



Thursday, October 14, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

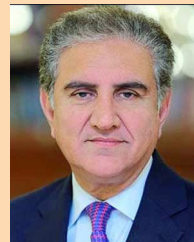
Price Rs. 20

China proposes 4-way engagement with new govt in Afghanistan

Detailed News On Page-01

FM stresses economic aid for Afghanistan

Detailed News On Page-08



Past rulers used foreign loans to buy properties

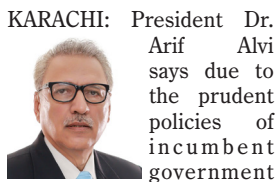
Detailed News On Page-08



Briefs

Pak a new economic hub: Alvi

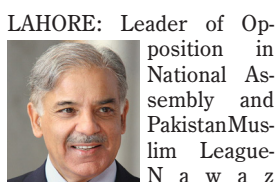
NAZIR SIYAL



KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alvi says due to the prudent policies of incumbent government the national economy is now on right track and Pakistan has emerged as economic hub in the region. Addressing a ceremony of PROTON CKD plants in Karachi on Wednesday, the President welcomed the locally manufacturing units of automobile in the country and stressed the need to equip the youth with vocational skills to meet market needs.

PTI's govt incompetent at governance

ABID RAZA



LAHORE: Leader of Opposition in National Assembly and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday lambasted the government led by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) over its incompetency in managing national affairs. The opposition leader took to the Twitter and took a dig at the federal government saying, "every other day brings new evidence, if at all, any is needed, of PTI govt's gross incompetence in managing national affairs." Every other day brings new evidence, if at all, any is needed, of PTI govt's gross incompetence in managing national affairs.

US vows more peace deals for Israel

DNA



WASHINGTON: Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Tuesday that the US wants to expand the circle of countries that sign peace agreements with Israel. Blinken said President Joe Biden said a two-state solution is the only way to end the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. He said that Emirati and Israeli companies are cooperating on new projects and he has spoken with the foreign ministers of the UAE and Israel about Syria and Iran.

Pak, Iran call for inclusive Afghan setup

The premier discusses Afghanistan and bilateral issues with visiting top Irani General, Maj. Gen. Mohammad Bagheri

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has underscored the importance of national reconciliation and inclusive political settlement. He also emphasized continued close coordination between Pakistan and Iran, including through the platform of six neighboring countries of Afghanistan established last month. The Prime Minister Imran Khan was exchanging views with Major General Mohammad Bagheri, Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces of Iran, on Wednesday. The Prime Minister welcomed the visiting dignitary and highlighted upward trajectory in bilateral engagement between Pakistan and Iran. The Prime Minister recalled meeting President Raisi in Dushanbe on the margins of SCO Summit, which had imparted further impetus to bilateral cooperation. The Prime Minister underscored Pakistan's commitment to enhance closer bilateral trade relations as well as enhanced economic and

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan-Iran cooperation vital for peace: COAS

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Major General Mohammad Bagheri, Chief of General Staff (CGS) of Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran accompanied by a high level delegation visited GHQ. On arrival, the Iranian CGS was presented Guard of Honour by a smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Army. The visiting dignitary laid floral wreath at Yadgar-e-Shuhada and prayed for Martyrs of Pakistan. Later, the Iranian CGS called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS). During the meeting, a wide range of issues including Afghanistan situation,

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Major General Mohammad Bagheri Chief of General Staff of the Armed Force of Iran called on Prime Minister Imran Khan. – DNA

Taliban warns curbs may trigger refugee crisis

NEWS DESK/DNA

KABUL: Afghanistan's new Taliban government has warned US and European envoys that continued attempts to pressure them through sanctions will undermine security and could trigger a wave of economic refugees crisis. Acting foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi told Western diplomats at talks in

Continued on Page 06

China proposes 4-way engagement with Afghanistan

MONITORING DESK

ANKARA: China said Tuesday that Afghanistan was at a "crossroads" where "challenges and opportunities coexist." State Councillor and Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi proposed a four-way engagement with the war-torn

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of European Union Androulla Kaminara wearing traditional dresses on the sidelines of PODA Rural Women Leadership Conference. – DNA

EU encourages Pak SMEs to try EU single market

The Business Forum aims to play a key role in bringing together SME's from EU and Pakistan to enhance their export orientation, collaboration in technology transfer and promotion of businesses

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: As part of its efforts to support Pakistani SMEs to access opportunities in the European Single Market and maximize the benefit from GSP+, the European Union held the EU-Pakistan Business Forum for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) in Lahore on Wednesday. The EU-Pakistan Business Forum aims to provide opportunities for both EU and Pakistani businesses to work together to become

engines of development and partnership and contribute to enhancing bilateral trade. The event was attended by representatives from the Government, European Union Member States and local SMEs from four broad sectors - Fans, Auto parts, Light Engineering; Rice, Fruits and Dairy; Sports and Surgical Goods; Hosiery, Garments, Value added Textile and Leather. Government representatives included Small and Medium Enterprise Authority (SMEDA) CEO Hashim Raza and Punjab Board of In-

vestment and Trade (PBIT) CEO Erfa Iqbal. Speakers focused on the importance of SMEs and their role in value addition. Participants were informed about how SMEs could benefit from the European Union's GSP+ Scheme, providing two thirds of tariff lines duty free access to the EU market with the rest on preferential duties. The Pakistani economy consists of almost 3.3 million SMEs. These consist of service providers, manufacturing units and start-ups. SMEs make up over 30% of Pakistan's GDP, account for

approximately 25% of export generation and provide over 70% industrial employment. While in the EU, Europe's 25 million small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of the EU economy. SMEs provide two out of three industrial jobs in the EU. The Business Forum aims to play a key role in bringing together SME's from EU and Pakistan to enhance their export orientation, collaboration in technology transfer and promotion of businesses.

Continued on Page 06

NAB ord. challenged in IHC

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 has been challenged at the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday by a citizen named Abdul Latif Qureshi. Citing various decisions taken by the Supreme Court (SC), the petitioner mentioned that the re-appointment of retired judges is against the independence of the judiciary. He has also requested the high court to ban the "October 8 ordinance." Per reports, the federal government, chairman NAB have been made parties to the petition.

Azerbaijan, Iran agree to continue bilateral talks

Earlier this month, Iran staged military drills near Azeri border, drawing criticism from Baku

NEWS DESK

BAKU: Azerbaijan says it has agreed to resolve a diplomatic crisis with Iran through dialogue, weeks after ties soured over Tehran's allegations that Israel's military was active in the country. The breakthrough came during talks between Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov and his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian by phone, Azerbaijan's foreign ministry said on Wednesday. "The sides noted the harmful rhetoric observed recently,

which does not correspond to the level of friendly relations between our countries, and the need to resolve all differences through dialogue," its statement said. "The Ministers stressed the importance of always respecting the principles of territorial integrity and sovereignty of the countries." The Iranian foreign ministry also confirmed the two sides agreed to rely on talks to resolve tensions. Last month, Iran protested against what it said was the presence of its sworn enemy Israel in Azerbaijan and

promised to take any necessary action. At the beginning of October, Iran staged military exercises near its border with Azerbaijan, drawing criticism from officials in Baku, who have denied Tehran's claims. Israel supplies arms to Azerbaijan and the two countries have strengthened their military alliance in recent months. Last year, Israeli-supplied high-tech drones helped Azerbaijan defeat neighbouring Armenia during a six-week war over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region.

Batik show to boost Indonesia-Pakistan cultural ties

Three-day exhibition concludes; Ambassador Adam Tugio stresses deepening of people-to-people contacts; Batik Exhibition drew big interest from the citizenry of the twin cities

CENTRELINE REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Aiming at further expanding and strengthening the glorious historical socio-cultural bonds between Indonesia and Pakistan the three day Exhibition 'Indonesia Batik: Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity' concluded on Wednesday. The cultural extravaganza which was a joint collaboration of the Indonesian Embassy and Batik Studio, Islamabad was launched at an impressive ceremony held at the Batik Studio, Centaurus Mall, Islamabad, on Monday. Indonesian Ambassador Adam Tugio performed the ribbon cutting to officially launch the exhibition while joined by President Pakistan Foreign Office Women Association Mehwish Sohail, CEO Batik Studio Mohsin Qamar and GM Operation Cenaturus Mall Irfan ul Haq. The ladies from the diplomatic

community, faculty and students from the National College of Arts, Rawalpindi, Iqra University, Islamabad and Fatima Jinnah University, Rawalpindi, businessmen and the design & fashion enthusiasts of the twin cities were also present on the occasion in high numbers. On the concluding day, the Ambassador said that people-to-people contacts were among the important components and modes of interactions that defined Indonesia's strengthening of ties with Pakistan. He expressed hope that the exhibition would further foster cultural linkages and encourage exchange in skill development in creative mediums and fashion & design industries between the two countries. Batik Exhibition drew big interest from the citizenry of the twin cities as it represented some of the most interesting, colorful, artistic expressions from Indonesia and incited ideas

of blending traditions with contemporary fashion trends. The Exhibition showcased a collection of striking intricately colorful batik products ranging from textile to value added products reflecting that batik was not only an art or tradition but clearly a way of life in Indonesia. The excited visitors were of the

view that they have certainly benefited from the exhibition which allowed them to experience Batik firsthand. They appreciated Ambassador's initiative for organizing such an interesting event in the capital city for the people of the twin cities to learn about the development of the fashion industry in Indonesia and gain

knowledge about the batik techniques, its motifs and patterns and above all the diverse and rich cultural heritage of Indonesia. Batik was gaining popularity both in Indonesia and abroad and the fashion designers were incorporating batik textiles and designs into their range of collection. The Embassy has

announced to organize "The Pakistan Batik Design Competition" in collaboration with the Pakistani Universities in 2022. The top three winners of the competition will be sent to Indonesia's world famous Bali Island for a free trip and get two weeks hands on training on Batik Technique and Designing.



Inside...

Road-map evolved to make women productive, says FWCCI President – **Page 02**

Ehsaas Stipends helping poor to send girls to schools: Sania – **Page 03**

Pak, Hungary to increase trade to US \$250m: Envoy – **Page 04**

Race against time to avert Afghan catastrophe – **Page 05**

Tayyab reaches in semifinals of CAS Int'l Squash C'ship – **Page 06**

Governor, EU lawmakers discuss GSP-Plus extension – **Page 07**

FM stresses economic assistance for Afghanistan – **Page 08**

Road-map evolved to make women productive, says FWCCI President

Madam Nighat appreciated the efforts of the former presidents of the FCCI Engineer Muhammad Saeed Sheikh and Engineer Ahmed Hasan to establish a dedicated platform for the female entrepreneurs

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: A comprehensive roadmap has been evolved to transform women as a productive part of our national economy, said Madam Nighat Shahid, President Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FWCCI). She was addressing a get-together which was also attended by Madam Firdos Rai MP.

Madam Nighat appreciated the efforts of the former presidents of the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry Engineer Muhammad Saeed Sheikh and Engineer Ahmed Hasan to establish a dedicated platform for the female entrepreneurs. This Chamber is now on a growth trajectory and will play a key role in women empowerment and their active participation in the

economy. About the overall performance of FWCCI, she said that it is playing its re-invigorated role as a bridge between the government and female entrepreneurs. She said that meetings with the officials of the State Bank, SMEDA and other concerned organizations have already been held and they are fully prepared to guide and help the FWCCI members. She said the State Bank has launched a number of schemes specifically for the women with collateral-free loans. Similarly SMEDA is also ready to guide and give much needed awareness to the educated women who are intending to start their own businesses. Similarly US Aid has also introduced new and innovative programs for the mainstream of women. President FWCCI said that a "Meena Bazar" will be

arranged to generate the much needed funds. About Rabi-ul-Awal she said that a "Mehfil-e-Melad" will also be held on October 18th 2021 to pay homage and tribute to the Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him. Madam Nighat Shahid also appreciated the meritorious services of female activists Mrs. Amina Zaman and said that she has rich experience and we will involve her for women empowerment. She said the FWCCI will introduce classes for computer and mobile repairing. "Interested female students can send their bio-data so that classes could start as early as possible. She said that the girls who could not participate physically, could attend these classes through Zoom or online. She said that FWCCI will also facilitate them in getting relevant jobs. She said

that Madam Shama Ahmad will head the accounts committee and accounts of every month will be discussed in the executive committee meeting. Madam Firdous Rai also appreciated the role of FWCCI and said that she was also making strenuous efforts for the overall uplift of Faisalabad and Women Chamber should also supplement her efforts. Miss Nagma explained in detail the different schemes of the First Woman Bank to facilitate the women. Later a resolution was adopted to pay gratitude to Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan. The house also prayed rest for the departed soul and patience for the bereaved family. Vice President Farat Nisar offered a vote of thanks and said that classes for computer and mobile repairing will be starting from next month.



Ph.D defence exam of Engr. Hanif Ullah on Monday

DNA

PESHAWAR: It is for the information of General Public that the Ph.D Dissertation Public Defence Examination of Engr. Hanif Ullah, Ph.D Scholar of Civil Engineering Department, CECOS University of IT & Emerging Science, Peshawar has been scheduled to be held on Monday, October 18, 2021 at 2:30 pm in Side Hall-1, CECOS University Peshawar. The topic of his PhD Dissertation is "Injury Severity of Motor Vehicle Crashes on National Highway System: An Empirical Assessment Using Econometric Modeling Technique". The Scholar will present the findings of his research through a Public Defence session followed by a Viva-Voce Examination by the Research Supervisory Committee. All the interested Academia Members/Researchers are encouraged to participate in the session.

26 brick kilns sealed in Faisalabad

DNA

FAISALABAD: As many as 26 brick kilns have sealed and registered cases against owners for running brick kiln without Zig-zag technology and causing smog by emitting pollution. Divisional Commissioner Zahid Hussain suddenly inspected the brick kilns and directed the environment department to take action against violators. He said that anti smog measures are being implemented in division before time and no one would be allowed to run the brick kiln without technogy. On the directions of Commissioner the teams of Environment Department took ground action and registered cases against the owners of 26 kilns operating without Zigzag technology in Faisalabad and Toba Tek Singh. In Tehsil Sadar Randhawa & Wains Bricks Company, 58/JB, Randhawa & Wains Bricks Company, 57/JB, Bashir Brick Company, 57/JB, Ittefaq Bricks Company, 57/JB and Malik Brick Company, 57/JB.

CM forms committee to address traffic disorder issue

PESHAWAR: To address the issue of vehicular traffic disorder in the district, the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mahmood Khan has decided to form a committee under the headship of Provincial Minister, Taimur Saleem Jhagra, CM's Aide Kamran Bangash, officers from departments concerned, administrative secretaries, Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner Peshawar, DG PDA, CCPO Peshawar and Chief Traffic Officer Peshawar. Special Assistant to the Chief Minister on Information and Higher Education, Kamran Bangash, Commissioner Peshawar Division, Riaz Khan Mehsood, Chief Traffic Officer and stake-

holders would be the members of the committee. The meeting also decided to issue notices to the plaza owners to arrange parking facilities at their buildings within one month of time otherwise stern legal action would be initiated against the violators. The meeting issued directives to the officers concerned to start a public awareness campaign on a large scale to sensitize people regarding wearing helmets and seat belts and adopting traffic rules. During the campaign people would also be sensitized on not allowing their under-age children to drive a bike. - APP

holders would be the members of the committee. The meeting also decided to issue notices to the plaza owners to arrange parking facilities at their buildings within one month of time otherwise stern legal action would be initiated against the violators. The meeting issued directives to the officers concerned to start a public awareness campaign on a large scale to sensitize people regarding wearing helmets and seat belts and adopting traffic rules. During the campaign people would also be sensitized on not allowing their under-age children to drive a bike. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser receiving Ambassador of Kyrgyz Republic Totuiyev Asankuovich. - DNA

Qadri urges Ulema to highlight women rights

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Sahibzada Noor-ul-Haq Qadri Wednesday urged religious scholars (Ulema) and civil society to help enhancing awareness about providing inheritance rights of women as Islam vociferously advocates to protect the right of female heirs. Speaking in a seminar titled "The Rights of Minorities and Women in light of Seerat-e-Taiba of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him)", the minister said Pakistan's state law both entitled women to inherit movable and immovable property. The seminar was organised by Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) in collaboration with Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony and



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan chairs the 3rd meeting of PM's Committee on Climate Change. - APP

People lauds KP Govt for approving new dams

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister Faisal Amin Khan Gandapur on Wednesday said that the provincial government has approved construction of three new dams in Tank and Dera Ismail Khan districts. Talking to APP here, he said the new dams included Tank Zam Dam, Chodwan Zam Dam and Daraban Dam, adding the construction of these dams would irrigate estimated 109,721 acres of barren land, while Tank Zam dam would also generate 25.5 MW of electricity. Faisal Amin said that these dams would also bring an agricultural revolution in KP's poorest zone besides ensuring food security and creating job opportunities for the local people. He said that by using water efficient models the command area can be doubled and would help achieve self-sufficiency in food sector as per the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

The decision of the provincial government was highly appreciated by people of Tank and DI Khan who said that it would usher a new era of prosperity in the area. Chairman Saraiki National Movement Mauz Arain told APP that construction of Tank Zam Dam would resolve many problems of Tank city including the long awaiting issue of clean drinking water. He said that still in this age of development and modernization the people of Tank districts are forced to share drinking water with animals at rain fed ponds. - APP

CM directs special squad to curb beggar mafia

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar Wednesday directed to constitute a special squad to curb beggar mafia which would take action in various zones in phases. The CM said that doctors would pay regular visits to old age homes for treatment of elderly people living there. He said that after Multan, community welfare centre would be set up in Lahore for transgenders and they would be made useful for people. He was presiding over a meeting of social welfare department, in which measures taken for the welfare of poor segments were discussed. He said that shelter homes would be made functional this year in Gujranwala, Multan, Pakpattan and Jhang whereas two new children homes would be established in Attock and Toba Tek Singh. - APP

Solution to our problems lies in following the Sunnah

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Provincial Minister for Public Prosecution Ch. Zaheer-ud-Din has said that the solution to our problems lies in sincere adherence to Uswa-e-Hasana of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). He said this while participating the Naat and Speech Competition at Metropolitan Corporation Hall in connection with Ashra Shan e Rehmatul Lil Alameen events. Provincial Minister for Public Prosecution said that the entire life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is in fact an interpretation of the Holy Quran by which we can improve our lives by

getting enlightenment. He said that the guiding principles of trust and truthfulness for us. He said that the in the glory of Holy Prophet (PBUH) ashra is being observed in befitting manner. He said that deep love for the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is required to include in our lives the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) which are the guarantors of peace and security, mutual love and brotherhood and solidarity. Minister said that patience, forbearance, tolerance and respect for humanity is the hallmark of Islamic society which should learn lessons from Islamic teachings for its development. ADC HQ M. Khalid explain-

ing the glory of Mustafa (peace be upon him) and said that there is an urgent need to follow teachings of Hazat Muhammad. He said that by following the pattern of beauty, patience and endurance should be nurtured. During the competition, Naat reciters presented Naats and prayers were offered for the development and prosperity of the country and the nation. During the event Minister distributes prizes among winners. AC City Sahibzada Muhammad Yousaf, CEO DEA Ali Ahmad Siyan, In charge Control room Muhammad Sadiq and Education a list Muhammad Akhtar Butt were also present.



FAISALABAD: Punjab Minister for Public Prosecution Ch. Zaheer ud din distributes prizes among winners of Naat and Speech Competition regarding Ashra Shan e Rehmatul Lil Alameen(SAW). - DNA

Akhuwat calls for helping hand to deprived segment

DNA

FAISALABAD: Chairman of Akhuwat Foundation Dr Amjad Saqib on Wednesday called for lending a helping hand to the deprived segment of society so that they can lead a self-dependent life. He said this while addressing a public lecture at the Center for Advanced Studies, University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF). The event was organized by department of Public Relations and Publications, UAF. He said that we have to learn from way in which the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) introduced social and economic brotherhood among the people after the migration to Madina.

He said that 'haves persons' should help out the 'don't have' to provide an atmosphere of better living. He said unjust distribution of wealth had deteriorated the poverty situation. He urged the students to devote themselves for seeking knowledge and keep them away from the prejudices prevailing in our society. He urged them to become the best in their chosen fields. He said that under Akhuwat Foundation interest free loans had been provided to 4.4 million people in mosques without any guarantee and its recovery rate was 99.9 percent. He said that the world population was touching 8 billion of the people and half of them were suffering from hunger.

Nasir Shah for construction of new dams

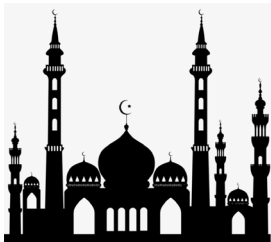
KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Public Health Engineering Syed Nasir Hussain Shah Wednesday directed the officials concerned to prepare feasibility report of projects to construct small and big dams in the vicinity of Karachi for the conservation of rainwater. The minister issued these instructions while presiding over a meeting held at the office of the Sindh Local Government Department here. Talking to the officials of Sindh Local Government Department and Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB), Nasir Shah said there is a need to utilize all natural resources to meet the water needs of Karachi. - APP

Punjab govt exploring hidden tourist spots

ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister's Advisor on Tourism Asif Mehmood on Wednesday said that the Punjab government was taking tangible steps to make the province hub of tourism and tourism department was exploring new hidden sites with improving road infrastructure. Talking to a private news channel, he said that Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI) government was focusing to promote the hidden tourist sits and promotion of Eco-tourism in the country, adding, Punjab tourist department would be run along modern lines to explore, develop and introduced it at global level. - APP

Interfaith Harmony Council. The minister said females must not be deprived from her rights as provided in Islamic Sharia. He said Islam protected the rights of women and did not allow forced conversions to Islam. From out of about 53 point of Charter of Madina, half clauses stressed protecting rights to minorities. He said its is written in Seerat books that the last words of Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) before death were "to Protect women rights." Before death the last prophet Muhammad (PBUH) emphasized protecting women rights. During the capturing of Hazrat Umer (RA), responding to the question about rights of minorities, he said the rights and responsibilities of non-Muslims would be same as enjoyed by the Muslims in the Islamic state.

SERVICES



Namaz Timings	
Fajr.....	04:48 am
Zohr.....	11:54 am
Asr.....	03:57 pm
Maghrib.....	05:37 pm
Isha.....	06:59 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
Wayway Exchange.....	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.....	5555489
CAA.....	9281092



Hospitals	
CMH.....	5611111
MH.....	561116
Cantt Hospital.....	9270907-11
DHQ.....	5556311-4
RGH.....	9290301-7
Holy Family.....	9290322-7
PIMS.....	9261170-79
Polyclinic.....	9218300-09
Shifa International.....	4603666



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

Ehsaas Stipends helping poor to send girls to schools: Sania

SAPM Senator Dr. Sania Nishtar while addressing the event said, “Our govt is fully conscious that an educated girl can contribute more effectively to society”

ISLAMABAD: Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA), Centre for Education and Consciousness, launched Girls Education and Enterprise Alliance (GEEA) to empower girls and young women in Pakistan with the support of national and global champions of Girls' Education here on Wednesday. The purpose of the gathering was to bring together parliamentarians, government, development partners, industry, education experts and civil society advocates on one platform to Pledge for SMART Programs for out of school girls/adolescents across the country. SAPM Senator Dr. Sania Nishtar while addressing the event said, “Our government is fully conscious that an educated girl can contribute more effectively to society. Ehsaas' conditional cash transfer (CCT) programmes providing cash stipends for education and nutrition are purposely skewed

in favour of girls to safeguard gender equity”. To incentivize girls' education, Dr. Sania said that Ehsaas provides a higher stipend amount to parents for girls under the “Ehsaas Education Stipends” and are offered support through higher secondary school. She said, that the programme has nationwide outreach and children aged (4-22) of all Ehsaas families are eligible. “Under the umbrella of Ehsaas, the government has also introduced a ‘Gradu-

ation Stipend’ for girls completing the primary education. This award is stipulated to facilitate the continuation of girls' education to secondary level, as a dropout rate is very high among girls at this stage”, she added further. Speaking in solidarity to the alliance, British High Commissioner to Pakistan Dr. Christian Turner said “Girls Education is imperative for Pakistan's growth as girl's education builds richer fairer and healthier societies. I'm here to say that UK will help in this journey!” ITA CEO Baela Raza Jamil officially an-

nounced the launch of GEEA followed by partners signing up for the alliance. Besides, Aida Girma, Country Representative, UNICEF; Javed Ahmed Malik, Programme Director, Malala Fund; Mosharraf Zaidi, CEO, Tabadlab; Samar Minallah, Human Rights Activist; and Amna Khalid, FCDO; Alima Bibi, UNESCO; Akiko Hanaya and Nazia Sehar, JICA; Fahad Hussain, Dawn News; Waseem Ajmal, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training; Shabnam Sarfaraz, Ministry of Planning and Development; Ameena Saiyid, Lightstone Publishers; Syed Shah Nawaz Ali, Country Director Oxfam; Munazza Gillani, Country Director Sight Savers Pakistan were also present at the launch. They vowed their support to the alliance and expressed their commitment to scaling up education and enterprise for girls and women in Pakistan. – APP



ANF seizes over 899 kg drugs in 38 operations; arrests 41

DNA
RAWALPINDI: Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan had seized 899.887 kg narcotics valuing US \$ 95.314 million in international market, arrested 41 culprits including three women, two Nigerian nationals and impounded 12 vehicles while conducting 38 counter-narcotics strikes throughout the country. According to an ANF spokesman, the seized drugs comprised 21.719 kg heroin, 457.79 kg hashish, 150 kg opium, 4.170 kg morphine, 1.442 kg cocaine, 6.600 kg amphetamine, 257.957 kg methamphetamine (Ice), 295 ecstasy tablets (0.200 kg), 23 MDMA tablets (0.00878 kg) and six LSD stickers (0.001 kg). ANF Balochistan recovered 421.302 kg drugs in six operations while arrested six accused besides seizing two vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 11 kg hashish, 150 kg opium, 255.932 kg methamphetamine (Ice), 4.170 kg morphine and 295 ecstasy tab (0.200 kg). ANF Punjab recovered 298.979 kg drugs in 11 operations while arrested

nine accused including two Nigerian nationals and seized two vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 9.512 kg heroin, 286 kg hashish, 1.442 kg cocaine and 2.025 kg methamphetamine (Ice). ANF KPK recovered 9.100 kg drugs in three operations while arrested four accused and seized a vehicle. The seized drugs comprised 2.500 kg hashish and 6.600 kg amphetamine. ANF Sindh recovered 140.79 kg drugs in 11 operations while arrested 13 accused and seized four vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 8.900 kg heroin, 131.89 kg hashish and a pistol 30 bore along with five rounds and a magazine. ANF North recovered 29.716 kg drugs in seven operations and arrested nine accused including three women while seized three vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 3.307 kg heroin, 26.4 kg hashish and 23 MDMA Tabs (0.00878 kg) and six LSD stickers (0.001 kg). All cases had been registered at respective ANF Police Stations under CNS Act 1997 while further investigation was under process.

All services of E&T restored in Rwp region

RAWALPINDI: The Excise Punjab's suspended services have been restored on Wednesday in Rawalpindi region after the internet fault was rectified. A two-member SC bench comprising Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed and Justice Mazhar Alam Khan Miankhel heard the case regarding dilapidated condition of RCD highway. During the course of proceedings, the court asked the NHA to explain why police were not deployed on Quetta-Karachi road for the safety of passengers. The plight of highways could endanger people's lives, it added. The bench directed that the condition of Quetta-Karachi road should be improved up

Twin cities report 156 new dengue cases

ISLAMABAD: In a worrying development, every day there are new and increasing numbers of dengue cases nationwide with collectively the twin cities reporting 156 fresh cases in the past 24-hour period on Wednesday. In the past 24-hour period ending today, at least 95 cases were reported to have emerged in Rawalpindi alone taking the city tally to 695 since the past outbreak of epidemic-like spread. Separately in Islamabad, during the

same period, at least 61 fresh dengue cases emerged resulting in the growing scare of mosquito-borne disease. Some 42 cases were reported from the rural parts of the federal capital while 19 of them came to fore in the urban parts, the sources privy to the matter disclosed. According to the health department sources, at least 1,403 dengue cases have so far been reported in Islamabad since this new wave. It has claimed five lives here, they said.

Separately today from the pandemic side, Pakistan continued to witness a downward trend of COVID-19 cases, as the country has reported 1,021 new cases of the pandemic over the past 24 hours, according to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). The nerve centre of the country's COVID-19 response said 21 more people succumbed to the viral disease during this period, lifting the death toll to 28,173. – DNA

SC directs NHA to submit report on highways

DNA
ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Wednesday summoned the Chairman National Highway Authority (NHA) to appear in person before the court and also sought details of highways across the country. A two-member SC bench comprising Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed and Justice Mazhar Alam Khan Miankhel heard the case regarding dilapidated condition of RCD highway. During the course of proceedings, the court asked the NHA to explain why police were not deployed on Quetta-Karachi road for the safety of passengers. The plight of highways could endanger people's lives, it added. The bench directed that the condition of Quetta-Karachi road should be improved up

to 100 percent. The quality of work of reflectors and marking lines on highways was substandard, it added. The Chief Justice said that the marking on roads was washed away due to single rain. Chitral-Gilgit Road construction was shown completed in the papers but in reality no such road existed. He asked why Quetta-Karachi Road was not being built like motorway. All highways except Lahore-Islamabad Motorway have been left untended, he added. He said that there were only rocks on Chitral-Gilgit road and a car could not run on that road. The Chairman NHA said that Chitral-Gilgit Road was being operated by provincial government while the road was handed over to NHA a year ago. The Chief Justice said that billions of rupees were spent on renovating highways every year while Karachi-Hyderabad road was not being built by NHA.

Gold prices increase by Rs 700 to 116,700

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed an increase of Rs 700 and was sold at Rs 116,700 against its sale at Rs 116,000 in the local market on Wednesday, Karachi Sarafa and Jewellers Group reported. The price of 10 gram 24 karat also increased by Rs 600 to Rs 100,051 from its sale at Rs 99,451 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat increased to Rs 91,714 from Rs 91,164 respectively. Silver per tola and ten gram was also sold at existing rates at Rs 1400 and Rs 1200.27 respectively. The price of gold in international market increased by US\$ 8 and was traded at US \$1771 against its sale at US \$ 1763. – APP

Police arrest Nine car thieves, recover 15 vehicles

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Anti-Vehicle Lifting Cell (AVLC) of Islamabad Police had busted three gangs of car thieves comprising nine accused and recovered 15 vehicles besides nine motorbikes from their possession during last 15 days. Addressing a press conference here on Wednesday, Superintendent of Police (SP) (Investigation) Liaquat Hyat Niazi said all efforts were being made to curb crime in the city. He said the nabbed were identified as Najeeb, Yas-een, Kashif, Akram, Shabbir, Nazeer, Saeed, Ismail and Anwer Zaib while further investigation was underway. The SP (Investigation) appreciated the hard work of AVLC police saying that vehicle lifting incidents had declined significantly in the city due to the hard work of the cell.

Four police officials suspended over negligence

RAWALPINDI: Four officials of City Police were suspended and served with a charge sheet for poor performance and negligence of duty. According to a police spokesman, City Police Officer (CPO) Ahsan Younus paid a surprise visit to several city areas last night and inspected the officers on night duty and those on patrol duty. During checking of mobile patrol party of the City Police Station, the CPO suspended Assistant Sub-Inspector Waqar Shaukat, Constable Rameez Akhtar, Constable Miskin Hussain and Constable Aqib Rehman on poor performance and violating duty standard operating procedures. A charge sheet was also filed against four suspended policemen and departmental inquiry was initiated against them, he added. CPO Ahsan Younas Hayat warned that no carelessness would be tolerated during performing official duty and strict action would be taken against those found negligent. – APP

IESCO issues power suspension schedule

ISLAMABAD: According to Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO)'s spokesman, System Maintenance/Development Work is in process. Therefore power supply of below mentioned feeders/areas will be temporary suspended as per given schedule: On 14 th October, From 09:00 AM to 02:00 PM, Lohi Bhair, Coral Feeders. Moreover 10 MW load management From 08:00 AM to 04:00PM, may be required at 132 KV Fateh Jhang, Basal, Jund, Lakkar Mar, Ahmadal and Pindi Gheep grid stations for safety purpose during stringing of 2nd circuit of 132KV Tarnol-Fateh Jang Transmission line. On 15th October, From 08:00 AM to 01:00PM, Mundi Bahlwal Feeder and surroundings will remain closed. – APP



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts is organizing “Ode to the Modern Masters”. A collection of artworks of Modern Masters from the PNCA Permanent Collection. – DNA

Denmark acknowledges PM green initiatives

The climate envoy also told the PM's aide that Denmark had taken note of Pakistan's ambitious green transition policies with the aim of integrating renewable energy, supporting sustainable and just development as well as mitigating and adapting to climate change

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Climate Ambassador at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark Tomas Anker Christensen on Wednesday expressed interest to learn from Pakistan's various green initiatives launched under the Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision for Clean Green and climate resilient Pakistan. “The exchange of views focused on bilateral cooperation and joint working for the Danish government's interest for implementation of West-to-Energy and Re-

newable Energy projects to support the Prime Minister Imran Khan's government on climate action agenda”, said PM's aide Malik Amin Aslam in a called on meeting with Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam. Danish climate ambassador told the PM's aide that Danish government was highly appreciative of the inspiring vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan for putting on a green path through green agenda, said a statement issued here. He informed him that his government was also deeply impressed with the Clean

Green Pakistan programme and various green projects initiated under the vision, specially one of the world's largest ambitious 10 Billion Tree Tsunami Programme (TBTP) Ecosystem Res-



toration Initiative for promotion of nature-based solutions, Protected Areas Initiative for conservation, livelihoods and protection of the environmentally-sensitive and biodiversity-rich

wildlife areas, Olive Tree Tsunami Initiative and National Apiculture Programme, solar and wind energy projects, and introducing of e-vehicle policy. The climate envoy also told the PM's aide that Denmark had taken note of Pakistan's ambitious green transition policies with the aim of integrating renewable energy, supporting sustainable and just development as well as mitigating and adapting to climate change. However, the Danish government had decided to solidify, substantiate and strengthen our bilateral ties following the progress

already delivered by increased trade between Pakistan and Denmark and within the current scope of EU GSP+ status and the EU strategic engagement plan with Pakistan, Climate Ambassador Tomas Anker Christensen. He highlighted, “Our increased joint working under the green framework engagement is chiefly underpinned by our mutual interests, high ambitions and shared visions in a green and sustainable future for the planet including through private sector engagement and public-private partnerships.”

Briefs

Internet services fully restored in country: PTA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Wednesday said that repair work of the damaged submarine cable has been completed, following which all the telecom services were operational as per the normal routine.

A fault was developed in the International Submarine Cable AAE-1 at Fujairah on Monday night.

Pakistan Telecommunication Limited (PTCL) in a statement on the same date said that consumers in Pakistan were facing some service degradation due to a technical fault in the International Submarine Cable AAE-1.

The PTCL, in conjunction with the International Submarine Consortium, had worked day and night and fully restored the disrupted internet service across the country. — APP

PR retrieve over 75.551 acres land

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has retrieved around 80,763 acres of commercial land worth billions of rupees from private individuals under its anti-encroachment operation across the country during the last three years.

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

The official said the department retrieved 46,654 acres land from Punjab, 7,43 acres from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 19,127 acres from Sindh and 2.34 acres from Balochistan.

Giving overall retrieved land in four provinces, he said Pakistan Railways had retrieved around 448,664 acres land from private individuals under its anti-encroachment operations.

The official said out of the total land, 75,551 acre was commercial, 285.9 acre was residential and 87,213 acre was the agricultural land of the Pakistan Railways.

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

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

The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and joint procedure order had been issued for strict implementation of the policy, the official added. — APP

Int'l Rural Women Day to be marked on Oct 15

ISLAMABAD: International Day of Rural Women would be marked on Oct 15 across the globe including Pakistan to recognize rural women's importance in enhancing agricultural and rural development worldwide. Rural women were honored worldwide on the International Day of Rural Women. Many people, government agencies, community groups and non-government associations celebrate the International Day of Rural Women on October 15 every year. Television, radio, online, and print media broadcast or publish special features to promote the day. Panel discussions, research papers, and conferences are also held to review and analyze rural women's role in society, particularly in areas such as economic improvement and agricultural development.

Other activities and events held to promote the day included global exchange programs for women in agriculture.

The launch of fund raising projects to support rural women. Expos and workshops showcasing rural women's contribution to their societies. Strategic meetings to present issues on topics, such as empowering women farmers, to policy makers. — APP

Pak, Hungary to increase trade to US \$250m: Envoy

The two countries had potential for bilateral trade in a number of sectors that needed to be further explored and work needed to be done in new areas

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Hungary to Pakistan, Béla Fazekas on Wednesday pledged to increase bilateral trade with Pakistan to US \$250 million, paving new avenues for bilateral economic cooperation.

The two countries had potential for bilateral trade in a number of sectors that needed to be further explored and work needed to be done in new areas, he said.

The Ambassador said this in a meeting with the former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Zafar Bakhtawari and former Vice President, ICCI Ahsan Bakhtawari in embassy of Hungary said a news release issued here.

He said bilateral trade between the two countries had reached to \$ US150 million in 2008, which had come down to US \$ 50 million at present. The Ambassador said few upcoming agreements and Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) would pave the way for mutual economic cooperation between the two countries which would be signed soon.

He said completion of Gwadar port would also help Pakistan and other regional countries to be connected in world trade. After the completion of Gwadar Port,



ISLAMABAD: Former president of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Chairman D-Watson Group Zafar Bakhtawari and Ahsan Bakhtawari meets the Hungarian ambassador to Pakistan H.E.Mr.Béla Fazekas to discuss the development of economic and trade relations between the two countries. — DNA

economic and trade links in the regional countries would also increase and bilateral trade with Central Asian Countries.

On the occasion, the Ambassador agreed with Senior businessman leader, Zafar Bakhtawari saying that direct air flight between Pakistan and Hungary was important

and they were considering it. The Ambassador expressed the hope that he would like to further enhance bilateral trade between the two countries to pave new avenues for trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Hungary. He said few practical steps were needed to boost bilateral trade re-

lations between the two countries, on which both countries were working on. The Ambassador said Pakistan-Hungary Friendship Group of Parliamentarians was playing an important role in improving the relations between the two countries.

Youth needs to focus on Pakistani nationalism

DNA

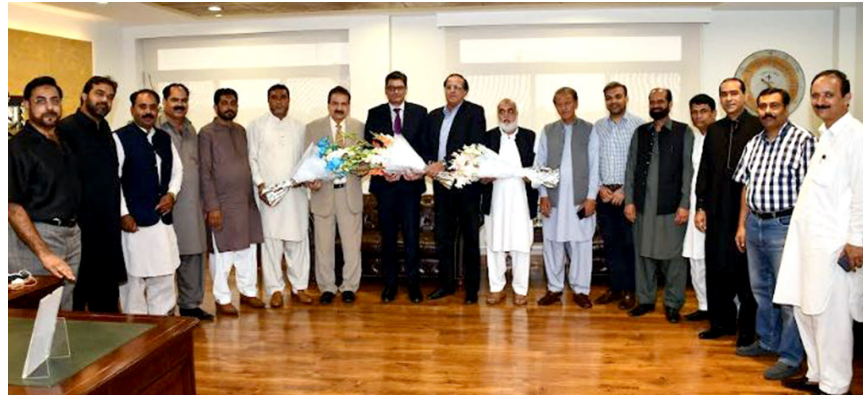
ISLAMABAD: 'Pakistani youth is fortunate that they are living in an era which is marked by the prevalence of excellent educational facilities, said Professor Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum, Vice-Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) while addressing prize distribution ceremony of the competitions organized during the entire month of August in the context of Independence Day celebrations. He said that getting education in the present times is comparatively easier because of huge advancement in the field of latest information and communication technology. Pakistani youth is expected to exclusively focus on its education with an utmost sense of devotion, dedication and commitment. They should play a key role in the progress and development of the

country with a keen sense of nationalism. He, further, added that we should follow the objectives determined by Pakistan movement to achieve a dignified position in the world community. No nation of the world can progress and prosper without educating its youth. Therefore, we should devote ourselves whole heartedly to the cause of educating our youth and masses. While addressing the participants of the ceremony, Prof Dr Samina Awan, Chairperson, Department of History, said that we should follow the golden principles of Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah to achieve a respectable place in the world community. Director Students Affairs, Rana Tariq Javed, said that the basic objective to organize Independence Day competitions was to promote the sense of patriotism and nationalism in Pakistani children and youth alike.

Business community slams FBR for attachment of bank accounts

SHUJAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The business community in a meeting at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) slammed the FBR decision to restore the powers of tax officials for the attachment of bank accounts of taxpayers to recover the tax demands and termed it an anti-business decision that would create harassment in the business community and open new doors for corruption, coercion and malpractices. Mian Akram Farid Chairman Founder Group, Ahmed Khan President, Traders Association F-10 Markaz, Tahir Abbasi former Senior Vice President ICCI, Akbar Siddiqui Chughtai and others were in the meeting. Addressing the meeting, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce



and Industry said that to address the concerns of the business community regarding attachment of bank accounts, the former Chairman FBR Shabbir Zaidi had issued instructions to field formations not to attach bank accounts of taxpayers without 24 hours' prior intimation and without approval of Chairman FBR, which had provided great relief to the business class. However, FBR through a

new letter to Chief Commissioners Inland Revenue has withdrawn the previous instructions and restored the powers of tax officials under Sec-140 of Income Tax Ordinance Sec-48 of Sales Tax Act 1990 for recovery of outstanding demands through attachment of bank accounts, which has created lot of concerns in the business circles. ICCI President said that the Prime Minister Imran

Khan often assures the business community that his government is working to promote the ease of doing business, but FBR is taking decisions that would foil his efforts to create a conducive environment for the private sector. He said that such anti-business measures would shatter the confidence of taxpayers and increase the gulf between them and the tax machinery.

Anti-dengue drive completed in 2000 streets of Islamabad

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: A review meeting was held under the chair of chairman CDA/Chief Commissioner regarding the steps taken by the authority to curb the spread of dengue in Islamabad. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Director General Health (MCI), DHO and officers of Capital Development Authority and other concerned formations. The meeting was informed that the process of fogging and spraying activities started earlier is being carried out all over the city. Uptill now fogging and spraying



has been completed in around 2000 streets of Islamabad. The meeting was further informed that 29 tyre shops, 17 workshops, 15 service stations and 5 junk yards were inspected while 04 premises were sealed on violation of dengue control SOPs. The meeting was further in-

formed that strict monitoring and surveillance is being ensured in the dengue sensitive areas like sector I-10 and Taramari and spray and fogging is being carried out on regular basis. The meeting was further informed that total 368 teams comprising of 541 persons are busy in , fumigation,

sampling . Awareness and social mobilization is also being carried out in addition to these activities. It was also informed that one (01) FIR has also been lodged while 6 people have been arrested on account of violation of section 144. It was also informed that due to strict monitoring and effective steps declining trend has been observed in the dengue positive reported cases in the Federal Capital. The Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad directed the concerned formations for early completion of fogging and spraying in rest of the areas of the city and utilize all available resources in this regard.

Shahenshah-e-Qawwali 'Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan' remembered

ISLAMABAD: Legendary Shahenshah-e-Qawwali, Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan was remembered on his 73rd birthday anniversary on Wednesday (today) to pay glowing tributes for his lifetime contribution for entertainment industry. He was popularly regarded as "Shahenshah-e-Qawwali", meaning "The King of Qawwali". Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan was born in Faisalabad on October, 13, 1948, and was considered one of the trend-setters and pioneers of fusion music in Pakistan. Some of the maestro's works of Khan were Wohi Khuda Hai, Haq Ali Maula, Kisay Da Yaar Naa Vichray, Tumhein Dillagi Bhoolljani Parraygi, Ali Maula Ali Dum Dum, Mere Rashk e Qamar, Dulhay Ka Sehra Suhana Lagta Hai. He was trained by his father Ustad Fateh Ali Khan and he used to perform with his father in different programs. Hailing from a Patiala gharana, Khan carried forward his family's 600-year-old Qawwali tradition and introduced it to international audiences, electronic channels reported. At the age of 16, the Pakistani maestro first performed publicly and his name was also included in the Guinness Book of World Record for the largest recorded output by a Qawwali artist—a total of 125 albums. — APP

NCA announces two-week workshop

ISLAMABAD: National College of Arts (NCA) is conducting a two-week workshop in Calligraphy, Fresco Painting, Zardozi (Silma Sitara), Traditional Painting Techniques, Traditional Craft (Weaving), and Digital Film Making techniques.

According to NCA, the last date for registration is October 25th, and forms can be submitted at the college's reception desk or sent via courier service to the following address deputy registrar academics, National College of Arts, 4-Shahrah-e-Quaid-e-Azam, Lahore. There is no registration fee for NCA students. While the registration fee for outsiders is Rs. 10,000 for each course. — APP

Cars' sale, production up by 80.55%

ISLAMABAD: The sale and production of cars witnessed an increase of 80.55 percent and 87.67 percent respectively during the first quarter of financial year 2021-22 as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

During the period under review, as many as 57,539 cars were sold against the sale of 31,868 units while the production of cars increased from 27,574 units to 51,750 units, showing growth of 80.55 and 87.67 percent respectively, according to Pakistan Automobile Manufacturing Association (PAMA) data.

Among cars, the sale of Honda cars went up by 20.20 percent from 6,483 units in last year to 7,793 units during current year while Suzuki Swift sale dipped by 26.03 percent from 630 units to 466 units during this year.

The sale of Toyota Corolla however rose from 3,614 units to 6,596 units, showing an increase of 82.51 percent, the data revealed whereas the sale of newly launched Toyota Yaris also increased by 20.48 percent from 6,009 units to 7,240 units.

Similarly, the sale of Suzuki Cultus going up from 3,263 units to 10,114 units, witnessing an increase of 209.96 percent while the sale of Suzuki Wagon-R witnessed a sharp increase of 123.08 percent from 2,460 units to 5,488 units during the period under review.

The sale of Suzuki Bolan also increased from 1,758 units to 2,941 units, whereas the sale of Suzuki Alto was recorded at 15,681 units as compared to 7,651 units during last year (2020-21).

On the other hand, the production of Honda cars increased by 22.04 percent from 6,319 units to 7,712 units during the period under review whereas the production of Suzuki Swift witnessed a sharp decline of 34.30 percent from 586 units to 385 units during three months of FY 2021-22. — APP

MoE awards licences for oil, gas exploration

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division) on Wednesday awarded licences to carry out oil and gas exploration activities in Attock district of Punjab province and Loralai district of Balochistan, under its strategy to make the country self-reliant in energy sector.

Minister for Energy Hammad Azhar witnessed the licence-awarding ceremony, a Petroleum Division news release said. Hammad Azhar said \$ 30,000 would be spent to undertake social welfare activities in each well-drilling locality every year.

He expressed confidence that with successful drilling and subsequent discoveries of hydrocarbon deposits, the country's fuel import bill would reduce, adding the government had stepped up the efforts to identify and exploit the untapped existing mineral resources in potential areas across the country.

The minister said the government would award offshore oil and gas licences in the coming few months.

He said the government was in the process of establishing new terminals for increased import of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) aimed at meeting the country's ever-growing energy needs efficiently. Besides, he said exploration activities had been initiated on war-footing to discover new oil and gas reservoirs in the country. — APP

ISSI hosts launch of special edition of PIVOT Magazine

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised Launch of the Special Edition of its PIVOT Magazine titled "Seventy Years of Pakistan-China relations" on October 12, 2021. Mr. Ali Muhammad Khan, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs graced the occasion as Chief Guest, while Ambassador Nighmana Hashmi, Dr. Moeed Pirzada and Mr. Faraz Zaidi, DG China Division delivered keynote speeches. During his introductory remarks, Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC, extended his gratitude to all the participants for gracing the occasion. He said that CPSC has been publishing the quarterly PIVOT magazine since January 2019. The magazine primary focuses on various facets of Pak-China relation. This edition culminates the series of events held in connection with the 70th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Pakistan and China. He added that he takes this opportunity to extend his heartiest congratulations to the team of CPSC for their hard work. In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry, DG ISSI, said that Pak-China relationship has a greater importance in all our diplomatic relations, and China is very special to us that is why we

dedicated a centre to work particularly on all facets of Pak-China relations. He added that Pakistan and China have shared future and connected destiny. In her keynote address, Ambassador Nighmana Hashmi, former Ambassador of Pakistan to China, stated that PIVOT Magazine is a comprehensive publication and great source of information that cover all nuance of Pakistan-China relations. Overlooking the bilateral relationship, she said, our

leadership in 1950s understood the strategic importance of China for the stability of the region. She added that the way Pakistan resolved border dispute with China was the first step that gave China confidence to work with Pakistan on areas of common interests. Mr. Faraz Zaidi, DG China Division, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, extended his appreciation to the team CPSC and highlighted that 2021 is significant for both the countries as its marks 70th anniversary of

the establishment of Pak-China relations and centenary of the foundation of Communist Party of China.

He stated, Pakistan and China are iron brothers and strategic partners. He highlighted that that Pakistan was the first country that confidently supported President Xi's visionary Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). He commended CPSC for being at the forefront of highlighting Pak-China friendship.

Dr. Moeed Pirzada, senior anchor-person, in his keynote, extended his congratulations to the Chief Editor of the PIVOT Magazine for the launch of timely edition and mentioned that the magazine is very informative and substantive. He praised farsightedness of late Prime Minister Mr. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto as he established profound contacts with China and settled border disputes. He underscored that Mr Bhutto contemplated in 1970s that China would be a key power for regional stability. He added that China-Pakistan relations initially was only technical, military and limited to strategic cooperation but since 2014 both the states have established extensive economic relations. He underlined that we need to convince the world that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is an initiative that would improve the quality of life of native people, promotes regional connectivity and are open for western world to invest in it.



Unrest in IIOJK

VIOLENCE in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) continues to escalate as government forces have detained at least 500 people in a sweeping crackdown following a string of suspected attacks and targeted killings in the disputed region. Tensions have been on the rise in recent weeks with a spate of shootings of civilians, including two teachers last week. The situation is incredibly unfortunate causing a public outrage in IIOJK and across the country, with politicians from all sides condemning the violence.

In this latest cycle of violence, the minority groups such as Hindus and Sikhs have also been the victims of attacks which has further exacerbated communal tensions in IIOJK. Predictably, the security forces in the region have blamed the resistance fighters for this unrest, and have described the killings as a “conspiracy to create terror and communal rift”. While any violence targeting innocent civilians should be unequivocally condemned, the role of the occupying forces in creating such conditions for violence cannot be swept under the rug as would be expedient for New Delhi.

The Indian Police has said that individuals belonging to The Resistance Front (TRF) group are responsible for the attacks. It is important to note that this group was formed after the BJP stripped IIOJK of its semi-autonomous status in August 2019. The relentless oppression that the residents of IIOJK have been subjected to only further creates an enabling environment for such outfits. As pro-freedom leader, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has rightly stated, when militarisation is pursued as a state policy to handle a live and lingering conflict rather than seeking conflict resolution, bloodshed and loss of precious human lives is the consequence.

It is the BJP government’s actions and rhetoric that has communalised the conflict in IIOJK. The blame cannot be shared and the current situation has come about due to India’s uncompromising policy in IIOJK. This cycle of violence will only make matters worse for the Muslims in the region, and it is expected that New Delhi will try to scapegoat Islamabad for the deteriorating situation. However, before the situation devolves any further, the international community must break its silence over the ongoing atrocities and Pakistan must continue raising this pressing matter on every available forum.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 02 Issue: 137

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com
Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960
Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



Pak Iran ties

THE visit to Pakistan by the Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces of Iran, Maj Gen Mohammad Bagheri, raises hopes for improved bilateral ties between Iran and Pakistan. Given the unrest brewing in Afghanistan, and the heightened terror attacks along the border of the two countries, the need for closer cooperation to resolve tensions is undeniable. Once such urgent threats are neutralised, this will pave a path towards strengthened economic and regional ties as well. Iran and Pakistan highlighted mutual objectives of working on border security and encouraging peace in Afghanistan at the 11th session of the Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC). This came in light of the incident on September 28 when a terrorist attacked a Pakistani border post and killed a guard. It is reassuring to see that the subsequent protests by our government were taken seriously and an attempt is being made to make the border more secure for both the parties. Regional tensions are also increasing because of Afghanistan. The Taliban are failing to establish themselves as a legitimate government and seem to have no grip over the humanitarian crisis that is just on the verge of spilling over to regional countries. There is a very real exodus taking place in Afghanistan, and refugees could resultantly start moving into countries like Iran and Pakistan, and the potential for regional instability runs very high. To prevent this, Iran and Pakistan can come together to aid Afghanistan in avoiding an economic collapse and prevent the region from turmoil. Only when the international community comes together can Afghan peace truly be achieved and the governments of Iran and Pakistan getting together is a start.

As ties improve, more avenues will also open up to increase the degree of collaboration. Economic opportunities await us, especially in the face of the Adani Port—India’s largest port operator—refusing to handle Iranian and Pakistani cargo for no apparent reason. The best step forward is to establish our own route for maritime trade that avoids all the tension that emanates from India as well. The possibilities are endless and it is good to see that both sides are working towards making the most of it.

Race against time to avert Afghan catastrophe

Ishtiaq Ahmad



Two other constraints include America’s unwillingness to unfreeze \$9.4b of Afghan foreign exchange reserves, as well as the lack of consensus among the permanent five members of the UNSC on lifting UN sanctions on the Taliban

AFGHANISTAN is on the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe. The end of the 20-year war may have silenced the guns for a while, but the war-torn country is at serious risk of imploding due to the worsening conditions it faces. This could have grave consequences for regional stability and international security in the form of mass migration and refugee influx, as well as a renewed proxy war and transnational terrorism. The current humanitarian crisis was in the making before the Taliban takeover in August. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, about 18.4 million people, nearly half of the population, were already in need of humanitarian and protection assistance in 2021. A third of Afghans were facing acute food insecurity and more than half of all under-fives were expected to face acute malnutrition. Moreover, violence had displaced half a million Afghans. However, with the Taliban in power, humanitarian relief efforts suffered a setback, as the staff of

UN agencies and other organizations were evacuated. The World Bank stopped its developmental activities. Under US pressure, the International Monetary Fund also suspended Afghanistan’s access to \$440 million of emergency aid allocated in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Consequently, on Aug. 31, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned that “a humanitarian catastrophe looms” in Afghanistan and urged donor governments to “dig deep” to fund an emergency appeal. The UN needed \$606 million to provide relief to 11 million suffering Afghans by the end of 2021. Donor nations responded beyond expectations by pledging \$1.2 billion at an Afghan aid conference in Geneva last month.

However, almost a month later, only a third of the requested amount has been handed over to the UN. Of the \$300 million sought by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, for instance, only 18 percent has been received, with its chief Filippo Grandi warning again on Friday of a “potential humanitarian catastrophe owing to delay in the disbursement of UN-sought funds for Afghanistan.” The evidence of such a catastrophe lies in the staggering scale of the food, health and displacement crisis in Afghanistan under the Taliban. The World Food Program says only 5 percent of households in the country now have enough to eat, and the country may face “universal poverty” in 2022 if the international community does not come to its rescue.

According to the World Health Organization, the Afghan healthcare system is “on the brink of collapse,” as lack of funding has left thousands of health facilities struggling to buy medical supplies and pay staff. It forecasts that Afghanistan’s coronavirus and poliovirus response will also suffer. The number of internally displaced persons in Afghanistan since August has also risen significantly. The UNHCR anticipates that 750,000 people will be internally displaced due to conflict and insecurity throughout 2021, an increase of 250,000 from the year-start projections. Moreover, the number of Afghans deported by Pakistan and Iran during this year may top the 1 million mark. Iran is particularly hard in repatriating Afghan refugees, despite having a lower refugee population than Pakistan. Tajikistan is the only Afghan neighbor that has agreed to accommodate 100,000 refugees. As for the stance adopted by the rest of the world on the Afghan refugee issue, the less said the better.

Thus, the chance that people of the landlocked state will escape the impending misery has significantly eroded. The least they can expect from the neighborhood is the limited supply of staple food items through various border cross-

ings. Pakistan has established an air corridor for the purpose, in addition to acting as a hub for humanitarian supplies from UN agencies or some countries that have pledged humanitarian assistance, including China and Russia.

However, it is a race against time, with winter fast approaching. This means that if the donor nations, especially the US and European countries, fail to follow up on their respective pledges for the UN humanitarian relief effort, the food, health and displacement crisis in this hapless nation is likely to worsen until next spring.

Drought, coupled with the pandemic, will also play its part in the process, unless the World Bank resumes its developmental operations and the IMF restores Afghan access to its emergency assistance. Before the Taliban takeover, almost two-thirds of development assistance for Afghanistan came from outside sources, amounting to between \$4 billion and \$6 billion annually. In 2012, the NATO summit in Chicago and the donor conference in Tokyo also pledged to provide security and economic assistance to Afghanistan during the transition decade, from 2014 through 2024. The erosion of these international commitments, largely due to the US defeat, has put the lives of ordinary Afghans at the mercy of a regime that has neither the knowledge nor skills to effectively manage public services. The UN and nongovernmental organizations have managed to resume operations, but they cannot make a difference on the ground due to limited international funding.

In the face of this impasse, the current crisis will most likely turn into a full-scale humanitarian catastrophe, with devastating consequences, first and foremost, for the people of Afghanistan. This is the worst-case scenario, where we can expect the revival of Afghan civil war, and the accompanying mass migration and refugee outflow, as well as the renewed proxy war among regional rivals, especially India and Pakistan. In such an eventuality, the wider world will also face a growing security threat as turmoil-ridden Afghanistan may once again become a haven for Al-Qaeda or Daesh. Given all this, the best possible outcome of the latest extraordinary meeting of the G20 nations will be in the form of a consensual global approach, whereby the issue of humanitarian relief in Afghanistan is separated from international concerns regarding the nature of political dispensation under the Taliban or their conduct regarding women’s rights, education and work. These concerns can, at best, be linked to the provision of development assistance to the Taliban regime and the unfreezing of Afghan foreign reserves by the US Treasury.

— Courtesy Arab News

Russia using AI diplomacy to increase its influence

Dr. Diana galeeva

The Mobility District, where Russia’s pavilion is located, also includes some of the latest developments in space exploration, including the UAE National Space Programme and the Emirates Mars Mission. In February, the UAE’s historic Hope probe reached Mars and communicated back to Earth, claiming the Mars mission as a success for all Arabs and signaling the region’s...

EXPO 2020 Dubai is the first event of its kind to be held in an Arab country and the first universal exhibition in the Middle East, North Africa or South Asia. For Russia, it offers opportunities to build closer relations with the region, expanding its already considerable presence culturally, socially and economically. At the state level and for ordinary tourists, it is a vast and fascinating display of the expertise and attractions of the region. Russia’s presence at Expo 2020 is deliberately eye-catching, using a matryoshka doll design for its pavilion, which is located in the event’s Mobility District. The pavilion promotes “Russia’s latest achievements in manufacturing, science, technology and art,” according to Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Alexey Gruzdev. The pavilion’s main theme is how creative minds are driving the future. Innovation and future-shaping technologies in Russia are strongly foregrounded. These may support further collaboration on, among other things, artificial intelligence. Russia’s pavilion also demonstrates its various regions’ potential and their latest developments. For example, among the first exhibition topics was the Republic of Tatarstan (along with Moscow). This is no coincidence, since Tatarstan is regarded as the IT capital of Russia and one of the most dynamic, economically mature and politically stable regions of the country. It is also well situated as an experimental platform for innovative projects. Tatarstan President Rustam Minnikhanov took part in an Oct. 1 expert discussion titled “Application of artificial intelligence technologies in solving global problems,” which showcased Expo 2020 as a platform for sharing the latest innovative developments. Russia has its own National Strategy for the Development of Artificial Intelligence Through 2030, which was adopted in October 2019. This includes initiatives such as Sberbank, the state-owned bank, having established a road map for developing AI in Russia in collaboration with oth-

er corporations, including Yandex, the Mail.ru Group, and the Gazprom Neft energy company.

Expo 2020 offers the opportunity to increase collaboration between the MENA region and Russia through this newly emerging arena — AI diplomacy. The US and China have already realized the value of AI as a tool in global power competition and are, in many ways, better placed to exploit it effectively in the MENA region. For example, AI dominates China’s technological investments in the Gulf states (and Serbia). AI-based surveillance is projected to be a \$62 billion industry by 2023. Expo 2020 is being used to illustrate Russia’s potential — in Moscow and other less well-known regions — as a partner and development site; and AI is regarded as a viable lever to further Russian influence in the region.

The Mobility District, where Russia’s pavilion is located, also includes some of the latest developments in space exploration, including the UAE National Space Programme and the Emirates Mars Mission. In February, the UAE’s historic Hope probe reached Mars and communicated back to Earth, claiming the Mars mission as a success for all Arabs and signaling the region’s emergence as an important global player. Russia has its own extensive history in the Cold War-era Space Race — a competition that has lost some prominence but has not gone away. The latest news from the country stresses developments in this field, heightened by the upcoming release of the movie “The Challenge,” which puts Russia ahead of the US in the latest chapter. Beyond national self-promotion, these displays are designed to facilitate collaboration. A joint agreement has already been drafted between Russia, Kazakhstan and the UAE that may mark the start of long-term space collaboration.

As well as these high-level negotiations, Expo 2020 is an opportunity for person-to-person diplomacy and, of course, tourism. Dubai is already a favorite destination for Russian tourists. January to June 2021 showed a 15 percent year-on-year increase in Russian tourists to Dubai, moving the country from fourth place to second in terms of tourist origins. Particularly notable are the 40,900 visits in May 2021 — more than any other country — and 25,100 in June, a 91 percent increase on 2020. The number of tourists during Expo 2020 will probably further increase, as it offers Russian tourists the opportunity to view the world’s most advanced technology in action, including in autonomous vehicles and cutting-edge mobility devices.

As well as glimpses of the future, visitors can also witness cultural displays at the MENA region’s pavilions. Egyptian achievements past and present can be seen in the form of three original antique pharaoh statues. Handwoven Persian carpets decorate the pavilion of Iran. Kuwaiti culture is presented through traditional music and poetry. The ancient remains of Leptis Magna, Cyrene and Sabratha, rising from beneath the Sahara, can be discovered at the Libya pavilion. The aromas and tastes of Palestine are celebrated with examples of traditional cuisine. A collection of Saudi artists have displays in the Vision space, including a multi-faceted 30-meter globe with an interactive floor, which takes visitors on an audio-visual journey through the Kingdom’s creative scene. The “Hurrian Hymn,” the oldest surviving musical notation in the world, can be heard at the Syria pavilion. And the “Miraculous Book of Al-Wisabi,” an ancient handwritten manuscript, can be seen at the Yemen pavilion.

In other words, Expo 2020 offers tourists a feast celebrating the richness, variety and excitement of the whole region, all in one place. It is an invitation to Russian tourists to explore and connect.

— Courtesy Arab News

Pakistan is facing an existential crisis

Erum Haider

Pakistan is not the only low-income country facing the impacts of climate change. It is not alone in looking on helplessly as industrialised nations – China and the US being the foremost – drag their heels on lowering emissions. Pakistan, like the Maldives...

THE UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published its latest report in August 2021, on the heels of one of the hottest and most devastating summers on record: floods in northern Europe and China, wildfires in the US, and heatwaves everywhere. The report tells us that the consequences of the current global warming crisis are largely irreversible. The most we can do is to prevent all-out ecological collapse.

One of the more sobering findings of the report is that polar and mountain glaciers are likely going to continue to melt, irreversibly, for decades or centuries to come. Pakistan has more glaciers outside of the polar icecaps than anywhere on earth. The glaciers feed one of the oldest and

most fertile valleys on the planet — that of the Indus Basin, split between India and Pakistan. Roughly 75 percent of Pakistan’s 216 million population is settled on the banks of the Indus River. Its five largest urban centres are entirely dependent on the river for industrial and domestic water. Pakistan has been blessed with regular agricultural cycles that have sustained its economy through successive crises. However, if the IPCC report is correct — which it almost certainly is — by 2050, the country will be out of water. Pakistan is not the only low-income country facing the impacts of climate change. It is not alone in looking on helplessly as industrialised nations — China and the US being the foremost — drag their heels on lowering emissions. Pakistan, like the Maldives and many other island nations, will suffer from the consequences of global warming disproportionately. However, unlike many countries that have taken up the issue of global emissions at the UN, Pakistan is not doing even the bare minimum to try and secure its future.

To say that this is the largest security issue the country will face in the next few decades would be putting it mildly. No other country is as dependent on non-polar ice for freshwater as Pakistan. No other country stands to lose as much. Yet, Pakistan’s government seems singularly unaware of the looming crisis. It has not even made much effort to meet its target of producing 60 percent of its electrical power from renewable sources by 2030. At the moment, the country still gets well over 60 percent of its electricity from fossil fuels. Pakistan is already facing mounting environmental challenges. Heatwaves are killing scores of people and impacting crop cycles and yields on a regular basis. This year, both its largest city Karachi and its capital city Islamabad experienced devastating floods. Furthermore, the 806-kilometre (500-mile) Karakoram Highway, which is a critical part of Pa-

kistan’s economic corridor with China, was shut down multiple times, for multiple days, due to landslides. These devastating landslides were a direct result of large-scale deforestation in the area north of Kohistan and south of Jaglot. Further north towards Shimshal and east towards the Skardu Valley, timber mafias are rapidly stripping old-growth forests, all but guaranteeing future environmental catastrophes. Local and international environmental experts have long been warning that, without urgent and drastic action, things will get worse — both in Pakistan and wider South Asia. They have been warning for over a decade that Pakistan’s glaciers are melting and it is only a matter of time before the country runs out of water. Now the IPCC is saying the same in no uncertain terms.

Despite mounting evidence of a growing crisis, however, the Pakistani state is refusing to act. There are several local initiatives to understand and address the impact of climate change on the region, such as those of the Shimshal Trust. But these efforts often face obstructions by the state and the military, who do not want environmental considerations and conservation projects to limit their control over strategic regions near the country’s borders with China and India.

Pakistan’s Prime Minister Imran Khan announced, at the beginning of his term in 2018, the Million Tree Plantation Drive to counter the effects of ongoing deforestation and climate change on the country. This, however, is akin to adding a fourth wheel to a tricycle and hoping it will eventually transform into a driverless electric car. No amount of new tree planting can replace old-growth forests. This is just a fact. The ancient alpine and conifer forests quite literally hold the ecology of northern Pakistan — its glaciers, rivers, and fertile valleys — together. They have taken millennia to grow and stabilise. They are irreplaceable.

— Courtesy Al Jazeera

Briefs

Pak, Iran call for inclusive Afghan setup

FROM PAGE 01
energy cooperation. He described the Pakistan-Iran border as a border of 'peace and friendship', and underlined the importance of steps taken for enhanced security on both sides. He also noted agreement on establishment of Border Sustenance Markets and stressed that the operationalization of these markets would facilitate livelihood in the region. The opening of two additional border crossing-points in the last one year had further facilitated regulated movement on both sides. Prime Minister Imran Khan appreciated Iran's steadfast support on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, especially by the Supreme Leader, adding that Kashmiris looked forward to Iran's strong voice in support of their just cause. The Prime Minister shared Pakistan's perspective on the latest developments in Afghanistan, stressing that as the neighbors of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran had direct stake in peace and stability in the country. Pakistan wished to see a peaceful and stable Afghanistan with sustainable economy and promoting connectivity. The Prime Minister underscored that the international community must remain positively engaged, provide urgently needed humanitarian assistance, and take steps to prevent economic collapse. He also stressed the need for unfreezing of Afghanistan's financial assets to help support the Afghan people at this critical juncture, especially before the onset of the winter. Prime Minister Imran Khan conveyed cordial greetings for President Raisi and renewed his invitation for him to visit Pakistan.

Pak-Iran co-op vital for peace...

FROM PAGE 01
regional security and border management particularly fencing along Pak-Iran Border were discussed. Both agreed on further enhancing defence cooperation and working together for regional peace and unified response to terrorism which is a common enemy. Pakistan and Iran are two brotherly countries and our close cooperation is vital for regional peace and stability, COAS remarked. During delegation level meeting, Iranian delegation was given a comprehensive regional security appraisal and operational update besides briefing on Training Regime of Pakistan Army including collaboration with friendly countries and conduct of various joint military exercises. The Iranian CGS expressed his desire for further strengthening military to military ties particularly in counter terrorism and training domains.

EU encourages Pak SMEs...

FROM PAGE 01
The EU Ambassador to Pakistan, Andrroula Kaminara said, "In Lahore, we have managed to bring together SMEs working in diverse sectors from across Punjab. This diverse range of products, which are covered under GSP+, represent a huge opportunity for Pakistani SMEs to allow them to fully benefit from GSP+ boost trade and strengthen bilateral trade for a prosperous Pakistan. Through this forum, we are trying to help create linkages between EU and Pakistani SMEs to understand their challenges and help overcome them - with a particular focus on technology transfer. With the strong involvement of the business community today and continued engagement with the Government, through the EU-Pakistan Business Forum we hope to develop initiatives, build capacity and provide technical assistance to support the SME development process in Pakistan. I remain confident that together we can expand the benefit of GSP+ boost trade and ultimately allow Pakistan to take full advantage of GSP+." The final event of the First EU Pakistan Business Forum will be held in Karachi next month.

Tayyab reaches in semifinals of CAS Int'l Squash C'ship

In the first quarter final match Tayyab Aslam who was in good touch was shocked as he lost the first game against Tsz Kwan Lau from Hong Kong by 10-12

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: World number 45 Tayyab Aslam is only hope for Pakistan by beating Tsz Kwan Lau of Hong Kong in the \$30,000 Chief of the Air Staff-Serena Hotels/Combaxx Sports International Squash championship title as Farhan Zaman beaten out in the quarter-final stage here at the Mushaf Squash Complex Islamabad on Wednesday. In the first quarter final match Tayyab Aslam who was in good touch was shocked as he lost the first game against Tsz Kwan Lau from Hong Kong by 10-12. After losing the first game,

Tayyab Aslam controlled his nerves and changed the game tactics where some good squash rallies were witnessed by the audience during the second game but Tayyab had the edge to win the second game by 11-9. In the remaining two games of the quarter final match, Tayyab did not allow his opponent to dominate him at any point as he got complete control of the rest of the games to win the match by 10-12, 11-9, 11-6, 11-8 and qualified for the semi-finals. In the second quarter-final of the tournament, Pakistan's Farhan Zaman missed victory in the decisive game against french player Auguste Dussourd due to a



controversial decision by the match referee. In the fifth and decisive game, Auguste Dussourd was leading by 8-7 and during the rally he came in front of Farhan Zaman but the match referee not only refused to give point in

favour of Farhan but gave controversial decision to awarding point in favour of french player. Some brilliant squash were also witnessed during the see-saw battle as after equalizing one, one game by 7-11, 11-9, Farhan Zam-

an got many chances to win this battle after winning the third game by 11-6 but he lost the fourth and important game by 2-11. Auguste Dussourd won the important match by 11-7, 9-11, 6-11, 11-2, 11-8 during 40 Minutes clash. Interestingly tournament second seed Karim El Hammamy from Egypt who won close match against Pakistan's Israr Ahmed by 3-2 not appeared in the squash arena due to high fever and unable to play quarterfinal match against Hong Kong's Henry Leung as he Henry declared winner of the match in qualify for semifinals while Moustafa

El Sirty from Egypt beat Max Lee from Hong Kong by 11-7, 12-10, 11-6 in the fourth quarter final match. In Serena Hotels-Combaxx Sports International Squash Tournament for Women Egyptian player Fayrouz Aboelkheir in good form as she kicked out tournament top seed Nadia Pfister from Switzerland by 11-4, 11-9, 8-11, 11-6 in 23 minutes battle while Salma Eltayeb from Egypt beat Farah Momen (Egypt) by 11-5, 11-5, 11-9, Nadeen Kotb (Egypt) bt Sadi Gul (Pakistan) by 11-4, 11-1, 11-1 and Marie Stephan (France) bt Noor Ul Huda (Pakistan) by 11-2, 11-0, 11-6 to entered into the semi finals of the tournament.

Ronaldo scores hat-trick, Denmark secure WC place



SPORTS DESK

ALMANCIL: Another hat-trick for Cristiano Ronaldo, another win - and qualification for the World Cup - for Denmark. And yet more crowd trouble in a game between England and Hungary. There was a sense of familiarity to the World Cup qualifiers in Europe on Tuesday, not least in Faro where Ronaldo extended his men's record

tally of international goals to 115 by scoring the 58th hat-trick of his career for club and country in Portugal's 5-0 win over Luxembourg. Denmark became the second European nation to qualify for next year's tournament in Qatar, after Germany on Monday, by securing an eighth straight win in the group by beating Austria 1-0. The decisive win - sealed by Joakim Maehle's second-half goal - came at

the Parken Stadium in Copenhagen where star playmaker Christian Eriksen collapsed in June during a European Championship game. It is still unclear if Eriksen can resume his career to play at the World Cup in 13 months' time. England are likely to be there but were made to wait before booking their place after being held to a 1-1 draw by Hungary at Wembley Stadium. Events on the field were

overshadowed by clashes between police officers and Hungary supporters at the start of the match, sparked - according to police - by a visiting fan making "racially aggravated" comments towards a steward. Disorder by Hungary fans - including racism - during the first group match between the teams, in Budapest last month, led to the Hungarians having to play a game in an empty stadium. Sweden climbed above Spain into first place in Group B with a 2-0 win over Greece, and Switzerland moved level on points with Italy in Group C with a 4-0 victory over Lithuania. In Group A, Portugal are a point behind Serbia, who beat Azerbaijan 3-1, but have a game in hand. Only the top team from each group qualifies automatically for the World Cup. The second-place finishers go into the playoffs. A pair of penalties, in the eighth and 13th minutes, set Ronaldo on his way to a record 10th international hat-trick for Portugal that was completed in the 87th minute.

Hungary fans clash with police during WC qualifier

WEB DESK

WEMBLEY: Hungary fans fought with police in the opening minutes of Tuesday's World Cup qualifier against England at Wembley. Some of their supporters, totalling almost 1,000, booed as England players took the knee before kick-off. The Metropolitan Police said "minor disorder" broke out as they arrested a fan for "a racially aggravated public order offence" in relation to comments directed towards a steward. In a statement, Fifa said it "strongly condemns" the incidents. Crowd trouble also marred Poland's World Cup qualifying victory over Albania, with the game suspended for more than 20 minutes after home fans threw objects at the visiting players. A spokesperson said: "Fifa is currently analysing reports of last night's Fifa World Cup qualifier matches in order to determine the most appropriate action. "Fifa strongly condemns the incidents at England v Hungary and Albania v Poland and would like to state that its position remains firm and resolute in rejecting any form of violence as well as any form of discrimination or abuse. "Fifa has a very clear zero-tolerance stance against such abhorrent behaviour in football." On the trouble at Wembley, a Metropolitan Police statement said: "Officers entered the stand to arrest a spectator for a racially aggravated public order offence in relation to comments directed towards a steward. "As officers made the arrest, minor disorder broke out." The game ended 1-1 with John Stones levelling for England after Roland Sallai's penalty for Hungary. The Football Association said it would investigate, while there have been calls from anti-discrimination body Fare Network's executive director Piarapower to ban Hungary. England boss Gareth Southgate said he was unaware of the severity of the incidents at the time. "I'm only hearing this as I'm doing the interviews," he told BBC Radio 5 Live after the game. "I was aware of a disturbance. It sounds like it was not acceptable but I haven't seen the detail." - DNA

Top women's seeds fall at Indian Wells

CALIFORNIA: Unseeded Shelby Rogers upset US Open runner-up Leylah Fernandez in a marathon three-setter at the WTA Indian Wells on Tuesday in what has been a bruising start of the week for the women seeds. Rogers outlasted Canadian teenager Fernandez 2-6, 6-1, 7-6 (7/4) in two hours and 34 minutes to reach the quarter-finals of the combined women's and men's tournament in the California desert. "It was a matter of who was able to dictate the points," Rogers said. "Who could get control of the points first. She has a bright future. Luck was on my side today, and I look forward to the quarter-finals." Rogers moves on to play 24th-seeded Jelena Ostapenko, who upset second seed Iga Swiatek of Poland in straight sets. After they split the first two sets, Rogers hit a backhand winner to break a 4-4 deadlock in the tiebreaker then won the next two points to clinch the match. The 23rd-seeded Fernandez held serve in a lengthy 12th game of the third set to set up the tiebreaker. She saw off one match point and then got a lucky bounce off the net cord to get the advantage. Fernandez went on to win the game on the next point when Rogers hit a backhand into the net. Swiatek became the latest top seed casualty, losing in straight sets 6-4, 6-3 to Latvia's Ostapenko in a fourth round match. Ostapenko won 65 percent of her first serve points and broke Swiatek's serve four times in the 93 minute match. Swiatek's ouster comes one day after No 1 seed Karolina Pliskova and defending champion Bianca Andreescu's elimination means there will be no repeat champion in Indian Wells. Swiatek's exit, combined with fourth seeded Elina Svitolina's crushing 6-1, 6-1 defeat to American Jessica Pegula, leaves just two women remaining who are seeded in the top 10, Barbora Krejickova (No 3) and Angelique Kerber (No 10) of Germany. Reigning US Open champion Emma Raducanu was eliminated earlier in her first match of the tournament. The combined WTA and ATP event is normally held in Indian Wells in March but returned this fall after a two-and-a-half-year hiatus due to the global coronavirus pandemic. There was no tournament in 2020 and the 2021 event was delayed to this month. - Agencies



BAKU: Pakistan ambassador to Azerbaijan, Bilal Hayee met with Teymur Musayev, acting minister of health of Azerbaijan. Opportunities for cooperation in health sector were discussed. - DNA

T20 WC: Babar confident of victory against India

Azam was cheerful about his and batsman Mohammad Rizwan's name being mentioned in the news for their partnership. The skipper assured that the duo would give it their best during the World Cup

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan captain Babar Azam is confident of beating India and winning the ICC Men's T20 World Cup as he said the Men In Green were focusing on what's to come and not their past performance. Speaking during a virtual press conference, the skipper said Pakistan would beat Pakistan and carry on the momentum throughout the tournament to win the World Cup. "There is pressure [on the team] during mega-events, but there is added pressure during matches against India," the skipper told reporters during the press conference. The skipper said Pakistan had practised for the World Cup with complete focus and that the team would go into the tournament



prepared. Azam was cheerful about his and batsman Mohammad Rizwan's name being mentioned in the news for their partnership. The skipper assured that the duo would give it their best during the World Cup. "We have decided that I and Rizwan will open [for Pakistan], but we will revisit the decision once we reach Dubai," the skipper said.

Azam noted that the presence of senior players in the team would benefit the squad, as junior cricketers would get to learn from them. "The addition of Shoaib Malik will be beneficial as he has played in several [international] leagues." On batters' performance, Azam said to not judge them based on a scenario match, as they had been performing in their previous fixtures. The skipper added that the bowlers were outstanding and that he had complete trust in them that they would lead the team to victory in the tournament. Azam said Pakistan was well-aware of the conditions in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), but noted that the team would need to play good cricket. "It depends on the conditions, if need be, we will add two spinners to the playing team," the skipper said.

Relying on one or two players will hurt Pakistan

KARACHI: Former Test captain and legendary batsman Javed Miandad said that in order for Pakistan to do well in the upcoming T20 World Cup, each player must recognise their role in the team and contribute accordingly. While speaking at the media at the Karachi Press Club, Miandad spoke about Pakistan's chances in the mega event. "The team needs to play with coordination. Each player needs to chip in with what they can because relying on 1 or 2 players will hurt Pakistan's chances in the World Cup," said Miandad. Pakistan kicks off their campaign against a crunch match against India on October 24. Speaking about the fixture, Miandad said players need to put in a collective effort. "The match against India needs to be played without fear and pressure. The players are not children, they have to develop confidence within themselves to overcome pressure situations and pressure matches," added Miandad. The 64-year-old further stated that Pakistan needs to put up good performances and winning or losing should be a secondary matter. "Pakistan batters need to play each ball on merit; the entire team needs to adopt that mentality and forget about money and if they play well, they will surely earn money," concluded Miandad. - DNA

Taliban warns curbs may trigger refugee crisis

FROM PAGE 01

Doha that "weakening the Afghan government is not in the interest of anyone because its negative effects will directly affect the world in (the) security sector and economic migration from the country", according to a statement published late on Tuesday. The Taliban overthrew Afghanistan's former US-backed government in August after a two-decade-long conflict, and have declared an Islamic emirate governed under religious law. But efforts to stabilise the country, still facing attacks from the militant Islamic State group, have been undermined by international sanctions: banks are running out of cash and civil servants are going unpaid. According to the statement from his spokesman, Mutaqi told the Doha meeting: "We urge world countries to end existing sanctions and let banks operate normally so that charity groups, organisations and the government can pay salaries to their staff with their own reserves and international financial assistance." European countries in particular are concerned that if the Afghan economy collapses, large numbers of migrants will set off for the continent, piling pressure on neighbouring states such as Pakistan and Iran and eventually on EU borders. Washington and the EU have said they are ready to back humanitarian initiatives in Afghanistan, but are wary of providing direct support to the Taliban without guarantees it will respect human rights, in particular women's rights.

China proposes 4-way engagement with Afghanistan

FROM PAGE 01

country during a G-20 leaders' meeting. Wang urged helping Afghans' livelihoods with humanitarian support to overcome difficulties, including food shortages, the coronavirus pandemic and a lack of medical supplies while stressing respect for Afghanistan's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. Beijing already announced \$31 million in humanitarian support to the Taliban administration given the looming humanitarian disaster as warned by the UN, according to a statement by the Chinese Foreign Ministry. Wang called for "an open, inclusive path of development" in Afghanistan. "The international community should proceed from a rational and pragmatic perspective, engage in dialogue and contact with all parties in Afghanistan, support the Afghan people to independently choose a development path that suits their national conditions," he said. He encouraged more financial support to alleviate poverty and infrastructure projects and said "unilateral sanctions on Afghanistan should be lifted as soon as possible." The US has frozen nearly \$9 billion in Afghan reserves since the Taliban regained power in Kabul in August after the exit of foreign forces. Wang said there should be a "zero-tolerance attitude" to ensure Afghanistan stays away from terrorism. "It is necessary to push the relevant parties in Afghanistan to make early decisions and take concrete actions to eradicate the cancer of terrorism," he said, urging an end to "double standards and selective anti-terrorism efforts." The top Chinese diplomat said the international community should build "consensus and promote the formation of synergy among various Afghan-related mechanisms." "It is necessary to maintain the status of the United Nations as the main channel for promoting peace and stability and humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan," he said. "The G-20 should base itself on the positioning of the International Economic Cooperation Forum, focusing on gathering wisdom and promoting cooperation from the economic perspective of humanitarian assistance and peaceful reconstruction," he added.

Briefs

VW's shift to electric cars could cost jobs: CEO

AGENCIES

FRANKFURT: Up to 30,000 jobs at Volkswagen could be at risk if the German auto giant is unable to reduce the costs of its transition to electric models, its chief executive told a recent supervisory board meeting, according to a company source on Wednesday.

The business daily Handelsblatt reported that CEO Herbert Diess had "expressed his concern" for VW's future at a board meeting on September 24 and had complained that, compared with rivals, VW's costs were too high. "The restructuring of Volkswagen could put one in every four jobs at risk" at the core VW brand and the "abolition of 30,000 jobs" was possible, the newspaper wrote, citing internal discussions.

Quizzed by AFP, a spokesman for Diess conceded that the carmaker needed to "deal with the competitiveness of our plant in Wolfsburg", drawing a parallel with US electric car pioneer Tesla, which is close to starting production at a plant near Berlin. "The debate has started and there are already a lot of ideas," the spokesman said, but there were no "concrete scenarios" as yet.

Kosovo Serbs, police injured in clashes

NEWS DESK

MITROVICA: Several Kosovo police officers and ethnic Serb civilians were injured Wednesday in clashes that erupted during raids targeting smugglers of Serbian-origin goods in Kosovo's tense north, officials and police said.

The violence comes less than two weeks after Serbia and Kosovo reached an agreement to end a tense standoff at their border that marked the worst tensions between the two neighbours in a decade.

One ethnic Serb sustained serious gunshot injuries and several others suffered minor injuries, Zlatan Elek, head of a hospital in the ethnically divided town of Mitrovica, told AFP.

Police said six officers were injured in clashes and eight people were arrested. The raids were conducted in four Kosovo regions, including in Mitrovica, within the "fight against goods smuggling", police said.

They were carried out at "various locations such as residential houses, business premises, warehouses", a statement added.

Blaze hits Egypt film festival site

DNA

CAIRO: A fire erupted Wednesday at the site of a film festival on Egypt's Red Sea coast, briefly threatening its cancellation before being brought under control, officials said.

The blaze "damaged a small part of the main pavilion" of El Gouna Film Festival just a day before its scheduled opening.

Fifteen people who suffered smoke inhalation were rushed to hospital for treatment, a civil defence force official said.

The brainchild of property mogul Samih Sawiris, one of Africa's richest men, the festival has attracted Hollywood stars including Forest Whitaker and Owen Wilson in previous editions.

"By tomorrow night everything will be ready to go," Sawiris said in a statement, adding that he suspected the fire had been caused by an electrical short circuit.

"We're all still in shock but thankfully we're fine," Ola El-Shafei, one of the festival's organisers, told AFP. The organisers said in a statement that an investigation would be launched into the cause of the fire.

The fifth edition of the festival is set to run until October 22, boasting a roster of 80 Arab and international films.



BRUSSELS: Mr. David Martin, Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar, Mr. Maximilian Krah MEP and Ambassador Zaheer A. Janjua posing for a picture. DNA

Governor, EU lawmakers discuss GSP-Plus extension

A spokesman of Governor House said the Governor also held meeting with the Members of European Parliament including Maximilian Karre from Germany, Karken Nicholas from France, Jordi Sol from Spain, Emanuel Fregos, Joymer Marno and others

DNA

BRUSSELS: Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar, during his visit to Europe, met with Vice President of European Parliament, Dr Fabio and 11 other members of European Parliament on Wednesday in a bid to win their support on GSP Plus status extension issue.

A spokesman of Governor House said here on Wednesday, the Governor also held meeting with the Members of European Parliament including Maximilian Karre from Germany, Karken Nicholas from France, Jordi Sol from Spain, Emanuel

Fregos, Bernard Goetta, Joymer Marno and others.

During the meeting, the Punjab Governor briefed the members of European Parliament on the positive role of Pakistan in the Afghan peace process, protection of minorities in Pakistan, religious freedom, and provision of fundamental rights.

He also apprised the members of European Parliament of the atrocities and gross human rights violations by India in the IIOJK (Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir).

During the meeting, Dr. Fabio and other members of the European Parliament appreciated Pakistan's role in establishing

peace in Afghanistan and eradicating terrorism. They said that they stand with Pakistan and assured of their full cooperation in the extension of GSP Plus status.

Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar while talking to the media after the meetings, said the meetings with Dr. Fabio and other European MPs remained successful and he was happy that European members had appreciated Pakistan's role in establishing peace in the region.

"I have also called on the MPs Members of Parliament to play a role in the provision of basic services, peace and stability in Afghanistan," he added.

Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar said that

Pakistan would succeed in its mission with regard to the extension in GSP Plus status to Pakistan.

He said that Pakistan was working hard under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan to counter the negative propaganda against Pakistan in Europe by India and we would not allow them to succeed as we have thwarted all the conspiracies of India in the past.

The Punjab Governor said the resolution of Kashmir issue was vital for the establishment of durable peace in the world. One of the agenda of his visit was also to apprise the world of the gross human violations by the India in IIOJK, he added.

EU proposals to curb soaring energy prices

BRUSSELS: The European Commission on Wednesday unveiled a list of proposed measures that EU countries can take to mitigate soaring energy prices for consumers and industry. The aim is to ease costs as Europe's winter approaches amid a global energy crunch caused by economies kicking back into high gear after a long lull forced by the coronavirus pandemic. The short-term measures given by the EU executive are meant to be "temporary" and "targeted" to give immediate effect, and can include:

- emergency payments to the poorest households to help them cope, perhaps with vouchers, and the ability of consumers to defer payment of bills;
- a reduction or suspension of taxes and levies on electricity, gas and other sources for vulnerable households;
- direct support for people covering a set minimum amount of energy consumption;
- support for industries, as long as the measures do not distort competition or upset the EU carbon-trading market.

Medium-term measures were more vague, and were aimed at supporting the EU's goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2050.

Among them were proposals for the Commission to "consider revising the security of supply regulation"; back the development of "future-proof energy storage"; and explore "the potential benefits and design" of EU countries jointly buying gas. — APP

ADB raises 2019–2030 climate finance ambition to \$100 bn

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) Wednesday announced, it was elevating its ambition to deliver climate financing to its developing member countries (DMCs) to \$100 billion from 2019–2030.

"The battle against climate change will be won or lost in Asia and the Pacific," said ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa. "The climate crisis is worsening daily, prompting many to call for increased climate finance. We are taking action to meet this call by elevating our ambition to \$100 billion in cumulative climate finance from our own resources by 2030."

In 2018, ADB committed to ensuring at least 75% of the total number of its operations support climate action and its own climate finance resources reach at least a cumulative \$80 billion by 2030. Today's announcement elevates the ambition of this financing, according to a press release issued by the ADB. ADB expects the cumulative climate financing from its own resources in 2019–2021 to reach about \$17 billion. The expanded climate finance ambition is a key element of ADB's efforts to support its DMCs. Facing the interconnected challenges of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the climate crisis, many DMCs are taking

bold action to promote a green, resilient, and inclusive recovery. The additional \$20 billion will provide support for the climate agenda in five main areas. First, new avenues for climate mitigation, including energy storage, energy efficiency, and low-carbon transport. ADB expects its cumulative climate mitigation finance to reach \$66 billion. Second, a scale-up of transformative adaptation projects. Projects in climate-sensitive sectors, such as urban, agriculture, and water, will be designed with a primary purpose of effective climate adaptation and enhanced resilience. ADB expects its cumulative adaptation finance to reach \$34 billion.

Third, an increase in climate finance in ADB's private sector operations. This includes creating more commercially viable projects for both ADB and private investors. The expansion will be underpinned by improvements in operational efficiencies, a post-pandemic recovery in market demand for financing, new technologies and innovations in climate financing, and new areas of business for private sector climate operations. ADB intends to support these initiatives with \$12 billion in cumulative private sector climate finance from its own resources and anticipated crowding in of an additional \$18 billion to \$30 billion.

SAPM for attracting investments in Rashakai SEZ

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to PM (SAPM) on CPEC Khalid Mansoor on Wednesday directed developers in Rashakai Special Economic Zone to make a marketing plan to attract quality investments in the zone. During his visit to Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ) the SAPM reviewed the progress of development of the zone, says a statement received here.

He was received by Advisor to CM KP on Industries and CEO of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Com-

pany (KPEZDMC). Senior officials of KPEZMC & China Road & Bridge Company (CRBC) briefed about the progress of development of the Zone. It was informed that provision of utilities, like electricity and gas was progressing as per agreed timelines. Other necessary infrastructure was also being put in place and the work was progressing smoothly. It was also informed that eight enterprises had been allotted industrial plots while a large number of investors had indicated their interest and applied for allotment of industrial plots.

Fears of 'chaos' as Italy adopts tough Covid pass regime

AGENCIES

ROME: Italy will require all workers to show a coronavirus health pass from Friday, one of the world's toughest anti-Covid regimes that has already sparked riots and which many fear will cause "chaos". More than 85 percent of Italians over the age of 12 have received at least one shot of a Covid-19 vaccine, making them eligible for the so-called Green Pass certificate.

But according to various estimates, about 2.5 million of the country's 23 million workers are unvaccinated, and risk being denied access to the workplace from October 15. "You have no idea of the chaos that we will have in firms," the president of the heavily industrialised northern Veneto region, Luca Zaia, said recently.

Unvaccinated workers can still get a Green Pass by getting tested for coronavirus or with a certificate of recovery, if they contracted the virus within the previous six months. If they instead opt to qualify through testing, they have to take them at their own expense, and repeat them every 48 hours.

Zaia suggested there was not enough testing capacity to meet potential demand, raising the prospect of mass absenteeism from work. "The entrepreneurs I talk to are very worried," he said. Green passes are already required for teachers and other school workers, and for other activities such as eating indoors in bars and restaurants, or going to the cinema, museums and football games.

Putin calls for stability in gas market

AGENCIES

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday called for stabilisation in the natural gas market, as critics in Europe blame Moscow for record spikes in prices ahead of winter.

Speaking at an energy forum in Moscow, Putin said it was "very important" to "suggest a long-term mechanism to stabilise the energy market" in what he called a "difficult situation."

Europe is facing a gas crisis leading up to the coldest season of the year, with a surge in prices and depleting reserves caused by a cold end to last winter.

Demand is rallying as economies ramp up after the end of pandemic lockdowns and there are dips in supplies from renewables like wind.

Some in Europe are blaming Russia for the increase in gas prices, saying Moscow is intentionally not boosting supplies to pressure Europe for more long-term contracts and for the certification of the controversial Nord Stream 2 pipeline.

But Putin on Wednesday blamed "systemic flaws" in the European energy market and brushed off criticism, saying that "some try to pass their errors on to others".

Russian officials have repeatedly said over recent weeks that suppliers are fulfilling obligations under contracts with European buyers.

Moscow is not upping supplies available on the short-term spot markets, which the EU prefers, arguing it is more competitive.

No further extension in tax filing deadline

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) once again made it clear on Wednesday that there would be no further extension in deadline for filing tax returns for the fiscal year 2021 beyond October 15. FBR Spokesperson, Asad Tahir Cheema in a statement issued here said that only two days were left for filing the tax returns and urged people to do the same as soon as possible. He said that the FBR online portal was working smoothly round-the-clock while capacity of IT system had also been improved.



BAKU: Ambassador Bilal Hayee had a meeting with Mr. Teymur Musayev, acting minister of health of Azerbaijan. Opportunities for Cooperation in Health sector were discussed. — DNA

Subsidies not right to deal with high energy prices

After debt loads surged last year amid the pandemic, governments now must take care to "calibrate" spending, says IMF

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: Governments should avoid using general subsidies as a way to soften the blow from recent high energy prices, the IMF said Wednesday.

Broad subsidies are expensive, so policymakers instead should use targeted aid to help low income families most impacted from the recent surge, Paulo Medas, of the IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department said.

Generalized energy subsidies "benefit rich households who don't need the support," making them very costly, Medas told re-

porters.

In addition, "they are not friendly to the environment, in fact they lead to very negative incentives." The IMF recommends "using more targeted support to those that are more vulnerable, and the hardest hit" including cash transfers or subsidizing electric bills for low income families.

Oil prices have been surging in recent weeks to the highest levels seen in years, pushing above \$80 a barrel, which has added to worries that inflation may be moving higher permanently. Medas said the increase was expected to some degree as global demand rebounded amid

the recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, but he underlined the IMF's push for countries to move to more green energy.

"The reality is that we have faced these large volatilities in oil and gas prices for a long time. And the only way to deal with this in a permanent way" is to invest more in renewable energy, he said.

"This is going to be the only way to build a resilient economy, and protect households from the volatility in oil and gas prices." After debt loads surged last year amid the pandemic, governments now must take care to "calibrate" spending, the IMF said.

Global debt in 2020, including

public and private borrowing, "jumped by 14 percent to a record high \$226 trillion," according to the IMF's Fiscal Monitor report.

"A significant number of countries are in debt distress, or at high risk of debt distress," said Vitor Gaspar, director of the IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department. It is "urgent" to make progress on a framework to help those countries at risk, he told reporters, repeating the call from the International Monetary Fund and World Bank to take action before the debt service suspension initiative agreed by the Group of 20 expires at the end of the year.

"While recognizing that the international community provided critical support to alleviate fiscal vulnerabilities in low-income countries, more is needed," he said. Public debt amounts to \$88 trillion, close to 100 percent of GDP, and is expected to decline only gradually, according to the report, but there is a risk excess private debt will become public debt.

"Countries will need to calibrate fiscal policies to their own unique circumstances," Gaspar said. Massive public support helped to soften the economic blow from the pandemic, as well as the health impact.

Briefs

PM Imran
destroying
state
institutions

PDM chief says the Prime Minister should not interfere to the extent that the system is affected

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said that Prime Minister Imran Khan destroyed institutions with the country adding everyone should remain within their constitutional jurisdiction.

According to details, the head of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) Maulana Fazlur Rehman visited the house of late nuclear scientist Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan along with Senator Talha Mahmood.

Fazlur Rehman offered condolences to the family of late Qadeer Khan and prayed for his maghfirah. AQ Khan's son-in-law Noman Shah received Maulana Fazlur Rehman. Praising the pride of Pakistan, Fazl said Dr Abdul Qadir has rendered a lot of services to the country and its people.

Razlur Rehman said that we have to get out of the situation wisely as the situation is changing from moment to moment. Fazl slammed Prime Minister Imran Khan and said the premier demolished the country along with its institutions. He said these rulers took over to sink away Pakistan.

Speaking on the military, he said Army is an organised institution and is the ray of hope for people. He said the Prime Minister took a stand ignorantly on the wrong thing. Lieutenant General is a subordinate to the Army Chief.

President
summons NA
session

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has summoned session of the National Assembly on Thursday, October 14 at 3 p.m.

The President called the session of the assembly under article 54 of the constitution. Earlier, Prime Minister's Adviser on Parliamentary Affairs Babar Awan called on National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser at the Parliament House in Islamabad. Awan also met Prime Minister Imran Khan to discuss the NA and Senate sessions.

According to Awan, a summary has been forwarded to President Arif Alvi by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. As per the summary, the sessions will be convened on Thursday, October 14.

FM stresses economic assistance for Afghanistan

Talking to Foreign Minister of New Zealand Ms Nanaia Mahuta via video link, he said time warrants that the Afghan people are not abandoned

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has urged the world to take concrete steps on war footing to extend economic and humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan. Talking to Foreign Minister of New Zealand Ms Nanaia Mahuta via video link, he said time warrants that the Afghan people are not abandoned.

He underscored the importance of inclusive political settlement, need for the international community to positively engage with Afghanistan, and provide urgently needed humanitarian assistance.

Foreign Minister Mahuta conveyed profound gratitude for Pakistan's facilitative role in safe evacuation of their nationals and others from Afghanistan.

Expressing satisfaction at the current level of engagement, the two Foreign Ministers agreed on further enhancing high-level interactions.

"On New Zealand Cricket Board's last-minute decision to cancel Pakistan tour, Pakistan expects New Zealand to share the information



that led to that decision to call off the tour," Qureshi said.

The Foreign Minister conveyed that it [the New Zealand Cricket Board decision] disappointed millions of cricket lovers.

He also suggested that New Zealand Cricket Board may consider

and indicate another opportunity for the Pakistan tour.

During the video call, the two Foreign Ministers discussed the whole range of issues, concerning bilateral relations and regional cooperation, a press release issued here by the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs said.

Foreign Minister Qureshi, while appreciating the steady progress in multi-dimensional bilateral relations over the years based on mutual trust and understanding, renewed strong desire and commitment to consolidate and further

enhance cooperation in diverse fields in line with shared objectives of peace and development.

Both sides agreed to further enhance bilateral cooperation in Anti Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) domains.

Top Irani
General
meets CJCS

WEB DESK

RAWALPINDI : The Chief of General Staff (CGS) of Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran Major General Mohammad Bagheri called on the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC) General Nadeem Raza at Joint Staff Headquarters in Rawalpindi on Wednesday.

During the meeting, both deliberated upon various areas of mutual interest, bilateral cooperation including defence and security, counter-terrorism, and the prevailing regional environment particularly with reference to Afghanistan.

They dilated upon measures to enhance the level and scope of military engagements between both Countries and pledged to continue to forge deeper ties. Both sides highlighted that common borders should be "Borders of Peace, Friendship".

The Chairman JCSC said that in pursuit of closer military and strategic cooperation both countries share a common perception on all national and international issues.

Law ministry
working
on judicial
reforms

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner Dr. Christian Turner and his team, Wednesday, called on Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Barrister Dr. Muhammad Farogh Naseem at the ministry. According to the spokesperson of the ministry, several issues related to mutual and legal cooperation were discussed between the law minister and the British diplomat.

Dr. Christian Turner commended the efforts and dedication of the minister for working tirelessly on crucial legislation in Pakistan.

Simon Valley of the British High Commission acknowledged that the criminal reforms being undertaken by the minister were very substantive and no legislation earlier made in Pakistan was as extensive and reformative.

The British team was of the view that if properly implemented the criminal reforms undertaken by Dr. Farogh Naseem would completely overhaul the Pakistani legal system pertaining to criminal law.

Dr. Farogh Naseem said the ministry was working with all the stakeholders and providing support and legal advice in case legislation was required to be drafted for overhauling of justice system in Pakistan.

He said that the ministry received nearly 100 to 150 references each day and in these 3 years the it had disposed off over one hundred thousand cases.

Parliamentary Secretary for Law and Justice, Barrister Maleeka Ali Bokhari was also present during the meeting.

Past rulers
plundered loans for
building properties

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain on Wednesday said past rulers built their properties abroad by plundering foreign loans.

Addressing a conference here the minister said from 2008 to 2018, when the Pakistan Peoples Party and Pakistan Muslim League -Nawaz were in power, record foreign loans were taken and most of the amount was transferred to the Middle East and Europe by the former rulers where they purchased properties.

The minister said the in-



current government was repaying US \$ 12 billion debt this year. He said in such a situation it was very difficult for the government to give subsidies on commodities. The minister said the main cause of the current wave of inflation was due to the debt taken by the past rulers. The geographical situation of Pakistan was quite important, Fawad Hussain said adding, if anyone travel by air around 66 per cent of the world's population was at a distance of three and a half hours from Islamabad.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor Imran Ismail presenting a book to Ambassador of Qatar Sheikh Saud bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani. - DNA

Will not allow
PM to become
political martyr

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz on Wednesday vowed that the Opposition will not allow Prime Minister Imran Khan to become "a political martyr."

Speaking to the media outside the Islamabad High Court after a hearing of the Avenfield reference, Maryam said that the prime minister "should not even attempt to be like Nawaz Sharif" as he was "an elected prime minister who came into power through the votes of the masses" as opposed to the incumbent ruler, who the Opposition frequently refers to as a "selected leader."



Maryam went on to say that Imran Khan's identity is to inspire against the elected prime minister and to hold a 126-day sit-in," she said in response to her own question. She was referring to the PTI's 2014 sit-in in Islamabad.

The PML-N leader went on to say that one does not simply become a lion by cloaking oneself in the creature's hide. Maryam raised a question on PM Imran Khan's identity and said that it is confined to "conspiracies," adding that he has "nothing to do with the principles of law and democracy."

Turkey says will do 'what is
necessary' after Syria attacks

ANKARA: Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu has said Turkey would "do what is necessary for its security" after what it described as a rise in cross-border attacks by the Syrian Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG).

The comments were made by Turkey's top diplomat on Tuesday, a day after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said an attack that Ankara blamed on the YPG that killed two Turkish police was "the final straw" and that Turkey was determined to eliminate threats originating in northern Syria. Turkey said police in northern Syria's Azaz region were hit in a guided missile attack on Sunday launched by the YPG.

On Monday, shells believed to have been fired from a

YPG-controlled area further east exploded in two areas of Karkamis in southern Turkey, Ankara said.

The YPG is backed by the United States but Ankara says the group is the Syrian wing of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has been designated a "terror" group by Turkey and its NATO allies.



Speaking at a news conference in Ankara on Tuesday, Cavusoglu said the United States and Russia had not kept their promises to ensure the YPG withdraw from the Syrian border area.

"Both countries [the US and Russia] have said these terrorists will be taken 30km down [from the border] ... promises have not been kept

... both the US and Russia have responsibility for the recent attacks, because they did not keep their promises, and these terrorists are still there," Cavusoglu said.

"We need to sort this out ourselves. We will cleanse this region of terrorists, we will do whatever is necessary for our security."

The US embassy on Tuesday expressed condolences to the police officers' families and condemned the reported mortar attacks.

But Cavusoglu said the US message showed "insincerity" since Washington had armed and trained the YPG. "You are providing them with arms and then making a statement for show only. The insincerity is obvious there," he said, referring to Washington.

Pakistan will 'never be
up for Sale': Moeed

Dr Yusuf said Pakistan, at the cost of being looked upon as insincere, kept emphasizing that the war in Afghanistan could not be won militarily

DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Security Adviser Dr Moeed Yusuf has said that Prime Minister Imran Khan has set a new paradigm whereby 'Pakistan will never be up for sale', but will stand for its interests.

"Pakistan is going to stand for what its interests are, not emotively but very pragmatically," he said in an interview with journalist Dr Moeed Pirzada, for Global Space Village. "This has invited much criticism, with many deeming it a mistake, but it is true - Pakistan no longer will host bases," he said, with regard to not allowing the air bases to any other country in future.

Dr Yusuf said for the past 20 years, there was an unwinnable war that "some wanted Pakistan to win for them, which was simply an unrealistic goal". He mentioned that in the past, decisions had been taken without the public on board, which ultimately "backfired". "This is a paradigm that this prime minister has set with every country and not just the United States," he said, adding that "If there is a condition which Pakistan does not feel to be in its inter-



est, we will not go for it".

Dr Yusuf said Pakistan, at the cost of being looked upon as insincere, kept emphasizing that the war in Afghanistan could not be won militarily. He said Pakistan also stressed the need to talk with the Taliban, not because it was pro-Taliban, but "because it was the only way to solve this problem".

Referring to the exit of military forces from Afghanistan, he said the non-military strategy could have saved the Western world from embarrassment. "They bought New Delhi's and Kabul's narrative - lock, stock, and barrel - and this is what they have gotten for it," he said.

To a question on progress following his twice meetings with the U.S. counterpart held in Geneva and Washington in July, he said, a blueprint was agreed upon detailing how to move forward on commerce, investment, climate, health, etc.

Dr Yusuf said Pakistan was "not in any camp" and emphasized that despite its relationship with China, it wanted very good relations with the U.S. He stressed that the contours of Pak-U.S. relationship could not be from the lenses of Afghanistan, India or China. "It has to be a bilateral relationship, a give and take as equals where mutual interests lie. That has to be worked out now," he said.

OCTOBER 2021

Pakistan's Premier News &
Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:
www.centrelines.com.pk
www.dnanews.com.pl
www.islamabadpost.com.pk

@PostIslamabad/ @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

Daily
Islamabad POST

11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza,
G-8 Markez, Islamabad-Pakistan
Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165

