

Samana

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Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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No one is allowed to harm Turkish interests: Erdogan

Detailed News On Page-08

A sister publication of **CENTRELINE & DNA News Agency**

Pak-Kazakhstan must enhance cooperation

Detailed News On Page-04



UN seat is Afghanistan's right: Shaheen

Detailed News On Page-08



Briefs

Molana Fazi convenes PDM huddle on Nov 11

ABID RAZA



an anti-gov ernment alliance, has convened an emergency meeting of the PDM bigwigs on November 11 on the wish of PML-N supremo and former PM Nawaz Sharif. Nawaz Sharif will participate in the meeting via video link. The PDM meeting would ponder on the prevailing political crisis and would also make important decisions.

Taliban leader makes first appearance

News Desk



city of Kandahar, officials announced Sunday, his first public appearance since taking control of the group in 2016. Akhundzada has been the spiritual chief of the Islamist movement since 2016 but has remained a reclusive figure, even after his group seized power in Afghanistan in August. His low profile has fed speculation about his role in the new Taliban government - and even rumours of his death. On Saturday, he visited the Darul Uloom Hakimah madrassa to "speak to his brave soldiers and disciples", according to Taliban officials.

Clash not in favour of country

STAFF REPORT



LAHORE: Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz

Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Sunday said that clash was not in favour of the country and its people, and all differences should be settled peacefully. Talking to the media after visiting the Mayo Hospital to inquire after the police officials, who got injured during clashes with the TLP protestors, he said the TLP workers and the police officials both were near to his heart, as

Naya Pakistan

PM Imran all praise for Saudi role

"Relations between the two countries have withstood the test of time"



STAFF REPORT / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan said that owing to their complementarities in the socioeconomic fundamentals, Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 provided opportunities to Pakistan to engage with Saudi Arabia in realizing Naya Pakistan's ambitious plan. "I must say that there are significant complementarities in the socio-economic fundamentals of the "Naya Pakistan" and the Saudi Vision 2030. Both lay emphasis on economic opportunity and diversity, domestic growth, modernization and development, and trade linkages and connectivity,' the prime minister said in an interview with Saudi Arabia's Al-Riyadh newspaper published Sunday. The prime minister said

Pakistan could contribute manpower; both skilled and semi-skilled besides sharing its expertise in other sectors like IT, infrastructure development, and agriculture. He said Pakistan and Saudi Arabia had historically enjoyed long-standing fraternal ties, rooted deep in common faith, shared history and mutual support. Both countries have stood by each other, through thick and thin, regardless of the change in leadership. "We never had the reason to reposition our relations with Saudi Arabia in the wake of regional or international developments - in the past as well in as contemporary times. Relations between the two countries have withstood the test of time," he remarked. Imran Khan said both the countries had a special bond for seven decades now.

"It is now our earnest desire to transform this relationship into a deep, diverse and mutually beneficial strategic partnership. We are now working to consolidate historical gains by exploring new and non-conventional areas of cooperation. We want our trade relations and investment cooperation to be commensurate with excellent political relations," he said. He said during his recent visit to Saudi Arabia. he had the opportunity to attend the first

Continued on Page 06

Climate change: G20 leaders make no pledge

The communiqué also makes no reference to achieving net zero by 2050

Joe Biden, Erdogan AGENCIES meet amid tensions ROME: The leaders of the world's richest economies have agreed to pursue efforts to limit global warm-**News Desk** ing with "meaningful and ef-

ROME: US President Joe Biden has held talks with Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the side-



lines of the G20 meeting in Rome amid tensions over human rights and a request from Turkey for F-16 fighter jets. Biden told Turkey's Erdogan on Sunday his request for F-16 fighter jets had to go through a process in the US and expressed a desire to handle disagreements between the two countries effectively. The leaders met amid tensions between the two countries over defence and human rights issues. US lawmakers have opposed the sale of F-16 fighter jets.

Continued on Page 06

fective actions". But exactly

how this will be achieved

was not revealed in the

leaders' communiqué at the

Host nation Italy had hoped

that firm targets would

be set before the COP26

summit in Glasgow, which

has now begun. The G20

group, made up of 19 coun-

tries and the European

Union, accounts for 80% of

G20 summit in Rome.

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly, Asad Qaisar, Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, MoS for Parliamentary Affairs, Ali Muhammad Khan and Mufti Muneeb-Ur-Rehman jointly address Press Conference. - DNA

NZ crush India by 8 wickets

DNA

DUBAI: New Zealand dished out a thoroughly clinical display with both the bat and the ball to steamroll India by eight wickets in a Super 12 match of the T20 World Cup on Sunday. Earlier, India set 111 runs target for New Zealand in the Twenty20 World Cup on Sunday at the Dubai International Stadium. Earlier New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson won the toss and elected to bowl against India with both teams looking for their first win. The Kiwis made one change from their opening loss to Pakistan with fast bowler Adam Milne coming in for Tim Seifert. Devon Conway took over wicketkeeping duties.

PIA starts regular flights to Najaf

Najaf governor, Pak ambassador, head of Iraqi civil aviation receive the first passengers

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan International Airline (PIA) on Sunday started regular flights to Najaf, a city of Iraq and its first plane reached there with 91 passengers. According to a private news channel, PIA Chief Executive Officer Air Marshal Arshad Malik with

Continued on Page 06

Govt 'reaches accord' with proscribed TLP

Details to be unveiled at 'appropriate time', says Mufti Muneeb ur Rehman

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The government's negotiating team announced on Sunday that it has reached an agreement with the proscribed Tehreeki-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) but did not divulge any further details, with Mufti Muneebur Rehman saying the specifics will come to light at an "appropriate time". The agreement comes after almost two weeks of clash-

Continued on Page 06

TLP awaits leadership's nod to call off protest

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: Soon after the government announced that an agreement has been reached with the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) on Sunday, the religious party issued a statement saying that a final decision to call of the protest will be taken after consultation with the members of the Majlis-e-Shura - top decision-making body of the group. Earlier, Mufti Muneebur Rehman flanked by the federal ministers said in a press conference that TLP chief Saad Rizvi had also endorsed the agreement. es that left at least seven saying it was not a "victory or defeat" of any group.

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan supports Korean candidate for DG ILO

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As the elections for the seat of Director General International Labor Organization (ILO) are taking place in March next year, Pakistan is likely to support South Korean candidate Ms Kang Kyungwha, who also served as her country's first female Foreign Minister from 2017-21. Sources told this correspondent that the assurance in this regard has been given to the Korean side. They said initially decision has been taken keeping in view the cordiality of Pakistan-South Korea relations as well as the excellent record of the Korean can-



didate in a wide range of fields such as human rights and disaster recovery. They said that the Korean candidate believes the ILO needs more active publicity in the global crisis caused by Covid-19 and has a strong will to contribute to the international community based on her wide-ranging experience. The Former Korean foreign minister has also served as an aide to the UN Secretary General and deputy representative of the UN Human Rights Office. She also worked as deputy emergency relief coordinator and assistant secretary-general for the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in 2013.

If elected, Ms Kang will be the first Asian and the first woman to become the ILO chief. To win the election, Ms Kang will need to garner a majority vote from ILO's 56-member governing body.

Continued on Page 06

Of TLP protests and govt confusion

When there is a toothless opposition; a dead civil society and a marooned justice system, it becomes the duty of the sitting government to heal masses' wounds because that is what it was voted to power and also because we can't leave everything to God!!

Inside.

both were Pakistanis.

Gardezi urges to make efforts to increase wheat production - Page 02

> Curtailment of principals' admin powers irks staff Page 03

Pak, Kazakhstan to enhance cooperation: ambassador - Page 04

Can the nations of the Middle East navigate this make-or-break decade? - Page 05

T20 WC: Afghanistan bag easy win over Namibia - Page 06

Covid disrupts Pak-China trade of aquatic products

- Page 07 No one allowed to harm Turkish interests: Erdogan - Page 08 Ansar M Bhatti

COMMENT

ISLAMABAD: The banned Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) once again resorted to roads demanding immediate release of its leader Saad Rizvi and expulsion of the French ambassador. The National Security Council (NSC) in its meeting on October 29 rightly turned down both the demands declaring them unwarranted and illogical. The NSC further resolved not to tolerate any further breach of law calling upon the outfit to vacate all roads and go home. Prime Minister Iman Khan's decision not to use force against the protesting people

also received kudos from all and sundry

for using force would have turned out to

be counterproductive.

The agreement announced on Sunday October 31, 2021, during a press conference of govt ministers and TLP representatives, though helped in defusing the tension and temporarily resolving the issue, however the details of the agreement were not shared nor did they take any questions from the media, which was quite surprising and intriguing. Both sides claimed that everything was settled but the way the announcement was made and details kept secret. implied as if there were still issues that needed to be addressed. It is still unclear whether the mob will disperse after this agreement or not. The presser thus created further confusion and gave rise to more conspiracy theories.

As we know, TLP was created during 2018 election with an avowed aim of denting the vote bank of Pakistan Muslim League (N) because PML N majority votes comes from the right wing school of thought. Since the purpose was to get the PTI elected, come what may therefore be a number of gimmicks were employed to achieve this end. Creation of TLP was one of them. And realistically speaking this gimmick did wonders as it greatly damaged the PML N vote bank due to which the party had to suffer defeat even in the areas that used to be its strongholds. The plan was to disband TLP once the election results were achieved, however when TLP saw people voted for it in large numbers it instead decided to become a regular political party and got it registered with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). After the 2018 elections, the TLP was engaged for a protest against the French magazine Charlie Hebdo when it first published blasphemous cartoons of Prophet (PBUH), which caused an outrage in the entire Muslim world and especially in Pakistan. Faizabad became the center point of this protest and it ended after the intervention of the security agencies that helped the govt strike a deal- a deal which nobody owns even today. One of the clauses of the deal was that the govt will discuss the matter of expulsion of the French ambassador in the parliament and take a decision. It never happened though. Critics believe the govt did a wrong thing by accepting this demand knowing very well that the demand was impractical.

The matter further got aggravated when the French president issued a statement that hurt sentiments of the Muslim world and relations between Pakistan and France became further tense when Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi while speaking at a public rally in Multan used a language against the French president which was not taken well by the French authorities. At first, the French president could have exercised restraint given the fact that the situation had already caused dents and then FM Qureshi statement added further fire to the fuel. But things had started improving in the past few months and both Pakistan and France were about to normalize their relations with France set to announce a number of financial incentives for Pakistan including the rescheduling of debts under the DSSI program. Then France also tried to help Pakistan during FATF meetings with a view to helping Islamabad get out of the grey list. But then suddenly the TLP again resurfaced under the pretext of securing release of its leader. This move, from the face of it, seems to have pushed things back to square one. While there is no denying the fact that

leaders such as Presidents and Prime Ministers, must think 10 times before issuing any statement relating to religious freedoms, it is also a fact that situations are blown out of proportion by the vested interests only to fulfill their ulterior political motives. As regards the Charlie Hebdo journal, it is a rag tag publication that is always in search of such controversies in order to make its both ends meet. Only a small portion of people read this journal. The financial position of it is so bad that it has not been able to pay salaries to the staff for so many months. Above all, this magazine is in the habit of doing it to all religions but other religions don't react because they don't care. When protests against this magazine were launched, its circulation jumped into millions from just a few hundred.

Summing up, there is a dominant view in Pakistan that TLP issues can be resolved within no time provided the same method is applied which was applied during the Faizabad dharna. The govt has to move fast because the sufferings of the general public are multiplying with each passing day. People, who are already bearing the brunt of price hike; lawlessness; bad governance and tug-of-war among various power houses, cannot afford to have another crisis looming large on their heads. They need immediate relief and peace.

When you have a toothless opposition; a dead civil society and a marooned justice system, then it becomes the duty of the sitting government to heal masses' wounds because people voted it to power for this. The govt should not leave everything to God!!

Gardezi urges to make efforts to increase

The Punjab government has issued Kisan Card for providing direct subsidy in case of cash transfer, under which more than 500,000 farmers have so far registered for this card

wheat production

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Provincial Minister for Agriculture Syed Hussain Jahania Gardezi has said that wheat production in Punjab has increased 1.5 mounds per acre this year and hoped that it will go by 3 mounds by next year.

He stated this while addressing farmers' convention at Iqbal Auditorium jointly organized by University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Puniab Agricultural Extension Department and Fatima Group at Igbal Audi-

He said that the government was taking all possible

measures to make agriculture profitable, ensure food security and increase per acre production that will help alleviate poverty at the grassroots level and open new avenues for economic

He said that agriculturists, farmers and scientists would have to make collaborated efforts to increase production.

He said that Faisalabad has a prominent position in the field of agricultural sciences. He said that the agricultural scientists of Faisalabad have rendered immense services for the development of agriculture and hoped that they would continue to play their full

role in tackling the challenges facing agriculture in the vears to come.

He said that due to the farmer friendly policies of the government and the hard work of the farmers, a record production of 16 million metric tonnes of wheat was achieved in Puniab last year while the production target of wheat this year has been set at 22 million metric tonnes.

He said that this year 1 million bags of approved varieties of wheat seeds would be made available to the farmers at a subsidized rate of Rs. 1,200 per bag. He said that in order to promote mechanized cultivation of wheat, a program of

tion of UAF in wheat sowing

He said that a farmer in the wheat production competi-

providing modern machinery worth Rs. 1.20 billion at 50 percent subsidy is also being implemented.

He said that last year wheat was cultivated on 19.11 lakh acres in Faisalabad division which yielded 2.6 million tonnes

The Punjab government has issued Kisan Card for providing direct subsidy in case of cash transfer, under which more than 500,000 farmers have so far registered for this card.

He asked the farmers to complete the registration of farmer cards as soon as possible so that they could avail the subsidy. He urged the need for students mobiliza-

Punjab Agriculture Secretary Asad Rehman Gilani said that a subsidy of Rs 12 billion was being given to farmers for the supply of fertilizer. He said that the supply of certified high yielding seeds to the farmers would be ensured.

tion last year has achieved tals and 226 at the Expo 94 mounds per acre. He said that a subsidy of Rs.1000 per bag was being given on DAP fertilizer to reduce the production cost. He said that they had recommended the federal government to increase the support price



FAISALABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib offering dua after inauguration of Government Civil Dispensary in Factory Area. - APP

Dengue situation under monitoring

News Desk

LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid said on Sunday that adequate beds were available for dengue patients and dengue situation was under constant monitoring. In a statement, she said that 107 beds had been reserved at Mayo Hospital, 74 beds at General Hospi-

The minister added that there was still an enhancement capacity of 250 beds for dengue in teaching hospitals of Lahore.

She said that dengue situation was being reviewed and beds may be increased as per

FAISALABAD: Over 3.77 million (3,773,057) people have so far been vaccinated against COVID-19 in the district.

District Health Officer Dr Ataul Mun'im said on Sunday 2,603,741 citizens were injected the first dose while 1,114,976 were administered the second dose of vaccine. He said that 31,156 health workers were also given first dose while 23.184 received the second dose of vaccine. He said that sufficient stock of coronavirus vaccine was available in the district.

As of now 268,477 first doses and 178,985 second doses were in the stock in Faisalabad. - APP

Food authority starts IEC campaign to ensure hygiene food DG Food Safety Authority said initially a total of 400

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority (KP FS&HFA) has decided to install Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material in schools. various hotels, restaurants, dairy shops and other food related businesses including public places in order to create awareness among people regarding hygiene and quality food.

Director General KP FS&H-FA Shahrukh Ali Khan while talking to APP on Sunday said the main aim of the IEC material distribution among the target places was to sensitize general public and food handlers related to provision of hygiene food practices, so that to promote safe food culture ees, 200 panaflex boards and thousands of brochures would be distributed among the target community in Pe-He said"The educational material will help the Authority to further spread awareness related to the SOPs of the Au-

wall hangings, 400 stand-

es; so that they can serve customers with safe and healthy Director General KP FS&H-FA said the Authority would initially distribute the IEC material in district Peshawar; which would be later

thority among food business-

the province. Shahrukh Ali Khan said keeping in view the burden of food-borne diseases

on extended to the rest of

on hospitals, the Authority would also approach various hospitals in the city for educating visiting masses.

He maintained that the awareness campaign in hospitals would educate people that little attention from their side towards selection of healthy food practices and following the basic hygiene principles could help them in achieving a healthy

Shahrukh Ali Khan said"The Authority is also in talk with Peshawar Bus Rapid Transit to provide space for IEC material in its terminals."

He said"Thousands of passengers travel through BRT every day, this will help the Authority to spread the word and make people aware of the core functions of the KP FS&HFA." – APP

50 roads

repair

schemes

approved

PHP holds awareness session Over 3.77m in the province. with students on smog hazards people vaccinated in Faisalabad BUREAU REPORT to wear Helmet, avoid us-

FAISALABAD: In pursuance of vision of DIG Punjab Highway Patrol Riaz Nazir Gara, SSP Patrolling Mirza Anjum Kamal directed Incharge Mobile Education unit to conduct SMOG and road safety awareness session with students and citizens. SSP emphasized that the workshops and seminars are important tool of inculcating road sense and education about traffic signs, right of way, maintaining of safe distance and hazards of over speeding and use of mobile phone during driving. Accordingly, awareness session was done in order to sensitize the students and commuters about the obedience of

Quality

services being

ensured

News Desk

Minister for Local Govern-

ments & Community De-

velopment (LG&CD) Mian

Mahmood-ur-Rasheed Sun-

day said that as per the

vision of Prime Minister

Imran Khan, provision of

high-quality municipal ser-

vices was being ensured to

He was talking to a Paki-

stan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

delegation here, which was

led by Sabir Subhani and

consisted of Waqas Am-

jad, Zeeshan Siddiqui and

other office-bearers of the

The minister said trans-

parency in development

projects and provision of

facilities to people at their

doorsteps was top priority of the government.

Mian Mahmood-ur-Rash-

eed said that instructions

have been issued to fur-

ther speed up development

work of various schemes,

carried out by the LG&CD

All legal requirements

were being fulfilled for

procurement whereas an

effective monitoring mech-

anism had also been devel-

He said that in the first

phase of the Punjab In-

Programme, development

projects were being car-

ried out in Sialkot and Sa-

hiwal with a budget of Rs

44 billion. Whereas, Rawal-

pindi, Sargodha, Muzaf-

fargarh, Rahim Yar Khan,

DG Khan, Bahawalpur and

Multan would be included in the second phase of the

Cities Im-

Investment

oped in this regard.

citizens.

ruling party.

Department.

termediate

provement

Provincial



PTI govt has put national economy

on right track

Standard operating Procedure relating to preventive measures to avoid hazards related to smog and Road Traffic crashes. The students were educated about the washing of hands properly, wearing mask, avoid social gathering, keep social distance at least of 06 foot and drink lot of water in order to save from dehydration. Moreover, the farmers

News Desk

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pa-

khtunkhwa Chief Minister

Mahmood Khan has said that

the PTI government was in-

herited a devastated economy

and due to day-night efforts of

the Prime Minister Imran

Khan during the last three

years has put the country on

Addressing a public meeting

at Marghuz during his one-

day visit to district Swabi on

Sunday, the chief minister

also announced a develop-

ment package of Rs.300 mil-

lion for Marghuz and installa-

tion of an AstroTurf in Swabi

Speaking National Assembly,

the right track.

Hockey Stadium.

were also advised to not set fire the stubbles as it becomes smog in the long run and causes traffic accidents. The farmers appreciated the colossal efforts sensitization to public. While giving detail about lecture to students, he said that Incharge MEU Muhammad Rizwan Bhatti delivered lecture to students about road safety and Corona virus.

for Communications, Murad

Saeed, Provincial Ministers

Taimur Saleem Khan Jhagra,

Shahram Khan Tarakai and

Special Assistant to KP CM

on Industries & Commerce

Abdul Karim Khan also ad-

dressed the public meeting

and highlighted the mega pro-

jects and reforms initiated by

The chief minister also laid

the foundation stone of 226-

bed Women & Children Hos-

pital at Swabi that would be

completed within a period of

three years. The project will

cost Rs.3.8 billion. Besides

Paeds and gyne emergency,

Paed surgery, surgical ICU

and other facilities will also be

available in the hospital.

the provincial government.

ing mobile phone and one wheeling is dangerous tantamount to suicide attempt. The audience was educated about safe distance, rule of overtaking, Land Marking, Road furniture, road signs and hazards of driving under depression, rage and drowsiness

Moreover, In case of emergency, happening of incident/accident, the road commuters can call on help line 1124 of Punjab Highway Patrol police. If the road user faces any kind of harassment on the road or he notices any unlawful activity on the road, he can call on PHP Helpline 1124. Polite, helpful and compassionate is the sole motto of Punjab highway patrol.

Islamabadits to get Sehat Cards by December

Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Asad Umar Sunday said that the citizens of Islamabad would get Sehat Sahulat Cards by December this year.

He said a health facility like Sehat Sahulat Card was not even available in the United

He said a new hospital with a capacity of 200 beds was also being constructed in the constituency of NA-53.

He was addressing a public gathering here at Bahara Kahu along with Special Assistant to Prime Minis-

ISLAMABAD: Minister for ter on Capital Development Authority (CDA) affairs Ali Nawaz Awan.

> The minister said Ali Nawaz Awan was a star performer as no development work was possible without his efforts. He said before the PTI government there was no quota for residents of the federal capital in the govt jobs. Now due to our endeavors, the Islamabad residents have got a 50% quota in the government iobs, he added. He said as many as 100 new tube wells were being installed to minimize the acute water shortage in the city. - APP

FAISALABAD : The divisional sugarcane development cess committee (DSDCC) has approved im-

plementation of 50 schemes

of repair and maintenance

of roads. The committee also approved work on three schemes of annual development programme and some others of local government & commu-

nication and works. The meeting was held with Divisional Commissioner Zahid Hussain in the chair here Sunday. Deputy Commissioners of all the four district and others officers

were also present. Director Development Dr Naveed Iftikhar Aulakh said that 33 schemes would be completed in district Jhang

and 17 in Chiniot. Under annual development programme, one scheme each at three district Jhang,

One million vaccinated

LAHORE : On the special instructions of Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar, the drive of inoculating corona vaccine to citizens at their doorsteps was being carried

said that one million people were being vaccinated on daily basis, adding that 18,000 teams have been constituted for this pur-

pealed to the citizens to get benefit from this campaign and protect themselves and their love-ones from corona by getting themselves vaccinated. He said that the campaign would continue till Nov 12. The CM said that coronavirus was still in Punjab and therefore preventions and vaccination was utmost

Faisalabad and Chiniot will be completed.

people being daily: CM

out successfully.

In a press statement, he

The chief minister apnecessary to avoid finan-

vaccine was being inoculated across the province. He also directed the districts administrations and health authorities to play an effective role for making this campaign

He said that free-of-cost

cial and life losses.

successful. - APP



LAHORE: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) Tahir Mehmood Ashrfi talking to media at Mayo Hospital. - APP

Qaiser urges world to co-op with Afghanistan

Speaker National Assembly said that the restoration of peace in Afghanistan will usher progress and development in the whole region. He said that our businessmen will get access to the market of Central Asian States and help promote business activities

PESHAWAR: Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser Sunday said that Pakistan is playing crucial role in the establishment of durable peace in Afghanistan and urged the world community to promote cooperation with it in all sectors including trade.

Addressing a public meeting at Marghuz, district Swabi, the Speaker National Assembly said that the restoration of peace in Afghanistan will usher progress and development in the whole region. He said that our businessmen will get access to the market of Central Asian States and help promote business activities.

Besides, CM Mahmood Khan, Federal Minister, Murad Saeed, Provincial Ministers Shahram Khan Tarakai, Taimur Saleem Jhagra and MPA Aqibullah were also present on the occasion. Speaker NA said, a new era of progress and development has begun in the country and now Pakistan will give a changed look. He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan the country has been put on track of development.

He said that the present gov-



ernment was inherited numerous crisis that was battled by it

He said that the completion of projects initiated under the auspices of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will increase economic activities and people will get employment opportunities. He said that during the present government district Swabi has been given unprecedented funds.

Asad Qaiser said that before the present government, no big ministry was given to Swabi and for the first time the district was given such important representation. He said that he had remained Speaker of KP Assem-

He said that for the first time, Pakhtuns have been given honour and the representatives of the province were given big posts. He said that the journey of the development of Pakhtuns has begun and now they are not behind anyone in any sector. Speaker said that Pakhtuns have voted for Imran Khan twice and will vote for him in future too. He said that he is in politics for the service of his area and peo-

ple of the district. – **APP**

bly for five years and since the

last three years, he is the Speak-

er of the National Assembly.



Namaz Timings

гајг	05:02 am
Zohr	11:51 am
Asr	03:38 pm
Maghrib	06:16 pm
Isha	06:41 pm



Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

Rescue (Police)15
Bomb Disposal15
Fire Services Rawalpindia
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance1122
& Rescue Services.4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police9270601-20
Women Police Stations
Islamabad9222596
Rawalpindi9270601-20

Edhi Ambulance11	LE
PIAFlightInfo11	14
PIA Cargo928097	7 (
Railway Inquiry11	17
Railway Exchange9270831-	5
WASA Rawalpindi555548	9
CAA928109)2



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 Bo	oard 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
RawalTown	5773343

Wasa Water Tank Rawalpindi.....0331-5022125

Curtailment of principals' admin powers irks staff

According to (FDE) new policy, Principals are not allowed to grant more than 2 casual leaves to staff in a month. In case of more than two, the case will be sent to the respective Area Education Officer (AEO)

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The curtailment of administrative powers of the heads of the educational institutions by the concerned authority in its new centrally control policy has affected the day to day affairs and caused resentment among the staff. According to an official source, the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) in a new policy has further curtailed the administrative powers of head of the educational institutions. The Principals have been

asked to grant only one casual leave in a month to his or her staff. The staff can

grant one additional casual leave in case of emergency if evidence is provided. The Principals are not allowed to grant more than two casual leaves to their staff in a month. In case of more than two, the case will be sent to the respective Area Education Officer (AEO).

In a similar move the procedure to allow fee concession for children of staff which was so simple has now been made complicated involving FDE bureaucratic protocols. Earlier, Principals granted the fee concession to the employees of FDE and institutions after verification of documents. But now FDE staff will have

to go through far longer

procedures to seek a minor fee concession for their children. Ear-FDE lier, fixed has identical timings and duration periods schools colleges and

which was also

not a rational decision. Schools and colleges are different on the basis of students of different age groups. Colleges should follow the university calendar instead. A Principal of a college said, "The excessive involvement of FDE in institutions' matters through Area

Education Officers (AEO) is causing resentment among the Principals. These

posts have

cupied by

irrelevant

officers since the last four years or more despite a number of eligible and qualified officers in

the department. Those occupied positions are of grade 19, on which some non-cadre and junior officers of below rank have been posted who are exercising their powers on the behalf of FDE. They take all the decisions and decide how to implement them. Principals are not supposed to take any initiative and are to do whatever they have been directed, the principal said while talking to APP. A clerk of a college said, "Concentration of administrative powers with FDE creates delay in performance of work because of

sible which also results in delay of official work. Our college attendant got a reply from FDE through AEO after 20 days that his leave cannot be granted

transmission of letters from

and to the schools/colleges.

Quick decisions are not pos-

leave. Centralization of powers is the problem, not the solution, he added.

The elected president of the teaching community, Dr. Rahima Rahman said, "New casual leave protocol has irked teachers. Resentment of teachers has been observed against the new casual leave policy enforced by FDE". "Moreover Division of administrative powers between FDE and educational institutions has created an imbalance in the structure of the organization. If educational institutions are given some degree of authority and local autonomy, it will bring FDE closer to the teachers and will improve their mowhile he had already availed rale", Dr. Rahima said.

at Islamabad. Residents stressed for repair work of roads

Narcotics Control gets Rs.

244.697m

STAFF REPORT ISLAMABAD: The gov-

ernment has provided funds amounting to Rs. 244.697 million during

the current fiscal year to

execute Narcotics Control Division projects

under the Public Sector

Development Programme

The federal government

has allocated Rs 489.393

million for Narcotics Con-

trol Division projects for

the fiscal year 2020-21 under PSDP.

The allocations for new

schemes included Rs 4.5

million for the acquisition

of land for the construc-

tion of ANF Police Station

Similarly, Rs 353.119 mil-

lion for the acquisition

of two plots to establish

ANF Academy at H-11/1

Sector of Islamabad and

Rs 131.774 million for con-

struction of Model Addic-

tion Treatment and Rehabilitation Center (MATRC)

at Hub, Balochistan.

(PSDP 2021-22).

RAWALPINDI: The residents of Adiala Road on Sunday stressed Chaklala Cantonment board and Punjab Highways Department to carry out repair work of dilapidated road falling in their respective areas. The residents said that no repair work had been done in the last many years and various parts of the road were in bad condition. Muhammad Ali, a resident of Jahari stop said that the road had turned into a drain which had led to a number of accidents and was creating great inconvenience for the motorists. A resident of Private Housing Society Nadeem Malik said that portion of the road had been washed away due to stagnant sewerage water which was leading to traffic snarls along the road. Another resident WaheedQurashi said that this road was not only damaging vehicles but it was also affecting public health due to accumulation of sewerage and rainwater on the road. A huge population depends on this road. In case of emergency, one cannot

ECP dismisses Cheema's allegations ISLAMABAD: A day after the rejection of the nomination papers of PTI leader Jamshed Iqbal Cheema, and his wife for NA-133 (Lahore) by-poll scheduled for Dec 5, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) dismissed on Sunday the allegations he leveled against it as ill-founded. On Saturday, the returning officer (RO) rejected the nomination papers of Cheema and his wife Musarrat (his covering candidate) on the ground that the proposers and seconders for the two are not residents of the constituency as required under the relevant election laws. In a statement today, the election body said Cheema ac-

cused it of transferring the votes of his proposers from NA-133 to some other constituency. ECP said their votes are registered in NA-130 since 2018, adding that 2018 voter lists and subsequent review lists are available on record to back up its claim. It vowed not to make any compromise over the transparency of the election. On Saturday, the ruling PTI decided to challenge the

Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) decision of rejecting the nomination papers of Cheema and his wife. Cheema, speaking at a presser, said that no one could be barred from participating in the election process on a technical basis.

"The biggest party of the country could not be deprived of the right to contest the by-election," he said. - DNA

ISLAMABAD: President ICCI Shakil Munir, Secretary General UBG Zafar Bakhtawari

Azad Pattan power project to generate 3064 GWh electricity



ISLAMABAD: Azad Pattan Hydropower Project having capacity to annually generate 3064 GWh cheap and environment friendly power would be completed by 2026. The 700 MW project is located on Jhelum River roughly 7 km upstream of Azad Pattan Bridge in the Sudhanoti District, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan and 90 km from Islamabad, the capital city of Pakistan, said official source of Ministry of Water Resources. The project's \$1.5 billion investment agreement was signed between Chinese stateowned China Gezhouba Group and Pakistan in July 2020, in a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Imran Khan and senior government ministers in July 2020.

Height of run of the river dam is 90 m (295 ft). 1124 MW Kohala Hydropower Project is likely to be completed by December 2025 with the cost of \$2.4 billion. The annual generation capacity of run-of-the-river project is 4800 GWh, said an official source.

The diversion dam site is on Jhelum River near Sarran Village 40 km upstream from Muzaffarabad and a 20 km long tunnel connects to the powerhouse which is located at Barsala 7 km upstream from Kohala Bridge. The Kohala hydroelectric scheme will have a gravity, roller-concrete compacted dam on the upper branch of the Jhelum, 40 km from Muzaffarabad.

The powerhouse, on the lower branch of the Jhelum near Barasala, will house four 281-MW Pelton turbines. The Kohala Hydropower Project is Chinese state owned hydropower developer, namely China Three Gorges Corporation's (CTGC), largest investment in Pakistan. It won the right to develop a hydroelectric dam in Pakistan on January 7, 2015. The high head project of 316 meters that is located near Kohala, in Azad Kashmir. - APP

and others cutting ribbon to inaugurate family gala. - DNA NIHCR Webinar focuses on India-Pakistan ancient civilization

DNA

ISLAMABAD: India is a country whose name comes from the Indus River. The name 'Bharat' is used as a designation for the country in their constitution referencing the ancient mythological emperor, Bharata or Bharat, whose story is told, in part, in the Indian epic Mahabharata, said Prof Emeritus Aslam Syed in a Webinar on Discourse on Indo-Pak History: From Antiquity to Modernity-I, The Idea of History in India here.

The guest speaker Prof Emeritus Aslam Syed has been serving the Center for Religious Studies, Ruhr Universität, Bochum, Ger-

many. He remained Chairman, Department of History, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad and also served the NIHCR as its Director. Replying a question, Prof Sved said that according to the religious and historical texts written down in the 5th century CE, Bharata conquered whole of subcontinent of India and ruled the land in peace and harmony. The land was, therefore, known as Bharatavarsha (the subcontinent of Bharata), therefore, is one of the oldest inhabited regions on the planet.

Responding to a question, Prof Syed said that the Indus Valley Civilization (c. 7000-c. 600 BCE) was among the greatest of the ancient world producing an equally vibrant and progressive culture. It is the birthplace of four great world religions-Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, and Sikhism. The Webinar was arranged online by the National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research (NIH-CR), Centre of Excellence,

Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, attended by over 700 participants ranging from students, teachers and researchers to have greater insights into the valuable views of the guest speaker. The inventions and innovations of the people of ancient India include many aspects of modern life taken for granted today including the flush toilet, drainage and sewer systems, public

pools, mathematics, veter-

inary science, plastic surgery, board games, yoga and meditation, as well as many more, Prof Syed recalled. During the discourse, the NIHCR Director DrSajid Mahmood Awan was of the view that there has been

over 4,000 years of philosophical and cultural development in India, going back to early Aryan civilization. Supplementing Dr Awan's observation, Prof Syed said that since then, Hindu, Buddhist, Christian, Islamic, Sikh and other influences have left deep imprints on society, every modern Indian, even the poorest illiterate, can tell stories of myth and history, a consciousness of a great civilizational heritage which is unusually widespread.

viding them a chance to

sure but also capacitating

Apart from the signatories,

rector, Students Affairs and

istrar Arshad Malik, GM-

IPS NaufilShahrukh, the In-

stitute's Manager Outreach

ShafaqSarfraz, and the team

ent at the occasion.

3 lost battle of life to dengue in Lahore, Islamabad

imagine travelling on this

road with ease and in case

there was some patient

inside a vehicle, he/she

has to suffer due to the

bumpy ride, he strongly

denounced.

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Lahore and Islamabad are still in the grip ofdengue onslaught as three more patients died of dengue fever in thesetwo cities during last 24 hours in the federal capital.Reportedly, two people succumbed to the dengue virus in Lahore. According to Primary and Secondary Health Department Secretary ImranSikandar Baloch, 385 new cases of dengue were reported in Lahore duringlast 24 hours. In city hospitals, as many as 1,633 patients are under treatment. In thecurrent year 10,506 cases have been reported in Lahore so far. Mr Balochinformed that 552 people had been diagnosed with the dengue virus in thePunjab province.

On Saturday, 70 dengue cases were reported from Rawalpindi; 10 each from-Faisalabad and Multan; 8 from Gujranwala; 7 each from Sheikhupura andNankana Sahib; 6 each from Sargodha and Bahawalpur; 5 from Muzaffargarh; and 4 each from Layyah and Okara. The total confirmed dengue cases in Punjab were 14,110 and so far 45people lost their lives to the dengue virus. In Islamabad, 102 new

cases of dengue virus were emerged during last 24hours with one patient succumbing to the disease. The man who died ofdengue fever was a resident of Sector I-XI 1. So far 13 people have losttheir battle for life to the virus.

ITP to ensure road discipline in city through hard work



ISLAMABAD: Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Islamabad Muhammad Sarfaraz Virk has stressed upon the personnel of the force to accomplish their responsibilities in a professional manner and work hard for maintenance of better image of the force. In a meeting held here at Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) Office, he asked to adopt courteous attitude with public and make more efforts for the equal implementation of traffic laws on roads showing politeness and firm attitude. The meeting was attended among others by all zonal DSPs and other police officials. SP (Traffic) directed all policemen to ensure effective action against those involved in violation of traffic rules including lane violation, use of

mobile phone during drive, not fastening of seat belts and driving bike without helmet. He said that officers of ITP should discharge their duties with honesty, hardworking and firmness. He said that ITP has become a role model for other forces by ensuring equal application of law in the capital while its personnel ensure smooth traffic flow on roads despite tough weather conditions. The force has to continue devoted efforts for providing better facilities to the road users, he added. The ITP personnel extended their assurance to the SP in providing better traffic system to the citizens of Islamabad. It was told that special squads have been constituted for better traffic flow in the city and further efforts would be made for safe road environment in the city. - DNA

IPS & CUST to promote policy-oriented volunteerism

"MoU signed by Chairman **IPS Khalid** Rahman and VC CUST Prof Dr M. Mansoor Ahmed, the renewable three-year agreement is set to provide a framework to undertake

ioint research,

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A memorandum of understanding was signed between Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad and Capital University of Science and Technology (CUST), Islamabad to explore and pursue joint endeavors in the areas of academic research, dialogue, publishing and capacity building of students in policy-oriented volunteerism. Signed by Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman and Vice Chancellor CUST Prof Dr Muhammad Mansoor Ahmed, the renewable

three-year agreement is set to provide a framework to undertake joint research and publishing projects, foster dialogue among scholars, experts and policymakers, sharing of knowledge, expertise and intellectual resources, conducting joint seminars, conferences, and similar events, and disseminating research findings and analysis to concerned stakeholders as well as the wider audience. In addition, it was also it was also agreed upon via another complementary MoU that the Volunteers in Service Directorate of



Monday, November 01, 2021

Storage capacity of petrol, HSD increases

ISLAMABAD: Cognizant of the country's ever-growing energy needs, the government has collectively enhanced the storage capacity of petrol and high speed diesel (HSD) by 57.1 percent during a two-year period. The storage capacity of petrol and HSD has been increased 38.7 per cent and HSD by 18.4 per cent to reinforce existing deposits and ensure uninterrupted supply of petroleum prod-

ucts across the country. "During FY 2018-19 and 2019-20, the storage capacity for MS and HSD have been enhanced from 0.49 million MT to 0.68 million MT and 1.222 million MT to 1.447 million MT respectively to meet the enhanced demand of petroleum products," according to an official document available with APP.

The country's consumption of petroleum products has increased from 12.5 million tons (MT) to 14.7 MT during the first nine months (July-March) of the fiscal year 2020-21, posting a growth of around 17.6 percent. The crude oil's local extraction and imports reached 68.9 Million Barrels (MBL) in Jul-Mar 2021 from 58.6 MBL as compared to the same period of the corresponding year.

While the share of imports remained 48.2 MBL oil as compared to 38.8 MBL of the last year. – APP

Dist admin fixes Rs 58 per kg rate of Chakki Ata

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district administration has fixed Rs 58 per kg retail rate of Chakki Ata (wheat flour). According to a district administration spokesman. the administration on the directives of Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Syed Gulzar Hussain Shah had issued the notification to fix rate of Chakki Ata.

He informed that this order would come into force at once in the whole Rawalpindi district and would remain intact unless and until revised. However, the shopkeepers of Kahuta, Taxila and Kallar Syedan Sub divisions are allowed to charge Rs.1 above notified rate and the shopkeepers of Murree and Kotli Sattian Sub-division are allowed to charge Rs.2 more than the notified rates.

To a question he informed that the Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Muhammad Ali had directed the Assistant Commissioners, magistrates and other of ficers concerned to conduct raids against profiteers and hoarders regularly and take strict action in accordance with the law against the

rules violators. He said all-out efforts were being made to ensure sup ply of food items to the citizens on affordable rates. The officers of Rawalpindi Administration were conducting raids in different markets of the district including Rawalpindi city and cantonment areas and imposing fines on profiteers while FIRs were also being lodged against the violators. - APP

Rs 22bln soft loans disbursed under KJP

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Youth Affairs Muhammad Usman Dar on Sunday said the government had so far disbursed soft loans worth over Rs 22 billion under the Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES) of Kamyab Jawan Programme (KJP).

In a news release, he said there has been a significant increase in the loan disbursement process under the KJP as a large number of young people had opened their own businesses after availing concessionary loans on merit. SAPM said the government was making serious efforts for welfare and prosperity of the youth. Loans upto Rs 3 billion was being approved for the youngsters every month,

he added. He said the government had achieved yet another milestone by disbursing soft loans amounting to over Rs 22 billion in the last two years. - APP

Briefs Pak, Kazakhstan to enhance cooperation: ambassador

Says Afghanistan could be the most beneficial country if trade increases between Pakistan and Kazakhstan though it. He said Afghanistan can serve as a regional transit hub between Central and South Asia if peace and stability comes in the country

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistafin says Pakistan and Kazakhstan have been enjoying exemplary diplomatic relations which can extend to new areas of

In an exclusive interview with Radio Pakistan, he said both countries have robust political dialogue that also needs to reflect in bilateral trade and commercial ties. The ambassador said the last session of Pak-Kazakh Inter-Governmental Commission was held in Islamabad in February last year in which it was agreed to establish three working groups on economic cooperation, energy cooperation and cooperation in regional connectivity.

He said we also need to focus on our transport and logistics issues as well as economic cooperation. State agencies of both countries should work together to address issues and chal-

Govt plans

to vacate

occupied

govt's quarters

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry

of Housing and Works is plan-

ning to vacate government

quarters in the Federal capi-

tal from retired and relatives

of late employees, who con-

The ministry in that regard

had also sought help from

the CDA and the Estate Of-

fice which falling under the

administrative control of the

Housing Ministry, sources in

They said that the Ministry

was considering taking action

against the encroachments

and illegally constructed

structures in government res-

idences in the federal capital.

Strict action would be taken

against the construction of

extra rooms by the employees and their kith and kin,

who lived in government al-

At present, the sources said

over 17,000 govt houses in

Islamabad were under the

management of the Estate

Office and additional rooms

had illegally been constructed

by the allottees in over 2,400

residences. - APP

lotted houses, they added.

the Estate Office told APP.

tinue to occupy residences.

lenges in our bilateral economic cooperation.

Yerzhan Kistafin said he has held fruitful meetings with representatives of Pakistani business community including those of FPCCI to explore the potential of increasing bilateral trade. Referring to situation in

Afghanistan, the Kazakh ambassador said Kazakhstan is the biggest landlocked country in the world and we understand the importance of regional connectivity. He said Afghanistan could be the most beneficial country if trade increases between Pakistan and Kazakhstan though it. He said Afghanistan can serve as a regional transit hub between Central and South Asia if peace and stability comes in the country.

Elaborating further, the ambassador said special representative of Kazakhstan visited Kabul recently and held talks with current government in Afghanistan. He said we discussed restoring our trade and economic



cooperation with Afghanistan for the mutual benefit of both the countries. He warned that if stability did not come to Afghanistan, it would have wider regional implications

On trade between Kazakhstan and Pakistan, Yerzhan Kistafin informed that bilateral trade volume stood at 45 million us dollars last year. He said there is a need to establish cooperation be-

tween custom services of both Pakistan and Kazakhstan to remove hiccups in trade. The Kazakh ambassador said apart from Afghanistan there are also other routes for trade between the two countries. He said Karakorum Highway is the shortest route to Central Asia from Pakistan, but due to harsh climate in winter it is impractical to use.

Another option, he said, is the route of Khunjerab Pass through which trade supplies can reach to Western parts of Kazakhstan.

He said Kazakhs consider Pakistan a regional power and bolstering cooperation between the two countries will be helpful for the whole central Asian region.

When asked about the rich hydro carbon reserves of Kazakhstan and possible cooperation with Pakistan in this sector, the Kazakh ambassador said the joint energy group on cooperation is working on it and exploring new ways.

He said investment by Kazakh investors into Pakistan

is also being considered. He said Pakistan is a very promising market due to its large population and it is attractive to foreign investors. Referring to Shanghai Cooperation Organization, he said last month summit of SCO countries was held in Dushanbe in which Kazakh President emphasized on wider regional cooperation. He said cooperation

Regarding security cooperation between Islamabad and Astana, he said ministries of defense of both countries enjoy strong ties. Cooperation between defense universities of both countries as well as in other areas is also increasing.

with Pakistan can help us

achieve regional connectiv-

Terming terrorism as a challenging threat, the Kazakh ambassador said it is difficult to address the issue alone and needs a collective approach.

In that area, SCO can help us a lot in stemming this menace through joint collaboration.

Railways retrieve 478 acres land

ISLAMABAD: Railways has retrieved around 478 acres precious land worth billion of rupees from illegal occupants under its anti-encroachment operation across the country during the present government tenure.

'The encroachment operation has been launched with the assistance of railway police and district administrations," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP.

Giving details, he said the department retrieved 245 acres land in Punjab, 123 acres from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 94 acres from Sindh and 16 acres from Balochistan.

The official said that out of the total land, 83 acres were commercial, 298 acres were residential and 97 acres were the agricultural land of the Pakistan Railways.

He said the government was taking several steps to retrieve encroached land from the land grabbers including detailed survey was being carried out to identify the encroached land, occupied by the individuals and under illegal occupation of various government departments.

The official said the campaign was being monitored by the Divisional Superintendents, Headquarters office and Ministry of Rail-

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and joint procedure order have been issued since for strict implementation of this policy, the official added.

He said that First Information Reports (FIRs) were being lodged and cases were registered and sent to Pakistan Railways Judicial Magistrates for expeditious trial. The issue regarding illegal occupation and possession of Pakistan Railways land by government departments and institutions has also been taken up with the concerned departments, he added.

He said it was an ongoing campaign which would continue till the elimination and regularization of encroachments. - APP

Use gas appliances carefully

RAWALPINDI: 1122 has appealed the public to use gas appliances carefully to avoid unpleasant accidents.

An official of the Rescue 1122 said due to prevailing crisis of gas shortage the people indulge in using alternate measures like using cylinder, compressor in their houses.

It has been noted that many residents use fridge compressor to suck in more Sui gas to increase

its flow. In the past, a number of the cases have been reported in which precious lives were perished and millions of rupees burnt to ashes due to carelessness and negligence in the use

of gas appliances. – APP

NBF offers 50% discount on published books

ISLAMABAD: National Book Foundation (NBF) was offering fifty percent discount on its published books at all of the offices and shops which was attracting a large number of people from different walks of life.

Talking to APP, an official of NBF Muhammad Raza said, "The NBF is offering discount on its published books to promote and develop a taste of literary knowledge among the young generation and also aware them of history of various languages."

Raza said National Book Foundation Readers Club was one of the most public oriented book promotional activity attracting readers to buy books of their choice at half price.

Besides, promoting reading habit, it encouraged the overall book industry. help increasing literacy rate, create reasonable demand for good quality reading material and motivating young generation towards developing reading culture in the society, he added.

"The activity in its previous phases ensured providing this facility," he added. – APP



of National Day reception of Turkey. - DNA

RCCI opposes digital mode of payments

Nadeem Rauf said the procedure was being implemented through a presidential ordinance as the ordinance had not yet been extended by the assembly

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has strongly appealed to the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to immediately defer policy of switching over to the digital mode of payments for amounts over PKR 250,000, as it is not possible for the business community to adopt it from November 1, 2021.

Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Nadeem Rauf in a statement said that at present, banks do not

have the capacity to adopt digital payment methods. Also, the corporate sec-

tor does not have the required information, preparation and capacity. He appealed for further

extension of the deadline for digital payment of Rs. 250,000 to the business community. He said that the business community was not

ments RCCI President Nadeem Rauf said the procedure was being imagainst documenting the plemented through economy but the ground presidential ordinance as reality also needed to the ordinance had not yet be looked into. The new been extended by the as-

procedure should be imsembly, leaving the busiplemented in stages, he ness community facing a suggested.He precarious situation. cautioned

that the security of post-It may be recalled that dated-cheques, used according to a statement issued by the FBR, signifias a means to encant changes have been insure payments troduced in the Tax Laws due against sales on cred-Third Amendment Ordinance 2021 aimed at docuit, would not available menting the economy and bringing the supply chain after switching into the tax net. over to the digital mode of pay-Under the new procedure,

the business community can repay expenses by check, pay order, bank draft or banking method. From November 1, they will have to disclose their expenses through digital banking method.

23% of youngsters vaccinated against corona in district

RAWALPINDI: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) District Health Authority Dr Faiza Kanwal has said that over 23 per cent of youngsters aged 12 to 17 had so far immunized against the fatal coronavirus since the launch of the drive from September 2021.

Giving details of the vaccination being carried out in the entire district, the CEO told APP that 9581 teenagers had received the anti-Covid vaccine so far in the Rawalpindi Cantonment area out of the set target to cover 58,338 youngsters in the area while 21,833 jabbed themselves in Rawal town area of the total 63,318 eligible for it. In the Potohar town area,4668 received a total of 74,228, while 8418 in the Guiar Khan area of 40.699.

Similarly,2419 adolescents were immunized out of the total 7157 in Kotli sattian area,1203 in Murree of 14,004,15,936 in Taxila of 40,666,7908 Kahutta of 13,231 and 1407 received the dose in Kalar Syeda area to cover the total 13,033 young populations, she added.

Dr Faiza informed that 18 teams were visiting around 192 schools and colleges across the district under the campaign to complete the vaccination task while the remaining youngsters out of the educational institutions were getting themselves vaccinated at the 26 vaccination centres operating in the district. The CEO informed that "Free of cost Pfizer vaccine is being given to teenagers while Form B of the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) is mandatory for jabs", she added. – APP

EPA serves notices to 66 hospitals for violating rules

"You are further directed to bring your written defense (if any). Failure to appear shall be deemed that you have no defence to offer and ex-parte proceeding shall be initiated against you"

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) has served strict notices to 66 public and private hospitals for flouting Pakistan Environmental Protection Act (PEPA), 1997 and Hospital Waste Management Rules, 2005.

The EPA issued notices clearly underscored that the hospitals were not adhering to Section 11 of PEPA, 1997 and Hospital Waste Management Rules while conducting their operational activities. The EPA has called the Chief Executive Officers to appear before the Director General and explain

their defence to halt any action to

be taken against their facilities by

Deputy Director Legal and Enforcement Aamir Abbas Khan with the permission of DG EPA Farzana Altaf Shah had issued the notices. "You are further directed to bring your written defense (if any). Failure to appear shall be deemed that you have no defence to offer and ex-parte proceeding shall be initiated against you," the notice issued stated.

The hospitals found violating the regulations were Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Shifa Medical Center, NORI Hospital, PNS Hafeez, Naval Hosptial, KRL Hospital, Ali Medical Centre, MAROOF International Hospital, SARF Hospital, Get Well Medical Centre, Life Care Hospital,



Maryam Hospital, PAEC General Hospital, Naqaish Hospital, Ali Hospital, CDA Hospital, Islamic International Dental Hospital, Fatima Medical Laboratory, Excel Laboratories, Islamabad Health Complex, Pak Hospital, Khan Med-

ical Centre, Asif Medical Centre, Abbas Medical Centre, Gul Hospital and Maternity Home, Alam Medical Centre, Islamabad Dental Hospital, Federal General Hospital, Shafi Hospital, Maryam Hospital, Begam Jan Hospital, Karachi Hospital, Health Care Medical Center, Rawal Medical & Dental Hospital, Islamabad Medical Complex, Humaira Medical Centre, Shangla Health Clinic, Medicsi, Lodhi Medical Store, Samar Clinic, Asia Diagnostic Centre, Super Lab & Diagnostic Centre, MaxHealth Hospital, Agha Khan University Hospital, My Clinic, Crescent Lab & Diagnostic Centre, South East Hospital, Ch M Hussain Natt Trust Hospital, Vital Diagnostic Centre,

Prime Health Labs, Perfect Diagnostic Center, Khyber Dental Clinic, Jinnah Laboratory, Islamabad Medical Center, Bilquis Memorial Hospital, International Laser Hair Transplant, Agha Khan Laboratory collection unit.

It is imperative to mention that hospital waste management was of critical significance as its poor disposal leads to further misuse of hazardously contaminated disposal items into manufacturing of various plastic products of household

Salma & Kafeel Medical Services,

Excel Labs, Bio Diagnostic Center,

Modern Healthcare Hospital, Fed-

Shaheen Medical Laboratories,

eral General Hospital.

05

COP26: The future starts now

OME 25000 officials, technocrats, environmental scientists and leaders from around the world are gathering now in Glasgow for COP26, the United Nations summit on climate change — our last best chance to reduce the temperature of this planet and reverse the terrifying effects of a warm Earth.

Make no mistake: This is a critical juncture for our future and for that of generations to come. Yes, the stakes are that high. Should the three-week summit fail to reach a consensus on climate change and strike a meaningful deal that will halt or greatly slow the warming of our planet, future generations will look to Glasgow as the moment where we slipped off the precipice. Six years ago, the vast majority of nations signed on to a plan to reduce the planet's temperature by 1.5 degrees Celsius. Part and parcel of that plan was a commitment from developed nations to contribute \$100 billion to a fund to less developing nations turn to alternative energy sources that would no generate greenhouse gases and increase their carbon footprints.

That fund has been undersubscribed by half – so too a commitment from nations to a carbon neutral future. Yes, some have committed to do so by 2030, others by 2050, more by 2060. That is kicking the can of today's problems down the road for others to deal with. Simply put, now is the time for climate action. And now is the time for change. The worsening effects on our warming planet are seen with more floods, more severe weather events, stronger hurricanes and cyclones, hotter summers, colder winters, longer droughts, fewer fish, less biodiversity, more deaths and an environment that has been scarred by our addiction to carbon-based fuel sources and unchecked industrialization at the expense of the fauna and flora with whom we share our home. The outcome of COP26 will determine whether it is us – yes, we are all responsible by our personal choices - who decided that this planet was as disposable as the litter we discard, or whether it is a jewel that we hold in stewardship for this and future generations. Will our grandchildren ask us what happened to elephants and polar bears? Will we have to explain that we didn't do enough to make our air clean when we had a chance? And how do we say that yes, we were selfish and more important now than others who went before or come after: that we did what we liked and whistled as the Earth was warmed as never before.



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Attacking public prayers

ATE crimes in India against Muslims have unfortunately become so common that the headlines of new Islamophobic attacks do not bring about shock. This time, there has been controversy on right-wing groups targeting and disrupting Muslim prayer gatherings in the state of Haryana. In the state capital, Gurgaon, Hindu extremist groups gathered around Muslims praying and threatened not to allow namaz in public spaces. To the Indian government's credit, it has carried out the minimum and arrested the groups disrupting prayers and threatening violence. However, the government has only itself to blame for fanning the flames of bigotry. After state representatives using inciting, hateful and provocative language against a persecuted minority, softly endorsing policies targeting the minority and depriving them of their freedom of religion, and continuous illegal occupation of a Muslim region, the government cannot be surprised when the hatred trickles down to the citizens who take this bigotry into their hands.

While the Modi government of India has always held a policy of discrimination against Muslims and punishing the practice of their faith, the past month has seen a particularly worrying rise in hatred and targeting of Muslims. The Indian state has a large role to play in this. Instead of focusing on pressing issues like inflation, currency devaluation and the pandemic, the Indian government is diverting issues by needless conflicts with the Muslim population, including targeting Muslim Bollywood stars, and arresting Muslims or Kashmiris who gave the impression of not supporting India in the T-20 World Cup.

A parliamentarian belonging to Modi's BJP party forced a company to withdraw its festive season advertisement after it featured a couple of words from the Urdu language, the biggest absurdity of this debacle being that Urdu is one of the scheduled languages of India. The Indian government may think these are soft cultural tricks it can pull to win momentary popularity, but these antics leave a long-lasting effect. India's actions and its neglect of the outright terror being committed against its Muslims is criminal and will have consequences for the whole region.

China-India military tension

Dr. M Akram Zaheer



China & India are populous states of world and are nuclear powers too. Both the govts have strong nationalist appearances and their armies have national status markers and pride

MAJOR military conflict has infused in the heart of Asia. And this conflict may affect neighboring countries or the whole region. From the strategic view point, the area is much significant for both the countries. China has control of the Aksai Chen and east of Ladakh region and wants to build a road to connect itsprovince Xinjiang and Western Tibet. It is a tri-junction between Bhutan, China and India. India has been objecting to China building a road in the region. Both China and India have been patrolling the area from time to time. Line of Actual Control (LAC) is a rough demarcation of line which separates China controlled territory from Indian controlled territory. The exact area particularly Western Ladakh has remained a disputed zone. Both the sides have established their claims to the territory by militarizing the zone. Both the countries have built airstrips, roads, outpost stations, telephone lines and other infrastructure. The troops of both the side conduct patrolling their side regularly. China claims more than 90,000 km2 in Eastern Hima-

layan region and 38,000 km2 in the West Himala-

yas, both of which are disputed by India. The area

is a high altitude and sparsely populated, borders

Tibet, the home of Buddhist and destination of

India also needs a new route to the mountain-

tourism where the situation is hostile.

ous region of Kailash for less time and better travel facilities for Hindu pilgrims. It was also learned that, in November 2019, a new map published by India showed these areas as part of India. Meanwhile, India repealed Article 370 of the Constitution, after which Kashmir and Ladakh lost their former status.

On May 23, media reportedthat the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) had relocated 5,000 troops to the Himalayan border running along with Ladakh area of Kashmir. This is not a new development; it is first fatal clash since 1975 and most serious since 1967. The area always remained tense since June 2017 when Indian troops crossed the border and effectively attacked neighboring Bhutan where Chinese roads were being built. During the hostility an Indian officer pushed and fell in to the river Gorge. Then hundreds of troop from both the sides were called and fought with club and rocks.

It is very interesting that, India has now started such interference against Nepal. India unilaterally opened the road between Dharchola in the Indian state of Uttarakhand and Leplikh in Nepal. The road passes through the disputed Kalapani area and was inaugurated on May 8, 2020 by Indian Defense Minister Rajnath Singh. Nepal claims Lipoluk as its territory. The land belt of northwestern Nepal is connected to India and China. According to the Nepalese Foreign Ministry, after the end of the Anglo-Nepalese War, all areas east of the Mahakali River, including Lampiadhora, Kalapani and Leplikh, are part of Nepal under the 1816 Sagiuli Treaty.

Nepal has proposed India to resolve the black water issue, but India did not reply. In an immediate response to the Indian action, Nepal published its new political and administrative maps of the country on May 20, 2020, showing Leplikh, Kalapani and Lampiadhora as part of Nepal. Now this controversy has also given a new dimension to cartography. On the same day, the official spokesperson of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, AnuragSrivastava, said: "The Government of Nepal released a revised official map of Nepal, which includes parts of the Indian mainland".

The seriousness of China's aims can be perceived from the satellite pictures, the significant changes has made at NingariGinsa Airport, just 200 kilometers from Lake Pengong. These changes took place over a six-week period, with the airport being expanded and new hangars being opened. J-11 and J-16 fighter jets can also be seen in pictures coming in early May. In addition, on May 25, China declared that it was beginning to repatriate its citizens from India. The announcement was made under the guise of measures to

combat the corona virus, although the situation in Ladakh is a clear political one.

Chinese troops have entered in the five areas of Ladakh. Four of them are along the Galwan River and fifth is near Pengong Lake. This is the first time since the Kargil war between India and Pakistan when foreign troops have invaded in disputed territory. During the Kargil war Pakistan had withdrawn its troops because of United States pressure. Now the situation is more critical because Washington did not demonstrate it concerns as it had shown in past. Therefore, the conflict has enormous geopolitical consequent upon the regional states and for the world as well. China and India are populous states of the world and are nuclear powers too. Both the governments have strong nationalist appearances and their armies have national status markers and pride. The loss of lives during the hostility has made the situation more complicated. Both the sides are accusing each other of violation; it may be much harder to push forward to minimize escalation moves.

In the same times, both the countries have domestic challenges such as the economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic. Although China has controlled the spreading of Corona infection but hundreds of cases are reported in recent days. China has declined its economic relations with United State. On the other hand, India also has been suffering of Coronavirus with almost half million infected people despite of strict lockdown in the country. Indian economy is already falling down since the Coronavirus. India already has worst relations with Pakistan, unsettled border tension with Nepal, uneasy situation with Bangladesh and failure of Afghan strategy. The recent

hostility with China is unfavorable for India. The material balance between China and India is totally different. In 2018, Chinese GDP \$13600 billion was five times more than India of \$2700 billion. In the same wayBeijing has consumed \$261.1 billion on its security in 2019, which is more than Indian \$71.1 billion. Although India has grown up itself as a major power and a large economy but in fact, it has declined as compare with China. Furthermore, India has made strategic partnership with Chinese rivals particularly with Japan and United States. On the other hand China has strengthened its northern border with Russia. In addition, it is weakening United States authority in East Asia through modernization of military and Maritimes capability. It is amazing that both the sides are escalating tension on Sino-Indian border.A miscalculation from both the

sides may lead to beat of war drum.

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COP26: Investing in Pakistan's mountains

Munir Ahmed



Pak is implementing a GCF project worth US\$35.69 million to "Scaling-up of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods Risk Reduction in Northern Pakistan (GLOF-II)". It was kicked off in March 2017, and the new completion date of the project is December 2023. **GLOF-I** supported communities to prepare to mitigate disasters through EWS, enhanced infrastructure and community based Disaster Risk Management

HE UN climate summit COP26 is approaching in a couple of days. I believe the Parties have well prepared to deleibrate on the agenda of the summit. The rich countries will be showing ampathy to the vulnerable least developed and developing countries that have much lesser contribution to carbon emissions casuing the rapid change in the climate. They will be even more sympathic towards the mounatins - the frontlines of the climate change. Like mountains in other parts of the world, Pakistan's mountains are turning increasingly vulnerable to extreme climatic conditions. Being the frontlines, they are confronting the brunt of globally rising mean temperature and transboundary carbon emissions. Some other obvious reasons and contributing factors are fast increasing population, unchecked urbanization, unsustainable tourism, irrational deforestation and over consumption of natural resources. All have set a worst recipe for mountain disasters and destruction. The final impact is brisk de-

pletion of glaciers. We have witnessed over the years the miseries the mountain communities went through. Situation at the moment is worse. Torrential rains, flash floods, landslides and the outburst of the lakes made of the water coming from the glacial melt have made human life and their livelihood miserable. Much awareness in communities, many capacity building and even some large-scale interventions could not change the situation to the desired level. It's time to rationally review and learn from the past interventions and practices.

We have seen many comprehensive climate policies and vigorous action plans coming out from the federal government inclusive provincial participation in the last three years. International forums and watchdogs have already commended Pakistan's Climate Action – the SDG 13. Meanwhile, some international forums have also alarmed South Asian governments to take measures to safeguard life and livelihood of mountain communities and ecosystems to avoid internal migration which is linked to the natural disasters in the mountains.

One major 'disaster bomb' is GLOF – the Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) which is the result of rapid depletion of glaciers for the reasons mentioned earlier. Pakistan is ranked 5th on the global vulnerability index because of climate change. GLOF is one of the core reasons. Pakistan is blessed with more than 7000 glaciers in Pakistan. Many of them are melting at a higher pace that has formed 3044 glacial lakes. Among them 33 are potentially hazardous lakes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Gilgit Baltistan (GB).

The outburst of any of the potentially hazardous lakes can cause a disaster sweeping away everything on its route downstream. We have seen it many times in the past years. One GLOF event can release millions of cubic meters of water and debris, which can cause damages to livelihoods, property and infrastructure. A UNDP-GoP report mentions that over 7.1 million people in GB and KP are vulnerable to such GLOF events. We have yet to count the downstream vulnerability from a GLOF disaster.

Pakistan is implementing a Green Climate Fund (GCF) project worth US\$35.69 million to "Scaling-up of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods Risk Reduction in Northern Pakistan (GLOF-II)". It was kicked off in March 2017, and the new completion date of the project is December 2023. GLOF-I supported communities to prepare to mitigate disasters through Early Warning Systems (EWS), enhanced infrastructure and community based Disaster Risk Management. In GLOF-II, the Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) and UNDP are aimed at empowering communities to identify and manage risks associated with GLOFs and related impacts of climate change.

The project well-handled the widespread debate on the selection of 10 valleys in Gilgit-Baltistan. The technical support of UNDP and Pakistan Meteorological Department played a key role in developing a criteria for the selection of the valleys to start working in. The open merit policy based on the scientific knowledge and technical assessment paved a path for ownership and smooth sailing of the interventions in the selected valleys. Local communities, experts and public institutions had been the backbone of the technical assessment.

The GLOF-II is aimed at scaling up the intervention to 10 districts from two districts in the GLOF-I. It is expected to benefit 29 million people or 15 percent of the population of Pakistan. Two policies have been reviewed and revised to address the emerging GLOF risks. By the end of the project, about 95 percent of the households will be able to receive and respond to the early warnings and take appropriate action. At least 250 small-scale engineering structures will be established to reduce the effects of GLOF events on livelihoods. As many as 50 weather monitoring stations and 408 river discharge sensors will be collecting respective data for effective forecasting and planning accordingly to protect life and livelihood. To improve food security and reduce flood risks due to deforestation and inefficient water use, some 65,000 women will be trained in home-gardening; 240 water-efficient farming technologies will be installed and 35,000 hectares of land will be re-

Four years after the project began, much progress has been done on the defined targets. It should be made public for the consumption of national and international stakeholders, partners, and the for general public in GB and downstream. The story of struggle to protect mountain communities, their livelihood and infrastructures shall not end here. It shall continue in many other districts and valleys. The well protected mountains safeguard life and livelihood, and infrastructures downstream by reducing the impact of disasters.

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Can the nations of the Middle East navigate this make-or-break decade?

Hafed Al Ghwell

These kinds of uncomfortable trade offs also appear in plans to boost job-creating private-sector opportunities by loading the scales in favor of local talent over the region's traditional dependence on expatriates or foreign expertise

ONTRARY to numerous forecasts, the world's emergence from the COVID-19 pandemic was never going to be a smooth transition back to pre-pandemic normality. Instead, energy crunches, supply-chain disruptions, chip shortages and the persistent threat of a rebound in cases of infection are threatening to throw the world into a tailspin.

As a result, the global climate-change agenda is at even greater risk, as it is premised on the world's economies transitioning to renewables with as little disruption as possible. However, suppose existing crises — such as global supply chains not recovering until 2022 or regular air travel not resuming for another half-decade — continue to complicate post-pandemic recoveries. In that case, it will imperil shared goals

at a time when greater ambitions and bolder actions are needed. The region and the rest of the world must not relent. Instead, we should view the current crises as an affirmation of the need to build resilience into supply chains, energy transitions and economic transformations, and foster deeper cooperation against common threats to preempt future global crises.

For all its challenges and vulnerabilities, the Middle East and North Africa region lies at the epicenter of these latest developments, given its unique geographic location, a monopoly on maritime choke points, fossil fuel endowments, sunrich deserts, and relatively young populations, to list but a few. However, tapping into this potential will require a different kind of leadership and engagement, given the deluge of complications — man-made or otherwise — that are pushing the world closer to the brink.

Previous governments and Arab-world societies had the relative luxury of postponing critical interventions for fear of upending longstanding social contracts built on tenuous compromises between disparate demographics, interests and influences. However, the landscapes in any future post-COVID-19 scenarios have shifted dramatically, hampering much-needed recoveries.

It has also forced a major rethink of accepted modes of solving intractable woes. The undeniable truth is that the region can neither delay responses nor gamble with the odds that the challenges of today are merely brief flare-ups rather than era-defining moments.

As a result, the questions and answers should not focus on when the negative impacts in this make-or-break decade will occur — they have already manifested. Instead, governments, key decision-makers and stakeholders in the Arab world must narrow their priorities to focus on how and what is attainable in the near term. Knee-jerk implementations of whole-of-society interventions

that take several years to mature and deliver on their intended objectives will only exacerbate existing problems. For instance, the pandemic-induced rush to strengthen social safety nets might have extended lifelines to the most vulnerable in COVID-sensitive sectors, but adding more unplanned expenditure to already strained public budgets crowds out other priorities to improve the quality of, and access to, essential public services such as healthcare and education.

Improved public health is proving especially important for ensuring the sustainability of post-pandemic recoveries in economies that have lost nearly \$200 billion since 2019.

These kinds of uncomfortable trade offs also appear in plans to boost job-creating private-sector opportunities by loading the scales in favor of local talent over the region's traditional dependence on expatriates or foreign expertise. On paper, it could help to reduce the region's dismal youth unemployment figures, and even placate a surging populist movement sparked by a breakdown in the global consensus on labor, trade and investment as countries increasingly look inward. Surging populism and nationalism are a serious concern given the region's history of ceaseless conflicts, rivalries and geopolitical tensions, often fueled by cross-border sectarian allegiances that tend to be stronger than national ones.

Setting aside the obvious political and social ramifications, however, a mass exodus of talent will reduce the competitiveness of the region's economies and the ability of governments to leverage large expatriate populations to attract foreign direct investment inflows at a very sensitive time. After all, the region will need the expertise, and substantial human capital, to achieve planned reductions in fossil-fuel dependence, while boosting productivity and accelerating transformations to build domestic resilience to external shocks without sparking recessions. — *Arab News*

Monday, November 01, 2021

Climate

change: G20

leaders...

From Page 01

the world's emissions. The communiqué, or official statement released by the leaders, also makes no ref-

erence to achieving net zero

by 2050, which many coun-

tries have already pledged

to do and climate scientists

say is critical to avoiding a

Net zero means reducing

greenhouse gas emissions

as much as possible, until

a country is absorbing the

same amount of emissions

from the atmosphere that it

The communiqué does

pledge, however, to stop fi-

nancing new, unabated coal

plants internationally by the

end of this year - a strong

message to coal-reliant na-

climate catastrophe.

is putting out.

Briefs

PM Imran all praise for **Saudi role**

From Page 01 Saudi-Pakistan Investment Forum wherein he stressed the importance of engaging the private and corporate sectors of the two countries to realize the untapped potential in the fields of trade, business and investment. "I am confident that the Investment Forum would usher in a new dynamism in our investment cooperation." To a question, he commended the Saudi leadership for introducing reforms in various sectors under Vision 2030. During the recent visit, he said the two countries had discussed ways to strengthen and enhance economic and trade relations by exploring areas of investment and opportunities available under Vision 2030 and Pakistan's development priorities emanating from a shift from geopolitics to geo-economics. Regarding the Middle East Green Initiative (MGI) Summit on Climate Change, he said it clearly demonstrated the commitment of the Saudi leadership to take tangible steps for effectively tackling the challenge of Cli-

mate Change. "Green Saudi Initiative" and "Green Middle East Initiative" are remarkable initiatives for the preservation of nature and climate not only in Saudi Arabia but in the entire region. The threat that climate change poses to this planet is real and it is high time for concerted actions in the right direction, he added He said Pakistan had also been working on similar projects including Clean and Green Pakistan and 10 Billion Tree Tsunami. "We believe that our priorities and goals converge in this regard and we can therefore learn from each other and extend our mutual support to mitigate the impacts of climate change,' he commented.

About the role Pakistan and Saudi Arabia could play for unity of Muslim Ummah, the prime minister said as an important member state of the OIC, Saudi Arabia had always played a major role in uniting Muslim countries and highlighting the issues plaguing the Muslim world. In the 47th Session of OIC CFM held in 2020, in Niamey, the OIC unanimously adopted Pakistan's initiated resolution on Islamophobia. "The rising threat in the West towards Islam is a universal point of concern. We believe in harmony and peaceful coexistence as terrorism has never been and shall never be the true face of Islam," he stated.

He said the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was home to the Two Holy Mosques therefore it has a natural leadership role to play for the Muslim Ummah and Pakistan shall be at the fore front to collaborate in the endeavour. About the financial support by Saudi Arabia, Imran Khan said, "I am extremely grateful to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the recent announcement to deposit US dollars 3 billion and financing US dollars 1.2 billion refined petroleum products during the year.

This generous budgetary support will help the balance of payment of Pakistan in the backdrop of rising commodity prices globally."

PIA starts regular...

From Page 01 Iraqi Ambassador Hamid Abbas Lufta also reached Najaf on the flight PK-219. celebrate starting flights to Iraq, a simple ceremony was held at Karachi Airport in which PIA officials, Iraqi diplomates, religious scholars and passengers participated and cut the cake together. Najaf governor, Pakistani ambassador, head of Iraqi civil aviation and religious leaders receive the first flight passengers at the airport. The PIA CEO in a message said Iraq was an important destination for Pakistani Muslims and sacred to all

followers of Islam. Najaf governor said that they would not spare any effort in serving Pakistani visitors and the airline and they would also make the visa system easier for the passengers.

Pakistani Ambassador Ahmad Amiad Ali said PIA's scheduled flights would further strengthen ties between the two countries. (Picture on Page 7)

T20 WC: Afghanistan bag easy win over Namibia

Afghanistan openers provided a brisk start after skipper Mohammad Nabi opted to bat first for a third consecutive time in the competition

SPORTS DESK

ABU DHABI: Afghanistan have claimed a one-sided win in Abu Dhabi as they thumped Namibia by 62 runs in the Group 2 fixture of the T20 World Cup. Afghanistan bowlers restricted Namibia to 98/9 after batters posted 160/5. They are now placed at number two in Group 2 ahead of India and New Zealand. Afghanistan openers provided a brisk start after skipper Mohammad Nabi opted to bat first for a third consecutive time in the competition.

HazratullahZazai and Mohammad Shahzad scored 53 runs with Zazai smashing the ball all over the ground. The left-hander made 27-ball 33, powered by a quartet of fours and two sixes.

Namibia kept Afghanistan in check after the powerplay with Jan NicolLoftie-Eaton dismissing RahmanullahGurbaz (4) cheaply. Shahzad tried to pull things in favour but fell to Ruben Trumpelmann in the 13th over. The wicketkeeper scored 45 in 33 balls with



the help of three fours and a couple of sixes. Meanwhile, Ashgar Afghan received a guard of honour from Namibian players as he batted for one last time for Afghanistan in

Barca held by Alaves in first

game after Koeman dismissal

international cricket. He held one end but Loftie-Eaton put a blow to the score with Afghanistan were provided impetus at the

missal, is "non-negotiable"

But while the first half an

hour was slightly more

purposeful from Barcelo-

na, they still struggled for

chances and the defence

was beaten too easily for

For all the talk about style

and possession, Depay's

opener was a thunderbolt

out of the blue. Jordi Alba

played inside and Depay

opened up his body before

curling the ball into the top

But Barca's lead lasted less

than three minutes as Ala-

vesequalised with another

superb goal, Rioja dancing

past three Barca defenders,

latching onto a sublime flick

from Joselu, before round-

ing Marc-Andre terStegen

Depay was slipped through

Elche's Guti was sent off

in the 63rd minute and he

added a second soon after

with a superb chipped fin-

ish into the corner. Madrid

made life difficult for them-

selves late on when a Case-

miro mistake allowed Pere

Milla to pull a goal back

but Elche's brief hope of a

comeback came to nothing.

Rioja's equaliser.

right-hand corner.

and finishing.

backend by captain Nabi, who hit 17-ball 32* while Asghar departed for 23-ball 31. Afghanistan scored 46 in the last four overs, giving Namibia a target of 161. Loftie-Eaton and Trumpelmann were impressive with two wickets each while JJ Smit bagged one wicket. In return, Afghanistan rattled Namibia in the powerplay. Pacer Naveen-ul-Haq removed openers Craig Williams (1) and Michael van Lingen (11) in his first two overs.

In the sixth over, GulbadinNaib sent Loftie-Eaton (14) back while Rashid Khan bagged wicket of Zane Green (1) on his first ball of the match.

Pacer Hamid Hasan, in his first match of the competition, put a further dent to Namibia by bagging captain Gerhard Erasmus (12) and JJ Smit (0) in one over. David Wiese put up a lone effort for his 26 but Namibia only managed a score of 98 for the loss of nine wickets.

Afghanistan pacers enjoyed the outing as Naveen-ul-Haq and Hamid bagged three wickets each while Gulbadin Naib took two.

tions such as China, Russia and India. But the G20 leaders stopped short of agreeing to end coal power in their own nations.

Joe Biden,

Erdogan...

From Page 01

"The two leaders expressed their joint commitment to further strengthening Turkey-US relations and agreed to establish a joint mechanism to that effect.

"In addition to negotiating steps, to be taken by both sides, in line with their shared perspective on increasing the bilateral trade volume per mutually agreed targets, they stressed the importance of the NATO alliance and strategic partnership," the statement read. Biden "reaffirmed our

defence partnership and Turkey's importance as a NATO Ally, but noted US concerns over Turkey's possession of the Russian S-400 missile system," the White House said in a statement after the meeting.

TLP awaits leadership's nod to...

From Page 01 agreement was

reached after sense prevailed over aggression." A TLP spokesperson said in Sunday's statement that a final decision with regards to ending protests will be announced by the central leaders after completing the consultation process and urged the party workers to not pay heed to 'rumours'. He expressed the hope that the party's steering committee will soon resolve the pending issues. "InshaaAllah (God willing) the nation will soon hear the good news," he added.

The spokesperson said the TLP was not in favour of violent protest and added that the agreement with the government had been reached in the interest of Islam and the country.

Imran Nazir wants India-Pakistan T20 World Cup final

KARACHI: Former Pakistan opener Imran Nazir has heaped praise on Pakistan team and middle-order batter Asif Ali, after the Men in Green registered three consecutive victories in the ongoing T20 World Cup. Pakistan brushed aside India and followed that up with wins against New Zealand and Afghanistan and more or less confirmed there place in the semi-finals of the event. "I'm really happy with Pakistan's performance so far. After a long time, we have seen Pakistan team do well in all departments of the game. If we can continue this momentum, I'm sure that we will win the World Cup," said Nazir while speaking in an exclusive interview.

Nazir also lauded Asif Ali after the latter played the finisher's role to perfection in matches against New Zealand and Afghanistan. "Asif Ali played extraordinary innings which helped Pakistan win the last two matches. Now I can say that Pakistan have a good finisher," he said. "Although, if he can improve his ability to take singles, if the situation demands, I think he will become an even better batsman." "He was struggling before this event but credit goes to him for improving his batting and make a comeback in such a fashion. I hope he can consistently finish matches for Pakistan in the future as well," he added.

Palestinians vow to defend graves in Jerusalem cemetery

OCCUPIED EAST JERUSALEM: A few metres away from the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound's eastern walls lies the centuries-old Al-Yousufiya Cemetery, also known as the Bab al-Asbat (Lion's Gate) Cemetery. Over the past few weeks, videos and images of Palestinians clinging to their family members' graves as Israeli forces arrest, beat, and attempt to forcibly pull them away have widely circulated on social media. Israeli occupation authorities in Jerusalem have been moving ahead with plans to build a Tewish "national park" set to open in mid-2022 over parts of the cemetery, which spans more than 14 dunams (1.4 hectares) of land. Three weeks ago,

workers from the Israeli-controlled Jerusalem municipality and the Israel Nature and Parks Authority exposed human remains during excavations, causing outrage and unleashing continuous protests and prayers at the site. - Agencies

WEB DESK

MADRID: Barcelona dropped more points in La Liga after failing to beat Alaves on Saturday as their first game since the sacking of Ronald Koeman ended in a disappointing 1-1 draw at Camp Nou. Sergio Aguero had to be taken to hospital for tests after suffering breathing problems during the first half of the game. Aguero was able to walk off the pitch and Barca's interim manager SergiBarjuan said afterwards: "I asked him and he told me he was dizzy. I was told he went to hospital. I don't know anything else." Gerard Pique was also taken off with a calf strain and, along with Aguero, will now a doubt for Tuesday's

crunch Champions League game away at Dynamo Kiev. Xavi Hernandez is expected to be appointed Koeman's successor this week but with the details of his move still to be agreed with Qatari side Al Sadd, Barca B coach Barjuan has been put in temporary charge.

Yet the removal of Koeman, and even the prospect of Xavi, produced no obvious uplift as a superb second-half strike from Memphis Depay was quickly cancelled out by an equally impressive run and finish from Alaves' Luis Rioja. "What I have to do is win over the players. make them believe in themselves," said Barjuan. After three league games without a win, Barcelona stay ninth, eight points adrift of leaders Real Madrid, who earlier

Govt 'reaches accord'

with proscribed TLP

From Page 01

policemen dead and scores injured on both sides. The pro-

scribed group began the march, calling for the release of its

incarcerated leader, Saad Rizvi and the expulsion of France's

ambassador over the publication of caricatures depicting the

Sunday's announcement was made at a press conference

held in Islamabad featuring Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood

Qureshi, National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser, MNA Ali

Mohammad Khan, Mufti Muneeb as well as TLP members

"The government of Pakistan and the TLP had a detailed dis-

cussion under an environment of mutual trust, and an agree-

ment has been reached between the two sides," Mufti Muneeb

said. "The agreement was reached after sense prevailed over

aggression, rationality prevailed over sentiments, and all the

participants demonstrated patience. "I want to urge the entire

nation that this is not the victory of any individual, but it is the

victory of Islam, patriotism, and protection of human lives. "I

want to tell the nation that these dialogues were never not held

under any duress. They were held in a serious, responsible

and independent environment, [in which] everyone made their

The Mufti did not give any specific details of the agree-

ment, simply saying that they will be shared at an "appro-

priate time". The Mufti said that the "positive impact" of

the agreement will be seen in the coming week, adding:

"The participants of the agreement entered the accord in

contribution. Everyone deserves to be thanked for it."

the best interest of the country and its people.

Mufti Ghulam Abbas Faizi and Mufti Mohammad Ameer.

Holy Prophet (PBUH) in a French satirical magazine.

defeated Elche 2-1 thanks to two goals from Vinicius Junior and aided by a red card for Elche's Raul Guti. Even more worrying for Barca will be the gap behind the top four is five points while attendances suggest the team's form is creating a sense of apathy amongst supporters, 37,238 inside the 99,000 Camp Nou.

has suggested Barjuan will Barjuan admitted on Friday that it is "difficult to change key factor in Koeman's dis-

by Gavi and Nico Gonzalez but hit the post and then Antonio Sivera as Alaves held on for a hard-fought point. Earlier, Vinicius' sensational start to the season continued as he scored twice in Madrid's victory over Elche to ensure the rested Karim Benzema was not missed. Vinicius had already given Madrid the lead when

Club president Joan Laporta still be in charge for the trip to Kiev, with Xavi, or the next coach, arriving in time for next weekend's game against Celta Vigo or during the international break. things in a short time" but also said the team's style, a

Manchester United thrash Spurs in Premiere League

LONDON:Ole Gunnar Solskjaer took Manchester United south to play Tottenham with his job on the line but lives to fight another day after his decisions paid off handsomely in a 3-0 win. The pressure on the Norwegian was intense after last week's 5-0 horror show against Liverpool, in which JurgenKlopp's men embarrassed their historic rivals. United travelled to London for Saturday's game after taking just one point from a possible 12 to fall well off the pace in the Premier League. AFP looks at three talking points after the win against Spurs lifted United back to within touching distance of the top four. Solskjaer chose to pair Cristiano Ronaldo and EdinsonCavani up front at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, selecting a strike force with a combined age of 70. It was the first time they had started together. Young guns Marcus Rashford and Mason Greenwood were sacrificed to make way for the veteran double act, potentially depriving United of thrust down the flanks. But Ronaldo and Cavani both got on the scoresheet and proved a constant headache for



the Spurs defence. Solskjaer said it was the oldest team he had picked for United, adding he had decided it was time to bank on experience. "The old men led from the front," he told Sky Sports. "They play well together. They have loads of respect for each other. The work-rate and quality they put in is second to none." United's defending at home against Liverpool was catastrophic, summed up by an incident in which Harry Maguire and Luke Shaw collided in the lead-up to Liverpool's second goal. Solskjaer chose to bring back France defender Raphael Varane against Spurs for his first game for the club since October 2, switching to a central back three, with Shaw and Aaron Wan-Bissaka pushing forward. "Raphael Varane is a top player," Solskjaer told the BBC. "He reads the game well. He's quick and so experienced. To get him back is massive for us." - Agencies

Pak Navy participates in Nusret exercise at Turkey

The exercise was designed to exchange professional expertise in Special Operation Forces (SOF) domain. The aim of exercise was to developed synergy, strengthen military relationships and enhance interoperability among Special Operation Forces of participating countries

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy participated in 8th multinational special operations exercise 'NUSRET 2021' at Canakkale, Turkey. PN Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team participated alongwith teams of other countries under the auspices of Turkish authorities. Teams from Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Iraq, Libya, Oman, Republic of Korea, Romania and Tanzania participated in the exercise. Representatives from NATO Mine Counter Measure (MCM) Group, NATO Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation



also participated in the exercise. The exercise was designed to exchange professional expertise in Special Operation Forces (SOF) domain. The aim of exercise was to developed synergy, strengthen military relationships and enhance interoperability among Special Operation Forces of participating countries. The Multinational Exercise focused on operations which include Under Water EOD Operations and Mines Counter Measures in maritime domain. Professional experience gained during multinational exercise will be rewarding in conduct of joint operations against common threats and will augment cooperation among participating countries.

Pakistan supports Korean...

From Page 01 Otherwise, she will have to

undergo a runoff vote. Pakistan was elected to the governing body of the ILO earlier this year for 2021-24 term. A total of five candidates are vying for the ILO seat including the current Deputy Secretary General of the ILO Greg Bynes. The Foreign Office sources

said given the social and economic crisis triggered by the Covid-19, this is a decisive moment for multilateral cooperation and the ILO must take the center stage in setting the agenda and leading the efforts towards a better future. Backing her nomination, they said Ms Kang has the leadership, quality and competence to lead key ILO agendas such as job recovery amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, overcoming the economic crisis and spreading the win-win spirit and solidarity through tripartism of labor, management and government.

"Pakistan hopes that Ms Kang will make a significant contribution in eradicating discrimination and violence against vulnerable laborers around the world, including women, based on her expertise and experiences on the international stage in efforts to support developing countries," the official sources said.

In her vision statement, the Korean candidate promised to endeavour and ensure the principle of equality among ILO member states and fair representation of all regions in the ILO's Governing Body.

Business / World



Briefs

Jordan to deport unvaccinated workers

AMMAN: Jordan's Interior Ministry on Sunday said that the guest workers who have not received two doses of COVID-19 vaccines will be deported starting from Dec. 15.

The ministry said in a statement that the decision aims to protect public health, noting that prompting expatriates to get vaccinated protects them against future infections and virus transmission.

Guest workers are allowed to receive the doses for free, without the need to present their residency or work permits, it added.

Jordan currently hosts more than 3.5 million guest workers from Syria, Egypt, Palestine, Iraq, Libya and Yemen. Although the Jordanian Ministry of Health targets to vaccinate about 60 percent of its population, the percentage of vaccinated individuals still has not reached 40 percent, according to official figures. – APP

Georgia ruling party wins polls

TBILISI: Georgia's ruling party on Sunday claimed victory in local election runoffs, but the opposition headed by jailed ex-president Mikheil Saakashvili – on hunger strike for a month – rejected official results as fraudulent.

The runoffs took place during a political crisis with Saakashvili, a Western darling who was Georgia's president from 2004-2013, jailed earlier this month after returning from exile in secret, days ahead of the first round.

The pro-Western reformer has been on hunger strike to protest against his imprisonment, which he says is politically motivated, and the United States has voiced concern over his condition. On Sunday, the central election commission said the ruling Georgian Dream party won narrowly in all but one municipality where candidates had faced a challenge by Saakashvili's United National Movement (UNM).

"I congratulate everyone with our victory in the second round, we won in all municipalities," Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili said in televised remarks.

But the opposition said it would not recognise the results, with UNM chairman and Tbilisi mayoral hopeful Nika Melia accusing Georgian Dream of "stealing elections".

"Elections are no more in this country," he said. "Compatriots, you who share the values of European democracy, prepare for an uncompromising struggle," Melia added. – APP

Dutch customs in massive cocaine haul

THE HAGUE: Dutch customs officers have seized over four tonnes of cocaine hidden in soy bags in the port of Rotterdam, in the country's largest haul this year, the public prosecutor's office said on Sunday.

The smuggled drugs, with an estimated value of 313 million euros (\$362 million), were discovered overnight Saturday aboard a container bound from Paraguay via Uruguay to a company in Portugal.

"It has been the largest haul discovered so far this year" in the Netherlands, a public prosecution official told the ANP news agency.

The haul comes on the back of almost-daily seizures in Europe's largest port last week, now seen as a major gateway for drug trafficking – particularly cocaine – into the continent.

Police officers in September snatched a similar amount of cocaine in the harbour, estimated at 301 million euros. The EU's policing agency has warned that the Netherlands and neighbouring Belgium are becoming major hubs for cocaine, especially for supplies coming from Colombia. The North Sea coast has now "overtaken the Iberian peninsula as the primary

point of entry for cocaine

reaching Europe," Europol

said in a report, released in

September. - APP

Covid disrupts Pak-China trade of aquatic products

Nine out of the top fifteen companies exporting fish to China have faced or have been facing a temporary ban since January after detection of corona virus in their shipments

DNA

BEIJING: The outbreak of the pandemic has been disrupting the trade of aquatic products globally, including that between Pakistan and China.

According to China Economic Net, out of Pakistan's total fishery exports, 60 per cent are destined for China. "Since the outbreak of the pandemic, our export to China declined", shared a fisherman from the Karachi Port.

In an exclusive with Genho Food Company, an importer of Pakistani seafood, Manager Yu said, "we imported octopus, processed them into takoyaki, and sold them to Japan. The import value peaked in 2018, but in 2020, we imported only two containers of octopus".

Since the beginning of this year, nine out of the top fifteen companies exporting fish to China have faced or have been facing a temporary ban since January after detection of corona virus in their shipments. According to Chinese customs, in Septem-

been tested positive for four times. "In the post-pandemic era, digital means provide a possibility for the badly-hit aquatic sector to revive", this is an idea shared by

against a US intelligence re-

view into the origins of the

Covid-19 pandemic on Sun-

day, calling it "political and

false" while urging Washing-

ton to "stop attacking" China.

The Chinese foreign minis-

try's retort came days after

the US Office of the Direc-

tor of National Intelligence

released a fuller version of

its findings from a 90-day re-

view ordered by President

The paper said that, without

new information, intelligence

agencies would not be able to

offer a better judgement on

whether the virus emerged

via animal-to-human trans-

It added that China's coop-

eration would probably be

needed to reach a conclu-

sive assessment on origins,

although stressing that Bei-

jing continued to "hinder the

mission or a lab leak.

global investigation".

Joe Biden

ber alone, frozen food from Pakistan has



Zhang Ye, Vice President of Tencent Cloud in the 2021 Global Forum on Sustainable Fisheries Development held in Qingdao, Shandong Province in eastern China.

For this purpose, a brand new digital platform "CFSE Global Marketplace" has been launched by China Fisheries & Seafood Expo (CFSE) in partner with Tencent, a tech giant and parent company of WeChat, to bring global exhibitors and visitors together online, including Pakistani participants.

The forum is the first large-scale global forum in the aquatic and fishery sectors since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, signaling an upward trend of the global fishery and aquatic industries.

"Globally, the outlook is cloudy in the short term; but in the long run, demand for seafood will increase", shared Peter Redmay,

says the virus was spread

from a research facility in Wu-

han, the central city where

the contagion was first re-

ported. The theory remains

unsubstantiated, and China

Foreign ministry spokes-

man Wang Wenbin respond-

ed in a statement Sunday

that China had expressed

firm opposition to initial

findings published in the

summary report in August.

"No matter how many

times this report is pub-

lished and how many ver-

sions are concocted, it

cannot change the nature

of this being entirely polit-

ical and false," Wang said.

He added that the fact intelli-

gence agencies were tapped

in origin-tracing efforts was

"ironclad proof" of politici-

sation, and urged the US to

"stop attacking and smearing

China". - APP

has repeatedly rejected it.

President of Sea Fare Expositions on the forum.

Aquatic products provide about 17% animal protein to the global population.

FAO statistics show that the global average annual consumption of fishery products has reached a record of 20.5 kilograms per person, up from 9.0 kilograms in 1962, and this figure is expected to increase to 21.5 kilograms in the next decade. In particular, the availability of aquaculture products has been on the rise.

According to TRTA Pakistan, more than 0.8 million people in the country rely directly or indirectly on the industry for their livelihood.

"Without the sustainability in the fishery sector, it would be impossible to realize agricultural sustainability and security." "Among the lessons learned from Covid-19 pandemic for aquatic food, seven stand out", analysed Yuan Xinhua, Senior Aquaculture Officer of FAO, "an ever-ready social safety net should be built; supply chain resilience should be strengthened through increased diversity, flexibility, and modularity; excessive de-globalisation should be avoided, scientific research should be funded and trusted in; behavioral and political barriers to progress should be removed; underlying causes should be treated not just the symptoms; and high-frequency monitoring should be emphasised".

Looking forward, he anticipates a food system transformation that unleashes the full potential of aquaculture and is adapted to pandemic scenarios, improved aquaculture resilience by preparing for emergencies in advance, appropriate government relief and social support, augmented R&D in fish farming methods, fish feed, and new variaties, digitalization and automation, and enhanced cooperation and partnership.

In particular, digital technology is a means that can be applied throughout the industrial chain and bring benefit to all. From fish farm and staff health monitoring, marketing and expansion of customer base, non-contact delivery, to government subsidy distribution, it can have a greater role to play.

Baku condemns release of Armenian terrorist

Foreign Desk

BAKU: Baku has condemned the decision of the US authorities to release from custody the Armenian terrorist, who killed Turkish consul Kemal Arikan in Los Angeles in 1982.

Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Leyla Abdullayeva made the remarks in response to a media question about the release of Armenian terrorist Hampig Sassounian.

"We condemn the decision to release ASALA member Hampig Sassounian, an Armenian terrorist who assassinated Turkish diplomat Kemal Ar kan in 1982 in Los Angeles, USA. The release of a terrorist is dangerous, and it serves to promote terrorism." The state of the serves of the serves

rorism," she stated. The spokesperson recalled that while in prison, in an interview with the Armenian military magazine "Hay Zinvor" in 2012, Sassounian described himself as a soldier. He then expressed a wish to serve in the Armenian military in Karabakh, occupied territory of Azerbaijan at that time, which demonstrates that he is an unreformed terrorist.

"According to the information disseminated in the Armenian media, this terrorist is in Armenia; any attempts to glorify the terrorist must be suppressed," Abdullayeva added.

PFC to take part in trade fair in Paris

LAHORE: Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) will take part in a 3 day Texworld International fair being held in Paris from Feb 07 to discover business opportunities and explore new markets in Europe.

Chief Executive Officer PFC Mian Kashif Ashfaq presiding over board of directors meeting here on Sunday said that PFC along Chenone will approach Trade Development Authority of Pakistan for participating in this international fair. He said this fair attracts twice a year thousands of weavers and manufacturers from all over the world which showcase their products.

He said Chenone will also exhibit its high international quality products to capture their share in European market.He said it's an excellent opportunity to showcase Pak products and develop business deals with international buyers.He said this fair also offers professional buyers a sourcing platform with wide variety of products ranging from basics to the most creative and qualitative.

Mian Kashif said Chenone has already attended several other international fairs in US, China, Italy, Turkey, Sri Lanka and introduced its products which are in great demand. He hoped in getting orders from foreign buyers. He said main purpose of attending the foreign fairs is to help strengthen the national economy and TDAP is facilitating the manufacturers of export products.

He said he will also hold series of marathon meetings with European Union tycoons for investment and avail Prime Minister Imran Khan's unprecedented special package for foreign investors. – APP

China rejects US report on Covid origins Beljing lashed out The so-called lab-leak theory Beljing lashed out The so-called lab-leak theory Beljing lashed out The so-called lab-leak theory Beljing lashed out The so-called lab-leak theory

MINSK: Ambassador of Pakistan to Belarus Sajjad Haider Khan visited the National Library of Belarus and held a meeting with its Director General Ms. Oksana Knizhnikova on 27 Oct. The meeting was also attended by the Head of the Social and Cultural Center of the Library Ms. Radmila Bukach.

The parties discussed the possibilities of cultural projects and collaborations between the National Libraries of the two countries during 2022 in the framework of the MOU already signed between the National Libraries of the two countries in 2015.

It was agreed to arrange an Art Exhibition of Pakistani Artistes dedicated to the Independence Day of Pakistan in August 2022. The DG also assured to



allow opening of a book corner for Pakistani books both in English and Urdu

with digital cataloging, so that Belarusian readers will be able to learn

more about Pakistan, its culture, traditions and heritage.



NAJAF: PIA Chairman, Iraq ambassador to Pakistan, Hamid Abbas Lafta along with other officials addressing a press conference after an inaugural flight from Karachi to Najaf landed at Najaf Airport. – DNA

Migrants from Turkey disembark in Greece

ATHENS: Nearly 400 migrants disembarked Sunday from a Turkish-flagged cargo ship that Greece allowed to dock on its territory despite charges that Turkey had violated a migrant deal.

grant deal.

The ship had sent a distress signal on Friday after its engines failed in international waters, according to Greek authorities who allowed it to dock at the southeastern Aegean island of Kos early on Sunday.

The Greek Coastguard said the migrants were transported to a reception center on the island while news reports said health ministry experts would quarantine them and test them for the coronavirus.

The migration ministry said nearly 400 people disembarked from the ship, with Bulgaria and Greece turn for billions of expension of the ship, with Bulgaria and Greece turn for billions of expension of the ship, with the ship of the sh

ATHENS: Nearly 400 migrants disembarked Sunday from a Turkish-flagged mediately list their national-

The Athens News Agency reported that the Greek migration and shipping ministers, along with the European Commission, had contacted Turkish authorities to ask them to take back the vessel, but to no avail.

"Turkey once again failed to comply with its responsibilities towards the EU," Giannis Plakiotakis, the merchant marine minister, said Saturday.

The European Union and Ankara signed a deal in March 2016 where Turkey was to sharply reduce the flow of migrants through its territory to EU countries Bulgaria and Greece in return for billions of euros in financial aid. – APP

Afghanistan needs humanitarian assistance

Dr Khalid Mahmood said at a donors' conference in September last, the world community pledged \$1 billion in humanitarian assistance, a third of which was to go the WFP but the sum of money pledged to provide food to hungry, amounted to a "a drop in the ocean"

IORE: SAARC Chamber of beyond Afghanistan.

a sthe world powers continue to regions, he added.

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sunday called for urgent action to protect millions of Afghans from starvation and warned that over 22.8 millions Afghans, who constitute nearly half of the total population, are facing food insecurity while 3.2 million children under the age of five year can suffer from acute malnutrition.

nutrition.
This was stated by SAARC Chamber Chief Iftikhar Ali Malik while talking to a high level delegation of "Think Tank" led by Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood, Dean faculty of information and media studies Punjab University.He said the international community especially West and US must realise that this indifference may result in chaos,leading to internal strike and civil war,the consequences of which would be disastrous for the whole world

beyond Afghanistan. He said it's race against time and countries must step in to shoulder their responsibility and to address Afghanistan's latest disaster.

He said this is a country where only 5 percent of the people have access to enough food to survive and Afghanistan is now among the world's worst humanitarian crisis as this country is on a countdown to catastrophe. Iftikhar Ali Malik who is also founder chairman Pak-US Business Council and Chairman United Business Council said most disconcerting are reports that impoverished parents are selling off their babies to buy food and such is the level of desperation in the impoverished country.

He lamented hunger forcing Afghans to sell young daughters into marriage.



Dr Khalid Mahmood said at a donors'conference in September last, the world community pledged \$1 billion in humanitarian assistance, a third of which was to go the WFP but the sum of money pledged to provide food to hungry,amounted to a "a drop in the ocean".

He said WFP needed as much as \$22 millions per month to help stave off death due to hunger. He said tragically however, the world seems largely indifferent and aid is too little and too slow

as the world powers continue to debate whether or not to recognise the Afghan Taliban. He observed the response from

He observed the response from the international community had thus been lukewarm, even downright cold, despite the unfolding human tragedy in a country that has known nothing but wars for the last four decades.

Dr Khalid who is also an author of several books and regularly contributes research articles in important international magazines and journals called for devising a long term road map for Afghanistan in order to advance the agenda of political engagement, economic integration and regional connectivity.

He said " our collective efforts can halt economic meltdown. An economic collapse will yield instability,conflict and a refugee influx into neighbouring countries and onward to other Another visiting faculty member of school of Communication Studies Punjab University and senior member of think tank Dr Waqar Ch briefly talking on the occasion pointed out the follow-

senior member of think tank Dr Waqar Ch briefly talking on the occasion pointed out the following the Taliban takeover of Kabul, major donors had stopped funding the Afghan government, stressing that earlier the donors used to cater for roughly 70 percent of Afghanistan's budget.

He said sudden withdrawal of foreign assistance had created a huge gap and warned that 90 percent of the Afghan population could fall below the abject poverty line next year.

He appreciated the Pakistan for trying its best to help stem the down slide and continued to provide urgently needed food stuff and medicines to Afghanistan, he concluded. – APP

India's Covid tally rises to 34,273,300

NEW DELHI: India's COVID-19 tally rose to 34,273,300 on Sunday as 12,830 new cases were registered during the past 24 hours across the country, showed the federal health ministry's latest data.

Besides, 446 deaths due to the pandemic since Saturday morning took the total death toll to 458,186.

Most deaths, 358, were reported from the southern state of Kerala. "More than 70 percent cases (deaths) are due to comorbidities," said the federal health ministry.

There are still 159,272 ac-

tive COVID-19 cases in the country, the lowest in 247 days, with a fall of 2,283 during the past 24 hours. A total of 33,655,842 people have recovered and been

A total of 33,655,842 people have recovered and been discharged from hospitals so far, out of which 14,667 were discharged during the past 24 hours. – APP







NA-133

by-elections must go on:

PML-N

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) has

demanded of the Election

Commission of Pakistan

(ECP) to hold a free, fair and

transparent by-election in La-

hore's NA-133 constituency.

Addressing a press confer-

ence in PML-N Model town

Central Secretariat Lahore

on Sunday Khawaja Saad

Rafique and other leaders

said that the letter of PTI-led

government to the ECP was a

political ploy because the rul-

ing party wanted to escape

away from the election due to

PML-N leaders declared

that they would challenge

the National Accountability

Bureau (NAB) Amendment

Ordinance issued by the

President because it has no

Khawaja Saad Rafique said

the Lahore by-elections

should not be postponed.

Ali Pervez Malik said La-

hore was the stronghold

of Nawaz Sharif and they

would win the elections with

the fear of defeat.

moral status.

a big lead.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 01, 2021 | WWW.ISLAMABADPOST.COM.PK

Briefs

Covid-19: positivity ratio reports slight uptick

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: The national tally of Covid-19 pandemic on Sunday was recorded declining with one of the lowest positivity ratio during past 24 hours amid reduced per day positive cases, disease trend and death rate.

The National Command Operation Centre (NCOC) in a tweet on it's official handle shared the latest disease statistics.

The nerve centre of the country in its fight against the pandemic wrote that some 48,192 tests were conducted across the country with 733 more people tested positive for the contagious disease.

There were 1,402 Covid infected patients under treatment in critical condition in various Covid dedicated healthcare facilities of the

The National Covid positivity ratio during past 24 hours was recorded 1.52%. The Covid positivity ratio is the percentage of actual positive cases appearing in every 100 tests performed to identify infected individuals.

During the past 24 hours, some 11 infected patients died due to the deadly virus including those under treatment in the hospitals and in their respective quarantines or homes.

Pakistan hands over 3 aid trucks to Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has handed over three more trucks loaded with relief goods to Afghanistan.

The trucks carrying 28 tons of essential commodities were handed over to Afghan authorities at Torkham crossing.

The aid was sent by Pak-Af ghan Cooperation Forum and Save the Children.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's Ambassador to Kabul, Mansoor Ahmed Khan called on interim Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttagi and discussed strengthening of bilateral engagement including humanitarian field, trade and movement of people. - APP

UN chief calls for legitimacy in Sudan

AGENCIES

NEW YORK: UN Secretary-Gener-Antonio Guterres Sunday on called for restoring "legiti-

mate constitutional arrangements" in Sudan.

In a statement, Guterres hailed the Sudanese people who "peacefully protested military rule" on Saturday against the measures taken by the Sudanese army to dissolve the civilian government. "The [Sudanese] military should take heed. Time to go back to the legitimate constitutional arrangements," Guterres said.

He warned against targeting civilians and using violence against them, stressing that "perpetrators must be brought to justice.'

protesters Three killed and dozens injured on Saturday during mass protests against the military takeover in Sudan.

On Oct. 25, Sudan's ruling military council announced a state of emergency and dissolved the transitional sovereign council and government, hours after detaining Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok and ministers in his civilian government. It also suspended some provisions of the constitutional document outlining the po-

litical transition in Sudan. The move came amid escalating tensions between the military and the civilian administration following a failed military coup last month. Before the military takeover, Sudan was administered by a sovereign council of military and civilian officials, which oversaw the transition period until elections slated for 2023.

No one allowed to harm Turkish interests: Erdogan

The Turkish President says, we have also foiled the attempts to exclude our country and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus from the hydrocarbon

resources in the Eastern Mediterranean

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said despite the difficult epidemic conditions, successes we have achieved in economy, domestic politics and foreign policy are important signs that show the effectiveness of the Presidential Government System, as well as the strong infrastructure of our country.

As the 100th anniversary of our Republic now clearly appears in the horizon, we will not allow any power, dirty scenario, insidious attack aiming to stumble Turkey, to deter us from our path.

The Turkish President expressed these views in his message issued on the occasion of national day of Turkey. Ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul read out the message of the Turkish President during the reception he hosted to celebrate the Day. The Turkish President further said in his message, "I extend my congratulations to our citizens

living in Turkey and abroad, and

Lebanon

minister rules

out resignation

Kordahi's comments were

irresponsible and called on the

Lebanese government to rebuild

bridges with the "brotherly nations"

News Desk

BEIRUT: Lebanese Informa-

tion Minister George Kordahi

on Sunday ruled out resigna-

tion amid a diplomatic crisis

with Saudi Arabia over his

criticism of the Saudi-led cam-

Speaking to the Lebanese

private Al-Jadeed television,

Kordahi said resigning from

the government was "out of

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab

Emirates (UAE), Kuwait, and

Bahrain recalled their am-

bassadors from Lebanon in

protest of Kordahi's critical

comments of the Saudi mil-

itary campaign in Yemen in

a televised interview said to

be recorded before he took

his post in the new Cabinet

paign in Yemen.

question.'

headed by Lebanese Prime

Asked if he "thinks that the

Houthis, like Hezbollah,

are defending their land as

an armed organization,"

Kordahi responded: "Of

course they are defending

themselves ... My personal

opinion is that this war in

Yemen needs to end. Hous-

es, buildings, villages, and

cities are being attacked by

Qatar, meanwhile, said Korda-

hi's comments were irrespon-

sible and called on the Leba-

nese government to rebuild

bridges with the "brotherly

The Lebanese government,

for its part, affirmed that it

is keen to maintain good re-

lations with the Gulf states,

especially Saudi Arabia.

fighter jets.

nations.'

Minister Najib Mikati.

to all our friends who share this proud day with us, which is one of the golden rings of our glorious history, on the occasion of the 29 October Republic Day. commemorate Ghazi Mustafa

Kemal Atatürk, the founder of our Republic, and his heroic comrades-in-arms with gratitude on the 98th anniversary of its proclamation. I wish the mercy of Allah the Almighty upon our holy martyrs who entrusted this homeland to us at the cost of their lives. would like to express my grati-

tude on behalf of myself, my country and my nation to our veterans who were honoured with the title of war veterans while fighting for the same blessed cause. I would like to thank all our deputies who have served our country under the roof of The Grand National Assembly of Turkey, from the First Assembly until today, as distinguished representatives of the national will and who have paid the price when necessary.

I implore Allah the Almighty to grant success to our security forces, who selflessly perform their du-



ties at our frontiers and within our borders for the perpetuity of Turkey, and the serenity, security and well-being of our esteemed nation. I would like to congratulate wholeheartedly our businesspeople, non-governmental organizations and civil servants who proudly wave our glorious flag in all corners of the world.

With the strength we get from our deep-rooted history and long-established values, we, as 84 million

people, being one and together, continue our efforts to aggrandize Turkey and steer it towards reaching its goals.

Thanks to the strength and capacity of our health infrastructure, we have successfully managed and left behind the most severe phase of the coronavirus pandemic that has deeply shaken the whole world.

Likewise, in 2020, when the glob-

al economy experienced a contraction of more than 3 percent, we ended the year with a growth rate of 1.8 percent. We have not allowed any weakness to occur in any matter, ranging from the fight against terrorism to public security, from investments to the operations we have carried out beyond our borders

In this process, our strong support to our Libyan brothers who are facing attacks from coup plotters, and to the Azerbaijani Turks who were fighting against the occupation in Karabakh has, thanks be to Allah, changed the fate of both countries.

While the coup plotters were defeated in Libya, our Azerbaijani

WEB DESK

RIYADH: The Saudi-led mil-

itary coalition in Yemen said

on Sunday that more than

218 Huthi rebels were killed

in air strikes around Marib

city, the internationally rec-

ognised government's last

The Iran-backed Huthis

rarely comment on losses,

and AFP could not inde-

"Twenty-four military ve-

hicles were destroyed and

more than 218" insurgents

were killed in strikes in

the past 72 hours in two

districts, according to the

official Saudi Press Agency.

pendently verify the toll.

northern bastion.

brothers also regained their own territories after nearly 30 years of occupation.

We have also foiled the attempts to exclude our country and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus from the hydrocarbon resources in the Eastern Mediterranean. We have been carrying on this mo-

mentum we have gained last year, also in 2021, by further strengthening it, thanks be to Allah, in all areas, starting with the economy, production and exports.

As a nation, we will fight for the realization of our cause for a great and strong Turkey, by clinging on to our unity, togetherness and brotherhood, which are our greatest assurances.

In this holy struggle we carry on, the will of steel, which led the national struggle to victory and gave life to our Republic, will continue to be our guide today, as it has been for the last 98 years.

With these thoughts, I would like to congratulate our 29 October Republic Day once again and wish our nation health, serenity and

issued near-daily reports of

bombing around Marib, cap-

ital of the oil-rich province

Since then the coalition

- which has been fighting

in Yemen to support the

government for almost sev-

en years - says it has killed

around 2,200 insurgents in

The latest bombing was car-

ried out in Al-Jawba, about

50 kilometres (30 miles)

south of Marib, and Al-Kas-

sara, 30 kilometres to the

The Huthis have reportedly

said they were tightening

their grip around Marib

city, adding it was "only a

matter of time" until they

of the same name.

the Marib area.

northwest.

Saudi-led alliance

says 218 rebels killed near Marib

Sudanese protesters barricade streets

WEB DESK

KHARTOUM: Sudanese anti-coup protesters on Sunday manned barricades in Khartoum a day after a deadly crackdown on mass rallies, as a defiant civil disobedience campaign against the military takeover entered its seventh day.

Tens of thousands turned out across the country for Saturday's demonstrations. marching against the army's October 25 power grab, when top General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan dissolved the government, declared a state of emergency and detained Sudan's civilian leadership.

The move sparked a chorus of international condemnation and punitive aid cuts, with world powers demanding a swift return to civilian rule and calls for the military to show "restraint" against protesters.

Volker Perthes, UN Special Representative to Sudan. said Sunday he had met with detained Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok, who is under armed guard by the ruling military junta.

"He (Hamdok) remains well but under house arrest," Perthes said. "We discussed options for mediation and the way forward for Sudan. I will continue these efforts with other Sudanese stake-

holders.' The independent Central Committee of Sudan's Doctors said Sunday that militias shot dead a protester on the day of the coup, pushing its overall toll to 12 dead. A senior US official had estimated at least 20 to 30 people had been killed before

Saturday's protests.

Exit polls show Japan ruling coalition to retain power

TOKYO: Japan's ruling coalition is on track to retain power but lose seats in parliament, media predictions said after polls closed in Sunday's general election, the first maior test for Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

The 64-year-old, who took office a month ago, said the forecasts based on exit polls showed the public has "trust" in his long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and its junior coalition partner Komeito.

But as the votes were counted, analysts warned that a poor showing could raise questions within the LDP over the prime minister's popularity and leadership ability. Public broadcaster NHK predicted the coalition would win 239-288 of the 465 seats in parliament's lower house.

TV Asahi said the coalition was expected to win 280 seats, down from its previous total of 305 - weakening the dominance of the LDP, which has held power almost continuously since the 1950s. – **APP**



DERA GHAZI KHAN: Pakistan Democratic Movement's Chief Moulana Fazl ur Rehman and PML-N President Shahbaz Sharif sit on the stage during PDM gathering. - DNA

which has since October 11 Blinken raises human rights concerns with China

Tensions are high between the world's two biggest economies on a plethora of fronts, including trade, human rights, Taiwan and the Covid-19 pandemic

News Desk

ROME: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Sunday in Rome and raised concerns over human rights, in only their second face-to-face session as tensions between the two superpowers run high. Blinken expressed oppo-

sition to actions by China "that run counter to our values and interests... including actions related to human rights, Xinjiang, Tibet, Hong Kong, the East and South China Seas, and Taiwan," State Department spokesperson Ned Price said in a statement.

Blinken also noted areas where he said the US and China's interests intersect



and they can work together, including "the DPRK, Burma, Iran, Afghanistan, and the climate crisis.

The meeting in Rome, where both diplomats were attending the G20 summit, is the first between Blinken and Wang since a stormy session in Alaska in March

during which the Chinese delegation berated the American side as TV cameras rolled.

Tensions are high between the world's two biggest economies on a plethora of fronts, including trade, human rights, Taiwan and the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Secretary Blinken underscored the importance of maintaining open lines of communication to responsibly manage the competition between the United States and the People's Republic of China," the statement said.

Earlier this week, Washington ordered China Telecom Americas to discontinue its services within 60 days ending nearly two decades of operations in the country and piling further strain on relations between the two countries.

US President Joe Biden has pressed ahead with a hardline trade policy against Beijing broadly in line with that of his predecessor Donald Trump, whose bombastic approach sent tensions

COP26: Taliban urge donors for support

"Some climate change projects which have already been approved and were funded by Green Climate Fund, UNDP, Afghan Aid, should fully resume work"

Foreign Desk

KABUL: Afghanistan's new Taliban regime urged international donors to resume full support for green projects in the country on Sunday, marking the start of the COP26 summit. The movement seized power

in Afghanistan in August after overthrowing the former USbacked regime, but has not yet been recognised by the international community.

As such, the new Islamic Emirate will not be represented in Glasgow when world leaders gather on Sunday to renew plans to tackle the global climate crisis. But senior Taliban leader Suhail Shaheen said that climate

programmes in Afghanistan that

had already been approved for UN support should continue. "Afghanistan has a fragile climate. There is a need for tremendous work," he said on Twitter.

"Some climate change projects have already been approved and were funded by Green Climate Fund, UNDP, Afghan Aid, should fully resume

Relief agencies have warned that a drought in Afghanistan, which UN scientists say has been worsened by climate change, could force 22 million into "acute food insecurity".

But the work of international agencies has been disrupted by the change in regime, and international donors are reluctant to work with the group.

Afghanistan's 'right': Taliban KABUL: The Taliban government on Sunday The United Nations is considering rival claims on who should represent Afghanistan. Ghulam Isaczai, the UN envoy representing the government ousted by the Taliban, is seeking to remain in the country's seat.

said that the seat of Afghanistan at the United Nations (UN) is the right of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan as per the rules of the global body itself. "The permanent representative [at UN] should be a person ac-

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credited by government actually in power," Taliban spokesperson Suhail Shaheen wrote on his Twitter handle who is also the nominee of the new interim setup as UN ambassador for Afghanistan.

> security and a safe environment for the work of NGOs and charity organisations," he tweeted.

A nine-member UN credentials committee - which

includes Russia, China and the United States - is

due to consider the rival Afghan claims next month

and decision will likely be made before the end of

the year. "IEA has sovereignty, control over all borders and has support of the people. These are key for recognition of a government— which the IEA enjoys," Suhail said. - Agencies

Shaheen stressed, however, that ing in the projects. "The Islamic Emirate of Afghanthe Taliban would be able to ensure the security of teams workistan is committed to providing

United Nations seat is