



Islamabad POST

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Merkel advocates two state solution for Palestine issue

Detailed News On Page-08

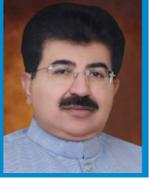
Tunisian leader approves new government

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Sanjrani gets invitation from India

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Briefs

Pervaiz Malik passes away

DNA

LAHORE: Senior PML-N leader and MNA Mohammad Pervaiz Malik passed away in Lahore on Monday according to his son, Ali Pervaiz Malik. He was 73. University of Health Sciences Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Javed Akram confirmed that Malik had died due to a heart attack, adding that he was brought to Akram Medical Complex. PML-N Lahore Secretary Khawaja Imran Nazir said that Malik's funeral prayers will be offered today (Tuesday) at 9am at a ground near Gaddafi Stadium.

Action starts against dollar hoarding

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Sheikh Rashed Ahmed has said a campaign has been started against hoarding of dollars. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad on Monday, he said eighty-eight people have been arrested as part of this drive. The Minister said we have also ordered to initiate audit inquiry against five mega exchange companies in this regard. He said to deal with the foreign funding, action will be taken against those NGOs who are operating under covert services.

Bakhtawar blessed with a baby boy

DNA

KARACHI: Bakhtawar Bhutto Zardari, the eldest daughter of former Prime Minister late Benazir Bhutto and former President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday announced the birth of her first baby boy. Bakhtawar had got married to a businessman Mahmood Chaudhry. In a tweet, she said, "We are happy to announce the birth of our baby boy." The newborn baby came into this world the previous day (Sunday), according to the date mentioned in her post on twitter.

Afghan crisis "Pull yourself together", PM Imran tells US

The prime minister reiterated his call for the world to engage with Afghanistan

MONITORING DESK

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday asked the United States to "pull itself together" or face the collapse of Afghanistan which would become a haven of terrorists. "It's a really critical time and the US has to pull itself together because people in the United States are in a state of shock," he told Middle East Eye, a London-based online news outlet, in an interview here. He said it was vital for Pakistan that the Washington stepped up to the challenge because the former would have to pay heavy price having already sacrificed tens of thousands of people after joining the US-led "war on terror". "They were imagining some sort of democracy, nation-building or liberated women, and suddenly they find the Taliban are back. There is so much anger and shock and surprise. Unless America takes the lead, we are worried that there will be chaos in Afghanistan and we will be most affected by that." He said two decades later the US had no other option but to do everything it could to support stable government in Afghanistan, because the Taliban was the only option for fighting Islamic State in the region - and to prevent the ascendancy of headline elements within the Taliban's own ranks. The prime minister reiterated his call for the world to engage with Afghanistan because if it pushes it away, within the

Continued on Page 06

PM Khan directs to facilitate Chinese investment in SEZs

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has directed to take all possible measures to provide land, electricity, gas and tax incentives to attract Chinese companies to invest in Pakistan's Special Economic Zones. Chairing a meeting on facilitating Chinese investors in SEZs in Islamabad on Monday, he said Pakistan needs investment to accelerate industrialization to create maximum employment opportunities for growing population. He said industrialization will provide job opportunities for our 65 percent population which is under the age of 35. The Prime Minister was briefed that work on five out of total 27 SEZs in the country is in full swing. These five SEZs, include Dhabaji in Sindh, Rashakai in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Bostan and Gawadar in Balochistan, and Allama Iqbal Industrial City in Punjab. It was informed that an effective one-window operation facility is being set up at each of these SEZs and a Facilitation Center at the CPEC Authority to resolve issues of the potential Chinese investors under one roof.

Civil, military discord on recent transfers?

PM Imran Khan wanted Lt. Gen Faiz Hameed to stay as DG ISI for at least another six months

ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The social media especially is abuzz with various conspiracies theories that all is not well between the civil and military leadership these days. While these notions may be true to some extent, however inside sources believe the fire fighting work has already been done and things are okay now. As we know, the military leadership announced some postings and transfers a few days ago whereby the incumbent DG ISI Lt General Faiz Hameed was transferred and posted as the Corps Commander Peshawar while Lt. Gen Nadeem Anjum replaced Gen Faiz as the new DG ISI. Sources claim, the Prime Minister, who happens to be the actual boss of the DG ISI, had a different view about the posting



of Lt. Gen Faiz Hameed. According to the reports, Prime Minister Imran Khan wanted Lt. Gen Faiz Hameed to stay as DG ISI for at least another six months. According to him since he was closely dealing with the Afghan issue therefore he needed to continue with his current post to effectively manage Pakistan's relations with Afghanistan. Secondly, people had already started talking in the media that Faiz Hameed may be the new army chief - news which ostensibly disturbed the

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: PM Imran Khan chairs a meeting on facilitating Chinese investors in SEZs. - DNA

A World Military shooting concludes

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The 53rd World Military Shooting Championship concluded at Lahore Garrison Shooting Gallery on Monday, said a statement issued by the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR). In Skeet Shooting women category, Anastassiou of France clinched the gold medal. Warrant officer Anastasia Krakhmaleva of Russia came second and Lieutenant Komal Shahzadi of Pakistan secured the third slot, bagging bronze medal, it said. In men's category, Leading Marine Asif Mehmood of Pakistan won the gold medal, while Petty officer Waheed Alam and Marine Zeeshan of Pakistan secured second and the third position respectively.

In mix category, the Russian team comprising Major Aleski Skorovogotov and warrant officer Anastasia Karakhmaleva won the gold medal with Leading Marine Asif Mehmood and Lieutenant Komal Shahzadi of Pakistan securing silver medal. Marine Zeeshan and Captain Narina Kosar of Pakistan won the bronze medal.

Egypt extends sympathies on earthquake

DNA

CARIO: The Egyptian government has extended its heartfelt condolences and sympathies over the losses in the recent Balochistan earthquake in which many people lost their lives. The Arab Republic of Egypt expresses deep condolences and condolences to the friendly Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the government and the people of the victims due to the earthquake that hit Balochistan and resulted in a number of deaths and injuries, wishing speedy recovery for all the injured.

5 Indian troops killed in IIOJK shooting

Separately, two freedom fighters embraced martyrdom in different incidents, authorities said

AGENCIES

POONCH: Five Indian soldiers were killed during a search operation in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) on Monday, Indian army said, stoking tensions in the occupied territory. Separately, two freedom fighters embraced martyrdom in different incidents, authorities said. Colonel Devendar Anand told AFP that one officer and four soldiers "were killed during a search operation probably by infiltrators" in a mountain pass near the Line of Control (LoC). "The operation is ongoing," he added. The shootings were the deadliest attack on

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India, China trade blame in border talks

NEWS DESK

BEIJING: Talks between Indian and Chinese military commanders to resolve a protracted standoff on a stretch of disputed Himalayan border have broken down, with both sides blaming each other on Monday for the failure to make progress. Thousands of Indian and Chinese troops have been locked in a high-altitude face-off in India's Ladakh region since last year, despite the two militaries holding more than a dozen rounds of talks to diffuse the situation. On Sunday, commanders met for the 13th time, with Indian officials emphasising that the confrontation had been triggered by "unilateral attempts of Chinese side to alter the status quo", India's defence ministry said in a statement. "During the meeting, the Indian side therefore made constructive suggestions for resolving the remaining areas but the Chinese side was not agreeable and also could not provide any forward-looking proposals," the ministry said, adding that the meeting did not lead to a resolution.

2nd phase of EU-Pakistan business forum on 13th

Amb. Androulla Kaminara said, "We are coming to Lahore, with the second episode of the EU-Pakistan Business Forum"

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Delegation of the European Union to Pakistan is launching the second phase of the EU-Pakistan Business Forum on 13 October 2021 in Lahore to widen bilateral trade opportunities for both the EU and Pakistani businesses. After the first programme in Islamabad on 8 September, the second chapter of the EU-Pakistan Business Forum for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) in Lahore is expected to be attended by the representatives of local SMEs from key sectors including: Rice, Fruits and Dairy, Sports and Surgical Goods, Fans,



Auto Parts, Light Engineering, Hosiery, Garments and Value Added Textiles and Leather. During the Lahore session, the participants will be informed about the European Union's GSP+ Scheme and the ways to benefit from the scheme. GSP+ provides two thirds of tariff lines duty free access to the EU mar-

ket with the rest on preferential duties. In subsequent meetings of the EU-Pakistan Business Forum later this year, more sectors including the agricultural and auto-parts manufacturers, will also be included. Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan H. E. Mrs Androulla Kaminara said, "We are coming to Lahore on 13 October, with the second episode of the EU-Pakistan Business Forum, with the confidence that it will widen opportunities - especially for the small and medium enterprises - and enable them to reap full benefits from the EU granted

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Public won't pay heed to PDM plans against govt: Shauzab - Page 04

How int'l organisations are failing Afghan women - Page 05

UN climate summit: Prince Charles urges world to act - Page 06

Azerbaijan to spare no effort to defend justice, int'l law - Page 07

'Pakistan doesn't want any instability in Afghanistan' - Page 08

Amb. Adam Tugio launches Indonesian Batik exhibition

Exhibition which is collaboration between the Indonesian Embassy, Islamabad and the Batik Studio, Islamabad aims at transmitting inspiring innovative ideas and skill development in creative mediums and fashion industry

CENTRELINE REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Indonesian Ambassador launched the Batik Exhibition titled "Indonesia Batik: Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity" at the Centaurus Mall, Islamabad on Monday. The exhibition which is collaboration between the Indonesian Embassy, Islamabad and the Batik Studio, Islamabad aims at transmitting inspiring innovative ideas and skill development in creative mediums and fashion industry. President Pakistan Women Association Mehwish Sohail was the Guest of honor on the occasion while faculty and students from National College of Arts, Iqra University and Fatima Jinnah University were also present on the occasion. Ambassador Adam Tugio flanked by the guest of honor, GM Operations Centaurus Mall Irfan UIHaque, CEO Batik Studio Mohsin Qamar launched the exhibition by cutting the ribbon. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Adam Tugio said that because of the

shared historical, religious and cultural linkages and remarkable similarities the possibilities for deepening of In-

donesia's relationship with Pakistan were enormous and hence promotion of people to people contact encourages

the vital role that various stakeholders could play in contributing to the strength and vitality of the bilateral relationship.

He said that Indonesia was extremely

Continued on Page 06



Faisalabad admin holds Naat and Speech competitions

The special guests said that they are saluting the Holy Prophet (PBUH) by celebrating the 10 days events of Shaan e Rehmatul lil Alameen

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: In connection with the Ashra Shaan e Rehmatul lil Alameen, Naat

and Speech competitions were organized by the district administration at the district level at the Metropolitan Corporation Hall. CEO DEA Ali Ahmad Si-

yan and Leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Mian Nabil Arshad participated in the competitions as special guest. Prizes were also distributed among the posi-

tion holders of the category competitions.

The special guests said that they are saluting the Holy Prophet (PBUH) by celebrating the 10 days events of Shaan e Rehmatul lil Alameen.

It is a cause of mercy and a source of happiness we are celebrating this blessed month with devotion and respect. Indeed, the character of the Holy Prophet (SAW) is unique.

They said that the world was engulfed in social and societal evils before the arrival of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his arrival in the world saved the society from ignorance and misguidance.

They said that every person should follow the teachings of the Holy Prophet (SAW) as an example in every aspect of the life and May Allah help us all to follow the Sunnah of the Prophet (SAW) they added.



FAISALABAD: Prizes are being distributed among position holders of Naat and Speech competition regarding Shaan e Rehmatul Lil Alameen ashra week events. – DNA

WHO distributes masks at Pakistan Girls Guide Association office

Country Representative was accompanied by the WHO/WHE Team lead Pakistan, Dr Michael Lukwiya and other WHO Pakistan staff

DNA

ISLAMABAD: World Health Organization's (WHO) Country Representative in Pakistan, Dr Palitha Mahipala on Monday visited the Pakistan Girls Guide Association headquarters to boost the 'wear a mask protect Pakistan' campaign.

The Country Representative was ac-

companied by the WHO/WHE Team lead Pakistan, Dr Michael Lukwiya and other WHO Pakistan staff.

He was received by the National Commissioner, Pakistan Girls Guides Association, Mrs. Maria Maud Sabri. The purpose of the visit was to promote the 'Wear a mask protect Pakistan' campaign. The WHO head and team distributed masks and Information, education and communication (IEC) materials to the members,

guiders, students, and staff.

Dr. Palitha advised the Pakistan Girls Guides Association members present, guiders, students, and staff of the association on adherence to public health measures like wearing mask, hand hygiene and physical distance.

The National Commissioner appreciated WHO support and pledged to ensure implementation of public health measures at their institutions.

Governor urges Int'l community to support Afghanistan

PESHAWAR: US Consul General Richard H Riley Monday called on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Shah Farman and discussed regional and bilateral issues with focus on present political and security situation in Afghanistan.

The governor said that peaceful and stable Afghanistan was in the interest of Pakistan, USA and for the entire world, adding it was right of the Afghan people to decide about their choice of governance and leadership. He said that hundreds of thousands Afghans embraced martyrdom due to situation created in 1990s and instead of helping Afghanistan the world community left them alone in hardships. He urged the international community to extend full support to Afghanistan while realizing their mistakes committed during 90s era. The governor said that Pakistan wanted good people to people contact with US. – APP

Foolproof security for Eid-e-Milad

KARACHI: Administrator Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab Monday said that foolproof security will be provided to the processions of Rabi-ul-Awal and we will make the procession routes motorable and try to solve the basic problems immediately. The Administrator expressed these views while addressing a meeting on the arrangements for Rabi-ul-Awal here on Monday.

He said that Karachi was the city of lovers of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) and "Loving the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is the faith and belief of all of us. On the occasion, Commissioner Karachi Iqbal Memon welcomed the participants in the meeting.

On the occasion, Advisor to CM Sindh on Religious Affairs Fayyaz Butt, Metropolitan Commissioner Syed Afzal Zaidi, Sector Commander Abdullah Shah Ghazi, Wing Brigadier Bilal, MD Karachi Water and Sewerage Board Asadullah Khan, DCs of all districts, Administrators, Municipal Commissioners, SSP and other officers were also present. – APP

Opp making excuses in foreign funding case



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib said on Monday that Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) were making excuses for the past four years for not providing details of foreign funding, but PTI would present facts in front of the nation.

Talking to media outside Election Commission of Pakistan, he said according to State Bank of Pakistan, the

PPP had 7 accounts whereas PML-N had 12 accounts. "These are the people who are hiding behind the delay," he said adding that the opposition party accounts were used for money laundering.

He said that the chartered accountant firm and the PML-N wanted to hide their accounts from the nation, but PTI would present facts in front of the nation.

Farrukh said Nawaz Sharif's accounts were also used for money laundering and his

party took money from mafia for its own interests.

The minister said that the PML-N and the PPP had always considered themselves above the law, but now both the parties have fallen in the same pit which they had dug for the PTI.

He said now Bilawal Bhutto would now know how many fake accounts his party had. He said that millions of rupees were deposited in the fake accounts belonging to PPP and PML-N. – APP



QUETTA: SAPM on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Dr. Sania Nishtar explores sites to open One Window Ehsaas Center in Kech District of Balochistan. – DNA

Previous regimes responsible for inflation

QUETTA: Deputy Speaker National Assembly Qasim Khan Suri on Monday said that previous governments are responsible for inflation and unemployment in the country.

He expressed these views while he addressing at a ceremony of Young Parliamentary Forum and Foundation for Education Awareness at subject of public hearing on local government.

He said in the holy month of Rabi-ul-Awal, we should study the biography of Holy Prophet (PBUH) and play our key role for national service. Qasim Khan Suri said, the obstacles in the laws of the local government system are being reviewed so that the problems of the people can be solved after the transfer of power at lower level.

Deputy Speaker said that Prime Minister Imran Khan is a visionary leader of Pakistan who is playing his active role at all levels in tackling the challenges at country level and the Islamic world. He also claimed that inflation and unemployment were increased due to wrong policies of past regimes saying the federal government under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan is working to fulfill the dream of the state of Madinah. – APP

315 Covid new cases reported in Punjab

LAHORE: Another 315 coronavirus cases were reported from Punjab, out of which 195 from the provincial capital during the last 24 hours.

This was revealed by Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) Secretary Imran Sikandar Baloch here on Monday.

He said that 21 new cases were reported in Surgodah, 18 in Rawalpindi, 17 in Multan, 8 in Faisalabad, 7 in Khushab, 5 in Layyah, 4 each in Jhang, Jehlum, Khanewal, Pakpattan and Sahiwal and 3 each in Kasur and Vehari.

During the last 24 hours, a total of 560,239 people across Punjab were vaccinated against the coronavirus, bringing the total number of vaccinated people across the province to 52,720,326.

The total number of vaccinated people was swelled to 6,553,398 in the province, he added. – APP

Small loans play a major role in weeding out poverty

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Small loans could play a major role in weeding out extreme poverty within a shortest possible time from the country, said Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh, President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI).

Distributing cheques among needy persons by micro-finance institution "Zad-e-Rah", he said that corona had badly infested the global economies; however the situation is now returning back to normalcy. "We are facing chronic problems of poverty and unemployment", he said and added that the private sector is playing its

key role to supplement the Government efforts in this respect. He said that it is very encouraging that small interest free loans have helped a major chunk of poor to start their own businesses and earn respectable livelihood.

"These people are very responsive and are paying back their loan liability well in time", he said and added that Zad-e-Rah so far has disbursed loans amounting to Rs. 2 million and this process is continuing as beneficiaries are paying back their loans regularly with full responsibility. He also appreciated the efforts of Mr. Ihsan Elahi Malik Patron-in-Chief, Mr. Arif Ihsan Malik Chairman and Sheikh Javed

Anwar Vice Chairman of Zad-e-Rah and assured that other philanthropists would also contribute their role in this noble cause.

Earlier Mr. Arif Ihsan Malik welcomed Atif Munir Sheikh and said that every month cheques are distributed among 60-70 applicants.

He said that women are also getting this facility to start their own businesses. He also said that the recovery of the loan is hundred percent which is very encouraging.

Later President FCCI Atif Munir Sheikh distributed cheques.

This function was held in Hajra Mosque officer's colony No. 2 Madina Town.

US consulate, KMC launch Frere Hall project

KARACHI: The U.S. Consulate General in Karachi and Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) in partnership with Sindh Exploration and Adventure Society (SEAS) have launched a conservation project to restore Frere Hall on 156th anniversary of Frere Hall's public opening.

The U.S. Consulate General gave a grant under the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) to SEAS, which will carry out the project.

U.S. Consul General in Karachi Mark Stroh, Karachi City Administrator Murtaza Wahab, SEAS President Dr. Kaleemullah Lashari and SEAS Secretary General Dr. Asma Ibrahim took part in a ceremony to officially commence the project and unveiled a plaque to mark the occasion.

Several renowned architects, artists, academics and intellectuals attended the event. The US has awarded more than \$6.4 million dollars (approximately 1.1 billion rupees) for 30 such cultural heritage projects in Pakistan, U.S. Consul General Mark Stroh said, "The United States has deep respect for Pakistan's rich cultural heritage, this project at Frere Hall is a testament of our commitment to work with Pakistan and Sindh province to preserve Pakistan's rich cultural heritage."

The conservation project of the historic Frere Hall building will restore original elements and return the site to its full capacity and traditional glory. This effort will conserve and strengthen the historic building. Work will include stabilization of the Hall's vintage staircase, restoration of the teak wooden flooring on the first floor, foyer rehabilitation, conservation of doors and windows previously damaged from bomb blasts, rainwater prevention measures, repair of damaged waterproofing of the roof, installation of new electric wiring distribution, and rehabilitation and conservation of the tilting and damaged turret and tower, said a communique.

SEAS will also document, assess, and report in detail on the existing structure and its conservation issues for further future projects. These efforts will ensure this Karachi landmark to serve the public well into the next century.

U.S. cultural heritage efforts range from preserving Gandhara and Mughal heritage to the restoration of architecturally significant Hindu monuments and Sufi shrines. In Sindh, other previous U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation projects include the restoration of the tombs of Sultan Ibrahim and Amir Sultan Muhammad at the Makli Hill necropolis, the conservation of Varun Dev temple and the restoration of the Nusservanjee building at the Indus Valley School of Arts and Architecture. – APP

CM for timely completion of priority projects

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mehmood Khan Monday directed all administrative secretaries to ensure quality and timely completion of all 216 priority development projects.

Presiding over a meeting here to review progress on priority projects across the province, he said the government was committed to complete all the priority development and public welfare projects within stipulated time and would not tolerate any delay in this regard, he warned.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary and administrative secretaries of relevant departments.

It was informed on the occasion that as many as 216 priority projects including 94 for the merged districts would be completed in next two years. The meeting was informed that online tracking system has been evolved to determine progress on these projects.

The CM decided on the occasion to hold review meeting every month on progress of these projects and also directed the relevant secretaries to chair fortnightly meeting on the projects of their respective departments. – APP

Double shift extended to 180 more schools

PESHAWAR: Minister Elementary and Secondary Education Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Shahram Khan Tarakai Monday said that 180 more schools have been selected in 15 districts for phase-II under double shift education program to provide quality education to students.

Chairing a meeting attended by Special Secretary Education Shahbaz Tahir Nadim, Additional Secretary Reforms Ashfaq Ahmad and all District Education Officers to review progress on double shift education program, Tarakai said that presently 3000 students enrolled in 115 schools under double shift program phase-I in KP. The minister requested parents and elders to help the education department by enrolling children in evening classes.

He said that now students do not need to travel long distances to reach schools as all facilities have been provided in double shift classes. – APP

Pak joins global club to mitigate methane gas

ISLAMABAD: European Union and United States (US) governments have invited Pakistan to join 'Methane Pledge', a global effort to be launched this year on the sidelines of United Nations (UN) annual climate summit in Glasgow later this month, unveiled Prime Minister Imran Khan's Special Assistant on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam.

He remarked the pledge is a US and EU-led global efforts already joined by two dozen countries so far to jointly to cut methane emissions 30 percent by 2030, boosting the emerging global partnership a momentum for slowing down global warming ahead of its launch at the UN climate summit, according to a press statement issued here on Monday from the climate change ministry.

Malik Amin said, "We have conveyed our consent to the EU and US governments that Pakistan is joining the Methane Pledge to support global efforts to fight climate change."

Now Pakistan is among the 24 new signatories to the Global Methane Pledge first announced

by the United States and EU in September with the aim of boost rapid climate action prior to the onset of the two-week long global climate change summit starting from October-31.

The nine original partners include UK, Mexico, Indonesia, Japan and Nigeria, which signed on to the pledge when it was announced at the Major Economies Forum in September this year.

The partnership of the signatories of the Methane Pledge now cover 60 percent of global GDP and 30 percent of global methane emissions.

"It could have unprecedentedly a powerful bearing on the energy, agriculture and waste sectors responsible for the largescale emissions of methane gas," PM's aide emphasised.

Methane is a powerful flammable and colourless greenhouse gas, about 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide in warming the planet and causing climate change. Being a biggest component of natural gas and used for fuel, its leakages are caused by poorly constructed conven-

al drilling operations, shale gas wells, gas pipelines and other fossil fuel infrastructure.

Highlighting, he recalled that Pakistan received a special invitation to join the Methane pledge club thanks to its extremely successful and globally acclaimed green initiatives and programmes and projects for climate change mitigation and adaptation including the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme (TBTTP), e-vehicle, renewable and ecosystem restoration projects.

The PM's aide Malik Amin recalled that at a recent meeting, US special climate change envoy



John Kerry has vehemently lauded the climate change-related green initiatives launched in Pakistan under Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision for Clean Green and climate-resilient Pakistan.

Explaining about the sources of methane emissions, the PM's aide said that the countries represent a range of different methane emissions profiles, and as far as sources of the methane emissions in Pakistan is concerned agriculture is major source which emits significant quantity of the highly climate-potent odorless gas.

Several recent studies have already called for the need for governments to clamp down upon methane to slow down global warming to 1.5 degrees C, an overarching goal of the global climate agreement signed in 2015 in Paris, he said.

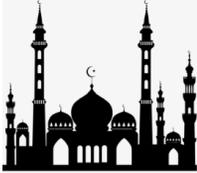
Referring to a landmark United Nations scientific report released in August this year, Malik Amin said that strong, rapid and sustained reductions in methane emissions and slashing CO2 emissions could have an far-reaching impact on the climate.

He also said that Global Change Impact Studies Center (GCISC), a climate change research arm of the climate change ministry, has prepared the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory for year 2017-2018 for Pakistan's First Biennial Update Report (BUR1) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The estimation under the inventory shows the total emissions from Pakistan stand at around 489.87 million metric tonnes of carbon-dioxide equivalent (MtCO2eq.) for year 2018, with energy sector contributing 218.94, industrial processes 25.76, agriculture, forestry and land use 223.45 and waste 21.72 MtCO2 equivalent, respectively, the PM's aide said.

Out of the total 489.87 Mt CO2 eq., as much as 135.89 Mt CO2 eq. emissions are from methane, which includes 6.88Mt CO2 eq. from energy sector 2.95 MtCO2 eq. from Fuel combustion activities and 3.93 Mt CO2 Eq. are fugitive emissions from fuel, Malik Amin Aslam added. – APP

SERVICES



Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	04:47 am
Zohr.....	11:55 am
Asr.....	03:59 pm
Maghrib.....	05:39 pm
Isha.....	07:02 pm



Hotels & Restaurants

Serena Hotel.....	111 133 133
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Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....	0331-5022125
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RCCI urges for incentive packages to promote SMEs

RCCI President Nadeem Rauf said that at present the demand is high in Central Asian and African countries and concrete steps will have to be taken to deliver Pakistani products to these countries

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) urged the government for incentive packages to promote small and medium enterprises (SMEs). He said the Government should introduce lucrative packages and an amnesty scheme for the development of this key sector. These views were expressed by RCCI President Nadeem Rauf while different trade delegations called on him at Chamber house here on Monday. Trade unions are an asset to the Chamber. The Chamber is an important platform for resolving issues related to the business community, he added. I will be visiting the markets soon with my team. He said that the duty on imports of raw materials for the paint and coating



industry be reduced to increase local production and make consumer goods cheaper. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone and we request

the government to lower the prices of electricity, gas and oil for the development of SMEs so as to reduce the cost of production. RCCI President Nadeem

Rauf said that at present the demand is high in Central Asian and African countries and concrete steps will have to be taken to deliver Pakistani products to these

countries. Since most of the industry in Pakistan consists of processing, there is a need to reduce the rate of duty and tax on the import of raw materials. Zahid Bakht-

wari, President Markazi Anjuman E Tajran Cantt. Sadar registered, who was leading the delegation, said that traders suffered the most during pandemic and lauded RCCI role in addressing key issues. Pattern in Chief Zahid Larif Khan was also present on the occasion. Earlier, while talking to a delegation of Paint Manufacturing Association led by Muhammad Badar Haroon, RCCI President Nadeem Rauf welcomed the issues and suggestions faced by the Paint industry and assured all possible cooperation from the Chamber's platform. On this occasion, a tribute was paid to Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan. Fateha was also offered for the departed soul. Senior Vice President Asim Malik, Vice President Talat Awan, executive committee members, and a large number of traders were also present on the occasion.

One Window Ehsaas Centers to be set up in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD: Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection, Senator Dr. Sania Nishtar has announced to open 'One Window Ehsaas Centers' in all districts of Balochistan during the current fiscal year to facilitate the beneficiaries. Dr. Sania stated this during her visit to the bordering areas of South Balochistan to educate the local communities and beneficiaries about the programmes and initiatives of Ehsaas and get their feedback. SAPM visited sub-tehsil Balnigore and Tehsil Tump of district Kech together with the Makran Division and Senior officers of Pakistan Army and Frontier Corps. She also visited various sites in the region to explore options for opening One Window Ehsaas Centers in Turbat and Mand. "In this fiscal year, One Window Ehsaas Centers will open in all districts of Balochistan. It is our top priority to open the one-stop-shop, One Window Ehsaas Centers in lagging districts of South Balochistan to facilitate beneficiaries at the earliest," she added. Keeping in view the difficult terrain of South Balochistan, localized strategy of Ehsaas is also being formulated to facilitate beneficiaries in far flung areas

through mobile One Window Centers as well.

Once materialized, this mobile arrangement will serve the beneficiaries of Ehsaas at the doorstep and will reduce their travel time and cost. During the visit, she interacted with local communities and took feedback on the Ehsaas' running programmes in the area. Creating awareness about Ehsaas programmes, she guided the local communities about the Ehsaas Digital portal that provides people centered instructional information of Ehsaas in Urdu. She also briefed about the Ehsaas 8171 web-portal that is accessible online for the general public to check their eligibility under Ehsaas. Under the umbrella of Ehsaas, there are many programmes being implemented in South Balochistan including Ehsaas Kafaalat, Ehsaas Emergency Cash, Ehsaas Education Stipends and Ehsaas Undergraduate Scholarship.

At the Government College for Women in Tump, Dr. Sania also spoke to students and asked them to apply for the Ehsaas Undergraduate Scholarship portal that is open till Nov 30, 2021 to receive fresh applications for the academic year 2021-22. The visit was organized by the Pakistan Army and Frontier Corps across South Balochistan. The visit to South Balochistan followed the visit to Harnai. During her visit to Balochistan, Sania also met with Commander 12 Corps and IG Frontier Corps, South Balochistan. - DNA



IHC moved against PMC's examination regulations 2021

The petition had named Pakistan Medical Commission, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination and others as respondents

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday moved against examination regulations 2021 introduced by Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC). Former secretary Islamabad High Court Bar Association (IHCBA) Waqas Malik stated that he was filing the case on the wishes of Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, who died on Sunday. He said that Dr. A.Q Khan had been worried due to discriminatory attitude with the young doctors and he instructed him to file a petition on his behalf. The lawyer said he got signature of Dr. A.Q Khan on power of attorney and the plea, which was supposed to be filed on this day. He said he wanted to pursue this case himself after the demise of national hero. The petition had named Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC), Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination and others as respondents. The batten charge against the protesting young doctors had affected the image of Pakistan internationally, the petition said. It further said decision of dissolving PMDC and setting up PMC created flaws in system. The petition said new test system had been introduced for the medical students and its fee had been increased to Rs6,000. It was not correct to introduce new test system without giving appropriate time to students. The petition prayed the court that students should be promoted on merit instead of adopting a commercial approach. The petition prayed the court to declare examination regulations 2021 of PMC as null and void. - DNA

Chairman CDA pays surprise visit to CDA hospital

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Development Authority Amir Ali Ahmed paid a surprise visit to CDA Hospital on Monday. On this occasion, the Chairman CDA inspected the construction work of the new block in the hospital and directed that the remaining work be completed in ten days. Chairman CDA further directed that facilities for treatment of hearing impaired in children and cardiac disease treatment facilities should be provided in the new block. During the surprise visit, the Chairman CDA reprimanded the staff for the poor performance of the pharmacy staff and directed that disciplinary action be taken against the incompetent and negligent employees. While issuing show cause notice to the pharmacy in-charge, it was ordered that all the four windows should be made operational so that the patients do not have to wait long. He also instructed the member Admin to stay on the spot and ensure opening of all four windows within an hour.



ISLAMABAD: Officials from ZTBL sign MoU with Grotech for satellite imagery facilitation to farmers. - DNA

Oman keen to boost economic ties with Pakistan

Al-Sheikh Mohammed Al-Marhoon, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Oman wanted to boost bilateral trade and economic relations with Pakistan as both countries enjoyed strong political and defence relations, but their trade relations were not reflective of the true potential of both countries. This was stated by Al-Sheikh Mohammed Al-Marhoon, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman while interacting with the business community during his visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry. The envoy said that Pakistani high quality products have great prospects to penetrate Oman's market and added that chambers of commerce of both countries

should play a role to ensure bilateral trade of quality products between them. He said that many Pakistani products were getting labelled in third countries for export at higher prices and urged that Pakistan should ensure direct export of its products by focusing on their branding that would achieve better results for its economy. He said that peace in Afghanistan would create many new opportunities of trade promotion between Central Asian region and Arab countries through Gwadar and Salalah ports, which would also strengthen trade cooperation between Pakistan and Oman. He also invited Pakistani investors to explore JVs and investments in Salalah Free Zone which offered

great incentives including 30-year tax holiday, zero VAT, customs duties exemptions, 100% foreign ownership, only 20% Oman's requirement, one stop shop services and no minimum capital requirement. He assured that his Embassy would cooperate in enhancing Pakistan's exports to Oman. Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh, Senior Vice President ICCI highlighted trade, tourism, oil & gas exploration, ports, agriculture, construction and healthcare, education as potential areas of mutual cooperation between the two countries. He said that both countries should encourage frequent exchange of trade delegations and focus on developing strong business linkages between their private sec-

tors to explore all untapped areas of mutual cooperation. The Ambassador supported this proposal and said that exchange of trade missions was very important to improve trade relations between our two countries. Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI said that Pakistan can export many products to Oman including textiles, marble, construction material, pharmaceuticals, surgical instruments, leather products, sports goods, food items and emphasized that Oman should consider importing these products from Pakistan. Mian Akram Farid, Chairman, Founder Group said that Gwadar and Salalah Ports have great potential to create efficient communication channels between the two

countries as both ports possessed excellent infrastructure and other facilities. It would also promote cooperation in blue economies between the two countries. He said that Pakistan was preferring Islamic countries to explore business prospects in CPEC and invited Oman's investor to explore JVs and investment in this mega development project. Fatma Azim, Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Hafiz Bilal Munir, Ali Akram Khan, Aamir Hussain, Sheikh Ejaz, Akhtar Hussain, Ch. Muhammad Ali, Fasee Ullah Khan, Khalid Mehmood, Muhammad Shabbir, Raja Intiaz and Mrs. Parveen Khan also attended the meeting and shared useful ideas for further enhancing bilateral trade relations between Pakistan and Oman.

SECP simplifies onboarding of investors

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In continuation of its efforts to promote financial inclusion through digitalization, increase investor base and micro-savings, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan has specified a swift and simplified onboarding framework for customers of the Asset Management Companies (AMCs) and Pension Fund Managers (PFM). Under the new framework, the accounts can be opened online, while the Asset Management Companies (AMCs) and Pension Fund Managers (PFMs) can conduct customer verification and authentication through virtual platforms such as WhatsApp, Skype, etc. The new framework classifies three categories of investment accounts on the basis of investment & transaction limits, and the respective documentation/verifications, which are Sehl Sarmayakari Account, Sahulat Sarmayakari Account and Sarmayakari Account. Under this new framework, digital joint account opening is also allowed. Through Sehl Sarmayakari Account, users can be onboarded through digital wallets without providing any additional information or document to the AMCs. The Sahulat Sarmayakari Account requires additional documentation but does not necessitate customer risk profiling for investments (in Money Market and Low risk Income Schemes).

74 held for having illegal weapons

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police have arrested 74 persons during snap checking in last week and recovered 61 pistols, three Kalashnikovs, six guns, five daggers and 457 rounds. Following the directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Qazi Jamil ur Rehman, Islamabad police have accelerated efforts to nab those persons involved in criminal activities. Zonal Superintendents of Police (SPs), Sub-Divisional Police Officers (SDPOs) and Station House Officers (SHOs) are conducting snap checking themselves along with police teams to ensure effective policing. During the last one week, Islamabad police arrested 74 persons during snap checking in last week and recovered 61 pistols, three Kalashnikovs, six guns, five daggers and 457 rounds from them. The overall snap checking efforts are being monitored by the DIG (Operations) Alzaal Ahmed Kausar and the purpose is to ensure effective security and protection to the lives and property of the citizens.

Unannounced gas load shedding condemned

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Unannounced gas cuts in the industrial estate sector have upset industrialists and raised fears of unemployment. The present government, including the previous ones, has not been able to come up with a solid policy to keep the wheel of industry running, nor has it been able to manage alternative energy. The government should provide alternative sources, allow manufacturers to import RLNG or reduce duties on furnace oil so that the wheel of industry continues to run. Chairman Hattar Industrialists Association Muhammad Ashiq told The "Islamabad Post" that industries pay billions of rupees in taxes to the government annually but the government has never paid attention to their problems. Association leaders unanimously called for a high-level inquiry into the unannounced shutdown of gas, saying that on the one hand, there was talk of providing relief to industries and resolving their problems, but the ground realities were different.

Briefs

PHA inaugurates 'Kitab Chowk' on Sixth Road

RAWALPINDI: Vice Chairman Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Malik Abid and Director General PHA, Zaheer Anwar Jappa on Monday inaugurated 'Kitab Chowk' on Sixth Road. PHA on the instructions of Advisor to the Chief Minister Punjab and Chairman PHA, has installed a new monument at the 'Kitab Chowk', Sixth Road. On the occasion, VC and DG PHA said that on the directives of the Punjab Government, all available resources were being utilized to make the city clean and green. The work to make areas of Rawalpindi city beautiful is swiftly being completed by PHA, they added. PHA after renovating the Chowk on sixth road installed another beautiful monument which was beautifully designed with models of pens and books. The authority was working to beautify the city as per instructions of the Advisor to the CM, Punjab and Chairman PHA Rawalpindi Asif Mehmood and trying to provide more tourism and recreational facilities to the citizens, they added. — APP

NGIA to be operational by 2023

ISLAMABAD: The new Gwadar International Airport (NGIA), the \$246m greenfield airport being built at an area of 4,300 acres would be operational by September 2023. According to the official source, the passenger terminal building of the project would be completed by June 2023; work related to air traffic control by March 2023, while the overall construction of the airport would be finished before September 2023. New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) was being managed and operated by Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). To be owned by a joint venture between Pakistan, Oman, and China, the airport will handle domestic and international operations. The airport development is a part of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) development, which is a cornerstone of China's One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative. The biggest in Pakistan and will also become the nation's second airport capable of handling A380 aircraft upon its commissioning in 2022. It was expected to stimulate the development in Gwadar peninsula and boost trade between Pakistan and China. The airport would be operated under open sky policy and developed under the guidance of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). New Gwadar International Airport development timeline. — APP

Ceremony held to mark Int'l Day of Girl child

ISLAMABAD: More than 600 Junior Guides and Students (6 to 12 years old) participated in the celebrations of International Day of the Girl child here on Monday. The event was organized by the Pakistan Girl Guides Association at its National Headquarter in collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, Dettol Pakistan, Colgate Pakistan, Peshawar Model School and Parwan-e-Khanum. Ms. Syma Nadeem, Parliamentary Secretary Ministry of Inter Provincial Coordination and Ms. Wajaha Akram, Parliamentary Secretary Ministry of Education and Professional Training were the guests of Honor. Dr. Palitha Gunarathna Mahipala, World Health Organization's Representative in Pakistan visited the event and launched their campaign "Wear a Mask & Save Pakistan". Masks were distributed among the participants of the event. Wife of the British High Commissioner Mrs. Claire Turner also visited and met the girls. She appreciated Pakistan Girl Guides Association for their efforts for empowerment of the girls and advocating the Global Issues. — APP

Public won't pay heed to PDM' plans against govt: Shauzab

Under the leadership of Imran Khan, the current government will keep uniting to defeat the eternal as well as external enemies of Pakistan, " she added

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Kanwal Shauzab Monday said that country's economy had performed better as compared to other countries and personal interest opposition alliance under PDM umbrella would get failure in front of the public. She said that nation would not become fooled by these corrupt and looters again, adding, Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) plans against the government would not succeed as the public have strong confidence in Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Prime Minister Imran Khan would not disappoint its nation. She said the nation could not allow these corrupt politicians to play with the national interest, adding, time had come for the public to hold these thieves accountable. Under the leadership of Imran Khan, the current government will keep unit-



ing to defeat the eternal as well as external enemies of Pakistan, " she added.

"Government is fully focused for the country's economy, she said, add-

ing, the issue of inflation would be addressed on a priority basis as PM Imran

Khan is well aware of the problems of common people and he was seriously

concerned with the issue of high prices which would be resolved soon".

Restaurants sealed for non-compliance of Covid SoPs

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has arrested 109 persons and sealed 143 restaurants for non-compliance of anti-coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs). The civil administration teams headed by assistant commissioners (ACs) in collaboration with federal capital police were visiting hotels, restaurants, shops, markets to ensure strict enforcement of covid SOPs, said Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Hamza Shafiqat on Monday. Sharing details about the actions taken during last month with APP, he said the authorities imposed fine worth Rs 203500 by inspecting as many as 4113 shops. Some 145 shops were also sealed for violating the SOPs, he added. The authorities, he said also checked 1657 restaurants 611 Marques to ensure the compliance of covid SOPs. To a query, he said the ACs concerned along with National Command and Operation Centre officials were in the field to check the vaccination status of the staff and customers at various shops including meat, vegetables, cash and carries, and hotels, restaurants in main markets of the federal capital. Heavy fines were being imposed on coronavirus SoPs violators, and unvaccinated individuals. FIRs being lodged against shop owners for not inoculation of staff against the virus. Meanwhile, Magistrate ICT, conducted price checking, monitoring anti-dengue activities and compliance of COVID-19 SOPs in the area of Khanna where Rs 17500 fine collected from the violators. Likewise, assistant commissioner (Saddar) carried out price checking in D-12 Markaz. Prices of fruits/ vegetables and other essential commodities were assessed. — APP

President urges NAB to prosecute officer for misconduct

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi while rejecting the appeal of ex-Assistant Director NAB, Muhammad Umair has urged NAB to prosecute him to the maximum extent of the law on account of him being guilty of grave "inefficiency and misconduct", and stealing 15 original deeds of property in reference no. 15/2019 (State v/s Sharjeel Inam Memon & Others). The President upheld the maximum service punishment in law of "major penalty" of "dismissal from service", which he considers definitely not enough considering the crime involved, a press release issued by the President's Media Wing here on Monday said. Muhammad Umair, ex-Assistant Director (AD), had submitted an appeal to the President of Pakistan against the orders of Chairman National Accountability Bureau (NAB) imposing a major penalty of "Removal from Service".

Rejecting the appeal, the President stated that it was a case of blatant corruption, and was tantamount to throwing mud in the eyes of the people of Pakistan who had been betrayed. He said that Pakistan had suffered a great deal because of corrupt looters and plunderers, adding that so-called accidental fires destroy entire floors to remove every bit of evidence. The President said that documents were stolen even in foreign countries where corruption of Pakistani politicians was being investigated. According to the details, NAB had taken possession of 15 original deeds of property from the Secretary of Sharjeel Memon, Izhar Hussain, at the time of his arrest from his house in April 2019. Subsequently, the documents were kept in a steel Almirah in NAB which had been specifically provided to ex-Assistant Director, who was made the sole custodian of these documents.



On 18th August 2020, the Defense Counsel claimed before the court that NAB did not possess the original documents, in response to which Umair promised to bring them to court the following day. On 19th August, the appellant told the court that he had lost the record in his office. This lapse resulted in the instant relief and granting of post-arrest bail to the accused persons. According to the fact-finding report, all the record was present but only the most important 15 original documents were removed cleverly from the file and

were recovered only after pressure was brought upon the NAB official. NAB had recommended an immediate suspension of Umair, along with initiation of disciplinary proceedings under NAB Employees Terms and Conditions of Service (TCS) 2000 and proceeding under section 31(a) of National Accountability Ordinance, 1999. He was placed under suspension for three months with effect from 03-09-2020. In the light of the report of the Fact-Finding Inquiry Committee, it was decided to proceed against the officer under clause 11.05(2) of NAB's TCS-2002 and issued him the show cause notice. After the fulfillment of legal requirements, Chairman NAB, on the recommendations of the Authorized Officer, awarded a major penalty of "Removal from Service" to Muhammad Umair under clause 11.03(1) (b) (iii) of NAB Employees Services Rules (TCS 2002). — APP



ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber Zafar Bakhtawari, President of Gulberg Estate Agents Association Malik Najeed, Former Senior Vice President of Islamabad Chamber Muhammad Naveed Malik, Former Vice President Ahsan Bakhtawari, Sadiq Mughal, Zeeshan Sadiq are at the inauguration of Galaxy Shopping Mall at Gulberg Green. — DNA

Seerat un Nabi (PBUH) seminar on Wednesday

ISLAMABAD: Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi Monday said that a seminar on Seerat un Nabi (PBUH) titled "the rights of women and minorities in light of Islamic Sharia", would be held in the federal capital on Wednesday as part of 12th Rab-ul-Awwal celebrations. Addressing a news conference, he said in the seminar, Ulema, Mashaikh and religious scholars would highlight high Islamic moral values, through light on the importance of the rights of women and minorities. The main aim of organizing the seminar was to highlight the soft image of Islam, disseminate teachings of the

Holy Prophet (PBUH) across the globe. He said another such Seerat seminar has also been organized by a Lahore, church, Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) is Rehmatul lil Alameen and not the Rehmatul lil Muslimeen. His Seerat was the beacon of life for the whole humanity. He said Prime Minister has already announced the establishment of Rehmatullil Aalamin Authority, which would portray before the world a true image of Islam besides carrying out research on Seerat un Nabi (PBUH). The core objective of Rehmatul-lil-Alameen Authority was not only to appraise but also inculcate the teachings of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) and his way of life in the lives of kids and adults alike. — APP

Govt places women at centre of all Ehsaas programs

"International Day of the Girl Child" being commemorated under the theme, "Digital generation", Dr. Sania

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection, Dr. Sania Nishtar Monday said the present government is striving towards a healthier, educated and more resilient country by placing women and girls at the centre of all Ehsaas programs and initiatives. In a statement on the "International Day of the Girl Child" being commemorated under the theme, "Digital generation", Dr. Sania congratulated all women and girls in Pakistan and those around the world. Dr. Sania highlighted that women contribute nearly half the population of our country and development is simply not possible without their active participation. "This principle sits at the core of Ehsaas", she said. "We, therefore, have Ehsaas 50%+

benefits for women and girls' policy. Any policy and programme under this framework must accrue at least half of the benefits to women; as a result, more than three quarters of Ehsaas' entire program's benefits are dedicated to women and girls", the SAPM said. According to Ehsaas' weighted-in-favour-of-girls stipends policy for all conditional cash transfer programs, girls get a higher stipend across all age groups. She said that promoting education for all is a top priority of Ehsaas, especially education of girls. Rolled out in all districts of the country, Ehsaas Education Stipends programme has been structured to give a higher amount of stipend to girls as compared to boys. Stipends are given from primary to the higher secondary level sti-



pends to children aged 4-22 years of Ehsaas eligible families. The programme incentivizes parents to send their children, particularly girls to schools. We have also introduced, "Ehsaas graduation stipend" for girls completing the 5th grade to address the issue of girls dropping out of school.

In addition to the education CCT, Dr. Sania elaborated that Ehsaas Nashonuma, which provides specialized nutrition food and cash transfers to children under two and their mothers in the most stunted districts of the country also offers a higher stipend amount for the girl child. Completing higher education, however, still remains a major barrier for women to ultimately graduate out of poverty. With half of scholarships reserved for girls, Ehsaas Undergraduate Scholarship program provides 200,000 need and merit-based scholarships over 4 years, she explained. Ehsaas cash transfer programme, Kafaalat puts cash exclusively in the hands of 8 million women. They receive cash outs and are given savings wallets and will soon

transition to full bank accounts as per the Ehsaas One Woman One Account Policy so that they can reap maximum benefits of financial inclusion, she said. Through Ehsaas Interest Free Loans programme in the National Poverty Graduation Initiative, 45% women beneficiaries have been provided opportunities to build microenterprises. Also, enabling 200,000 households and 1.4 million individuals to graduate out of poverty, under the 4-year Ehsaas Amdan program, 60% of small income generating assets have been allocated for women. Part of the design, the delivery of the 50%+ benefits for women and girls' metric is rigorously followed up in Ehsaas, Dr. Sania added. — APP

IRSA releases 98814 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: IRSA Monday released 98814 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 94917 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1512.16 feet, which was 120.16 feet higher than its dead level of 1392 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded at 51700 and 50000 cusecs respectively. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1182.30 feet, which was 132.03 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded at 15072 and 20669 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded at 54451, 80396 and 43090 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 9100 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 19045 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala. — APP

AIUO closes admissions on Oct 14

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIUO) has set October 14 (Thursday) as the last day for admission in the Matriculation, FA and I.Com programs offered in autumn 2021. Previously the deadline was extended with late fee charges to facilitate the students. According to Director Admissions, the last date for these programs will not be extended further. It is pertinent to mention here that students can only apply online through the given URL on the university website (www.aiuo.edu.pk) with their username and password. Username is the registration number of the student while the password is the last two letters of their name and the last four digits/letters of their registration number. Students should complete the admission form online and pay the admission fee (through challan) at any branch of Allied Bank, Muslim Commercial Bank, United Bank and First Women's Bank or Jazz Cash, EasyPaisa and UPay's mobile app * 786 # USSD String / Retailer Agent / Franchise and Mobilink, Telenor, U Bank branches.

NEPRA imposes Rs 26 mn fine on HESCO

ISLAMABAD: National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has imposed a fine of Rs 26 million on Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) on account of transformer blast at Lati-fabad, Hyderabad in which 10 persons died and around 12 persons were injured. NEPRA upon receipt of reports of the subject incident constituted a three member Investigation Committee under Section 27A of NEPRA Act 1997, said a press release. The team investigated the matter in detail by visiting the site of incident, recording statements of the residents, inquiring the concerned officials/officers of HESCO, conducting analysis of the damaged transformer, visiting manufacturer of the blasted transformer and presented a detailed report to the Authority. The report revealed a total of 10 fatalities which included 01 HESCO's employee and 9 persons from general public and 12 injured persons. Therefore, the Authority issued a Show Cause notice to HESCO under Section 27B of the NEPRA Act, 1997 and later provided an opportunity of hearing to HESCO. Based on the evidence available on record, submissions of HESCO and relevant provisions of the laws, rules and regulations; the Authority concluded that HESCO has failed to discharge its statutory obligations to maintain safety standards as laid down in the relevant laws, code and manual. The Authority has therefore, imposed a fine of Rs. 26 million on HESCO. The Authority has also noticed that HESCO has given compensation of Rs. 3.5 million to the family of its deceased employee who lost his life in the said incident, however, compensation of Rs. 750,000 has been given to the families of 09 deceased persons from the general public. — APP

Assistance to Afghanistan

THE first face-to-face talks between the US and the Taliban since the troop withdrawal took place this Saturday, during which Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi warned the US to not destabilise the regime. These remarks came on the first two days of talks in Qatar with a US team led by the State Department's Deputy Special Representative Tom West and top USAID humanitarian official Sarah Charles. Emphasising that good relations and stability in Afghanistan will be good for everyone, and that the country is going through an extremely critical phase, it is evident that the Taliban are pointing towards the sanctions imposed on them and the assets that have been frozen. While there is of course a lot of underlying tension in those remarks, there were encouraging aspects to the meeting too considering that the US will be helping vaccinate Afghans against Covid19 and will provide human cooperation. The topic of cooperating with the US to contain extremist groups like IS was also touched upon, to which the Taliban explicitly stated that the group is capable of independently tackling the terrorist group on its soil. However, the fact remains that the Taliban's efforts to consolidate their rule have been undermined by a series of attacks by IS, who claimed a bombing of a Shia mosque that left more than 50 people dead on Friday. Shiite populations have historically been targeted relentlessly by IS and such violence only adds to the plethora of issues being faced by the people of Afghanistan at the moment. The economy is teetering on the brink of collapse, with international aid cut off, food prices rising and unemployment spiking. On Saturday, the UN Refugee Agency warned that a lack of resources is hampering efforts to avert an economic crisis that could push fresh flows of refugees to its neighbors in Pakistan, Iran and beyond. The focus at the moment needs to be on engaging with Afghanistan to avoid and avert a humanitarian and refugee crisis. Both regional and international actors—especially the US—will have to play a key role in assisting Afghanistan through this difficult period. However, for such assistance to be more forthcoming, the Taliban will also need to do more to allay the concerns of multiple countries regarding human rights for all minority groups and women in Afghanistan.

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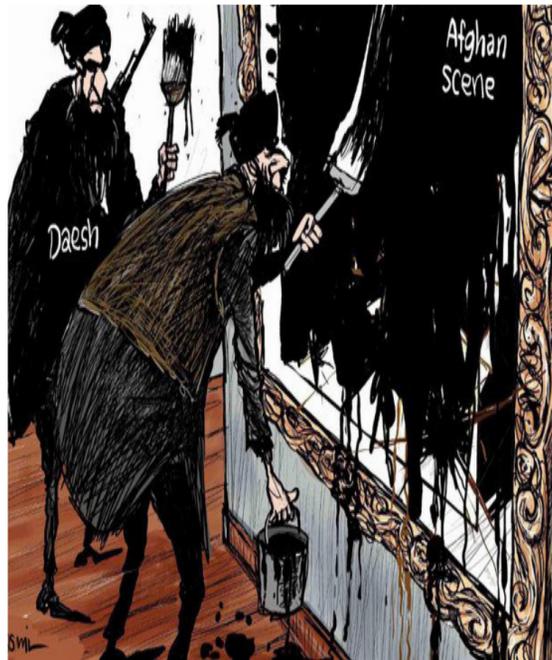
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How int'l organisations are failing Afghan women

Se-Woong Koo

The United Nations, whose mission is to respond on the ground to such crises, has not been that effective, either. Families we were in contact with who crossed into Pakistan's Balochistan province in late August told us that they discovered the local UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) office in Quetta closed...

ON August 30, just one day before the American deadline for withdrawal from Afghanistan, I messaged Parwana (not her real name) on WhatsApp to see how she was doing. "No help for now... but we are good so far. I can at least move around with a proper hijab and a mahram [a male family member as a chaperone]," she replied with a hint of resignation. Parwana had been due to leave on a plane out of Kabul airport in the last days of Western evacuation efforts, but a last-minute glitch prevented her departure. Young, educated and employed by a high-profile international organisation, she was not alone in her situation. I was receiving hundreds of messages from Afghan women like her, all fearing for their future and desperately seeking to escape Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. Since the Taliban entered Kabul on August 15, I have been leading a volunteer initiative consisting of more than 200 members to help young Afghan women and their families. The idea emerged after a few other former faculty members of the Asian University for Women (AUW) in Bangladesh, where many Afghan women have graduated, and I decided to attempt to assist some 180 Afghan students and alumnae who wanted to flee. Since we launched the effort, I have been in contact with other Afghans desperate to leave as well. Before the August 31 deadline, Western govern-

ments flew out a significant number of Afghans and foreign nationals – more than 114,000 in fact. But even now, numerous people from various backgrounds are continuing private efforts to evacuate more, out of frustration that the official "West" has failed in its duty to rescue those who deserve to leave Afghanistan. Many of the unlucky are Afghan women who write countless emails and WhatsApp messages to Western governments and organisations that tout how keen they are to help Afghan women. The answer, though, is often silence. Despair reigns among the forgotten. Typical is the situation of Farzana (she asked me not to use her last name), who, like many Afghans, is in limbo. An employee of the large German NGO Welthungerhilfe (WHH), she reached out to me through her sister who knows me. Afraid for her life, Farzana said she had asked Welthungerhilfe for evacuation in mid-August and received no update for two weeks. On September 1, I felt compelled to write an urgent message to the WHH human resources office on her behalf and received a reply one week later, on September 7, asking for a document that "proves [Farzana's] employment" at WHH, as if they had no record of who was working for them in Afghanistan. Germany had announced on August 16 that it was evacuating 500 Afghan employees of "NGOs like Welthungerhilfe" but obviously WHH never got the message across to people like Farzana. Zahra (not her real name) was lucky to be in India with her husband on medical visit visas before Kabul fell and to be able to stay through the ongoing turmoil. She qualifies for a Priority 2 refugee designation from the US State Department but needs a referral from her US-based NGO employer, which so far has been stonewalling her request (they even told her outright to stop contacting them). She asked me not to name this employer for fear that they might punish her with an even longer delay if she goes public. Not that it seems to make a difference if one keeps quiet: plenty of Afghan women contact me to say their email requests to Western employers for help are routinely being ignored. The usual self-aggrandising mission statements in the international development sector about helping people build better lives or shaping a better world do not seem to apply with any urgency when it comes to the situation of local Afghan employees. One can hardly believe these organisations actually help anyone when they cannot even help their own workers. The United Nations, whose mission is to respond on the ground to such crises, has not been that effective, either. Families we were in contact with

who crossed into Pakistan's Balochistan province in late August told us that they discovered the local UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) office in Quetta closed for an unspecified reason. Quetta is the first major city on the route into Pakistan from the Spin Boldak-Chaman crossing and it makes little sense that this Afghan refugee hotspot has no functioning UNHCR office to do refugee registration, but several other Afghans also reported early in September that they could not access UNHCR's Quetta office services. A local contact told me that the UN likely caved in to "political pressure" from the Pakistani government, which is wary of too many Afghans arriving and which has already started deporting Afghans that it deems have entered the country "illegally". I am not arguing here that the West needs to save anyone and everyone who wants to leave Afghanistan, but only that it should do right by those who meet its own criteria for urgent help, not least educated women. AUW, whose students and alumnae we have been attempting to help, is a recipient of a substantial amount of Western assistance. Although 148 of its Afghan students and alumnae managed to leave Kabul on two of the last American evacuation flights, the university's boastful assertion about the rescue makes no mention of the fact that some two dozen are still in Afghanistan and yet more are in surrounding countries. They all face a myriad of dangers for reasons ranging from having a woman's rights activist as a mother to being without a stable legal status, and they do not want the world to forget them, even if the university seems to have done so already. Among them, Somaya Ahmady was spending her dwindling funds on a hotel stay in Kabul before moving into a rented room at our suggestion to save on expenses. Her home is in the faraway city of Herat, and she told me a distant relative who joined the Taliban was forcing her to marry him so she ran away with her mother's blessing. "I worked hard to reach my goals through higher education. Now I have no hope to continue. The only plan is to find a way to run away from Afghanistan so I can [stay] alive," she said. AUW, whose chancellor is former UK prime minister Tony Blair's wife Cherie Blair, gave them no formal update for almost a month and did not answer their emails, the group in Afghanistan told me. Finally, on September 24, the university held a Zoom meeting with them, only to say they should wait "a couple of months", offering no exact timeline. That is to be expected. It is just another international institution that is failing to look out for all the Afghan women in its care.

— Courtesy Al Jazeera

Gulf security: It's not all bad news

James M Dorsey

The three officials intend "to discuss accomplishments" since last year's establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries "and other important issues," Mr Blinken tweeted. The Israeli foreign ministry suggested those other issues include...

GULF states are in a pickle. They fear that the emerging parameters of a reconfigured US commitment to security in the Middle East threaten to upend a more-than-a-century-old pillar of regional security and leave them with no good alternatives. The shaky pillar is the Gulf monarchies' reliance on a powerful external ally that, in the words of Middle East scholar Roby C. Barrett, "shares the strategic, if not dynastic, interests of the Arab States." The ally was Britain and France in the first half of the 20th century and the United States since then. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, the revered founder of the United Arab Emirates, implicitly recognised Gulf states' need for external support when he noted in a 2001 contribution to a book that the six monarchies that form the

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) "only support the GCC when it suited them." Going forward question marks about the reliability of the United States may be unsettling but the emerging contours of what a future US approach could look like they are not all bad news from the perspective of the region's autocratic regimes. The contours coupled with the uncertainty, the Gulf states' unwillingness to integrate their defence strategies, a realisation that neither China nor Russia would step into the United States' shoes, and a need to attract foreign investment to diversify their energy-dependent economies, is driving efforts to dial down regional tensions and strengthen regional alliances. Israeli foreign minister Yair Lapid and Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, his UAE counterpart, are headed to Washington this week for a tripartite meeting with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken. The three officials intend "to discuss accomplishments" since last year's establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries "and other important issues," Mr Blinken tweeted. The Israeli foreign ministry suggested those other issues include "further opportunities to promote peace in the Middle East" as well as regional stability and security, in a guarded reference to Iran. From the Gulf's perspective, the good news is also that the Biden administration's focus on China may mean that it is reconfiguring its military presence in the Middle East with the moving of some assets from the Gulf to Jordan and the withdrawal from the region of others, but is not about to pull out lock, stock and barrel. Beyond having an interest in ensuring the free flow of trade and energy, the US's strategic interest in a counterterrorism presence in the Gulf has increased following the US withdrawal from Afghanistan. The US now relies on an "over the horizon" approach for which the Middle East remains crucial. Moreover, domestic US politics mitigate towards a continued, if perhaps reduced, military presence even if Americans are tired of foreign mil-

itary adventures, despite the emergence of a Biden doctrine that de-emphasises military engagement. Moreover, the Washington foreign policy elite's focus is now on Asia rather than the Middle East. Similarly, like Afghanistan, the fading hope for a revival of the 2015 international agreement to curb Iran's nuclear programme, from which former President Donald J. Trump withdrew in 2018, and the risk of a major military conflagration makes a full-fledged US military withdrawal unlikely any time soon. It also increases the incentive to continue major arms sales to Gulf countries. That's further good news for Gulf regimes against the backdrop of an emerging US arms sales policy that the Biden administration would like to project as emphasising respect for human rights and rule of law. The big-ticket items with proper maintenance and training would allow Gulf states to support US regional operations as the UAE and Qatar did in 2011 in Libya, and, the UAE in Somalia and Afghanistan as part of peacekeeping missions. In other words, the Gulf states can relax. The Biden administration is not embracing what some arms trade experts define as the meaning of ending endless wars such as Afghanistan. "Ending endless war means more than troop withdrawal. It also means ending the militarized approach to foreign policy – including the transfer of deadly weapons around the world – that has undermined human rights and that few Americans believe makes the country any safer," the experts said in a statement in April. There is little indication that the views expressed in the statement that stroke with thinking in the progressive wing of Mr. Biden's Democratic Party is taking root in the policymaking corridors of Washington. As long as that doesn't happen, Gulf states have less to worry about.

— Dr. James M. Dorsey is an award-winning journalist and scholar and a Senior Fellow at the National University of Singapore's Middle East Institute.

Solar power

THE Punjab government announced a 50 per cent subsidy for installing solar power for all irrigation systems across the country. This is a brilliant initiative especially considering that Pakistan receives more than eight hours of direct sunlight on most days. There will be problems pertaining to educating local farmers on its usage and upkeep, but this is a minor inconvenience in the face of a more sustainable future. According to details released, the government allocated Rs.3.67 billion for the installation of a solar energy system for all irrigation machines in Punjab. This will replace the traditional machinery that uses more diesel and consequently, produces a larger carbon footprint. Furthermore, it will ensure that water is used more responsibly as the system is designed in a way to dispense water when the crop needs it the most, during day-time. Considering that the agricultural sector is one of the prime contributors to the economy and environment, revamping it will surely have a positive effect on the country. Even inter-provincial conflicts over water may ebb due to the fact that water will be used much more responsibly, therefore complaints regarding allocation not being enough may be resolved entirely. For this to work, all other provinces would also have to adopt the solar energy system. Reassuringly, it is only a matter of time. The only factor to consider is waiting long enough to let farmers evolve their ways so that dispensing this technology across the country is not as much of a daunting task as it seems. It appears that we are taking all the steps in the right direction. The Punjab government must ensure that it stays the course and sees through to its full potential so that Pakistan can become a greener and more sustainable country.

Single National Curriculum a disaster

Waseem Shabbir



Federal govt is of the view that SNC will end "education apartheid" but to my great astonishment, how this government can act insanely and erroneously equating reduction in curriculum disparities to overall educational uplift. Beyond SNC imposition, inequalities still persist in many areas. How can SNC bring public Schools to the level of elitist private schools providing best learning environment alongside all other educational facilities...

AFTER a successful consummation of three years of PTI government, it is now entirely focused to deliver in remaining two years what it had vowed in order to garner an immense public support for upcoming general election 2023. In an attempt to manifest its rapid performance and fulfilment of its promises, PTI government was found precipitous in launching and implementing Single National Curriculum across Pakistan. Despite its some attributes, it has received a heavy criticism from educationists, analysts and thinkers for it is fraught with numerous flaws. One of the blunders is that SNC was launched for political gains not for reforming education at all levels. It is an established fact that when an important sector of education of any country falls a prey to the nefarious designs, indifference and inattention of its government, it leaves the detrimental impacts in that society. Currently, the socio-economic and political development of any country is directly linked to the propagation of education at large scale. Unfortunately, In Pakistan, the government allocates only upto 2.5% of budget for education and is intransigently imposing SNC while neglecting the other important areas that need full attention. A new curriculum development is indubitably a lengthy process that requires services from the experts working in the fields. Imagine a curriculum designed by inept experts and then imposed hurriedly, how it will transform the existing education system. Federal government is of the view that SNC will end "education apartheid" but to my great astonishment, how this government can act insanely and erroneously equating reduction in curriculum disparities to overall educational uplift. Beyond SNC imposition, inequalities still persist in many areas. How can SNC bring public Schools to the level of elitist private schools providing best learning environment alongside all other educational facilities which public schools entirely lack. It seems so hard bringing all such disparities to an end by merely launching the SNC. This wide gulf will continuously exist until the government takes some pragmatic measures to make structural and infrastructural changes in the existing systems. I believe that provision of all facilities and

best learning environment at public Schools and Seminars by government is more significant than this false ostentation of SNC. As per latest authentic reports, 48% schools in Pakistan are deprived of basic facilities including toilets, clean drinking water, electric lights, fans, white boards, and proper buildings. More than 50% public schools lack playgroups. How students can absorb and learn a newly imposed curriculum under such tough situations. These are some neglected areas, government needs to focus and improve first than launching SNC. Diversity of curriculum is the essence of learning at various education levels. It provides learners with an opportunity to acquire variety of knowledge by not confining to a uniform syllabus. It also urges students to keep pace with the changing international educational trends by studying multiple curriculums as per their choice. Diverse studies enable students to become a global citizen. For instance, currently there are number of curriculums being taught at private schools in Pakistan. They are Cambridge education system, Oxford school system, Beaconhouse school system, and A and O levels. How can students studied at public schools be equal to the students who received their education at aforementioned elite schools. Government must reform education sector but by uplifting all low-class schools to the level of elite-class not by merely introducing SNC which must be a subsequent option. Its first priority should be to revamp and transform education sector by providing a best infrastructure, a tranquil environment, provision of capacious playgrounds and all other important basic facilities. Deplorably, PTI government has imposed SNC on elite private schools, so severely eroding the advanced learning standards of these institutes forcing them to adopt and implement it. What if government had financed and worked on structural transition of poor public schools, instead of destroying advanced curriculum of elite Private Schools by putting dagger of SNC on them. Currently, 2.3 million children are out of schools—but, who cares and government is ostensibly seeking exit from such challenges under the garb of SNC. Moreover, SNC badly discourages the English medium of learning. All the text books at primary level have been written in Urdu language. Even Mathematics and Science subject were in English version in the previous curriculum that are now entirely composed in Urdu now. Does this seem a rational and sensible approach? How a government can be this much antagonistic repelling students to acquire education and knowledge in a language which is means of global interaction. English, being an international language holds paramount significance in all fields of life. Unfortunately, our government is pushing us from globalism to regionalism by such steps of SNC. Recently, the Punjab government issued a warning to the Aitchison College for non-implementation of the Single National Curriculum is a clear depiction of its dictatorial attitude. Federal Minister of education, Shafiqat Mahmood also warned of a strict action against those not implementing SNC. Moreover, forcing provinces to adopt and practice SNC unquestionably contradicts 18th amendment. How can education sector progress under such autocratic and undemocratic behaviours is a big question. In nutshell, Single National Curriculum is not a bad idea provided that it is cautiously designed by taking all parties on board. It must be cohesive in its nature. Besides SNC, government should allocate a big chunk of budget for the physical infrastructural development of public schools. It must hire expert, well groomed, experienced and learned teachers in order to uplift and enhance education standards of all public schools. There must be highly qualified religious teachers to deal with the subject of Islamiyat. Provision of all basic facilities like that of elite schools to low-grade schools should be government priority. Students must be provided with a peaceful environment at schools where they could uninteruptedly study and nourish their learnings.

— The writer is a freelance columnist and an educationist working with Punjab Government.

Briefs

"Pull yourself together", PM Imran tells US

FROM PAGE 01

Taliban movement there are hardliners, and it could easily go back to the Taliban of 2000 and that would be a disaster." He said sanctioning the Taliban would soon lead to a humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan where half the population already lived below the poverty line, and 75 percent of the national budget dependent on foreign aid.

"If they leave Afghanistan like this, my worry is that Afghanistan could easily revert back to 1989 when the Soviets and US left and over 200,000 Afghans died in the chaos," he said, referring to the civil war that followed the Soviet retreat from the country. Imran Khan told MEE that he had warned Biden, John Kerry and Harry Reid - then all senators - in 2008 that they were creating a quagmire in Afghanistan for which there was no military solution. He said they did not listen. Two years later General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, then chief of the army staff, delivered the same message to US President Barack Obama, he said. "We have been so relieved because we expected a bloodbath but what happened was a peaceful transfer of power. But we also felt we were blamed for this. Three hundred thousand [Afghan army] troops surrendered without a fight, so clearly we did not tell them to surrender." Asked whether the Taliban had formed an inclusive government, Khan conceded it was not inclusive, but said the government was a transitional one.

The prime minister said Pakistan was working with neighbouring states, notably Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, which had sizeable ethnic minorities inside Afghanistan, to encourage the Taliban to widen representation.

"They need an inclusive government because Afghanistan is a diverse society."

Imran Khan said the Taliban should be given time: "They have made the right statements and have no other option. What else are we going to do if we sanction them? The best way is to incentivise them to walk the talk."

"But if you force them, I would imagine the nature of the people is such that they will push back and it would be counterproductive." He said there were clearly different currents within the movement and a lack of clear leadership on some issues. He said the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) consisted of 50 groups and that he was trying to reconcile those elements who were willing to talk. "Now we are trying to talk to those who can be reconciled because it's from a position of strength. I always believed all insurgencies eventually end up on the dialogue table, like the IRA [Irish Republican Army] for instance," he said, referring to the Northern Irish peace deal.

The prime minister said that the Taliban government in Afghanistan had told Pakistan that the TTP would not be allowed to launch attacks on Pakistan from inside Afghan territory. He accused Indian intelligence of supporting these attacks under the former government in Kabul. "We now have to talk to those who can reconcile and [persuade to] give up their arms and live as normal citizens." Khan condemned the continued use of drones by the US in Afghanistan.

"It is the most insane way of fighting terrorism. Doing a drone attack on a village mud hut and expecting there will not be casualties. And a lot of time the drones targeted the wrong people." Asked whether Pakistan would allow the US to launch strikes targeting IS in Afghanistan from Pakistan, Khan said: "They don't need a base here because we do not need to be part of a conflict again."

2nd phase of EU-Pak business...

FROM PAGE 01

GSP+ concessions by developing contacts in the EU market."

After the first and second parts of the EU-Pakistan Business Forum in Islamabad and Lahore, respectively, the next final programme will take place in Karachi later this year.

UN climate summit: Prince Charles urges world to act

Johnson on Monday held talks with his Indian counterpart, and directly urged him to do more to cut emissions. India is the world's third-highest emitter of greenhouse gases and relies on coal for nearly 70 percent of its electricity generation

APP

LONDON: Prince Charles, a lifelong environmentalist who has championed organic gardening and runs one of his cars on white wine and cheese, has urged world leaders to turn talk into action at the upcoming UN climate summit. Queen Elizabeth II's eldest son and heir, 72, is due to attend events at the two-week COP26 summit in Glasgow starting on October 31, along with his 95-year-old mother. But in an interview, he said he worried that world leaders would "just talk", adding: "The problem is to get action on the ground." The UN summit will try to persuade major developing economies to do more to cut their carbon emissions, and get the rich world to cough up billions more dollars to help poorer countries

adapt to climate change.

When asked if Prime Minister Boris Johnson's UK government was doing enough itself against climate change, Charles replied: "I couldn't possibly comment." Johnson on Monday held talks with his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi, and directly urged him to do more to cut emissions. India is the world's third-highest emitter of greenhouse gases and relies on coal for nearly 70 percent of its electricity generation. But it is resisting international pressure to set a target date for emissions to reach net zero, arguing the onus is on richer countries with higher emission rates per capita. Johnson "underlined the importance of making concrete progress on climate change" before and at the Glasgow summit, Downing Street said in a statement. "He noted that India already



lead the world in renewable technology and expressed his hope that they will commit to a more ambitious Nationally Determined Contribution and to achieving Net Zero emissions," it added. The Prince of Wales warned that the failure to act would have dire consequences, saying the world

had taken "far too long" to take climate change seriously. The summit aims to secure new commitments to reduce carbon emissions to prevent runaway global warming. "The risks now are so great if you don't make the right move. It'll be catastrophic," he said. It is already beginning to be catastrophic, because nothing in nature can survive the stress that is created by these extremes of weather." He expressed sympathy with climate protesters, who have been blocking roads in Britain for several weeks as part of a campaign to make homes more environmentally efficient. "I totally understand the frustration," he said, as the government tries to get tough with the demonstrators, who have caused gridlock to rush-hour traffic with sit-down protests and by glueing themselves to tarmac.

"All these young people feel nothing is ever happening so of course they're going to get frustrated," he added, stressing: "But it isn't helpful, I don't think, to do it in a way that alienates people." "So I totally understand the frustration, the difficulty is how do you direct that frustration in a way that is more constructive rather than destructive." Charles, whose Highgrove estate in western England has an entirely organic garden and farm, also outlined some of his own actions to reduce his carbon footprint, including cutting down on meat and fish. In 2008, his office revealed he had converted an Aston Martin car he owns to run on biofuel made from surplus English white wine and whey from cheese manufacturing. Other cars in his fleet had been adapted to run on biodiesel made from used cooking oil, as a way to reduce his carbon footprint.



MINSK: Shahmir Amir from Pakistan, the third most accomplished bug hunter in the world called on Pakistan ambassador to Belarus, Sajjad Haider. He is visiting Belarus for a couple of events on Cyber Security. - DNA

Top seeds entered into second round of CAS Int'l Squash Chips

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD, Oct 11: Pakistan's Tayyab Aslam, Farhan Zaman, Farhan Mehboob along with Egyptian Karim El Hammamy and French Auguste Dussourd entered into second round of Chief of Air Staff (CAS) International Squash Championship here at the Mushaf Squash Complex Islamabad. Twenty one foreign players from nine countries including Czech Republic, Egypt, England, France, Hong Kong, Russia, Serbia, Spain and Switzerland are taking part in the Chief of Air Staff (CAS) International Squash Championships for men and women which will be concluded on October 15th which organised by Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF) in collaboration with Pakistan Air Force, Serena Hotels and Combaxx Sports. The tournament first round played on Monday where five Pakistani players entered into the second round which will be held on Tuesday (Today). Detailed results of Men & Women events are appended below. Men Event: Tayyab Aslam (PAK) got Bye, Amaal Fareed (PAK) bt Vladislav Titov (RUS) by 11-1, 11-5, 11-7 (28 Min), Martin Svec (CZE) bt Danish Atlas Khan (PAK) by 8-11, 11-7, 11-7 (29 Min), Tsz Kwan Lau (HKG) got Bye, Asim Khan (PAK) got Bye, Farhan Zaman (PAK) bt Robert Downer (ENG) by 11-1, 10-12, 12-10, 11-9 (42 Min), Khaled Labib (EGY) bt Zahir Shah (PAK) by 11-8, 11-8, 11-2 (21 Min), Auguste Dussourd (FRA) got Bye, Moustafa El Sirty (EGY) got Bye, Farhan Mehboob (PAK) bt (WC) Hamza Sharif (PAK) by 11-8, 11-8, 11-8 (29 Min), Chi Him Wong (HKG) bt Omar Elkattan (EGY) by 11-7, 11-6, 11-6 (20 Min), Max Lee (HKG) got Bye, Henry Leung (HKG) got Bye, Hugo Varela (ESP) bt Waqas Mehboob (PAK) by 8-11, 11-9, 11-5, 11-5 (34 Min), Israr Ahmad (PAK) bt (WC) Noor Zaman (PAK) 11-5, 7-11, 11-6, 11-5 (35 Min) and Karim El Hammamy (EGY) got Bye.

World Mental Health Day observed at Pak HC London

Pakistan High Commissioner Moazzam Ahmad Khan was the keynote speaker

DNA

LONDON: Pakistan High Commission London in collaboration with Royal College of Psychiatrists, marked the World Mental Health Day by organising a seminar on October 10, 2021. High Commissioner Moazzam Ahmad Khan was the keynote speaker. Notable British Pakistani psychiatrists and doctors participated in the well attended event. Mental health experts spoke on the subject in detail and shared useful information with the participants. They emphasized the importance of talking about mental health issues,



breaking social taboos around mental health and getting professional help in a timely manner. They said that Covid-19 pandemic had adversely impacted people's mental health adversely and hence the issue needed greater attention and resources. In his address, the High Commissioner, pointed out

lack of access to mental health services in developing countries as well as stigma in accessing the scant services available in hospitals. He emphasised on the need to positively approach the mental health debate. In addition, he stressed on the need for increased investment to provide equitable mental health care for

all. The High Commissioner also apprised the participants of several initiatives taken by the government of Pakistan such as Sehat Sahulat Program giving health cover to millions of households in Pakistan. Dr Shahid Latif, Chair Royal College of Psychiatrists Trent Division, moderated the seminar.

Amb. Adam Tugio launches...

FROM PAGE 01

rich in art and culture which were intertwined with religion and age-old traditions. The crafts of Indonesia vary in both medium and art form and as a whole the people are artistic by nature and express themselves on canvas, wood, metals, clay and stone, he added.

The Envoy said that Batik was the most quintessentially Indonesian textile and historically the most expressive and subtle of the resist methods. Batik was intertwined with the cultural identity of the Indonesian people and, through the symbolic meanings of its colors and designs, expresses their creativity and spirituality. It was gaining popularity internationally as a wonderful creative medium and, no wonder, it has been added to the Representative List of UNESCO's World Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity which is the theme of today's exhibition as well, he elaborated.

On this occasion, the Ambassador also informed that the Embassy will soon organize "The Pakistan Batik Design Competition" in collaboration with the Pakistani Universities. He mentioned that the top three winners of the competition will be sent to Indonesia's world famous Bali Island for a free trip and get two weeks hands on training on Batik Technique and Designing at the prime Arts College of the Island.

Batik textiles feature ornate motifs, patterns, and colors created by brushing or pouring hot wax onto undyed fabric. The fabric is then dyed, and the wax is removed with boiling water to reveal the patterns. This process can be repeated multiple times to create layered patterns with different colors.

Although it is common to see the mass production of batik with technology and machines, it is still made by hand in many parts of Indonesia. There is a considerable market for this high-quality cloth. Batik is gaining popularity both in Indonesia and abroad and the fashion designers are incorporating batik textiles and designs into their range of collections. The list of batik products was ever getting lengthier and the striking beauty of batik handbags, bedspreads, curtains and tablecloths was indescribable. The Exhibition runs thru 11-13 October 2021 and displays some fine collection of batik and batik products.

Civil, military discord...

FROM PAGE 01

That is why Lt. Gen Faiz Hameed has been posted as the Corps Commander. There is no denying the fact that Pakistan Army is the most disciplined and professional institution where chain of command system works incredibly well. Therefore officers' direct contacts with the political leadership by and large are not taken well by the army leadership. The Federal Information Minister Fawad Ch while talking to a media channel admitted there are some issues, but he categorically stated that the issues have been resolved.

5 Indian troops killed in IIOJK...

FROM PAGE 01

military forces in the area since a ceasefire along the LoC was announced in February. For over three decades, separatist groups have been fighting Indian soldiers and demanding independence for IIOJK or its merger with Pakistan. Tens of thousands of civilians, soldiers and rebels have died in the fighting. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist government angered Kashmiris in 2019 by scrapping the Muslim-majority region's semi-autonomous status. This was accompanied by a huge security operation and communications blackout with tens of thousands of extra soldiers joining the estimated half a million already on the ground. Tensions have flared further in recent weeks with a spate of shootings of civilians in the area, with seven killed last week alone in attacks. Some 650 residents suspected to have links with rebel groups have been detained following the shootings, a police source said.

Mbappe's winner takes France to Nations League title

The French response was swift, however, with Mbappe finding Benzema who cut inside before unleashing a brilliant curling shot into the far corner to make it 1-1

SPORTS DESK

MILAN: World champions France won the Nations League final with goals from Karim Benzema and Kylian Mbappe earning them a 2-1 win over Spain at the San Siro stadium on Sunday. Didier Deschamps side had struggled to get a foothold in the game during a first half dominated by Spain but after going a goal down, following Mikel Oyarzabal's strike, they came alive. With Paul Pogba excellent in midfield, Mbappe's speed and movement stretching Spain and Benzema a constant threat, the French were good value for their victory. "We showed our character against a very strong team. We never gave up," said Benzema. "It shows what great teams do - never panic, be patient and wait for the right time." Luis Enrique's young Spain side, who had beaten European champions Italy in the semi-finals, had played their trademark possession football with patience and precision but in the end could not compensate for the absence of a genuine striker. "It was a difficult defeat," said Spain's France-born defender Aymeric Laporte. "We have proven to be a great team despite our youth, we have shown better football

than them, but what counts is the result." The first half was a relatively subdued affair with Spain moving the ball well but without dangerous penetration while France were disrupted by the loss to injury of centre-half Raphael Varane. But both sides were awoken after the break when France full-back Theo Hernandez thundered a shot against the underside of the bar after a swift break.

Spain responded to that warning in clinical fashion, taking the lead when Oyarzabal latched on to a long pass from Sergio Busquets, held off Dayot Upamecano and fired into the bottom corner. The French response was swift, however, with Mbappe finding Benzema who cut inside before unleashing a brilliant curling shot into the far corner to make it 1-1. Mbappe

then grabbed the winner, 10 minutes from the end, racing on to a through ball from Hernandez and keeping his cool to slot past Unai Simon.

Spain protested that Mbappe was offside when he received the ball but the VAR check found a slight touch from defender Eric Garcia had played the France striker inside. France had keeper Hugo Lloris to thank for two late saves as Deschamps's side held on for the victory against intense Spanish pressure. Lloris got down well to keep out a low shot from Oyarzabal in the 89th minute and then in stoppage time he reacted superbly to parry a strike from substitute Yeremi Pino. Nations League, in just its second edition, remains clearly UEFA's secondary tournament for national sides, as the Italian fans singing of their team's Euro 2020 triumph reminded, but that didn't dampen France's celebrations.

"We did not get off to a good start we were dominated and waited until the first goal to react," said Pogba, who was crucial to France's response. "We know we have to do better. But if it's the way we have to win, so be it. Winning a trophy is always good. We're always hungry for those," he added. Earlier on Sunday, Italy had claimed third-place in the Final Four tournament by beating Belgium 2-1 in Turin.



Briefs

Czech president stable in ICU

PRAGUE: Czech politics was thrown into uncertainty Monday with the president spending a second day in intensive care and his chief ally, the outgoing billionaire prime minister, defeated in a general election.

Andrej Babis's populist ANO (YES) party narrowly lost at weekend to a three-party centre-right alliance called Together and led by right-winger Petr Fiala. Babis' defeat came as he faces charges over EU subsidy fraud and after the Pandora Papers investigation this month showed he had used money from his offshore firms to purchase overseas property, including a chateau on the French Riviera. President Milos Zeman needs to convene parliament within 30 days of the election and name the next prime minister under the Czech constitution, besides mediating talks on the new government.

On Sunday, he had a brief meeting with Babis, but was then rushed to Prague's military hospital from his residence. Local media say that he is suffering from liver problems. — APP

Algerian president demands 'total respect' from France

NEWS WEB

ALGIERS: Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune on Sunday demanded France's "total respect", following a row over visas and critical comments from Paris about the North African country.

Last weekend, Algeria recalled its ambassador from Paris and banned French military planes from its airspace, which France regularly uses to reach its forces battling militants in the Sahel region to the south.

The moves came after a bitter row over visas, followed by media reports that French President Emmanuel Macron had told descendants of Algeria's 1954-1962 war of independence that Algeria was ruled by a "political-military system" that had "totally re-written" its history.

The office of Algeria's president responded by saying the comments, which have not been denied, were an "interference" in the country's internal affairs.

On Sunday, Tebboune spoke publicly for the first time about the row, telling local media outlets the return of the Algerian ambassador to France was "conditional on total respect for the Algerian state".

"We forget that it (Algeria) was once a French colony... History should not be falsified," he added. "We can't act like nothing happened." Macron's remarks last week to French daily Le Monde were widely picked up by Algerian media, which slammed them as "vitriolic". The French president reportedly criticised what he called the "official history" which Algeria had written for itself, saying it was "not based on truths".

NKATI, NKDIMC paid tribute to A Q Khan

KARACHI: Faisal Moiz Khan, President North Karachi Association of Trade & Industry (NKATI), SVP Shabbir Ismail, VP Naeem Haider, Syed Usman Ali, Syed Tariq Rasheed, Sadiq M, CEO NKDIMC, Chairman Board Faraz Mirza have expressed their grief and sorrow over the sad demise of Mohsin-e-Pakistan, Fakhre-Pakistan, nuclear scientist Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan.

In a statement, NKATI, NKDIMC leaders were of the opinion that Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan made Pakistan invincible by making it a nuclear power, which is an invaluable gift to the nation, and the whole nation will always remember his services. They prayed that Almighty Allah may grant courage to the members of bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss with fortitude and the departed soul may rest in eternal peace. — APP

Azerbaijan to spare no effort to defend justice, int'l law

Aliyev recalled that at the 18th summit he stressed that Azerbaijan would build its chairmanship priorities and activities on the basis of the Bandung principles and resolutely defend the justice and norms of international law

DNA

BAKU: President Ilham Aliyev has said that as the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) chairman Azerbaijan will spare no effort to defend justice, international law and NAM member states' legitimate interests.

He made the remarks in a wide format address to the High-Level Commemorative Meeting to mark the NAM's 60th anniversary held in Serbia's Belgrade on October 11. "Azerbaijan as the chair of the NAM will spare no effort to further strengthen the NAM's role in addressing global challenges in international relations and defend justice, international law and the legitimate interests of the NAM Member States," the president said.

Speaking about the Bandung principles, that is respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, refraining from acts of aggression, and the non-interference in internal affairs, Aliyev described them as valid and essential in current international relations.

"If the Bandung principles were upheld by all States, we would not observe the wars and conflicts. The violation of the territorial integrity of States with the use of force is totally unacceptable. Azerbaijan fully supports the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries," he underlined.

Aliyev recalled that at the 18th summit he stressed that Azerbaijan would build its chairmanship priorities and activities on the basis of the Bandung principles and resolutely defend the justice and norms of international law.

"Azerbaijan conducts fully independent domestic and foreign policy, and effectively neutralizes all attempts of foreign interference into its



internal affairs," he stated.

Speaking about the double standards and selective approaches applied with respect to the norms and principles of international law, he stressed that Azerbaijan has been affected by such a selective attitude for the last three decades.

He recalled that benefiting from the double standards thriving in international relations, Armenia in blatant violation of norms and principles of international law, was able to keep under occupation almost 20 percent of Azerbaijan's territory for about 30 years and conducted various war crimes against Azerbaijan. Aliyev emphasized that no difference was

made between the aggressor state and the state that has faced an occupation.

"Armenia did not face any sanction for its military aggression and refusal to implement the four resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council in 1993, which demanded immediate, complete, and unconditional withdrawal of armed forces of Armenia from Azerbaijan's occupied territories. ... On the contrary, Armenia was consolidating the occupation, committing war crimes, conducting illegal settlement and illicit exploitation of natural resources and destroying the cultural and religious heritage of Azerbaijani people," the president stated. Aliyev reiterated his appreciation for the

NAM countries' constant support for Azerbaijan's territorial integrity and sovereignty during the 44-day war.

"The support of seven NAM countries as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council during the Patriotic War was of great value for us," he said.

Aliyev spoke about Azerbaijan's initiatives to consolidate global efforts against the COVID-19 pandemic as the chair of the movement. The president recalled his initiative to hold the NAM Online Summit at the level of heads of state and government in May 2020.

"As a practical outcome of the Summit, a database encompassing the basic humanitarian and medical needs of NAM Member States was created, and the WHO uses the database as a reference point for identifying the existing needs of NAM Member States in addressing the pandemic," he said.

Further to the president's suggestion, the special session of the UN General Assembly in response to COVID-19 at the level of heads of state and government was held in December 2020.

Aliyev also recalled the country's voluntary financial contributions to the WHO in the amount of \$10 million, direct financial and humanitarian assistance to more than 30 countries over COVID-19, and donation of more than 150,000 doses of the vaccine to four countries free of charge.

"This March, with the initiative of Azerbaijan, as the chair of the NAM, the UN Human Rights Council unanimously adopted a resolution on equitable and universal access to vaccines. We are also planning to put forward, on behalf of the NAM, a similar initiative at the UN General Assembly," he said.

Iraq arrests IS finance chief wanted by US

AGENCIES

BAGHDAD: Iraq has captured the alleged finance chief of the Islamic State group, Sami Jasim al-Jaburi, who was sought by the United States, in an operation abroad, Iraqi authorities said Monday.

Jaburi, also the suspected former deputy to the late IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, was arrested, a senior Iraqi military source told AFP without elaborating. Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhemi had earlier announced on Twitter that Jaburi was arrested by the intelligence services "outside the borders" of Iraq, in a "complex external operation," without naming the location.

The US had offered a reward of up to \$5 million for the capture of Jaburi.

The US Rewards for Justice programme said Jaburi had "reportedly served as the equivalent of... finance minister (for IS), supervising the group's revenue-generating operations from illicit sales of oil, gas, antiquities and minerals".

In September 2015, the US Treasury Department labelled Jaburi as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist.

IS took over one third of Iraq in a lightning offensive in 2014, expanding their self-declared "caliphate" stretching across the Syrian border. Iraq's government declared victory against the jihadists in late 2017 after a grinding military campaign backed by a US-led military coalition. Baghdadi was killed in a raid by US Special Forces in northwestern Syria in October 2019.

UK tells France: migrant money is coming

LONDON: The UK said Monday that over 60 million euros promised to France to stop cross-Channel migrant boats was coming, after Paris complained that none had been paid yet amid a surge in the perilous crossings.

British Home Secretary Priti Patel has reportedly threatened to withhold the package worth £54 million (\$74 million, 64 million euros) in light of record numbers of migrants arriving from France.

But Damian Hinds, a minister in Patel's department, said the money would be paid "in the coming weeks". He told BBC television that an "administrative process" rather than any "political question" had led to the payment delay.

"I would like to see increased activity, increased turnback (of migrants)" Hinds added.

"France is a safe country. If you are seeking asylum, you should claim it in the first safe country you come to."

French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin on Saturday called for the start of talks for a migration treaty between the European Union and the UK, which has now left the EU, and complained that none of the money had been forthcoming yet. — APP

Car bomb kills six in Syria's Afrin: monitor

BEIRUT: A car bombing in the northern Syrian city of Afrin on Monday killed six people, including at least one Turkey-backed rebel fighter, a war monitor said. Afrin, like all areas held by pro-Turkish rebels, is the scene of regular targeted killings, bombings and shootings that largely remain unclaimed.

On Monday, an explosive-laden vehicle detonated in "an area crowded with civilians" in the centre of the rebel-held city, said the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The explosion hit near a market and military outpost for the hardline Jaysh al-Islam rebel group, according to the monitor which relies on a network of sources inside Syria.

At least two civilians and one Jaysh fighter were among those killed, while 12 other people were wounded, the Observatory said.

"Hospitalised in Afrin received charred corpses of unidentified persons," the monitor added. — APP



TASHKENT: President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev arrived in Kashkadarya Region to hold a meeting with the voting public, as well as to get acquainted with the creative work as the Head of State. The trip started with a visit to the mausoleum of Abu Mu'in Nasafi. — DNA

Azerbaijani, Turkish FM's meet in Belgrade

BELGRADE: Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has met his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu in Belgrade, Serbia, the Foreign Ministry reported on October 11.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the event dedicated to the 60th anniversary of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The ministers discussed bilateral cooperation and the current regional situation at the meeting. They also focused on cooperation between the two countries within international organizations.

During the 44-day war with Armenia in 2020, Turkey was among the first countries voicing political and

moral support for Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan and Turkey tightly cooperate in many spheres. The Azerbaijani and Turkish military periodically hold joint drills to improve interaction and communication between their army units. Military cooperation between Azerbaijan and Turkey first emerged in 1992, with an agreement signed between the Azerbaijani and Turkish governments on military education and weapon equipment and deals to help strengthen the bond between the two nations.

The two countries have jointly completed giant energy and infrastructure projects such as Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan, Baku-Tbilisi-Kars, and TANAP. — APP

Austria gets new leader after graft crisis engulfs Kurz

AGENCIES

VIENNA: Austria's top diplomat Alexander Schallenberg took over as chancellor on Monday as the ruling party tries to emerge from a corruption scandal that cost the job of one of Europe's youngest leaders.

Sebastian Kurz, a 35-year-old once feted as a "whizz kid", said late Saturday he was quitting the top job after being implicated in a corruption scandal. Schallenberg, 52, was sworn in by President Alexander Van der Bellen shortly after 1:00 pm (1100 GMT). Van der Bellen said the gov-

ernment now had the "great responsibility of restoring trust". Kurz's centre-right People's Party (OeVP) and their junior Green coalition partners are hoping to move on from the scandal and serve out the rest of their term until 2024. However, the fallout from last week's events may continue to reverberate. On Wednesday prosecutors raided several OeVP-linked locations, including the chancellery and party headquarters, over allegations that between 2016 and 2018 finance ministry resources were used to pay for "partially manipulated opinion polls that served an exclusively party-political interest".



Prosecutors allege that payments were made to a newspaper in return for publishing these surveys. The offices of the Oesterreich tabloid were also raided on Wednesday as part of the probe.

The offences were allegedly committed to help Kurz, al-

ready a government minister at the beginning of the period in question, take over the leadership of the OeVP. While Kurz initially insisted there was no reason for him to resign - and continues to vehemently protest his innocence - he then reversed course, saying he was putting the country before his own interests.

But many say Kurz bowed to pressure from the Greens and from within his own party. Kurz's critics point out he will still be head of the OeVP and will now sit as leader of its bloc in parliament - an ideal position from which to exercise influence as a "shadow chancellor".

Tunisia's President Saied approves new govt

"We are just learning about many of these members, these are not members who've been part of political parties or large on the political scene before today"

TUNIS: Tunisia's President Kais Saied has approved a new government selected by newly-appointed Prime Minister Najla Bouden Romdhane.

The development came on Monday, 11 weeks after Saied sacked the prime minister, suspended parliament and granted himself judicial powers in a July 25 power grab that opponents have termed a coup.

"The president of the Republic has issued a decree naming the head of government and its members," the presidency said in a statement, shortly before state TV broadcast a swearing-in ceremony. On Monday, Bouden named Samir Saied, a banker, as economy and planning minister, and Taoufik Charfeddine as interior minister. She kept Othman Jerandi as

the foreign minister and Sihem Boughdiri as finance minister - both had been appointed earlier by Saied.

Fadil Aliriza, editor-in-chief of Meshkal, Tunisian news and analysis website, told Al Jazeera that many of the new members of the government are new to the political scene of Tunisia.

"We are just learning about many of these members, these are not members who've been part of political parties or large on the political scene before today," he said.

"Many of them are coming from academia, about half of them are professors or lecturers at universities, about a third of them are women ... some of them are technocrats, they have been working as civil servants within the ministries that they are



now heading. Some are lawyers, some are judges."

The appointment of a new government has been urgently requested by Tunisian political players and foreign donors for weeks and Saied has said he would after its

appointment launch a dialogue about the future.

In her first public speech since her nomination, Bouden said on Monday that "the fight against corruption will be the most important aim" of the new government. She also promised to "raise living standards" of Tunisians and "restore their faith in the state".

But Saied has significantly pared back the powers of her office and will technically head the administration himself. In a speech following Monday's ceremony, he reiterated that his moves were constitutional in light of "imminent peril" facing Tunisia. Saied said he had acted to "save the Tunisian state from the clutches of those who lurk at home and abroad, and from those who see

their office as booty or as a means to loot public funds".

He also promised to "cleanse the judiciary". Saied, elected on an anti-system ticket in late 2019, has said his action seeks to save Tunisia from "imminent peril" and a socio-economic crisis aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Although Saied's measures in July enjoyed significant public support, civil society groups warned of a drift away from democracy.

At least 6,000 Tunisians rallied on Sunday against a presidential power grab. Tunisia was the birthplace of the Arab Spring uprisings, with the resignation of the country's long-time ruler Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in January 2011.

Briefs

WHO proposes 3rd shot for high risk people

FOREIGN DESK

GENEVA: The World Health Organisation has recommended that people with a weaker immunity system should be given an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine, due to their higher risk of breakthrough infections after standard immunisation. The Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunisation said the additional dose should be offered "as part of an extended primary series since these individuals are less likely to respond adequately to vaccination following a standard primary vaccine series and are at high risk of severe COVID-19 disease". WHO vaccine director Kate O'Brien, referring to people with lower immunity due to other conditions, told a news briefing: "The recommendation is for a third vaccination, an additional vaccination in the primary series and again that is based on the evidence showing that the immunogenicity and evidence on breakthrough infections is highly disproportionately represented by those people." The panel also recommended that people over 60 receive an additional dose of the shots made by Chinese vaccine makers Sinopharm and Sinovac some one to three months after completing their schedule, citing evidence in studies in Latin America that they perform less well over time.

Sanjrani receives invite from India

DNA

ISLAMABAD: What can be dubbed as a major breakthrough in Pak-India relations, Speaker of the Indian Lok Sabha Om Birla has invited Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani to visit India. According to details, Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla wrote a letter to Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani in which he invited the Chairman Senate to visit India. Sadiq Sanjrani has been invited to attend the century celebrations of the Public Accounts Committee. The letter said that the celebrations of the Lok Sabha and Public Accounts Committee would be held on December 4, which will be addressed by the Indian president and the prime minister. The speaker of the Indian Lok Sabha said in the letter that PAC has been monitoring public expenditure for 100 years and it would be an honor for us to attend the century celebrations. Sources said that after the invitation of the Speaker of the Indian Lok Sabha, consultations are underway with various quarters regarding the participation of Sadiq Sanjrani in the function. Earlier this month, Pakistan had welcomed remarks from Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Faisal Bin Farhan during his India tour terming Kashmir as a disputed issue and offering to mediate between the two countries. The Foreign Office spokesman said that the Saudi foreign minister has termed Kashmir as a dispute between Pakistan and India and stressed the need to resolve issues through talks.

Thailand to re-open to tourists on November 1

BANGKOK: Thailand plans to fully re-open to vaccinated tourists travelling by air from countries deemed low risk from November 1, Premier Prayut Chan-O-cha said Monday. The 10 countries considered low risk include Britain, the United States, China, Germany and Singapore. "When they arrive, they should present a (negative) Covid test... and test once again upon arrival and they can travel freely like Thais," the prime minister said in a televised address. - APP

'Pakistan doesn't want any instability in Afghanistan'

"Devastation in Afghanistan means more refugees in Pakistan. We don't want any instability in our neighbouring country and hope to see an 'inclusive government' representing all political stakeholders"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has stated that peace in Afghanistan will bring prosperity in the region and open a window of business opportunities for the world to connect with Central Asian states through the war-torn country. "Devastation in Afghanistan means more refugees in Pakistan. We don't want any instability in our neighbouring country and hope to see an 'inclusive government' representing all political stakeholders," Dr Alvi said in an interview with Khaleej Times during his two-day visit to UAE. Dispelling the impression that Islamabad has been backing the change in regime, the President said Pakistan was not an active player in Afghanistan.

"We are just helping the Taliban on humanitarian grounds as the Afghans are suffering due to sanctions and blockage of funds. There is a flight of capital from Pakistan to Afghanistan. So, it is in our interest to bring stability in the country," he said in the interview published by Khaleej Times on Monday. The newspaper quoted President Alvi terming the US withdrawal "a hasty call" and that there was no military solution in Afghanistan. "We always tried to persuade the US into avoiding war, and back negotiations as a better solution. If US and Nato forces are unable to bring stability in Afghanistan despite spending \$2.3 trillion, then how will Pakistan be able to do that?," the President asked. Dr Alvi said that Pakistan has been hosting four million refugees



and stressed that such a gesture must be considered as a matter of goodwill by the Afghan people. "We have also played very active and positive role in repatriation of diplomats and other people from Afghanistan and the world has acknowledged our efforts," he said. President Alvi said inflation was on the rise worldwide and Pakistan was not the only country in the world facing this challenge. "Inflation is high because commod-

ities and oil price are increasing in the international market. However, the government will be taking steps to control the food inflation through supply chain mechanism and good governance," he said. Replying to a question, he said the country was on the right track and its future was bright. "The government has taken right steps at the right time to overcome serious challenges such as the Covid-19 pandemic, jobs creation and reviving the economy. We have managed to register close to four per cent GDP growth rate in last financial year despite the pandemic," he said. About the Expo 2020 Dubai, the president said it is a wonderful event and all credit goes to the visionary leadership for hosting a successful show despite a challenging environment worldwide.

"The Expo 2020 is a landmark event not just for the UAE, but also for the whole region. It offers a unique opportunity to the countries of the region and beyond to establish linkages and partnerships with multinational companies," the president said. "We have a very beautiful pavilion at the Expo. I suggest everyone should go to the Expo and must visit the pavilion projecting Pakistan's positive image as a peaceful country," the President said. Dr Alvi also expressed grief over sad demise of nuclear scientist Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan who passed away in Islamabad on Sunday morning at the age of 85. "He helped us develop nation-saving nuclear deterrence and a grateful nation will never forget his services in this regard," he said.

Schools across country resume regular classes

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Schools across the country on Monday (today) have resumed regular classes, days after the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) allowed vaccination for people aged upto 12 years. The decision was taken by the NCOC after decline of the COVID-19 cases across the country. The educational institutions were earlier operating on 50 per cent capacity after they reopened following intermittent closures due to the prevalence of COVID-19. Last week, National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) head Asad Umar had announced that all educational institutions would start normal classes from October 11 (today). The planning and development minister had made this announcement in a post shared on his official Twitter handle. "Based on the reduced level of COVID disease spread and the launch of the school vaccination program, it has been decided in today's NCOC meeting to allow all educational institutions to start normal classes from 11th October," he had said in a tweet.

Qatar says unhappy with high gas prices

AGENCIES

DOHA: Qatar, the world's biggest liquefied natural gas exporter, said Monday it was not pleased with current global prices which have surged to record peaks. "I am unhappy about gas prices being high," Energy Minister Saad al-Kaabi told a press conference. High prices, he said, "are negative for the customer, and the customers being satisfied is the most important thing to me." Kaabi added: "If the customer is unhappy, he's not going to buy." Kaabi said Qatar's production was "maxed out" at 77 million tonnes per year. "We have never 'less than' maxed out... we've not gone down, we've not gone up," he said. "We're just consistent. We're producing what we can."

Spain flies Afghan employees via Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Spain was on Monday evacuating via Pakistan Afghan helpers left behind when western forces quit Kabul, a government source confirmed on condition of anonymity. The government source declined to give any details of the move, citing security concerns. But Spanish media, including daily El Pais and National Radio, reported that Madrid would bring close to 250 Afghan citizens, who had already crossed into Pakistan and would be flown out on military transport planes. The first flight was expected to arrive on Monday evening. Spain's evacuations have been weeks in the making, with Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares visiting Pakistan and Qatar in early September to lay the groundwork. Madrid evacuated over 2,000 people, most of them Afghans who had worked for Spain and their families, during the western withdrawal as the Taliban seized power in Kabul in August. But the flights had to stop once the final American troops that had been protecting the Afghan capital's airport left. Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said in August that Spain would not "lose interest in the Afghans who had remained" in their country but wanted to leave.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, Nawaf Bin Saeed Al Malki calls on Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin. - DNA

MPAs submit no confidence motion against CM Kamal

"Due to Jam Kamal's lukewarm attitude, there has been gas, water, electricity, and economic crisis in [Balochistan]," the motion said

DNA

QUETTA: The disgruntled members of the provincial assembly (MPAs) have submitted a no-confidence motion against Chief Minister Balochistan Jam Kamal Khan Alyani. The disgruntled members, in the motion submitted to the assembly secretariat, said during the three years of Alyani's term as the chief minister, there has been unemployment, unrest, and

frustration in the province. The motion claimed that the provincial cabinet members had informed the chief minister about the issues of Balochistan, but he did not pay heed to them. "Due to Jam Kamal's lukewarm attitude, there has been gas, water, electricity, and economic crisis in [Balochistan]," the motion said. Further, the disgruntled members sought the removal of Alyani as the chief minister and called for the election of a new provincial

chief, who had the majority's support. Last week, CM Alyani had said that he will not step down from his post on the demand of "12 people". "I will continue my struggle and will not resign on the call of 12 people." Speaking about the internal rift within the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), the chief minister said that all the members of BAP and its allied parties are supporting him except for a few BAP mem-

bers who tendered their resignations to the Balochistan governor. CM Alyani said that some of his "companions" have tried to remove him from the post of the chief minister before too, adding that he would not let this "void" persist within the party. "We are trying that the ministers take their resignations back," said CM Kamal. "If they don't take their resignations back, we would have to appoint new ministers."

Merck seeks US approval of anti-corona tablet

AGENCIES

CALIFORNIA: Merck & Co Inc said Monday it has sought US authorisation for emergency use of its tablet to treat mild-to-moderate patients of COVID-19, putting it on course to become the first oral antiviral medication for the disease. An authorisation from the US Food and Drug Administration could help change the clinical management of COVID-19 as the pill can be taken at home. The treatment, molnupiravir, cut the rate of hospital-

isation and death by 50% in a trial of mild-to-moderately ill patients who had at least one risk factor for the disease, according to data released earlier this month. The interim efficacy data on the drug, developed with Ridgeback Biotherapeutics, had heavily dented the shares of COVID-19 vaccine makers and set off a scramble among nations, including Malaysia, South Korea, and Singapore, to sign a supply deal with Merck. The drugmaker has a US government contract to supply 1.7 million courses for \$700 per course.

Forget everything and control inflation

DNA

KAHROR PAKKA: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader Jahangir Tareen has advised that the government should forget everything else and control inflation. According to the details, Chairman Union Council Sheikh Mohammad Aslam left Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and announced to join PTI along with his companions. On this occasion, Sheikh Aslam announced to end his 40-year political association



with the Shaheed Kanju Group, saying he would continue his political journey under the leadership of Jahangir Khan Tareen. Addressing at the residence of Sheikh Aslam, Jahangir Tareen said that he welcomes Sheikh Muhammad Aslam to join the PTI. "After joining of Sheikh Aslam, the party will become strong in Kahrhor Pakka. "Kahrhor Pakka is in a dilapidated condition, together we will make it prosperous.

Pakistan condemns arrest of over 1400 Kashmiris in IIOJK

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday strongly condemning the arrest of over 1400 Kashmiris on orchestrated charges in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir said the arrests were prime example of India's state-terrorism and trampling of fundamental human rights in IIOJK. "Pakistan strongly condemns the arrest of over 1400 Kashmiris on false charges in one of the biggest ever crackdowns in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIO-

JK)," Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar said in a statement issued here. "These arbitrary arrests and detentions by Indian Occupation Forces are prime example of India's state-terrorism and trampling of fundamental human rights in IIOJK," he stressed. The Foreign Office Spokesperson described the recent surge in extra-judicial killings, staged cordon-and-search operations and arbitrary arrests in IIOJK as a source of serious alarm for the international community. Last month, Pakistan unveiled a comprehensive dossier

comprising irrefutable evidences of gross and systematic human rights violations, war crimes and false flag operations in IIOJK being carried out by Indian Occupation forces with impunity. "India must recognize that no amount of brutalization of Kashmiris can suppress their voice and the legitimate movement to achieve their inalienable right to self-determination. Nor will India's illegal and unlawful actions be able to mislead the world into accepting India's false narrative against the Kashmiris," the Spokesperson maintained.

Merkel stresses two-state solution for Palestine

The outgoing German Chancellor says the Abraham Accords, did not erase the need for Israel to reach a peace agreement with the Palestinians

AGENCIES

TEL AVIV: German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Monday implored Israel not to "lose sight" of the need to establish a Palestinian state, as she wrapped up a two-day farewell visit. Merkel's support for a two-state solution has been one of the key disagreements with Israel's leadership during her 16 years in office, which were characterised by unwavering support for Israel. Speaking at an Israeli think tank, Merkel welcomed the historic diplomatic agreements reached last year between Israel and four Arab

countries - led by the United Arab Emirates. But she said the deals, known as the Abraham Accords, did not erase the need for Israel to reach a peace agreement with the Palestinians. "We must not lose sight of the right of the Palestinians to have a chance to live," she said. "Therefore one should under no circumstances, even as it becomes more and more difficult because of the settlements, lose sight of the issue of a two-state solution," Merkel told a panel at the Institute for National Security Studies in Tel Aviv. Backers of the Abraham Accords, which were brokered by the Trump Administration, have



praised them as breaking the long-standing belief that Israel could not forge ties with the Arab world before reaching an agree-

ment with the Palestinians. Israel's new prime minister, Naftali Bennett, a hard-liner who opposes a Palestinian state on Israeli-occupied lands, has ruled out peace talks with the Palestinians. Instead, he has advocated what he says is a more pragmatic approach for improving living conditions for the Palestinians as a way of lowering tensions. His government, a patchwork of dovish, nationalist and Arab parties that took office in June, so far has not announced any major changes in policy. Merkel welcomed Bennett's intentions but said such an approach would not be enough. "I think that such a long-running

issue (the conflict with the Palestinians) will not disappear from the agenda, even if there are improved relations with neighbouring Arab states," she said. Throughout Merkel's visit, she was welcomed as a "true friend" of Israel. Her agenda included meetings with Israeli leaders and a stop at Israel's national Holocaust memorial, Yad Vashem. She repeatedly professed Germany's commitment to Israel's security and said she was confident that her country's next government - to be determined in lengthy coalition talks following an inconclusive election last month - would take a similar stance.