



# Islamabad POST

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Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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**MTCP program plays central role in Malaysia, Pak ties**

Detailed News On Page-08

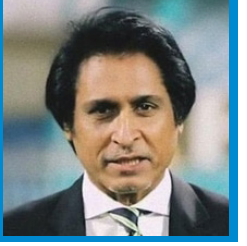
**France-US subrow must not affect NATO**

Detailed News On Page-08



**New Zealand rescheduling Pakistan tour**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Briefs

### Palestine extends sympathies

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Palestine govt has extended sympathies over loss of precious lives in the Balochistan earthquake that occurred on Thursday. Ambassador of Palestine Ahmed Rabei in a message said our govt extends consolation to Dr. Arif Alavi, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the brotherly Pakistani people, on the victims of the earthquake in Balochistan. He said, they prayed to Almighty Allah to bless the departed souls an eternal peace and speedy recovery to wounded ones, Aameen.

### NAB Chief extension illegal

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Thursday slammed the government's decision of extending Justice (ret'd) Javed Iqbal's tenure as National Accountability Bureau (NAB) chairman. "Extension of NAB chairman's term is not only illegal but has malicious intent," the PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari tweeted. "Selected government wants to continue victimization of opposition while ensuring the PM, his family, government and cronies continue to be immune from accountability, especially post."

### World must move forward with Afghan government

ISLAMABAD: National Security Adviser (NSA) Dr Moeed Yusuf Thursday said the international community should move forward in consultation with the new Afghan government and play its positive role in achieving peace and stability. The NSA expressed these views in his article published in the leading American journal Foreign Affairs. Dr Moeed said there was no military solution to conflict in Afghanistan as Pakistan kept on warning the United States (US) about the failure of a military solution to Afghan issue.

## Over 22 killed in Balochistan earthquake

The quake affected Quetta, Sibi, Harnai, Pishin, Qila Saifullah, Ziarat and Zhob

### Azerbaijan extends condolences

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev sent on October 7 a letter of condolences to Pakistan counterpart Arif Alvi over a strong deadly earthquake in the country's Balochistan province. "I was deeply saddened by the news of the significant loss of life and destruction in the aftermath of a powerful earthquake in your country's Balochistan province. Due to this tragedy, on my own behalf and on behalf of the people of Azerbaijan, I offer my profound condolences to you, families of the victims, and the brotherly people of

BUREAU REPORT

QUETTA: A strong earthquake in different parts of Balochistan killed at least 22 people and injured more than 300 others early Thursday morning. Aftershocks are still being felt in different areas after the quake. The earliest tremors were felt at 3:20am after which panicked citizens rushed out of their houses, reciting kalimas and verses from the holy Quran. Relief and rescue activities are underway in the affected areas with an emergency declared in all hospitals. According to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), most of the deceased are children. The quake affected Quetta, Sibi, Harnai, Pishin, Qila Saifullah, Chaman, Ziarat and Zhob in Balochistan. The magnitude of the quake was measured at 5.9 on the Richter scale. The death toll is feared to rise. According to the seismological centre, the epicentre was located near

### President, PM condole over losses

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan Thursday condoled over the loss of life and properties due to the earthquake which rocked Harnai area of Balochistan. After receiving the initial report on quake-cause losses, the prime minister directed all relevant departments to assist the Balochistan government in its relief efforts. "I have ordered immediate assistance on an emergency basis for the Harnai, Balochistan, earthquake victims & for an immediate assessment of the

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## Asad slams UK for not accepting Sino vaccines

"Chinese vaccines are WHO approved. Health considerations or hangover of a colonial mindset?"



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar Thursday questioned the reasoning behind UK authorities' decision of not accepting the Chinese anti-COVID vaccines which raised concerns among Pakistanis. The minister took to Twitter to criticize the UK government which he said decided to accept "gora (western) certificates & vaccines but not "most non gora vaccine certificates and Chinese vaccines." The UK had taken Pakistan off Travel Red List on September 22 after being on no-travel list for five months. However, as per the latest decision, the UK would still not accept Chinese vaccines. As most of the Pakistan's population has got Chinese

### Schools to resume normal classes from Monday

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) on Thursday announced that all educational institutions would start "normal classes" from October 11 (Monday). The decision was made during an NCOC meeting held earlier today, where the forum agreed to reopen educational institutions based on the reduced level of disease spread and the launch of the school vaccination programme, Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Asad Umar said in a tweet. Educational institutions were earlier operating on 50% capacity across the country after they had reopened following intermittent closures due to the prevalence of COVID-19. The NCOC, in a statement, said that the country reported 1,453 cases in the last 24 hours, taking up the positivity ratio to 2.82%, while 46 people lost their lives to the virus.

vaccines, therefore they would need to self-isolate for up to 10 days which is being dubbed as UK's discriminatory approach vis-vis Pakistan that has always given significant importance to its relations with the UK. The planning minister said the UK took the decision despite widespread evidence of fake certificates in US and Europe.

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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Energy Hammad Azhar calls on PM Imran Khan. – DNA

### No Belarus visa required for Schengen visa holders

Belarus govt will introduce new system from Oct 18

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Belarus government is introducing a new system whereby those Pakistanis possessing Schengen visas will not require a Belarus visa. If there Schengen visa is valid they can enter Belarus without getting a Belarus visa. The diplomatic sources told Islamabad POST that this new system shall be applicable from October 18, 2021. The visa system will enable especially the business people to visit Belarus easily. The new system is also likely to promote and strengthen business relations between the two countries.

### Javed Mallik welcomes UAE Minister



DNA

DUBAI: President of the Diplomat Business Club Dubai and former Ambassador of Pakistan, Javed Malik welcomed the UAE Federal Minister of Foreign Trade, His Excellency Dr Thani Al Zeyoudi at an International Business & Investment Conference organized by the prestigious Dubai based Diplomat Business Club at the iconic Emirates Towers. Business & Corporate Leaders from 40 countries were present at

Continued on Page 06

## Pakistan stands by the world for peace

The 24th meeting of heads of defense institutions of ASEAN was co-chaired by National Defense Universities of Pakistan and Malaysia

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence Pervaiz Khatrak said on Thursday said that Pakistan stands by the regional and international states for peace in the region and world. In a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the 24th meeting of the heads of defense

## Russia will invite Taliban to int'l talks

AGENCIES

MOSCOW: Russia will invite the Taliban to international talks on Afghanistan scheduled for October 20 in Moscow, the Kremlin's envoy to Afghanistan, Zamir Kabulov, said on Thursday. In response to a question from Russian journalists on whether representatives of the group would be invited to negotiations involving China, India, Iran and

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## Mitsuhira Wada appointed new Japan envoy to Pakistan

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Japanese government has appointed new ambassador to Pakistan. Mr. Mitsuhira Wada, who recently completed his term in Hong Kong as Consul General is



tipped as the new Japanese ambassador to Pakistan. The incumbent ambassador Matsuda is leaving Pakistan after completing his tenure. During his tenure relations between Japan and Pakistan touched new heights.

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## Inside...

DC urges to ensure implementation of anti-corona SOPs – Page 02

Chairman NAB appreciates regional bureaus' performance – Page 03

ICCI for harnessing wind energy to provide cheap power – Page 04

Even Afghanistan scores better than Pakistan – Page 05

NZ rescheduling Pak tour, Ramiz tells Senate body – Page 06

WB revises up Pakistan's GDP growth rate to 3.4% in FY22 – Page 07

MTCP program plays central role in cementing Malaysia, Pak ties – Page 08

## Pak has not awarded death penalty in past 22 months

EU and JPP host event to mark 19th World Day against the Death Penalty

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Delegation of the European Union (EU) to Pakistan and Justice Project Pakistan (JPP) on Thursday hosted an event to commemorate the upcoming World Day Against the Death Penalty (October 10). At the event, Justice Project Pakistan launched their latest campaign, titled 'This Is (Not) A Game', highlighting systemic issues in the criminal justice system, with a particular focus on the struggles of women who have to engage with the system and the difficulties they face in terms of access to justice. Riaz Fatyana, member of the National Assembly and Chairman of the National Assembly's Standing



Committee on Law and Justice was the chief guest. The keynote address was delivered by award-winning filmmaker and actor, Sarmad Khoosat. The event was attended by Ambassadors of EU

Member States, UN representatives, members of civil society organizations and parliamentarians. The Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, Androulla Kaminara, in her welcome address recognised the fact that Pakistan has carried out no executions for the past 22 months, as well as the landmark decision of the Supreme Court prohibiting the execution of prisoners who are severely mentally ill. She reminded that Pakistan has signed the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in 2010 – well before the existence on GSP+ - and the ICCPR calls for the death penalty only to be applied to the "most serious crimes".

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## PAKISTAN INTERNATIONAL

### PROPERTY HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION EXHIBITION AND CONVENTION

**26-28 November, 2021**

**Pak China Friendship Centre, Islamabad.**

**For Information & Contact**  
**Fahad Barlas**  
 Director International Business  
 fahadbarlas@pakworldexpo.com  
 +92 311 888 8878/+92 51 289 2002-3

Note: COVID SOPs Strictly followed, Participants are expected to be either fully vaccinated or present a PCR negative report



# DC urges to ensure implementation of anti-corona SOPs

He urged the hospital administration to ensure implementation on anti-corona SOPs in all cases

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Ali Shahzad suddenly reached to Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Tandianwala to review the

medical and administrative matters and check the medical facilities provided to the patients coming in different sections, seating arrangements for their families and availability of drinking water.

He urged the hospital administration to ensure implementation on anti-corona SOPs in all cases. He also checked the record of referral of patients and told the on-duty doctors and staff that patients should be

satisfied with the performance of the hospital. He said that quality treatment of patients should not be reduced. He also checked the situation of cleanliness in the washrooms and directed to dispose of the garbage in the bins in a proper manner and said that the highest standard of cleanliness should be maintained at all times. He also checked the availability of medicines. The Deputy Commissioner also checked the progress of some construction works in the hospital and urged to use the available resources in a transparent manner. He also reviewed the condition of the ambulance and directed to keep it fully functional. Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner also visited sports complex, AC office, Municipal library and other sites also.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib and Parliamentary Secretary for Law and Justice Barrister Maleeka Ali Bukhari addressing a press conference at Pak-China Friendship Centre. – APP

## Research to be improved for white gold production

MULTAN: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Syed Fakhar Imam, said on Thursday that the research standard would be improved through China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in order to enhance cotton production. He was addressing a ceremony virtually held in connection with World cotton day here at Central Cotton Research Institute (CCRI) here on Thursday. He said "Cotton which is also known as 'white gold' was main crop which contributes lion's share to country's economy but unfortunately its production had been gradually reducing in last few years." The minister informed that only 4.5 million cotton bales were produced last year which was the lowest production in the country's history. Fakhar Imam said that timely steps taken this year

would achieve the set target of 8.46 million cotton bales as 3.8 million bales production was recorded by last month. Minister said that the incumbent government had announced Rs 5,000 per 40 kg cotton support price for this year and added that the cotton growers were getting better cotton prices. He stated that all out efforts were being made for the revival of 'white gold' despite the cotton cultivation area was reduced by 17 percent this year as compared to previous year. Mr Fakhar said that cotton production could be enhanced further by proper management and using quality inputs and special focus would be paid to qualitative cotton seed to meet the next year targets. He said that bumper cotton production of three crops including wheat, maize and sugarcane was recorded



this year and hoped that the country would also get better productions of other crops. The minister said edible oil related crops was being paid more attention for maximum production of oil adding that Pakistan had been importing 3 billion US dollar edible oil per Annum. Provincial minister for Agriculture Syed Hussain Jehania Gardezi said that the incumbent government had realized that cotton was major crop of the country and steps were being taken for its revival to strengthen our economy.

He said that bio-technology mechanism was being adopted instead of chemical method to decrease cost of production for cotton growers. He said that Integrated pest management (IPM) system would be introduced on large scale to minimize usage of pesticide and environmental pollution. Secretary agriculture South Punjab Saqib Ali Ateeel said that cotton production targets could be achieved by taking all stakeholders on board. He said that agriculture department was striving hard to enhance per acre cotton production and the agriculture extension staff was remained active to provide proper guidance to cotton growers. On this occasion, large number of cotton growers were also present. Earlier, an awareness rally was taken out on World cotton day at CCRI which was attended by large number of people. – APP

## Amend in NAB to fully restore investors: UBG

DNA

LAHORE: The United Business Group of Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Thursday said that the exclusion of business community, local taxation and other levies including refunds or loss of exchequer from the National Accountability Bureau will fully restore confidence of foreign and local investors. Chairman UBG Ifkhar Ali Malik talking to a delegation of investors led by Ms Sana Ishaq UI Haq here Thursday said it's was long awaited demand of business community especially investors that NAB should be barred from intervening into affairs of corporate sector which was directly hitting the flow of foreign and local investment badly in every

sector of economy. He said "entire business community is grateful to Prime Minister Imran Khan for acceding to their demand" which he added will definitely pay way for uninterrupted inflow of investment in every sphere of life especially in economy. He said now after necessary amendment issues pertaining to taxation and others related to corporate sector will be dealt with in accordance with revenue or banking laws and will be automatically stands transferred from the accountability courts to the courts of competent jurisdiction. He said moreover now NAB can't proceed against "any person or entity who or transaction in relation thereto, which are not directly or indirectly connected with the holder of a public office or procedural lapses, unless

any other person has been conferred or other material benefits from that particular public or government work". Ifkhar Ali Malik who is founder chairman Pak US Business Council said that it's good omen that now Accountability Courts can grant bail to any accused earlier there was no provision for granting bail to the accused. He said an other feature of the presidential ordinance is prosecutor general NAB can now advise chairman to file or withdraw any reference from the court. He said promulgation of this presidential ordinance is not a matter of days but a result of series of result oriented marathon meetings of business community with Prime Minister and chief of army staff wherein our serious reservations were conveyed.

## Gomal varsity offers admission in BS Hons

DNA

PESHAWAR: Gomal University Thursday announced that BS (Hons) Admissions 2021 in different disciplines has started and forms could be submitted till October 25. Director Admin Shafiq ur Rehman told media that the varsity had introduced three new disciplines this year including BS Data Sciences, BS Bioinformatics and BS Accounting and Finance. Admissions were also being offered in different certificate courses including one year post-graduate diploma in Computer Sciences, six-month computer proficiency certificate, three-month certificate in web development and two-month certificate in freelancing.

## KP Cabinet approves bill to end unplanned urbanization

Bangash said on the directives of CM land use planning of six big cities had been completed whereas Master Plan of 20 cities were in the process of completion

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa cabinet on Thursday approved an unprecedented draft bill to control unplanned urbanization in the province besides protecting agricultural lands from being used for commercial purposes. Spokesman KP government Kamran Bangash told media after a cabinet meeting that the proposed "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Land Use and Building Control Authority Bill 2021" was drafted on the directives of Chief Minister Mahmood Khan to control mushroom growth of unplanned urbanization and its adverse effects on the agricultural lands. He said on the directives of CM land use planning of six big cities had been completed whereas Master Plan of 20 cities were in the process of completion. Bangash said as per the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would become the first province to set up authority for proper utilization of land, adding that it would lead to beautification of cities as well as put an end to use of fertile agriculture land for commercial purposes. Referring to local government elections, Bangash said, the LG polls would be held

at village council and neighborhood council levels in the first phase to be followed by Tehsil council election in the second phase. He said a cabinet committee would soon meet Election Commission to take a final decision in this regard. He informed that Cabinet also approved Waqf properties Amendment Bill 2021 which would discourage the lease and extension of Waqf properties at throw away prices. Bangash said Auqaf Department had so far retrieved 4000 Kanal land and earned revenue of more than rupees five billion. This amended bill would lead to more revenue generation after being passed by the provincial Assembly, he hoped. The cabinet also approved public properties Amendment Bill 2021 whereas Serena Hotel lease had been extended for 30 years, however rates of the lease would be determined by a Special Committee which was also empowered to look into other options. The cabinet also approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between Chinese province Sichuan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police. – APP

## World Mental Health Day observed at GCWUF

FAISALABAD: The World Mental Health Day was observed under the aegis of Department of Psychology of Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF), here on Thursday. The faculty and a large number of students participated in the function, arranged at the main auditorium of the university. In-charge Psychology Department Dr Riffat Sadiq said that the mental health of a person was important as his/her physical health. She said that due to rising poverty, unemployment and lack of safety, an increase in the number of mentally disturbed patients had been witnessed. The mental health also affects our approach, way of thinking and social behavior, she said. She said that physical exercises and recreational activities invigorate the human mind and soul in a positive way. She said that mind is the most important part of the human body and therefore, it is more important to keep it healthy. – APP

## ECC approves allocation of 190,000 MT wheat to Utility Stores

ISLAMABAD: Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet on Thursday approved the allocation/release of remaining 190,000 MT to Utility Stores Cooperation (USC) to ensure smooth supply of wheat through its chain across the country. Earlier the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (NFS&R) tabled a summary regarding allocation/release of 280,000 MT of wheat to the Utility Stores Cooperation (USC) till December 2021. A quantity of 90,000 MT has already been provided as an interim arrangement whereas the remaining 190,000 MT will be provided from PASSCO's stocks (local or imported as per stock availability with PASSCO). Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Shaikat Tahir, presided over the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet, said a press release issued by Ministry of Finance. Federal Minister for Planning Asad Umar, Federal Minister for Industries and Production Khushro Bakhtiar, Minister of State for Information Farrukh Habib, Advisor to PM on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood, Governor SBP Dr. Reza Baqir, Secretary Power Division, Secretary M/o NFS&R, Secretary Commerce, Chairman FBR, Chairman SECP, MD USC and other senior officers participated in the meeting. On a summary moved by the Ministry for National Food Security and Research, the ECC recommended the allocation of total quantity of 300,000 MT of wheat to the AJ&K Government out of PASSCO stock during the current financial year. This includes 140,000 MT of wheat which has already been released to AJ&K by the Ministry of NFS&R as an interim arrangement. – APP



RAWALPINDI: Minister of Information and Communication Infrastructure, Ebrima Sillah, calls on Zobiaida Jalal, Federal Minister for Defence Production. – APP

## Comprehensive policy being formulated for trade

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Syed Ali Haider Zaidi was speaking to members of Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry during his visit here at the chamber during a visit

PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Syed Ali Haider Zaidi has informed on Thursday that a comprehensive shipping Transit policy is being formulated, which will be soon implemented to enhance the country's exports by boosting up mutual trade with Central Asian republics. Ali Zaidi was speaking to members of Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry during his visit here at the chamber during a visit. On the occasion, President SCCI Hasnain Khurshid Ahmad was also present. SCCI senior vice president Imran Khan, vice president Javed Akhtar, former FPCCI president Ghazanfar Bilour, former presidents Zahidullah Shinwari, Faiz Muhammad Faizi, former SCCI's SVP Engineer Manzoor Elahi, Shahid Hussain, former VP Abdul Jalil Jan, Malik Niaz Awan, Junaid Altaf, members of the chamber's executive committee Haji Ghulam Hussain, Syed Minhajuddin, Ejaz Khan Afridi, Naeem Qasmi, Waqar Ahmad, Zahoor Khan, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Fazel Muqem, Ghulam Bilal Javed, Aftab Iqbal, Ihsanullah, Mujeeb ur Rehman, Shams ur Rahim, Sohail Javed, Faiz Rasool, Mazarul Haq and Saddar Gul. Federal Minister asked businessmen to shift from the primitive procedure to E-commerce. His in-

formed them that notice has been taken over increasing demurrage charges of containers at Karachi's port and said the traders will hear many good news very soon. The operation has been digitized at Karachi's port, which has eliminated the corruption element to some extent. He added initiatives had been taken to further strengthen Pakistan National Shipping Corporation. Hasnain Khurshid apprised the visiting minister about traders' reservations over high demurrage charges,

monopoly of shipping companies, issues relating to exports and other problems which were hampering trade and exports. He presented proposals for amicable resolution of all those issues. The SCCI chief said that the significance of Karachi and Gwadar ports has further increased with the advent of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. He informed that owing to being far away from port city, KP traders are being faced with enormous difficulties, which need to be addressed by taking practical steps

at governmental level. He proposed shifting of Afghan Transit Trade containers from Karachi to Gwadar port in order to ease burden and accelerate exports proceeds and process. The chamber president welcomed the government's business friendly policies as a result of the country's economy heading toward the right direction, which would bring positive impacts in the coming days. Hasnain Khurshid said the taxpayers have played a pivotal role in the economic development of the

country so the government should facilitate the business community at every level and take pragmatic steps for ease of doing business. The minister on the occasion agreed with proposals of the SCCI members and assured them to resolve all issues on priority basis. Ali Zaidi said despite the coronavirus pandemic, the national economy has been boosted up to an optimal level that has also improved the country's exports. He stressed that the prosperous business community is essential for the country's economic turnaround. A comprehensive Transit trade policy is being formulated to boost up trade with Central Asian Republics, through which local traders would take benefits, the minister informed. He said the ferry service was allowed for Hajj and Umrah, in this regard, work at the port terminal was continued on fast-track basis. On the occasion, the minister responded to different questions from reporters and said that the institutions have been removed through NAB ordinance, meaning that every institution should work at its own level. He said FBR, FIA and other institutions should work regarding investigation of assets. If the offshore companies have been established for tax-evasion, action needs to be taken, he stressed. – APP

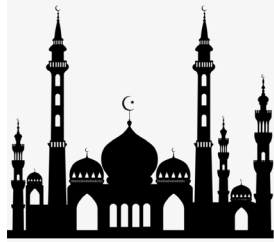


## SBTA directed to ensure safe blood transfusion

KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Health and Population, Dr. Azra Pechoho Thursday directed the Sindh Blood Transfusion Authority (SBTA) to strictly implement the screening system for safe blood transfusion across the province. She also directed to establish dashboard of blood screening results so as to help prevent spread of diseases caused by blood transfusions. The Provincial Minister said this while presiding over the third board meeting of Sindh Blood Transfusion Authority held here at her office. Secretary SBTA Dr. Zahid Hussain Ansari, Director SBTA Dr. Dar Naz Jamal and other board members attended the meeting. Dr. Azra Pechoho directed the Authority that the blood donors should be apprised of screening results in case of any disease and information should also be shared with HIV and AIDS control program so that treatment of such patients as well as prevention of the spread of the disease could be undertaken. – APP



## SERVICES



### Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	04:44 am
Zohr.....	11:56 am
Asr.....	04:03 pm
Maghrib.....	05:44 pm
Isha.....	07:07 pm



### Hotels & Restaurants

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



### Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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### Emergency

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



### Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....	115
PIAFlightInfo.....	114
PIACargo.....	9280979
Railway Inquiry.....	117
Railway Exchange.....	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.....	5555489
CAA.....	9281092



### Hospitals

CMH.....	5611111
MH.....	5611116
Cantt Hospital.....	9270907-11
DHQ.....	5556311-4
RGH.....	9290301-7
Holy Family.....	9290322-7
PIMS.....	9261170-79
Polyclinic.....	9218300-09
Shifa International.....	4603666



### Departments

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



### Complaints

<b>Water Tanker Service</b>	
E-7, F-10 & F-11.....	9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8.....	9203853
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8.....	9266316
Wapda Islamabad.....	9217579
Wapda Rawalpindi	111-309-309

### Islamabad Metropolitan

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

### Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....	0331-5022125
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# Chairman NAB appreciates regional bureaus' performance

Mr. Zahir Shah, DG Operations NAB informed that 11x accused persons were convicted in 2021 till September 2021 by learned Accountability Courts Rawalpindi/Islamabad on the basis of solid evidence through vigorous prosecution of NAB Rawalpindi under section 10 of NAO-1999 through vigorous prosecution.

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB chaired a high level meeting. The meeting reviewed overall performance of all Regional Bureaus of NAB especially convictions made under Section 10 of National Accountability Ordinance (NAO)-1999 and under Section 25 (b) of NAO-1999 during the present tense of NAB under the dynamic leadership of Honourable Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB from October 2017 till Oct 7, 2021 at NAB Headquarters. Syed Asghar Haider, Prosecutor General Accountability (PGA), Zahir Shah, DG Operations NAB and other senior officers of NAB were present at the meeting. Honorable Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB appreciated the performance of all Regional NABs during the period from October, 2017 till September, 2021.

Mr. Zahir Shah, DG Operations NAB informed that 11x accused



persons were convicted in 2021 till September 2021 by learned Accountability Courts Rawalpindi/Islamabad on the basis of solid evidence through vigorous prosecution of NAB Rawalpindi under section 10 of NAO-1999 through vigorous prosecution. Similarly in the year 2020, 13x accused persons, in the year 2019, 09x

accused persons, while in the year 2018, 21x accused persons were convicted by learned Accountability Courts under section 10 of NAO-1999. He further informed that during 2021, 21x accused persons were convicted by different learned Accountability Courts Rawalpindi/Islamabad on the basis of solid evidence through vigorous prosecution of NAB Rawalpindi under section

25(b) of NAO-1999. Similarly in the year 2020, 21x accused persons, in the year 2019, 25x accused persons while in the year 2018, 08x accused persons were convicted by different learned Accountability Courts under section 25(b) of NAO-1999. During the meeting, it was informed that 7x accused persons were convicted in 2021 till Sep-

tember 2021, on the basis of solid evidence through vigorous prosecution of NAB Lahore in learned Accountability Courts, Lahore under section 10 of NAO-1999. Similarly during the year 2020, 12x accused persons, in the year 2019, 03x accused persons, in the year 2018, 28x accused persons, while in the year 2017, 11x accused persons were convicted by learned Accountability Courts under section 10 of NAO-1999. During the meeting, it was further informed that 20x accused persons were convicted by learned Accountability Courts, Lahore during 2021 till September 2021 on the basis of solid evidence through vigorous prosecution of NAB Lahore under Section 25(b) of NAO-1999. In the year 2020, NAB Lahore got 26x accused persons convicted, in the year 2019, 59x accused persons and similarly in the year 2018, 62x accused persons were convicted by different learned Accountability Courts under section 25(b) of NAO-1999.

# PM lauds preparations for Ehsaas targeted subsidies

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a high-level meeting, Prime Minister Imran Khan was briefed about the ongoing preparations for the upcoming Ehsaas Targeted Commodity Subsidy programme. Senator Dr. Sania Nishtar, SAPM briefed the PM on the 'Subsidy Point of Sale' system for the Ehsaas Targeted Subsidy programme that has been developed in collaboration with National Bank of Pakistan. Prime Minister lauded the digital ecosystem being developed for Ehsaas targeted subsidy programme. He also lauded the special transparency measures being taken to ensure transfer of targeted subsidies solely to the deserving. PM directed to fast-track deployment of the 'Subsidy Point of Sale'



system so that economic relief could be provided to the poor through targeted subsidies on essential food commodities. Under Ehsaas, commodity subsidies will be administered through Ehsaas database by a network of Kiriyana stores. These targeted subsidies will be given on selected essential commodities. According to an official press statement, Dr. Sania said, "Our government

firmly believes that target subsidy is the right of poorest households who have no or limited means of income. Ehsaas is collaborating with National Bank of Pakistan to pass on the benefit of targeted subsidies to the deserving households. All preparations are on track." Previously, under the untargeted subsidies, the benefits were availed equally by both the rich and poor. Even households who could

easily afford market prices also availed benefits of subsidized pricing. To ensure targeted subsidy transfer, Ehsaas Subsidy Mobile Point of Sale (MPoS) will be linked to the Ehsaas databases and eligible beneficiaries will be identified through their CNICs. The MPoS App will be used nationwide by Kiriyana stores to provide subsidized commodities to Ehsaas eligible households. Finance Minister, Shaukat Tarin; Defence Minister, Pervaiz Khattak; Information Minister, Chaudhry Fawad Hussain; SAPM Dr. Shahbaz Gill; Governor State Bank, Dr. Reza Baqir; President National Bank, Arif Usmani; Secretary Muhammad Ali Shahzada; Secretary Ismat Tahira; Chief Digital Officer NBP, Humayun Sajjad; and other senior officials also joined the meeting.

## IGP lauds performance of dispute resolution council

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Qazi Jamil ur Rehman on Thursday visited the dispute resolution council and appreciated its role in the settlement of minor disputes at the community level and providing relief to the people. The IGP was told that dispute resolution council received 20 applications during the last two weeks related to disputes of various nature and resolved 13 cases of which 45 percent were related to family matters, 45 percent to monetary issues and 10 of miscellaneous nature. Following the vision of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to provide relief to the people, the council has been set up in Islamabad which is looking into the cases of civil nature including domestic and monetary disputes and other case of miscellaneous nature. The IGP appreciated the cooperation and performance of members of the council and said they were assisting to resolve cases.

He said the councils was responsible for amicably resolving the disputes through a proper fact-finding process and work as a jury in the conduct of contested investigations. He said that the burden on policemen would also decrease and they might get time to effectively handle cases of criminal nature. The applications related to civil nature, domestic issues, property and monetary cases are forwarded from IGP, DIG (Operations) and SSP (Operations) office to the council and its members try to resolve them after listening to both parties. All Station House Officers (SHOs) have been directed to forward cases of civil nature to the council as the purpose is to provide maximum relief to the citizens through such bodies. The IGP said that such bodies would help to improve the policing culture and provide immediate relief to the people.

# RCCI a platform for business community to solve their problems

RAWALPINDI:

Nadeem Rauf, President, Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has said that the chamber serves as a platform for the entire business community from where their problems are not only communicated to the government but also resolved. Issues related to installation of Point of Sale (POS), encroachments, board tax, sales tax and property tax will be resolved in collaboration with the concerned government agencies. Trade associations are the assets of the chamber and the chamber's priority is to take stakeholders on board. He expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of Anjuman-e-Tajirun Rawalpindi Cantonment led by President Sheikh Hafeez. The delegation also included Zafar Qadri, Munir Mughal, Mushtaq Khan, Saqib Rafique, Rashid Waein, Hassan Mustafa and other members. Also present on the RCCI Group Leader Sohail Altaf, former presidents Manzar Khurshid, Raja Amir Iqbal, Zahid Latif Khan, senior vice president Asim Malik, vice president Talat Awan, executive members and members of the chamber were also present on the occasion. Group leader Sohail Altaf said the chamber stands with the business community. The Chamber will send a representative if there is any meeting of the Anjuman-e-Tajirun with top officials, government and administrative officials. Stakeholder consultation is essential. – DNA



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# Amb. Matsuda felicitates PJCA newly elected officials

DNA

ISLAMABAD: MATSUDA Kuninori, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, on Thursday, October 7 administered the oath of newly elected office-bearers of Pakistan-Japan Cultural Association (PJCA) Islamabad. An oath taking ceremony to this effect was held today at the official residence of the Ambassador, with a limited number of attendees as a precaution against the coronavirus pandemic. Justice (R) Ali Nawaz Chowhan has been unanimously elected as the new Presi-

dent of Pakistan-Japan Cultural Association (PJCA) Islamabad by the members of its executive committee where as Mrs. ORITA Toshiko and Prof. Dr. Nusrat Ara Majeed were elected as Vice Presidents. Ambassador MATSUDA, while speaking on the occasion, congratulated the newly elected office-bearers of PJCA Islamabad and expressed his good wishes for their future endeavors to further deepen the cultural interactions and most importantly people-to-people contacts between Japan and Pakistan. "The friendship between our two nations is based on mutual trust, cooperation and understanding. I believe that cultural relation-

ship, in particular, can significantly contribute to further deepen the existing mutual trust and understanding between Japan and Pakistan", said the Ambassador.

The Ambassador expressed his hope that PJCA and other such organizations in Pakistan would step forward and join the Embassy of Japan to commemorate the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Pakistan next year in a befitting way.

Justice (R) Ali Nawaz Chowhan, the newly-elected President of PJCA Islamabad, while expressing his views on the occasion, thanked the Ambassador for taking

time to grace the oath taking ceremony of the recently elected executive committee members of the association. While assuring his association's cooperation to further strengthening the cultural relations between the two countries, President PJCA stated that the new team of PJCA Islamabad will do its best to promote the cultural ties between Pakistan and Japan with close cooperation of the Embassy of Japan in Pakistan. Since PJCA Islamabad was formally inaugurated in 1972, the organization has been playing an important role in the promotion of friendship and cultural relations between Japan and Pakistan.



## RCB collects over Rs 63 mln water charges

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) has successfully completed the task of large-scale recovery in last three months by collecting Rs 63 million water charges from the consumers. According to a RCB spokesman, the authorities concerned on the directives of Cantonment Executive Officer, Muhammad Umar Farooq Ali Malik had accelerated their ongoing revenue collection campaign. The RCB teams on the directives of CEO were conducting raids in different areas to take action against the defaulters. He urged the residents to pay all taxes, otherwise strict action in accordance with the law would be taken against the defaulters and heavy fines would also be imposed.

To a question, he informed that the Board had accelerated its operation against illegal construction and issued a large number of notices to the violators. The RCB Land Branch/Building Control Cell was conducting raids and the owners of the buildings and structures erected illegally were being issued notices, he added. The spokesman said, the staff conducted raids in different areas fall in its jurisdiction including Dhok Gujran, Bhatta Chowk, Misrial Road, Quaide-Azam Colony, Tench Bhatta, Peoples Colony, Dhoke Chaudharian, Afshan Colony, Dhoke Syedan, Peshawar Road and several other areas and the building rules violators, property tax and water charges defaulters were served notices.

## RWMC set up dengue awareness camp in Murree

RAWALPINDI: The anti-dengue campaign launched by Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) in collaboration with Albaryak is underway to create awareness among citizens about the dengue virus and to motivate them to keep their surroundings clean for the elimination of breeding of dengue larvae.

According to RWMC spokesman, the communication teams of RWMC and Albaryak set up a camp at the hill station Murree and distributed pamphlets among the tourists and citizens of the area inscribed with messages and information about the precautionary measures against dengue larvae.

"To make people aware of the cleanliness and its impact on human life, the teams appealed to the residents to keep their houses and work-places dry and clean to avoid breeding and growth of dengue larvae. "Keeping our surroundings clean will only help in the betterment of society," the spokesman said. He said that RWMC workers were also playing a vital role as a frontline force against the dengue besides the COVID-19 pandemic. He said that waste containers were also being emptied while washing and sweeping of streets and roads were also being done by mechanical sweepers. – APP

## Space enthusiasts participate in space week

ISLAMABAD: Celebrating the festivity of Women in Space, the fourth day of World Space Week 2021 kicked off on Thursday morning with different space-centric events planned by National Center of GIS and Space Applications (NCGSA) and Institute of Space Technology (IST). Space enthusiasts from schools, colleges and universities around the country participated in the competitions and events online through zoom sessions. Following the predefined theme of Women in Space, different space-related activities were conducted, including Comics Design, Tracking Amateur Satellites, The Solar System, Telescope, Stellarium, Space Flight Sequencing, 100 Words Story, and Space Policy. – APP



## Briefs

**IHC extends interim bail of Zardari till Nov 9**

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Thursday extended the interim bail of former president Asif Ali Zardari till November 9, in New York City property cases.

The bench also sought opinion from defence lawyer Farooq H. Naek and National Accountability Bureau (NAB)'s prosecutor regarding the new amendment in NAB Ordinance.

The court asked whether the bail cases would be shifted to the special courts after the promulgation of fresh ordinance. The prosecutor adopted the stance that all bail cases should be dismissed after the introduction of new law.

The court instructed the prosecutor to study the new ordinance and also brief the NAB investigation officer about it.

Justice Aamer Farooq asked whether the powers of NAB for arresting accused were withdrawn. To this, Farooq H. Naek was of the view that the new amendments had increased the powers of anti graft body. Now the names of the accused would be placed on exit control list (ECL).

He further said it would be seen later if the ordinance get approval from Parliament or not. Chief Justice Athar Minallah remarked the system would be streamlined when the Parliament would be strengthened more.

Naek said the parliamentary committees had no powers. The chief justice remarked but the parliament could make laws. — APP

**Diplomats, students visit Gandhara Festival**

ISLAMABAD: Foreign diplomats, students of various educational institutions and Pakistani Buddhist community representatives on Thursday attended the third day of Gandhara Festival held at Taxila Museum.

Third day of festival began with school students trips to the Dharmarajika archaeological site where storytelling sessions were held, Director Center for Culture and Development Izzah Khan told APP.

She said that Japanese Counselor and Head of Culture and Public Information Section also visited the site and was briefed by CCD team. A Korean delegation also visited the site.

Students of various schools also visited the Dharmarajika site and they attended the storytelling sessions. Later, they also visited Gandhara Festival.

The Buddhist community representatives, who have come all the way from Sindh, spent the day visiting the photographic exhibition and paid visit at Dharmarajika Stupa, a sacred land for them.

Moreover, visitors from all walks of life thoroughly enjoyed their visit while appreciating the efforts of all organizers including Government of Punjab, PTEGP, UNESCO, World Bank and Center for Culture and Development (CCD). — APP

**IRSA releases 131460 cusecs water**

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) Thursday released 131460 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 116768 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1511.98 feet, which was 119.98 feet higher than its dead level 1392.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 65700 and 65000 cusecs respectively. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1184.40 feet, which was 134.04 feet higher than its dead level of 1050.00 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded a 14608 and 30000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 76334, 96163 and 50205 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 12400 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 24060 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala. — APP

# ICCI for harnessing wind energy to provide cheap power

The Foundation Wind Energy Limited is currently working on two 50 MW each power plants in District Thatta of Sindh to produce cheap energy for the country

KHAYAM ABBASSI

ISLAMABAD: Maj.Gen. (Retd.) Khalid Mahmood, Chief Executive Officer, Foundation Wind Energy Limited, visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and informed the business community about the business and investment opportunities for them in the wind energy sector. Mian Akram Farid Chairman Founder Group, Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President, Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI, Sheikh Amir Waheed former President, Muhammad Naveed former Senior Vice President, Col. (Retd) Naveed Akhtar Sheikh and others were present in the meeting.

Maj.Gen. (Retd) Khalid Mahmood said that there are attractive business and investment opportunities for the private sector in wind energy production and the business community should try to take advantage of them. "Wind energy is clean, environment friendly and cheaper than oil-fired power, so participation of the private sector in this field would help increase its share in the total energy mix," he said. Talking about his company, he said that the Foundation Wind Energy Limited is currently work-



ing on two 50 MW each power plants in District Thatta of Sindh to produce cheap energy for the country. He also congratulated the newly elected Office Bearers of ICCI and expressed good wishes for them.

Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that the electricity generated from oil is very expensive for commercial and industrial consumers, which has in-

creased the production cost manifold. He urged the government to focus on generating electricity from renewable energy sources including water, wind and solar, which would significantly reduce the cost of electricity and boost business & industrial activities. He said that according to some study reports, Pakistan has the potential to produce 146,000 MW of wind energy but so far no serious efforts have been made to harness this untapped potential, which is

unfortunate. He stressed that the government should provide attractive incentives to the investors for setting up wind turbine manufacturing plants which would help in increasing the production of wind energy and provide affordable electricity to the people including the business community. He thanked Maj.Gen. (Retd) Khalid Mahmood for visiting ICCI and briefing the business community about investment potential in the wind power sector.

Mian Akram Farid, Chairman, Founder Group, speaking at the occasion said that industrialization is the future of Pakistan, but the high cost of electricity generated from oil is currently a major obstacle to industrial development due to which it's difficult for the private sector to compete effectively with regional countries. He demanded that the government should reduce its dependence on oil-based power generation and focus on exploiting the wind, hydro and solar energy sources to produce affordable energy for the private sector. He further said that the government should provide tax exemption and other incentives to the private sector for investment in the wind energy sector so that the business community could help the government in generating cheap electricity by investing in this sector. Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President, Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI, Sheikh Amir Waheed, Muhammad Naveed and others also expressed their views and urged the government to generate electricity from cheap energy sources that will facilitate to boost industrialization and put the country on the path of sustainable economic growth.

## AIOU provides free education in GB, Baluchistan, KP

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is providing free matriculation education to the regions with low rate of literacy including Baluchistan, former FATA and Gilgit Baltistan to improve the situation by providing quality educational services. Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum, Vice-Chancellor AIOU has said that AIOU is fighting a holy war against illiteracy in the country. He has said that AIOU is providing all possible assistance in provision of quality education to the poor social stratum of population, especially people belonging from Balochistan, erstwhile FATA

region and Gilgit Baltistan. He has instructed all regional directors and coordinators to create massive awareness about this policy so that maximum number of people of these areas can avail this golden opportunity. Matriculation education for these areas will be totally free of cost including admission fee and all other related expenses. This offer can be availed till October 14 during the admission phase of autumn 2021 semester. AIOU is the first national higher education institution which has initiated this project of bringing educational reforms in underdeveloped areas of the country. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Editor Daily Islamabad POST/Centreline magazine and DNA News Agency Ansar Mahmood Bhatti met with the Ambassador of Belarus Andrei Metelitsa. They discussed matters of mutual interest and how to further develop media cooperation between the two countries. — DNA

## Pakistan highly values ties with UK: President Alvi



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi Thursday said that Pakistan attached high priority to its relations with the United Kingdom and wanted to further expand bilateral relations in all areas of mutual benefit. The president, in a meeting with Lord Wajid Khan, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, briefed

him about Pakistan's smart lockdown policy that led to successfully containing the COVID-19 pandemic. He also highlighted Pakistan's successes against the war on terror during the last 20 years. Exchanging views on the situation in Afghanistan, the president also highlighted

that Pakistan had extended humanitarian support to Afghanistan and facilitated the evacuation of over 12,000 Afghan and foreign nationals. He informed that Pakistan was hosting about three million Afghan refugees for the last four decades, besides contributing to the recon-

struction and development of Afghanistan. President Alvi felicitated Lord Wajid on his elevation to the prestigious House of Lords. He added that his elevation to the House of Lords reflected the high regard the people and leadership of UK had placed in his vision. The president appreciated Lord Wajid's efforts for raising concerns about human rights violations of the people of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). He urged the international community to take notice of the reign of terror being unleashed by the Indian occupation forces against the innocent people of IIOJK and hold India accountable for its abhorrent conduct. Lord Wajid Khan congratulated Pakistan on handling the COVID-19 pandemic in successful and lauded Pakistan's smart lockdown strategy in this regard. — APP

## Fawad welcomes e-sports tournament

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain on Thursday welcomed the holding of first e-sports tournament in the country and stressed for further promotion of such events. Talking to the leaders of 12 finalist teams of Free Fire Pakistan League competitions, the minister said the activity would promote e-sports, besides making the country famous globally due to such sports events. It was the first e-sports tournament in the country, the fruits of which would start reaping with the passage of time. He said Pakistani youth had a great opportunity in the form of e-sports, during the corona pandemic. Pakistan children could win big prizes by participating in the e-sports tournaments. He said Garena was the world's famous company which was organising Free Fire tournament in Pakistan

in collaboration with Bigo. The prizes of upto Rs 10 million were being offered to the winners of the Free Fire games. While the winners of national level competition would qualify to participate in the global competitions. He said the children having interest in the games has the opportunity to win whopping prizes in such an early age. The meeting was also attended by team leaders of 12 finalist teams of the tournament, regional head of South Asia John Zhong and other representatives and other representatives. The minister signed the jerseys of the participants of the Grand Finale and expressed best wishes for them. The grand final of Free Fire league would be held on October 10 in PC hotel, Karachi. The grand final would be live streamed on PTV, Youtube and fan page. — APP

## ANF seizes 40kg opium, 40kg hashish

ISLAMABAD: Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) in its ongoing drive against smugglers and peddlers recovered 40 Kg opium and 40 Kg Charas and arrested two persons at the spot.

According to the spokesperson, the ANF conducted a successful intelligence base operation and intercepted a Suzuki Swift Car, bearing Reg # RH 568 ICT, white color near the M1 Toll plaza, Motorway Islamabad. The force recovered the drugs tactfully concealed in the secret cavities of the said vehicle.

The ANF arrested the two persons at the spot namely Fazal Subhan S/o Abdul Rehman Resident of Dhandah Tehsil and Distt Haripur and Sarfraz S/o Riaz Hussain Resident of Mohallah Ijaz Colony Joharabad Tehsil, Distt Khushab.

The criminal case against the culprits has been registered at the respective ANF police station under CNS Act 1997, while further investigation is underway. — APP

## NHMP issues 25,000 driving licences

ISLAMABAD: National Highway and Motorway Police (NHMP), Driving Licencing Authority (DLA) has issued 25,000 driving licenses to those who have passed the driving test. NHMP has established a licensing authority with the aim to raise the standards of licencing in the country. The NHMP has started issuing modern credible drivers licences of international standards.

NHMP driving licences were issued after the applicants qualify the theoretical and practical driving tests. The theoretical test assesses the knowledge of traffic laws/ rules of the candidate while the practical test examines his or her practical expertise. The authority has been compiled a practical test guidebook to help the applicants prepare better for the tests.

The NHMP Driving Licencing Authority is the only driving licensing authority in the country which was remained open for the public on weekends from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm, said a statement.

Motorway Police helpline (130) has been made toll-free to ensure immediate assistance. — APP

## Consultation sessions on CVE policy held

ISLAMABAD: The first consultation sessions with departmental stakeholders at federal level for formulation of Counter Violent Extremism (CVE) Policy 2021 was held at National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) headquarters. The sessions were held under the chairmanship of Asif Saifullah Paracha (PSP), Member Policy, National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA). Member NACTA apprised the participants about the formulation of Counter Violent Extremism Policy 2021 that has been assigned to NACTA in revised National Action Plan 2021.

He anticipated that all participants will share candid feedback and prompt response in making an all-inclusive national policy.

Director General, Monitoring, Evaluation and Capacity Building, NACTA, Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan briefed the participants on the background and formulation process of the policy.

He said that NACTA has devised various policy interventions in the past and CVE policy 2021 will be a sequel to National Action Plan and National Counter Extremism Policy Guidelines made by NACTA in 2018, he added.

The participants underlined the importance of Countering Violent Extremism in present security environment and urged concrete steps and consolidated response in countering menace of extremism on social media platforms.

The participants termed CVE policy formulation a positive step in Pakistan's path towards peace and ensured complete cooperation in the formulation of a holistic policy. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman Senate, Mirza Muhammad Afridi exchanging views with a delegation of businessmen from USA at Parliament House. — DNA

## Early detection of breast cancer imperative

ISLAMABAD: First Lady Samina Alvi Thursday said early detection of breast cancer could save lives of thousands of women annually, therefore it was a must for everyone to know about its symptoms. In her video message, she said being a deadly disease, the breast cancer claims thousands of lives every year just because of delayed diagnosis and lack of awareness. Therefore, she urged everyone to know more and more about the symptoms of the disease. Advising self-examination through palpation, she said the women should immediately consult the doctor in case they felt any lump. The first lady also appealed the media to create maximum awareness on breast cancer during October being observed as a month for awareness on the disease "keep in mind, early diagnosis was key to a healthy life," she added. — APP



## Tackling climate change

**A**FTER the annual UN Climate Change Conference (COP) was cancelled last year due to the pandemic, pressure mounted to take bigger and better initiatives to improve the environmental health of the world. Water shortage, air pollution and global warming remain key threats that continue to threaten our long-term survival. As November approaches, world leaders must generate thorough policies to combat this ever-looming threat instead of preaching the need for immediate action alone. A report titled ‘The State of Climate Services 2021’ by the UN stated that a water crisis will be the next immediate threat that the global community will face. Over 5 billion people will be robbed of access to fresh water by 2025 and the most impacted will be developing countries like Pakistan that are already struggling to meet local demand. The Advisory Committee of the Indus River System Authority (IRSA) already issued warnings that Punjab and Sindh will face a water shortage of 28 percent this season and this is just one estimate amongst countless reports all over the world. It is imperative that the COP26 addresses this concern and offers viable solutions that can be employed immediately. Throughout the years, world leaders have also underestimated the devastation that comes along with climate change. It’s all encompassing nature has been particularly paralysing. Currently, we can only release 500 gigatons of carbon dioxide which is equivalent to 10 years of current emission rates. This is as bad as it can get because while before we could give vague estimates of when environmental degradation would happen, now we have a strict timeline that is elapsing before our eyes. Taking precaution and implementing preventative policies is the responsibility of all countries, perhaps the developed world more given that they have all the resources to facilitate change and lead others to the same path as well.

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**Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti**  
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**Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960**  
**Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad**



## Dengue cases rising

**A**S per the reports that are emerging this week, dengue cases continue to rise in different parts of the country as health facilities are facing a rush of suspected and confirmed dengue patients. There has been an alarming rise in the number of affected and this is deeply concerning given that we are already dealing with a full-blown pandemic at this point in time. It is imperative that the government takes immediate action to bring the situation under control in Punjab, the capital and beyond. In a briefing given on Tuesday, the Punjab Primary and Secondary Health Department revealed that 2,711 confirmed dengue patients and four deaths have been reported this year. During the same time period last year (January–September) only 100 positive cases of dengue were reported in Punjab. This comparison illustrates how severe the situation is currently. Additionally, the department revealed that over 17,000 dengue hotspots have been identified in Lahore and five areas, where dengue larvae were found. We must be vigilant as the threat extends to cities like Karachi, Peshawar, Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Hyderabad, Faisalabad, and Multan. While authorities have been directed to take stern action over the violation of dengue SOPs, the time is now to carry out fumigation campaigns in areas that remain under threat. This is a virus that we have defeated in the past and had learned to keep in check for the past several years. The fact that dengue has been allowed to resurface and have such an alarming impact is unfortunate. In addition to ensuring the elimination of breeding hotspots and compliance of SOPs, awareness campaigns should stress on how individuals can protect themselves from contracting the disease, as well as treatment guidelines. It would be irresponsible to leave the public to its own devices when it comes to fighting this disease.

# Even Afghanistan scores better than Pakistan

James M. Dorsey

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan affirmed Messrs Hoodbhoy and Nayyar’s criticism when he earlier this year announced education reforms that would Islamicize syllabi across the board from primary schools to universities. Critics charged that religion would account for up to 30 per cent of the syllabus. Referring to the religious content in the first four years of primary school, Mr. Nayyar noted that “when compared against Islamiyat taught in madrassahs at this level, it turns out that public and private schools will be teaching more religion than even the madrassahs”

**S**OCIETAL struggles and reform often take unexpected turns in vast swaths of land stretching from the Middle East into Central Asia. Take education for example. The Taliban have yet to fulfil their promise to allow girls to return to school but primary and secondary Afghan textbooks appear to be a relative bright spot amid all the doom and gloom about the group’s rule. It’s a bright spot that highlights the deep societal impact of decades of ultra-conservative Saudi influence in Pakistan at a time that an Israel-based NGO is reporting significant progress in the way the kingdom’s textbooks describe non-Muslims and discuss violence in the name of Islam. Pervez Hoodbhoy, a nuclear scientist and Pakistani human rights activist, concluded from a recent survey of Urdu-language Afghan textbooks that they were light years ahead of what Pakistani schools offer. Mr. Hoodbhoy argued that the Taliban were unlikely to change the textbooks in use anytime soon. Afghanistan’s brain drain includes many teachers, writers and editors and the Taliban don’t have the wherewithal to produce a new generation of textbooks. The group, moreover, is unlikely to have fundamental problems with the books that sugar-coat its brutal rule before the 2001 US invasion. The science books for classes 1-12 that cover mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, and computer science surveyed by Mr. Hoodbhoy were in his words “clear and pleasing with systematically organised graphs and coloured illustrations.” He noted that “Pakistani textbooks are very different. For years my colleagues and I have begged our education authorities to drastically revise locally published textbooks. All are faulty in content, poor in pedagogy and badly presented.” Already back in 2015, Mr. Hoodbhoy called for revised textbooks in Pakistan. “Please keep our students away from the rotten science textbooks published by the Sindh Textbook Board (STB), an entity operating under the Sindh Ministry of Education. Else yet another generation will end up woefully ignorant of the subjects they study – physics, mathematics, chemistry, and biology. Tragically they will see these magnificent human achievements as pointless, boring, and dry as dust,” he wrote in an op-ed titled ‘Burn these books, please!’ Abdul Hameed Nayyar, a physicist and education consultant, analysing the Pakistan government’s troubled effort to introduce a single national curriculum came to a similar conclusion. “Textbooks provided by the state are of abysmal quality, both in content as well as in presentation. Pakistani textbook boards have repeatedly proved unable to provide good-quality learning material,” Mr. Nayyar said. Messrs. Hoodbhoy and Nayyar’s assertions are backed up by a decade

of independent Annual Status of Education Report surveys that lament quality of learning in public, private, urban and rural secular and religious schools. In contrast to Pakistani books, Afghan textbooks teach different schools of Muslim religious law separately. They also keep religion out of secular subjects. “The religious textbooks are comprehensive... Special books for use in madrassahs cover usual topics in math, science, English, and world history. But they are simpler and less detailed than those for ordinary schools,” Mr. Hoodbhoy said. In Pakistani textbooks, particularly those developed as part of the government’s flagging effort to create a single national curriculum, Mr. Hoodbhoy argued that “religious topics permeate books teaching Urdu, English and general knowledge. Quite senselessly, madrassahs and ordinary schools are yoked together. While all students should know how the modern world works, 99 per cent of madrassah students will never use math or science professionally. So why use the same books and force students to take the same exams? This means the....government is shooting for a lowest common denominator, lower than even the existing one.” In a similar vein, Mr. Nayyar charged that the policymakers behind the single curriculum “believe – contrary to all available evidence – that a greater dose of religious education will produce more honest and useful citizens of Pakistan.” Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan affirmed Messrs Hoodbhoy and Nayyar’s criticism when he earlier this year announced education reforms that would Islamicize syllabi across the board from primary schools to universities. Critics charged that religion would account for up to 30 per cent of the syllabus. Referring to the religious content in the first four years of primary school, Mr. Nayyar noted that “when compared against Islamiyat taught in madrassahs at this level, it turns out that public and private schools will be teaching more religion than even the madrassahs.” Defending the Islamization, Muhammad Bashir Khan, a member of parliament for Mr. Khan’s ruling party, insisted that “Pakistan is an ideological Islamic state and we need religious education. I feel that even now our syllabus is not completely Islamized, and we need to do more Islamization of the syllabus, teaching more religious content for the moral and ideological training of our citizens.” Prime Minister Khan this week reinforced his vision by promising religious scholars to involve them alongside educational institutions in the creation of a character-building of society. Mr. Khan coupled that with a pledge to ensure that no laws would be adopted as long as he was in office, including ones intend to counter domestic violence and forced conversions to Islam, that

are “in direct conflict with the teachings of Islam.” Mr. Khan’s Pakistan is in good company. Turkey, increasingly a Pakistani ally, was once a model of secularism with an education system that taught evolution, cultural openness, and tolerance towards minorities that included Kurdish as a minority language. Turkish curricula, however, have increasingly replaced those concepts with notions of jihad, martyrdom in battle and a neo-Ottoman and pan-Turkist ethnonreligious worldview, according to an analysis of 28 textbooks. In South and Central Asia, the irony is that it is Pakistani rather than Afghan textbooks that appear more likely to promote the notion of an Islamic state if only because of the poor quality of textbooks for secular subjects and the problems with religious instruction in the world’s second-most populous Muslim-majority state. This is not to say that a deeper dive into Afghan texts would not produce multiple problematic concepts that promote Muslim supremacism. The conclusion from this is that the international community would likely do well to pay as much attention to Pakistan and its education system as it does to Afghanistan given that the two countries are intertwined at multiple levels. Another irony is that Saudi Arabia’s most recent textbooks could point Pakistan in the right direction. Current Pakistani textbooks are products of a world in which Saudi ultra-conservatism empowered by Saudi funding made deep inroads into an already deeply conservative Pakistani society. That is, however, changing. Saudi schoolbooks are no longer what they were several years ago. In a just-published study, IMPACT-se, a Ramat Gan-based research group that has been analysing Saudi textbooks since 2003, reported that as a result of reforms “twenty-eight lessons featuring demonization of the other and religious intolerance were (recently) removed or heavily modified” in Saudi textbooks. “An entire textbook unit on jihad was scrapped. While problematic material remains in Saudi textbooks, these represent profound changes in these categories.” That is the kind of overhaul that is long overdue in Pakistan and no doubt would also be beneficial in Afghanistan. If textbooks are indicators, Afghanistan may prove to be only one of South and Central Asia’s problem states. Long perceived as problematic, Pakistan could be the other. A podcast version of this story is available on Soundcloud, iTunes, Spotify, Stitcher, TuneIn, Speaker, Pocket Casts, Tumblr, Podbean, Audible, Patreon and Castbox. – **Dr. James M. Dorsey is an award-winning journalist and scholar and a Senior Fellow at the National University of Singapore’s Middle East Institute. The views expressed in the article are writer’s own.**

# Two-state solution is the only path to peace

Ray Hanania

Levin is crystal clear about why he introduced the legislation last month. “The need to achieve a two-state solution is more urgent than ever,” he explained in a supplement to the bill. “Earlier this year, we witnessed a conflict in Israel and Gaza that cost hundreds of lives and caused devastating damage to homes and livelihoods, worsening a humanitarian crisis in Gaza. We saw riots erupt in Israeli towns once applauded as models of peaceful coexistence between Jews and Palestinians

**A**COALITION of mostly Jewish members of the US Congress has introduced legislation, known as HR 5344, which calls for the implementation of a two-state solution and proposes the creation of a Palestinian state alongside Israel. The bill, whose primary sponsor is Michigan Rep. Andy Levin, has a steep uphill climb to reality, not just because many pro-Israel lawmakers and radical members of the Republican Party oppose it, but also because many pro-Palestinian activists do not support the concept of two states. The majority of the foes of the two-state solution embrace a one-state solution as an alternative. But how this is defined varies depending on which side of the political spectrum is doing the defining. Republicans and pro-Israel extremists want a one-state solution that is devoid of any non-Jews. They support Israel the way it is today: A non-democratic nation that claims to be a democracy, while imposing a variation of South Africa’s former apartheid system. Many pro-Palestinian activists and advocates on the far left also embrace a one-state solution. But they define it differently, as a plan to create one nation in which Christians, Muslims and Jews are equal in every respect. Unfortunately, I don’t know of one nation that exists today where Christians, Muslims and Jews are treated equally. Such equality doesn’t even exist in the society that is the poster child of democracy, the US. Although American policies clearly support equality for all, the failure to implement them results in inequality, particularly against Muslims and also Arabs. The US also supports Israel’s mild form of apartheid, which clearly discriminates against non-Jews, and turns a blind eye to its ally’s violations of the international rule of law when it comes to civil rights.

So far, there are 29 co-sponsors of Levin’s bill, which is known as the “Two-State Solution Act.” This is a small coalition considering there are 435 congressmen and women in total. Among the hundreds of representatives who have not signed on as co-sponsors are many of the leading pro-Palestinian voices in Congress, including Rashida Tlaib, Ilhan Omar, Betty McCollum and Marie Newman. Some of these pro-Palestinian figures support a two-state solution, while others advocate aggressively for Palestinian rights and simply avoid using the term. Levin is crystal clear about why he introduced the legislation last month. “The need to achieve a two-state solution is more urgent than ever,” he explained in a supplement to the bill. “Earlier this year, we witnessed a conflict in Israel and Gaza that cost hundreds of lives and caused devastating damage to homes and livelihoods, worsening a humanitarian crisis in Gaza. We saw riots erupt in Israeli towns once applauded as models of peaceful coexistence between Jews and Palestinians. And all of this occurred against the backdrop of a deepening occupation in the Palestinian territories, which tears at both the Israeli and American Jewish communities. “As we enter this new year in the Jewish calendar, we must also enter a new chapter – one in which Israel’s future as a democratic state and homeland for the Jewish people is secure and Palestinians’ aspirations for a state of their own can be fulfilled. We can no longer claim credibly to support a two-state solution without taking steps to bring one about. This bill re-establishes America’s role in helping the parties move down the path of peace and coexistence.” The two-state solution is based on the premise that Israel and the Palestinians will achieve

peace based on compromise. The one-state solution, meanwhile, is based on the belief that Israel can be reformed into a country that is truly democratic and treats everyone, Christians, Muslims and Jews alike, as equals. This single state would consist of all the historical land of Palestine, which was partitioned back in 1948. In truth, you cannot have a “Jewish state,” or any religious state for that matter, and also claim to be a democracy. To be a true democracy, which Israel is not, you need to have equal rights at every level for every citizen, and separate religion from politics. Separating religion from politics is the cornerstone of American democracy. The two don’t mix. But, as compelling as a one-state solution based on democracy may sound, the reality is that achieving it, even one day in the future, is impossible. Israel’s government is based on a variation of the apartheid system that once defined South Africa. The differences between Israel and South Africa are significant. Apartheid-era South Africa was majority black, but with a government run by white people who imposed restrictions on blacks at every level of society. In Israel, the Jews are the majority and the non-Jews the minority. It has more than 65 laws that discriminate against non-Jews. Even if a two-state solution is one day miraculously achieved, it won’t necessarily change Israel’s apartheid policies. So what is the real benefit of a two-state solution? It would create an atmosphere and commitment to achieve compromise. It can ease the pressure and lead to genuine change – one day. Clearly, achieving two states is easier than achieving one. In a conflict that has dragged on for more than 75 years, that is something to cling to. – **Courtesy: Arab News**



## Briefs

## Over 22 killed in Balochistan earthquake

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Harnai at a depth of 15km. Much of the damage appears to have affected the Harnai district, officials said. Harnai, which is located east of the provincial capital Quetta, has a large number of coal mines. A medical emergency has been declared at the Civil Hospital Quetta where doctors and other paramedical staff have been recalled on an emergency basis, the MS of the hospital said. Social media showed houses shaking and light fittings swaying as the quake struck, and later stunned residents gathering in the street in the dark. The injured were rushed to hospital, while some were treated on stretchers in the street under phone torch light. Pakistan straddles the boundary where the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates meet, making the country susceptible to earthquakes. In October 2015, a 7.5-magnitude quake in Pakistan and Afghanistan killed almost 400 people across rugged terrain that impeded relief efforts. The country was also hit by a 7.6-magnitude quake on October 8, 2005, that killed more than 73,000 people and left about 3.5 million homeless, mainly in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir.

## Azerbaijan extends...

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Pakistan, and wish a speedy recovery to the injured and the earliest elimination of the earthquake's consequences," the letter reads. Earlier on October 7, the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry delivered condolences to Pakistan. "We're deeply saddened by the news on an earthquake that struck Pakistan's Balochistan province. We present our condolences to the families of the victims of the disaster and wish a speedy recovery to all injured. We stand next to brotherly Pakistan to eliminate the consequences of the earthquake," the ministry wrote on its official Twitter page.

## President, PM condole..

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damage for timely relief & compensation," the prime minister said on Twitter. "I am sure that Provincial & National Disaster Management Authorities will provide quick relief," the president said on Twitter. The prime minister also called for providing best medical treatment to those injured and assured the federal government's all out cooperation in this hour of need. Both the president and the prime minister conveyed their condolences over the deaths and prayed for peace of the departed souls and strength to the bereaved families to bear the loss.

## Javed Mallik...

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the conference which coincides with the advent of Dubai Expo which is taking place in Dubai from 1st October. While highlighting the role of regional trade, Ambassador Javed Malik said that being a global network of business and corporate leaders, the Diplomat Business Club creates an ideal forum that enables businesses to reach out to international markets. He urged the Pakistani business leaders to take an active part in the World Expo taking place in Dubai as it would be an ideal opportunity for them to engage more effectively with the regional and international business trade.

## Mitsuhira Wada...

FROM PAGE 01  
Ambassador Mitsuhira contributed greatly towards further strengthening and promotion of relations between the two friendly countries. Pakistan and Japan enjoy cordial relations in all fields. Japan offers a number of scholarships to Pakistani people working in various govt as well as private sectors. The technological co-operation between the two countries is also remarkable.

## NZ rescheduling Pak tour, Ramiz tells Senate body

PCB chairman also said he would unveil the blueprint for cricket by next week. Asked about the tour cancellation, PCB chief informed the committee that Kiwi officials didn't inform him about the nature of threats, adding that "it's not our fault"

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ramiz Raja has hinted at "good news" in the coming week, saying the New Zealand cricket board was working on a new schedule to tour Pakistan after it abandoned the series last month citing "security threats". The New Zealand cricket team had arrived in Pakistan on September 11 for the first time in 18 years to play three ODIs and five Twenty20 Internationals. The Kiwis had, however, devastated Pakistan's cricket fraternity on Sep 17 by opting out of their tour of Pakistan minutes before the first ODI was to be played.

They had cited a 'security threat' as the reason without divulging any further information. The tour cancellation was followed by England also deferring their tour. Briefing the Senate Standing Committee on Inter-Provincial Coordination on Thursday, Raja said the New Zealand cricket board was "now rescheduling the tour" after being pressured by Pakistan. However, committee chairman Raza Rabbani suggested the PCB chief to turn down New Zealand's tour of Pakistan. "What if we do not allow the New Zealand tour?" asked Rabbani. He advised the PCB not to accept the tour as a sign of protest. Raja, however, replied with a slight

discord, saying, "We have to live with them. But we can tell them that Pakistan can find a time window for the tour at some point in 2022." He added that if New Zealand were ready to play according to Pakistan's conditions, "then we should have no problem". He also informed the com-

mittee that Pakistan's cricket affairs were managed through 50 per cent funding from the International Cricket Council (ICC), while 90pc of the ICC funding was provided by India. The PCB chairman also said he would unveil the blueprint for

cricket by next week. Asked about the tour cancellation, the PCB chief informed the committee that the Kiwi officials didn't inform him about the nature of the threats, adding that "it's not our fault". He lamented that no one from the cricket fraternity helped Pakistan at its time of need, while recalling that the national team had toured different countries even during the Covid-19 pandemic. Raja said the PCB had also written a "strong letter" to the ICC on the matter, while quoting experts as saying that a lot of politics was underway at the ICC. "No cricketer will drive rickshaw anymore" During the briefing, the PCB chairman stressed the need

for fixing the system, adding that the salaries of domestic cricketers had been raised and they will now earn Rs40 million annually. "No cricketer will have to drive a rickshaw anymore," he said. He said he had held "positive meetings" with various investors, adding that they were willing to offer money for the betterment of national cricket. Raja said work at the schools level would soon begin with an aim to overhaul the cricket structure. The PCB chairman also said those cricketers who had tarnished the country's image by being involved in match fixing should not be included in the team, adding that unfortunately, "our society sides with such cricketers".



## Spain down Italy to reach Nations League final



## AGENCIES

MILAN: Spain ended European champions Italy's world record 37-match unbeaten run as Ferran Torres scored twice in a 2-1 win at the San Siro stadium in an entertaining Nations League semi-final on Wednesday. Italy, trailing by two goals at the break, had to play the entire second half with 10 men after captain Leonardo Bonucci was sent off but showed real determination as they sought to avoid their first loss since a September, 2018 defeat by Portugal. "This what matches are like, sometimes certain episodes can influence them," Italy

coach Roberto Mancini said. "This is a disappointment. We should have stayed with 11 men, we made a mistake that you can't make at this level," he added. Spain will face the winners of Thursday's semi-final between France and Belgium in Sunday's decider. Torres put Spain ahead in the 17th minute, steering a left-wing cross from Mikel Oyarzabal past Italy keeper Gianluigi Donnarumma into the far corner. Donnarumma, booed by AC Milan fans angered at his recent move from the club to Paris St Germain, nearly gifted Spain a second when he fumbled a harmless Marcos Alonso effort against the post but Bonucci scrambled

the ball clear. Any lingering questions about the importance of the match had been blown away by the blistering start and it was by no means one-way traffic, as Italy started to open up the Spanish defence. Federico Bernardeschi went close to an equaliser with a low drive from the right which Spain keeper Unai Simon pushed against the post and Lorenzo Insigne missed a great chance, firing wide when in space on the edge of the box. The Azzurri, who beat Spain on penalties in the Euro 2020 semi-final in July, went a man down in the 42nd minute when Bonucci was sent off for a second yellow card after elbowing Sergio Busquets.

Torres sent Luis Enrique's side in with a two-goal lead at the break when he was left unmarked to head in another fine cross from Oyarzabal. Italy brought on Giorgio Chiellini at the break, the veteran defender and leader having been a surprise omission, and despite Spain playing with real swagger, the Azzurri stayed in the game. Spain had given a debut to Barcelona's 17 year-old midfielder Gavi, who became their youngest ever player after just three starts for his club - but there was no hint of his inexperience in a confident and composed performance. Enrico Chiesa was the source of Italy's brightest moments and he hit the post from a tight angle in the 61st minute Oyarzabal headed wide after excellent work from another teenager, winger Yeremi Pino, and Marcos Alonso should have sealed the win in the 78th minute but his low shot was well saved by Donnarumma. Italy ensured a tense end to a quality match when they pulled a goal back seven minutes from the end, as Chiesa took advantage of hesitant Spanish defending, broke from the halfway line and slipped the ball to substitute Lorenzo Pellegrini to convert. But Italy's run was over and with it ended the dream of a Nations League title on home soil to follow their Euro triumph.

## Southern Punjab beat Central Punjab by six wickets

## AGENCIES

LAHORE: After failing to record a win in the first six matches, ATF Southern Punjab won their second match on trot as they handed Home City Central Punjab a six-wicket defeat at the Gaddafi Stadium on Thursday. That Southern Punjab overhauled the target of 155 with an over spare was due to excellent half-centuries by Tayyab Tahir and Khushdil Shah. It was the fifth over which set the momentum for the run chase when Hasan Ali, the Central Punjab captain, was smashed for four fours in an over, which brought 19 runs. Mohammad Imran, who made 24 off 17 and was dismissed in the ninth over, hit three of those. Tayyab and Khushdil denied Central Punjab bowlers any further breakthroughs and they went on to stitch 92-run stand before the former was dismissed in the penultimate over. Tayyab's 68, included eight fours and two sixes, while Khushdil was unbeaten on 51 off 36 (eight fours). Southern Punjab were 67 for three after 10 overs. The match was defined in the next five overs as they brought 54 runs. It was Hussain Talat's second half-century in as many matches that dragged Central Punjab to 154 after they were asked to bat first. Hussain staged a brilliant recovery with a carefully crafted 68 off 47 - which went down as his third score of 50-plus in the tournament. Central Punjab faced early blows when Southern Punjab captain Aamer Yamin and pacer Naseem Shah accounted for openers Kamran Akmal and Muhammad Akhlaq in the first two overs. Saif Badar followed them in the fourth over to leave Central Punjab tottering at 30 for three. Hussain, however, put the pressure back on the Southern Punjab bowlers as he smoked Zia-ul-Haq, who later turned out to be the most successful bowler in the innings, for three fours in the last powerplay over. Hussain, who smashed a total of six fours and three sixes, would hit Hassan Khan, the left-arm orthodox, for two consecutive maximums in the ninth over, but the tide turned once again in the 14th over when Zia sent Shoaib Malik (26 off 24) and Qasim Akram packing in consecutive balls. Shoaib's dismissal brought an end to a 98-run stand. Hussain was dismissed by pacer Mohammad Imran in the next over and no other batter made any notable contribution from there on. Zia's next two victims were Faheem Ashraf (three off four) and Wahab Riaz (four off six) as the left-arm pacer finished with the figures of four for 40. Last five overs brought only 28 runs at the loss of three wickets for Central Punjab.

## Asad slams UK for not accepting...

## FROM PAGE 01

generated a muddle as to what is the actual status of Pakistani visitors. The WHO had validated the Sinovac-CoronaVac vaccine for use in June 2021 while assuring countries, funders, and communities that the vaccine meets international standards for efficacy, safety, and manufacturing. Unlike UK, the US authorities are ready to welcome fully vaccinated foreigners from early November 21, as long as they have had a full course of one of the medications listed for emergency use by the World Health Organization, including those from Chinese developers Sinopharm Group and Sinovac Biotech Ltd. that aren't used in the US. Saudi Arabia has announced to accept six vaccines including Pfizer/BioNTech, Oxford, AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, Sinopharm and Sinovac. Qatar has approved Oxford/ AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson and Sinopharm for the travelers. Four vaccines got the nod in the Emirates including Sinopharm, Oxford/AstraZeneca, i.e. Covishield, Pfizer/BioNTech, Sputnik V and Moderna. 71 countries of the world validly accepts Chinese vaccination particularly Sinopharm and Sinovac including many EU countries like Austria, Finland, Greece, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland etc. - APP

## Pak has not awarded...

## FROM PAGE 01

However, Pakistan currently has 33 crimes that can lead to a death penalty. She added, "This year's global theme is 'women and the death penalty' which focuses on inequalities within the justice system and how this disproportionately affects women as they engage with courts and law enforcement authorities. This makes access to justice much more difficult for women. While working towards the complete abolition of the death penalty worldwide for all crimes and genders, it is crucial to sound the alarm on the discrimination women face and the consequences it can have on a death sentence." The components of the "This Is (Not) A Game" campaign include a digital game, an ongoing interactive street theatre performed in Lahore, Multan, Faisalabad and Karachi with Azad Theatre, an Augmented Reality (AR) Instagram filter, an interactive radio show with Afzal Sahir, and an ongoing two-week internship programme featuring 60 students from 22 universities across Pakistan.

## Pakistan stands by...

## FROM PAGE 01

universities, colleges and institutions of the ASEAN Regional Forum was co-chaired by the National Defense Universities of Pakistan and Malaysia. The meeting was held at National Defense University and the member countries attended the meeting via video link. Defense Minister Perviz Khattak also participated in the forum. He was received by NDU President Lt Gen Muhammad Saad. The defense minister also highlighted the objectives of the forum. On the occasion, Khattak said that cooperation in the field of security studies, peace building and research is important for building trust in the region. He said Pakistan stands with regional and international institutions and states for peace in the region and the world.

## Russia will invite...

## FROM PAGE 01

Pakistan, Kabulov said: "Yes". The talks will follow a G20 summit on Afghanistan on October 12 that will seek to help the country avoid a humanitarian catastrophe in the wake of the Taliban takeover. Kabulov was also asked whether Russia would deliver aid to Afghanistan, where the humanitarian crisis is growing worse, a top UN official warned on Wednesday. Russia would do so, but the details were still being decided, Kabulov said. "This is being worked out," he told journalists, saying "cargo" was being collected. Moscow was moved to engage with the Taliban but stopped short of recognition of the group, which is banned as a terrorist organisation in Russia.

## Saudi-led takeover of Newcastle United completed

RIYADH: A consortium led by Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund, the Public Investment Fund (PIF), has clinched a deal to buy Newcastle United, the English football club. After 18 months of on-off negotiations, the PIF, along with British financial entrepreneur Amanda Staveley and billionaire investors the Reuben brothers, finally sealed a £300 million (\$410 million) deal with Mike Ashley, the club's owner. Lawyers and other advisers worked through the night and all day Thursday to finalize the transaction after a change of heart by the English football authority, the Premier League, allowed the acquisition to proceed. "We are extremely proud to become the new owners of Newcastle United, one of the most famous clubs in English football," Yasir Al-Rumayyan, governor of PIF, said. "We thank the Newcastle fans for their tremendously loyal support over the years and we are excited to work together with them." With the purchase, Newcastle will join the ranks of Europe's super-clubs, including Manchester City and Paris Saint-Germain, which have the backing of wealthy and committed owners. The prospect of owners led by Saudi Arabia was immensely popular with Newcastle's fan base, who have seen their club starved of funds to take it to the next level, leaving the side languishing near the bottom of the English Premier League. The PIF-backed proposal also pledged to pump £250 million into football and other facilities in the northeast of England, home to the club's St. James' Park stadium. - DNA



BAKU: Pakistan ambassador to Azerbaijan, Bilal Hayat received a group of students learning Urdu language at the Baku State University. Ambassador briefed them about Pakistan's culture, geography and history. A short film on Lahore was also shown to the students. - DNA

## ECB chairman resigns amid increasing pressure

"The board took the decision based on its own judgments and it didn't go out to consultation. "Had we decided to go forward with the tour we'd have had to put the proposals to players, but it didn't reach that

## NEWS DESK

LONDON: The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chairman Ian Watmore has left his role with immediate effect after serving 10 months of a 5-year term. Reports confirm that Ian's departure was confirmed as 'mutual consent' between him and the ECB board of directors. It is worth mentioning that Watmore was under immense pressure following his decision to cancel the tour of Pakistan. Watmore was at the center of a 'shambles of a meeting' with County Championship chiefs at the end of September, The Times reported. Speaking to Daily Mail last month, Ian Watmore made a public apology to Pakistan for

## 'ECB should now decide to reschedule tour' FM Qureshi

KARACHI: Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Shah Mahmood Qureshi said England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) should now think to reschedule their Pakistan tour. While talking to local media after ECB's chairman Ian Watmore stepped down, Qureshi said this resignation means Pakistan managed to register their stance in the world. "ECB head's resignation after all these happenings means we managed to register a strong stance in front of the world after they cancelled Pakistan tour," FM Qureshi said. "They should now think of rescheduling Pakistan tour as soon as possible. We gave foolproof security to both New Zealand and England. They should have talked to us before taking such a harsh decision," he added. The FM further recalled his meeting with his English counterpart Elizabeth Truss during which he raised the cricket series cancellation matter. "I talked about this matter with my meeting with Truss. She said it wasn't the government's decision. She also assured to raise this matter in front of the ECB," he concluded. - DNA

cancelling the tour. "I'm very sorry to anyone who feels hurt or let down by our decision, particularly in Pakistan," he said. "The decision the board made was an extremely difficult one and the board made it with the primary consideration being the welfare and mental health of our players and staff. "The board took the decision based on its own judgments and it didn't go out to consultation. "Had we decided to go forward with the tour we'd have had to put the proposals to the players, but it didn't reach that. "We've recommitted to a proper tour, a scheduled tour, of Pakistan next year and will get on with planning that. We will have longer to plan that trip. The Times has confirmed that an interim chairman will be appointed by the ECB following a meeting with the board members.



## Briefs

## Revival of libraries in Karabakh

DNA

BAKU: After the liberation of its territories, Azerbaijan set out to revive libraries in Karabakh.

In January, the Culture Ministry launched a campaign "Let's go to Karabakh with a book" in partnership with the Azerbaijan National Library.

The Turkish Professional Union of the Authors of Scientific and Literary Works (ILESAM) donated 10,000 books to the fund of libraries to be restored in Karabakh. Around 500 books were donated by People's Writer Elchin Afandiyev.

The Institute of Education also joined the book campaign presenting some 5,263 copies of 300 books. At present, 55,482 books have been collected within the campaign aimed at restoring the book funds of libraries in the liberated territories.

Thanks to the joint efforts, libraries in Azerbaijan's liberated territories will open doors to book lovers in the near future.

## UK records another 39,851 corona cases

NEWS DESK

LONDON: Another 39,851 people in Britain have tested positive for COVID-19, bringing the total number of coronavirus cases in the country to 8,006,660, according to official figures released Thursday.

The country also recorded another 143 coronavirus-related deaths. The total number of coronavirus-related deaths in Britain now stands at 137,295. These figures only include the deaths of people who died within 28 days of their first positive test.

There are currently 6,836 patients in hospital with COVID-19.

The data came as British Prime Minister Boris Johnson used his speech at the Tory conference in Manchester to issue a fresh call for workers to return to the office following the pandemic. He told the conference: "As we come out of COVID, our towns and cities are going to be buzzing with life because we know that a productive workforce needs the spur that only comes with face-to-face meetings and water cooler gossip."

## Turkey develops national anti-Covid vaccine

ANKARA: Turkey is developing a national anti-Covid vaccine - TURKOVAC, Yeni Shafak newspaper reported on October 7.

The rector of Erciyes University (one of the centers where the vaccine is being developed), Prof Mustafa Calis, said that they are waiting for the final - third phase of the vaccine's study to be completed and to be put in use, the report added.

"We are very proud. Since March 2020, both our Pharmaceutical Application Research Center and our Iyi Clinic Practice Research Center, where the phase-2 studies have been carried out, have made a great effort. The phase-3 work is currently ongoing. The phase-3 studies are carried out in five centers. One of them is Erciyes University. Hopefully, these centers will multiply rapidly and we hope that the phase-3 work will be finished as soon as possible," Calis said.

Commenting on the health minister's positive statement on the vaccine development, he noted that their work was highly appreciated and awarded by the Higher Education Council.

"We received our award from the hand of our president. We are happy if we could do a service to our nation, society, and humanity. We are looking ahead," Calis added. He expressed the hope that the university's phase-3 study results will serve the Turkish nation and all humanity.

Speaking about the ongoing phase-3 at Erciyes University, Calis said the work in all centers is coordinated by the Health Ministry. — APP

## WB revises up Pakistan's GDP growth rate to 3.4% in FY22

The World Bank's forecast was still lower than the government of Pakistan's 4.8 percent target for the current fiscal year

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank on Thursday revised up its projection for Pakistan's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth from 2.0 percent to 3.4 percent for the fiscal year 2021-22. The World Bank's forecast was still lower than the government of Pakistan's 4.8 percent target for the current fiscal year.

In January 2021, the World Bank had projected Pakistan's GDP to grow at the rate of 1.2 percent only which was revised up to two percent in June and then to 3.4 percent in its recent report of South Asia Economic Focus titled "Shifting Gears: Digitization and Services-Led Development" released on Thursday.

The report said, "despite repeated COVID-19 waves, Pakistan's economy recovered in FY21 amid effective targeted lockdowns and an accommodative monetary policy stance".

"Economic growth is expected to ease in FY22 before strengthening again in FY23. However, potential

delays in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) program, high demand-side pressures, potential negative spillovers from the evolving situation in Afghanistan and more severe and contagious COVID-19 waves pose downside risks to the outlook," it added.

In line with the 25-basis point policy rate hike in September 2021, fiscal and monetary tightening are expected to resume in FY22, as the government refocuses on mitigating emerging external pressures and managing long-standing fiscal challenges.

Output growth was therefore projected to ease to 3.4 percent in FY22, but strengthen thereafter to 4.0 percent in FY23 with the implementation of key structural reforms, particularly those aimed at sustaining macroeconomic stability, increasing competitiveness and improving financial viability of the energy sector, the report added.

It said the inflation was projected to edge up in FY22 with expected

domestic energy tariff hikes and higher oil and commodity prices before moderating in FY23. Poverty was expected to continue declining, reaching 4.0 percent by FY23. The current account deficit was projected to widen to 2.5 percent of GDP in FY23 as imports expand with higher economic growth and oil prices. Exports were also expected to grow strongly after initially tapering in FY22, as tariff reform measures gain traction supporting export competitiveness. In addition, the growth of official remittance inflows was expected to moderate after benefiting from a COVID-19 induced transition to formal channels in FY21.

Despite fiscal consolidation efforts, the deficit was projected to remain high at 7.0 percent of GDP in FY22 and widen to 7.1 percent in FY23 due to pre-election spending. Implementation of critical revenue-enhancing reforms, particularly the General Sales Tax harmonization, would support a narrowing of the fiscal deficit over time.

With the pandemic, the government had been focused on managing the repeated COVID-19 infection waves, implementing a mass vaccination campaign, expanding its cash transfer program, and providing accommodative monetary conditions to sustain economic growth.

Grappling with the fourth COVID-19 wave, the government, as before, implemented micro-lockdowns that successfully limited the infection spread, while permitting economic activity to continue and thereby mitigating the economic fallout. While they had been accelerating, vaccination rates remain low. As of September 15, only around 10 percent of the total population had been fully vaccinated.

Major downside risks included delays and stalling of the IMF-EFF program and the consequent external financing difficulties, exceedingly high domestic demand leading to unsustainable external pressures, more contagious COVID-19 strains requiring wide-

spread lockdowns, and a worsening of regional and domestic security conditions, including those stemming from the Afghanistan situation.

Similarly, the services sector that accounted for 60 percent of GDP, was estimated to have expanded, as generalized lockdown measured were increasingly lifted. In contrast, agriculture sector growth was expected to have slowed, partly due to a near 30 percent decline in cotton production on adverse weather conditions.

Despite slowing to 8.9 percent in FY21 from 10.7 percent in FY20, headline consumer price inflation remained elevated - mostly because of high food inflation, which was likely to disproportionately impact poorer households that spend a larger share of their income on food items compared to non-food items. With the policy rate being held at 7.0 percent throughout FY21, real interest rates were negative, supporting the recovery. — APP

## Pakistan sends more aid to Afghanistan

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Thursday announced that Pakistan has sent 13 more trucks of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan via Torkham border.

It was disclosed by Mian Kashif Ashfaq life member SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Pakistan chapter, CEO Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) and former Chairman FIEDMC here today while talking to a delegation of women entrepreneurs led by Ms Sofia Haq. He said Pak-Afghan cooperation forum which made arrangements for the food trucks were consisting of 174 tons which included 140 tons of flour, 16 tons of sugar and 18 tons of rice.

The consignment was handed over to Afghan Deputy Minister for Refugee Affairs at the Thorkham border crossing point who prayed for better relationship between the two neighbouring Muslim countries and expressed gratitude to Pakistan for their cooperation. Mian Kashif Ashfaq made an impassioned appeal to all segments of the society from different strata of life to come forward and send relief goods generously to their Afghan Muslim brothers who are in dire need of aid to meet their food requirements. He said Governor Punjab Chaudhary Muhammad Sarwar has also mobilised all available resources and in constant contact with philanthropists for arranging relief goods and food donations for their Afghan brethren. — APP

## Greek gov't eases COVID-19 restrictions

AGENCIES

ATHENS: Greek government announced on Wednesday to end some preventive measures against COVID-19, including local lockdowns, night curfews or ban on music in entertainment venues in the country. Moreover, officials reiterated a call to citizens to get vaccinated to facilitate the full return to normalcy.

Fully vaccinated individuals are granted additional freedom, according to the authorities. In indoor areas of recreation, such as bars and restaurants, where only fully vaccinated people are allowed access, from now on there will be music and customers will be allowed to stand.

"Our enemy is the novel coronavirus. We must all get protection. Vaccination is the only way ... We must get inoculated, persuade people to get the shot," Health Minister Thanos Plevris told a televised press briefing.

## Exports to Japan increase by 24.2% in Q1

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan exported goods worth US\$50.6 million to Japan during the first quarter (Q1) of the current fiscal year (2021-22), witnessing an increase of 24.21 percent over the merchandise exports of the corresponding period of last year.

According to press statement received here from Embassy of Pakistan in Tokyo, other than textile items, the major exports to Japan during July-September (2021-22) included agricultural and food products.

This indicates realization of the export diversification strategy the Embassy of Pakistan in Tokyo has been pursuing for the past two years, the statement added. This trend is expected to gain further momentum once Covid-19 pandemic related logistical limitations start getting settled.

The statement added that achieving US\$50.6 million exports during Q1 against US\$ 41.1 million last year, despite a large set of challenges facing international trade due to the pandemic, was mainly due to better awareness of Pakistani products in Japan.

The awareness was created through an aggressive campaign of reaching out to Japanese companies and supply chains; an improved compliance of standard requirements on the supply side; and, an experience-based increasing interest, acceptance and confidence of Japanese buyers in Pakistani products, it added. — APP



RAWALPINDI: Ms Zobiaida Jalal Federal Minister for Defense Production is presenting souvenir to HE Mr Yerzhan Kistafin Ambassador of Republic of Kazakhstan in Islamabad. —DNA

## Japanese PM vows strong economic stimulus

WEB DESK

TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Thursday said he will fulfill his pledge to provide a "large-scale" package to stimulate the economy hit by the pandemic as the two upper house by-election campaigns began.

"I strongly feel that I need to carry out a large-scale economic stimulus or a large-scale coronavirus response, and I need people to judge whether to let me do so through elections," Kishida said in a stump speech delivered in Shizuoka city for a candidate supported by his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Kishida said the stimulus plan will be worth tens of trillions of yen and will provide support to companies affected by COVID-19.

The by-elections held in Shizuoka and Yamaguchi prefectures on Oct. 24 will



allow voters to speak out their feelings about the new government launched by the prime minister this week, before a general election at the end of the month. In Shizuoka Prefecture, the election is a contest between Yohei Wakabayashi, 49, a former Gotemba mayor or supported by the LDP-led ruling coalition, Shinnosuke Yamazaki, 40, backed by the main opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, and Chika Suzuki, 50, with the backing from the Japanese Communist Party (JCP).

## Pak urges existing regulatory framework under GSP+ regime

The Secretary met with senior officials of Directorates General of Trade and Agriculture in the European Commission

DNA

BRUSSELS: Muhammad Suleah Ahmad Faruqi, Secretary Ministry of Commerce visited Brussels from Oct 4-6, 2021. The purpose of the visit was to engage with the European and Belgian senior officials & trade associations to strengthen the existing commercial relations.

The Secretary met with senior officials of Directorates General of Trade and Agriculture in the European Commission.

The Secretary emphasized upon the continuation of the existing trade regulatory framework for Pakistan under GSP+ regime and apprised the officials about the progress made by Pakistan in implementation of the 27 International Conventions. Both sides noted with satisfaction the trade growth between the EU-27

and Pakistan since the grant of GSP+ status, which has been mutually beneficial. Both sides agreed to continue the positive engagements for the benefit of the consumers and businesses of the respective parties.

In addition to that, meetings were held with the senior officials of Belgian and Brussels Regional Governments and emphasised on the need to enhance engagement through the existing structural mechanisms of bilateral dialogue.

It was agreed that the Joint Commission between Belgium and Pakistan should be reactivated and the recently concluded MOU between Trade Development Authority of Pakistan and the three leading trade promotion regional agencies including FIT, AWEX and Hub Brussels may be operationalized to provide an enabling environment to



the businesses of the two countries.

The senior management of Federation of European Rice Millers (FERM) and European Apparel and Textile Association (EURATEX) met the Secretary and exchanged notes on avenues of further collaboration between the business communities of the two sectors. EURATEX invited Pakistani textile sector to participate in its Annual Convention and for the event of Interna-

tional Apparel Forum (IAF) to be held at Antwerp from 8-9 and 7-8 November 2021 respectively.

The Secretary assured that a delegation of leading textile manufacturers and selected SMEs would participate in the forthcoming conventions.

The Secretary held one on one meetings with some of the leading Members of European Parliament and apprised them on the progress made by Pakistan in implementation of GSP Plus related conventions. During his interactions, the Secretary reiterated that Pakistan was committed to abide by all obligations under international conventions covered by GSP Plus. The MEPs appreciated the effort of Government of Pakistan to make an outreach to them and agreed to continue engagements in future.

## EU govts behind illegal pushbacks of refugees

FOREIGN DESK

BERLIN: Croatia, Greece and Romania have carried out hundreds of illegal pushback operations at the European Union's external borders since early 2020 as part of a "violent campaign" to deny access to asylum, a new report alleges.

The findings, published on Wednesday by the Amsterdam-based investigative news organisation Lighthouse Reports, reveal that masked security forces and police units in the three EU member states have repeatedly taken coordinated, clandestine action to prevent asylum seekers from crossing their borders.

The allegations add to concerns among rights groups, which have been documenting an intensified use of pushbacks and slammed the EU's alleged complicity in the operations. Under international and EU human rights laws, it is illegal for states to automatically expel people without assessing their circumstances. EU law also guarantees the right to seek asylum.

The investigation by Lighthouse Reports took place over eight months, in collaboration with European media partners including the German news magazine Der Spiegel and French newspaper Liberation.

With video footage, satellite imagery, witness testimony and interviews with more than a dozen serving and former police and coast

## UNHCR asks EU states to take more Afghan refugees

NEW YORK: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, has asked the European Union to take in more than 40,000 Afghan refugees over the next five years, but the plea failed to receive the backing of EU countries.

Grandi's request comes as the situation inside Afghanistan turns increasingly dire following the fall of the Western-backed government and the sudden takeover by the Taliban.

"Half of the Afghan population is in the need of humanitarian assistance," said Ylva Johansson, EU Commissioner for home affairs, warning about a "huge risk

of famine" and a near "total collapse of the economy" inside the country.

Johansson spoke to the press on Thursday afternoon after hosting a high-level forum on resettlement with Josep Borrell, the EU's foreign affairs chief. It was attended by interior and foreign affairs ministers from the bloc's 27 member states.

The meeting didn't result in any specific pledge from the bloc and simply reaffirmed the existing line of action: the EU must support Afghans inside Afghanistan to avoid a humanitarian crisis. "It's our moral duty to also give protection to Afghans at risk," said Johansson. — Agencies

ridor", which is part-funded by the EU, police whistleblowers told the outlet.

In one incident in June, a group of Afghans and Pakistanis requested asylum when they encountered Croatian police, but were forced across the Korana river, back into Bosnia and Herzegovina. During the pushback, police allegedly beat the refugees with batons, leaving them with bruises.

Media was unable to independently verify those claims but undated video footage shared

by Lighthouse Reports appears to show several people crossing a river while being beaten by at least two armed individuals dressed entirely in black and wearing balaclavas.

Jelena Sesar, Amnesty International's Balkans researcher, said it was "clear" the masked men were Croatian riot police, as their uniforms, weapons and equipment were identical to those issued to members of the unit.

"This is the latest evidence that unlawful pushbacks and violence against asylum-seekers and migrants are commonplace at the EU's external borders," Sesar said. "In numerous countries ... people in search of safety and protection are being met with barbed wire and armed border guards," she told Media, adding that the EU's migration policy had "for years now prioritised border security over the rights of people and its fundamental values".

In Greece, Lighthouse Reports collected publicly available video footage of 635 alleged pushbacks since March 2020.

Masked individuals were involved in 15 incidents, the news outlet alleged, including one which saw 25 asylum seekers on a rubber dinghy reportedly blocked from reaching shore on the Aegean island of Kos. They were told to "get a passport if they want to travel". The Turkish coast guard reportedly picked up the group later. Current and former officers in the Greek coast guard who were shown footage of that incident identified the masked individuals as members of elite coast guard units.



## Briefs

Rashid warns  
Opp. against  
irresponsible  
statements

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Lashing out at PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz, the interior minister Thursday cautioned Opposition leaders from uttering "irresponsible statements" against state institutions.

"Individuals represent institutions," said Sheikh Rashid. "You don't become a corps commander without performing duties at tough terrains such as mountains and deserts," he said, speaking of former DG ISI Faiz Hameed.

Reacting to former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's earlier statement on reconciling with the PML-N's opponents for maintaining the rule of law in the country, the interior minister said the "ship has sailed".

Speaking about the NAB ordinance approved by the prime minister, Rasheed said it was a "legal step taken to remove objections raised by people and the business community." He said it was a "calculated step" by the government, reiterating that it had been taken to facilitate people. When asked why he was kept out of the loop on the government's discussions with the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Rasheed said it was Pakistan's wish that Afghanistan's soil would not be used for subversive activities.

Rabi ul Awal  
chand sighted,  
Eid Milad on  
Oct 19

ISLAMABAD: The moon for the holy month of Rabi ul Awal has been sighted in Pakistan, with the Eid Milad un Nabi (PBUH) falling on October 19.

The development came after Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad chaired the meeting of the zonal committee at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Kohsar Block, Pak Secretariat in Islamabad. The rest of the zonal district committees met at their respective provincial/district headquarters. Quoting astronomical considerations, Azad had said the chances of sighting the new crescent Thursday evening were "very bright". The new crescent was born on crossing conjunction point at 6:06 Pakistan Standard Time (PST) on Wednesday. — APP

France-US  
row should  
not cause  
'rift' at NATO

BRUSSELS: A row between France and the US over a pact that saw Australia scrap a submarine deal with Paris must not drive NATO allies apart, the alliance's chief said Thursday.

"This agreement is not directed against Europe or NATO, and there is broad agreement that we should not allow this issue to cause a rift in the Transatlantic alliance," Jens Stoltenberg said after a meeting of national security advisors.

"I understand the disappointment by France, at the same time I'm absolutely confident that allies involved will find a way forward."

The shock announcement last month by the United States, Australia and Britain that they were forming a new pact and that Canberra was ditching a submarine deal with France worth tens of billions of euros enraged Paris.

France withdrew its ambassadors from Washington and Canberra in protest over the move — although both diplomats have now been sent back to their posts.

The US has scrambled to patch up relations with its oldest ally, with Secretary of State Antony Blinken meeting President Emmanuel Macron in Paris for talks. — Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Zahid Latif Khan Chairman Asian Institute of ECO Civilisation Research and Development hosted dinner for Nader Hakakian President DDC Group USA, and newly elected President of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, at Islamabad Serena Hotel. A large number of diplomats, members of the civil society and business community attended the dinner. — DNA

MTCP program plays central role  
in cementing Malaysia, Pak ties

Malaysian government has lifted the entry restriction for Pakistani citizens with permanent resident status, long-stay passes, businessmen investors, as well as students

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Deddy Faisal Ahmad Salleh the Charge d'Affaires of the Malaysian High Commission has said MTCP reflects Malaysia's commitment to South-South cooperation, particularly technical cooperation among developing countries. He expressed these views while speaking at a get-together of MTCP alumni. Former Ambassador Abdul Basit, Director General Ministry of Foreign Affairs Aamir Atozai and other dignitaries also attended the event. Deddy Faisal further said, the programme was formulated based on our principle that the development of a country depends on the quality of its human resources. In addition, Malaysia sees MTCP integral towards strengthening mutually beneficial bilateral relations. MTCP emphasizes human resources development mainly through training and capacity-building courses including short-term courses at Malaysian public and private training institutions, and long-term courses at Malaysian public universities. Annually, Malaysia's flagship

MTCP offers more than 60 technical training and capacity-building programmes in vast areas of development in collaboration with leading local training institutions and international development partners, he added. He said, programmes such as agriculture, economy, finance and trade, education, environment, industrial technical training, diplomacy, public management and administration, professional services, social development and science, technology and ICT are offered by leading Malaysian training institutions, many of which are centres of excellence for training.

"To date, more than 34,500 participants from 144 developing countries have benefited from the various programmes offered under the MTCP since its inception in 1980." A total of 752 participants from Pakistan have benefited from the programme. We aim to encourage more future participation from Pakistani officials in the MTCP, as it would not only be beneficial for our bilateral relations but it would also assist in the career development of the participants he added.

Another good news for Pakistan is that this year 2 postgraduate students from

Pakistan have been awarded MTCP Scholarship to do postgraduate study. The two of them will commence their study in University Malaysia Pahang and University Sains Malaysia respectively in the 4th week of October 2021. He said that Proton Pakistan, one of our flagship investment in this country, will be inaugurating its first vehicle assembly plant in Zulqirabad next week on October 13th. This event will mark the roll out of the first locally assembled SAGA in Pakistan. SAGA which is an acronym for Safety, Achievement, Greatness and Ability is Malaysia's number one car since its

launch 35 years ago.

The Plant is owned and operated by AlHaj Automotive, the Exclusive Authorized Distributor and also the Assemblers of PROTON vehicles in Pakistan. The opening of this plant will create 2,000 direct employment opportunities in its first three years of operation and it is estimated a further 20,000 indirect jobs will also be created as a result of this new plant being commissioned.

"I place high hope that with the launching of this plant with its capacity of producing 25,000 unit of vehicle per annum will further strengthen economic ties between the

two countries which currently stands at 1.39 billion US Dollars last year". He said the Malaysian government has lifted the entry restriction for Pakistani citizens with permanent resident status, long-stay passes, businessmen investors, as well as students upon obtaining prior entry approval or My Travel Pass from the Immigration Department of Malaysia. Of course, with health protocols in check, all travellers needed to be fully vaccinated, undergo Covid-19 testing upon arrival and be quarantined for the period stipulated for all foreign arrivals by the Health ministry.

PML-N terms the NAB  
ordinance "NRO to govt"

"The government's motive behind issuing the ordinance is to give 'NRO' to the prime minister and his ministers," Abbasi says

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Calling the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) law and its chairman the root cause of all the problems, former prime minister and former Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on Thursday said the recently promulgated NAB ordinance was a 'black law'. Addressing a press conference, he asked as to what was the reason behind issuing the ordinance when there was parliament in the country. "The Senate session was prorogued just for the sake of the ordinance," he said, and added, "The purpose of promulgating the ordinance was to grant extension to NAB Chairman Justice (r) Javed Iqbal who does not work for Pakistan, who is not interested in accountability, but he is the man who is on the payroll of Prime Minister Imran Khan."

"The government's motive behind issuing the ordinance is to give 'NRO' to the prime minister and his ministers," he said, adding the government had made it clear that

'PML-N trying to slow  
down accountability'

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Political Communication Dr Shahbaz Gill on Thursday said incompetent leadership of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) had been making futile efforts to make the accountability process ineffective and slow down its pace. In response to the presser of PML-N leaders Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and Khawaja Muhammad Asif, he said the incompetents first tried to dilute accountability process. However, he said all such illegal efforts would be foiled. He said violators were being brought under ambit of country's law. For the first time in history, those were made accountable to the law who remained in power corridors. Gill said the press conference of incompetent courtiers was a failed attempt to sabotage the accountability process. NAB and accountability process had fully crippled minds of the incompetents, he said. — Staff Report

from now onwards the cabinet's decisions could not be questioned. "Nobody will now dare question the federal ministers' role in sugar and wheat crises. And nor will anybody be able to ask about the money generated through drugs scandal," he commented. Abbasi added similarly from now onwards there would be no pointing of fingers at ministers over their role in the oil crisis. Former prime minister went on to add that a 'strange' thing in the ordinance was that now

there could be no questioning about tax evasion and concealing of assets. "For instance, those 700 Pakistanis whose names have appeared in the Pandora Leaks cannot be asked about the source of their wealth they had stashed abroad," he alleged. As a matter of fact, he added, the entire exercise was done with a bad intention. "If you (the government) had tabled draft of the ordinance in the parliament, it would have resulted in a 'better' law," he opined.

Abbasi said three years had passed since the PTI government took office, and today stories of its corruption are in everybody's knowledge. "But hats off to the NAB, which is still unmoved," he regretted. According to the ordinance, the Cabinet Decision could not be questioned, he said. Referring to PM Imran's refusal to talk to Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif on granting extension to the NAB chairman, senior PML-N leader said, "If he is not interested in consulting Shehbaz, the chairman better pack up and leave on the date of expiry of his term."

Present on the occasion, PML-N leaders Khawaja Asif and Ahsan Iqbal said that the Chairman NAB would also have to face accountability and justice along with them. PML-N Senator Azam Nazir Tarar commenting on the NAB ordinance said that the amendment contravenes the higher judiciary's decisions. The lawyers have also opposed this amendment in the law, he said. "According to the constitution and the law, Chairman NAB's tenure will end on Nov 08," he added.

Allowing Jews pray  
in Al Aqsa courtyard  
condemned

DNA

RAMALLAH: The state of Palestine Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates // Palestinian-Jordanian coordination to confront the decision of the occupation court to allow Jews to pray in Al-Aqsa

The state of Palestine-Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants have condemned in the strongest terms the unprecedented decision taken by the so-called Jerusalem District Court regarding the right of Jews to perform silent prayers in the courtyards of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, "The presence of Jewish worshippers on the Temple Mount does not constitute a criminal act as long as their prayers remain silent," as the court decided Cancellation of deportation decisions against rabbis who performed such prayers. The ministry considers this decision a flagrant aggression against the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, a real declaration of war against the Palestinian people and the Arab and Islamic nations, a real beginning of the spatial division of the mosque and its courtyards, and an explicit call for religious war in the region.

The decision of the Israel-

li court revealed the true nature of the incursions and the scheme behind them, which we have always warned of repeatedly, and it is another evidence that the system of courts and justice in Israel is an integral part of the occupation system itself. The Ministry views this decision, its consequences and serious repercussions on the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque and its existing historical and legal situation with great gravity. The Palestinian ministry and diplomacy consider themselves in a state of alert to confront this decision and its dangers, and it will continue its political and diplomatic action at all levels to bring it down, including the United Nations and its competent organizations, foremost of which is the Security Council and UNESCO, and the ministry will coordinate its efforts and actions with the brothers in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and with the Arab League. And the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and friendly countries at the regional and global levels. The Ministry calls on the Arab and Islamic worlds to deal with the utmost seriousness with this decision and its dangers to the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Alvi for  
probing 700  
Pakistanis  
in Pandora  
havens

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi Thursday while calling for probing 700 Pakistanis mentioned in the Pandora papers, questioned the justification of tax havens protected by the West. He said after Panama and Paradise, now Pandora papers had confirmed that 1000s of offshore companies used for money laundering of looted wealth. On Twitter, he said the 700 linked to Pakistan must be investigated for illegality and source of money and that the plundered money must be brought back. "But what about these tax havens?" he questioned. The president said the tax havens protected by the West since more than a century, having a long history of hiding plundered wealth be it from the persecuted Jews, or from many countries including Pakistan, that runs into trillions of dollars seemed to be a "sophisticated scheme in the style of East India Company."

US to help  
boost literacy  
in Balochistan  
and KP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The United States Government, together with the Government of Pakistan and provincial partners, has helped increase the reading skills of students in Grades 1 and 2 through the Pakistan Reading Project. Over the course of seven years, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) project trained 27,000 teachers on reading instruction and reached 1.5 million children in areas with low levels of reading literacy, with girls representing 47 percent of the participants in the project.

Following the completion of the project, partners shared a reading skills assessment with provincial and national education officials, emphasizing students' gains from Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Being able to read fluently at grade level is tied directly to a student's ability to learn across all curriculum subjects and indicative of future academic success.