



Islamabad POST

Wednesday, October 13, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

Afghanistan's people need support, says Spanish ambassador

Detailed News On Page-01

Kim Jong Un vows to build invincible army

Detailed News On Page-08



Kamran Akmal helps KP beat Northern

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Briefs

CM vows to facilitate old age homes

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar says the government will provide every possible medical facility to the people living in the old-age homes. Chairing a meeting to review the performance of Social Welfare Department, he directed to ensure regular visits of doctors to the old-age homes. The Chief Minister said Punjab government has established special squad for crackdown against begging mafia across the province. He said community welfare center for transgenders is also being established in Lahore.

Zahir new dy chairman NAB

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: President Arif Alvi has appointed Zahir Shah as the new deputy chairman of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) for three years, a notification said Tuesday. Chairman NAB Justice (ret'd) Javed Iqbal had sent the name of Shah to the President House to get him appointed as the anti-graft body's deputy chairman, sources had said earlier. The post had been lying vacant after Hussain Asghar tendered his resignation on October 4, which was accepted by the president two days later — on October 6.

Opp. to challenge NAB ordinance

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Rejecting the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Amendment Ordinance, Senior Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi announced to challenge it in the court, and the Senate. Speaking to the media in the capital on Tuesday, the former premier said that the government brought the new NAB ordinance without consultation with the opposition parties.

Transfers, postings in Army Civil, military leadership on the same page

Prime Minister Imran Khan says notification issue blown out of proportion

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry on Tuesday said the new director-general of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) will be appointed in accordance with the existing rules and regulations and the authority to appoint the new spymaster rests with the prime minister. Addressing a press conference after a weekly meeting of the federal cabinet, the minister said that the relations between the government and the military were "ideal". According to Fawad, PM Imran and General Qamar Javed Bajwa had a "long meeting" last night to stamp out issues surrounding the ISI chief's appointment. "Imran Khan and Gen Bajwa enjoy a very close relationship and the ties between the two are cordial," Fawad added. He added that the Prime Minister's Office will not take any kind of step to undermine the Pakistan Army and its chief, Gen Bajwa, whereas the military and the army chief won't take steps to sideline the prime minister and the civilian set-up. The federal minister said that a new ISI chief will be appointed in accordance with the constitutional and legal requirements as agreed by the PM and the army chief.

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Senate committee meets CJCSC

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A delegation comprising seven members of the Senate Standing Committee on Defence headed by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman, Defence Committee visited Joint Staff Headquarters, Rawalpindi and met with General Nadeem Raza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee. The Committee received a comprehensive briefing on Roles and Functioning of Joint Staff Headquarters, work plan of the Tri- Services, security environment and Defence Forces efforts for peace and stability. While addressing the Committee, Chairman JCSC said that Joint Staff Headquarters is functioning with a national perspective that seeks to preserve, protect and promote Pakistan's Defence and National Security. Chairman JCSC also highlighted the importance of peace in Afghanistan for sustainable development in the region.

EU announces 1bn Euros aid package for Afghanistan

Von der Leyen made the pledge at a virtual G20 summit hosted by Italy

NEWS DESK

BRUSSELS: The European Union (EU) on Tuesday pledged a one billion euro aid package for Afghanistan "to avert a major humanitarian and socio-economic collapse", the bloc's chief Ursula von der Leyen said. The money adds 250 million euros to a 300m euro sum the EU previously announced for urgent humanitarian needs, with the remainder going to Afghanistan's neighbouring countries taking in Afghans fleeing Taliban rule, a statement said. Von der Leyen made the pledge at a virtual G20 summit hosted by Italy, dedicated to discussing

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Taliban needs more time on girls' education

CENTRELINE REPORT

DOHA: Afghanistan's foreign minister appealed to the world for good relations on Monday but avoided making firm commitments on girls' education despite international demands to allow all Afghan children to go back to school. "The international community need to start cooperating with us," acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi said at an event organised by the Centre for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. "With this, we will be able to stop insecurity and at the same time with this, we will be able to engage positively with the world." Muttaqi said the Taliban's Islamic Emirate government was moving carefully but had only been in power for a few weeks and could not be expected to complete reforms the international community had not been able to implement in 20 years. "They had a lot of financial resources and they had a strong international backing and support but at the same time you are asking us to do all the reforms in two months?" he said.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan chairs Federal Cabinet Meeting. — DNA

Over 134 Yemen rebels dead in strikes

RIYADH: More than 130 Yemeni rebels have been killed in strikes south of Marib, the Saudi-led coalition said Tuesday, but the insurgents seized a district 25 kilometres (16 miles) south of the strategic city, according to military sources. Hundreds of Huthi rebels and government loyalists have died since fighting for Marib flared anew last month following a push in February. Marib city is the internationally recognised government's last bastion in oil-rich northern Yemen. Dozens of new strikes were carried out in the Abdiya district of Marib province, after the coalition said air raids the day before killed more than 150 rebels. "We targeted nine military vehicles of the Huthi militia in Abdiya, and their losses exceeded 134 members," said a coalition statement carried by official Saudi media. The rebels rarely announce casualties in their own ranks.

Pak slams IIOJK killings

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has strongly condemned the extrajudicial killings of five innocent Kashmiris in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) on Tuesday. "The Hindutva-inspired BJP-RSS combine is carrying on its campaign of brutal repression and collective punishment of Kashmiris in IIOJK. Simultaneously, a false propaganda war against Kashmiris and

Continued on Page 06

VT-4 tank symbol of Pak-China cooperation

The COAS witnessed demonstration of VT-4 Tank which was a robust war fighting machine

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa visited Gujranwala to witness commissioning of state-of-the-art Chinese origin VT-4 Tank into Strike Formation. While interacting with officers and troops, the COAS said continuous up-gradation of conventional capabilities is imperative for maintaining qualitative edge over adversary and deter aggression, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) media release here received. "VT-4 Tank is another symbol of Pakistan - China strategic cooperation and defence collaboration, and its induction will boost strike capabilities of our formations," the



COAS remarked. The Army Chief emphasised that the fast changing dynamics of warfare demand highest degree of professionalism and rigorous training with due focus on harnessing sophisticated technologies. The COAS witnessed demonstration of VT-4 Tank which was a robust war fighting machine. Based on its advanced armor protection, high maneuverability and exceptional firepower, VT-4 can be compared with any modern main battle tank of the world. Equipped with auto transmission system and deep water fording operation capability, it was considered as a potent weapon of strike formations. The COAS also visited Dynamic Integrated Training Simulator of VT-4.

FS lauds Ambassador Matsuda's services

MAHNOOR ANSAR

Japanese ambassador is leaving Pakistan after completing his term

ISLAMABAD: Japan's Ambassador to Pakistan Kuninori Matsuda paid a farewell call on Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood on Tuesday. Foreign Secretary lauded Ambassador Matsuda's valuable contribution to deepening of Pak-Japan relations & enhanced cooperation on regional and international issues. On the occasion, Ambassador Matsuda thanked the Foreign Office for cooperation extended in fulfillment of his mission. Last week, Ambassador Matsuda also paid a farewell call on Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi.



ISLAMABAD: Japan's Ambassador Kuninori Matsuda pays a farewell call on Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood. — DNA

Afghan people need support: Spanish envoy

Talks to Islamabad POST; says humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan needs to be avoided; Spain is now open for international tourists including those from non-European Schengen countries

EXCLUSIVE

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Spain Manuel Duran gave an exclusive interview to Daily Islamabad POST. Ambassador Duran talked extensively about bilateral as well as multilateral issues. He also touched upon latest Covid situation in his country and shared Spanish experiences of tackling the pandemic. Spain celebrates its national day on October 12, however due to Covid, a formal reception was not hosted this time. The interview shall also be published in the coming issue of Centreline magazine and DNA News Agency

LET us begin with COVID-19 pandemic. Spain is one of the hardest hit countries. Please share with our Spanish govt's preventive measures. As for all countries across the world, COVID 19 impacted our country and



our health system. From March 2020 Spain was learning as the pandemic was hitting, trying to respond to a challenge that no one could have barely foreseen in advance. First of all, we need to be extremely grateful to all workers in the health sector, who worked day and night when the situation was critical, risking their lives for the sake of others. Spain was hit hard by the first COVID wave from March to June 2020. In that period, special measures were taken. Restrictions to the movement of people had to be imposed. A confinement was put into place: people could only leave their houses for the strictly necessary (groceries, pharmacy, essential

work, etc.). The confinement was lifted in May 2020 and as of July last year restaurants, hotels and shops started to open gradually. Subsequent waves (so far, five waves have been registered by experts) also hit Spain, leaving a total number of 4.9 million people infected and 86,000 people who died being COVID positive. One year and a half later, Spain is now prepared to tackle similar pandemics. For example, specialized hospitals have been built and specific units have been

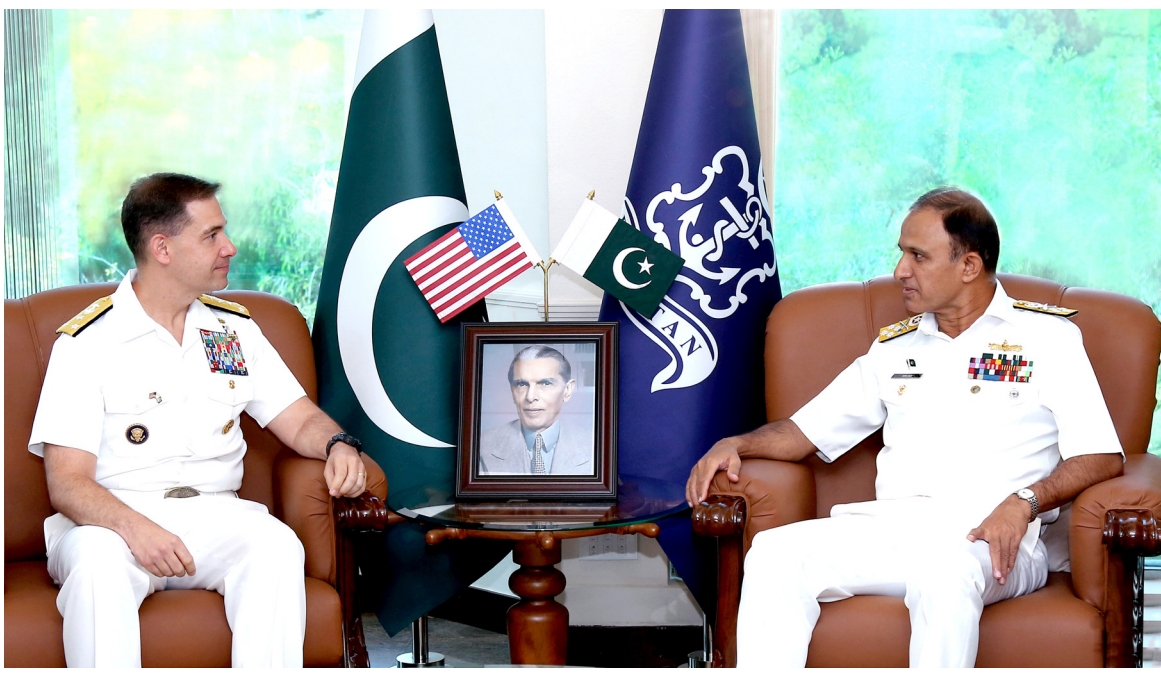
created. The Spanish government has tried, together with our European partners, to find the balance between imposing protection and safety measures and reviving our economy. Examples of this balance are the number of people allowed in shops, restaurants, hotels, etc; the mandatory use of masks and sanitizer in interiors, etc. Finally, the vaccination strategy has been a success in Spain. The vaccination campaign started in January 2021 with some target groups (citizens older than 80 years,

health sector workers) and in August 2021 vaccination was general for everyone over 12 years old. As of now, 85% of the Spanish population is vaccinated. What is latest situation and when do you think Spain shall be able to receive international tourists? If it has already opened, then under what pre-conditions? Spain is now open for international tourists including those from non-European Schengen countries. Pakistan is one of these countries but some requirements have been put into place: all tourists need to be fully vaccinated, at least 14 days before the start of

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ISLAMABAD: Commander of US Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) Vice Admiral C.B. Cooper II called on Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi. — DNA

Govt should focus on reducing inflation

SAQIB MUSHTAQ

LODHAN: Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf's leader Jhangir Tareen said regarding his inclusion in People's party that he is not going to join People's Party and will contest in Election from PTI, PTI is my party and we are all standing united with PTI. He added that inflation has risen so much and Government should focus on controlling the inflation on priority. He expressed these remarks while talking to the media in Lodhran. He said that he has no issue with Makhdoom Ahmad Mehmood, he has close relations with him, he added that people are suffering due to

inflation, Government should leave everything else and focus on controlling the inflation, inflation is controlled by Supply and Demand, if sugar and wheat was imported on time then such issues would not have been created. He said that in each election party decides about the ticket and tickets were distributed according to party decision. Government of Punjab is to release development funds for District Lodhran, it is his effort that developmental projects should be done in Lodhran. Earlier PML (N) Chairman Union Council Sheikh Muhammad Aslam met with Jhangir Khan Tareen and announced his inclusion in Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf

along with his companions. Sheikh Aslam said that he break close political ties of 40 years with Shaheed Kanjoo Group. Jhangir Khan Tareen welcomed Sheikh Muhammad Aslam's inclusion in the party and said that party will strengthen in Kehror Pakka with the inclusion of Sheikh Muhammad Aslam, he added that Kehror Pakka is in bad situation but we will make it prosper and we will try our best to obtain funds for Kehror Pakka like Lodhran and together we will make it prosper. However Jhangir Khan Tareen did not answer about how his lifetime disqualification to contest in elections from Supreme Court of Pakistan will be lifted.

US Naval Commander lauds Pak Navy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Commander of US Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) Vice Admiral C.B. Cooper II called on Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi at NAVA Headquarters, Islamabad. During the meeting, matters related to maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region and mutual interest including bilateral naval collaboration were discussed. Pakistan Navy has been a regular contributor to the Combined Maritime Forces since 2004 and has also commanded Multinational Combined Task Forces 150 & 151, eleven and nine times respectively.

Akhuwat distribute cheques

FAISALABAD: The Akhuwat Microfinance Bank distributed Rs 6 million cheques among 132 people at the FESCO central mosque here on Tuesday. Faisalabad Electric Supply Company Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Engr Bashir Ahmed appreciated Akhuwat initiative of providing interest-free loans to the deserving and poor people. He said Akhuwat had provided interest-free loans under the Ehas programme to millions of people so far. — APP

Case study on the re-launch of KASB Securities published

The case study can be found on Harvard Business Publishing. KASB is one the oldest capital markets institution in Pakistan, established in 1953

DNA

KARACHI: Harvard Business School Publishing has published a case study, titled KASB Securities – Reclaiming its Position as a Leading Brokerage of Pakistan. The case study has been written by Dr. Adeel Zafar, Fazal Jawad Seyyed, and Hafsa Ashfaq of Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS). This is the first case study on a Pakistani fintech company and a stock brokerage which has been published by LUMS and Harvard Publishing. The case tracks the journey, challenges and strategic options which were facing, the founders of the company as they relaunched KASB Securities as a digital focused stock brokerage.



The case study can be found on Harvard Business Publishing. KASB is one the oldest capital markets institution in Pakistan, established in 1953. It was relaunched in 2018 by Ali

Farid Khwaja and Mahmood Bukhari. KASB's mission is to democratize investments and help people improve their financial wellbeing by providing them with access to investment products and financial education. "As an alumnus of LUMS, I am delighted that a case on Pakistan's stock market will be available to students. We are humbled that our journey and mission has been chronicled as we think access to investment products is necessary for both financial wellness of the people and also for economic progress of Pakistan. Our team is on a mission to transform Pakistan's capital markets and we think digital tools such as KTrade app can bring investment access to everyone". Said Ali Farid Khwaja, Chairman of KASB Securities.



FCCI chief Atif Munir Sheikh for capacity building of staff

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Capacity building of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) staff is imperative to further enhance and upgrade the quality of services offered by this prestigious corporate organization, said Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh President FCCI. Addressing the first training workshop for the FCCI staff, he said that during his tenure at least 15 training sessions would be arranged to harness the professional skills of the FCCI staff. Continuing Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh said that FCCI is an elected trade body of the business community of Faisalabad which is not only striving hard to resolve the

problems of its members but is also making serious efforts to resolve the civic problems of the city. He said that Faisalabad is contributing 20% share in overall national production while its share in textile export is around 65%. He said that it reflects the dedication, commitment and professionalism of the FCCI

staff. He said that we would arrange regular workshops to further improve their performance. He said that no one is perfect and the learning process continues throughout life. He said that if FCCI staff takes his job as his passion it will not only improve their quality of work but he will also feel pleasure in discharging his

official duties. President FCCI also mentioned his attachment with Lions Club and said that it helped him to form a dedicated team and achieve the ultimate objectives. He said that he had established Platinum Lions Club which has performed well and won at least 5 different awards during this year.



Rs 24 per kg subsidy on imported sugar

LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Mian Aslam Iqbal said on Tuesday that delivery of imported sugar to the districts of Punjab has started and it would be sold at Rs 90 per kg at retail shops, model and Sahulat bazaars. The government was giving subsidy of Rs. 24 per kg on imported sugar, the minister disclosed in a media statement issued here. Mian Aslam Iqbal said that quota of imported sugar has been allotted for each district including Lahore 27,248 metric tonnes (mt), Rawalpindi 13,238 mt and Faisalabad 8,052 mt.

To ensure sale of imported sugar at fixed rates, he added that monitoring committees were formed at district level. He mentioned that people were getting essential commodities at cheaper prices in 277 sahat bazaars across the province. A special discount of 10 to 20 per cent is being given on all kinds of items in 32 model bazaars of the province during the Ashra-e-Shaan Rehmat-ul-Ulameen. — APP

Customs Collector assures exporters of facilitation

LAHORE: Lahore Customs Collector (Appraisal) Dr Mubashir Baig Tuesday assured exporters of maximum assistance and facilitation from the Pakistan Customs in export of goods to overseas markets. Addressing a workshop on Export Facilitation Scheme, 2021, organised for members of All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) here, he said that the scheme is aimed at facilitating the export-oriented sector to acquire duty- and tax-free local and import-

ed inputs in order to make Pakistani products competitive vis-a-vis other regional competitors. Explaining salient features of the scheme, Dr Baig said that for the first time, the scheme had been extended to all direct and indirect exporters, common export houses, vendors and international toll manufacturers with free mobility of goods from one user to another user. He added that the whole procedure and maintenance of record under the scheme is fully digitalized

with the least human interference. All communication between customers and exporters would be regulated through the Customs software WeBOC and Pakistan Single Window. He said acquisition of goods under the scheme would be subjected to the authorization of inputs by the Collector of Customs and Director-General Input-Output Organization (IOCO). However, in case such input output ratio has already been approved, no fresh determination of the ratio would be required. — APP

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY Landscape Division Directorate of Parks (East), Environment Wing

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are hereby invited on percentage basis from contractor having valid license by PEC in relevant category for the under mentioned works on the date and time mentioned below:-

| S.No. | Name of Work | NTF Cost (Rs.) | Earnest Money (Rs.) | Date & Time of Receiving Tender | Date & Time of Opening Tender |
|-------|--|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Construction of Cycle track in green belt between sector G-6 & G-5 Attark Avenue Islamabad. | Rs-5,999,760/- | Rs-179,993/- | 28.10.2021 11.30 A.M | 28.10.2021 12.00 Noon |
| 2 | Construction of Cycle track at green belt 7th Avenue to serene chowk Islamabad. | Rs-5,987,217/- | Rs-179,613/- | 28.10.2021 11.30 A.M | 28.10.2021 12.00 Noon |
| 3 | Construction of Cycle track in green belt Zero point to 3 rd Avenue Islamabad. | Rs-6,499,747/- | Rs-194,992/- | 28.10.2021 11.30 A.M | 28.10.2021 12.00 Noon |
| 4 | Construction of Cycle track at 7 th Avenue green belt between sector F-7 & F-6 Islamabad. | Rs-5,992,904/- | Rs-179,783/- | 28.10.2021 11.30 A.M | 28.10.2021 12.00 Noon |
| 5 | Development of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah park at Islamabad Express Highway, Islamabad. | Rs-8,169,309/- | Rs-245,079/- | 28.10.2021 11.30 A.M | 28.10.2021 12.00 Noon |
| 6 | Providing/Fixing of Kids Playing Gadgets and other allied work at Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah Park at Islamabad Express Highway, Islamabad. | Rs-6,512,858/- | Rs-195,386/- | 28.10.2021 11.30 A.M | 28.10.2021 12.00 Noon |
| 7 | Repair/Maintenance of Damam e Iqbal view point Islamabad. | Rs-9,672,911/- | Rs-290,187/- | 28.10.2021 11.30 A.M | 28.10.2021 12.00 Noon |
| 8 | Providing and Laying of Decoflex / EPDM rubber flooring at multipurpose sports center F-6 Markaz, Islamabad. | Rs-24,991,200/- | Rs-749,736/- | 28.10.2021 11.30 A.M | 28.10.2021 12.00 Noon |
| 9 | Construction of Cycle track at 7 th Avenue green belt from G-6/1-2 TO G-6/1-3 Islamabad. | Rs-4,999,799/- | Rs-149,994/- | 28.10.2021 11.30 A.M | 28.10.2021 12.00 Noon |
| 10 | Construction of Cycle track in green belt between sector G-6 & G-5, Islamabad. | Rs-2,497,056/- | Rs-74,912/- | 28.10.2021 11.30 A.M | 28.10.2021 12.00 Noon |
| 11 | Construction of Cycle track in green belt sector E-7 along margalla road, Islamabad. | Rs-1,997,639/- | Rs-59,929/- | 28.10.2021 11.30 A.M | 28.10.2021 12.00 Noon |
| 12 | Construction of Cycle track at Lotus Lake Park Islamabad. | Rs-2,499,914/- | Rs-74,997/- | 28.10.2021 11.30 A.M | 28.10.2021 12.00 Noon |
| 13 | Repair/Maintenance of W/T Fence along lake site in lake view Park, Islamabad. | Rs-2,588,059/- | Rs-77,642/- | 28.10.2021 11.30 A.M | 28.10.2021 12.00 Noon |

Conditions:
i. Detail of Tender Notice can be seen on CDA website www.cda.gov.pk and PPRa website www.ppra.gov.pk
ii. Tender application should accompany with earnest money in shape of deposit at call in favor of Dy. Director Landscape Division, CDA issued from any scheduled local bank against firm's account. Name of firm should be clearly mentioned on instrument (Deposit at call). Tender documents shall not be issued without earnest money.
iii. In case of total bid amount is less than 10% below the NTF amount, the bidder shall submit additional call deposit as performance security equal to the difference between NTF amount and total quoted amount less 10% of NTF amount. The additional performance guarantee (Call Deposit) shall be submitted along with bid. Bids having rates below 10% of NTF without additional call deposit will be rejected. The performance security of the successful bidder shall be released after completion of project.
iv. Tender documents can be obtained from the office of Dy. Director Landscape Division, Environment Wing CDA located at Mehran Gate No.01, Fatima Jinnah Park, Directorate of Parks (East), CDA, Islamabad on cash payment of \$#1 to 08 Rs.5,000 /- (Rupees Five Thousand) Per Each Set and \$#109 to 13 Rs.3000 /- (Rupees Two Thousand) Per Set (Non-Refundable) during working hours on any working day before date of opening against written request which should be on letter head pad having Name, Address, Telephone (Land Line) Numbers and signature of the contractor along with attested copies of NTN Certificate, valid Professional Tax Certificate, Sole proprietorship/partnership deed, Valid PEC license in relevant category, Moreover General/Special Power of attorney may be attested through respective court. The attorney holder may not be the employee of any Government, semi Government institute/That Only legitimate attorney holder may be allowed to get tender documents. No tender will be sold on the date of opening of the tender. **Tenders will be sold upto 12:00 Noon on Monday 25-10-2021.**
v. The bid security of all bidders would be deposited in the CDA Bank account and same may be returned after the acceptance of the contract with the successful bidder. The eligibility criteria of the firm with the relevant experience i.e. at least three number of works in last two financial years may be observed/fulfilled before issuance of tender documents.
vi. No tender will be issued without showing the required documents in "ORIGINAL".
vii. Tender bids will be received and opened on above date and time in the office of Director Parks (East), Environment Wing, CDA located at Mehran Gate No.01, Fatima Jinnah Park, Islamabad.
viii. Tender rate on percentage basis should be filled in figures as well as in words.
ix. The tender documents must be accompanied with non-relationship certificate, NTN Certificate, Non-Judicial Stamp Paper worth of Rs.50/- or above and. No tender will be entertained without these documents.
x. CDA reserves the right to accept or reject any/all tenders as per PPRa Rules. No conditional tender will be entertained.

Dy. Director Landscape
Directorate of Parks (East)

PID (I) No. 2247/21

Amin for forest monitoring system

He said that sustained monitoring of forest resources and changes in forest lands and their overall outlook is at the heart of efforts for stemming deforestation, degradation of forests and environmentally-harmful forest land use changes

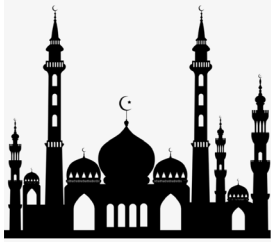
ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam Tuesday said the monitoring of forest resources through remotely sensed data backed by field-based observations, is vital for effective assessment of greenhouse gas emissions and their removals from atmosphere to slow down global warming. Addressing the 11th meeting of the National Steering Committee on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) held here, he said that sustained monitoring of forest resources and changes in forest lands and their overall outlook is at the heart of efforts for stemming deforestation, degradation of forests and environmentally-harmful forest land use changes. The event was jointly organised by the Ministry of Climate Change and the UN-sponsored Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) Initiative and Pakistan REDD+ Readiness Programme. The amount of information gathered during forest inventories has thus grown rapidly and has, in turn, help improve ability of forest scientists,

researcher and policymakers to survey and manage many services, such as: biodiversity, ecosystem restoration and carbon sequestration from atmosphere to slow down climate change and reduce climate shocks in shape of floods, heatwaves, cyclones, crop failures, wildfires and loss of biodiversity, the PM's aide Malik Amin elaborated. Malik Amin highlighted that technology development, adaptation to country circumstances and its adoption by existing national forest systems offer a promising potential to improve accuracy of field measurements in forests, reduce the time and the costs accruing from field sampling activities. New technologies could be, however, also a workable way for supporting the implementation of transparent national forest monitoring systems for sustainable forest conservation and management, he added. The PM's aide said that today the adoption, adaptation, and viability of technologies by national and subnational entities, private companies, research and academic organisations, NGOs, and civil society could also face many constraints that limit use of

such technologies. PM's aide said that scientific forest monitoring was considered globally of paramount importance for measuring progress of any country's achievements for international reporting and better planning for forest conservation and their sustainable use. However, the climate change ministry under its World Bank-funded REDD+ Pakistan project has already provided the latest forest monitoring and GIS equipments to all the provinces and territories, previously. And the drones being provided would further support provinces/territories to undertake real-time monitoring of forestry resources including the on-going forestry initiatives in the country such as, the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme (TBTP) launched under the PM Imran Khan's vision for Clean and Green Pakistan, Malik Amin Aslam hoped. He also urged the provincial forest departments to establish permanent monitoring systems in their respective territories to make best use of these modern equipments provided under the World Bank-sponsored REDD+ Pakistan project.

REDD+ (or REDD-plus) is a climate change mitigation solution in developing countries that functions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It primarily aims for "reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries and promoting conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in the countries. Deforestation and forest degradation are the second leading cause of global warming, responsible for about 15 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. According to the UN's IPCC 5th Assessment Report, deforestation and forest degradation accounts for about 11 percent of the total global Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. Yet, at the same time, the forestry sector has the potential to sequester 31 percent of climate-altering carbon emissions from the atmosphere. Around 80 percent of the Earth's above-ground terrestrial carbon and forty percent of below-ground terrestrial carbon is in forests. — APP

SERVICES



Namaz Timings

| | |
|--------------|----------|
| Fajr..... | 04:47 am |
| Zohr..... | 11:54 am |
| Asr..... | 03:58 pm |
| Maghrib..... | 05:38 pm |
| Isha..... | 07:01 pm |



Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines

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



Emergency

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



Enquiry

| | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Edhi Ambulance..... | 115 |
| PIA Flight Info..... | 114 |
| PIA Cargo..... | 9280979 |
| Railway Inquiry..... | 117 |
| Railway Exchange 9270831-5 | |
| WASA Rawalpindi..... | 5555489 |
| CAA..... | 9281092 |



Hospitals

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



Departments

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



Complaints

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

Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Wasa Water Tank

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Rawalpindi..... | 0331-5022125 |
|-----------------|--------------|

Minister blamed for backing illegal occupants in G-14

(FGEHA) could only develop a subsector G-14/4 completely while it has partial possession and development in G-14/3. However, rest of two subsectors G-14/1 and G-14-2 are under adverse possession of either local inhabitants or illegal occupants

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The members of the senate standing committee on housing and works blamed Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umer for backing illegal occupants of Sector G-14. The said residential sector was launched in April 2005 by then 'housing foundation' but it has yet to clear all the land for on ground development.

(FGEHA) could only develop a subsector G-14/4 completely while it has partial possession and development in G-14/3. How-

ever, rest of two subsectors G-14/1 and G-14-2 are under adverse possession of either local inhabitants or illegal occupants. A meeting of the parliamentary body was held here at the Parliament House headed by Senator Hidayatullah Khan in which a matter related to the increasing encroachments on acquired land in sector G-14 was discussed. The Senator Bahramd Tungi has pointed out that the illegal encroachments are increasing day by day in sector G-14 and the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) has failed to stop

these illegal developments. He blamed that the Federal Minister for Planning Asad Umer, who is also an elected MNA from the locality is backing these illegal occupants by spending millions of rupees from public exchequer for the development of roads and other facilities. Senator Hidayatullah Khan also criticised the role of federal minister and questioned that how one government department can do development work on a site which is acquired by another government department several years ago. Senator Saifullah Abro has said it is an old issue and

MNAs in successive governments were also inaugurating development schemes in the area to keep intact their vote bank. He demanded that a report should be submitted that who remained involved in allowing mushroom growth of illegal structures on acquired land. The committee members demanded that both the local MNAs Asad Umer and Ali Nawaz Awan should be called in next meeting to explain their position and a letter of displeasure should be written to them by the committee chairman as well. The committee chairman directed to call the concerned

officials of planning and development department and Islamabad Capital Territory Administration officials to brief the committee. Meanwhile, FGEHA Director General Tariq Rashid briefed the committee about its Green Enclave II project located at Bhara Khau. He informed that the project was a joint venture in which the private partner had mutated 6025 kanals of land on authority's name. He said however after few years, the Supreme Court of Pakistan, in its decision declared that no housing society could be built upon 'Shamlat' land and the pro-

ject has been stopped in interpretation of that decision. He said we are going to place the matter in our executive board to get approval to at least launch the project on 1986 kanals clear land while it would be extended once the apex court would clear rest of the land. The committee also recommended sending a case related to Naib Tehsildar of FGEHA Zakir Hussain to NAB or FIA as he has been proven guilty in fact finding report. He has purchased hundreds of kanals land on his brother name in sector G-12 and F-12 on power of attorney.

PTCL working to fully restore service

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL), in conjunction with the International Submarine Consortium, was working to fully restore the disrupted internet service across the country. In a statement, the PTCL said, "We are currently experiencing slight service degradation in Pakistan. Our partners in UAE are working to resolve the issue on priority and expected to complete work soon." On Monday night, the internet services had impacted and consumers had to face some service degradation due to a technical fault in the International Submarine Cable AAE-1 at Fujairah.

Opening of 'Ode to the Modern Masters' today

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) is organizing opening ceremony of an exhibition titled "Ode to the Modern Masters" featuring a collection of artworks of modern masters from the PNCA permanent collection on Wednesday.

According to PNCA, Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training/ National History and Literary Heritage Shafiq Mahmood is likely to be the chief guest on the occasion. Sculpture/ Visual Artist Abbas Shah will be the guest of honor on the occasion. The exhibition would be held at PNCA National Art Gallery, Islamabad. The COVID-19 standard operating procedures and social distancing would be maintained. Masks are mandatory for all the participants of the exhibition. - APP

'Leadership Skills for Supervisors' on October 20

ISLAMABAD: The National Productivity Organization (NPO) would organize an online session on 'Leadership Skills for Supervisors' on October 20. The term "supervisory skills" refers to skills used by managers that help them perform their job, according to NPO document. The supervisors play a key role in the success of an organization by bridging between different levels of the management and the floor level work force. Work supervision is a critical skill that adds value not just to production but is important for boosting and maintaining the morale of the workforce. Such Job Enrichment will not just effectively contribute to the success of the organization, but also to lead their teams towards efficient and effective achievement of the corporate objectives. - APP

127 PhD scholars win HEC's research fellowship abroad



SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: As many as 127 PhD scholars enrolled in different PhD programmes in Pakistani higher education institutions have won six-month research fellowship abroad under the International Research Support Initiative Programme (IR-SIP), a programme launched by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan in 2005.

In this connection, HEC organized on Tuesday a pre-departure orientation session and scholarship award ceremony for scholars selected under the programme. Executive Director HEC Dr. Shaista Sohail was chief guest of the ceremony, which was attended by Adviser HEC Mr. Awais

Ahmed, Director General (HRD) HEC Mrs. Aayesha Ikram and Dr. Salma Malik, a faculty member of the Department of Defense and Strategic Studies, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad along with fellowship recipients and their parents. Under IRSIP, HEC offers a six-month research fellowship abroad in world's top 200 universities to those students who are enrolled in full-time PhD programmes in Pakistan/AJK. The programme aims to provide exposure to PhD scholars to enhance the quality of their research that they conduct in world-class environment under the supervision of world's renowned professors. Over a period of 15 years since its inception, 5911 Pakistani PhD scholars have benefited from the

programme. The Selection Committee in its 49th meeting held on August 31, 2021 approved 127 scholarships. Addressing the scholars, Dr. Shaista Sohail advised them to concentrate on their research work and learn how the research activities were conducted in laboratories of the world-renowned universities. She urged the scholars to be optimistic about the future of their country. She advised them to be acquainted with the local laws of the countries where they were proceeding and prove to be good citizens and ambassadors of Pakistan. In his opening remarks, Mr. Awais Ahmed stressed that the growth of a nation hinged upon the quality of its human resource, much more than other resources. He said the objective of IRSIP was to create a parity

between the graduates of Pakistani universities and those of the world's top universities. "It is a challenge for the selected scholars to live up to the expectations associated with them in line with the programme's objectives. Gain the exposure and skills you are being offered through this initiative and play ambassadors of Pakistan abroad to project a soft image of the country." The ceremony also contained a briefing by Dr. Salma Malik on the salient features of Pakistan's foreign policy. She quoted Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, on Pakistan's foreign policy, as saying: "Our foreign policy is one of friendliness and goodwill towards all the nations of the world. We do not cherish aggressive designs against any country or nation."

Senate body briefed on gas shortages

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Energy Tuesday gave a detailed briefing to the Senate's Standing Committee on Petroleum about the situation of gas supply especially during the peak winter season, shortages of the commodity and the measures taken by the authorities concerned to tackle the gas demand-supply gap.

The ministry officials informed the meeting, chaired by Senator Muhammad Abdul Qadir, that the both Sui companies are making all-out effort to maintain uninterrupted gas supply to all the sectors including domestic and industrial consumers around-the-clock basis. During the summer season, they said, domestic gas demand reduced but demand of power sector surged, which was met by ordering maximum possible volumes of Re-gasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG).

Whereas, during the winter season, the domestic gas demand increased by over three times on Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL)'s network and tw2 times on Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC)'s network due to use of water and room heaters. "So, there remains a shortfall even after maximum orders of RLNG by SNGPL. Therefore, load management is carried out to mitigate the demand supply gap". The official apprised the meeting that during the winter load management of 2019-20, the SNG-PL effectively managed demand-supply situation.

However, supply of gas to non-export General Industry was suspended from December 12-31, 2019. The gas supply to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) sector remained suspended from December 20-31, 2019 due to enhanced gas consumption by priority domestic sector and severe cold wave. Upon increase in ambient temperatures, the supply of gas was restored to non-export General Industry from January 1, 2020 whereas supply to CNG sector was allowed two days a week (12 hours per day) from January 1-13, 2020, after which there was no curtailment of supplies. - DNA

3 vaccine counters for expectant mothers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, in collaboration with Samra-Noor Initiative, has set up separate, dedicated counters for the vaccination of pregnant and breastfeeding women against COVID-19. Parliamentary Secretary for National Health Services Dr. Nausheen Hamid on Tuesday inaugurated these counters at three COVID vaccination centers in the federal capital at F9 Park, Rural Health Centre Tarlai and Federal General Hospital.

Dr. Nausheen and Dr. Saima both highlighted the importance of vaccination for pregnant women. Dr. Nausheen said that the risk of severe disease and death is very high during pregnancy if the mother is unvaccinated. She said that the Ministry of National Health Services and WHO have confirmed that the COVID vaccine does not have any negative effects on the ability to bear children. DHO Islamabad Dr. Zaem Zia and Founder of Samra-Noor Initiative Dr. Saima Khurshed were also present.



ISLAMABAD: Special representative of Prime Minister on religious harmony, Moulana Tahir Ashrafi calls on Speaker NA Asad Qaiser. - DNA

RCCI bids farewell to Station Commander

KHAYYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: A farewell ceremony was held at Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce in honor of Station Commander Brigadier Jaz Qamar Kayani.

President Nadeem Rauf, Group Leader Sohail Altaf, former presidents, senior vice president Asim Malik, representatives of Anjuman-e-Tajir, vice president Talat Awan, executive members and a large number of chamber members were present on the occasion. The station commander was accompanied by the newly appointed station commander Brigadier Salman Nazar.

Speaking on the occasion, Station Commander Ejaz Qamar Kia Ni said that the Rawalpindi Chamber has extended full cooperation for the development, beautification and promotion of business activities in the city. Give important suggestions for the development and beautification of the

city. He said that the ongoing work on Ammar Chowk would be completed by December this year while the work on Kachehri Chowk would start in November. PC One has been approved. He said that the Rawalpindi Chamber deserves congratulations for organizing Gwadar Conference and Balochistan Conference for the promotion of trade activities and for strengthening industry-industry ties on the occasion of Turbat

University visit. Brigadier Salman Nazar said he was very optimistic and would work closely with the chamber to seek suggestions. President Nadeem Rauf said that there is an ideal relationship between the chamber and the chamber. We hope that the new station commanders will further strengthen this relationship. He assured that all possible cooperation and assistance would be provided for the development projects of the city.

Group leader Sohail Altaf said that the station commander cooperated fully during the Karuna epidemic and gave relief to traders on property tax and other services. On this occasion, the participants stood up and paid tribute to the station commander for his services. Fateha was also offered for Dr Qadeer Khan in the meeting and his services were acknowledged.



NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed Tender Based on item rates/percentage above or below on approved estimated (DNIT) amount are hereby invited for the works mentioned below from the contractors/firms enlisted/ renewed with C&W department for the current financial year 2021-22 in the field of Highway works.

Tender Documents are available, from the date of publication of invitation to bids in the newspaper from any of the below mentioned offices, upon written request accompanied with attested copies of enlistment / up to date renewal letter / PEC license, Identity Card of Contractor / Managing Partner/ Director of the firm along with registered power of attorney and on payment of prescribed tender fee in the form of CDR only from the respective account of contractor / firm (No pay order / Bank Draft / Cashier's Cheque will be entertained) of any scheduled bank in favour of Executive Engineer, Road Construction Division Rawalpindi.

- Chief Engineer (North), Punjab Highway Department Lahore.
- Commissioner, Rawalpindi Division Rawalpindi.
- Deputy Commissioner, Rawalpindi.
- Superintending Engineer, Highways Circle No-2, Rawalpindi.
- Executive Engineer, Road Construction Division Rawalpindi.
- Assistant Commissioner Rawalpindi.

Tender rates and amounts should be filled in figures as well as in words and tender Should be signed as per general directions given in the tender document. No rebate on tendered rates will be acceptable.

Tender rates and amounts should be filled in figures as well as in words and tenders should be signed as per general directions given in the tender documents. No rebate on tendered rates will be acceptable.

Tenders documents will be issued from the date of publication upto 26-10-2021 and will be received on 28-10-2021 upto 02:00 p.m and the same will be opened at 2:30 pm simultaneously in the office of Chief Engineer North, Punjab Highways Department, Lahore and the Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Rawalpindi on date and time by the respective Tenders Opening Committee at the above venues in the presence of intending contractors or their representatives.

Conditional tenders and tenders not accompanied, with earnest money @2 per cent of the estimated cost in shape of CDR only from the respective account of contractors / firm (no pay order/bank draft/cashier's cheque will be entertained). Of any scheduled bank in favour of Executive Engineer, Road Construction Division Rawalpindi, and attested copies of registered partnership deed and power of attorney in case of firms, will not be entertained.

APPRA rules shall be followed for rejection of tender.

| Sr. no | Name of Works | Estimated Cost Rs. in Million | Earnest money @2% Rs. in Million | T.S No & Date | Tender Fee | Completion Time |
|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM 2021-2022 | | | | | | |
| 1 | Rehabilitation/ Improvement of Road from Habib Chowk to Islamabad Jabber, L=10.80km(Km1.50 to 5.25km=3.75), Tehsil Gujar Khan | 91.124 | 1.823 | C.E(North) No.35/Pig Dt:02.08.21 | 10,000 | 12 Months |

(Umair Ahmad)
Executive Engineer
Road Construction Division
Rawalpindi

(Tahir Mehmoed Anjum)
Superintending Engineer
Highway Circle 2
Rawalpindi

IPL NO 10474

Briefs

PIDE, PAGE
organize
webinar

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a webinar here highlighted the importance of stepping up efforts for furthering enhancing enrollment of female students in educational institutions.

They were speaking at a webinar jointly organized by Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) Pakistan Alliance of Girl's Education (PAGE) to mark International Day of the Girl Child, according to press statement issued here.

The International Day of the Girl Child is observed every year on October 11 to highlight the importance of adolescent girl children and attempts at identifying their power and potential by opening opportunities for them.

It also aims at amplifying and empowering the voices of adolescent girls around the globe, the statement said adding the observance of this day attempts to talk about and eradicate the issues concerning adolescent girl children.

Throughout the world, girls face gender-based challenges such as child marriage, discrimination, violence, and poor learning opportunities, it said. Speakers on the occasion lauded various efforts that the private sector along with the government was undertaking to increase enrollment of female students. — APP

Govt to
improve
vocational
training

ISLAMABAD: Member National Assembly (MNA) Nafeesa Inayatullah Khattak has said the government under the dynamic vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan is focusing to improve standards of technical and vocational trainings to enhance the employment opportunities for skilled youth at national and global platforms. She was addressing the 18th meeting of TVET Accreditation and Quality Evaluation Committee (TA&QEC) held at National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) Headquarter here on Tuesday.

Ms. Nafeesa Inayatullah Khattak also observed the proceedings of TA&QEC. The meeting was convened under the National Accreditation Council for Technical and Vocational Stream (NAC-TVs).

As per details, total 140 accreditation assessment reports will be presented before the committee for deliberation and decision regarding the grant of accreditation status to these institutions and Qualification Awarding Bodies (QABs) for final decision by NAC.

Chairman NAC, Mian Waqas Masood highlighted that NAC is working to serve the purpose of grading the technical and vocational institutes according to the international standards on one hand and on the other hand to discourage the issuance of certificates.

The participants of the meeting including Chairman TA&QEC Hilal Sheikh, representatives from provincial other TEVTAs, Members of Chamber of Commerce and Academia. — APP

ANF seizes
4.200 kg
heroin

ISLAMABAD: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) has seized 4.200 kilograms heroin concealed at bottom of the bag and arrested one person.

According to the spokesperson, ANF Regional Directorate North carried out an intelligence-based operation to apprehend the culprit involved in drug trafficking at Islamabad International Airport.

The force has arrested a suspect, namely Ali Mat Khan S/o Behram Khan resident of Zaka Khalil Mohallah Ani, Landi Kotal, Khyber district.

He said, the accused bearing a passport number BD 4112363 was traveling to Bahrain through flight No.GF 771.

A case has been registered against the culprit at the respective ANF Police Station under CNS Act 1997 while further investigation is underway. — APP

Govt urged to grant industry status to hospitality sector

Muhammad Shakeel Munir said that Pakistan was an emerging market in which there were attractive business opportunities for hotels and restaurants but due to lack of industry status, the sector has yet not grown to its potential

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that the hospitality sector in Pakistan has immense potential to grow and urged that the government should grant it industry status so that this sector could achieve better growth and play more effective role in the economic development of the country.

He said this while talking to a delegation of Islamabad Restaurants Association that called on him led by President Khurram Khan. Junaid Ahmed, Asher Hafeez, Sikandar, Habibullah Zahid, Usman Bajwa, Ms. Hajra and others were in the delegation.

Muhammad Shakeel Munir said that Pakistan was an emerging market in which there were attractive business opportunities for hotels and restaurants but due to lack of industry status, the sector has yet not grown to its potential.

He said that giving industry status to hotels and restaurants would increase investment in this sector and spur its better growth, which would create plenty of new jobs. He said that currently thousands of people were employed in hotels and restaurants, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this sector has suffered huge losses. He urged that the government should provide a relief package to this sector in



order to alleviate the plights of its business community. He assured that ICCI would extend all possible cooperation to the Association in resolving the issues of their business community.

Khurram Khan, President, Islamabad Restaurants Association, said that many small hotels and restaurants have faced closure due to the outbreak of coronavirus, but no relief was provided to them by the government. He said that it was not possible to restore the closed hotels

& restaurants without the support of the government. He demanded that the government should provide relief in electricity and gas bills to this sector and also announce a relief package for revival of its business activities.

He said that a large number of people were working in the hospitality sector, but many of them have lost jobs due to the closure of some businesses. He urged that the government should come forward to support the revival of

closed businesses. He further said that the population of Pakistan was rising and there was a great demand for good hotels and restaurants in the country.

Therefore, he stressed that the government should give industry status to the hospitality sector for its better growth. He said that in these difficult times, FBR was sending notices to the hospitality sector and urged that FBR should withdraw notices till the restoration of business activities

to normal routine. ICCI Senior Vice President Jamshed Akhtar Sheikh, Vice President Muhammad Fahim Khan, Junaid Ahmed, Asher Hafeez, Habibullah Zahid and others also spoke at the occasion and emphasized that the government should extend full cooperation to revive hospitality sector. They also demanded industry status for their sector which would yield beneficial results for the economy.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister/SAPM for Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam distributing remote sensing drones (ebee X Sensefly) among the representatives of provinces during National Consultative Seminar on Conservation and Protection of Forest Resources Through UN-Funded Redd-Programme. — APP

IWCCI delegation
leaves to attend
Istanbul expo

ISLAMABAD: A fifteen-member delegation of the Islamabad Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IWCCI) Tuesday has left for Turkey to participate in the three-day expo titled Beauty Istanbul 2021.

The delegation will hold business to business meetings, attend beauty workshops, seminars, take part in competitions, introduce Pakistani beauty products and evaluate different beauty and cosmetics brands for possible introduction in the vast Pakistani market, said a press release.

We will get information about the latest trends to boost business, find new opportunities in the beauty industry, industry experts as well as en-

trepreneurs and share what is happening in Pakistan, beauty market post-pandemic, said head of the delegation, Samina Fazil. Talking to Media, she said the expo is an excellent opportunity to improve understanding of the global beauty industry and promote Pakistani products as 314 exhibitors from 52 countries are participating in the event while it will attract visitors from 145 countries.

She said that the expo will give beauty industry professionals accompanying our delegation will get three packed days of educational classes, workshops and competitions in which they can enhance their skill-set while receiving constructive feedback. — APP

Allama Iqbal Open University
organizes annual book fair

DNA

ISLAMABAD: "Books reading habits and practices are gradually declining in our country which has led to the development of an intolerant and disoriented generation, which is very alarming" said Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum Vice-Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University.

He was addressing while inaugurating opening ceremony of two-day book-fair held here at the main campus.

The Vice-Chancellor further said in order to promote and strengthen love for learning and pursuit of knowledge, we are required to motivate our youth to read books extensively to equip them with basic understanding



and knowledge of Pakistan's literary, cultural and historical roots. He added, AIOU is committed to provide this exclusive opportunity to our academia and students to create intellectual space for themselves and to critically reflect on the issues being faced by Pakistani nation today.

He, further, added that his vision is to equip the central library with rich literary treasure based on Iqbal's ideology and philosophy. As AIOU is named after the greatest thinker and poet Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal, therefore, it must provide all literary

World Food Day
Celebration Seminar
on Thursday

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH and UK-based organizations SAWIE & UPSIGN are celebrating World Food Day 2021 in Pakistan on 14th October. World Food Day is an international day celebrated every year worldwide on 16 October. This day is celebrated widely by organizations concerned with hunger and food security. The aim to celebrate World Food Day in Pakistan is to promote knowledge and support good practices for enhancing agriculture and food production through climate-smart agriculture, conserve water, soil resources and protect biodiversity. COMSTECH is hosting the event under the theme of

"World Food Day – Our Actions Are Our Future". The event consists upon two sessions – inaugural and technical. The technical session includes six talks from top national and international agriculture scientists and corporate leaders, which will be followed by discussion session on the theme of "Achieving food self-sufficiency in Pakistan". Developing resilient food systems, role of saline agriculture, microfinance model for uplift, hidden hunger, new approaches to address food security, threats from invasive species of pests, disease and use of bio-pesticide to protect biodiversity are the themes of expert talks. — APP

Pak records
bumper
sugarcane
crop

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Food Security Jamshed Iqbal Cheema Tuesday said that government had started targeted subsidy on basic food commodities and this year Pakistan records bumper sugarcane crops which expected to reach 100 million tons.

In his message on PTV news channel, he said government took a serious notice of the plight of sugarcane growers and directed to address the farmer's legitimate issues, adding, government was taking all possible measures to reduce the prices of ghee and pulses to facilitate common people.

He said that the government will ensure the sale of sugar in the markets at a fixed price, adding, with government's commitment the sugar would have been sold at Rs 80 per kilograms in the retail market.

He assured that farmers would get incentives from the production of sugarcane and government will continue to take concrete steps for protecting the common man from price hiking. — APP

IT sector
witness
measurable
progress

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's IT sector has made measurable and quantifiable progress due to the strong focus of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government on ensuring sustainable IT industry growth. The numbers of IT companies have increased to 4641 as of June 30, 2021, compared to 1762 valid registrations as of June 30, 2018, said an official of IT and Telecom.

He said, "The ICT export remittances, including telecommunication, computer, and information services have surged to the US \$ 2.123 billion (largest exporter in services sector & highest net exporter with the US \$1.573 billion in net exports) at a growth rate of 47.43% during FY 2020-21 in comparison to the US \$ 1.440 billion during FY 2019-20."

The licenses of Cellular Mobile Operators were awarded for a period of 15 years and 3 of these licenses (Jazz, Zong, and Telenor) were due for renewal by PTA in 2019.

The government has outlined a vision of accelerated digitization and transformation of Pakistan into a knowledge-based economy to spur economic growth through innovation and entrepreneurship.

Keeping in mind the critical role played by startups in economic growth, job creation, financial inclusion, reducing the income divide, and building a knowledge-based economy. — APP

Pakistan
Post jumps
five places in
world ranking

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Post has exceeded up to five places in the world rankings from 67 to 62, according to a report issued on Tuesday by Universal Postal Union, the global organization of postal services.

The global organization of postal services "the Universal Postal Union (UPU)" has released its 2021 rankings of 168 countries bearing postal services.

Pakistan Post has improved international ranking by 32 places during last three years from 94 positions to 62, said a media press release. However, in 2018, Pakistan Post was at 92 positions.

The UPU Report examined the state of postal development around the world in 2021, building on the Integrated Index for Postal Development (IIPD) which currently ranks 168 countries across four dimensions: reliability, reach, relevance and resilience.

The report exploits the information embedded in the 2IPD's reliability pillar, which measures the delivery times of mail items, to quantify the operational disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The main finding was that the logistical bottlenecks experienced in 2020 have severely affected the reliability of postal operations, with average domestic delivery times increasing by 13% in 2020 with respect to 2019, before returning to pre-crisis levels in 2021. — APP

QAU Alumni demands special bailout package

Due to financial constraints, QAU is unable to hire qualified faculty & staff, improve existing facilities and meet the growing needs of the university

ISLAMABAD: Quaid-I-Azam University Alumni Association (QAUAA) has demanded a special bailout package to overcome the 600 million rupees annual deficit and end illegal encroachments & external interference in the affairs of Quaid-I-Azam University (QAU) Islamabad. An important meeting of the Core Committee of QAU Alumni Association yesterday deliberated on current challenges being faced by their Alma Mater.

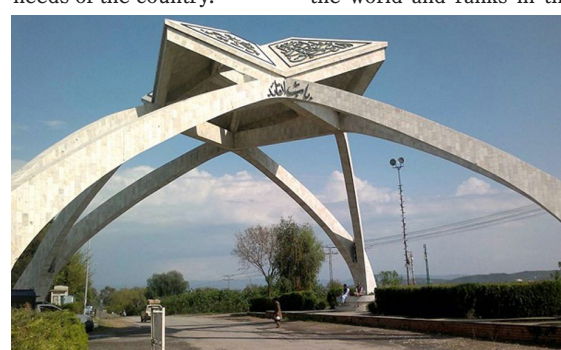
The senior Quaidians were of the view as QAU is a national asset and top-ranked federal institution, all efforts should be made to protect the legacy and reputation of this great institution. Due to financial constraints, QAU is unable to hire qualified faculty & staff, improve existing facilities and meet

the growing needs of the university.

Adding fuel to fire, owing to financial constraints it is unable to meet essential day-to-day expenditures. The hostel residents are facing a number of problems due to the lack of development and expansion of hostel vicinities. The decades' old infrastructure and labs need exigent focus to be addressed. As per the unanimous demand of all stakeholders, QAU should be declared a flagship institution along with the announcement of a special bailout package to overcome its financial constraints and raise the position of the university among the top 300 global universities.

With the provision of required funding and support from the government and

the alumni, this prestigious higher education institution could win more laurels for the country and meet the growing human resources needs of the country.



They demanded of the federal government immediately announce a special grant to overcome the more than 600 million rupees annual deficit as shortage of funds is adversely affecting

this prestigious institution. The university is in dire need of a bailout to maintain its stature and ranking. QAU is at 378th position in the world and ranks in the

top 100 universities of Asia. They assured me all the efforts would be made to help out the Alma Mater at this critical time. At the suggestion of Manager Scholarship QAU, it

was decided to organize national and international donor conferences to increase scholarships for the enrolled students.

The participants also showed their serious concerns on non-resolution of pressing issue of encroachment on QAU land which consequently impacts the future of our generations. During the meeting, it was apprised that QAU was allotted the land of 1709 acres, 4 Kanals, and 12 Marlas at the time of its inception and QAU paid the sum amount for the entire area of the land. The Capital Development Authority (CDA) to date has not demarcated the exact land and boundaries of QAU despite Islamabad High Court's verdict in favor of QAU to complete the said demarcation in one month.

Despite complete payment of 1709 acres, QAU is still having a shortfall of 450 acres of allotted land due to illegal occupation of 298 acres and non-handing over 152 acres. Quaid I Azam University notwithstanding its being the premier seat of learning in Pakistan is in persistent jeopardy where a substantial part of its land is usurped by influential land grabbers and illegal settlers. These settlements in the vicinity of academic blocks are resultantly creating grave issues of drug peddling and law and order for the university.

They demanded to the President of Pakistan, Prime Minister of Pakistan, Federal Education Minister, and Chairman PM's Task Force to take immediate notice of the situation. — APP

Reforming SEOs

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) has come to Pakistan's rescue by offering technical assistance for reforming state-owned enterprises (SEOs) in a way that provides clear directions for the state's role as the owner, the legal framework for operations as well as privatisation. For too long, a lax approach towards SEOs has resulted in billions of rupees in losses and even now, there are over 212 companies in Pakistan that have to be accounted for.

The ADB highlighted three fields within which it wanted to work; creating a policy framework for each SEO, establishing regulatory standards, incorporating corporate governance that produces some profits and increasing their institutional capacity. If headway is made on each of these highlighted objectives, the overall mode of operation will improve drastically enough to overturn the perception of Pakistan SEOs being a burden rather than an asset for the government.

Furthermore, the level of transparency that this new system supports will ensure that whenever a point comes when the prospects are not looking promising, decisions can be taken to resolve pending issues and introduce new initiatives or policies that help the company evolve according to the changing environment.

At the same time, there are companies like the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) that have been accumulating debt and emptying out the national treasury, prompting the government to consider privatising them. Even though announcements have been made and bidding ceremonies for their shares have been announced, not much progress has been made. This is something that has to be addressed as a major problem and solutions must be proposed as part of the same assistance being offered by the ADB currently.

At this point, we must take advantage of the resources being offered and restructure the system under which these SEOs operate. In the process, the government must also absorb as much as it can so that in the future, it is self-sufficient and can manage these tasks on its own.

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KP health department

THE Sehat Insaf Card—one of the flagship projects of the PTI government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)—continues to be a remarkable initiative that is helping millions of poor patients with critical medical needs during these testing times. It has been announced that the KP health department is set to sign contracts with two private hospitals for free liver transplant of the residents of the province. As per reports, the health department is also planning to include Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre for free medication of all kinds of cancer under the Sehat Sahulat Programme.

Once the rates are finalised and this agreement goes through, patients with damaged livers would be able to undergo a cashless transplant in both the health facilities. Since its launch in 2015, the programme has grown considerably as it started off with covering only three percent of the population in four designated districts of KP. Today, the KP government is offering the provision of free health coverage—covering all major diseases—to the entire population of the province and has thus far treated 6,030,000 patients under the programme.

This is an incredible achievement considering how such complex medical procedures will be done for free, and this will be even more of a game-changer for those living below the poverty line. Even for average-income families, bearing the expenditure of laboratory tests, x-rays, CT scans, medicines and hospital charges is something inconceivable. A few years ago, this would have appeared to be an impossible task; the government in KP deserves all the credit and more for accomplishing this. Inadequate health coverage—especially for the most vulnerable amongst us—is a country-wide issue. The KP government however has set a precedent for other provinces to follow as improving access to healthcare is going to be significant for Pakistan to achieve its development goals going forward. This milestone achievement must be built upon so that the underprivileged across the country can avail modern-day healthcare facilities.

60 Years of NAM

Dr M Ali Hamza



At present Azerbaijan is having the chairmanship of NAM that has been extended for one another year; till 2023. There are number of successful initiatives taken by Azerbaijan as the NAM chairman such as welcoming summit-level meeting...

PAKISTAN stands against all human atrocities and war crimes took place during the Nagorno-Karabakh war. The brutal killing of civilians at Ganja city and rejection of a diplomatic solution by Armenia leaves no room for tolerance. Pakistan highly values the territorial framework of the independent State that is an essential foundation of the sovereignty of States, and that is one of the foundation principles of Non-Aligned Movement. NAM (Non-Aligned Movement) is an international body consisting of 120 developing countries. It is the second largest group of states after United Nations. The one line explanation of NAM's resolution is 'not to be polarized'. This movement initiated back in 1950s with a purpose to avoid the polarized world of the Cold War between the pro-Soviet communist countries that are aligned under Warsaw Pact, and the pro-American capitalist countries allied as NATO. NAM principles

were derived from Bandung Conference of 1955 held in Indonesia: The first large scale conference of Asian and African States those were mostly newly independent. Twenty nine countries participated in Bandung Conference. Pakistan was among the main sponsors and organizers of the conference along with Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Burma and India. In 1961 the first conference of Heads of State or Governments of Non-Aligned Countries was held in Yugoslavia, and Pakistan even being a co-sponsor of the idea, did not attend the first summit due to its membership of SEATO (Southeast Asia Treaty Organization) and CENTO (Central Treaty Organization). Pakistan participated in the deliberation of NAM as a guest until its assumption of full membership during 1979 Havana Summit. Anyhow the term non-aligned movement first appears in the fifth conference in 1976. Members of NAM represent nearly two-thirds of the United Nations' members and contain 55% of the world population. Majority of the member countries are developing or part of the Third World, though few developed nations are also a part of it.

On the 60th anniversary of the NAM, a Maldivian politician, H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, President of the 76th session of the UNGA (United Nations General Assembly) highlighted the importance of NAM in past and the significance of its existence in present. His words "As a forum for consultation and collaboration, with consistent advocacy in favor of peace, cooperation, and friendship, NAM serves as a keystone of global multilateral system. I commend the members of NAM for adhering to the Bandung principles, which correspond closely to the Charter of the United Nations and I acknowledge the leadership of Azerbaijan, as current Chair of NAM, during a very challenging period." Such acknowledgment by H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid leaves no doubt on the vital role of NAM in global scenario. At present Azerbaijan is having the chairmanship of NAM that has been extended for one another year; till 2023. There are number of successful initiatives taken by Azerbaijan as the NAM chairman such as welcoming summit-level meeting of the NAM contact group as well as a special UNGA session in response to COVID-19 held in 2020, the UN Human Rights Council resolution on the fair

and equitable distribution of vaccines adopted on March 2021, and International Model NAM Simulation Exercise that has been organized for the first time in NAM history. This platform proved to be very valuable for Azerbaijan to let the world know about 44-day patriotic Nagorno-Karabakh war that ended with the liberation of Azerbaijani territories from Armenian occupation. Endorsement of NAM members on the statement by President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Chairman of the NAM Mr. Ilham Aliyev that 'victory of Azerbaijan is a victory of international law, justice and the NAM fundamental principles', is of high significance. During the Nagorno-Karabakh, the constant support of NAM members to sovereignty of Azerbaijan and avoiding taking sides was a sign of harvesting the value of, territorial integrity and inviolability. As we see that Russia tried to pressure Armenia to accept a diplomatic settlement brokered by Russia, US and France, and when Armenian side refused to make concessions, Russia opted not to discourage the escalation of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict into a full-fledged war. Indeed it was a choice of strategy by Russia that seeks a major improvement in its regional standing but on the other hand it was aligned to NAM values.

In consonance to the words of Fidel Castro of CUBA that "aim of NAM is to achieve the national independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of non-aligned countries and it is a struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, and all forms of foreign aggression, occupation, domination, interference as well as against great power and bloc politics", Pakistan and Turkey also played a land-marking role to stand against the hegemony of bloc politics. Issues today are getting more diverse, like disinformation, pandemics, climate change. The loss of biodiversity is forcing all the nations to let go of any remaining-view of living in isolation. The challenges we are facing now are totally planetary in nature and extent. Therefore our responses have to be equally as global if we are to prosper and thrive. That is all possible in a non-polarized world, and that is the true essence of NAM.

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Europe's self-serving politics on refugees

Ramzy Baroud

The lesson here is that Afghans fleeing their war-torn and US-occupied country were of little political use to their potential host countries. As soon as Afghanistan fell to the Taliban, and the US and its NATO allies were forced to leave the country, the language immediately shifted because, then, the refugees served a political purpose. For example, Italian Interior Minister Luciana Lamorgese was one of the first to advocate the need for European support for Afghan refugees. On Oct. 8, she told an EU forum on the protection of Afghans that Italy...

LANGUAGE is politics and politics is power. This is why the misuse of language is particularly disturbing, especially when the innocent and vulnerable pay the price.

The wars in Syria, Libya, Afghanistan and other Middle Eastern, Asian and African countries in recent years have resulted in one of the greatest humanitarian catastrophes since the Second World War. However, instead of developing a unified global strategy that places the welfare of those fleeing these conflicts as a top priority, many countries have ignored their plight altogether, blamed them for their own misery, and sometimes treated them as if they were criminals and outlaws. But this is not always the case. At the start of the Syrian war, support for Syrian refugees was considered a moral calling, championed by countries across the world, from the Middle East to Europe and even beyond. Though often rhetoric was not matched by action, helping the refugees was seen, theoretically, as a political stance against the Syrian government. Back then, Afghans did not factor in the Western political discourse on refugees. In fact, they were rarely seen as refugees. Why? Because, until Aug. 15 — when the Taliban entered the capital Kabul — most of those fleeing Afghanistan were seen according to a different classification: Migrants, illegal immigrants, illegal aliens, and so on. Worse, at times they were depicted as parasites taking advantage of international sympathy for refugees, in general, and Syrians, in particular. The lesson here is that Afghans fleeing their war-torn and US-occupied country were of little political use to their potential host countries. As soon as Afghanistan fell to the Taliban, and the US and its NATO allies were forced to leave the country, the language immediately shifted because, then, the refugees served a political purpose. For example, Italian Interior Minister Luciana Lamorgese was one of the first to advocate the need for European support for Afghan refugees. On Oct. 8, she told an EU forum on the protection of Afghans that Italy will work with its allies to ensure fleeing refugees could reach Italy via third countries. The hypocrisy here is palpable. Italy, like

other European countries, has done its utmost to stop refugees arriving at its shores. Its policies have included the prevention of refugee boats stranded in the Mediterranean from reaching Italian territorial waters; the funding and the establishment of refugee camps in Libya — often depicted as "concentration camps" — to host refugees "caught" trying to escape to Europe; and, finally, the prosecution of Italian humanitarian workers and even elected officials who dared lend a hand to refugees.

The latest victim of the Italian authorities' campaign to crack down on refugees and asylum-seekers was Domenico Lucano, the former mayor of Riace in the southern Italian region of Calabria, who was jailed for 13 years for abetting illegal migration and for "irregularities in managing asylum-seekers." The verdict also included a 500,000 (\$780,000) fine to recover funds received from the EU and the Italian government. What are these "irregularities"?

"Many migrants in Riace have obtained municipal jobs while Lucano was mayor. Abandoned buildings in the area had been restored with European funds to provide housing for immigrants," Euroneews reported. The decision was particularly pleasing to the far-right Lega Party. Lega's head, Matteo Salvini, was interior minister of Italy from 2018-19. During his time in office, many blamed him for Italy's anti-immigrant policy. News of Lucano's sentencing was welcomed by Lega and Salvini.

However, only the rhetoric has changed since Italy's new interior minister, Lamorgese, took office. True, the anti-refugee language was far less populist and certainly less racist, especially compared with Salvini's offensive language of the past. But the unfriendly policies remain. It matters little to desperate refugees crossing to Europe in their thousands whether Italy's policies are shaped by Lamorgese or Salvini. What matters to them is their ability to reach safer shores. Sadly, many do not.

A disturbing report issued by the European Commission on Sept. 30 showed the staggering impact of Europe's political hostility toward refugees. More than 20,000 migrants have drowned attempting to reach Europe.

"Since the beginning of 2021, a total of 1,369 migrants have died in the Mediterranean," the report said. In fact, many of those died during the West-championed international frenzy to "save" the Afghans from the Taliban.

Since Afghan refugees represent a sizable portion of worldwide refugees, especially those attempting to cross to Europe, it is safe to assume that many of those who have perished in the Mediterranean were also Afghans. But why is Europe welcoming some Afghans while allowing others to die?

Political language is not coined at random. There is a reason we call those fleeing in search for safety "refugees," or "illegal immigrants," "illegal aliens," "undocumented," "dissidents" and so on. In fact, the last term, "dissidents," is the most political of all. In the US, for example, Cubans fleeing their country are almost always political "dissidents," as the phrase itself represents a direct indictment of the Cuban communist government. Haitians, on the other hand, are not political "dissidents." They are rarely "refugees," but are often portrayed as "illegal aliens." This kind of language is used in the media and by politicians as a matter of course. The same fleeing refugee could change status more than once over the duration of his or her escape. Syrians were once welcomed in their thousands. Now, they are perceived to be political burdens on their host countries. Afghans are valued or devalued, depending on who is in charge of the country. Those fleeing or escaping the US occupation were rarely welcomed; those escaping the Taliban rule are perceived as heroes, needing solidarity.

However, while one is busy manipulating language, there are thousands stranded at sea and hundreds of thousands languishing in refugee camps worldwide. They are only welcomed if they serve as political capital. Otherwise, they remain a "problem" to be dealt with — violently, if necessary.

— Courtesy Arab News

Vaccine equality has to start at home

Loice Ombajo

My colleagues and I have observed that many COVID-19 vaccine queues have been dominated by people who are not on these priority lists. In Nairobi, for example, the majority of those lining up for vaccinations are from more affluent neighbourhoods of the city, while dwellers...

THE COVID-19 pandemic has brought immeasurable challenges across the world. As of early October, there have been more than 238 million confirmed cases and 4.8 million deaths globally, with the number of infections rapidly rising — particularly among the unvaccinated. The emergence of new, more contagious variants, such as the Delta one, underscores the urgency of vaccine rollout. Studies have shown that low vaccination coverage is a major driver of the current rapid increase in the number of COVID-19 cases.

As the pandemic rages on, wealthy countries continue to hoard vaccines, ignoring criticism and warnings from the World Health Organization. Whereas developed nations such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, etc have vaccinated more than 50 percent of their populations, developing ones in Africa have vaccinated less than two percent of their populations. As

rich countries start to give COVID-19 "booster" shots to persons already vaccinated, poorer countries still struggle with vaccine supplies, and the global inequity of vaccine access is becoming ever more apparent. And while this is one of the most pressing challenges we face in the global response to COVID-19, we cannot turn a blind eye to what is happening locally. In many countries that face shortages of vaccines, inequity of access on a national level is also a major problem. Just as rich countries have a higher chance of accessing vaccines, so too do wealthier individuals and communities in poorer countries. While most countries have prioritised certain high-risk populations for the vaccine — including healthcare workers and other front-line service providers, the elderly and those with significant underlying health issues — many have not kept track of who is actually receiving a shot. As an infectious disease specialist advising the Kenyan Ministry of Health on appropriate COVID-19 management and control measures, I have often been called upon by healthcare facilities to advise on issues related to the vaccination campaign.

My colleagues and I have observed that many COVID-19 vaccine queues have been dominated by people who are not on these priority lists. In Nairobi, for example, the majority of those lining up for vaccinations are from more affluent neighbourhoods of the city, while dwellers of informal settlements have received very few vaccines. This scenario has been replicated in many other towns across the country as official prioritisation is not well enforced. Even though 3,990,500 vaccine doses have been administered and 967,553 in Kenya as of early October, it is notable that only about 0.5 percent of people in some of the poorest areas of the country are fully vaccinated compared with 12 percent for Nairobi. As the country aims to vaccinate 10 million people in the next year, a lot more thought will have to be put into how the vaccines will be distributed.

This is a situation that is not unique to African countries. In the US, it has been observed that individuals living in poorer countries and in more vulnerable households were less likely to have been vaccinated. Therefore, this is not just an issue of the rich elbowing the poor out of vaccine queues, it is about the state authorities removing any barriers to vaccination that the poor may face, such as inadequate access to information, misinformation, difficulty reaching vaccine centres, difficulty scheduling a vaccine appointment, etc.

Some may argue that the vaccine is available to all and individuals must take personal initiative to seek it out. But the challenges the poor experience cannot be resolved on an individual basis — they have to be tackled systematically. In the case of Kenya, poor access to information and health advice can be addressed through the greater involvement of community health workers (CHWs). They are trusted voices and are able to dispel vaccine myths, identify the vulnerable in the community and encourage vaccination. The active deployment of CHWs also needs to go hand in hand with the spread of information on vaccines in a clear, accessible format and on platforms that the poor actually use. It is important to gain public trust by not only keeping the Kenyan society well informed but also ensuring government transparency on the inner workings of the vaccination campaign and the decisions made in this regard.

Delivering vaccines to the poor — those who live in crowded dwellings with inadequate access to sanitation and health services — can go a long way in helping to tackle the spread of the virus. After all, these are the communities that are most at risk of contracting COVID-19, but also spreading it. Vaccines should be urgently made available to poor nations for the same reason they should be administered in poor communities. It is because no one is truly safe from COVID-19 until we are all safe.

— Courtesy Al Jazeera

Briefs

Civil, military leadership on the same page

FROM PAGE 01

The authority to appoint the new DG rests with the premier, Fawad said, adding that the decision will be taken after thorough deliberations. Fawad refused to answer more questions regarding the ISI chief's appointment, saying: "I have already answered the question." This is the first time the government spoke on the controversy surrounding the appointment of the new ISI chief, Gen Nadeem Anjum. Gen Anjum was named as the new chief by the Pakistan Army's media wing, but the notification regarding his appointment has not been issued by the PM's Office. Speaking about the funeral of Dr Abdul Qadeer on Sunday, Fawad said at least 15 ministers of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) attended the last rites of Dr Qadeer and added that chairman joint chiefs of staff and the naval chief also attended the funeral. Fawad also said that the cabinet has been briefed on electronic votes machines, adding that the government wanted to give voting rights to overseas Pakistanis. The information minister clarified that PTI has appointed more than 80 officials on top posts and all of the appointments were made on merit.

EU announces 1bn...

FROM PAGE 01

the humanitarian and security situation in Afghanistan. Her statement stressed that the EU funds are "direct support" for Afghans and would be channelled to international organisations working on the ground, not to the Taliban's interim government which Brussels does not recognise. Meanwhile, EU development aid – different from humanitarian aid – remains frozen. "We must do all we can to avert a major humanitarian and socioeconomic collapse in Afghanistan. We need to do it fast," von der Leyen said, observing that winter was approaching. "We have been clear about our conditions for any engagement with the Afghan authorities, including on the respect of human rights. So far, the reports speak for themselves. But the Afghan people should not pay the price of the Taliban's actions," she said. EU countries are wary at the prospect of a surge of Afghan asylum seekers trying to enter the bloc, as happened in 2015 with Syrians fleeing their war. Brussels' calculation is that donating money to help stabilise Taliban-ruled Afghanistan and help out countries between it and Europe could stem any flow. Von der Leyen has said EU countries – especially those that participated in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's mission that hastily decamped in August as the Taliban swept to power – have a "moral duty" to help Afghans. The one billion euro aid package announced will boost spending in the health sector in Afghanistan. In the neighbouring countries, it will go to help with migration management and promote cooperation in fighting terrorism, crime and migrant smuggling.

Pak slams IIOJK killings

FROM PAGE 01

Pakistan continues unabated," Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar said in a statement. "The allegations surrounding the arrest of an allegedly Pakistani individual in New Delhi today are part of India's well known efforts to divert the world attention from its egregious human rights violations and illegal actions in IIOJK, and well-documented oppression of Muslims and other minorities in India," he added. "The Indian propaganda based on lies and deceit only reconfirms Pakistan's apprehensions that, as it has done in the past, India is plotting false flag operations to blame Pakistan and Kashmiris," the Spokesperson said.

Beirut blast investigator forced to pause probe a second time

The investigation has been facing obstacles since Bitar sought to question some of the most powerful people in Lebanon on suspicion that they knew about the chemicals but did nothing to avert the disaster

DNA

BEIRUT: A probe into the catastrophic Beirut port explosion was frozen on Tuesday (Oct 12) for the second time in less than three weeks after two politicians wanted for questioning filed a new complaint against the lead investigator, Judge Tarek Bitar. The investigation has been facing obstacles since Bitar sought to question some of the most powerful people in Lebanon on suspicion that they knew

about the chemicals but did nothing to avert the disaster. Bitar is under enormous pressure from groups that have accused his probe of political bias and mounting a smear campaign against him. The leader of the powerful, heavily armed Shi'ite political movement Hezbollah said on Monday it wanted Bitar removed from the case. The Aug 4, 2020 blast, one of the biggest non-nuclear explosions on record, killed more than 200 people and devastated swathes of Beirut.

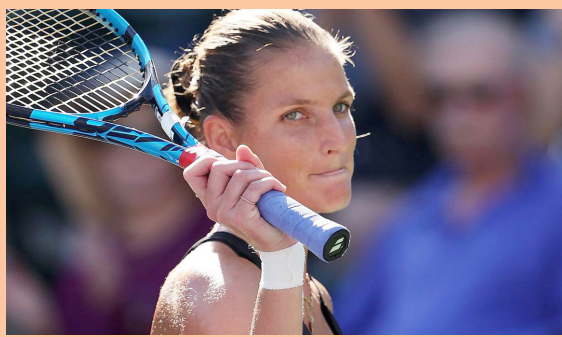
Senior politicians called for questioning have refused to show up and arrest warrants are not being served. A meeting of the country's supreme defence council, chaired by President Michel Aoun, on Tuesday refused the permission sought by the judge to pursue Tony Saliba, the director general of state security, an official source said. The probe was suspended in late September on the basis of a complaint questioning Bitar's impartiality. A court rejected the complaint on procedural grounds, allow-

ing him to continue. Bitar is the second judge to lead the probe. Fadi Sawan was removed from the case in February on the basis of a similar complaint filed by the politicians who are now challenging Bitar. "For the first time, the judicial system wants to function, but it is suffering under the political pressure and interventions," said Paul Morcos, lawyer and professor of international law. Shortly before being informed of the latest complaint, Bitar had issued an arrest warrant for one of

the politicians who filed it, former finance minister Ali Hassan Khalil, a senior politician close to Hezbollah. Khalil, a senior member of the Shi'ite Amal movement, was not immediately reachable for comment. The second politician was ex-public works minister Ghazi Zeiter, also a Hezbollah ally, who is due for questioning on Wednesday. Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah voiced his harshest criticism yet of Bitar on Monday when he called for his replacement in a televised address, say-

ing he was biased and politicised. The remarks came weeks after Wafiq Safa, a senior Hezbollah official, was said to have warned Bitar the group would remove him from the inquiry, according to a journalist and a judicial source. Khalil's arrest warrant is the second for an ex-minister arising from the investigation. The first was issued for ex-public works minister Youssef Finianos, another Hezbollah ally, in September when he repeatedly failed to show for questioning.

Pliskova, Andreescu lose at Indian Wells



SPORTS DESK

CALIFORNIA: Big servers Karolina Pliskova, Bianca Andreescu and Reilly Opelka saw their most potent weapon neutralized by strong desert winds on Monday as they all crashed out of Indian Wells. The biggest upset of the day came when tournament lucky loser Beatriz Haddad Maia, ranked 115 in the world, defeated top seed Pliskova 6-3 7-5 in a match where service holds were rare as wind gusts reached 40 miles per hour. Pliskova, who reached the Wimbledon final in July, served 12 double faults and her service was broken eight times by the Brazilian in their third-round meeting. Haddad Maia will next face Anett Kontaveit after the Estonian beat defending champion Bianca Andreescu 7-6(5) 6-3 to extend her winning streak to eight matches. Kontaveit, who already has two hard court titles to her name this season, won the last five games of the match to see off the tournament's 2019 champion, who won the U.S. Open crown the same year. Opelka's thunderous serve lacked its usual potency as the towering American lost 6-3 6-4 to Grigor Dimitrov. The win avenged Dimitrov's defeat to Opelka in straight sets at the Canadian Open in August. Dimitrov will next face top-seeded Daniil Medvedev, who defeated 27th seed Filip Krajinovic 6-2 7-6(1). Medvedev's fellow Russian, Andrey Rublev, lost 6-4 3-6 7-5 to American Tommy Paul. read more In other third-round action, Diego Schwartzman sent Briton Dan Evans packing 5-7 6-4 6-0 and 10th seed Angelique Kerber held on to defeat Daria Kasatkina 6-2 1-6 6-4. Evans, who reached the fourth round of the U.S. Open last month, fought back from 5-2 down to win the first set and maintained the momentum to break the Argentine 11th seed's serve in the opening game of the second set. But Schwartzman roared back to convert four of six break points in the second set to level the match. Evans never regained his footing and Schwartzman dropped only two first-serve points in the third set.

Husband & wife reaches in CAS Int'l Squash C'ship QF round

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani married couple Farhan Zaman and Sadiqul reaches into quarterfinal round along with top seed Tayyab Aslam in the Chief of the Air Staff (CAS)-Serena Hotels International Squash Tournament for men along with Serena Hotels-Combaxx Sports International Squash Tournament for women here at the Mushaf Squash Complex on Tuesday. In mens event Pakistan duo Farhan Zaman and top seed Tayyab Aslamstroms in to quarterfinal round after defeating Muhammad Asim and Amaal Faraed in close encounters by 3-2. Farhan showed some excellent skills after losing third game against Muhammad Asim and then never allowed him to take advantage. Some powerful hitting also seen during the match wins by 11-8, 6-11, 7-11, 11-8 and 11-2.

In the second pre quarterfinal match Amaal Faraed was unlucky to beat top seed Tayyab Aslam in the decisive game by leading 9-6 but two drop shots gave some energy to Tayyab as he came back in the game by winning the final game by 11-9. The thrilling match was played around 74 minutes to give many chances to Amaal Faraed as he was leading the first two games by 11-8 and

11-5 but then Tayyab played their best game to fight back by winning continuously two games with 11-2 and 11-7 to equal the match by 2-2 games and then Tayyab wins the match by 8-11, 5-11, 11-2, 11-7 and 11-9. In other matches Pakistan Farhan Mehboob and Israr Ahmed also missed the opportunity to improve their international ranking by defeating their opponents but they

Serena Hotels-Combaxx Sports International Squash Tournament for women. Sadiqul upset in the event against tournament fourth seed Serbian Jelena Dutina who was leading the fourth game by 8-3 but it was Sadiqul's luck as she fought back in the match by winning fourth match by 11-5, 7-11, 11-4, 15-13 (32 Min), Max Lee (HKG) bt Chi Him Wong (HKG) by 11-6, 11-8, 8-11, 13-11 (42 Min), Henry Leung (HKG) bt Hugo Varela (ESP) by 11-9, 11-2, 11-2 (20 Min) and Karim El Hamamy (EGY) bt Israr Ahmad (PAK) by 3-11, 11-4, 2-11, 11-4, 11-6 (47 Min).

Women Event results: Nadia Pfister (SUI) bt Rushna Mehboob (PAK) by 11-4, 11-5, 11-7 (17 Min), Fayrouz Aboelkheir (EGY) bt Rifat Khan (PAK) by 11-2, 11-0, 11-4 (09 Min), Farah Momen (EGY) bt Nimra Aqeel (PAK) by 11-3, 11-5, 11-5 (12 Min), Sama Eltayeb (EGY) bt (WC) Sana Bahader (PAK) by 11-3, 11-2, 11-2 (13 Min), Nadeem Kotb (EGY) bt Nour Aboulmakarim (EGY) by 11-9, 5-11, 3-11, 11-2 (41 Min), Sadiqul (PAK) bt Jelena Dutina (SRB) by 8-11, 12-10, 7-11, 12-10, 11-7 (38 Min), Noor ul Huda (PAK) bt Komal Khan (PAK) by 6-11, 11-8, 10-2 Rtd Hurt (15 Min) and Marie Stephan (FRA) bt Anam Mustafa Aziz (PAK) by 11-4, 11-1, 11-2 (18 Min).



failed to win their matches in the event. Farhan Mehboob faced defeat against Moustafa El Sirty from Egypt by 11-5, 7-11, 11-4, 15-13. Pakistan's Israr Ahmed, who was former asian junior champion lost match against Karim El Hamamy from Egypt by 3-11, 11-4, 2-11, 11-4, 11-6 in 47 minutes. Pakistan's Sadiqul and Noorul Huda also entered into quarterfinal round of

in the match as Sadiqul won the match by 8-11, 12-10, 7-11, 12-10, 11-7 while Noor ul Huda thrashed Komal Khan as she faces injury during the match resulting in not being able to continue the match. Noor ul Huda was declared match winner by 6-11, 11-8, 10-2.

Men Event results: Tayyab Aslam (PAK) bt Amaal Faraed (PAK) by 8-11, 5-11, 11-2, 11-7, 11-9 (74 Min), Tsz

Afghan people need support: Spanish envoy

From Page 01

the trip, with one of the vaccines approved by the European Union or the World Health Organization (with current data, Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca, Janssen/Johnson & Johnson, Sinovac and Sinopharm). Besides, an electronic certificate has to be digitally fulfilled before entering Spain. The rest of requirements that applied before COVID to obtain tourism visas are still in place.

It is understandable that due to Covid the momentum in bilateral relations has also been disturbed. How do you plan to regain that momentum?

It is true that governments across the world in the beginning focused on the priority of tackling the immediate health and economic crisis that derived from the COVID19 pandemic. But during the crisis the Spanish government was not only looking inwards, rather the contrary, many exchanges on the topic were held with our European partners as well as in the framework of UN and WHO to share best practices and to coordinate measures.

Now that the vaccination campaign has been a success, it is the moment to breathe and focus on other areas beyond the health sector. In this sense and re-



garding Spain-Pakistan bilateral relations, 2021 marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations. Spain was one of the first countries to recognize the independent state of Pakistan and in 1951 we opened our Embassy in Karachi, which later was moved to Islamabad. We are now in process of organizing a special cultural event to commemorate the 70th anniversary. Spain and Pakistan enjoy excellent bilateral diplomatic relations. Another example of that is the recent visit on

September 10th to Islamabad of Mr. José Manuel Albares, Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs. Minister Albares had fruitful exchanges with the Prime Minister Imran Khan, the Chief of Army Staff, General Bajwa and his homologue, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi. **We believe, all the Spanish troops and nationals stationed in Afghanistan were evacuated safely. How do you see the situation in Afghanistan after the pull out of US and allied forces?**

Allow me first of all to thank Pakistan and

the Pakistani government for all the assistance and the help to evacuate Afghan refugees from Pakistan to Spain. Without Pakistan's support, we would not have been able to achieve it.

I am the Ambassador of Spain to Pakistan, not to Afghanistan, therefore I am not the person to be asked the question on the situation in Afghanistan. But I can assure you that Spain is committed to the Afghan people: in the Geneva Donors Conference for Afghanistan, Spain committed 20 million euro in humanitarian aid for Afghanistan. **Of course, it would be premature for you to comment on the issue of recognition of Taliban govt by Spain, but what is your understanding that how the world may react on the recognition issue?**

The priority for the international community is that humanitarian aid is delivered and that it reaches all people in need before winter starts. A humanitarian crisis needs to be avoided. This is the priority, together with the safeguard of the human rights, particularly for vulnerable groups, such as women, girls and minorities. Subsequent steps will be seen and analyzed together with the evolution of the situation in Afghanistan.

Germany book World Cup spot

DNA

SKOPJE: Germany are on the right track ahead of next year's World Cup in Qatar after on Monday becoming the first European nation to qualify, but the players know there is still considerable work to be done to reach world class level. The four-time world champions crushed North Macedonia 4-0 to secure top spot in Group J with two games left to play, as they look to make amends for their shock 2018 World Cup first-round exit and their Round of 16 elimination at this year's Euros. "We should keep our sights low at the moment," midfielder Leon Goretzka said. "There were a lot of things also in today's game that we need to be better."

"We have the quality but we also have to grow together as a team and we have to use every available training session to do that. We are on the right track but still have work to do."

Germany have won all five matches under new coach Hansi Flick, who replaced Joachim Loew following their disappointing performances in their last two international tournaments.

Flick, who took over in September following his successful stint at Bayern Munich, seems to have found the right mix of youth and experience, with veteran Thomas Mueller indispensable once more after having been dropped by Loew for two years.

They have scored 18 goals and conceded four in their last five matches. Although their opponents - Liechtenstein, Armenia, Romania, Iceland and North Macedonia - have been far from European heavyweights, they are raising the fans' expectations. "The last few games have shown what kind of quality there is in our team," goalscorer Kai Havertz said.

Medvedev overcomes Filip at Indian Wells

WEB DESK

CALIFORNIA: US Open champion Daniil Medvedev reached the fourth round at Indian Wells with a 6-2 7-6(1) victory over Serbia's Filip Krajinovic on Monday and said he was pleased to reach 50 wins this season. The top-seeded Russian took to the court following a long rain delay and wasted no time in showing the kind of form that earned him a maiden Grand Slam title last month, going 4-0 up before taking the opening set. Krajinovic fought back in the second set to lead 4-2 before Medvedev found his groove to force a tie-break, which he dominated to claim the win. "I feel like I'm trying to play a little bit less ... just playing the biggest tournaments, or the ones that will get me back into shape," Medvedev said.

Palestine football regrets FIFA decision

DNA

RAMALLAH: The Palestine football association regrets the decision of FIFA President, Mr. Gianni Infantino, to take part in two events that take place at the so-called "Musuem of Tolerance", a monument built over the Ma'manullah Islamic cemetery - the oldest Muslim cemetery in Jerusalem dating back to the 11th century - which we view as a total affront to the values of religious tolerance and peaceful coexistence, both endorsed by the FIFA statutes.

In a clear message of opposition to Mr. Gianni Infantino's decision to visit the Israeli colonial project which is built over the bodies of the dead of Palestine, PFA decided not to welcome FIFA's delegation visiting the region.

It said in a statement "We did not expect a visit of support to evangelical Zionist groups that advocate the negation of Palestinian rights. By deciding to ignore our concerns, and since we do not have the right to interfere in the agenda of a FIFA President, our only remaining alternative was to send our regrets for being unable to receive the FIFA delegation under such circumstances".

Kamran smacks century as KP beat Northern

Iftikhar Ahmed's thunderous 54 not out at a strike rate of over 207 propelled the batting side to an imposing 207 for four. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa captain crunched four sixes and as many fours

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Kamran Ghulam registered maiden hundred as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa registered a 92-run win over Northern at the Gaddafi Stadium in the last group match of the National T20 Cup. The victory saw Khyber Pakhtunkhwa end the group stage at the top of the points table with their six wins from 10 matches bringing 12 points. They will face fourth-placed Northern in the first semi-final tomorrow. The second semi-final will be played between second-placed Central Punjab and third-placed Sindh. Kamran had strolled to

the middle at the end of the second over when Israrullah was removed by Athar Mahmood. Upon his arrival at the crease, the right-hander took the steering wheel right away and anchored his side's innings, helping them gather 52 runs in six overs - six runs more than the average powerplay score at this venue in the tournament - despite the loss of another wicket. Over the course of his maiden century, Kamran, clubbed six sixes and as many as 10 fours, and his 48-run alliance with wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Haris (15-ball 18) set the launching pad for the power-hitters in the middle-order.

Iftikhar Ahmed's thunderous 54 not out at a strike rate of over 207 propelled the batting side to an im-

posing 207 for four. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa captain crunched four sixes and as many fours.

Iftikhar and Kamran added a staggering 93 in the last seven overs during their undefeated 133-run stand, which went down as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is best for the fifth wicket. The pair had come together in the ninth over when leg-spinner Aaqib Liaquat struck twice in an over to send Haris and Nabi Gul back to the hut. The onslaught began in the 13th over with Kamran bludgeoning Aaqib for three consecutive sixes. From that point, the pair struck at least two boundaries in every over, except for the 14th, which was Nauman Ali's fourth over. The left-arm orthodox finished as the only bowler in the innings with his economy

rate in single digit as he returned none for 19. Northern had an abysmal start to their run chase as opener Nasir Nawaz was dismissed by Imran Khan Snr on the second ball. Their problems compounded in the fourth over as the other opener, Ali Imran, was run out. They faced the next blow in the next over with one-drop Zeeshan Malik following the two openers back to the pavilion after getting caught off Arshad Iqbal. The scoreboard at this stage read 33 for three. Northern had scored six runs less and lost a wicket more than Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the powerplay as they managed 46 for three in six overs.



Briefs

World's oldest white rhino dies in Italian zoo

ROME: Toby, the world's oldest white rhino, has died at the age of 54 in a zoo in northern Italy, a spokeswoman for the establishment said Tuesday.

"Nonno Toby" (Grandpa Toby) passed away on October 6, Elisa Livia Pennacchioni of the Parco Natura Viva, a zoo near the northern city of Verona, told AFP. "He collapsed on the floor on the way back to his nighttime shelter, and after about half an hour, his heart stopped," she said.

Toby will be embalmed and put on display at the MuSe science museum in Trento, where he will join Blanco, a white lion from the zoo who died five years ago, Pennacchioni said.

White rhinos normally live up to 40 years when held in captivity, and up to 30 years in the wild, she said.

Toby's death, which follows the passing of his female partner Sugar in 2012, leaves the Parco Natura Viva with one remaining white rhino: Benno, aged 39.

Toby was a southern white rhino - only one of five rhino species that are not considered endangered, with an estimated population of around 18,000, according to the WWF. - APP

Train crushes 3 to death in France

AGENCIES

PARIS: Three people were killed and another was seriously injured when they were run over by a train in southwest France on Tuesday morning, local media reported.

France's national railway company SNCF confirmed to RTL news that three people died on the spot and the fourth was seriously wounded in the lower limbs. The survivor, a 28-year-old male, was taken to the hospital.

The four are reportedly immigrants and were sleeping on the railway tracks at Saint-Jean-de-Luz in the Pyrénées-Atlantiques department when they were hit by the train at 5.30 a.m. (0330GMT). A judicial investigation is underway and the exact identity of the victims is yet to be ascertained.

Eneko Aldana-Douat, mayor of Ciboure commune, adjoining the site of the accident, told BFMTV that the area close to the Spanish border is one of the important crossing routes for migrants and asylum seekers. He added that usually the migrants are found around the railways, the sides of the highways and the cross-country bridge from Irun in Spain to Hendaye in France.

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15 migrants drown off Libyan coast: UNHCR

TRIPOLI: Fifteen migrants drowned after two boats capsized off Libya in the latest "tragic loss of life" on the perilous sea route to Europe, the UN refugee agency said late Monday.

"Bodies of 15 persons recovered as 2 boats arrived at Tripoli Naval Base this evening," UNHCR Libya tweeted.

"The passengers had set off from Zwara and Alkhoms the night before," it added. The agency said 177 survivors were receiving aid and medical attention from the UNHCR and its partners.

It tweeted images showing survivors arriving at the base, huddled under blankets.

The incident is the latest in a series of shipwrecks and deaths off the coast of the North African country.

Libya is a major point of departure for desperate migrants seeking to reach Europe, many of them from sub-Saharan African countries. Tens of thousands board unseaworthy boats every year in attempts to reach Italian shores 300 kilometres (190 miles) away.

At least 1,010 migrants died at sea en route to Europe between the start of the year and the end of August, up from 398 during the same period last year, according to figures published by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). - APP

UN denounces violence against migrants in Libya

Hundreds of migrants and refugees have waited outside a United Nations centre in Tripoli in recent days to seek help in escaping Libya after what aid groups called a violent crackdown in which thousands were arrested and several were shot

AGENCIES

NEW YORK: Libyan security forces used "unnecessary and disproportionate" force to detain African migrants, shooting dead some of those trying to escape, the UN human rights office has said as it demanded an inquiry into the violence.

Hundreds of migrants and refugees have waited outside a United Nations centre in Tripoli in recent days to seek help in escaping Libya after what aid groups called a violent crackdown in which thousands were arrested and several were shot.

Migrants and asylum seekers, some of whose claims are pending, have been targeted by heavy-handed operations by Libyan security forces, UN human rights spokesperson Marta Hurtado told a UN briefing in Geneva on Tuesday.

"These have resulted in killings and serious injuries, a rise in detentions in ap-

palling conditions, as well as expulsions of individuals to countries in sub-Saharan Africa without due process," Hurtado said. Libya's Government of National Unity has said it is "dealing with a complex issue in the illegal migration file, as it represents a human tragedy in addition to the social, political and legal consequences locally and internationally".

Ministry of Interior officials first raided an informal settlement of hundreds of migrants and asylum seekers in Gergaresh west of Tripoli on October 1, handcuffing, arresting, and shooting or beating those who resisted, Hurtado said.

Some 500 migrants managed to escape from the Gheriyah detention centre in Tripoli on October 6 and "were chased by guards who opened fire using live ammunition", killing at least four and wounding others, she said.

Two days later, another mass escape took place from the al-Mabani centre, with mi-

grants chased by security officers who shot and killed an unknown number, she said. The head of the UN migration agency IOM in Libya said at least six people had been killed.

"We call on the authorities to establish prompt, thorough, impartial and independent investigations into the claims of unnecessary and disproportionate use of force including the allegations of killings by the security forces and affiliated armed groups, with a view to holding those responsible accountable," Hurtado said.

The UN's remarks came as at least 15 migrants died while attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea from Libya's shores, the country's coastguard said.

In a statement on Tuesday, the coastguard said it had responded to a distress call on Monday related to a wooden vessel carrying migrants and that its forces brought 140 survivors and the bodies of

15 men back to a naval base in the capital Tripoli. It said all of the survivors had been handed over to the police.

In two separate statements, the navy said another 165 migrants had been intercepted and brought back to shore on the same day. Since the 2011 NATO-backed uprising that removed and killed long-time leader Muammar Gaddafi, Libya has emerged as the dominant transit point for people fleeing war and poverty in Africa and the Middle East, hoping for a better life in Europe.

Some have been returned there by the Libyan Coast Guard after setting out in rickety boats.

Human traffickers have benefitted from the chaos in the oil-rich nation and smuggled people through the country's lengthy border with six nations, before packing them into ill-equipped rubber boats in risky voyages through the perilous Central Mediterranean Sea route.

Iran launches large-scale air defence military drill

FOREIGN DESK

TEHRAN: Iran's army and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) have launched a joint military exercise with a focus on air defence that they say will encompass half the country's airspace. The two-day drill, launched in Iran's central desert area in the early hours of Tuesday, was led by the Khatam al-Anbia Air Defence Headquarters.

As part of the exercise, which military commanders said aims to closely replicate war, manned and unmanned aerial vehicles and missiles were to be launched against ground targets in order to test

the performance of air defence and radar systems. State television broadcast footage that showed several missiles being launched from locally manufactured air defence systems. Brigadier General Qader Rahimzadeh, commander-in-chief of the Khatam al-Anbia base, said the IRGC's 3rd Khordad missile defence system and the army's 15th Khordad system had been deployed as part of the exercise, in addition to other Iranian electronic and cyber warfare equipment.

Brigadier General Alireza Sabahifard, commander of the air defence force, said the first day of the exercise had been successful.



BRUSSELS: Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar and ambassador Zaheer A. Janjua met with Bernd Lange MEP. - DNA

Azerbaijan, NATO eye military cooperation

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijani Defence Minister Zakir Hasanov and a senior NATO official have discussed the further progress of bilateral military cooperation and the latest regional developments, the Defence Ministry reported on October 12.

At the meeting held in Baku on October 12, Hasanov briefed Chief of the Partnerships Directorate of the NATO Allied Powers Command Operations Rear Admiral Bulent Turan about the work carried out on the Azerbaijani territories liberated from Armenia's occupation in late 2020 and the current situation on the Armenian-Azerbaijani state border.

He expressed satisfaction with the current level of Azerbaijan-NATO cooperation. The minister said that positive results had been achieved and that further development of Azerbaijan-NATO relations is important.

In turn, Turan thanked Azer-



baijan for its contribution to the Resolute Support non-combat mission in Afghanistan and stressed his commitment to the further development of the current military cooperation.

The sides also exchanged views on joint events held within the framework of partnership with NATO.

On October 12, Azerbaijan's Deputy Defence Minister Karim Valiyev also met the NATO representative.

Azerbaijan, Serbia mull strategic ties

BELGRADE: Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has met Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic in Belgrade, the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry reported on October 12.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 60th anniversary of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) being held in Belgrade. At the meeting, Bayramov and Vucic focused on strategic relations and expressed their satisfaction with developing Azerbaijani-Serbian cooperation. - Agencies

Uzbekistan, GCC sign MoU on consultation

DNA

TASHKENT: Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov, who is on a working visit to Nur-Sultan, took part in the first consultative meeting in the format "Central Asia - Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf" (GCC).

The event was also attended by the heads of the foreign affairs agencies of the countries of Central Asia, Bahrain and the Secretary

General of the GCC, Naif al-Khajraf.

Following the meeting, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed on the mechanism of consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the General Secretariat of the GCC.

The document contributes to the further expansion of bilateral ties and provides for the establishment of regular consultations between the parties on issues of mutual interest.



Pakistan a test case for FATF's fairness

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Law and Justice Farogh Naseem has said that Pakistan implemented almost all points of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to come out of its grey list, hoping the forum would not be used for any political move.

Pakistan's case with the FATF would be a test case to gauge the forum's fairness as "out of 27 points, Pakistan has implemented 26. The international watchdog needs to apply the laws to all countries without any prejudice," he said in an exclusive interview with Turkish state news agency Anadolu on the sidelines of an event in Istanbul.

"Even the FATF people are good people. I'm not being critical about them, but as long as these (FATF) standards are universally applied, and not applied to only Pakistan, and as long as there is no international politics, then we welcome FATF. Let it be applied to everyone," he said, when asked why Pakistan was still on the list.

"There should be no international politics, but FATF is being used to arm twist. Then what can we say?"

The France-based FATF, founded in 1989 on the initiative of the G7, an organization of the world's seven largest advanced countries, monitors countries' money flow and penalizes those whose financial sys-

tems are abused for money laundering and terrorism activities.

"I think we have met all objectives. At the (FATF) October session, Pakistan is going to give a very good roundup of whatever it has done," Farogh Naseem said.

"I'm very hopeful," he said when asked whether Pakistan would exit the list. "And I'd like to believe it's a fair system. These international standards should be applied everywhere to every country," the minister said adding Pakistan was "grateful to Turkish brothers" for their support at the FATF besides China.

He proposed the establishment of a joint legal forum between Pakistan and Turkey besides intern exchange programs and the sharing of experiences between lawyer communities of the two countries.

He said Pakistani and Turkish lawyers are "capable of fighting their own cases at all forums."

In a conversation with a group of Turkish lawyers hosted by 2nd number Bar Association of Istanbul in honor of the minister, Farogh Naseem said former judges and lawyers of the two countries could come together and the two countries could together fight cases of a commercial nature in the international arena. Referring to illegal immigration to Turkey, he said officials from Paki-

stan and Turkey were "working on a daily basis to cease this problem."

He also shared in detail the "transformation taking place in Pakistan" with regard to the delivery of justice. His ministry, he said, has proposed around 650 amendments to the Pakistan National Assembly to make



the dispensation of justice "fast and durable."

The minister said with Imran Khan's government has been in power for three years, "this transformation has already started."

"We have made a new law, the inheritance law, and it takes 15 days for the succession certificate or the letter of administration to be issued," the minister said. He said earlier that it would "take four to seven years for a court to decide"

about the letter of administration or a succession certificate.

"Then we made an attempt with the Civil Procedure Court. As you know that in India and Pakistan, it takes about 20 to 30 years before any civil dispute is settled. The problem is not just in Pakistan, but in many other countries. So what we did is that we made amendments, and those amendments ensure that a civil case would be tried within one year. It is working in Islamabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In Punjab, there is a little problem," he added.

The minister said Pakistan is also working on women's empowerment laws, calling it "a very big step."

Farogh Naseem said women, whether rich or poor, educated or uneducated, can file a case with regard to property rights with female ombudsmen, who are "available all over Pakistan."

"Those women ombudsmen would decide their cases in between three to six months. So again, a great expedition (of case disposal) is available as far as that is concerned." He said many amendments have been brought to "revamp the criminal justice system of Pakistan."

"We have proposed about 650 amendments, and I think it'll take a few months before they have been passed by the National Assembly and the Senate," he said.

"Once it is done, a criminal trial, which takes years, will finish in nine months. These are matters which are not transformed in two or three years," he said, citing the UK as an example, where civil law reforms took about 20 years.

Farogh Naseem claimed that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government developed these reforms in a "record time," adding he said, "But it will take a little time for the courts and the lawyers and the litigants to adjust with these reforms."

"We have reformed and revamped the complete criminal justice system," he said, adding Pakistani society was an "over-litigated society" with cases of all nature.

"The systems in terms of legal reforms are pretty stringent. And if they are properly implemented, you'll be surprised how effectively these laws will work and revamp the system," he said.

On the issue of an anti-blasphemy law in the country, Farogh Naseem said: "I need to make clear: for the Pakistani government, Prime Minister Imran Khan and myself, we are in no mood to undo or repeal the blasphemy laws. We will not do it. We will not repeal the blasphemy laws. Yes, if there is abuse in the system, then abuses are to be pointed out." - APP

Putin calls for faster vaccination

AGENCIES

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday (Oct 12) that Russia needed to speed up its vaccination campaign against COVID-19 as the country recorded its highest single-day death toll since the start of the pandemic.

Speaking to newly elected lawmakers, Putin urged them to actively support efforts to have more of the population vaccinated.

"Vaccination safeguards people from infection, from serious symptoms," Putin told lawmakers. "We need to increase its pace."

The Kremlin has blamed the rising case numbers on insufficient numbers of people getting inoculated. Russia was fast to develop and launch its Sputnik vaccine when the pandemic struck last year, but take-up has been slow, with many Russians citing distrust of the authorities and fear of new medical products.

Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin said earlier on Tuesday that around a third of the population had been inoculated.

Russia reported 973 coronavirus-related deaths on Tuesday, its highest single-day toll since the start of the pandemic, as well as 28,190 new infections. Government officials voiced concern at the pace and intensity of the new cases.

Bus crash kills 9 in South Africa

WEB DESK

JOHANNESBURG: At least nine people have been killed in a bus crash in South Africa's eastern KwaZulu-Natal province on Tuesday, according to local emergency services.

"Sadly there have been 9 fatalities. 60 patients have been treated by paramedics. All patients have been transported to hospital," the KZN Emergency Medical Services said on Twitter. Private ambulance emergency group Netcare 911 also confirmed that multiple passengers had sustained injuries ranging from moderate to severe and have been transported to hospital.

Netcare 911 Spokesman Shaun Herbst told local broadcaster eNCA that initial reports from the scene of the accident indicate that the bus was travelling to the northbound direction when the driver passed the barrier and then lost control of the vehicle and went into the southbound lane.

France announces plan to re-industrialize

FOREIGN DESK

PARIS: President Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday (Oct 12) announced a plan worth euro 30 billion (US\$35 billion) to re-industrialise France on the basis of innovative and green-friendly technologies including electric cars, hydrogen fuel and efficient nuclear plants.

Six months before a presidential election and one month ahead of a United Nations climate summit, Macron said France had taken key decisions "15 to 20 years later than some of our European neighbours" and now needed "to become a nation of innovation and research again".

The spending was to address "a kind of growth deficit" for France brought on by insufficient investment in the past, he told an audience of company leaders and university students at the Elysee Palace.

France, he said, needed to return to "a virtuous cycle", which consisted of "innovating, producing and exporting and in that way finance our social model" as part of a new "France 2030" plan. Over the next decade, France would aim to become a global leader in green hydrogen, which companies and governments are increasingly putting at the centre of efforts to decarbonise economic sectors that rely most on fossil fuels for their energy needs.

France would get two electrolysis gigafactories for hydrogen production, as part of euro 8 billion of investment in the energy sector.

Briefs

IMF forecasts Pakistan's real GDP to grow at 4%

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Tuesday projected Pakistan's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to grow by 4.0% in current fiscal year (2021-22). In its recent report "World Economic Outlook October 2021" released today, the IMF also endorsed the Pakistan's provisional figures of GDP growth rate of 3.9% during the previous fiscal year 2020-21. The World Bank in its recent report last week however, projected 3.4% GDP growth for the year 2021-22 which was rejected by Pakistan in a statement released by the ministry of finance according to which the forecast was based on unrealistic assessment and that the GDP growth rate for fiscal year 2021-22 would go up close to 5%. According to the report, the unemployment rate in Pakistan would also decline from current 5.0% to 4.8% in the current fiscal year. In a recent report, the World Bank however projected Pakistan's GDP growth rate at 3.5%. The report projected that the country's inflation rate would ease from 8.9% during the year 2020-21 to 8.5% by end of current fiscal year 2021-22. - APP

Another 262 dengue cases reported in Punjab

LAHORE: Another 262 confirmed cases of dengue, including 184 from Lahore were reported during the last 24 hours. In a press statement issued here on Tuesday, Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) Secretary Imran Sikandar Baloch said that 31 dengue patients were reported in Rawalpindi, 9 in Nankana Sahib, 6 in Multan, 4 in Hafizabad, 3 each in Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Jhang and Sargodha, whereas 2 each cases were reported in Attock, Gujrat, Narowal and Sialkot. So far this year, 4,494 confirmed cases of dengue here reported from across the province while 3,437 confirmed cases of dengue were reported from Lahore. A total of 564 patients were under treatment in the province, out of which, 265 patients were in Lahore hospitals. Around 299 patients were under treatment in other districts of the province, he added. The Secretary said that in last 24 hours, 425,642 indoor and 89,382 locations were checked across Punjab. - APP

Several Indian states hit by power outages

NEW DELHI: India is facing an impending energy crisis as several states saw coal-fired power plants shut down due to a coal shortage. Major cities such as the capital New Delhi experienced electricity cuts that ran for hours over the weekend. Days after Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal warned of a power crisis in the capital as coal supplies fell short, the power ministry on Tuesday said it has issued directions to the country's largest electricity producer NTPC Ltd. and Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) to supply the maximum power available to Delhi to curb any potential shortage. "All power plants that supply electricity to Delhi are supposed to keep a 30-day reserve stock. But at present, they have only one day's stock left," Delhi Power Minister Satyendar Jain told local media. Late last month, more than 80% of the country's coal-fired plants were at a critical stage, meaning their stocks would last less than a week, according to data from the Central Electricity Authority of India. The power crisis has already triggered electricity cuts across some of the nation's eastern and northern states.

President Mirziyoyev, PM Khan promoters of connectivity

Uzbek ambassador says not only Punjab, but KPK is also well connected with Uzbekistan

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: On 12th October 2021, a Roundtable Discussion on "Central-South Asia Regional Connectivity: Grand Initiative by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev" was organized by Center for Global & Strategic Studies, Islamabad & Department of History & Pakistan Studies, University of the Punjab in collaboration with Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Islamabad & Regional Integration Center, University of the Punjab, Lahore at University of the Punjab, Lahore. The roundtable discussion aimed to highlight the importance of regional connectivity between Central and South Asia vis-a-vis socio-economic and cultural cooperation. The event commenced with the opening remarks of Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Mazhar, Pro Vice-Chancellor, University of the Punjab, Lahore. He stated that Punjab University is one of the oldest universities and the Department of History has created many scholars and professors. Punjab University has offered admissions to the students of Uzbekistan that will prove to be a milestone in Pak-Uzbek bilateral ties. Brigadier Mansoor Saeed Sheikh SI (M) (Retd), Vice President (Punjab Region), Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad in his welcome address stated that Pakistan is situated



at the convergence of three geo-economically significant regions and it offers shortest route to the sea for all landlocked countries of Central Asia alongside western China and Afghanistan. Pakistan stands out significantly in this regional connectivity. He also stated that at present, the initiative of Central-South Asian connectivity by President of Uzbekistan has emerged as a significant factor in rejuvenating centuries old traditional and cultural linkages between both countries. Chief Guest of the event, Aybek Arif Usmanov, Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistan presented Key note speech on "Pakistan and Uzbekistan economic cooperation and perspective". He stated that not only Punjab, but KPK is also well connected with Uzbekistan. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and

Prime Minister Imran Khan are the first drivers and promoters of connectivity. The projects of connectivity between our countries are already showing positive impacts as I see young researchers, students and scholars gathered here for this event. For more than three years, Pak-Uzbek leaders are working for the peace and development in Afghanistan. He stated that all countries are interested to use Pakistan as a transit hub in Central Asia. He also stated that we are now working on high technology cooperation with Pakistan. Experts from Uzbekistan helped in formulating solutions to enhance cotton production in Pakistan. Mr. Khalid Taimur Akram, Executive Director, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad gave a detailed presentation on "Analyzing the concept of Central-South Asian Con-

nectivity: Ten-point agenda by Shavkat Mirziyoyev". He stated that Central and South Asia, located at the crossroads of the Great Silk Road, have promoted active dialogue between peoples and civilizations for many centuries. The peoples of our regions have repeatedly found themselves within the framework of common state formations, as well as a common political, economic and humanitarian space. The close ties between our people have contributed to rapid intellectual and spiritual progress. Mr. Khalid Taimur also discussed the 10 Point Proposal by Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Prof. Dr. Mahboob Hussain, Chairman, Department of History & Pakistan Studies, University of the Punjab, Lahore presented speech on "Historical & Cultural link-

ages between Central-South Asia: An overview of great civilizational patterns". He stated that common cultural heritage needs to be explored and academic exchange and collaboration is the need of the hour. The most recent initiative was taken by the President of Uzbekistan, His Excellency Shavkat Mirziyoyev by organizing an International Conference on Central-South Asia Connectivity. Connectivity is not just about economics, it also drives regional cooperation and encourages friendly relations among neighbors. Our University is ready to establish links and active participation with all the regional countries. Mr. Jasur Saidahmedov, Second Secretary, Trade and Economy, Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Islamabad highlighted Pakistan and Uzbekistan cooperation with relevance

to significant cultural and tourism ties. He discussed in detail the prospects of agricultural cooperation between Uzbekistan and Pakistan that will enhance the bilateral relations between both brotherly countries. He stated that Uzbekistan is eating Pakistani potato. In every village, every city there are Pakistani potatoes. Furthermore, he stated that the athletes from Pakistan are participating in various competitions of Uzbekistan and recently a wrestler from Pakistan has won a gold medal in that competition. Similarly, various other initiatives are being undertaken to enhance cooperation and people to people contacts. He stated that tourism has become important between our countries. We have a Pak-Uzbek culture and trade center and tourists information centers as well.

'Mehfil-e-Milad' for women held at PAC

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A 'Mehfil-e-Milad' for women, in connection with 'Shan-e-Rehmatul-Lil-Aalmeen' week, was held here on Tuesday under the aegis of the Punjab Arts Council (PAC). Renowned Naat Khawan including Rubina Bibi got the privilege of recitation in the mehfil and the honour of praise came to Noor Fatima while Sadaf, Noor Fatima, Ayesha Nadeem, Talia, Miskan, Babra Batool, Maira, Maria Kanwal, Maryam Rani and Naheed Manzoor recited Naats. Speaking on the occasion as Chief guest Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) Seemabia Tahir said that there was no greater act of monotheism than celebrating 'Milad-un-Nabi'. "Devotion and love for the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is a part of every Muslim's faith" she added. MPA Farah Agha while addressing said that love for Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) was in the Muslim's blood, just as a man was imperfect without blood.

2nd Afghan refugee flight takes off for Spain

ISLAMABAD: Spain was expecting the arrival of the second flight of Afghan refugees from Pakistan, a government source said Tuesday, following the first flight for people who worked for Madrid in the war-torn country. Tuesday's arrival with around 160 people was scheduled for around 7:00 pm (1700 GMT) at the Torrejon de Ardoz military airbase outside Madrid, government sources said on condition of anonymity. On Monday, 84 people had arrived on the first plane, the sources added. Spanish 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 more than 2,000 people, most of them were Afghans who had worked for Spain and their families, during the western withdrawal as the Taliban seized power in Kabul in August. - APP

Kim Jong vows to build 'invincible' military

FOREIGN DESK

PYONGYANG: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un reviewed powerful missiles developed to launch nuclear strikes on the US mainland, as he vowed to build an "invincible" military to cope with what he called persistent US hostility, state media reported on Tuesday. In an apparent continued effort to drive a wedge between Washington and Seoul, Kim also used his speech at a rare exhibition of weapons systems on Monday to stress that his military might isn't targeted at South Korea and that there shouldn't be another war pitting Korean people against each other. "The US has frequently signalled it's not hostile to our state, but there is no action-based evidence to make us believe that they are not hostile," Kim said on Monday, according to the official Korean Central News Agency. "The US is continuing to create tensions in the region with its wrong judgments and actions." Calling the United States a "source" of instability in the Korean Peninsula, Kim said his country's most important objective is possessing an "invincible military capability" that no one can dare challenge. The exhibition, which KCNA says was meant to mark the 76th birthday of the ruling Workers' Party on Sunday, was the first of its kind since Kim took power in late 2011, according to Seoul officials. North Korean photos showed Kim, clad in a dark suit, walking on a red carpet lined with big missiles mounted on trucks, passing by a multiple rocket launch system and watching jets flying in a formation.



ISLAMABAD: Wives of diplomats taking interest in Batik, the traditional Indonesian dresses, during Batik Exhibition, held at a local shopping center. - DNA

Faulty submarine cable repaired: PTA

ISLAMABAD: Internet users faced disruptions in parts of the country on Monday as a submarine cable developed a fault near Fujairah, UAE, according to Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA). The PTA said some users might have faced degradation in services due to the fault, adding that "the faulty cable segment has been repaired and work is underway to make the services fully functional." The authority said it was monitoring the situation and would continue to update on it. Internet services had also faced disruptions country-wide in February this year as one of the six international submarine cables developed a fault near Abu Talat, Egypt. The fault was later repaired by the Trans World Associates - one of the two licence holders for international landing stations of submarine cables. - APP

Russia for holding UN conference on Afghanistan

Addressing a news conference in the Kazakh capital Nur-Sultan, Sergey Lavrov said Moscow is currently waiting for a response from the invited parties, including the Taliban

WEB DESK

MOSCOW: A Moscow format meeting is scheduled for Oct 20 that will also discuss the possibility of holding a conference on Afghanistan under the auspices of the UN, the Russian foreign minister said on Tuesday. Addressing a news conference in the Kazakh capital Nur-Sultan, Sergey Lavrov said Moscow is currently waiting for a response from the invited parties, including the Taliban. "We hope they realise the importance of this event," he said. "As for humanitarian assistance, we, together with a number of other countries, want to propose, in particular, during the 'Moscow format' meeting, to hold a conference under the auspices of the UN to provide assistance, including humanitarian assistance to this country." The Moscow format is a negotiation mechanism established in 2017 to address Afghan issues. It includes Afghanistan, China, Pakistan, Iran, India, and other coun-

G20 'laser-focused' on anti-terrorism

WASHINGTON: G20 leaders holding a virtual summit on Afghanistan Tuesday are "laser-focused" on keeping the Taliban-ruled country from becoming a militant haven and on providing humanitarian aid, says a US readout on the meeting. Leaders of the world's major economies including US President Joe Biden, joined by representatives of the United Nations and key intermediary Qatar, "discussed the critical need to maintain a laser-focus on our enduring counterterrorism efforts, including against threats from ISIS-K," a White House statement said. It was referring to the State group's offshoot in the region, a bitter rival of the Taliban that has staged a series of deadly attacks of late as it tries to destabilize the country's new rulers. - APP

1st Pakistani truck reaches Turkey via Iran

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to Prime Minister on Commerce, Razak Dawood on Tuesday announced with pleasure that the first truck of National Logistic Cell (NLC), with Pakistani Goods reached Turkey via Iran. He tweeted here on Tuesday that the NLC truck had left Karachi on September 28 and reached Istanbul on October 7, covering the distance of 5300 Kilometers. "I am very pleased to announce that under the TIR treaty, the first NLC truck, transporting commodities from Pakistan, reached Turkey via Iran. The NLC truck left Karachi on Sep 28 and reached Istanbul on Oct 7 covering the distance of 5300 KM," he tweeted. The advisor said that this was the beginning of new era of connectivity under Ministry of Commerce's regional connectivity policy and urged exporters to use the facility to save cost and time as well. "This is the beginning of new era of connectivity under MoC's regional connectivity policy. I will urge exporters to use the facility will save cost and time as well," he tweeted.

Thai embassy honors H.M. King Rama IX

ISLAMABAD: The Royal Thai Embassy in Islamabad organized a ceremony in remembrance of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great. Ambassador Chakkrid Kraichaiwong led Team Thailand in Pakistan and their spouses, to the ceremony which was held to mark the fifth anniversary of the passing of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great who has worked tirelessly for the well-being of all Thais during His 70-year reign. After the event, Embassy's Officers provided essential commodities including masks to the Pakistani staff of the embassy on the occasion. - DNA

