISLAMABAD: PM AJ&K Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi meets with Federal Minister for Planning and Development, Asad Umer. — DNA

## HEC to award scholarships, prize money to student players

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) confers Sports Scholarships and Prize Money every year to champion players who win medals at national and international level with the objective to appreciate and encourage the outstanding student players. The upcoming award distribution ceremony for scholarship holders/medalist players, who have won medals in different national championships representing HEC, will be held in October 2021. Currently, there are 46 medalist male and female student players from various Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) of Pakistan to whom HEC will be awarding cheques on performance basis. Sports Scholarship scheme has infused a new urge and energy in the student players of the institutions of higher learning. HEC is also considered to be one of the biggest nursery of Pakistan sports at the national level. HEC has produced many national and international players, both male and female, who represented Pakistan at various national and international arenas and won several medals for the country.

## Int'l conference emphasizes cultural co-op between Pak-China

ISLAMABAD: The speakers at international conference emphasized expanding cultural cooperation, knowledge and people-to-people exchanges between Pakistan, China and other countries of the Silk Road. The Zhejiang and Tsinghua University of China and the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, Silk Road Centre, and Taxila Institute of Asian Civilizations Quaid-i-Azam University jointly organized a two-day conference to promote knowledge and research on Gandhara and ancient cultures of the Silk Road. The conference sessions were held online simultaneously in Beijing, Hangzhou and Islamabad, said a press release issued here on Wednesday. The speeches and research papers presented at the conference highlighted the ancient links between Gandhara and China made possible



by the channels of the Silk Road. Celebrating 70 years of friendship between Pakistan and China, the conference sessions also highlighted the value of cultural diversity and dialogue for peace and progress in the Silk Road region. For over 1500 years, the historical Silk Road served as an inspiring symbol of connecting diverse cultures and promoting development. The ancient network of roads established connections between China, South and Central Asia that still exist.

In his opening remarks, Pakistan Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque highlighted the significance of close ties between Pakistan and China. He said, "China and Pakistan are linked historically and geographically through the ancient Silk Road. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has already opened up new opportunities for development and enhancing connectivity. This conference will also contribute to boost research and people to people contacts." The Ambassador congratulated the organizers for organizing this important conference despite the COVID-19 challenges. The conference concluded with signing a declaration for future cooperation among all the partners including Zhejiang University, Tsinghua University, Higher Education Commission, Quaid-i-Azam University and Silk Road Centre. — APP

## Al-Shifa Trust to establish first eye cancer centre

Major Gen. (Retd) Rehmat Khan informed that annually almost 2200 people are diagnosed with eye cancer and the number is growing on the back of lack of awareness

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: President of Al-Shifa Trust (AST) Major Gen. (Retd) Rehmat Khan on Wednesday said we have planned to establish one of the most comprehensive centres for eye cancer in the country to combat the growing threat. Apart from providing cancer surgical services, the nation's first centre will offer all forms of cancer treatment through chemotherapy, radiation, rehabilitation and genetic counselling under one roof, he said. Speaking at a childhood cancer awareness seminar, he said that eye cancer is increasing in Pakistan necessitating early detection, diagnosis and proper treatment. He said that almost 30 percent of eye cancer patients are children which is a mounting threat that needs a proper response as they are our future. Major Gen. (Retd) Rehmat Khan informed that annually almost 2200 people are diagnosed with eye cancer and the number is growing on the back of lack of



awareness. He informed that the trust had established a Cancer Eye Clinic to provide assistance to the needy which improved the situation but it was not sufficient therefore a full-fledged center has been planned to serve the masses. He said that timely detection can

save sight as the problem gets complicated if treatment is delayed that may cause vision loss, loss of the eye or may prove fatal as patients are brought to hospitals only in the final stage. In his speech, Prof. Wajid emphasized that we will need the support of all cancer stakeholders

in making the plan successful as such a centre is badly needed as time is ticking away. Prof. Tayyab Afghani highlighted the importance of early diagnosis and screening and called upon the national and international stakeholders to make a comprehensive national plan for the prevention

and control of cancers. He also demanded an appropriate mechanism for social protection and financial support for cancer patients and their families. The seminar was also attended by a wide range of participants including professionals, policymakers, public health consultants, patients, parents and officials from the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization. At the end, the President of AST distributed shields and certificates amongst the speakers that included Prof. Sumera Altaf, Brig. Tariq Ghaffoor, Prof. Nuzhat, Dr. Sabika, Ms. Kanza, Prof. Dr. Ayesha Babar Kawish, Dr Maheen Akbar, Dr Shadab Hassan and Dr Tanzila Farah. It may be mentioned that Al-Shifa celebrated the month of September as childhood cancer awareness month like elsewhere in the world. Many activities were planned including regular streaming of public health messages on social media, children puppet shows and public awareness campaigns in the hospital.



## Tensions easing

IN the backdrop of a six-year proxy war in Yemen that culminated in the eventual cutting of ties between the Saudi and Iranian government, new rounds of diplomatic talks are expected to begin soon. This is a step forward for both countries that could result in tensions decreasing within the Middle East and could provide some relief to Yemen which is currently fighting one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world. The first few rounds of discussions between the Kingdom and the government of Iran took place in early April but were halted to give time for President Ebrahim Raisi's administration to form and settle into office. It is positive to see that the initiative has not been abandoned and that there is commitment to the process of improving ties with one another, despite the tumultuous history. Since 2016, Houthi rebels have been engaged with Saudi Arabia to restore the government in Yemen. Matters were made worse once the Kingdom supported former President Donald Trump in withdrawing from the Nuclear Deal and encouraged the imposition of strict sanctions on Iran. An initiative to establish cordial relations was needed, and Baghdad looks to have provided just that with constant attempts to restart dialogue. Millions have been caught in the crossfire as Yemen suffers from crippling famine. Furthermore, with the country's economy in shambles, almost 80 percent of the 30 million citizens are surviving on aid alone. If and when an agreement is reached, the conflict can also be resolved and Yemen can experience some peace after years of bloodshed. Thus, all efforts must be encouraged by the international community as well, including the P5+1. Once the US and Iran also begin the Vienna negotiations and if things go smoothly, hostilities could ebb and a more favourable outcome will be reached for conflict resolution and improving foreign ties between one another. What is most important is that each stakeholder approaches the table with determination and the willingness to move on.

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## Most expensive sugar import

NEWS that the federal government has just imported the most expensive sugar in the country's history, one day after it decided to intervene in the market to control runaway food inflation, is cause for some very serious worry. It's precisely things like these that make people fret whenever the government decides to control prices in the most non-traditional ways. Intervention to control prices invariably runs into subsidies without which food cannot be made affordable for the lower classes. But when the government has to pay top dollar for edibles in the international market, then sell it at below par prices in the local market, it's the government's fiscal position that takes the blow. Needless to say, of course, that given the government's present fiscal constraints, and the fact that it is now importing very expensive food, the strategy to intervene seems a little out-of-place even before it has been green-lighted by cabinet. But telegraphing the move ahead of time, which the government did to earn brownie points from the voters no doubt, means that it will have to bankroll it for a while at least or risk losing what little support the announcement was able to build. The excuse that rising international commodity prices are behind the whole problem will just not cut it with the people. Food prices have been unrealistically high in Pakistan since well before the pandemic, when they were still subdued in the commodity market. Back then even the government blamed special interest groups and mafias for the artificial price hike and promised to crack down on them without mercy. The present finance team, which is still relatively new to the job, ought to take a step back and revise its ambitious pro-growth strategy. No doubt prices need to be controlled. But if market forces are found wanting, perhaps the government should give its idea of cracking down on profiteers another thought rather than throw reserve money into subsidies with no end in sight. Subsidising food when it has to be bought from abroad will unnecessarily bloat the import bill, perhaps to the point that the Balance of Payments (BoP) position becomes untenable, which would do neither the rupee collapse nor rising inflation much good. Best to let better sense prevail now than scramble for it later. \*

# The APT game of Caspian sea

**Dr M Ali Hamza**



The Caspian region is one of the important focal points for world geopolitical game.

The strategic value of the region is determined by the factors that Caspian shelf is among the richest oil fields in the world. Estimations proclaim 3% and 4% of the world total crude oil and natural gas reserves: 17 and 33 billion barrels and 232 trillion cubic feet respectively, in the Caspian region. Moreover the Caspian region, covering Caucasasia, adjacent to the sea areas of Russia, northern Iran and western parts of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan,

THE APT (Azerbaijan, Pakistan, Turkey) ties should not surprise anyone, as Pakistan and Turkey were the first two nations that recognized Azerbaijan as an independent country following the collapse of USSR. Pakistan and Azerbaijan are considered as strategic partners, whereas Turkey and Azerbaijan are often branded as 'one nation with two states' because both are Turkic countries. Pakistan and Turkey has always extended the support to Azerbaijan in its efforts to consolidate its independence, preserve its territorial integrity and realize its economic potential arising from the rich natural resources of the Caspian Sea. The Caspian region is one of the important focal points for world geopolitical game. The strategic value of the region is determined by the factors that Caspian shelf is among the richest oil fields in the world. Estimations proclaim 3% and 4% of the world total crude oil and natural gas reserves: 17 and 33 billion barrels and 232 trillion cubic feet respectively, in the Caspian region. Moreover the Caspian region, covering Caucasasia, adjacent to the sea areas of Russia, northern Iran and western parts of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, and located in central part of Eurasia, thus Caspian area is situated between politically and economically important regions of the world: Europe, Middle East, South and East Asia and provides the best land routes connecting these regions. Since mid-1990s there has been an active phase of geopolitical game around the Caspian Sea. It has become obvious that it possesses enormous oil and gas potential. The main feature of the mid 1990's was competing interests of the western countries and Russia over the issue of pipeline routes. At present most of the export pipelines are directed via Russian territory. Such situation benefits Moscow by giving it political tools for strengthening its position in the region. But today few export routes are not using Russian territory like the biggest export pipeline to bring oil direct-

ly from Caspian fields to European markets is the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline, which was commissioned in 2006. BTC connects Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan and Ceyhan, a port on the south-eastern Mediterranean coast of Turkey, via Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia. It is the second-longest oil pipeline in the former Soviet Union, after the Druzhba pipeline, and carries an average of 1 million barrels of oil per day. A new phase of political developments in Caspian region started after the events of 9/11 that has changed strategic conditions at international and regional levels. In the first decades after 9/11 the US appeared to have strengthened political and economic positions in Central Asia and Caspian regions, whereas Russia's political influence has been weakened. But today US think-tank analysts believe that United States is 'less visible' and that its role has 'flattened' in the region. A report by US National Security Strategy for Central Asia that was released in 2020 emphasizes that US remains committed in this energy rich strategic crossroads, not the least to provide an alternative to the influence of Russia and China. US Secretary of State, Michael Pompeo categorically said that the perception of declining US interest in the region is largely psychological. Statement by the Pompeo was indeed a try to reassure its partners in the region that in times of turbulence US remains a reliable partner for the countries like Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. In 2013, the unveiling of Belt Road Initiative (BRI) by China: and to be more precise the New Eurasia Land Bridge and China Central Asia-West Asia Corridor proved to be a deep nail in the coffin of US interests in the region. Furthermore, it appears that Russia has revised its foreign policy and seems more inclined toward supporting Azerbaijan over Armenia in Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Russian support to other littoral states could be a second last nail to the coffin of US interests in Caspian region. And when US blame Pakistan for all its loss in Afghanistan,

it is just about losing the strategically planned hegemony of US in Caspian region. If Pakistan in collaboration with other regional think tanks choreographed the destination of Afghanistan, then it must have proved to be the last nail? The US hue and cry makes sense. The Caspian littoral states include the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, and the Republic of Azerbaijan. All the states are interested in exploration of rich resources of the sea to export them to world market. The export of raw materials allows these countries to solve their economic problems since it is the main source of hard currency for most of them. Practically until 2018: Caspian Convention, its legal status was not uniform, and was based on the aspirations of individual states and the rules of its use were initially regulated in peace treaties. The key factor for further development in this region was to determine the legal status of the basin. Let's get back to APT game. Azerbaijan, Pakistan and Turkey have continuously backed each other on various international forums on national interest matters such as Kashmir, Cyprus and Nagorno-Karabakh. Turkey is interested for strengthening its positions in the Caspian region and use it as a platform for promoting their interests in other strategically important regions of the world. Pakistan envisioned long back the importance of Azerbaijan in context of Caspian Sea, therefore had a quick move in establishing diplomatic and security relations with Azerbaijan. Nine bilateral agreements of diplomatic and economic nature in 1995, finalizing defense and military agreements in 2002, special meet-up of president Musharraf's and President Heydar Aliyev on sidelines of ECO (Economic Cooperation Organization) 2003 held in Istanbul-Turkey, back and forth visits of dignitaries to Baku and Islamabad between 2003-2008, and participation of Pakistan in recent trilateral 'Brotherhood' military drill hosted by Azerbaijan are some examples of robust union between the two brotherly states.

# Sports victimization of Pakistan

**Muhammad Najeeb Raja**



Pakistan's about 20 years struggle for countering terrorism was aptly and abruptly demolished within no moment by abandoning cricket series by NZ and ENGLAND is ridiculous. If any civilized nation left such striving state without serious concerns, conspiracy of other states or rumors...

GAME is one of the tact of diplomacy in the contemporary period of time especially when it comes to cricket, every shot of batsman and wicket out by bowler promotes peace and harmony among the nations. It demolishes depression and aggression of the people of different nations, teaches them tolerance and way of co-ordination in different aspects of life. People make society peaceful and exchange culture and ideas with each other, while across the border game is one of the way for exchanging culture and ideas among the different societies. After societies, nations interact with each other for cordial relationships. Games are the source of regional stability in almost every aspect but the diplomatic behavior of New Zealand recently was really devastating. Unexpected cancellation of New Zealand and England tours of Pakistan is very unsportsmanlike. The match was to be played between New Zealand and Pak 18 years later but unfortunately cancellation on "security concerns" despite the provision of foolproof security from Pak elite forces is condemnable. Pakistan is a major country that suffered more than enough during

war on terror as compared to any other nation in the world but still surviving with collapsed economy, poverty, unemployment and many other waste products of global war on terror. New Zealand is a non nuclear state and encouraged by international community for Arms control and disarmament but how ironic it is that a non nuclear state have security concerns in nuclear state! And even such state politicized the cricket game in Pakistan on behalf of black sheeps of international community. Pakistan being a democratic state always looked forward with better future and coordinated with other nations of the world. Recently KPL has mounted much in India's aggression. India during the KPL threatened many international players and commentators against performing in kashmir. Unfortunately to some extent the Indian isolation policy did work not only for Pakistan sports but damaged Pakistan politically and diplomatically as well. All the connectivity of the cricket victimization of Pakistan is supporting Afghan T-a-l-i-b-a-n. Pakistan is and has been indulged in the stability of the whole region. The contribution of

Pakistan against global war on terror are beyond world's perceptions. Pakistan's about 20 years struggle for countering terrorism was aptly and abruptly demolished within no moment by abandoning cricket series by NZ and ENGLAND is ridiculous. If any civilized nation left such striving state without serious concerns, conspiracy of other states or rumors then people should conclude such states as a terrorist state, such states are the real emblem for promoting terrorism in the world. Pakistan did a lot of tremendous work for relaunching of cricket in its homeland. The time has come for Pakistan to take quick and swift actions against such evils and odds of the uncivilized nations of international community. World has to review because gone is the goose to that laid golden eggs. Rebuttals are the dire need of present time of Pakistan. Pakistan should strive hard to crush isolation policy and politics of India, NZ and ENGLAND as all of them are a chip of the old block. Pakistan should not immolate its national interest for other nations of the world with such attitude whether it's cricket game or politics.



## Briefs

## Pak rejects references...

FROM PAGE 01  
the spokesperson stressed. He said Pakistan had consistently maintained that there was no military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan. Similarly, a coercive approach would not work and the only way to achieve long term sustainable peace in Afghanistan was through engagement and dialogue, he added. Moreover, the spokesperson said sustained security cooperation between Pakistan and the United States would remain critical in dealing with any future terrorist threat in the region. "Such proposed legislative measures are, therefore, uncalled for and counterproductive," he maintained.

## Sanction Taliban...

FROM PAGE 01  
sanctioning the Taliban for alleged human rights abuses in the country. "Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than annually thereafter, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on entities providing support to the Taliban," the bill read. It added that further assessment of "support by state and non-state actors, including the Government of Pakistan, for the Taliban between 2001 and 2020, provision of sanctuary space, financial support, intelligence support, logistics and medical support, training, equipping, and tactical, operational, or strategic direction" should be held. The bill seeks a probe into the "support by state and non-state actors, including the Government of Pakistan" for the 2021 Taliban offensive that helped topple the Afghan government led by Ashraf Ghani.

## Pakistan businessman gets..

FROM PAGE 01  
Japan to Pakistan, on behalf of the Government of Japan on September 29 conferred the imperial decoration "The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette" upon Mr. Syed Feroz Alam Shah. The conferral ceremony was held at his official residence with limited participants, while taking infection prevention measures against COVID-19. Mr. Syed Feroz Alam Shah has worked as Honorary Technical Advisor at the Federal Board of Investment (BoI) since 2010, supporting business ties between Japan and Pakistan, whilst simultaneously working as a director in the private sector. In terms of facilitation of new entrants to the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Pakistan, he dedicated to assisting entry of business in the Pakistani market. He additionally dealt with the complicated application process, cooperating with the Pakistani Government. Likewise, after formal introduction into the market, he contributed to working for the coordination of amendments to the SEZ Act to be more coherence with actual business activities. Apart from his work furthering bilateral business ties, he has established "Pak-Japan Friendship Society (PJFS)" in 2000 in Balochistan with his brother, and been fulfilling a major role as the president from 2018. He has also contributed to establish "Pak-Japan Culture Centre in Quetta" which promote cultural exchange through introducing Japanese Movies, Japanese Marshal arts "Karate" and Flower arrangement etc. His activities are not just focusing on not only strengthening Economic ties but also cultural understanding between two countries. Ambassador MATSUDA, while speaking on the occasion, congratulated Mr. Shah on receiving this prestigious imperial decoration by the Government of Japan and hoped to develop closer cooperative ties between two countries along with Mr. Shah. The Ambassador expressed his sincere hope that this contribution will further promote and strengthen economic relations and mutual understanding between Japan and Pak as well as people-to-people contacts between the two friendly nations.

## ECB Chairman apologises for cancelling Pak tour

The ECB chairman confirmed that they have "recommitted to a proper tour to Pakistan next year" and that England will be fully prepared to handle any exceptions

## AGENCIES

LONDON: Pakistan recently suffered a major setback when New Zealand cricket dropped a bombshell by quitting their highly anticipated tour of Pakistan minutes before the toss for the first One-day International (ODI), citing a 'security threat'. The Kiwis did not share the threat details with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) nor the Pakistan security agencies, which created animosity in the air and New Zealand faced the wrath for unilaterally making the decision. Their decision was followed by the England cricket team, which has dented years of efforts PCB made to repair their image on the international



stage. There have been a lot of rumours that neither the players, nor the coach was consulted over the cancellation of Pakistan tour and England Cricket Board (ECB) made this decision on their own. The rumours were recently addressed by the ECB chairman Ian Watmore, who apologised for the cancellation of the Pakistan tour "I am very sorry to anyone

who feels hurt or let down by our decision, particularly in Pakistan," said Watmore, while talking to Daily Mail. "The decision the board made was an extremely difficult one and the board made it with the primary consideration being the welfare and mental health of our players and staff." "The board took the decision based on its own judgments and it didn't go out to consultation. Had we decided to go forward with the tour we'd have had to put the proposals to the players, but it didn't reach that," Watmore added. The ECB chairman confirmed that they have "recommitted to a proper tour to Pakistan next year" and that England will be fully prepared to handle any exceptions.

## ECB's apology is a success of Pak stance: Fawad

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Fawad Chaudhry said their stance stood successful after England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB)'s chairman Ian Watmore apologized for withdrawing from the Pakistan tour. In a tweet after Watmore's statement, the federal minister said heads are high as England and Wales Cricket Board apologized for not touring. "The announcement of England and Wales Cricket Board to visit Pakistan next year is a welcome step. I would like to thank stars of the cricket world, the diplomatic community, Media, and Cricket lovers around the world for their support for Pakistan Cricket, yet again Pak has emerged as strong and resilient nation," he wrote. – DNA



## Messi scores first PSG goal in UCL win over Man City



## DNA

PARIS: Lionel Messi scored his first Paris Saint-Germain goal on Tuesday and it was a significant one, helping Pep Guardiola's Manchester City to the sword in a 2-0 Champions League win for the French club. Messi's goal was both stunning and also so typical of the Argentine, as he burst forward from the right and played a one-two with Kylian Mbappe on the edge of the box, holding off Aymeric Laporte before sending a first-time strike high into the net. It raised the roof at the Parc des Princes, as PSG supporters celebrated seeing the six-time Ballon d'Or

winner open his account for the club he joined in August. "The most important thing was to win the game against a great side, one of the favourites," Messi told broadcaster Canal Plus. "It's true that I was getting desperate to score my first goal. I hadn't played much recently and I had only played once here at home but I am settling into the team little by little." Idrissa Gana Gueye, arguably PSG's best player this season, had given the hosts an early lead to leave City chasing the game. Guardiola's side, who beat the French club in the semi-finals last season before losing the final, dominated large spells of the match in between the two

goals, but their finishing let them down. They will especially rue the moment in the first half when Raheem Sterling and Bernardo Silva each hit the bar in quick succession, but City will still be confident of progressing to the last 16. "We controlled them and unfortunately we could not score. That's football. Nothing to say except my biggest compliment to the team," Guardiola told BT Sport. Of Messi he added: "We know it's impossible to control Leo. He didn't see a lot of the ball, but he's unstoppable." PSG and Club Brugge, who won 2-1 at RB Leipzig, are level on four points at the top of Group A, with City on three points.

## FC Sheriff shocks Real Madrid

MADRID: FC Sheriff Tiraspol, a football club from a pro-Russian separatist enclave of Europe's poorest country, Moldova, has pulled off one of the biggest shocks in Champions League history by beating Spanish giants Real Madrid. "We came here to win," Frank Castaneda, the Sheriff captain, told AFP news agency after his side's 2-1 victory at Madrid's Bernabeu stadium. The estimated value of the entire Sheriff squad is 12 million euros (\$14m), about the same as the annual salary of Madrid defender David Alaba. "We didn't just come here to sit around. We know how good our players are and luckily for us, Madrid weren't able to take their chances – and we took ours," Castaneda said. For Sheriff, this was only a second match in the Champions League group stage. Real dominated but Sheriff scored two excellent goals and had a third disallowed for offside, and now have six points out of six. – APP

## Murray wins San Diego opener

TEXAS: Andy Murray won his first match 6-3 6-2 in the San Diego Open after a late replacement saw him face lucky loser Denis Kudla. The 34-year-old former world number one was set to face Japan's Kei Nishikori, who withdrew with a back injury. Cameron Norrie also had a straight sets win in the first round over Germany's Dominik Koepfer 6-2 7-5. British number one Dan Evans is in action on Wednesday and he faces South African lucky loser Kevin Anderson. Wildcard Murray cruised through his match against the 29-year-old American in just 69 minutes but is likely to face more of a challenge in the second round against the Norwegian second seed, Casper Ruud, ranked world number 10. Murray, currently ranked 109 in the world, reached the quarter-finals at the Moselle Open in Metz last week. That was his best finish in seven tournaments since his latest comeback in June after four disrupted years following a major hip injury. "First and foremost it's great to be on the court healthy and competing week after week for the first time since 2017. It's been a long time and I'm starting to feel better with each match," he said in his on court interview.

Ruud has been in strong form this year with tournament wins on clay in Geneva, Bastad, Gstaad and Kitzbuhel, with his world ranking rising from 27th in January to his current place in the top 10. Norrie will face the winner of the clash between Evans and Anderson. In the WTA Chicago Fall Tennis Classic tournament, Harriet Dart made use of her lucky loser position in the main draw to beat Brazilian qualifier Beatriz Haddad-Maia 6-1 3-6 6-1. She will face the Russian 12th seed Veronika Kudermetova. – Agencies

## Emma given Indian Wells wildcard

LONDON: Emma Raducanu is the first British woman in 44 years to win a Grand Slam. Britain's US Open champion Emma Raducanu has been given a wildcard into the Indian Wells main draw. It will be the 18-year-old's first tournament since her stunning victory in New York earlier this month. Although she is now ranked 22 in the world, the entry list for Indian Wells was published during the US Open, when she was outside the top 100. The tournament, one of the biggest outside of the Grand Slams, takes place in California from 4-17 October. Raducanu has also entered tournaments in Russia and Romania in October. – Agencies

## FIA to probe corruption in PML-N...

FROM PAGE 01  
Jhaljao-Bela Road at an event held here at the PM House, the prime minister said investigation would reveal how a corrupt government looted the public exchequer by carrying out projects at a "much higher cost". Imran Khan said the PML-N extorted Rs 200 million per kilometre on construction of every four-lane road, the information about which was available on the websites. He termed corruption the biggest problem of the country, where a handful of people in power misused the public money. "A corrupt government through misappropriation of funds and theft of tax money always leads to the loss and damage of a nation," he said, adding that the plundered money could have been used for further communication projects, particularly in Balochistan. Stressing on an "equitable" national development, he said road connectivity in Balochistan was equally essential for the socio-economic prosperity of the country.

## Shehbaz slams...

FROM PAGE 01  
regarding his acquittal by the NCA of the United Kingdom. "Honour and humiliation both are in the hands of God. I want to reveal the facts," Shehbaz said. He said his party leaders were put behind the bars but the government could not prove any corruption case against them. He said that Imran Khan wanted to put him in jail. The PML-N president held that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and the Federal Investigating Agency (FIA) launched billions of rupees corruption cases against him and his family but they could prove nothing.

## Fawad rejects...

FROM PAGE 01  
the day, Chaudhry said that "he lied for more than one hour during the briefing". "Shahbaz held a long press conference today but nobody was able to understand what he was trying to say," Fawad said. "He continued to lie throughout the one hour and 10 minutes of the press conference instead of providing answers to the allegations cases against him." Shahbaz had held a press briefing after a UK court ordered his and his family's bank accounts restored. The PML-N president had said that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) could not prove corruption of "even a single penny" against him and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

## Restrictions to ease...

FROM PAGE 01  
The dining would continue as per guidelines whereas marriage halls and restaurants are allowed to keep open seven days a week in the 8 cities, however marriage halls and restaurants would remain close at least one day in a week in other cities. Furthermore, the minister added that ban on refreshment and water for the passengers in flights was also being lifted, however only those passengers with complete vaccination certificate would be allowed to travel.

## Diversifying ties with Pakistan my priority: Amb Kistafin

## FROM PAGE 1

## NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

WHEN we talk about nuclear non-proliferation, we should go back to the history. Indeed, from the very beginning of its independence Kazakhstan renounced to own the nukes it inherited from the Soviet Union and declared itself a strong and ardent advocate of the Nuclear-Arms-Free-World. The Soviet Union leadership decided to construct a nuclear site on Kazakh soil in 1947 and in 1949 the very first nuclear explosion took place in Kazakhstan. The nuclear site in Kazakhstan remained in operation for 40 years and during this period over 456 nuclear tests were conducted, which was indeed a tragedy for the people of Kazakhstan who suffered a lot due to these explosions. According to an estimate over one million people badly suffered due to the nuclear tests. It was in this background that our leadership in 1991 decided to stop all kinds of tests besides abandoning the nuclear site. Kazakhstan was the only post-Soviet Central Asian country to have nuclear weaponry, so its decision to renounce was of fundamental importance for entire Central Asia to become officially

since 2006 a Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone, as the respective Treaty was signed in Kazakhstan between all five Central Asian states. It means that Central Asia is never supposed to be the area with nuclear weapons deployed.

Kazakhstan was one of the sponsors of the UN GA Resolution, which in 2009 declared 29th of August the International Day against Nuclear Tests. Moreover, in 2015 Kazakhstan initiated the 70th session of the UN GA to adopt the Universal Declaration on the Achievement of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World, while the then President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev appealed to the world community to build by the 100 Anniversary of the UN in 2025 to get totally rid of nuclear arms. We strongly believe that this ambitious goal is achievable, given the strong political will of countries concerned.

## KAZAKHSTAN PRESIDENT KASSYM-JOMART TOKAYEV'S INITIATIVES

When it comes to relationship of Kazakhstan with the outside world, nothing has changed so far from the President Tokayev's ascension to power, as he is strictly following the multi-factor foreign policy, architected by the First



President of Kazakhstan and Leader of the Nation Nursultan Nazarbayev. This policy proved to be quite effective and corresponding the most with Kazakhstan's vital foreign policy interests. Our first President always emphasised the need to give priority to economy

over politics because he believed that economic stability would automatically bring political stability as well. Our current leadership is also following this principle and has introduced a number to economic reforms. This is why President Tokayev is more concentrated on developing domestic political and economic reforms, which means existence of strong link between the society and state authorities. This is to say that state authorities must be responsive and sensitive to any societal demands within the concept of the so-called "Hearing State", which the President Tokayev wants Kazakhstan to be. When it comes to ease of doing business, Kazakhstan ranks 25th in the world out of 180 countries, which is a clear manifestation of business friendly policies of the government and the vision with which President Tokayev has been leading the country. The President strongly believes in political modernization. Kazakhstan is an ardent advocate of its gradual political modernization, which is about extension of the area of political liberalization in our society with the utmost goal of making citizens fully responsible for the country and its future. Our president has made it clear that

there is no economic development without the political modernisation and he is trying to undertake a number of measures in this regard. Establishment of national council on public trust is one such step. The main goal of these institutions would be to establish a direct communication between the government and civil society. He has invited prominent figures from all walks of life including NGOs, civil society, and human rights activists to be part of this institution. Likewise, Kazakhstan has introduced a number of amendments in its laws whereby the threshold for establishing political parties has been reduced to 4 percent from 7 per cent which means more and more parties can become part of the parliament. If a political party wants to have representation in the parliament it has to allocate 30 per cent quota for women and young people. These measures would ostensibly change the political culture of Kazakhstan in favour of especially the youth and women. Moreover, previously, anybody wishing to take out a rally was required to seek prior approval from the authorities but the incumbent govt has done away with this obligation and now anybody can do it after informing the local authorities.



## Briefs

ADB appoints  
Albert Park  
as chief  
economist

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has appointed Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) professor Albert Park as its new Chief Economist. He will assume office on December 15, 2021, says a statement issued by the ADB on Wednesday.

As Chief Economist, Mr. Park will serve as Director General of the Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department, where he will lead ADB's work on policy research and regional cooperation and integration. The department produces key analytical forecasts and reports, including the Asian Development Outlook, the bank's flagship economic publication.

"Asia and the Pacific's remarkable achievements in development are facing severe challenges in the form of COVID-19 and climate change," Mr. Park said. "I look forward to contributing to ADB's long and established presence in providing knowledge and policy advice that will help shape a green, resilient, and inclusive recovery for the region." Mr. Park has more than 2 decades of experience as a development economist. A well-known expert on the economy of the People's Republic of China, he has directed a number of large-scale research projects in the country. — APP

Slovenia  
suspends  
Johnson  
vaccine

## WEB DESK

LJUBLJANA: Slovenia has suspended vaccinations with the Johnson & Johnson coronavirus jab while it probes the death of a 20-year-old woman, as thousands gathered to protest against vaccination in the small European Union nation. The suspension will be in place until experts examine whether there is a link between the woman's death from a stroke and the vaccine she received two weeks earlier, Health Minister Janez Poklukar said on Wednesday. The one-dose jabs have grown in popularity in recent weeks in Slovenia after authorities widely introduced COVID passes, which will also be needed for going to work in all state-run firms. The government has approved the purchase of an additional 100,000 J&J doses from Hungary in response to the growing demand. The woman's death this week was the second serious case of adverse effects of the Johnson & Johnson jabs, which have been administered to about 120,000 people in Slovenia, the official STA news agency reported. However, "benefits continue to outweigh the risks", Poklukar said. Still, the announcement is likely to fuel Wednesday's protests planned in the capital, Ljubljana, against vaccination and coronavirus measures.

AUKUS deal 'danger' to  
regional stability

## AGENCIES

BRUSSELS: China has urged the US, the UK, and Australia to "play a constructive role in regional peace and stability" after the trio launched trilateral security cooperation called AUKUS.

"As the US, the UK and Australia strengthened military ties and strengthened bloc confrontation, China put forward a global development initiative and formally applied to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (CPTPP)," China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi told China-EU high-level strategic dialogue.

Beijing held the video dialogue with the EU on Tuesday evening where Josep Borrell, the EU High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy, represented the multi-national bloc. "Who is inciting conflict and confrontation, endangering peace and stability, who is promoting regional integration and promoting peaceful development, is clear at a glance, and the contrast is sharp," Wang told Borrell, referring to AUKUS and China applying for the CPTPP. In mid-September, the US, the UK, and Australia made an abrupt announcement of the AUKUS launch under which Australia will get technology from Washington and London to build nuclear-powered submarines.

Sania joins UNGA moot on social  
protection with world leaders

Dr. Sania stated, "The poorest people and poorest countries have borne the brunt of the pandemic and the world is now on a divergent path of recovery. In Pakistan we have been lucky so far, as we have been able to contain the impacts of the pandemic

## DNA

NEW YORK: Senator Dr. Sania Nishtar, SAPM represented Pakistan at the UNGA's high-level side meeting with Heads of State and Government on, "Jobs and Social Protection for Poverty Eradication- Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond Initiative".

Heads of State and Government expressed commitments through a Call to Action with the aim of promoting policy coherence ahead of the fall meeting of IMF and the World Bank, and meetings of G7 and G20.

Following the opening segment, Dr. Sania joined global leaders at the high-level panel on, "National and Regional Commitments to create

decent jobs, expand social protection, and support a just transition".

Also, speaking at the event were Alexander de Croo, Prime Minister, Kingdom of Belgium, co-chair, Group of Friends of Decent Work; Carlos Alvarado Quesada, President of the Republic of Costa Rica; Guillermo Lasso Mendoza, Constitutional President of the Republic of Ecuador; Alberto Fernandez, President of the Republic of Argentina; Yemi Osinbajo, Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; Mostafa Madbouly, Prime Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt; Abul Kalam Abdul Momen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh; Beata Habyarimana, Minister for Trade and Industry of the Republic of Rwanda; Alexandra Hill Tino-

co, Minister for Foreign Affairs of El Salvador; and Jutta Urpilainen, European Commissioner for International Partnerships.

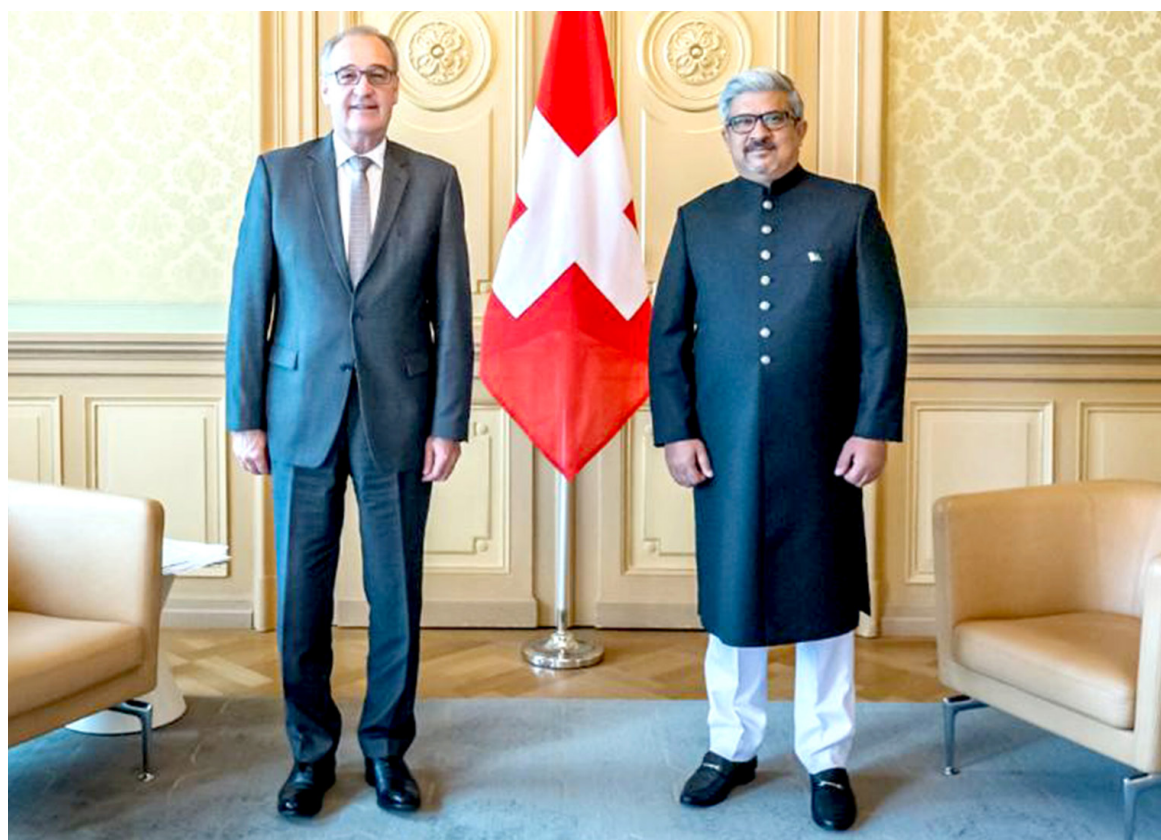
Bringing Pakistan's perspective to the table, Dr. Sania stated, "The poorest people and poorest countries have borne the brunt of the pandemic and the world is now on a divergent path of recovery.

In Pakistan we have been lucky so far, as we have been able to contain the health and economic impacts of the pandemic through our policy of "smart lockdowns" and social protection. Our economy is back on a healthy growth trajectory. And, Pakistan's social protection programme, Ehsaas is recognized as a global model." Further, she urged the international community, led by the United

Nations to promote a series of systemic and structural reforms in the global economic architecture. "First, there is need to expand the financial access of developing countries through a more equitable distribution of IMF quotas; lowering the cost of private loans to developing countries; halting and reversing illicit financial flows from developing countries; and installing an equitable international tax regime; two, there is need for massive mobilization of public and private investment to facilitate the transition to green and digital economies; three, there is need to reform the world trade regime to enable developing countries to expand their exports to global markets on a preferential basis; and four, an opportunity is with-

in reach to leverage the crisis as a platform for radical change in the way the state conceives and provides social protection. This is also the time to revisit the scope of public policy support at the intersection of social protection and labour market, and promote out of box solutions, especially for informal economies", she said.

In her concluding words, Dr. Sania also spotlighted that Pakistan, Turkey, Nigeria, and Costa Rica, with the cooperation of the World Bank, have initiated a proposal for the universal adoption of social protection and establishment of a knowledge platform. She urged each and every country to join the global platform to incorporate social protection as a policy instrument to "build back better".



BERNE: Pakistan ambassador to Switzerland, Aamir Shouket presented credentials to President of Swiss Confederation Guy Parmelin at the Federal Palace in Berne. — DNA

Strong Azerbaijan-  
Georgia ties vital  
for region: Aliyev

## DNA

BAKU: President Ilham Aliyev has described as important the strengthening of Azerbaijani-Georgian political ties not only for the two nations but the whole region with new challenges and opportunities, Azertag has reported.

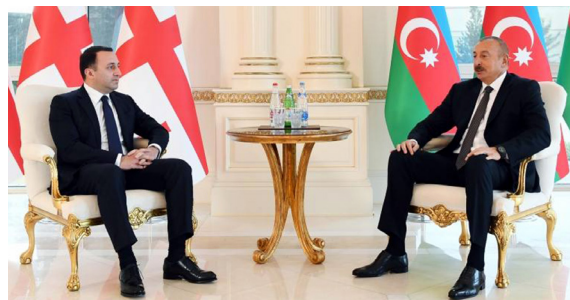
He made the remarks at a meeting with Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili in Baku on September 29.

"We closely cooperate in issues related to foreign policy, especially in our region with the new challenges, and new opportunities. Of course, strengthening polit-

ical ties between our countries is important not only for our people but also for the whole region," he said. Aliyev noted the positive economic progress between the two countries and underlined that the trade turnover is growing.

He stressed that the September 29 meeting of the intergovernmental commission will cover many important spheres, review the taken measures and plan future steps.

"We are very encouraged by the very positive investment climate in your country, economic reforms which allow you to resolve many social and economic issues," the president added.

HC Zahid Hafeez virtually  
presents credentials

Governor General Sir David Hurley expressed his gratitude to the President of Pakistan, Dr Arif Alvi for his kind sentiments

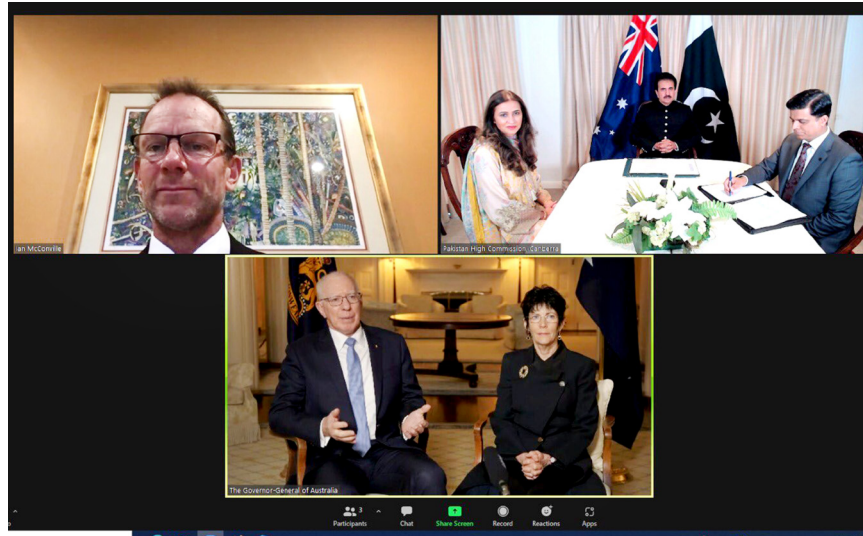
## AGENCIES

CANBERRA: Pakistan's High Commissioner to Australia Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri on Wednesday presented his credentials to the Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia Sir David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) in Canberra.

The ceremony was held in a virtual mode due to COVID-19 related restrictions, says a message received here from Canberra, Australia.

During the ceremony, the High Commissioner conveyed to the Governor General the greetings and best wishes from President of Pakistan Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan for his good health, happiness, and well-being.

He also presented the letter of credence by the President of Pakistan addressed to the Governor General. Governor General Sir David Hurley expressed his gratitude to the President of Pakistan,



Dr Arif Alvi for his kind sentiments.

He affirmed that Pakistan and Australia had a tradition of warm relations and expressed the desire for further strengthening relations between the two countries on bilateral and multilateral fora.

HC Chaudhri reciprocated Pakistan's desire to strengthen relations in diverse economic, trade, defence, agriculture, sci-

ence, technology, education, health, and socioeconomic development fields between the two countries. He recalled friendly longstanding relations between the two countries since Pakistan's independence.

He also conveyed invitation of the Prime Minister Imran Khan to the Governor General to visit Pakistan at his convenience. The Governor General

fondly recalled his earlier visit to Pakistan in 2013 and pleasant interaction with the people of Pakistan. He expressed his desire to visit Pakistan again.

The High Commissioner highlighted that Pakistani community in Australia was one of the most vibrant links between the two countries, contributing significantly in multiple fields in Australia.

Uzbekistan,  
Malaysia enhance  
co-op in education

## FOREIGN DESK

KUALA LUMPUR: The Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Kuala Lumpur Ravshan Usmanov held a meeting with the Chairman of MARA (Majlis Amanah Rakyat - Council of People's Trust), a member of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of Malaysia Azizah binti Mohd Dun, reports "Dunyo" IA correspondent.

The Malaysian side was informed about the reforms being carried out in Uzbekistan in education, in particular, measures to improve the talent management system and train future leaders of the country by launching a new model of Presidential, specialized and creative schools.

Issues of implementing joint projects in advanced training of Uzbekistan teachers based on international best practices, attracting qualified Malaysian specialists, curricula and literature to the country, establishing an exchange of students with MARA schools as the situation with the pandemic stabilizes, were discussed. In turn, Azizah binti Mohd Dun noted that Malaysia also has a network of MARA education institutions similar to the Presidential Schools of Uzbekistan, which specialize in teaching STEAM disciplines. Schools also offer a wide range of extracurricular activities to develop students' non-academic abilities and social skills.

Japan ruling  
party elects  
Kishida as  
next PM

TOKYO: Japan's ruling party elected former foreign minister Fumio Kishida its new leader on Wednesday, setting him on course to become the next prime minister of the world's third-largest economy.



The soft-spoken centrist defeated popular vaccine chief Taro Kono in an unusually close race to succeed Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, who is stepping down after just a year in office.

Kishida, 64, will be confirmed as the new premier in a vote in parliament on October 4 and will then lead the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) into general elections that must happen by November.

Speaking after his win, he called on members to "show the public that the LDP has been reborn, and appeal for their support."

The scion of a political family from Hiroshima, Kishida has long targeted the prime minister's office and ran unsuccessfully for party leader last year, losing out to Suga. He became the first candidate to step into the race this time around and ran on a platform of pandemic stimulus, touting himself as a listener who carried a suggestion box to events to receive proposals from citizens. "My skill is to really listen to people," he said after his win Wednesday. — APP

Russia  
detains head  
of cybercrime  
on treason  
charges

## AGENCIES

MOSCOW: Russia on Wednesday detained the head of one of the country's leading cybersecurity firms on charges of treason, in a move that targets a company collaborating with the West on stemming cyberattacks.

The arrest comes after US President Joe Biden earlier this year raised concerns with Russian President Vladimir Putin that Moscow is allowing cybercrime directed at Western countries to flourish in the country.

Founded in 2003, the Group-IB group specialises in the detection and prevention of cyberattacks and works with Interpol and several other global institutions. Moscow's Lefortovsky district court ordered the group's 35-year-old co-founder and CEO, Ilya Sachkov, to be held in pre-trial custody for two months on treason charges, the court's press service said. It did not provide details of the charges.

Treason cases in Russia are typically classified, and the charges carry sentences of 12 to 20 years behind bars. Group-IB said Wednesday that its Moscow headquarters had been searched the previous morning.

"Top management and legal services are working to clarify the situation," the group said in a statement. In a separate statement it said its "employees are confident in their manager's innocence and honest business reputation". A source in Russia's security services told the state-run TASS news agency that Sachkov denies collaborating with "intelligence agencies of foreign states".



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed in a group photo with office bearers and members of Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industries in Islamabad. — APP





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## Briefs

### Pak-China need to work together to counter disinformation

DNA

BEIJING: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying said on Wednesday that China and Pakistan needed to work together to fight back disinformation and asked the other countries to join hands to enhance mutual trust and coordination and counter disinformation together. Some countries are spreading a lot of rumours and disinformation to smear other countries in a malicious way. The disinformation has confused the people, created chaos and undermined solidarity and cooperation, she made these remarks during her briefing while commenting on China-Pakistan Media Forum held via video link. Terming disinformation as the common enemy of mankind, she remarked that China and Pakistan needed to work together to fight back disinformation. And more importantly, other countries need to join hands to enhance mutual trust and coordination and combat disinformation together, so as to build a reasonable and objective international environment in the media sector for the friendly exchanges and mutually beneficial cooperation between nations, she said.

### Saudi envoy calls on Ch Pervez Elahi

DNA

LAHORE: Saudi Ambassador Nawaf Bin Said Al-Malki called on Punjab Assembly Speaker Chaudhary Pervez Elahi. Provincial Minister Hafiz Ammar Yasir, MNA Chaudhry Salik Hussain, and Chaudhry Rasikh Elahi were also present in the meeting. On the occasion, Chaudhary Pervez Elahi said that the basis of our relationship with Saudi Arabia is on Kalima. He said whenever there was a difficult time for Pakistan, Saudi Arabia supported and always stood by Pakistan. Ambassador Nawaf said Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi truly loved Islam. Ch Pervez Elahi said that the Punjab Assembly passed the bill which made necessary the teaching of the Holy Quran in schools. The Saudi Ambassador said Pakistani doctors, engineers, scientists, and workers were playing an important role in strengthening the Saudi economy and country's development. Nawaf Saeed Al-Malki visited the new building of the Punjab Assembly.

### Scholz gets Merkel boost in coalition battle

AGENCIES

BERLIN: Olaf Scholz's hopes of forming Germany's next coalition government were given a boost Wednesday with congratulations from outgoing Chancellor Angela Merkel and his main rival after his weekend election win. Merkel's CDU-CSU conservative bloc slumped to its worst ever result in Sunday's general election with 24.1 percent of the vote, behind Scholz's centre-left Social Democrats (SPD) at 25.7 percent. The poll drubbing has left the conservatives in chaos, with senior figures distancing themselves from CDU leader Armin Laschet, who campaigned to replace Merkel and has insisted on trying to build a coalition despite coming second. Merkel, who is bowing out after 16 years at the helm of Europe's top economy, had stayed out of the fray but broke her silence in a statement to reveal that she had congratulated Scholz "on his election success" Monday. Scholz is the finance minister and vice-chancellor in Merkel's right-left coalition government.

## Pakistan, Indonesia have huge potential in trade, agri fields

Minister Fakhar Imam calls for further strengthening the ties; Senator Mushahid advocates enhanced academia and people to people cooperation



ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam has said Pakistan and Indonesia have a long standing relationship, which is based on mutual trust and friendship. He said both our countries share many commonalities. Indonesia is the largest Muslim state while Pakistan happens to be the 2nd largest Muslim country. Syed Fakhar Imam expressed these words on the occasion of 76th Independence Day reception and 54th Asean Day, organized by the Indonesia embassy. Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, Chairman Senate Defence Committee also attended the event as the guest of honour. Members of the diplomatic corps, business fraternity and media also attended the event. Syed Fakhar Imam thanked the Indonesia government for extending scholarships to Pakistani students adding the exchange of youths can surely cement brotherly bonds between the two countries. The minister also stressed the need to expand cooperation between the two countries in the field of agriculture. He also shed light on Pakistan-ASEAN relations adding ASE-

AN provides a huge market for Pakistani products and vice versa. Currently Pakistan is the Sectoral partner of ASEAN and member of ASEAN regional forum. He said will try to take this engagement to a higher level. Senator Mushahid Hussain in his speech said he had a unique relationship with Indonesia because his father served in Indonesia as Pakistani's defence attaché and thus he spent his early life in Indonesia. Senator Mushahid added, both countries have a lot of things in common. Both have been part of Western colonialism; both have witnessed scourge of terrorism. He stressed to take this relationship forward. The ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugio in his remarks said, this year marks the 76th anniversary of the Independence of Indonesia. 'I am glad that Indonesia has continued to keep steady momentum of progress and development since independence in 1945 despite formidable challenges'. He further said, Indonesia now is the largest economy in Southeast Asia with a GDP of almost 1 trillion dollars; the most populous Muslim country; the 3rd largest democracy in the world and home to one of the best historical and tourist sites in the world;

The ambassador added, Indonesia was committed to deepening and broadening cooperation with the international community in a range of areas including economic, cultural and educational links, counter-terrorism planning, climate change and interfaith relations; Indonesia and Pakistan share strong socio-cultural and religious bonds rooted in history. The bilateral relationship between the two countries is characterized by feelings of mutual trust, respect and goodwill towards each other. He said Pakistan holds great importance as a trusted friend and reliable development partner of Indonesia in South Asia. Fostering the excellent bilateral diplomatic ties and strong bonds of friendship has always been the priority of the top leadership from both sides. He further said, we have been doing extensive efforts despite pandemic challenges to expand the level of bilateral cooperation in all areas of mutual interest. Happily, we have seen improved trade figures, progress of political and defense ties, better connectivity among think tanks and academics of two sides and development of socio-cultural ties as a result of our joint endeavors. Ambassador Tugio said, The year 2021 also marks the 54th ASE-

AN Day, which is celebrated on 8 August every year. ASEAN is one of the leading models of regional cooperation and reflects the combined spirit of the Association to contribute positively in the global community. Since its founding in 1967, the ASEAN has kept the positive momentum of gradual but steady growth. The region has frequently been referred as a symbol of economic development and regional integration; At present, ASEAN countries have a population of above 600 million and a combined GDP of around USD 3 trillion dollars making it the next economic hub of world trade. With this background, the importance of a stronger ASEAN-Pakistan cooperation is manifold. I believe that developing a mutually rewarding and comprehensive relationship between ASEAN-Pakistan holds great significance in the light of ongoing geo-economic and geo-strategic situations and formation of new regional alliances. Since ASEAN is the fourth largest exporting economy in the world, contributing 7% percent to the total value of global exports, the expansion of trade linkages and people-to-people contacts would be very beneficial for Pakistan. The ASEAN states appreciate Pa-

kistan's "Vision East Policy" and look forward to a more constructive partnership with Pakistan. He said, the presence of large Muslim diaspora in ASEAN countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei can also play a crucial role in stimulating the friendly relations. Moreover, the fast-expanding ASEAN economies offer lucrative investment opportunities in growing sectors of E-commerce, healthcare, science and technology, tourism and IT for a mutually rewarding association. Therefore, fostering the ASEAN-Pakistan economic and diplomatic engagement must be a priority for both sides to gain the benefits of integration and cooperation. To this end, ASEAN Committee in Islamabad has taken several initiatives in collaboration with think tanks, universities and the business community and other partners to create more awareness about opportunities of economic growth, investment, people and land of our diverse region. I am pleased to see the presence of the representatives of these important stakeholders here tonight - together with diplomatic communities of ASEAN Dialogue Partners and Development Partners - to commemorate this auspicious occasion'.

## Syrian peace depends on Turkey-Russia ties: Erdogan

Major investment projects between the two countries continue as planned and bilateral trade between them has increased by 50 percent



FOREIGN DESK

SOCHI: Peace in Syria depends on relations between Ankara and Moscow, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said in a summit with his Russian counterpart. Speaking in the resort city of Sochi in southern Russia alongside Vladimir Putin on Wednesday, President Erdogan underlined the importance of his country's joint actions with Moscow in the context of the Syrian conflict. For his part, Putin said that though his meetings with Erdogan were not always

without problems, the institutions of their countries are able to reach resolutions between them. He highlighted the significant role of cooperation between Ankara and Moscow in ensuring a truce secured last year after Azerbaijan liberated the Upper Karabakh region from neighboring Armenia's occupation, as well as a strong and permanent peace between the two Caucasian nations. Touching on economic relations between Ankara and Moscow, Putin said Turkey's investment in Russia had reached \$1.5 billion and Russia's in Turkey currently stood at \$6.5 billion.

Major investment projects between the two countries continue as planned and bilateral trade between them has increased by 50 percent in the first nine months this year, making up for previous losses and achieving a major rise amid the coronavirus pandemic, said Putin at the investments in Sochi, where the meeting was taking place. President Erdogan was accompanied on his working visit by the head of the National Intelligence Organization Hakan Fidan, Communications Director Fahrettin Altun, and presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin.

## Pak denies military support to Taliban

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Dismissing the allegations levelled by the US administration regarding Pakistan's role in Afghanistan, Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed on Wednesday said that the country did not provide any military support to the Taliban. "US is accusing us that we facilitated Taliban but we only facilitated them to bring them to the table at the request of US," he said while addressing a ceremony in Islamabad. The statement came a day after a bill seeking imposition of sanctions on the Afghan Taliban that could also potentially extend to Pakistan was tabled in the US Senate. The bill, titled 'Afghanistan Counterterrorism, Oversight, and Accountability Act', triggered an angry rebuke from Human Rights Minister Shireen Mazari. Rashid, in today's presser, said that Pakistan wanted the world to engage with the Taliban so that peace can prevail in the neighbouring country. "We are standing with the world and we want the world to stand with Afghanistan in this difficult situation," he added. Talking about Pakistan's role in the recent developments in Afghanistan, he said that Pakistan helped evacuate 20,000 to 22,000 people and the process will continue till October 30, adding that the entire world lauded Pakistan's efforts in this regard.

## Pakistan, Korea agree to engage closely

**The two sides also explored avenues for further cooperation in all domains including the exchange of high level visits, trade and investment, education, science and technology, defence, cultural cooperation and people-to-people interaction**

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: The 11th Round of Pakistan-Republic of Korea Bilateral Political Consultations was held on Wednesday in Islamabad. The Pakistan side was led by Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood while the Korean side was headed by Mr. Choi Jong Kun, First Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea. The whole range of bilateral relations as well as regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest were discussed. The two sides also explored avenues for further cooperation in all domains including the exchange of high level visits, trade and investment, education, science and technology, defence, cultural cooperation and people-to-people interaction. Foreign Secretary shared Pakistan's perspective on the evolving situation in Afghanistan. He underscored

the importance of continued and positive engagement of the international community with Afghanistan, in order to promote lasting peace and stability and to address the serious humanitarian situation in the country. The Korean side thanked the Government of Pakistan in facilitating the evacuation of Korean nationals and others from Afghanistan. The two sides exchanged views on the situation in their respective regions. The Foreign Secretary briefed on Pakistan's assessment of the external environment in South Asia and the situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), including grave human rights violations and illegal attempts to change the demographic structure of the occupied territory. The Korean side briefed on the recent developments in the Korean Peninsula. Co-operation in multilateral fora including on the UN Security Council reform process also came under discussion. Pakistan and the Republic of Korea enjoy friendly and cordial ties. The two sides have been collaborating closely at various forums including the United Nations. Furthermore, there has been regular participation by the Korean peacekeepers in the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), which is highly appreciated by Pakistan. It was agreed to hold the next 12th round of Bilateral Political Consultations in Seoul in the first half of 2022.

## SC directs PMC to submit details of its laws

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Wednesday ordered the Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) to submit details regarding payment of stipends in hospitals and details of its past and present laws within a week. A three-member Supreme Court bench comprising Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed, Justice Mazhar Alam Khan Miankhal and Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar heard the case filed by Dr Umar and Dr Irfan over payment of less than the stipulated stipend. During the course of proceedings, a representative of PMC said they could not prepare the case as they received court notice yesterday night. The Chief Justice said such kind of excuses could not be narrated in the court. He summoned the Chairman PMC and Director Legal. The court expressed annoyance over Director Legal PMC over failing to reply satisfactory answers. The counsel for the PMC said President PMC was in Lahore. The Chief Justice asked the counsel to reply his queries and stated that Section 27 of the Pakistan Medical Commission Act 2020 mentioned payment of monthly stipend.

## N. Korea says it fired new 'hypersonic missile'

AGENCIES

PYONGYANG: North Korea has claimed that it successfully tested a new hypersonic missile called Hwasong-8 on Tuesday. State media said the new missile was one of the "five most important" new weapons systems laid out in its five-year military development plan. They called the missile a "strategic weapon", which usually means it has nuclear capabilities. Tuesday's launch is another indication of Pyongyang's growing weapons technology amid strict sanctions. "The development of this weapons system [has increased] the nation's capabilities for self-defence in every way," North Korean state news outlet KCNA said. Tuesday's launch also saw North Korea introduce missile fuel ampoule for the first time - described by North Korea analyst Ankit Panda as a "significant milestone". This is a technology that allows missiles to be pre-fuelled and then sent to the field in canisters. This means it could potentially stay launch-ready for years. The latest launch also marked the country's third missile test this month. It has already revealed a new type of cruise missile, as well as a new train-launched ballistic missile system.

## Govt mulls starting new census next year

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has commenced work on holding the new population census in the country. The federal government has mulled over starting the seventh census by August 31, 2022, however, the final approval will be given by the Council of Common Interest (CCI). The Pakistan Board of Statistics (PBS) has sought the allocation of Rs23 billion worth of budget for holding the new population and housing census in the country. It is important to mention here that the finance ministry had initially allocated Rs5 billion funds for holding the census. It emerged that the remaining funds will be disbursed to the concerned authorities at the beginning of the census. The Ministry of Planning and Development has submitted the details related to the seventh census to the National Assembly. The Council of Common Interests (CCI) had approved the census 2017 results on April 12 on the condition that another census will not have to wait another decade especially given the controversy the last one entailed.