



# Islamabad POST

Saturday, October 09, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

**President Arif Alvi travels for UAE today to visit Dubai Expo**

Detailed News On Page-01

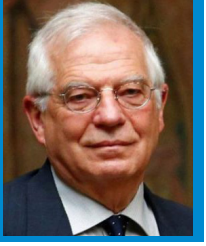
**Afghanistan offers new opportunities**

Detailed News On Page-07



**EU relations with Turkey improved alot**

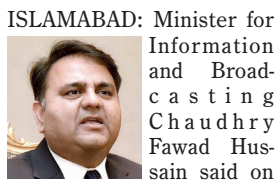
Detailed News On Page-08



**Briefs**

**Current woes gift of past rulers**

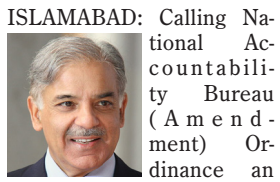
DNA



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Hussain said on Friday that Pakistan's current economic woes were gift of a ten-year rule of Asif Ali Zardari and Nawaz Sharif. In a tweet, he said on Friday if the government did not have to repay \$ 12 billion in debt and interest this year that money could have been used to subsidize prices of oil and electricity. He said the government would have taken steps to protect the consumers from the adverse affects of rising prices of commodities in the international market if the former rulers had not ruined the national economy during their ten years of misrule.

**NAB ord. 'attack' on parliament**

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Calling National Accountability Bureau (Amendment) Ordinance an 'attack' on the parliament and judiciary, Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said the ordinance was the manifestation of the government's non-constitutional and non-democratic attitude. He said by promulgating the ordinance, the government had sought to save its own skin while at the same time it snatched the independence granted to state institutions by the constitution. He said new taxes worth Rs225 billion would unleash a tsunami of inflation on the common people. Shehbaz held that the cotton exporters and millers were in distress these days. He regretted that instead of providing relief to the inflation-hit people, the government drops a bombshell on them by increasing prices of essential items every other day.

**Holiday Notice**

The offices of daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed on Saturday on account of weekly off therefore there will be no newspaper on Sunday. - Editor

## Over 55 killed in Afghanistan Mosque blast

Zabihullah Mujahid said "an explosion took place in a mosque of our Shia compatriots" in Kunduz province

AGENCIES

KUNDUZ: A suicide bomb attack on worshippers at a Shia mosque in the Afghan city of Kunduz killed at least 55 people on Friday, in the bloodiest assault since US forces left the country. Scores more victims from the minority community were wounded in the blast, which has not been claimed but appears designed to further destabilise Afghanistan in the wake of the Taliban takeover. The militant Islamic State (IS) group, bitter rivals of the Taliban, has repeatedly targeted Shias in Afghanistan to stir up sectarian violence. A medical source at the Kunduz Provincial Hospital said



### Pak condemns terrorist attack

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday condemned a terrorist attack on a Mosque in Kunduz. "We are deeply grieved at the dastardly terrorist attack on a mosque today in Kunduz province of Afghanistan which has reportedly resulted in loss of innumerable precious lives and injuries to many others," said a FO press release. The press release further added that the government and people of Pakistan stand in solidarity with their Afghan brethren. "We convey our deepest condolences to the families of those who lost their dear ones and wish early recovery to the injured". "We reiterate our unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations", it added.

Continued on Page 06

## Pakistan desires stable, broad-based ties; US told

Qureshi meets US Deputy Secretary of State; discusses Afghanistan, ways to move forward ties

ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said Pakistan desires broad-based, long term and sustainable relationship with the United States for promotion of economic cooperation and regional peace. He was talking to the visiting US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman in Islamabad on Friday. The Deputy Secretary of State was accompanied by Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asia Mr. Donald Lu. Views were



exchanged on bilateral relations, Afghanistan, and regional peace and stability, says an official statement Friday. As regards the situation in Afghanistan, the Foreign Minister stressed that

Continued on Page 06

### 'HR crisis in IIOJK threat to peace'

ISLAMABAD: National Security Adviser (NSA) Dr Moeed Yusuf on Friday said massive human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) by brutal occupant forces were a serious threat to peace in the region. The NSA stated this while shedding light on the IIOJK

Continued on Page 06



RAWALPINDI: Wendy R. Sherman, United States (US) Deputy Secretary of State call on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS). - DNA

### Sherman calls on COAS Gen Bajwa

Appreciates Pakistan's role in Afghan situation

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Ms Wendy R. Sherman, United States (US) Deputy Secretary of State called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS), today. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, regional security situation and collaboration in Humanitarian measures in Afghanistan were discussed. COAS said that Pakistan is committed to making all-out efforts for peace and stability in Afghanistan and supports an all-inclusive Afghan Government. COAS emphasized to maintain meaningful bilateral engagement for an enduring multi domain relationship between the two countries. The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's role in Afghan situation, specially the assistance in successful evacuation operations and pledged to continue working with Pakistan for regional peace.

### Taliban delegation in Doha for talks

KABUL: A delegation of the Islamic Emirate left Kabul for Doha on Friday for talks with officials from a number of countries to discuss Afghanistan's political situation. Zabihullah Mujahid, deputy minister for the Ministry of Information and Culture, said the delegation will meet with Qatari officials and the envoys of a number of countries on Afghanistan's situation. The delegation is led by acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, Mujahid said. The acting information and culture minister Khairullah Khairkhwah, the general director of intelligence Mullah Abdulhaq Wasiq and others. - APP

## NSC for coordinated policy on Afghanistan

National Security Committee meeting was attended by Services Chiefs, CJCS, DG ISI, federal ministers and NSA



SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The 34th National Security Committee meeting was held in Islamabad on Friday under the chair of Prime Minister Imran Khan. It discussed the alarming security situation in Afghanistan which could become a real threat for Pakistan. The security huddle emphasized chalking out a coordinated policy keeping in view the present circumstances. Prime Minister

Khan stressed the need to establish synchronized contacts with Afghanistan. He also called upon the international community to provide humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan. In order to thwart any negative activities, PM Khan emphasized on better border control management. He asked the establishment of a dedicated cell to synergize various streams of efforts on Afghanistan across the government including international coordination

for humanitarian aid and effective border management to deter any negative spillover into Pakistan. The NSC conclave which was convened to discuss the ongoing situation in Afghanistan was attended by relevant Federal Cabinet members, all Services Chiefs, and heads of intelligence services. Prime Minister Imran Khan got a detailed briefing on the evolving regional security situation, especially the recent changes in Afghanistan and their likely impact on Pakistan. The importance of international coordination on constructive political and economic engagement with the interim government in Afghanistan was also highlighted, a press release issued by the PM Media Office stated.

Continued on Page 06

## Two journalists win Nobel Peace Prize

DNA

NEW YORK: The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded on Friday to journalists Maria Ressa of the Philippines and Dmitry Muratov of Russia for their fight for freedom of expression in their countries. "Ms Ressa and Mr. Muratov are receiving the Peace Prize for their courageous fight for freedom of expression in the Philippines and Russia," Chairwoman Berit Reiss-Andersen of the Norwegian Nobel Committee told during news conference. "At the same time, they are representatives



of all journalists who stand up for this ideal in a world in which democracy and freedom of the press face increasingly adverse conditions," she added. According to media, the prize is the first for journalists since the German Carl von Ossietzky won it

in 1935 for revealing his country's secret post-war rearmament programme. The Nobel Peace Prize will be presented on December 10, the anniversary of the death of Swedish industrialist Alfred Nobel, who founded the awards in his 1895 will.

**Inside...**

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West can help Afghans without recognizing Taliban - Page 05

Olympic Winter Games will be memorable event - Page 06

Afghanistan, not only source of challenges, but new scope - Page 07

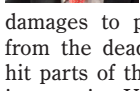
OIC condemns India over Assam incident - Page 08

## Condolences pour in from across the world

A 5.9-magnitude earthquake jolted Balochistan on Thursday, resulting at least 22 deaths

CENTRELINE REPORT

UN chief expresses grief



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has expressed his condolences over the loss of lives and damages to properties resulting from the deadly earthquake that hit parts of the Balochistan province, saying UN was ready to help Pakistan deal with the situation. In his message on Twitter Antonio Guterres said "I'm deeply saddened by the loss of life and destruction caused by Thursday's earthquake in Pakistan. My thoughts are with all who have been affected."



Amb. Matsuda extends condolences

MATSUDA Kuninori, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, on Friday expressed his deepest condolences and sorrow with the Government and people of Balochistan affected by the earthquake occurred on October 7th. In his condolence message, Ambassador MATSUDA conveyed his heartfelt grief and sympathies to those affected by this horrific natural disaster. "Our prayers and thoughts are with everyone who has been affected by the dreadful disaster. We are always ready to extend help and assistance to Pakistan in the time of natural disasters and calamities," said the Ambassador. The Ambassador prayed for the eternal peace of the departed souls and wished for the bereaved families to bear this irreparable loss with fortitude and equanimity. Palestine president sends message to President, PM

### COAS directs troops to assist civil admin

DNA



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Friday has directed troops stationed at Balochistan to provide all out assistance to civil administration in rescue, relief and rehabilitation efforts being carried out in the earthquake-hit areas of the province. The Army Chief directed the officials to help mitigate difficulties faced by affected population of earthquake hit areas of Balochistan, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) media release.



Palestine and Palestinian people to his brothers. Dr. Arif Alvi president of Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Imran Khan the prime minister, the government, and brotherly people of Pakistan that we learned with great sorrow the news of an earthquake in Balochistan, which caused dozens of victims and hundreds of wounded and afflicted members of your brotherly people, and great material losses. "His Excellency on behalf of the State and people of Palestine, and on H.E own behalf, we extend to your Excellency, and through you, the government, the brotherly Pakistani people and the families of the victims, with our deepest heartfelt condolences, affirming our full support and standing with you in these difficult circumstances, and confident in your wisdom to overcome them, Allah willing. We ask the Almighty Allah

to bestow his mercy on the victims, and the injured with a speedy recovery, and to protect you, your country and your people with all the best and prosperity. Please accept our honorable brother, our sincere fraternal sympathy!"

### Iran offers to assist victims



Following the earthquake in the Balochistan province of Pakistan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a message expressing his condolences to the Government and people of Pakistan, announced Iran's readiness to provide relief assistance to earthquake victims. "Hossein Amir Abdullahian" expressed the sorrow and grief of the people and the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran over the earthquake in Pakistan's Balochistan province, which killed and injured dozens, media reported.

## President Alvi to visit UAE today

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi will be undertaking a visit to the United Arab Emirates on 9-10 October 2021. During the visit, the President will meet the UAE dignitaries and formally inaugurate the Pakistan Pavilion in Dubai Expo 2020. Dubai Expo 2020 is the largest and most diverse exhibition in the region with participation from 192 countries, multilateral organizations and businesses. The Expo commenced on 1 October and will last till 31 March 2022. Pakistan Pavilion in the Expo 2020 is located at one of the prime areas of the Expo site, and is considered the largest Pavilion of Pakistan outside the country.





ISLAMABAD: Rector NUML Major General Muhammad Jaffar (Retd) presenting a sheild to Ambassador of Bulgaria Irena Gancheva. – DNA

## Photo journalists to be provided loans under KJP: Farrukh Habib

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Farrukh Habib has said that loans will be provided to photo journalists under Kamyab Jawan program on priority basis. This was stated by him while speaking as Chief Guest of oath taking ceremony of newly elected office bearers of Photo Journalist Association Rawalpindi/Islamabad, held here on Friday. Farrukh Habib said that the soft loans provided under

Kamyab Jawan Program will help the photo journalists to acquire latest cameras and other equipment to improve their employment. Addressing the ceremony, newly elected President of Rawalpindi Islamabad Journalists Association, Sajjad Haider said that annual photo exhibition and training workshop will be held for photo journalists and new comers would be provided laptop and camera bag. He said that during ongoing year, All Pakistan Photo Journalist Association Con-

vention would also be organized which will be hosted by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. During the ceremony, Senior Vice President Jehangir Chaudhry, Vice Presidents Sultan Bashir, Tahir Kazmi, General Secretary Raja Muddasir, Finance Secretary Muhammad Asim, Press Secretary Irshad, Joint Secretary Raees Khan, Member Governing Body S.M. Sohail, Raja Riaz, Raja Zafar, Habib Sheikh, Khuram Latif, Asim Shigari and Hassan Sherazi took the oath of their offices.



## PAF distributes ration

QUETTA: Keeping the tradition of serving the nation during natural calamities, Pakistan Air Force came to the succor of earthquake affected families of Harnai district, east of the provincial capital, Quetta. On the special instructions of Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, PAF Western Air Command is actively participating in relief operations in the earthquake affected areas. Pakistan Air Force is also reaching out to the needy families whose houses have been damaged in the natural calamity. As a humanitarian gesture, ration packs carrying basic food items and commodities such as flour, rice, sugar, oil, pulses etc were distributed amongst needy families of the worst hit areas in the recent torrential earthquake. – APP

## UAF developed a plan to revive cotton production

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Cotton production has shrunk by more than 60 percent from 14.81 million bales to 5.65 million bales in 2020/21 season during a decade, resulting in considerable loss to Pakistan's textile sector and economy, Pakistan position in cotton production has shifted from fourth to fifth in cotton producing countries of the world, said Prof Dr Iqbal Ahmad Khan Vice Chancellor University of Agriculture Faisalabad. Addressing a webinar held to mark world cotton day, he said that cotton which was once considered the lifeline of the country farmers and a source of raw material to textile companies, has hit

all-time low in production. He said that poor pest management, shift in cotton area to other crops, climate variability, early sowing, poor quality Bt cotton seed, traditional methods of spraying and gap between farmers and extension staff have been realized as the possible reasons behind cotton yield reduction despite the introduction of genetically modified varieties. A plan to revive cotton production has been developed by UAF to improve pest management. Combination of whitefly control strategy and updating the curriculum of universities in connection with current agricultural issues faced by farming community may provide sustainable cotton production in Pakistan.

## Bulgarian ambassador visits NUML

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Bulgaria Ms. Irena Gancheva visited National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Islamabad and met with Rector NUML Major General Muhammad Jaffar HI (M) (Retd) in his office. The Rector NUML welcomed the guest and briefed her about various curricular and co-curricular activities conducted at the NUML. The issues of mutual interests, bilateral cooperation in education exchange programs for the faculty and students were discussed. The ambassador appreciated the role of NUML for providing quality education and thanked Rector for his time and hospitality. – APP

## Pak Post to provide innovative services

BUREAU REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Post will be digitalized to provide new and innovative services in addition to improving the quality of existing facilities, said Malik Naseer Ahmad Senior Post Master Pakistan Post. During a meeting with Atif Munir Sheikh, President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) in his office, he said that parcel service has been improved while 75% concession would be offered to the bulk suppliers of parcels. He said that Pakistan Post is already providing facility of "same day delivery" through General Post Office (GPO) and its post offices in Madina Town, People's Colony, Ghulam Muhammad Abad and Nishat Abad. "We are also launching a new mobile app to further facilitate our clients", he said and added that three new sub post offices are also being established in Makoana, Kharranwala and Chak Jhumra. He said that a counter of GPO will also be established in M3 industrial estate to provide postal services to the industrial sector. Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh said that Pakistan Post is the oldest institution in Pakistan which has its presence throughout the width and breadth of this country.

# Effective measures should be taken to stop dengue

The Secretary Primary and Secondary Health urged to meet the target of vaccinating children above 12 years of age in schools with Corona Vaccine and to meet the daily target

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Secretary Primary and Secondary Health Care Punjab while reviewing the ongoing preventive measures for dengue and corona across the division and said that effective measures should be taken to stop the spread of dengue larvae as the problem of dengue is rampant which needs to be eradicated immediately. He also stressed the need for better surveillance of hotspots and uninterrupted surveillance of hotspots. The Secretary Primary and Secondary Health urged to meet the target of vaccinating children above 12 years of age in schools with Corona Vaccine and to meet the daily target. He asked the Commissioner and Deputy Com-

missioner to obstacles in making Samanabad Hospital functional should be removed while the matter will be taken up at the provincial level as well. Earlier, Secretary Primary and Secondary Health Care Punjab Imran Sikandar Baloch paid a detailed visit to Government General Hospital Samanabad. He was accompanied by Director General Health Dr Haroon Jahangir. CEO Health Dr Mushtaq Sipra, MS Zulqarnain Rao were also present. Secretary Health Punjab Imran Sikandar Baloch while inquiring about the issues of General Hospital Samanabad, directed the CEO Health and Buildings Department to inform about the required funds and other issues so

that the hospital can be made fully functional as earliest. The Secretary Health inspected the patients undergoing treatment in different wards and reviewed the medical facilities provided to them and inquired from the patients about the treatment process and the performance of the hospital from the family members. He also visited other wards. He visited Hepatitis Clinic and reviewed the available medical facilities. Secretary Primary and Secondary Health Care Punjab said that effective steps are being taken to make Government General Hospital Samanabad functional on priority basis and funds would be provided in this regard.



FAISALABAD: Secretary Primary and Secondary Health-care Department Punjab Imran Sikandar Baloch presides over a high level meeting at Commissioner Office. – DNA

## DG FDA for raising quality of services

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Development Authority Director General Dr Faisal Azim has expressed his commitment for raising the quality of FDA services in order to provide early and speedy relief to the applicants. He was listening the public issues relating to Faisalabad Development Authority (FDA) at his office. Vice Chairperson FDA Firdous Rai, Town Planning Directors Mehr Ayub, Asma Mohsin and other officers were also present on the occasion. FDA Direc-

tor General said that the doors of his office are open for each and every citizen and the aggrieved person can contact with him directly in connection with any complaint or delay in disposal of application. He asserted that there was zero tolerance on corruption and unjustified delaying tactics. He asked the concerned officers that the prompt relief should be provided to the applicants relating to the cases of transfer of properties in the housing colonies and commercial markets under control of FDA, approval of building maps, issuance of NOCs and disposal of other appli-

cations. He issued warning on delay of some applications and directed that no file should be remained unattended. The Director General urged upon the officers for carrying out the strict monitoring of the one window counter performance and said that process of applications should be channelized under effective management system. He stressed upon providing full guidance to the developers/builders and special measures be taken to promote the construction sector as per the directions of government. He assured the citizens to redress their issues.

آئل اینڈ گیس  
ریگولیشن اتھارٹی  
حکومت پاکستان

Oil & Gas  
Regulatory Authority  
Government of Pakistan

## NOTICE FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS / HEARING

APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF LICENCES BY SALE OF FLARE GAS/NATURAL GAS  
(i) SHAH LATIF CNG STATION PRIVATE LIMITED, (PASAKHI FIELD DISTRICT HYDERABAD)  
(ii) HI-TECH PIPE & ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES PRIVATE LIMITED (LAGHARI FIELD TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN)  
(iii) HI-TECH PIPE & ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES PRIVATE LIMITED (KHASHKHELI FIELD BADIN)

The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority is conducting the Public Hearing of above subject applications as per the given information / schedule

- M/s Shah Latif CNG Station Private Limited, (the applicant) has applied under OGRA's Natural Gas (Licensing) Rules, 2002 for grant of license for Sale of Flare Gas/Natural Gas via virtual pipeline (travarsi system) as per Federal Government Flare Gas Guidelines, 2016. M/s Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) (Seller), the Lease Holder of Pasakhi Field District, Hyderabad, Sindh, is producing certain quantity of Natural Gas. The lease holder intends to sell gas to the third-party M/s Shah Latif CNG Station Private Limited and the applicant will sell out the Flare Gas/ Natural Gas in compressed form to Industrial consumers and CNG Stations.
- Hi-Tech Pipe & Engineering Industries Private Limited, (the applicant) has applied under OGRA's Natural Gas (Licensing) Rules, 2002 for grant of license for Sale of Flare Gas/Natural Gas via virtual pipeline (Traversi System) as per Federal Government Flare Gas Guidelines, 2016. United Energy Pakistan Limited (UEPL) (Seller), the Lease Holder of (Laghari Field) District, Tando Mohammad Khan, Sindh, is producing certain quantity of Natural Gas. The lease holder is selling gas to the third-party Hi-Tech Pipe & Engineering Industries and the applicant (Hi-Tech Pipe & Engineering Industries) will sell out the Flare Gas/ Natural Gas in compressed form to Industrial consumers.
- Hi-Tech Pipe & Engineering Industries Private Limited, (the applicant) has applied under OGRA's Natural Gas (Licensing) Rules, 2002 for grant of license for Sale of Flare Gas/Natural Gas via virtual pipeline (Traversi System) as per Federal Government Flare Gas Guidelines, 2016. United Energy Pakistan Limited (UEPL) (Seller), the Lease Holder of (Khashkhehli Field) District, Badin, Sindh, is producing certain quantity of natural gas. The lease holder is selling gas to the third-party Hi-Tech Pipe & Engineering Industries and the applicant (Hi-Tech Pipe & Engineering Industries) will sell out the Flare Gas/ Natural Gas in compressed form to Industrial consumers.

After completion of the requisite data / information by the applicant, the Authority has admitted the instant applications for Public Comments and Hearing. Therefore, all persons and parties who are likely to be affected by the grant of this license are hereby notified to file objections, written comments for intervention requests addressed to Registrar OGRA, describing the manner in which such persons/parties shall be affected and may also appear on below mentioned Public Hearing as well as can join through Zoom Application, the interested persons can register themselves, at email: [registrar@ogra.org.pk](mailto:registrar@ogra.org.pk) for zoom attendance the intervention request shall be filed alongwith fee of Rs.500/- (bank draft) and affidavit verifying the contents of communication on or before the date of Public Hearing. Copies of the documents submitted by the applicant can be obtained on payment of prescribed charges of Rs. 2/- per page from the office of Registrar or can be downloaded from OGRA's website.

In sequel to all above, OGRA has decided to hold this Public Hearing in the above applications according to date, time and venue mentioned below:

Date : October 25, 2021 (Monday)  
Time : 10:30 a.m  
Venue : OGRA Office, Islamabad

For any information required from the applicant please contact:

**REGISTRAR**  
Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority  
54-B, Fazal-e-Haq Road, Blue Area, Islamabad  
Phone: 051-9244296, 051-9244090-98 (Ext-157) Fax: 051-9244042, [www.ogra.org.pk](http://www.ogra.org.pk)

Public Service Message:

قدرتی گیس کے غیر ضروری استعمال سے اجتناب ہم سب کا اخلاقی اور معاشرتی فریضہ ہے

PID (I) No. 2211/21

# 50 percent of population is facing malnutrition: VC UAF

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: More than 50 percent of population is facing malnutrition, resulting in stunting growth, said University of Agriculture Faisalabad Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Iqbal Ahmad Khan while addressing a seminar to mark World Egg and.

At the event, the students showcased the different dishes of eggs, whereas a seminar was arranged by the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences UAF and took out an awareness rally. Addressing on the occasion, UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Iqbal Ahmad Khan said that eggs are nutritious, unadulterated and relatively inexpensive natural food with a high digestibility coefficient. Eggs protein is the best protein in nature available for human consumption. He said that as per compared to the developed world, per capita egg consumption in Pakistan is low.

He said that poultry had emerged the second largest industry of the country. He said that UAF sub campus was developed with the special focus on poultry in order to boost up the productivity on scientific bases and research work. He said that the poultry industry should come up to promote the cultivation of soybean in order to not only becoming self-sufficient in the said crop but also earn foreign ex-

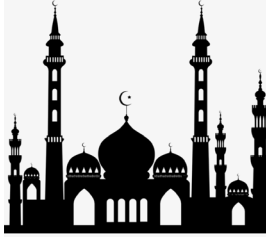


change. GCWUF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Robina Farooq lauded the measures taken on the part of the UAF especially to uplift agriculture sector of the country. She said that the eggs are least expensive source of high-quality protein. She said that it was essential to change food habits keeping its nutrition value, lifestyle and body requirement in view to combat the increasing diseases. UAF Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Anas Sarwar Qureshi said that egg is high value food and it also decreases the risk of many diseases. He said that starting with an egg breakfast can reduce hunger, reduce caloric intake by more than 400 calories over

the next 24 hours. He said that the per person annual consumption of eggs is only 65 in the country whereas human body requirement stands at 300 eggs a year, causing various diseases due to deficiency of protein and other essential food ingredients. Dr Kahif Saleemi said nutrient-dense ingredients such as eggs are easy to fit into the diet and formulated foods. He said that egg is an important source of nutrition. It contains proteins, minerals and vitamins. He said world egg day was initiated in 1996 in order to raise awareness among the masses about its benefits and their important role in life. He said we have to adopt the simplicity in our food that would lead towards a health society.



## SERVICES



## Namaz Timings

|              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| Fajr.....    | 04:44 am |
| Zohr.....    | 11:55 am |
| Asr.....     | 04:02 pm |
| Maghrib..... | 05:43 pm |
| Isha.....    | 07:06 pm |



## Hotels &amp; Restaurants

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



## Airlines

|                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Turkish Airlines..... | 8494949 |
|-----------------------|---------|



## Emergency

|  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Rescue (Police).....                     | 15                             |
| Bomb Disposal.....                       | 15                             |
| Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad..... | 1122 & 16                      |
| Emergency Ambulance.....                 | 1122 & Rescue Services.4451122 |
| Motorway Police.....                     | 9266044                        |
| Motorway Police.....                     | 927060120                      |
| Women Police Stations Islamabad.....     | 9222596                        |
| Rawalpindi.....                          | 927060120                      |



## Enquiry

|                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Edhi Ambulance.....   | 115       |
| PIA Flight Info.....  | 114       |
| PIA Cargo.....        | 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

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

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation..... | 9209224 |
| Potohar Town.....                       | 9209224 |
| Rawal Town.....                         | 5773343 |

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

# Govt mulls sports goods expo to promote sports products

The minister expressed this resolve during a meeting with a delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry that called on her led by Shakeel Munir President

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Fehmida Mirza, Federal Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination Division said the sports goods industry has huge potential to grow and contribute more effectively towards the economy, therefore, the government was considering to organize a Sports Goods Expo in collaboration with Islamabad and Sialkot Chambers of Commerce and Industry to promote the trade and exports of sports products. She said this during a meeting with a delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry

that called on her led by Shakeel Munir President. Mian Akram Farid Chairman Founder Group, Jamsaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President and Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI were in the delegation. Col. (Retd) Asif Zaman Director General Pakistan Sports Board, Arshad Nadeem Athlete who reached the final of men's javelin and Weightlifter Talha Talib who finished 5th in the Tokyo Olympics 2021 were also present at the occasion. Dr. Fehmida Mirza said that the government was in the process of developing an elite panel of athletes as a ready crop for sports pro-

motion and stressed that the business community should extend financial support to them from its CSR funds so that they could participate in international events and bring more laurels to the country. She seconded the proposal of ICCI delegation for introducing a fixed tax regime for the trading community to improve tax revenue of the country. She assured the ICCI delegation that she would take up the highlighted issues of the business community with relevant authorities for redress. Speaking at the occasion, Shakeel Munir, President, ICCI said that Pakistan's sports goods exports were

reportedly around USD 241 million during July-May 2020-21, however, he said that the global sporting goods market was over USD 48 billion and Pakistan has good potential to capture better share in it with better focus on sports industry. He appreciated the initiative of the government for organizing a Sports Goods Expo, which was the right move to promote the sports industry. He assured that ICCI would cooperate in making the Sports Goods Expo successful and suggested that such expos should be organized in foreign countries to introduce our sports products to international buyers.

Mian Akram Farid Chairman Founder Group stressed for a new industrial estate in the federal capital with an industrial cluster for sports goods as well. He said that the business sector was facing a huge burden of indirect taxation and emphasized that the government should focus on direct taxation and reduce indirect taxes that would provide good relief to the business community and reduce inflation for people as well. He further said that the government should provide various incentives to the high taxpayers to promote tax culture in the country. Jamsaid Akhtar Sheikh

Senior Vice President and Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI said that the business community has great concerns over the installation of POS in retail units by the FBR and urged that the government should focus on fixed tax and self-assessment scheme that would help improve tax revenue of the country. The ICCI delegation also paid tributes to Pakistani athletes Arshad Nadeem and Talha Talib for their outstanding performance in Tokyo Olympics 2021 and assured them that the business community would support such athletes so that they could earn more achievements for Pakistan.

## Brick kilns working without permission

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) Friday adjourned hearing till October 15, on a case pertaining to illegal brick kilns in jurisdiction of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). Capital Development Authority (CDA) submitted its report to the bench on directives of IHC. The CDA director land said the bricks kiln in the capital were illegal and they had failed to produce any permission documents to the civic body. The court adjourned further hearing till next date. IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah conducted hearing on the above case. - APP

## Gang of thieves including killer held

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Noon police station have busted a gang of thieves and killer held and recovered valuables and murder tool from them, a police spokesman said. Following directions of senior police officials SP (Industrial Area) Fida Hussain Satti constituted a team under supervision of SHO Noon police station Sub-Inspector Ishtiaq Shah, and others. This team succeeded to arrest three thieves of a gang identified as Khawar Hussain, Muhammad Asif and Jamil Ahmed. Police recovered the stolen valuables from them and they confessed during the initial investigation involved in theft case in the areas of Noon Police Station and Rawalpindi Rawat Police Station also. Further-more Noon and Homicide Units police arrested a killer namely Muhammad Azeem and recovered murder tool pistol 30 bore involved in murder of taxi driver Muhammad Saleem. DIG (Operations) Islamabad has appreciated the performance of Noon Police team and announced rewards for the team. All officers were further directed to intensify efforts to curb crime.

## CCoE approves summary to establish new LNG terminals

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Cabinet Committee on Energy (CCoE) approved on Friday the summary submitted by the Ministry of Maritime Affairs on the report of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on the establishment of new Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Terminals. The meeting of the Committee was held here under the chairmanship of Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar, said a press release. The committee discussed in detail and approved the allocation of Pipeline capacity. The Chairman of the committee directed to fast-track the work on setting up new LNG terminals. The Power Division submitted the summary on restructuring of Pakistan Electric Power Company (PEPCO). The committee has approved the summary and the major restructuring proposals approved includes change of the nomenclature from PEPCO to Power Planning and Monitoring Company (PPMC), HR functions of the company delegated to the respective Companies, the restricted company will continue to charge a fee to DISCOs, GENCOs, and NTDC. The restructure company will approach Development Finance Institutions and Multi-Lateral Agencies to Solicit support for capacity building, composition of the Board of Directors of the company will be change and the restructuring plan will be implemented by December 31, 2021 and new HR will be hired for the company forthwith.

## Covid risk three times lower for fully vaccinated people

ISLAMABAD: Double vaccinated people were three times less likely than unvaccinated people to test positive for the Covid-19 infection, a new research has found. The study led by researchers at the Imperial College London is based on swab tests taken by nearly 98,233 people themselves at home and their samples were analysed by PCR testing between June 24 and July 12. Of these, 527 tested positive and 254 of these were successfully analysed in the lab to determine their origins, 100 per cent of which were Delta variants. People who were unvaccinated had a three-fold higher prevalence than those who had received both doses of Covid vaccine, at 1.21 per cent compared to 0.4 per cent, Medical Xpress reported. In addition, analyses of PCR test results also suggest that fully vaccinated people may be less likely than unvaccinated people to pass the virus on to others. This is due to having a smaller viral load on average and therefore, likely spreading less virus. "These findings confirm our previous data showing that both doses of a Covid vaccine offer good protection against getting infected. However, we can also see that there is still a risk of infection as no vaccine is 100 per cent effective, and we know that some double vaccinated people can still fall ill from the virus," said Paul Elliott, School of Public Health at Imperial College London. "So even with the easing of restrictions, we should still act with caution to help protect one another and curb the rate of infections," he added. The study showed that the highest infection prevalence was found in young people aged 13-24 years at 1.56 per cent or 1 in 65 infected, while the lowest was in people aged above 75 years at 0.17 per cent. Women had a lower risk of testing positive than men (0.55 per cent vs 0.71 per cent). - APP

## Islamabad police host farewell for three police officers

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police on Friday hosted farewell for its three outgoing officers and lauded their contribution for the force. The farewell ceremony was attended by IGP Islamabad Qazi Jamil ur Rehman, DIGs, AIGs, SSPs, SPs and officials and jawans of the force. The IGP Islamabad Qazi Jamil ur Rehman appreciated the services of outgoing officers including DIG (Law and Order) Ch. Khalid Rasheed, SP (Security) Prime Minister House Abdul Rauf Khan and DSP (Telecommunica-

tion) Muhammad Iqbal. He said that the officers had served in Islamabad police with dedication and commitment. He said that their services to make Islamabad police as a distinctive force will be remembered forever. Ch. Khalid Rasheed was inducted in Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) as Sub-Inspector who later joined Islamabad police on deputation and his services were merged in it. Abdul Rauf Khan joined the force as ASI while Muhammad Iqbal as Constable and got retired as SP and DSP respectively. The IGP appreciated the services of all officers in maintaining law and order and ensuring effective policing measures. The outgoing officers also appreciated the leadership qualities of Islamabad police heads and hoped that Islamabad police will become model police under their guidance.



ISLAMABAD: Birthday celebrations of H.E Yezhan Kistafin, Ambassador of Kazakhstan hosted by Zahid Latif Khan. President of DDC Group, MWD and RCCI are also present. - DNA

## Afghan trade delegation flags issues with govt

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Trade and economic connectivity is of prime significance for Pakistan and Afghanistan, both countries should work together to eliminate the key challenges faced by traders at the border crossing points. These remarks were made by the delegation of Afghan traders invited by Center for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) while discussing the situation in Afghanistan, significance of economic connectivity for Afghanistan and Pakistan, the hindrances in trade, and the solutions to the problems faced by traders

on both sides. This was the first trade delegation from Afghanistan which arrived through the Torkham border point, to try and address the many economic connectivity challenges faced by said traders. These experts included Members of the National Assembly Yaqoob Shaikh, Shandana Gulzar, Gul Dad Khan, and Sajid Khan, Deputy Director National Assembly Raheem Khan, and a ten-member delegation of Afghan traders including key stakeholders like Co-president Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI) Khan Jan Alokozai, Executive Director PA-

JCCI Naeqebullah Safi, an eminent businesspersons Ajmal Safi, Ahmad Yarzada, Sultan Safi, Babrak Akbar, Baz Muhammad Afzarzai, and Mukhlis Ahmad Yunas. The conversation revolved around the core problems hindering bilateral and transit trade between the two countries, and the potential solutions to those problems. Highlighting the issues hindering bilateral trade between the two countries, Mr. Khan Jan Alokozai, co-president PAJCCI, stated that currently, when all the international funds allocated to Afghanistan are frozen, Pakistan should help the neighbor by continuing

to engage in trade with Afghanistan and especially by continuing to import goods from Afghanistan. He also briefed the Pakistani stakeholders about the infrastructural weaknesses which lead not only to congestion at the Torkham border crossing point, but also hinder the bilateral and transit trade. He also requested Pakistan for relaxations in the visa regime, especially for traders and medical patients. Expressing distress over the problems faced by Afghan traders, MNA Yaqoob Sheikh guaranteed the Afghan delegation that Pakistan will stand with their Afghan brothers in this hard time.

## Sufficient beds allocated for dengue patients in capital

## SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: All the public sector hospitals on Friday assured that sufficient beds have been allocated for treatment of dengue patients in the federal capital. This was informed in a meeting held here to review the situation of the dengue outbreak and response at the ministry of National Health Services. It was noted that 86 cases were reported in Islamabad in

the last 24 hours. Additional Deputy Commissioner, Islamabad apprised the participants that the District Administration was actively monitoring the prevention activities through out Islamabad. He said that most of the cases were being reported in Alipur, Tarlie, Ghouri Town, Tarnol, Koral and I-10. He added that teams were engaged in case response by ensuring indoor residual spraying and fumigation in affected areas. It was also decided that an additional 1000 staff

members will be added to the field staff for a more effective response. This new staff will be trained on an emergency basis to conduct preventive activities. Moreover, public service messages will be launched through cable networks for raising awareness on how to prevent the spread of dengue. It was apprised that ELISA testing facility was now available in PIMS and Poly Clinic hospitals for conducting free of cost dengue tests for the public.

## Internship portal launched

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary Ministry of IT and Telecommunication, Dr. Muhammad Sohail Rajput inaugurated the internship portal here at Pakistan Software Export Board head office. Senior officers from MoITT and PSEB attended the launching ceremony, said a news release. Speaking on the occasion, Secretary IT Dr. Sohail Rajput said the future growth of Pakistan's ICT industry was directly dependent on the availability of IT professionals trained in state-of-the-art technologies. The government of Pakistan has launched several programs for IT professionals and young graduates to improve their employability and enhance the quality of the HR pool available to IT companies, he said. The Secretary IT said internship portal was a significant step towards connecting IT companies with recent graduates through a single, unified platform. He said that the IT industry was backed up by strong government support and extremely attractive incentives. Several projects were intended to facilitate and assist IT Industry in its growth trajectory and ensured continued momentum in the local and export earnings growth, he said.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugio calls on Karim Gabol, Focal Person, Parliamentary Development Unit. - DNA



## Briefs

## No more extension to file Tax returns

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) here on Friday once again urged all the taxpayers, both old and new, to make the most of one-time extension of 15 days granted for filing of Income Tax Returns till October 15.

The board, in a statement issued by the board here, advised that returns should be filed without delay as the deadline was already fast approaching. The board reiterated that the timely Filing of Income Tax Returns would also save the filers from the hassles of system issues which may occur due to extraordinary traffic at the portal on the last day.

However, the statement added, FBR had enhanced the capacity of its IT System to ensure that the IRIS software was properly working, round the clock.

FBR believes in facilitation of taxpayers and accords top priority to resolve their issues, statement said adding the extension in date for filing of return till October 15, was also aimed at alleviation of hardships faced by the people.

It was reaffirmed that the extension given on September 30 was only due to the fact that FBR's IT System got overloaded and since that has been fixed now, no more extension would be given beyond October 15. — APP

## Jewelry exports witness 137% increase

ISLAMABAD: The Jewelry exports during the first two months of the fiscal year 2021-22 grew up by 137.63 percent as compared to the exports of the corresponding period of last year.

During the period from July-Aug 2021, Jewelry worth US \$ 106,284 thousand was exported as compared to exports worth US \$ 92,218 thousand during the same period of last year.

According to the data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, the exports of Furniture was increased by 166.59 percent, worth of US \$ 1,181 thousand were exported as compared to the exports of US \$ 443 thousand of the same period of last year.

Meanwhile, Plastic materials exports also increased by 64.49 percent as the exports during the current fiscal year were recorded at worth US \$ 59,973 thousand as compared to the exports during the same period of last year which recorded US \$ 34,461 thousand.

During the period under review, Pharmaceutical product exports increased by 14.24 percent, worth US \$ 46,870 thousand exported in the current fiscal year as compared to the exports of valuing the US \$ 41,027 thousand of the same period of last year. — APP

## PAC examines audit report of Foreign Affairs

ISLAMABAD: The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Friday reviewed the Foreign Ministry's audit report for the year 2019-20.

The PAC meeting was held at Parliament House under the chairmanship of Member National Assembly (MNA) Rana Tanveer Hussain. The committee reviewed ten prominent audit paragraphs of the ministry.

The committee has settled the maximum highlighted audit paras, subject to the verification of the audit authority.

Committee members also expressed concern over the increase in the cost of various projects due to unnecessary delays in the implementation process.

Members of the Committee including Leader of the House in the Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, MNA Iqbal Muhammad Ali Khan, MNA Khawaja Muhammad Asif, MNA Sheikh Rohail Asghar, MNA Khawaja Sheraz Mehmood, and MNA Sadar Nasrullah Dreshak attended the meeting. The meeting was also attended by senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — APP

## United Nations terms Ehsaas as int'l best practice

Dr. Sania Nishtar said, "Glad to see Pakistan's Ehsaas continue to be lauded as international best practice by the UN as it looks to accelerate Responsible Digital Payments to advance developmental progress"

SHUJAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: In the recently released edition of UN Principles for Responsible Digital Payments 2021, Pakistan's Ehsaas programme has been featured as an international best practice. According to UN's report, Ehsaas simplified the know-your-customer procedure for users by collecting simple data fields and issuing accounts after basic verification. Incentivized 500,000 branchless banking agents to work with the program by reducing taxes on commission earned from beneficiaries, thereby increasing doorstep banking services to elderly, persons with disability, and women.

Taking to twitter, Dr. Sania Nishtar said, "Glad to see Pakistan's Ehsaas continue to be lauded as international best practice by the UN as it looks to accelerate Responsible Digital Payments to advance developmental progress."

In times of COVID-19 pandemic last year, Ehsaas programme emerged as the largest social



protection program in the history of the country by benefiting almost half of the country's population. Rs.179 Billion Ehsaas Emergency Cash provided a one-time cash grant of Rs.12,000 to 15 million families (nearly 109 million people) at risk of extreme poverty. This year as well, 1 million eligible families are being paid Ehsaas cash.

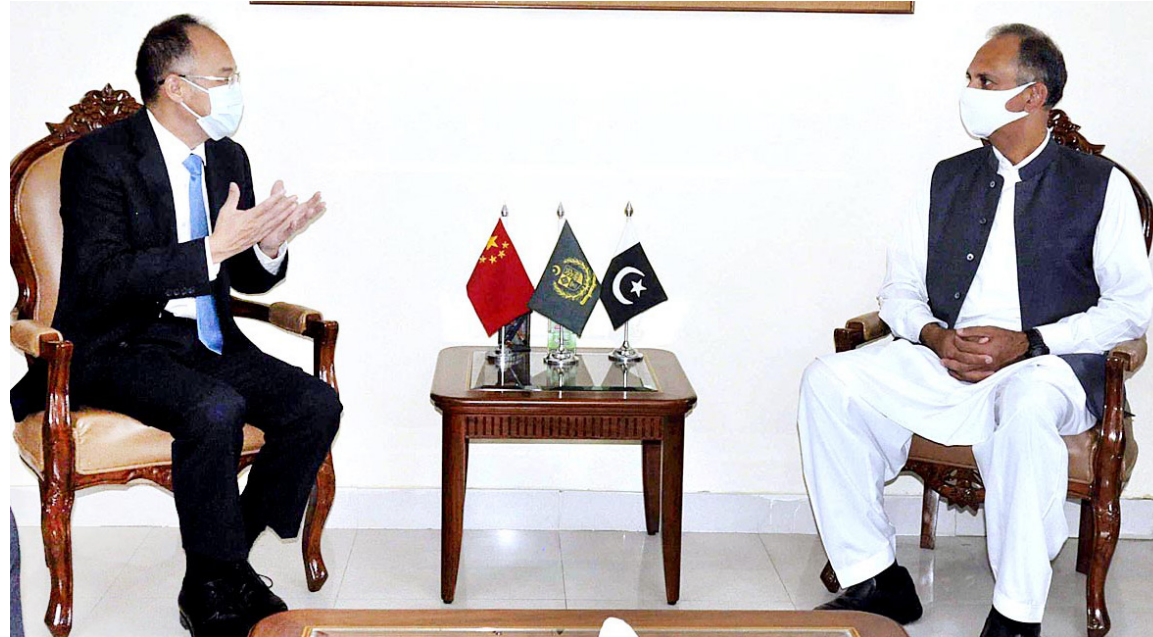
To deliver Ehsaas Emergency Cash, digital capabilities established as part of Ehsaas were

adapted, in particular, a new biometric payment system, a demand side SMS based request seeking platform and a new wealth profiling big data analytics mechanism. The digitally enabled payment system fully relied on the use of mobile phones and biometric verification to strengthen the link between government assistance and social protection.

Ehsaas Emergency Cash payments were made through branchless banking platforms of two

commercial banks (in retail settings and specially established payment campsites) and their 1,800 biometrically enabled ATMs. The available cash out points in 2,270 campsites were more than 11,500. Provincial governments and their security apparatus were responsible for logistic arrangements on ground at the payment campsites to coordinate payments in over 2,270 locations across the country, covering an area of over 881,000 square kilometers. Money was deposited in limited mandate accounts and individuals were able to draw the money after biometric authentication in real time.

The UN Principles for Responsible Digital Payments advocate for responsible practices in the digitization of payments. These principles have been developed by the United Nations-based Better Than Cash Alliance, guided by its member governments, companies and international organizations. This flagship resource responds to the UN Secretary General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Omar Ayub Khan in a meeting with Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong in his office. —DNA

## NCOC, Civic admin fine, seal several shops, hotels

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) team and Islamabad Capital Territory Administration on Friday visited hotels, restaurants, shops, markets, in PWD Commercial area and Civic Centre Bahria Town to ensure strict enforcement of obligatory vaccination regime.

The NCOC team and Assistant Commissioner concerned along with police inspected the vaccination status of the staff and customers at various shops including meat, vegetables, cash and carries, and hotels, restaurants in main

market of PWD. The Assistant Commissioner concerned sealed several shops, and imposed heavy fines on coronavirus Standard Operating Procedures violators, and unvaccinated individuals.

The team also detained a shop owner, and lodged a First Information Report (FIR) against him for facilitating unvaccinated people. Later, the NCOC team along with civic administration visited main commercial of Bahria Town Phase-4 and checked the vaccination certificates of the staff of several shops, hotels and tea cafes. — APP

## Bahria Town's delegation visits Murree Brewery

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Deputy Chief Executive Bahria Town Mr. Sajid Ilyas along with his team visited Murree Brewery today on the invitation of Chief Executive Murree Brewery Mr. Ishphanyar Bandhara.

Both parties discussed matters of mutual business interest. Bahria Town & Murree Brewery also signed MOU for Murree Sparkletts exclusively designed & packaged water bottles for Bahria Town.

The initiative is taken to further strengthen up business relationship between



both parties. Major Sahib (SA to CX Murree Brewery), Mr. Atiq (National Sales Manager Murree

brewery), Mr. Atif Hussain (CEO AA International), Mr Farasat Kazmi (Media Advisor Murree Brewery)

& Mr. Farhan Khan (National Manager Marketing Bahria Town) were also present at the occasion.

## AIOU establishes gymnasium with latest modern facilities

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: 'Health and fitness are two important factors affecting wellbeing and performance of employees in any organization. Therefore, it our primary responsibility to ensure provision of necessary facilities to achieve this objective. AIOU is fully conscious of its employees welfare and is committed to provide them latest fitness facilities.' These views



were expressed by Prof Dr Zia Ul-Qayyum, VC, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) while inaugurating

upgraded fitness center in the university. AIOU has upgraded the existing fitness center with latest modern

facilities. Raja Umar Younis, Registrar, AIOU and principal officers of eth university were present at the occasion. Prof Dr Zia Ul-Qayyum has directed the administration to appoint male and female fitness trainers as well as exclusive schedules for male and female employees to utilize these facilities. Sharif Ullah, Project Director briefed that fitness center has been renovated and modernized with an approximate expenditures of two millions rupees.

## 100% brick kilns converted to zigzag tech in Punjab

ISLAMABAD: Punjab government's spokesperson Hassan Khawar on Friday said that the government was taking all strict measures to control winter smoke where old-fashioned brick kilns were being closed and 100% of brick kilns were converted to the zig-zag latest technology. Talking to a private news channel, he said winter is around the corner, therefore, the Punjab govern-

ment have decided to take strict actions against violators to control smog, adding, section-144 has been imposed and the waste products on fire have also been banned to deal with the increasing threat of smog.

He said the provincial government has directed the concerned administrative secretaries, commissioners, and DCs to make certain arrangements accordingly and stay vigilant. — APP

## Rashid inaugurates PG block in Women University

'Bahhood' school has been handed over to the authorities concerned to establish an Inter College and another women college to be set up at Murree Road

RAWALPINDI: Federal Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid here on Friday inaugurated Sh Rashid Postgraduate (PG) Block in Rawalpindi Women University, Sixth Road, constructed at a cost of Rs 130 million.

Addressing the participants, the minister said that the block has been constructed at a cost of Rs 130 million and a hostel to accommodate nearly 1000 female students was constructed at a cost of Rs 400 million.

He hoped that during this month of Rabi ul Awwal, the target of 60 educational institutions would be completed as seven colleges have been completed and third Women University is going to be inaugurated this month.

He informed that Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar would inaugurate the Waqar Nisa Women University this month. "We are trying to establish an Information Technology University in the city." 'Bahhood' school has been handed over to the authorities concerned to establish an Inter College and another women college to be set up at Murree Road, he added. Rawalpindi is at top position in female education across the country, he said adding, "We tried to provide education facilities at the door steps of the female students. After completing

the educational institutions' task, we would move towards health sector," he informed. The Minister said, "I am thankful to Almighty Allah as I succeeded to complete the mission of education in my life." Rawalpindi city is now at top position for female educational institutions. Waqar Nisa Women College would be upgraded and made a university during this month, he added. He informed, "When the actual educational institutions plan was conceived for promotion

of education in Rawalpindi city then I selected Dhokas like Dhoke Hassu, Dhoke Khabba, Dhoke Ratta, Dhoke Naju, Dhoke Elahi Bukish for establishment of schools and colleges as the citizens of labour class live in these Dhokas and cannot afford private educational expenses.

Today in just one Dhoke Hassu school and college nearly 5000 female students are registered and getting education.

In the most deprived area of the town, 25

scholarships were given to talented female students so that the girls of poor families could continue their education. We utilized all available resources to establish schools and colleges in the city. He said, all possible facilities were provided to the students in schools and colleges and credit of uplifting of schools and colleges goes to Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chief Minister Usman Buzdar.

Sixth Road institution took three years efforts to upgrade and made a university and Waqar Nisa College which is going to be upgraded within 8 to 10 days, he added.

Few days back, 'Behhood' a non-functional institution was handed over to the authorities concerned and upgraded as Inter College for female. College classes would commence from next month, he added.

"I had fixed a target of 60 educational institutions for the city, he said adding, I am striving for establishment of an IT University." No one can defeat the girls of Rawalpindi city as they are educated.

A daughter of a rickshaw driver had got top position in CSS from Rawalpindi city, he said. Due to earnest efforts, Fatima Jinnah Women University was established at a cost of Rs 10 million. — APP



## Live Music performance on Sunday at Lok Virsa

ISLAMABAD: National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage-Lok Virsa in collaboration with Hill Joint and Eco Records would organize live music show and music video screening on Sunday.

Music video titled "Sangdil Sheher" by Ali Ashraf and "Beware" by Gintaara music band would be screened at Lok Virsa, said a statement issued here. Ali Ashraf, a singer, songwriter and the Founder Chief Executive Officer of Echo Records, who has successfully dabbled music for many years and recently had released a number of catchy singles during quarantine and pandemic would perform in the show.

Gintaara, a music band fusing vocals from various corners of the world in a contemporary style, is a comparatively fresh group of singers who will launch their new music video this Sunday.

The independent music group will meet its fans to entertain them at the Hill Joint Amphitheatre, Lok Virsa Islamabad.

Gintaara, however, will be screening its music video titled "Beware" starring seven different vocalists from the band. — APP

## Gandhara festival attracting diverse audience

ISLAMABAD: A five-day Gandhara Festival organized by Center for Culture and Development (CCD) at Taxila Museum attracting a diverse audience from educational institutions, researchers, artists, scholars, government departments and the local community.

Executive Director CCD Dr. Nadeem Omar Tarar told APP that the festival was focusing to explore the Gandhara Civilization in Buddhist and Jain history in Pakistan. He said Gandhara civilization could be made a global symbol of peace connecting different cultures and people from all over the world.

He said CCD was aimed to create a synergy between cultural capital and development interventions to promote Pakistan as a custodian of the Gandhara Civilization and striving to promote it as a global symbol of peace. According to Dr. Tarar, there were 16,000 Buddhists living in Pakistan, although their number is minuscule, their contribution to the socio-economic development of the country was remarkable.

The exhibition offering shows like posters and pictures of Buddhism and Jainism and heritage sites in various regions and provinces of Pakistan was one of the most potent ways of presenting and projecting our heritage not only to our local audiences but to our diplomatic communities and international viewership as well. This heritage and its diverse exhibition to the world would enhance public awareness about the importance of these treasures and a will to protect them for posterity.

The Gandhara Festival would continue till October 9. It offers an opportunity for art, culture, and history lovers to benefit from the work of experts on Gandhara civilization. — APP

## 13 held for possessing illegal weapons

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Police in their crackdown against illegal weapons conducted raids in different areas and rounded up 13 persons besides recovering 12 pistols 30 bore, a 12 bore rifle, one 9 mm pistol and ammunition from their possession.

A police spokesman on Friday said New Town police held Hunsain Ali, Nadir Ali and Abid for possessing three 30 bore pistols and ammunition. Naseerabad police arrested four namely Noor Baz, Hassan Ali, Aqil and Muhammad Qasim for having four 30 bore pistols and ammunition.

Gujar Khan police rounded up Shahid Mehmood with one 30 bore pistol and ammunition. Saddar Baroni police netted, Gulfraz Haideri, Samiullah and Shahid Saed for having three 30 bore pistols and ammunition. — APP



## Smog in Punjab

WITH the winter season approaching and smog making a return in Lahore, the Punjab government has announced that measures will be introduced to improve air quality. On Wednesday, the US Consulate Lahore's monitor recorded the Air Quality Index (AQI) score between 223 and 231. Responding to this, the authorities in Punjab have rightly declared the phenomenon a calamity and directed the administrative secretaries concerned, commissioners and deputy commissioners (DCs) to make concerted efforts for mitigation of this health hazard across the province.

This issue has been around since 2014 with smog becoming a routine affair in Lahore every winter. Last year however, the air quality was so hazardous that Faisalabad and Lahore topped the list of the world's most polluted cities. While it is encouraging to see the provincial government take this issue seriously, it is imperative that it does not politicise the issue by getting bogged down in distractions such as disputing air quality readings or pointing the finger towards Indian Punjab in the case of stubble burning. The fact is that stubble burning is only one of the causes behind dangerous smog levels.

The biggest contributor to pollution in Punjab is the transport sector, and provincial authorities have thus far failed to come up with means to counter this menace. The statistics show that vehicular emissions are responsible for 43 percent of smog in the air, stubble burning 20 percent, industrial emissions 25 percent, and thermal power plants 12 percent.

As far as the issue of traffic is concerned, the authorities will have to come up with creative solutions like designating public transport only days, or finding ways to make car pooling or bicycles more attractive options for commuters. When it comes to reducing industrial emissions, the government has converted a significant percentage of brick kilns to zig zag technology, however several kilns continue to operate without converting to the new technology. This needs to be addressed at the earliest. A variety of forward-thinking measures will have to be implemented as this is not just a seasonal issue, but it is something that will have far reaching consequences for the climate in the region.

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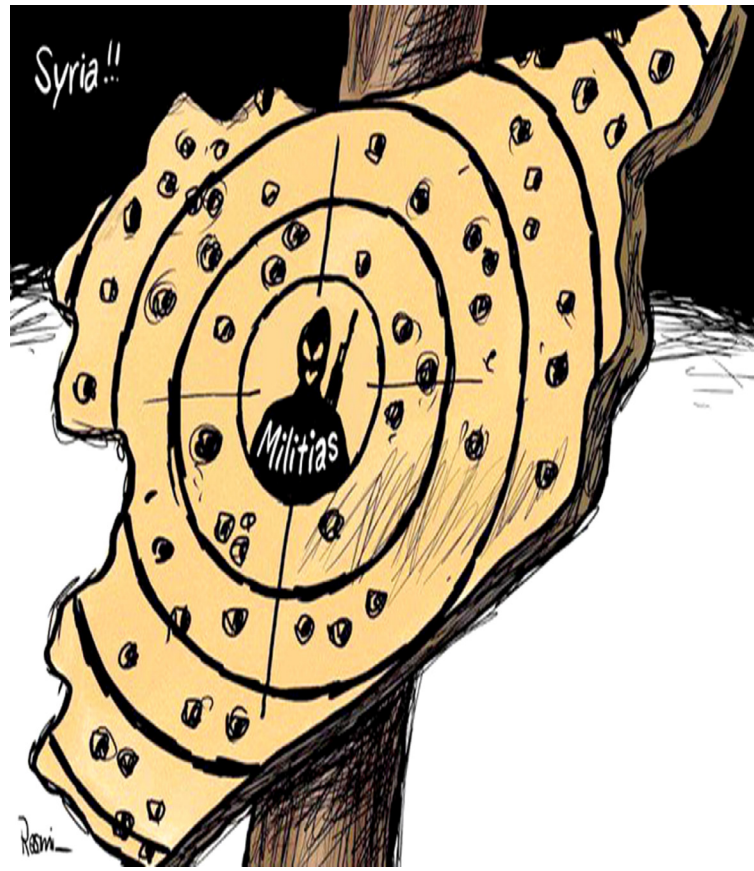
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## Discontent in Balochistan

BALUCHISTAN'S provincial government is in crisis. Infighting within the political administration has been rampant since June when the budget was passed with deep contentions from many sides of Balochistan's political makeup. Coupled with growing infrastructure problems, and a fear of rising terrorism, discontent against the leadership is high, even among one of the ruling parties. The past month has been a show of poor leadership from all politicians involved in Balochistan, as events betray a back and forth of allegations, calls to resign and refusals, causing a stalemate.

The blame lies on Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan Alyani for being unable to manage his own party members and negotiate effectively. He should have known that these imminent calls for him to resign as Chief Minister would come as soon as he resigned as president of the ruling Balochistan Awami Party (BAP). This move, which had been lambasted by some disgruntled BAP members, has satisfied nobody, and only united those calling for his resignation.

If the Chief Minister thought the resignation from the post of president of the party would pacify the party, he was mistaken, for only a few days later, a group comprising of provincial ministers and lawmakers of BAP and its allies in the coalition government gave Jam Kamal Khan Alyani a 24-hour ultimatum to step down or they would initiate more formal processes against him, like a vote of no-confidence.

The Chief Minister cannot ignore the deadline and go about his role, as he has been doing so far. He must urgently negotiate with at least some party or group if he wants to stay on as Chief Minister. He must find a way to talk to his own cabinet and party members. Otherwise, the group has the numbers to pass a no-confidence vote, which will only usher in more instability for the Balochistan government.

The last thing the province needs is political strife when development must remain a priority.

# West can help Afghans without recognizing Taliban

Sultan Barakat



Presently, Afghan state institutions are facing a financial crisis due to the US government's decision to freeze nearly \$9.5bn of central bank assets in US-based financial institutions.

Due to the destabilising effect this move has had on the banking system and the lack of funds, the country may be forced to rely on money transfers via the Hawala system and traditional forms of money lending and bartering in order to survive. These forms of informal transactions have often been associated with criminal activities, money laundering, and terrorism financing

WHILE Afghans have finally seen a glimpse of stability for the first time in decades, they now face a major humanitarian and developmental catastrophe. In order to prevent this outcome, it is essential that all stakeholders in Afghanistan and within the international community open a dialogue on how to get aid to the struggling Afghan population.

Though the country made significant strides in development over the last 20 years, its humanitarian situation was dire even before the Taliban takeover in August. In its aftermath, the majority of humanitarian activities ceased, which brought Afghanistan closer to the edge.

In recent weeks, the Afghan healthcare system has been described as "on the brink of collapse". The World Food Programme has warned that only 5 percent of households in Afghanistan have enough to eat. The UN forecasts that, during the next fiscal year, its GDP will shrink by somewhere in the range of 3.6 percent to 13.2 percent. If no action is taken, the country will face near-"universal poverty", with poverty rates rising to 97-98 percent.

In response to these multi-dimensional challenges, at the September 13 Geneva conference, donors pledged more than \$1bn to help Afghanistan. Although this is 30-percent higher than what the UN requested for emergency assistance, it pales in comparison to US military expenditure of \$300m per day over the past two decades. In spite of the pledges, much of what has been committed cannot be utilised because of the gridlock between the Taliban and the international community.

Since mid-August, Afghanistan has been cut off from critically needed resources that would enable it to deal with pressing humanitarian and development challenges.

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Back in August, just as Kabul fell, I argued that a disaster in Afghanistan can be averted. This required both the Taliban and the West to convey their expectations and set clear, measurable targets moving forward – and this remains true today. In charting a way forward towards international cooperation to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe in Afghanistan, all concerned stake-

holders should heed the following important messages.

First, the Taliban must overcome its instinctive rejection of the West. Despite the tremendous temptation and desire for vengeance, its leadership must also ensure that humanitarian aid is not siphoned off to its fighters and is not used to exert pressure on the international community at any time.

In extensive consultation with Western diplomats that I have had over the past month, it has been made clear to me that the vast majority of Western governments do not want the Taliban to fail. Rather than seeking to undermine the Afghan state, Western powers perceive a strategic self-interest in a stable Afghanistan, given the risk of mass migration, terror threats, and a resurgent narcotics trade. While no governments have rushed to recognise the Taliban, the necessity of some form of cooperation with the group is widely acknowledged.

The Taliban may perceive non-recognition as a snub, but it should be aware that Western governments are constrained by their own electorates appalled by media reporting on human rights abuses and mistreatment of women and minorities.

Second, leading Western donors should recognise that a business-as-usual approach will not work in Afghanistan today.

The country under a Taliban government is very different from post-disaster or state collapse zones in which the UN and others can step in to provide aid outside of the framework of the state. Whether or not it is recognised internationally, the Afghan government is functioning within the Afghan state and its national institutions, which have been built up at a great cost in resources and effort over the past 20 years.

They may have some deficiencies and suffer from corruption, but they work.

Yet large-scale development without engaging state institutions is unlikely to go ahead. There is an urgent need to explore potential means of coordination that would allow some form of development assistance to proceed short of full recognition of the de facto Taliban government.

Education and health are two sectors in which Western aid can open channels of communication and coordination with the Taliban without the need for formal recognition.

National institutions with a demonstrated record of effective collaboration are already in place with a wide network of community-based governance structures, non-governmental organisations, and private firms able to lead a whole-of-society approach to development. One example is the Citizen's Charter, which replaced the National Solidarity Programme, one of the largest and most

successful community-based reconstruction schemes globally.

It is crucial that international aid builds up rather than replaces local capacities. The Taliban lacks the resources, knowledge, and skills to effectively govern Afghanistan on its own. Financing local priorities, utilising untapped resources, and investing in developing local capacity and public administration would build confidence and make the Taliban more cooperative.

Despite the fact that 120,000 people have fled Afghanistan, including many highly skilled and educated individuals, there is still a large pool of specialists and workers there that can be mobilised for development projects.

The recent post-evacuation "brain drain" should not be used as an excuse by internationals for continuing longstanding and harmful practices of importing human resources.

Third, life-saving humanitarian aid should not be used as a bargaining chip to win political concessions. The West has often tried to utilise humanitarian aid as leverage against the Taliban. This counterproductive approach must be avoided at all costs, to prevent the Taliban from taking desperate measures to pursue close relations with non-traditional donors not equipped to effectively support development in Afghanistan.

Western donors should recognise that there are important political dynamics within the Taliban that affect its decision-making.

In particular, there is a split between military leaders and the political or peace wing that negotiated with the US in Doha. Over time, lack of engagement with the Taliban will only reinforce the position of the hardline military elements.

If the West does not revise its approaches, Afghanistan could easily become a breeding ground for insecurity and a thriving narcotics trade, regionally and globally.

In conclusion, humanitarian assistance is one of the only common languages shared by Kabul and the West today. On all sides there is a strong will to communicate yet what is missing is an effective medium for dialogue.

One immediate step in the right direction would be to establish an independent council of nationally-respected Afghans who could act as an intermediary and facilitate communication between the Taliban and outside parties. At first, this would enable a shared understanding on lifesaving aid delivery and over time, it could open up the potential for the West to constructively engage the Taliban on a range of other issues. Direct or indirect dialogue is vital to not just preventing a humanitarian crisis but also enhancing opportunities for more effective ways of working across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus.

– Courtesy Al Jazeera

# Rohingya have lost a pioneering leader

Dr. Azeem Ibrahim



Like most international observers, Mohibullah argued that the best outcome for the Rohingya is for them to be allowed to return to Myanmar

REFUGEE camps are places of misery and despair more often than places of refuge and hope. In such precarious conditions, some of humanity's best impulses can come to life. But at least as often, some of the worst impulses will also become manifest. The tragic assassination of Mohibullah, one of the most humane and effective community leaders in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh, by fellow Rohingya reveals the ugly and self-destructive side of people caught up in a struggle for survival.

Back in Myanmar, Mohibullah used to be a science teacher and administrator – a public servant with a knack for numbers and evidence. As soon as he arrived in the Kutupalong camp in Cox's Bazar in 2017, fleeing as the Myanmar army burned down his village, he began collecting information from his neighbors in the camp, trying to compile a list of those killed in the attacks, checking and cross-referencing every bit of testimony the victims could provide. The hope was that, one day, some international court would use this information to bring the perpetrators of these crimes against humanity to justice.

For this purpose, Mohibullah founded a nongovernmental organization, the Arakan Rohingya Society for Peace and Human Rights, which raised his profile among the community and foreign NGOs working in the Bangladesh camps. Through his documentary work, and his advocacy for the rights and needs of the refugees, he be-

came known to the wider international network of human rights workers in the region.

They, in turn, invited him to speak to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva in 2019, as well as to the White House. But though he had every opportunity to seek asylum while in the West, Mohibullah went straight back to his work in the camps, documenting and advocating for the community.

Unfortunately, what is best for a community is not always best for some people in that community. And those who work to serve the community always find enemies among those whose private interests they cross.

Like most international observers, Mohibullah argued that the best outcome for the Rohingya is for them to be allowed to return to Myanmar, provided they had guaranteed equal rights with other citizens of the country – rights they had been denied for decades.

But not everyone in the camps would be served by the betterment of their community.

Refugee camps, especially those as large as the sites in Cox's Bazar, where more than 1 million people huddle together in an extremely precarious situation, are places where enforcing the kind of law and order and community policing we are used to in normal society is virtually impossible. In that vacuum of law and order, "alternative" political

and economic ways of organizing emerge – that is to say, gangs, informal (criminal) markets and, inevitably, extremist groups.

We do not know exactly which group was responsible for the daylight assassination of Mohibullah, although his brother, Habibullah, said that he saw the killing and that elements of the extremist Islamist Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army were responsible. But in any case, both Islamist extremists and traditional criminal gangs would have an equal motive to remove any community leader with wide public credibility who would advocate for a return to some kind of normalcy within the broader political context. The kind of political and economic interests that are served by the destitution and despair of a refugee camp would be threatened by the betterment of the overall community.

There is a wider lesson for everyone here, even those living comfortable lives in stable, developed societies: You and I may have a vested interest in what is best for our communities and societies overall, but not everyone does.

And there are plenty of people who will put their own private motives and gain before what is best for the community as a whole. We must never be complacent about these basic facts of the human experience, lest we allow the worst of us to dictate how all of us should live our lives.

– Courtesy Arab News



## Briefs

Over 55  
killed in  
Afghanistan  
Mosque blast

FROM PAGE 01  
that 35 dead and more than 55 wounded had been taken there, while Doctors Without Borders (MSF) hospital said 20 were dead and scores more wounded. Matullah Rohani, director of culture and information in Kunduz for Afghanistan's new Taliban government, confirmed to AFP that the deadly incident was a suicide attack and that at least 46 people had died and 143 were wounded. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid had earlier said "an explosion took place in a mosque of our Shia compatriots" in Kunduz. Residents of Kunduz, the capital of a province of the same name, told AFP the blast hit a Shia mosque during Friday prayers. Zalmi Alokzai, a local businessman who rushed to Kunduz Provincial Hospital to check whether doctors needed blood donations, described horrific scenes. "Ambulances were going back to the incident scene to carry the dead," he said. An international aid worker at the MSF hospital in the city told AFP there were fears the death toll could rise even further. "Hundreds of people are gathered at the main gate of the hospital and crying for their relatives but armed Taliban guys are trying to prevent gatherings in case another explosion is planned," he said. Graphic images shared on social media, which could not immediately be verified, showed several bloodied bodies lying on the floor. Pictures showed plumes of smoke rising into the air over Kunduz. Another video showed men herding people, including women and children, away from the scene. Frightened crowds thronged the streets. Aminullah, an eyewitness whose brother was at the mosque, told AFP: "After I heard the explosion, I called my brother but he did not pick up. I walked towards the mosque and found my brother wounded and faint. We immediately took him to the MSF hospital." A female teacher in Kunduz told AFP the blast happened near her house, and several of her neighbours were killed. "It was a very terrifying incident," she said. "Many of our neighbours have been killed and wounded. A 16-year-old neighbour was killed. They couldn't find half of his body. Another neighbour who was 24 was killed as well." Kunduz's location makes it a key transit point for economic and trade exchanges with Tajikistan. It was the scene of fierce battles as the Taliban fought their way back into power this year.

NSC for  
coordinated  
policy on  
Afghanistan

FROM PAGE 01  
The Prime Minister expressed his satisfaction on Pakistan's support to the international evacuation effort from Afghanistan and noted that the entire world had appreciated Pakistan's positive contribution. The participants of the security summit were of the view that the evolving situation in the region was highly complex and that any instability in Afghanistan could entail serious implications for Pakistan. The prime minister while agreeing with them, also underlined the need for a synchronized policy effort. Sheikh Rasheed said the meeting also discussed the border situation along with a detailed discussion on the law and order situation. The federal ministers who attended the meeting included: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad, Defence Minister Pervez Khattak, Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin and Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry. Besides them, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Nadeem Raza and Intelligence Bureau DG Dr Suleman Khan, newly appointed Peshawar Corps Commander Lt. Gen. Faiz Hameed and Security Advisor Moeed Yousuf also participated in the security conclave.

Olympic Winter Games  
will be memorable event

The meeting was held in context of the XXIV Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022. The Ambassador informed President POA Lt. Gen (R) Syed Arif Hasan that all preparations are on track and completed as per schedule and that China is looking forward to welcoming all its guests in a befitting manner

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of People's Republic of China to Pakistan Nong Rong in a meeting with President Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) Lt. Gen. (R) Syed Arif Hasan, hoping that 18th edition of Olympic Winter Games will be memorable event for all participants as all preparations to organize XXIV Olympic Winter Games are on track and completed as per schedule to be held at Beijing next year in a befitting manner. He was speaking this during call on with Lt. Gen (R) Syed Arif Hasan, President Pakistan Olympic Association at the Embassy of China in Islamabad. The meeting was held in context of the XXIV Olympic Win-



ter Games Beijing 2022. The Ambassador informed President POA Lt. Gen (R) Syed Arif Hasan that all preparations are on track and completed as per schedule and that China is looking forward to welcoming all its guests in a befitting manner. President POA assured complete cooperation and support with the Organizing Committee and NOC China for Beijing 2022 and thanked to Ambassador Nong for sharing the programs of the Games and measures in place for successful conduct. He commended Beijing for being the first City to be hosting both the Summer as well as the Winter Olympics. He was confident that these Games will also be as magnificent as the Summer one and that the Pakistan contingent is excited and looking forward to it.

22 Foreign players contesting  
CAS Int'l Squash C' ships

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Twenty Two international players from across the world are taking part in the Chief of Air Staff (CAS) International Squash Championships for men and women is going to start from October 11th (Monday) here at the Mushaf Squash Complex Islamabad. The five day event is being organised by Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF) in collaboration with Serena Hotels and Comboxx Sports with the men's event has a prize money of \$30,000 whereas the women's competition carries \$12,000. Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF) secretary Wing Commander Armghan Aziz along with CEO Comboxx Sports Omer Saeed and Serena Hotels, Senior Manager, Marketing and Communication, Hussain Odhwani during press conference said that the tournament is also being organised to provide opportunity to players from all across the country to challenge their mental and physical toughness. "This tournament is a true manifestation of the PAF's commitment in promoting sports both at national and international levels," Armghan Aziz said, adding that besides Pakistan, world ranking Men & Women players from Austria, Czech Republic, Egypt, England, Spain, France, Hong Kong, Russia, Serbia and Switzer-

land are participating in these events. He said that Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF) has been putting wonderful efforts for the elevation of Squash in the country, adding that PSF intends to send a message across the world that we have every potential to conduct mega squash activities and to host top world players in an efficient manner. Serena Hotels & Comboxx Sports have very kindly joined hand with PSF and Pakistan Air Force for the national cause of promoting squash in the country and we heartily appreciate the sports diplomacy initiative as shared by Serena Hotel as their integral part to build stronger relations with communities," he said. Pakistan has a tradition of excellence in many sports but competitive sports require the support of organizations through sponsorships and promotion. Earlier Pakistani squash players were the best in the world and we hope to bring back the laurel soon. According to draws Pakistan's Tayyab Aslam will be top seed along with Karim El Hammamy (Egypt) and Auguste Dussourd (France) second and third seed respectively in men's event while Nadia Pfister (Switzerland), Marie Stephan (France), Salma Eltayeb (Egypt) are the top three seeds in the women's event. Both championship main round will be starting from October 11th while semi finals will be held on October 14th and final will be played on October 15th.

Poland summons  
Belarusian diplomat  
after border incident

WARSAW: The Polish foreign ministry on Friday summoned the Belarusian charge d'affaires after Poland said its soldiers were fired at by Belarusian armed personnel on the border between the two countries. A Polish border guard spokeswoman said that the incident happened on Thursday and that nobody was injured as the shots were "probably blank rounds". Belarus denied that its forces had fired any shots and asked the Polish side to provide evidence. "We have evidence that the shots were fired," foreign ministry spokesman Lukasz Jasina said. "If necessary, this evidence will be handed over to the Belarusian side, and not only to the Belarusian side, of course, but also to the public and other countries," he told reporters. Belarus's state border service earlier wrote on its Telegram channel: "Belarusian border guards have not used weapons on any part of the state border over the past 24 hours". But Polish border guard spokeswoman Anna Michalska said that "a Belarusian service patrol fired shots in the direction of Polish Army soldiers who patrol the border together with us". "There are more and more of these provocations," she added. Thousands of migrants - mostly from the Middle East and Africa - have tried to cross the Polish border from Belarus since August. The EU has said this influx is deliberately engineered by the Belarusian regime as a way of retaliating against EU sanctions. - DNA

Taiwan  
doesn't seek  
confrontation:  
President

AGENCIES

TAIPEI: Taiwan does not seek military confrontation but will do whatever it takes to defend its freedom and democratic way of life, President Tsai Ing-wen said, amid a rise in tensions with China that has sparked alarm around the world. Taiwan, claimed by Beijing as its own territory, reported nearly 150 Chinese air force aircraft flew into its air defence zone over a four-day period beginning last Friday, China's National Day. The sorties now appear to have ended. Taiwan has complained for more than a year of such activities, which it views as "grey zone warfare", designed to wear out Taiwan's armed forces and test their ability to respond. "Taiwan does not seek military confrontation," Tsai told a security forum in Taipei on Friday. "It hopes for a peaceful, stable, predictable and mutually beneficial coexistence with its neighbours. But Taiwan will also do whatever it takes to defend its freedom and democratic way of life." China says it is acting to protect its security and sovereignty and has blamed the United States, Taiwan's most important international backer and arms supplier, for the current tensions.

Brazil preserve  
their winning start

AGENCIES

MONTEVIDEO: Gabriel Barbosa's penalty five minutes from time maintained Brazil's perfect start to South American World Cup qualifying with a come from behind 3-1 win over Venezuela on Thursday. It was a ninth win from nine for the Selecao and extended their lead in the single South American qualifying group to eight points over unbeaten Argentina, who drew 0-0 in Paraguay. Eric Ramirez's early goal gave Venezuela a shock lead in Caracas but Marquinhos equalized with a header before Barbosa's late penalty. Substitute Antony rubbed salt into unlucky Venezuela's wounds five minutes into injury time to leave the hosts rooted to the bottom of the table. "It was a tough game, we started off well below our level," admitted Marquinhos. "It was our second half performance that got us the positive result we wanted." Shorn of the suspended Neymar, Brazil clearly missed his spark, dominating possession but creating little until their late rally. Venezuela took a shock lead on 11 minutes when Yeferson Soteldo stood up a cross into the box and Ramierez rose unmarked to head into the far corner as two Brazilian defenders in close attendance slipped. Brazil were almost level halfway through the first period but Everton Ribeiro's attempted cross deflected off Nathuel Ferraresi and onto the bar, before the defender cleared the ball to safety. Brazil had the ball in the net on 56 minutes but it was chalked off for a foul by Thiago Silva. Marquinhos rose to head home debutant Raphinha's corner 19 minutes from time, although Venezuela's goalkeeper Joel Graterol should have done better but seemed to be deceived by the ball bouncing in front of him. And the turnaround was complete when Oscar Gonzalez tripped Barbosa in the box, with the striker calmly slotting the resulting spot kick down the middle of the goal. Leeds United's Raphinha rounded off an impressive debut with a second assist for Antony to tap home from six yards with almost the last kick of the match. Paraguay kept Lionel Messi quiet in a goalless draw in Asuncion. A lively start saw chances at both ends but Argentina's Joaquin Correa should have done better when put clean through on goal, only for a heavy touch to allow goalkeeper Antony Silva to smother the danger. Argentina stopper Emiliano Martinez then made a full stretch save to tip Santiago Arzamendi's piledriver from distance around the post. Correa got beyond Paraguay's defence twice more, both times from Messi passes, but was flagged offside the first time and needlessly tried to square the ball to Angel Di Maria the second time, allowing a defender to clear.

Pak desires  
stable,  
broad-based  
ties; US told

FROM PAGE 01

there was a fundamental convergence between Pakistan and the United States on the need for a peaceful settlement. He expressed the hope that the new setup in Afghanistan would make concerted efforts for peace and stability as well as work towards the betterment of the lives of all Afghan people. Foreign Minister noted that an inclusive and broad-based political structure reflecting the ethnic diversity of Afghan society was essential for Afghanistan's stability and progress. He also stressed that the current situation required positive engagement of the international community, urgent provision of humanitarian assistance, release of Afghan financial resources, and measures to help build a sustainable economy to alleviate the sufferings of the Afghan people.

In the context of Pakistan-U.S. bilateral relations, the Foreign Minister underlined Pakistan's commitment to forging a broad-based, long-term and sustainable relationship anchored in economic cooperation, regional connectivity, and peace in the region. He added that a regular and structured dialogue process between Pakistan and U.S. was vital for promoting common interests and advancing shared regional objectives. Highlighting the grave human rights situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the Foreign Minister emphasized the importance of peacefully resolving the Jammu and Kashmir dispute for durable peace and stability in South Asia.

The Foreign Minister also thanked the United States for the Covid-related support extended to Pakistan. Deputy Secretary Sherman conveyed grief and sorrow over the loss of human lives in the earthquake that struck parts of Balochistan yesterday. Deputy Secretary Sherman appreciated Pakistan's support for the evacuation of U.S. citizens and others from Afghanistan, and its continued efforts for peace in the region. Deputy Secretary Sherman underscored the importance of long-standing relationship between Pakistan and the U.S.

It was agreed to continue close communication and coordination on the situation in Afghanistan, security and counter-terrorism, trade and investment, climate change, economic cooperation, and regional connectivity. Deputy Secretary Sherman is visiting Pakistan on 7-8 October 2021. Her visit follows the recent meeting between Foreign Minister Qureshi and U.S. Secretary of State Blinken on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York on 23 September 2021.

'HR crisis  
in IOJK  
threat to  
peace'

FORM PAGE 01

plight during a call on paid by US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman, said a news release.

The delegations of Pakistan and the US discussed bilateral issues and the changing situation in the region during the meeting. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Moeed said the international community needed to talk and liaise with Afghanistan's new interim government. The discussions during the meeting focused on economic cooperation, trade, security in the region and Afghanistan situation was discussed. It added that the meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere, where the dignitaries vowed for better bilateral relations between the two countries. The US delegation appreciated Pakistan's role in withdrawal from Afghanistan and assisting the Afghan refugees.



TASHKENT: Pakistan ambassador to Uzbekistan Syed Ali Asad Gillani hosted reception at embassy of Pakistan in honour of visiting Bodybuilding Team Pakistan, participated in the World Bodybuilding Championship held in Tashkent. - DNA

## Pakistan make three changes in T20 WC squad

Pakistan is in Group 2 and will open their campaign against India on October 24 at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium. From the squad that was announced on September 4 and after taking into consideration player performances and form, the selectors have made three changes

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: National selectors on Friday confirmed Pakistan's squad for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021, which will be held in the United Arab Emirates from October 17 to November 14. Pakistan is in Group 2 and will open their campaign against India on October 24 at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium. From the squad that was announced on September 4 and after taking into consideration player performances and form, the selectors have made three changes. Wicket keeper-batter Sarfaraz Ahmed and top-order batter

Haider Ali have replaced middle-order batter Azam Khan and pacer Mohammad Hasnain respectively, while opener Fakhar Zaman, who was originally named as a travel reserve, has swapped places with middle-order batter Khushdil Shah. The decision on Sohaib Maqsood's inclusion in the squad will be made following medical advice. The top-order batter underwent MRI scans for the lower back after the October 6 National T20 match against Northern and missed Thursday's Punjab derby against Central Punjab. **Pakistan's 15-player squad:** Babar Azam (captain, Central Punjab), Shadab Khan

(vice-captain, Northern), Asif Ali (Northern), Fakhar Zaman (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Haider Ali (Northern), Harris Rauf (Northern), Hasan Ali (Central Punjab), Imad Wasim (Northern), Mohammad Hafeez (Central Punjab), Mohammad Nawaz (Northern), Mohammad Rizwan (wicket-keeper, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Mohammd Wasim Jnr (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Sarfaraz Ahmed (wicket-keeper, Sindh), Shaheen Shah Afridi (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Sohaib Maqsood (Southern Punjab), Traveling reserves - Khushdil Shah (Southern Punjab), Shah Nawaz Dahani (Sindh) and Usman Qadir (Central Punjab).

## ICC to monitor mental health at T20 WC

DUBAI: Cricketers facing mental health issues during the Twenty20 World Cup will have 24-hour access to a psychologist, the International Cricket Council said on Thursday. The preliminary round matches of the tournament, which will be played under a bio-secure environment, will start on Oct. 17 in the United Arab Emirates and Oman. The event was moved to the Gulf states after a surge of COVID-19 infections in India. The players will have to isolate for 6 days on arrival, during which they will undergo three COVID-19 Tests before they enter the so-called 'bubbles' or managed environment. "We should expect that some people will be affected, their mental health will be affected by being in confined conditions again, particularly perhaps for those who have done it for a long period of time," Alex Marshall, the ICC's head of integrity, told reporters. "The ICC will have available 24 hours a day, a psychologist to speak to any individual who seeks help," he said. "There's a number of things we're doing... But I think from a day-to-day basis, making sure we keep the environment friendly and pleasant for them." Cricket has mostly been played in restricted environments since it resumed last year after a lengthy disruption because of the pandemic and players in the past have complained about the heavy toll it takes on their mental health. The world governing body has allowed players to be accompanied by close family during the T20 World Cup, which will end with the final in Dubai on Nov. 14, but they would also have to be part of the restricted environment. - DNA



## Briefs

## Merkel to visit Turkey on Oct. 16

FOREIGN DESK

BERLIN: German Chancellor Angela Merkel will visit Turkey on Oct. 16 to discuss bilateral relations and international issues, her spokesman said Friday.

Speaking at a news conference in Berlin, Steffen Seibert said Merkel will visit Istanbul for talks with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

"Turkey is a very important, close partner for us," he said, adding that the two leaders will discuss a wide range of international and regional issues, including the EU-Turkey cooperation on migration management and refugee protection. Chancellor Merkel's visit will take place ahead of an EU leaders summit in Brussels on Oct. 21-22.

After 16 years in power, Angela Merkel is preparing to leave active politics later this year, but she will remain in her post until a new coalition government is formed.

Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU/CSU) narrowly lost the general elections late last month.

## 14 die of alcohol poisoning in Russia

AGENCIES

MOSCOW: Fourteen people have died of alcohol poisoning in Russia, officials said Friday, with investigators launching criminal probes.

An additional eight people were hospitalised in the region of Orenburg, around 1,500 kilometres (930 miles) southeast of Moscow in the southern Urals.

"As of now we know of 22 victims, 14 of whom have died," the governor's office said on messaging app Telegram.

Governor Denis Pasler said regional authorities had launched inspections of alcohol distributors.

"Before the results of the checks are received consumption of alcohol can threaten your life," Pasler was quoted as saying.

The Orenburg branch of the Investigative Committee said on Friday it had opened five probes including into the sale of goods not meeting safety standards. Three people had been detained in connection with the deaths. One of them - a 29-year-old man from the town of Orsk - is suspected of producing surrogate alcohol, investigators said in a statement. The workshop producing alcohol has also been uncovered.

## Budapest mayor pulls out of opp primary race

WEB DESK

BUDAPEST: The mayor of Hungary's capital on Friday announced he would withdraw from a primary contest which will choose a joint opposition nominee to challenge right-wing Prime Minister Viktor Orban, ending his candidacy in a race in which he was once considered the frontrunner.

Budapest Mayor Gergely Karacsony said at a news conference that he was bringing his candidacy for prime minister to an end, and asked his supporters to get behind his opponent, moderate conservative Peter Marki-Zay, in the interests of "reuniting Hungary." Karacsony's withdrawal came after a week of back-and-forth negotiations with Marki-Zay, the independent mayor of a small Hungarian city, over which of the two men had the best chance of winning the second round of the primary set to begin Sunday - and then defeating Orban in a national election next spring.

Though the liberal Karacsony had several disagreements with Marki-Zay on policy, he said, "I came to the conclusion that if I do not (step aside), then Viktor Orban will remain, and the significance of the political debates between us will go up in smoke."

## Afghanistan, not only source of challenges, but new scope

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov noted that Uzbekistan proceeds from the need not only to prevent the isolation of Afghanistan, but also to intensify the provision of humanitarian assistance to it

DNA

TASHKENT: Afghanistan is a source of not only challenges and threats, but also new opportunities that can be used as the basis for constructive, creative regional projects. It is in our interests to prevent the international isolation of Afghanistan and the appearance of a "rogue country" on our southern borders, to prevent the scenario of the late 90s of the last century from repeating itself," Kamilov said.

He noted that Uzbekistan proceeds from the need not only to prevent the isolation of Afghanistan, but also to intensify the provision of humanitarian assistance to it. According to him, Uzbekistan opened the border with this country and resumed the supply of essential goods - food, oil products and electricity. "Tashkent also advocates unfreezing Afghan state assets in foreign banks, calls

on the world community to continue the implementation of social, economic and infrastructure projects in Afghanistan," added Abdulaziz Kamilov.

"It was with the aim of solving these problems that the official delegation of Uzbekistan yesterday, October 7, visited Kabul and held constructive negotiations with the leadership and members of the interim government of Afghanistan," he said.



stability in this country and neighboring regions," the head of the Uzbek Foreign Ministry said. "Uzbekistan does not have any hidden or ambiguous agenda in the Afghan direction. Our position is unambiguous, and our actions are transparent and pragmatic. Uzbekistan is interested in the establishment of Afghanistan as a peaceful and independent state. Afghan soil should not longer pose a threat to the countries of the region and international security. A stable, peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan meets the interests of the entire multinational Afghan people and the world community," Kamilov said.

He noted that Afghanistan should not become an obstacle, but a bridge for strengthening mutual cooperation between Central and South Asia. This will be facilitated by the trans-Afghan transport and communication projects, which we intend to further promote together with our international partners.

"Implementation of Uzbekistan's initiatives on regional interconnection of Central and South Asia is necessary to address key security problems and build mechanisms for long-term cooperation between the countries of the two regions. In this regard, work continues with partners to adopt a special resolution of the UN General Assembly on strengthening the interconnectedness of Central and South Asia. The issues of promoting interregional cooperation in trade, economic, transport, cultural, humanitarian and other spheres are being resolved," the head of the foreign policy department noted.

## 12 EU states call for toughening border protection

AGENCIES

BRUSSELS: Twelve EU member states asked the European Commission to strengthen measures against irregular migration and financially support physical barriers at the bloc's external borders.

The interior ministers of Austria, Bulgaria, the Greek Cypriot administration, Czech Republic, Denmark, Greece, Hungary, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Slovakia addressed the European Commission and the Slovenian presidency of the Council of the EU in a joint letter ahead of the meeting of home affairs ministers later on Friday. The letter, titled Adaption of the EU legal framework

to new realities, called for an update on the Schengen Border Code, the EU legislation on external and internal borders of the bloc to ensure that all outside frontiers would be "protected with maximum level of security."

The signatories also called for an "abuse-resistant" EU migration and asylum policy that offers "swift and concrete solutions and strong response to counter the instrumentalization of illegal migration and other hybrid threats."

"No third country should be able to make use of our asylum system for the purposes of exerting political pressure and blackmailing the EU and its Member States, or exploit the present situation in Afghanistan," they stressed.



NEW YORK: Senior journalist Ali Furqan in meeting with Mumin Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations. - DNA

## Pakistan's poverty rate to ease in FY22: WB

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank has projected Pakistan's poverty rate to ease from current 4.8% to 4.4% in Fiscal year 2021-22 and 4.0% in next fiscal year (2022-23).

The World Bank has set the extreme poverty line at \$1.9 per person per day, however since 2017, the World Bank has also been reporting poverty rates for all countries using two new international poverty lines: a lower middle-income International Poverty Line, set at \$3.20/day; and an upper middle-income International Poverty Line, set at \$5.50/day. According to a recent report released by the Bank, Pakistan's lower middle-income poverty rate would also decline from current 37% to 35.7% in FY22 and 33.8% in fiscal year 2022-23. Similarly the upper middle-income poverty rate has also been projected to ease from current 77% to 76.2% in FY22 and 75% in next fiscal year.

In comparison the poverty rate in other regional countries is much higher than that in Pakistan. The World Bank report titled "Shifting Gears: Digitization and Services-Led Development" noted that the international or extreme poverty rate in Bangladesh was 12.5% which would ease to 11.9% in next fiscal year. - APP

## NLC cargo trucks from Karachi reaches Istanbul

DNA

ISTANBUL: A dignified ceremony was held today at Murat Bey Customs Post in Istanbul to mark the arrival of the first two National Logistics Company (NLC) trucks carrying goods from Pakistan to Turkey, via Iran, under the Transports Internationaux Routiers (TIR) convention.

The NLC trucks departed from Karachi on 28th September and reached Istanbul on 7th October covering a distance of 5300 Kilometers. Senior officials of the Turkish Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, Ministry of Trade, Chamber of Commerce & Com-

modity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), International Road Transport Union (IRU), ECO Secretariat, Transport Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran, NLC, members and representatives of the Turkish private sector related to transport, and Pakistan Ambassador to Turkey, Muhammad Syrus Qazi accompanied by representatives of Pakistan Embassy and Consulate General participated in the ceremony. Mr. Umberto de Pretto, Secretary General of IRU, based in Geneva, also came to attend this ceremony. All participants hailed the development as a vital step in promoting connectivity and enhancing trade between Pakistan and Turkey.

Ambassador Syrus Qazi in his remarks highlighted the Government of Pakistan's focus on geo-economics and how regional connectivity was crucial in this regard. He hailed this trial run of NLC trucks as a historic step that will strengthen road connectivity between Pakistan and Turkey and would also help in promotion of bilateral trade. The Ambassador noted that operationalization of this road link will help reduce the cost and time for transportation. Reviving the Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul (ITI-ECO) road transport corridor will generate revenue, boost trade and increase economic cooperation among the ECO member states.



BAKU: Pakistan ambassador to Azerbaijan, Bilal Hayee meets Samaddin Asadov, Chairman of Azerbaijan Space Agency and discussed bilateral relations and potential cooperation in areas of mutual interest. - DNA

## Fears of spatial division loom after 'silent prayer' ruling

Recently, Israeli settlers began to perform silent prayers during their visits to the site

FOREIGN DESK

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM: An Israeli court ruling on Wednesday deeming the performance of Jewish silent prayer within the Al-Aqsa Mosque premises not a "criminal act" has ignited fears among Palestinians that the move is a prelude to divide the holy site between Muslims and Jews in terms of time and space. The unprecedented decision by the judge of the Jerusalem Magistrates Court, Bilha Yahalom, was criticized by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) as illegal and provocative.

"Such illegal decisions constitute an unprecedented attack on the inalienable religious rights of the Islamic nation and its heritage, a provocation to the feelings of Muslims all over the world, and a violation of freedom of worship and the sanctity of holy places," the top Muslim body's Secretary-General Yousef Al-Othaimen said in a statement on Thursday. Wednesday's decision was the first by an Israeli court to support Jewish prayer at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

Recently, Israeli settlers began to perform silent prayers during their visits to the site. While the verdict was welcomed by right-wing Israelis, it sparked angry Palestinian and Muslim reactions who vehemently op-

pose any move intended to divide the holy site with Jews in terms of time and space considering it a violation of the existing historical situation in the mosque that prevailed since the Ottoman rule, under the British mandate and Jordanian rule, to the beginning of the Israeli occupation in 1967. Under the existing historical situation, prayer in the mosque is limited to Muslims only, while non-Muslims can visit it as tourists. The administration of the mosque is exclusively for the

Islamic Endowment Department. The Israeli police have already turned a blind eye to the religious rituals performed by the intrusive settlers which are happening gradually during specific times - in the morning and after the noon prayer. Speaking to Anadolu Agency, Al-Aqsa Mosque preacher Sheikh Ekrima Sabri said the court decision is "invalid."

"The court has no right to interfere in the affairs of the Al-Aqsa Mosque," he said.

"The occupation court does not have jurisdiction with regard to the Al-Aqsa Mosque," the sheikh noted, saying the decision "is a prelude to the criminal scheme of the temporal and spatial division of the mosque."

He warned Israel not to temper with the sanctity of the Al-Aqsa Mosque as it is "a trust on the necks of all Muslims." Other Muslim leaders and organizations in Jerusalem also condemned the ruling. Meanwhile, Sheikh Omar al-Kiswani, the director of East Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque, expressed concern that Israeli extremists have greater ambitions behind the verdict.

"We take the decision and its aftermath seriously," al-Kiswani told Anadolu Agency. "For now, it allows (silent) prayers, but what comes after that? The occupation and the extremists have greater ambitions than that." For Muslims, the Al-Aqsa represents the world's third holiest site. Jews, for their part, refer to the area as the "Temple Mount," claiming it was the site of two Jewish temples in ancient times, which is denied by Muslims. The Jews also openly say that they seek to establish the alleged temple on the ruins of the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Al-Kiswani said the ruling is indifferent to the feelings of Muslims pointing out the hasty way the settlement groups have moved to implement the verdict on the ground.



## Coronavirus deaths in Russia hit new record

AGENCIES

MOSCOW: Russia's daily coronavirus death toll hit a new record on Friday amid the country's sluggish vaccination rate and the government's reluctance to tighten restrictions.

Russia's state coronavirus task force reported 936 new deaths on Friday, the highest daily number since the start of the pandemic. It was a third straight day when daily COVID-19 deaths topped 900.

Russia already has Europe's highest death toll in the pandemic - more than 214,000 - and the authorities' conservative way of recording COVID-19 fatalities suggests the actual number could be even higher.

On Friday, the government's task force reported 27,246 new confirmed cases, just slightly less than Thursday's number of 27,550, which was the highest so far this year.

A steep rise in infections and deaths began in late September, with authorities blaming it on the low vaccination rate. As of Tuesday, almost 33% of Russia's 146 million people had received at least one shot of a coronavirus vaccine, and 29% were fully vaccinated.

## Azerbaijan, Romania eye boosting ties

DNA

BAKU: Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov and newly-appointed Romanian ambassador to Azerbaijan Vasile Soare have discussed the regional situation and bilateral mutual cooperation, the ministry reported on October 7.

At the meeting, Bayramov stressed that there is a huge potential for the development of the close cooperation and strategic partnership between Azerbaijan and Romania and added that the development of bilateral relations requires joint efforts.

The minister also appreciated the cooperation between the two countries on international platforms.

Furthermore, Bayramov briefed the ambassador about the current regional situation, new realities after the Karabakh conflict settlement, the restoration and construction in the liberated areas, and the existing mine threat caused by Armenia in Azerbaijan's liberated lands.

The minister stressed that after the liberation of Azerbaijani territories, normalization of relations with Armenia is possible and it is important to fully comply with the implementation of trilateral statements, open communications, as well as begin the delimitation of borders.

## Pak-China peanut co-op to boost oil supply

BEIJING: In Pakistan, there is a huge area cultivating peanuts, but peanut production in Pakistan is not very high, and neither is the oil production, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Friday.

"I think 80 to 90% of edible oil is imported from abroad and there's no commercial oil production unit for peanut oil in Pakistan," said Dr. Babar Ijaz, a Ph.D. from China Agricultural University, Beijing who is currently an overseas business manager at Shandong Rainbow Agricultural Technology Co., Ltd., making efforts on promoting Pak-China peanut cooperation.

"Our company, Shandong Rainbow Agricultural Technology is based in Weifang, a big agriculture city of Shandong, China. Our major product is peanut.

We produce high oleic acid peanuts for oil extraction, which is famous in Shandong and other provinces of China." Dr. Babar Ijaz said, adding that they have a lot of peanut planting areas in Xinjiang, China as well.

In the financial year 2021-22, Pakistan's edible oil import bill is likely to witness a massive increase of 30 percent. According to the prediction of market analysts, edible oil imports are likely to reach 3.7 million metric tonnes (MMT). - APP



**Briefs**

**IMF wants Pak to hike electricity tariff**

**IBRAR KHAN**

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has demanded of Pakistan to increase electricity tariff. The demand was made during the virtual talks between the IMF officials and Pakistan for the release of \$1 billion loan installment. "Electricity tariff should be jacked up by Rs1.40 per unit," the IMF recommended during the talks as it will help Pakistan in controlling the circular debt. The fund has asked for more steps to increase income tax, sales tax, and regulatory duties collection and urged the Federal Board of Revenue to take steps in this context. The IMF has asked Pakistan to increase FBR's yearly collection to Rs63 trillion from Rs58 trillion, the well-informed sources said. It must be noted that today is the third day of virtual talks between Pakistan with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Islamabad. Negotiations are underway with the fund for a \$1 billion loan installment. Negotiations with IMF officials will continue this week. It is to be mentioned that a loan agreement worth \$6 billion was delayed between the IMF and Pakistan.

**EU bans additive used in sweets and cakes**

**FOREIGN DESK**

BRUSSELS: EU member states on Friday agreed to ban a widely used colouring additive for food, known as the artificial colouring E171 on labels, after the European regulator questioned its safety. E171 contains nanoparticles of titanium dioxide, and is commonly used in a wide range of consumer products, including medicines and cosmetics. The ban pertains to the additive's use in food, where it serves mainly as a whitening and brightening agent in sweets, chewing gum, white sauces and cake icing. The Italy-based European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in May found that there was a risk that the nanoparticles could cause DNA damage, and no safe level for its daily intake could be established. France suspended its use in food last year, following research suggesting titanium dioxide could cause pre-cancerous lesions in lab rats. Without any further objection by member states or the European Parliament by the end of the year, the ban will enter into force in early 2022, said a statement from the EU commission.

**Iraqi military personnel cast their votes**

**WEB DESK**

BAGHDAD: Iraqi security personnel across the country cast their ballots Friday, two days before the rest of the nation votes in parliamentary elections. The vote is being held six months before schedule, in line with a promise made by Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi when he assumed office in 2020. He is seeking to appease anti-government protesters who rose up in October 2019 in Baghdad and Iraq's south. Friday's so-called "special voting" two days ahead of the election is meant to free police and soldiers so they can provide security on Election Day. A government advisor for election affairs, Hussein al-Hendawi, said more than 1.5 million security personnel were eligible to vote, as well as 120,126 displaced persons and hundreds of hospital patients and prisoners. There are 3,449 candidates vying for 329 seats in parliament in Sunday's vote, which will be the fifth held since the fall of Saddam Hussein after the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kazakhstan, and participants of the MWD Business Conference posing for a group picture. – DNA

**OIC condemns India over Assam incident**

In a statement released on Twitter, the OIC called the media coverage of the matter shameful and appealed to the Government of India to behave responsibly

**NEWS DESK**

JEDDAH: Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), an organization of Islamic countries, has criticized the Indian government over eviction of hundreds of Muslim families from government land in Assam. The OIC, on its official Twitter handle, called the police action in Darrang district in India's northeastern state of Assam in September during the alleged eviction of hundreds of Muslim families from government land as "systematic violence and harassment". Two local Muslim civilians were killed during this action. After the incident, the Assam government ordered a judicial inquiry into the matter and said that the investigation would be headed by a retired judge of the Gauhati High Court. In a statement released on Twitter on Thursday evening, the OIC called the media coverage of the matter shameful and

**British woman diplomat sexually harassed in India**

ISLAMABAD: A woman diplomat posted at the British Deputy High Commission in Chandigarh, India was sexually harassed on Wednesday, while she was on her way to play tennis, Indian media reports said on Friday. According to a report carried by Hindustan Times, the 60-year old diplomat who assumed office February this year, in her complaint with police, said the incident took place when she left her residence in Sector 9 around 6.30 a.m. to walk towards Chandigarh Lawn Tennis Association (CLTA), near DAV College in Sector 10. "I was walking past the residential houses when a motorcycle came up behind me. The rider hit me hard with his hand or something on my back. I shouted at him and ran after him but he sped away," the Hindustan Times report quoted her as telling the police. "We can confirm that an official complaint has been registered and a police investigation is underway. We are grateful for the assistance provided by Chandigarh Police," the report further quoted a spokesperson at the commission as saying on condition of anonymity. According to another report carried by Indian newspaper "The Tribune", a senior diplomat of the British Deputy High Commission, Chandigarh, was allegedly molested by a motorcycle-borne miscreant in Sector 10 on Wednesday morning. The Tribune report also quoted the Spokesperson, British Deputy High Commission, Chandigarh as saying, they confirm that an official complaint has been registered and a police investigation was underway. The complainant raised the alarm and ran behind the suspect, but he managed to speed away, the report added. – Agencies

appealed to the Government of India to behave responsibly. The Organization of Islamic Countries in its statement has appealed to the Indian government to provide security to Muslim minorities and to respect all their religious and social fundamental rights. It has also been said in the statement that the best way to resolve any issue within national sovereignty is through mutual dialogue. Violent clashes were witnessed in three Nabar Dholpur village of Assam's Darrang district on September 23 during police action to remove 'illegal encroachments', in which two people were killed in which one person was killed by police bullets. According to the administration's claim, eight policemen were injured. This is not the first time that the OIC has issued a statement regarding violence against minorities particularly Muslims of India. The OIC has been opposing the decision to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

**'EU ties with Turkey improved'**

OVIEDO: Josep Borrell, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security, said on Friday that the bloc's relations with Turkey have significantly improved over the last year. "There were many times when the relationship was about to break," he said at the New Economy Forum in Madrid, explained that since he took on the role as the EU foreign policy chief in December 2019, he has spent

around 30% of his time trying to "smooth out" relations with Turkey. "There was a lot of tension, but my role is to build bridges. Where there's a conflict, I want to solve it with dialogue and I think that we are in a much better place with Turkey now than one year ago," he said. Borrell called his relationship with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan "excellent". – APP

**Indonesian embassy plans Batik exhibition on Monday**

**STAFF REPORT**

ISLAMABAD: Indonesian Embassy in Islamabad would organize a Batik Exhibition "Indonesian Batik: A Cultural Beauty" that would run thru 11-13 October 2021, and displays a fine collection of batik and batik products. The Exhibition would be inaugurated by the Indonesian Ambassador Adam Tugio at 15:00 hrs on Monday, Oc-

tober 11, 2021 at the "Batik Studio" Centaurus Mall, Islamabad. Batik is among the most recognizable manifestations of Indonesia's cultural heritage and it is one of the world's most treasured arts. Batik is an ancient method of decorating textiles through dye resistance. Boosted by the dynamic development of aesthetics and technology its fascinating and intricate color-

ful eye catching designs are becoming even more widespread and appreciated worldwide especially in fashion whether it is traditional or modern. Batik by all means has the potential to serve as a powerful medium to enhance cultural linkages between Indonesia and Pakistan. "Indonesian Batik Exhibition" is being organized with the spirit of transmitting values and inspiring innovative ide-

as and skill development in creative mediums and fashion industry and would be an opportunity for the art & design enthusiasts to inspire their aesthetics talent. Batik has also been added to the Representative List of UNESCO's World Intangible Cultural Heritage by recognizing Indonesia as the origin and home to this exclusive art form and an historical fabric of human civilization.

**Pak-Thai diplomatic relations anniversary; official logo launched**



**SAIFULLAH**

ISLAMABAD: Joint Logo Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Thailand was launched at a virtual ceremony on Friday, with recorded messages by Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand Mr. Don Pramudwinai. The proceedings were co-chaired by Mr. Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, Additional Secretary (Asia Pacific), and Mr. Darm Boontham, Director General (South Asian, Middle East, and African Affairs) in Thailand's Ministry

of Foreign Affairs. Officials from both Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Embassies in Islamabad and Bangkok also attended the ceremony. In his video message, Foreign Minister Qureshi noted that Pakistan and Thailand were trusted friends and the enduring relationship had continued to grow and diversify over time with sustained commitment of leadership of both countries. The Foreign Minister added: "Our relations are anchored in mutual confidence, understanding and cooperation. The bonds between our lands and peoples are rooted in history, going back to the rich Buddhist Gandhara heritage of Pakistan of which Taxila is quite well known to Thai people."

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai felicitated the government and people of Pakistan on the auspicious occasion. Reflecting on the seven decades of bilateral relations, he echoed the sentiments of friendship and cooperation and looked forward to further strengthening and deepening of the binding ties between Thailand and Pakistan in the years to come. In addition to unveiling of the Joint Logo, a video "70 Decades - 7 Milestones" was also played. On the special occasion of the 70th anniversary, both sides have planned a series of events to commemorate this historic milestone in a befitting manner.

**UN warns of consequences if Afghan aid delayed**

**AGENCIES**

GENEVA: Only a third of the funds urgently sought for Afghanistan by the United Nations have been disbursed, the UN refugees chief said Friday, warning of a potential humanitarian catastrophe. Filippo Grandi urged donor nations to honour their financial pledges swiftly, saying: "can you please concretely pledge support where it is immediately necessary". "Pledges were made, so it's a matter of disbursement because we need those resources quickly," Grandi, who visited Afghanistan after the August 15 takeover by the Taliban, told a news conference. Mindful that winter - which is harsh in the mountainous and predominantly rural country - is approaching, he spoke of a "race against time to address humanitarian needs". "The meltdown of services - the banking system, the economy - really risks generating a much bigger humanitarian crisis," he said. On September 17, just over a month after the fall of Kabul, a ministerial conference in Geneva chaired by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres saw donor countries pledge \$1.2 billion in aid.

**Air India sold to Tata group**

**WEB DESK**

NEW DELHI: India's loss making national carrier Air India has been sold to the Tata group, the country's largest conglomerate. The government has sold the airline to the company, which was the highest bidder at nearly \$2.4bn (£1.7bn). The Tata group originally

founded the airline in 1932 before it was taken over by the government in 1953. The government had for years been trying to sell the airline, which has racked up losses worth \$9.5bn. But it recently sweetened the deal by making the terms of the debt less onerous for the buyer. It's still unclear how much debt the Tata group will take on under the new terms.

**NZ cricket confirms tour reschedule talks**

**DNA**

KARACHI: The New Zealand Cricket (NZC) has confirmed it is in talks with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to reschedule the recently abandoned ODI, T20 series. "New Zealand Cricket is back in discussions about reigniting their postponed tour to Pakistan," says a report in NZ Herald. The NZC has confirmed that talks are under way between chief executive David White and his counterpart at the PCB. However the report said that both sides are open to the possibility of the Black Caps returning before the end of the current future tours programme cycle in 2023. A day earlier, Ramiz Raja had revealed that the NZC has contacted them regarding the rescheduling of the home series against Pakistan and "good news will be announced within a week". Speaking before the Senate Standing Committee on Interprovincial Coordination on different aspects and future goals set up for Pakistan cricket, Raja had said: "The PCB may put forward its terms before the NZC by choosing the month of November in 2022 for the rescheduling of the recently postponed series." The New Zealand cricket team, last month, backed out of the much-awaited Pakistan tour, citing a "security alert" from their government. The Pakistani authorities had assured the NZC of complete security but the Black Caps insisted on abandoning the series.

**China invited to Afghan talks in Moscow**

BEIJING: Chinese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson Zhao Lijian Friday said that the Chinese side had received an invitation from the Russia to attend international talks on Afghanistan to be held in Moscow on October 20. "The Chinese side has received Russia's invitation. We stand ready to maintain communication and coordination with relevant sides including Russia," he said during his regular briefing held here. He said that China supported all international efforts that were conducive to promoting peace and stability and gathering consensus in Afghanistan. According to President Vladimir Putin's special representative on Afghanistan, Zamir Kabulov that Russia would invite representatives of the Taliban to international talks on Afghanistan that it planned to host in Moscow on October 20. The representative did not provide further details on the planned talks in comments carried by Russian news agencies. Moscow hosted an international conference on Afghanistan in March at which Russia, the United States, China and Pakistan released a joint statement calling on the then-warring Afghan sides to reach a peace deal and curb violence. – APP



QUETTA: Lieutenant General Sarfraz Ali Commander Balochistan Corps visited earthquake hit areas of Balochistan to oversee troops taking part in. Necessary medical care being provided by Army and FC doctors & paramedics. All critical injured including evacuated to CMH Quetta through Pakistan army aviation helicopters. – DNA