



Islamabad POST

Friday, October 15, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

Pakistan needs to market new products in EU: Amb. Kamianra

Detailed News On Page-08

MoU signed to preserve Gandhara

Detailed News On Page-03



Kenyan athlete Agnes Tirop found dead

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

PPP to form next govt

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: An accountability court in Islamabad on Thursday set October 28 as the date for the indictment of former president and PPP co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardari in a Rs8 billion suspicious transactions case. Speaking to journalists after the appearance Zardari claimed that his party will form the next government in the country. Responding to a question about the duration of the accountability process, Zardari said: "The process will continue till the country's economy does not come down further."

Dr AQ Khan a "Hero of Islam"

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Adviser to Prime Minister on Parliamentary Affairs Dr Babar Awan on Thursday said that Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan was not only a national hero but a hero of Islam. Addressing a condolence reference, which was organized by the Lahore High Court Bar Association, he said, Dr Abdul Qadeer was a benefactor of Pakistan who made the country's defence invulnerable by making it a nuclear power. While enumerating his achievements, Babar said that Dr AQ Khan was a pride of Pakistan for his tremendous contribution to different assignments in education, research, welfare projects and national defence.

China warns of WHO probe manipulation

AGENCIES

BEIJING: China's foreign ministry has warned against what it calls possible political manipulation of a renewed probe by the World Health Organisation into the origins of the coronavirus, reports AP. Foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said China would continue to support and participate in global scientific tracing and firmly oppose any forms of political manipulation.

DG ISI appointment

'Technical issues' will be resolved

PM says "no one has a better relationship with the military than me"; Fawad hopeful decision will be made in an atmosphere of trust



Afghanistan must not be left alone: Chaudhry Fawad

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain on Thursday said that if Afghanistan was left alone at this critical juncture, terrorist and extremist groups would take advantage of the instability which would be detrimental to not only the peace and stability of the region but the entire world. Talking to the media persons after the PTI Parliamentary Party meeting chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan, he said that Afghanistan remained the focus of the meeting as the Prime Minister took the members of the parliamentary party into confidence over the Afghan situation.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has said the "technical issues" in the appointment of the director-general of the Inter-Services Intelligence (DG ISI) would soon be resolved, private media quoted citing sources. The prime minister, according to the sources, made the statement during a meeting of the PTI Parliamentary Committee.

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PIA suspends Kabul flights over 'unprofessionalism'

The route will remain suspended until "the situation becomes conducive"

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) said on Thursday it had suspended flights to Kabul over the "unprofessional attitude" of Taliban authorities. "Our flights frequently faced undue delays because of the unprofessional attitude of the Kabul aviation authorities," Abdullah Hafeez Khan, the PIA spokesman told AFP. The route will remain suspended until "the situation becomes conducive," he added. In a separate statement, the spokesperson emphasised the fact that the PIA had kept flying in and out of Kabul under "difficult circumstances" when others had ceased their operations. He was referring to the part the PIA played in the mass evacuations following the

Taliban delegation in Turkey for talks

AGENCIES

ANKARA: Turkey's foreign minister on Thursday met with a high-level delegation of Afghanistan's new Taliban rulers, officials said, the first such talks since the Taliban takeover of the country in August as U.S. forces pulled out after two decades of war. The meeting in Ankara between Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu and Amir Khan Muttaqi, the Taliban-appointed foreign minister, comes after Taliban leaders held a series of talks with the United States, 10 European nations and European Union representatives in Qatar earlier this week.

Taliban's swift take over of Kabul in August, which created a rush among those stuck in the Afghan capital to get out amid a dearth of flights. "The PIA evacuated around 3,000 people after the rapidly changing situation in Afghanistan," said

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam gives souvenirs to the Saudi Arabia Ambassador Nawaf Bin Said Al Malki and British High Commissioner to Pakistan as a token of honour after the meeting. - DNA

Pak condemns provocative statement of Indian Minister

The Spokesperson recalled that Pakistan's swift response to India's Balakot misadventure in 2019

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday strongly condemning the Indian Home Minister's reported statement threatening so-called "surgical strikes" said, it will spare no effort in "resolutely thwarting any aggressive designs". "Pakistan condemns in strongest terms the irresponsible and provocative statement reportedly made by Indian Home Minister today threatening so-called "surgical strikes" in

Continued on Page 06

India warns of "surgical strikes"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Taking cover of several false flag "terrorist activities" in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K), Indian ministers are back to business of hurling threats at Pakistan; warning it of more "surgical strikes."

Indian Union Home Minister Amit Shah, on Thursday in an address at Goa mentioned the incident at Poonch and said "there was a time talks happened, but now is the time to reciprocate." He cautioned Islamabad in his address and said that more such strikes would be invited by Pakistan

should it choose to transgress. India, in the past, undertook several false flag operations; like the Pulwama and Uri attacks and blamed Pakistan; even leading to a botched attack on Balakot. The recent spate of several low-level terrorist activities in

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HQ-9/P HIMADS inducted into Army Air defense

"High-tech systems' induction to make Pakistan's air defence impenetrable"

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa Thursday said induction of high-tech systems would make Pakistan's air defence impenetrable in the emerging threat scenario. The Army Chief visited Army Air Defence Centre Karachi, where on arrival, the COAS laid floral wreath at Shahuuda (martyrs) monument, said an ISPR news release.

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US Charge d' Affaires meets Shehbaz Sharif

Angela Eagler also met with Maryam Nawaz



ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Charge d' Affaires of the US mission in Pakistan Angela Eagler met Leader of the Opposition Mian Shehbaz Sharif and

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz. Issues of mutual interest were discussed during the luncheon, the regional situation and

Continued on Page 06

Norway attack could be 'act of terror'

KONGSBERG: Norway said Thursday a bow-and-arrow attack that killed five people appears to have been an "act of terror". Four women and a man were killed, and three other people wounded during the rampage on Wednesday in the south-eastern town of Kongsberg in Norway's deadliest attack in a decade. "The events in Kongsberg currently appear to be an act of terror, but the investigation... will determine in closer detail what the acts were motivated by," Norway's intelligence service PST said. Saeverud said the 37-year-old suspect, identified by police as Espen Andersen Brathen, had confessed during questioning. Those who were killed during the attack were all aged between 50 and 70. - APP

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Patriotic War: Azerbaijan embassy holds exhibition

A large number of people hailing from all walks of life witness the exhibition

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Embassy of Azerbaijan arranged an Exhibition dedicated to the 44 Days (27.09.2020 - 10.11.2020) of Patriotic War of Azerbaijan on Thursday at Centaurus Mall, Islamabad. A large number of people hailing from various walks of life witnessed the exhibition. Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov received the visitors and briefed them about the salient features of the patriotic war. The visitors witnessed various presentations highlighting struggle of the valiant forces of Azerbaijan who successfully defeated the aggressor Armenia. Azerbaijan, through the Patriotic War has taken back its territories which remained under the occupation of Armenia. The Patriotic War under the leadership of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed

Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, President Ilham Aliyev that ended with a victory of the brave Azerbaijani Army, opened a new era in the history of the Republic

of Azerbaijan, established international justice and changed the realities in the region. Pakistan condemns the Armenia terrorism committed against the innocent

people of Azerbaijan. Pakistan sincerely recognizes the sacrifices rendered by the valiant Azerbaijani soldiers during the 44 day long war. Azerbaijan supports Pakistan

on the issue of Indian occupied Kashmir. Pakistani leadership had congratulated President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev over the great success in the Patriotic War.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov briefs visitors about the significance of the War. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Visitors taking interest in presentations during the exhibition arranged by Azerbaijan embassy. - DNA

US to ship 2.4 million vaccine doses to Pakistan

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: The U.S. government will ship 2.4 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Pakistan on Thursday, bringing the total number of doses sent to the South Asian country to about 18.3 million, more than any other country, a White House official said. The latest shipments of the vaccine lots made by Pfizer (PFE.N) and Germany's BioNTech (22UAY.DE), are due to arrive on Saturday via the COVAX distribution program, said the official, who asked to remain unidentified. Pakistan has administered at least 93.6 million doses so far, according to data.

Akhuwat calls for helping hand to deprived segment

Dr. Amjad Saqib, Chairman of Akhuwat Foundation said that under the Akhuwat interest free loan has provided financial assistance to millions of families

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Dr. Amjad Saqib, the founder and Chairman of Akhuwat Foundation, has 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. 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 has 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 you have to idealize your goal and then chase your dream. He said that under the Akhuwat interest free loan has provided financial assistance to millions of families. This loan is distributed to 4.4 million people in mosques without any guarantee and its recovery rate is 99.9 percent. He said that the world population was touching 8 billion of the people and half of them were suffering from hunger. He said that the Akhuwat

Foundation had started the loan program on a model of Muakhaat Madina from Rs. 10,000 and today it has reached Rs. 160 billion which is the largest interest free loan program. He said that Akhuwat Microfinance was established in 2001 to support poor families through interest-free loans. By providing interest-free loans, Akhuwat mission is to empower the poor to construct their own out of poverty in a self-determined and sustained manner. These loans are primarily utilized to set up or expand enterprises so that the poor through their own hard-work and determination are able to emerge out of poverty. The generosity and compassion of people have allowed Akhuwat to support over one million poor families all over Pakistan through interest-free microfinance. Akhuwat University and colleges are being set up, first of its kind - a no fee residential university where students from all over Pakistan will be selected based on merit and will be provided free quality higher education.



Sindh Governor meets Iranian delegation

KARACHI: Governor Sindh Imran Ismail and a 9-member delegation of Parliamentary Friendship Group of Iran Thursday discussed the matters related to strengthening friendly cooperation in various fields and expanding parliamentary interaction between Pakistan and Iran. The delegation led by Ahmad Amirabadi Farahani called on the Governor Sindh at Governor's House here. Governor Sindh said that the religious, cultural and historic affinities had bound both countries in eternal bonds. He termed the visit of the delegation a step forward in furtherance of the pursuit of friendship and co-operation between two brotherly countries. - APP

FCCI to send delegations to potential markets

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) will send maximum trade delegations to different potential markets with a focused approach to enhance Pakistani exports, said Engineer Asim Munir, Chairman FCCI Standing Committee on UK, EU and South America. He said that corona has played havoc with the global economies but vulnerable economies were almost pushed to the verge of collapse. He said that shutdowns coupled with closure of airline services forced exporters to curtail their business activities. He said that due to this extraordinary situation, FCCI could

not arrange trade delegations to explore new markets or enhance their trade volume for the existing markets. He said that we are working to organize trade delegations for Spain, Sweden and South America in December this year while in February next year trade delegations would be organized for Mexico, Brazil and Colombia. He said that we will work in an organized manner and before their departure the ambassadors of the concerned countries would be contacted and requested to facilitate the delegations to make these tours productive and result oriented. Vice Chairman Fahad Sajjad, Mian Tanveer Ahmed, Haji Mohammad Idrees, Khuram Shehzad, Mohammad

Irfan, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad Zahid and Javed Akhtar were also present during this meeting. **30 criminals held, contraband seized** Police on Thursday arrested 30 criminals and recovered drugs and illegal weapons from their possession in the district during last 24 hours. According to police, raiding teams nabbed 16 drug pushers and recovered 1.7 Kg hashish and 400 litres liquor from their possession. The police also held 8 gamblers and recovered Rs. 6,610 from them. In a crackdown against illegal weapons, police arrested 6 persons and recovered 5 pistols and one rifle from them. Further investigation was underway, police said.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of General Staff of Iran armed forces Mohammad Bagheri calls on Naval Chief Admiral Amjad Khan Niazi. - DNA

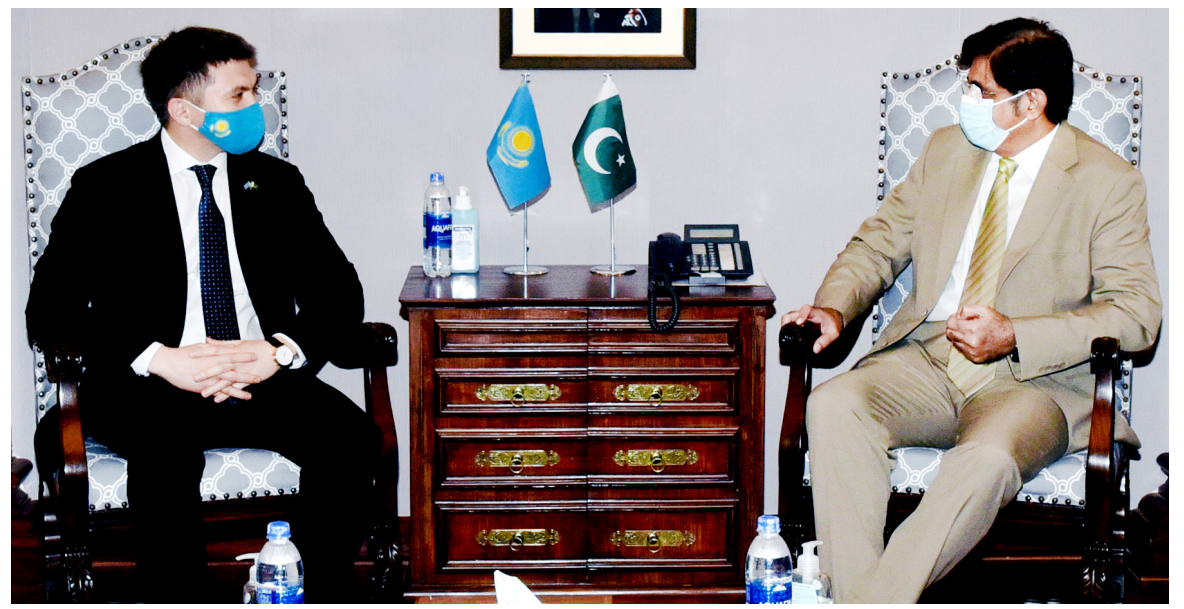
President RCCI urges for more incentives in real estate sector

DNA

RAWALPINDI: In Pakistan, the estimated size of the real estate sector would be \$300 to \$400 billion and there are more than 40 allied industries linked with Housing, Construction and Real Estate. The Prime Minister Construction package helped this sector to boom and we urged Government to introduce more investor friendly schemes and incentives. These remarks were made by Nadeem Rauf, President Rawalpindi Chamber

of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) while talking to a delegation from Housing, Builders, Dealers and Real Estate led by Sardar Tanveer Sarwar. The delegation visited congratulated the newly elected office bearers of the Chamber. On the occasion, President Nadeem Rauf, Group Leader Sohail Altaf A large number of businessmen including Senior Vice President Asim Malik, Vice President Talat Awan, executive members and representatives of various organizations belonging to the real estate sector were also present on the occasion. The delegation shared the problems

of builders, housing and dealers. Group leader Sohail Altaf said that with the housing and construction industry are of huge importance as it played a vital role in reviving country's economy. RCCI chief assured the delegation that no effort would be spared in resolving the issues of housing, builders and real estate people and all issues would be taken up with the Rawalpindi Chamber platform. Taxes should be reduced so that this sector can grow he added. We hope that the government will take our suggestions and resolve this issue.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with ambassador of Kazakhstan Yerzhan Kistafin at CM House. - DNA

CM Sindh for co-op among neighboring countries

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in separate meetings with diplomats of Qatar, Iran and Kazakhstan emphasized on the need of developing close cooperation and coordination between the neighboring countries so that peace, tranquility, trade and commerce could be promoted in the region. The chief minister while discussing investment opportunities with the Ambassador of Kazakhstan Yerzhan Kistafin said that the province of Sindh was producing 70 percent of natural gas. He added that the Sindh government has its own company which also participates in gas projects. "We would love to work with Kazakhstan state and private firms through their personal investment or on PPP-mode in gas-related projects. The ambassador assured the chief minister that he would invite investors and experts of his country to invest in Sindh in different modes. The ambassador said that his country was launching a direct flight from Pakistan to Kazakhstan to facilitate the investors and tourists to travel between the two countries easily. The chief minister and Kazakhstan Ambassador agreed to declare Karachi and a city of Kazakhstan as sister cities. It was also agreed to establish people-to-people contact by exchanging delegation between the two countries so that personal relationship, trade and cultural ties could be strengthened. - APP

STZA signs MOUs to boost FDI, technology transfer

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) has signed three Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with international companies to attract foreign direct investment, technology transfer, and job creation into newly established technology zones across Pakistan. The Chairman STZA, Amer Hashmi, and senior executives of respective companies i.e., MasterCard, Galaxy Racer, and Shorooq Partners inked the MOUs. President of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi also attended the signing ceremony which was held in Dubai as part



the Expo 2020 visit. The first MoU for Digital Country Partnership was signed with MasterCard Asia/Pacific Pte. Ltd, a global technology company with a market capitalization of over \$340 billion. This MOU includes

strengthening the digital framework in Pakistan, deploying smart city solutions, boost artificial intelligence (AI) and cybersecurity capabilities, promote Agritech, and setting up Pakistan's first cash-free technology zone.

FCCI, TMUC sign MoU to offer subsidized admission

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Establishment of quality and globally well reputed educational institutes in Faisalabad is a positive step and Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) will encourage and cooperate with such organizations in best interest of the city, said Atif Munir Sheikh President FCCI. He was addressing a function in which a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between FCCI and The Millennium Universal College (TMUC). Under this MoU, TMUC

will offer subsidized admission and tuition fee for the children of FCCI members and staff. The two organizations will also use the logos of each other in their publicity campaigns with mutual consent. Initially this MoU will be effective for a period of two years while its duration could be further enhanced. Atif Munir Sheikh said that Faisalabad is facing acute shortage of quality living, education and health facilities however the TMUC will provide quality education to the students of this city. He also pointed out some missing facilities like play grounds etc in most of the private educational institutes.

Government of Pakistan Ministry of Water Resources Pakistan Commissioner for Indus Waters Plot No.6, Attaturk Avenue, Sector G.5/1, Islamabad

POSITIONS VACANT

Government of Pakistan has approved a financing of Rs 979 Million for "Capacity Building of the Office of Pakistan Commissioner for Indus Waters". Implementation period of the project is five years which will expire on 30-06-2026. Part of financing is approved for hiring technical experts in various fields of Water resources engineering, GIS and IT. In this regard following technical experts are required on contractual/ merit basis initially for a period of two years extendable till life of the project on yearly basis upon satisfactory performance. Experts are required to assist the office of Pakistan Commissioner for Indus Waters by providing technical inputs relating to implementation of the Indus Waters Treaty, 1960.

S. No	Name of post with PPS	No of post	age limit (years)	Qualification	Salary Pak Rs. * (All inclusive, Lump-sum package)	Minimum Relevant Experience Required (years)
1	Senior Hydrologist (PPS-10)	01	50	Msc Civil Engineering/ Water Resource Engg/Hydrology, duly registered with PEC	220,000	10
2	Senior GIS Analyst (PPS-10)	01	50	MS degree in GIS	220,000	10
3	Senior MIS /Network Administrator (PPS 10)	01	50	16 year Education in relevant field	220,000	10
4	Junior Engineer (Hydraulic/structures) (PPS 9)	01	45	Bsc Civil Engg, duly registered with PEC	150,000	5
5	Lawyer (PPS 10)	01	45	BS hons / LL.M	150,000	10
6	Junior Engineer (Sedimentation) (PPS-9)	01	45	Bsc/ Msc Civil Engg./ Water Resource Engg. duly registered with PEC	150,000	5
7	Junior Hydrologist (PPS-9)	01	45	--do--	150,000	5
8	Junior Environmentalist PPS-9	01	45	Bsc/ Msc Environmental Engg. duly registered with PEC	150,000	5
9	Junior Hydropower Engineer (PP-9)	01	45	Bsc/ Msc Hydropower Engg. duly registered with PEC	150,000	5
10	Assistant Director (IT) (PPS-9)	01	45	Bsc IT	150,000	5

*Five percent annual increment.

- Maximum age limit shall be calculated from the closing date of the advertisement.
- Applications needs to be directly filled online on National Job Portal (njp.gov.pk).
- Last date to apply is after 15 days from the publication of this advertisement.
- Terms of Reference for the technical experts are also available on Ministry of Water Resources website (mowr.gov.pk).
- Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview.
- No TA/DA will be admissible for interview.
- The candidates providing unsubstantiated and/or incorrect information will be liable to legal action or disqualification.
- Applicants already serving in public sector must apply through proper channel and enclose departmental NOC/ experience certificate with the application.
- The competent Authority has the right to annul the process of recruitment Partially or as a whole at any time without assigning any reason.
- If a candidate intends to apply for more than one post, separate application for each post shall be required to be submitted.

(Adnan Muhammad)
Deputy Commissioner for Indus Waters
Fourth Floor, Wapda building (Ex urdu Univeristy),
Khayaban-e-Suharwardy
G-7/1 Islamabad.
Ph: 051-9244674

PID (I) No. 2299/21

Dr Faisal appreciates anti dengue efforts

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Dr. Faisal Sultan appreciated the efforts of dengue control team for curbing spread of the disease in the federal capital. In a tweet, Dr Faisal said the ministry was making sincere efforts to protect citizens from dengue virus and its work of his team in this regard was appreciable. Meanwhile, health experts had advised the citizens to take special preventive measures to protect them from the dengue virus in wake of increasing number of cases. They said citizens should properly dispose of solid waste and stop water storage practices to prevent any access to egg-laying mosquitoes. They said mosquitoes breed primarily in containers like earthenware jars, metal drums and concrete cisterns used for domestic water storage, discarded plastic food containers, used automobile tyres and other items which could store rainwater. Dr Wasim Khawaja from the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) said dengue was a mosquito-borne infection, which had now become a major public health concern. He said dengue fever was a severe, flu-like illness that affected infants, young children and adults. He added the spread of dengue was attributed to expanding geographic distribution of the four dengue viruses and of their mosquito vectors, the most important of which was the predominantly urban species Aedes aegypti.

EPA grants conditional NOC to SCEHS

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) on Thursday granted a conditional no objection certificate (NOC) to Supreme Court Employees Cooperative Housing Society to be developed in Mouza Barkat and Naugazi, sector G-17/1-2 of federal capital. A public hearing of the housing project was held on September 16, after a careful review of the society's Environmental Impact Assessment Report, which was earlier submitted to Pak-EPA, said a news release. The housing scheme was aimed to provide sustainable housing facilities to employees of Supreme Court, and to the local population as well. With its continuous efforts, Pak-EPA strived to ensure that no project commenced construction in Islamabad Capital Territory without an environmental approval from the agency. - APP

71 new Covid cases reported in capital

DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) on Thursday said that 71 new cases of Coronavirus were reported from the federal capital during the last 24 hours. According to an official of NCOC, as many as 40 cases were reported on Wednesday while 48 cases were reported on Tuesday. He said so far 106,312 cases were reported from the federal capital while 935 deaths were reported from Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). He added 103,632 patients had recovered completely. Commenting on the present Corona situation across the country, an official of the Ministry of National Health Services said that the government had taken appropriate measures and tightened restrictions to curb the COVID-19 disease. He said the government was closely monitoring this wave and it might lock down more areas if other interventions did not work in the next few days. He said the government had also adopted other measures to ensure that standard operating procedures (SOPs) were being followed in locked-down areas that had a high positivity ratio.

Sanjrani calls for increasing trade quantum with Korea

Sanjrani underscored that the current bilateral trade of US\$1.122 billion between the two countries was not commensurate to the true potential and stressed the need for Proactive measures to increase its quantum

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has accentuated the need to further strengthen bilateral relations between Pakistan and South Korea in diverse fields including Trade and Economy. Talking to Korean Ambassador, Mr. Suh Sangpyo, who called on Sadiq Sanjrani here at Parliament House on Thursday, the Chairman said that Pakistan cherishes its relationship with the Republic of Korea and hold the Republic of Korea in high esteem. Sanjrani comprehended Korea's remarkable journey on a path of peace, democracy and prosperity. During the meeting, views were also exchanged on bilateral relations, matters of mutual interest and the overall regional situation. While lauding Korea's steadfast growth, the Chairman remarked that within a short span of a few decades, it has transformed itself from a developing country into a leading technologically advanced economy. Discussing the economic ties, Sanjrani underlined that economic relation between the two countries is the bedrock of the bilateral relationship. In the last two years, Korean companies have increased their footprints and market share in Pakistan, he added. Sanjrani underscored that the current bilateral trade of US\$1.122 billion between the two countries was not



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani exchanging views with South Korean ambassador Suh Sangpyo. - DNA

commensurate to the true potential and stressed the need for Proactive measures to increase its quantum. A Free Trade Agreement will bring benefits to both countries, Sanjrani underlined. Highlighting the importance of CPEC,

Sanjrani stressed that Korean multinational companies should also participate in the CPEC projects through investment and also benefit from investing in the Special Economic Zones for enhanced regional connectivity. "Pakistan is closely linked

with landlocked Afghanistan and the Central Asian Republics. It is thus a key investment destination for countries around the world. Korean investors should also benefit from investment-friendly opportunities in Pakistan", he emphasized. During the meeting, Sanjrani appreciated the assistance and cooperation extended by the EXIM Bank of South Korea in initiating work on the construction of establishing the Information Technology Park at a cost of US\$ 88.80 million in Islamabad. Keeping in view the recent evolving situation in Afghanistan, Sanjrani apprised the visiting dignitary that Pakistan has safely evacuated over 16000 foreign nationals through Pakistan, adding that Pakistan has also safely airlifted 392 Korean and Afghan nationals from Kabul, on the request of the Republic of Korea. "We are desirous of expanding and deepening trade and investment ties with Korea", sanjrani said. Both sides stressed the need to further enhance Parliamentary relations between the two countries through exchanges between Parliamentary Friendship Groups to bring together Parliaments of the two countries closer. Sanjrani also commended Korea's efforts for the preservation and restoration of Gandhara civilization in Pakistan. Both sides also discussed the recent launching of the Samsung Mobile Manufacturing Unit in Pakistan.

Realtors call for reducing construction cost

A delegation of Islamabad Estate Agents Association visited ICCI

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), said that the construction industry was playing a key role in the economic development of the country besides providing jobs to plenty of people, which was commendable. However, he said that the rising oil, electricity & gas prices and falling value of rupee have pushed up the prices of cement, steel and other construction materials that would affect the construction activities and stall the growth of the construction industry. In this scenario, the dream of the common man to build his own house would never materialize. Therefore, he stressed that the govern-

ment should take urgent measures to bring down the construction cost to facilitate the smooth growth of construction activities. He said this while addressing a delegation of the Islamabad Estate Agents Association (IEAA) that visited ICCI led by its President Sardar Tahir Mahmood. Musarat Ijaz Khan Chairman Federation of Realtors Pakistan, Chaudhry Zahid Rafique Secretary General IEAA, Tahir Abbasi Patron in Chief, Nawaz Basra, Rana Qaiser, Rana Sarwar, Yasin Anjum, Abdul Basit, Zulqarnain Abbasi and others were in the delegation Mian Akram Farid Chairman Founder Group, Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President and Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI were also present on the occasion.

ICCI President emphasized that the government should focus on reducing the energy cost to save the construction and other industries from further problems. He assured that ICCI would extend cooperation to the Association in its efforts to address the problems of the construction sector's business community. Speaking at the occasion, Sardar Tahir Mahmood, President, Islamabad Estate Agents Association (IEAA), said that due to the PM's construction package, the construction activities have witnessed significant boost improving the business of all allied industries. However, he said that with the rise in electricity, gas & oil prices and depreciation of rupee, the prices of construction materials were on the rise, which would

affect this sector badly. He stressed that the government should pay urgent attention to solve this problem. He vowed that the construction industry would extend all possible cooperation in making the PM's housing program successful. Founder Group Chairman Mian Akram Farid thanked the IEAA delegation for visiting ICCI. He said that the best way for Pakistan to get rid of debts and solve the problems of the economy was to focus on promoting industrial activities and exports. He stressed that the government should provide incentives to other industries on the pattern of construction package that would help in promoting industrialization and exports paving the way for the economy to achieve sustainable growth.

Rashid directs to devise strategy to curb dengue

RAWALPINDI: Minister for Interior Sheikh Rashid Ahmed on Thursday directed the officials concerned to devise an effective strategy to deal with the mounting number of dengue cases in the district. During his visit to Holy Family Hospital (HFH), he asked the hospital administration to launch a public awareness drive to prevent the deadly disease. "Why can't dengue be controlled if we can defeat the corona," he questioned. Rashid directed the HFH management to make all efforts to provide the best treatment to the patients reaching the hospital. On occasion, Vice-Chancellor Rawalpindi Medical University (RMU) Dr Muhammad Umer briefed the minister that around 886 dengue positive cases had been brought to the HFH since January of this year, out of which 839 were discharged after recovery. He briefed that 87 dengue patients were admitted to the hospital, including seven children, while results of 39 patients were in a critical state while 31 more confirmed cases surfaced at the hospital during the last 24 hours. The HFH had designated 150 beds for dengue patients while the number of beds would be increased in case of any emergency, the VC informed. "Maximum arrangements for the handling of dengue ever patients has been made; besides all possible preventive measures are in place to meet any eventuality," he said. Earlier, the minister communicated with dengue-affected patients and probed about treatment and other facilities provided to them at the hospital. Medical Superintendent HFH Dr Shazia and other health officials were present on occasion. - DNA

Rotary Club hosts moot on hearing loss



ARIJ GHAZNAVI

ISLAMABAD: A meeting on hearing loss and how it impacts a life was organized by the Rotary Club of Islamabad Metropolitan organized Monday at Mar-

riott Hotel Islamabad. Rotary, District Governor Elect, Mr Adnan Saboor Rohaila graced the occasion. President RCIM Farkhanda JS Andrabi presided the meeting by welcoming members and the guests. The guest speakers from

Shifa international hospital, Dr Shayan Ansari, ENT Consultant, Dr Syed Sajjad Ahmed, Consultant Audiologist and Dr Azeem Aslam, ENT Consultant spoke on hearing loss in children and their Cochlear Implant success story for the three-

year-old child. They also talked about how hearing loss in older people can lead to memory loss and followed by an interesting Q & A session. It was well attended by RCIM members, guests and fellow Rotarians from other Rotary clubs.

QAU celebrates Eid Milad-un-Nabi

ISLAMABAD: Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU) Thursday organized an event in connection with the celebrations of Eid Milad-un-Nabi. The students from different departments of the university praised Sarwar-e-Konain Muhammad Mustafa Peace Be Upon Him and presented him Naat gifts. QAU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Muhammad Ali was the special guest of the occasion. Addressing the function, he underlined the need to study and follow the Sirat of Holy Prophet Peace Be Upon Him besides an understanding of the Qur'an. Only by following the life of the Prophet Peace Be Upon Him a society can develop. He said we should be aware of the liking and disliking of the Holy Prophet Peace Be Upon Him. From Hayat-e-Taiba of the Holy Prophet Peace Be Upon Him, we can aware from the rights of Allah and human rights as well as the rights of minorities, children and women. He said one should be in search of knowledge and pray, "O Allah! Increase my knowledge." He further said Allah and his Beloved Prophet Peace Be Upon Him liked the gratitude; therefore we should be thankful for every blessing. On this occasion, Prof Dr Muhammad Ali appreciated Sana Khan-e-Mustafa and the speakers and thanked and congratulated the organizers of the event. Student Affairs Director Dr Maryam Anis also thanked the organizers and participants of the event. The event was attended by a large number of teachers and students. - DNA

Pak-Korea inks MoU to preserve Gandhara Heritage

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: South Korea and Pakistan Sign MoU for the Preservation and Promotion of Gandhara Buddhist Heritage. The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, H.E. Mr. Suh Sangpyo met with the Secretary of the National Heritage and Cultural Division of Pakistan, Mr. Asif Hyder Shah and both sides extended their felicitations on the recent signing of a significant MoU aimed at the preservation and promotion of the rich Gandhara Buddhist Heritage of Pakistan between the Cultural Heritage Authorities of both countries. The Ambassador indicated that within the framework of the MoU, the focus will be on the preservation of the rich Buddhist Heritage of Pakistan by providing capacity building opportunities and enhancing people to people exchanges

for those working in this field and also on the promotion of Buddhist Tourism from Korea to Pakistan as it was initially discussed during the

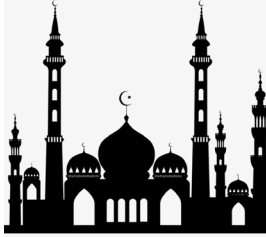
visit of the President of Jogye Order in 2019. The Ambassador further added that Korea will be granting \$4 million under this agreement.

Mr. Asif thanked the Ambassador and the Cultural Heritage Administration of Korea for its tireless support to the preservation of Buddhist

Heritage of Pakistan and assured that the Pakistani side will accelerate their efforts to achieve the desired outcomes of the MoU.



SERVICES



Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	04:49 am
Zohr.....	11:54 am
Asr.....	03:56 pm
Maghrib.....	05:35 pm
Isha.....	06:58 pm



Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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Emergency

Rescue (Police).....	15
Bomb Disposal.....	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.....	1122 & Rescue Services.4451122
Motorway Police.....	9266044
Motorway Police.....	9270601-20
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....	9222596
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WASA Rawalpindi.....	5555864
CAA.....	9281092



Hospitals

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



Departments

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



Complaints

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



Islamabad Metropolitan

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



Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....	0331-5022125
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Briefs

CDA to shift one-window at facilitation centre

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) will shift its one-window operations at citizens' facilitation centre, located at sector G-7/2, aimed at providing different facilities to the federal capital residents under one roof.

The new one window would be embraced with modern technology to save public time and services of various departments including state management one, two, building control section one, two and three, information technology, revenue and bank would be available to the citizens at one place, said director one-window Khizer Satti.

Talking to APP on Thursday, he said the basement work on the under construction building has been completed in which all the records would be kept, while the ground floor work has entered into the final stages. It is expected that the new one window would be operational by November 15 this year, he added.

A state-of-the-art digitized system was being introduced under which closed-circuit television cameras would be installed to secure the files and other records, while the entry of non authorized person would be completely banned. The entry of authorized person was only possible after biometric verification. — APP

Govt using tech to ensure transparency

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Food Security Jamshed Cheema Thursday said that government was taking revolutionary steps to modernize agriculture sector with 100% farmers to be benefited under Kissan card distribution programme to get subsidies.

Talking to PTV news, he said distribution of Kissan cards would be expedited in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by setting up special cells, adding that the PC-1 has been approved for the province of Balochistan. Iqbal Cheema said that the distribution of Kissan cards would be ensured without any discrimination across Punjab before the month of April next year.

He said that farmers would get clean loans and would be able to get the details of measurement of their land. While responding to a query, he shed light on other mega projects saying to compensate losses of farmers due to natural calamity and locust infestations, Punjab government has been extending its crop insurance scheme in next 4 district of Punjab, adding, Pak Pattan, Gujranwala, Sheikhpura and Hafizabad would be the next where 70% of crops would be insured. — APP

Over 29mn Pakistanis using tobacco: SPARC

ISLAMABAD: Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) organized an online press briefing to discuss poverty and tobacco consumption in Pakistan.

While, speaking of affordability and easy access to tobacco, Country Head, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids Pakistan, Malik Imran Ahmed, told media that the number of smokers has reached up to 29 million in Pakistan, and there is a high prevalence of smoking in children, daily 1200 children start smoking that includes 6.6% of girls who are using tobacco products due to its affordability and easy access. Laidback access to and the truncated prices of cigarettes and other tobacco products is a key reason why their use is so prevalent in the country. Government can cater to affordability by imposing taxes on tobacco, he said. Program Manager, Khalil Ahmed SPARC told media about the recommendation of WHO that Govt must raise Federal Excise Duty taxes to rupee 30 per packet to generate revenue. Raising tobacco taxes will prevent youth in Pakistan from starting to use tobacco and reduce use among those who have already started. — APP

Women across the world subject to discrimination

Sharmeela said that although there is no country that has reached gender equality at this moment of time in the world, but we have heard stories of women whose success was spectacular in all spheres of life

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The 2nd Day of 14th Annual Rural Women Conference began with the dynamic presence and speech by Sharmeela Rasool, Country Representative UN Women Pakistan who enlightening the participants with her experience said that women needed to believe in themselves to do wonders in the world.

Sharmeela Rasool, Country Representative UN Women Pakistan was addressing during the 2nd day of 3-day Annual Rural Women Conference organized by PODA-Pakistan in LokVirsa, Islamabad. The 3-Day conference started (Wednesday 13th October) and it will culminate on a comprehensive set of resolutions tomorrow to celebrate International Rural Women Day that is observed every year on 15th of October. The resolutions will be passed with consensus as a shared document on which the rural women leaders will work back home throughout the year at grassroots level in four provinces and in the regions of AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan. The 2nd Day of the conference has been marked by the presence of 300 plus rural women leaders including men. More than 100 districts of the country have been represented in the conference.

She said that although there is no country that has reached gender equality at this moment of time in the world, but we have heard stories of women whose success was spectacular in all spheres of life. We had stories of women who were empowered and confident enough to set the path for the desired change to uplift women's status, she added.

"Women across the world are subject to discrimination and violence", said Sharmeela Rasool adding that "for me there are three key elements which can serve a foundation to achieve success, including awareness about one's rights and system. But, being alert and aware of one's rights and system is not enough; one (you) needs to be engaged fully with all her/his energies and potential while believing in their selves that is the key to success, UN Women Representative said addressing to the audience in a convincing manner.

Ms. Baseerat Khan, Member Provincial Assembly, Khyber District, KP said that she believed that a day would come when there would be woman behind the success of another women. Women needed to be united across regions in the country to protect their rights in a mindful way, she added.

"Out of 29 percent women bank account holders, only 18 percent are active against 90 percent of men account holders", said Ms. Faiqa Naseem, Deputy Director, State Bank of Pakistan during the proceedings of 2nd day of 14th Annual Rural Women Conference. Faiqa Naseem said that women are far behind in financial literacy as compared to men for which the State Bank of Pakistan has been taking steps to see things from gender lens to instill gender diversity in financial institutions. Our step for banking on equality will remove barriers to women's access to banking



and financial services. This will be a breakthrough in the banking system of the country to overhaul from conceptual steps to practical implementation. To own a bank account is a woman's human right for which we are hoping that on the basis of new thinking, we'll be able to boost women-transaction bank accounts, she added. "We are also taking steps to be responsive to differently-abled persons' needs for example visually-impaired persons", she added. Rani Shamimkharal a rural woman leader from Nankana Sahib sang

sufi poetry. Sadaf Naz, Director, Her Groundtold story of her inspirational startup focused on the provision of sanitary pads for women.

The rural women leaders who addressed the audience and shared stories of their resilience included Bushra Tabasum, Director SEEP and Tehsil Councilor from Muzaffarabad, AJK, Shahid-irshad, Director DAWN, Quetta from Balochistan, Ms. Parveen Jan, Entrepreneur, Gilgit from Gilgit-Baltistan, Leila Rehman, Gender Desk Officer, Mohmand from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Irshad Safdar, Director Itedhad Foundation, Kasur from Punjab and Ms. Azra Memon, Director Nari Development Organization, Dadu, Sindh. Humalirshad woman leader in wheelchair pleaded the policymaker to bring reforms in banking sector to respond to the needs of

persons-with-disabilities. "Due to non-existence of ramps, my access to all serves is impossible", she added.

Fareeha Ammar, representing UN Women Pakistan moderated the group discussion and invited the women participants to identify key hurdles to achieve their tasks. Fareeha Ammar said that UN Women is working on a limited scale with persons-with-disabilities in Sindh that can be scaled up afterwards. Ms. Nuzhat Shirin, Chairperson, Sindh Commission on the Status of Women applauded the rural women for their untiring efforts to bring change in women's status in the country. She also briefed the audience about the project of water management in which the provincial government is all set to include women at all levels.

World Bank acknowledges progress on structural reforms

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank (WB) Thursday acknowledged that a lot of progress had been made on implementation of structural reforms in various sectors by Pakistan, stressing that there was need to keep up the momentum to achieve the projected growth targets.

According to press statement received here from the Embassy of Pakistan in United States, the acknowledgment was made during a meeting of Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Shaukat Tarin with Vice President World Bank, South Asian Region Hartwig Schafer along with his team at Embassy of Pakistan, Washington DC.

In his remarks, the Finance Minister reiterated that the government was fully committed to implementing structural reforms, protecting social spending and boosting social safety nets in order to protect the vulnerable segments of the society.

He appreciated the pivotal role being played by the World Bank in strengthening governance and service delivery through institutional reforms in Pakistan over the years. Among others, Federal Minister for Energy, Mohammad Hammad Azhar, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Division Omar Ayub Khan along with their teams joined the meeting virtually. Governor State Bank of Pakistan Reza Baqir, Ambassador Asad Majeed Khan, Secretary Finance Division and senior officials also participated in the meeting, the statement added. — APP

Khokhar appreciates OGRA for crackdown

ISLAMABAD: Liquefied Petroleum Gas Distributors Association (LPGDA) Chairman Irfan Khokhar has appreciated OGRA for launching an effective crackdown against the factories producing illegal and substandard LPG cylinders, bowsers and other equipment.

Talking to APP, he said, the OGRA team in collaboration with district management had recently seized around 10 substandard bowsers from a factory operating at the Lahore Ring road. He termed the operation 'historic' and 'successful' as the unearthing of such illegal factories were putting life and property of the public at risk for their monetary gains.

Khokhar said the sealed factory was operating without the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) licence and other requirements. He said the LPG industry was flourishing in the country due to the remedial measures taken by the incumbent government, under the visionary leadership of PM Imran Khan.

According to an official document available with APP, Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) issued around 36 licences, during a nine-month period from July-March 2021, aimed at promoting the LPG sector and ensuring the provision of environment-friendly fuel across the country especially in far-flung areas at controlled rates throughout the year. — APP

ETO establishes counters for overseas

ISLAMABAD: Excise and Taxation Office (ETO) had setup dedicated counters for overseas Pakistanis to facilitate them in registration and transfer of vehicles process.

The special counters were established following the Prime Minister's vision to facilitate the expats at maximum as they had always been a major pillar towards the country's economic growth through their contributions of billions of dollars, said director excise Bilal Azam on Thursday. ETO would provide services through one-window operations in all matters pertaining to motor vehicle registration, transfer of ownership and other miscellaneous activities related to vehicles, he told APP. "No irrelevant person except overseas would be entertained at these windows as the counters were specified only for expats," he explained. — APP



ISLAMABAD: UN Women team and German ambassador visited the Gender Protection Unit of ICT Police to discuss existing services along with identifying avenues for scaling up service delivery on matters related to Gender Based Violence. — DNA

AIOU closes admissions for autumn on Oct 18

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University is closing admissions for the educational programs offered in the second phase of autumn 2021 semester on October 18. These programs include BA General (Associate Degree in Arts), B Com (Associate Degree in Commerce), BBA, 2-Year Associate Degree in Education, BS (ODL Mode) programs in ten disciplines, 1-Year Post Graduate Diploma Programs as well as 1.5/ 2.5/ 4-Year B Ed programs are

also included. Prospectuses and admission application forms for all these programs are available online on the university website and fresh and continuing students can apply online till October 18, 2021. Moreover, university has also offered admissions in various educational programs for overseas Pakistanis as well as international students residing in any country of the world so that they may get themselves enrolled in any program of their choice to enhance their educational qualification.

Experts urge protection of biodiversity for development

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Challenges to biodiversity are a reality and qualify as one of the foremost areas of attention under the current government, said Special Advisor to Prime Minister on Youth Affairs Usman Dar in his statement to the Sustainable Development Festival - ASviS 2021 gathering held at the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS). He added that policies such as tree plantation drives and collaborations involving an active role of the Ministry of Climate Change clearly reflected the resolve and com-

mitment of the Government of Pakistan to mitigate the hurdles to sustainable development which compromised Pakistan's biodiversity. Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan, Andreas Ferrarese appreciated the role played by all the partner institutions in holding the ASviS 2021 on the subject of biodiversity and circular economy in Pakistan. He expressed the collective resolve of the Italian and Pakistani governments to preserve biodiversity and engaging in development mechanisms that are both economically viable and easy on environment. He said that sustain-

able development was the new normal worldwide and that it was the collective responsibility of government institutions, private sector organisations, universities, and youth to engage in effective advocacy drives that emphasised the significance of biodiversity. FAO Representative to Pakistan Ms Florence Marie Rolle argued that several agricultural diseases were a result of the unreasonable human activities which, when coupled with climate change, resulted in an unimaginable depletion of biodiversity. She added that loss of and a challenge to biological diversity

was a challenge to human community itself. Hence, she argued, it was important to figure out means of production that did not result in environmental degradation in any way. Member of the British High Commission's PreCOP-26 Team Ms Sobiah Becker stressed that massive resource exhaustion needed to be checked before it could cause irreparable damage to the ecosystem. She added that the youth needed to act a bridge between the policy makers and the locals if a mutually benefiting policy on biodiversity was to be attained.

Trade and industry needs to be promoted in Jhelum

He expressed these views today on his visit to Jhelum Chamber of Commerce and Industry along with Chief Coordinator Malik Sohail Hussain and Group Leader of Chakwal Chamber Qazi Muhammad Akbar

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General, United Business Group Pakistan, said that Jhelum is a land of martyrs and veterans there is a need to promote trade and industries in Jhelum on urgent basis and The new leadership of the Jhelum Chamber of Commerce and Industry will move Jhelum forward with new determination and enthusiasm in terms of industry and trade. He expressed these views today on his visit to Jhelum Chamber of Commerce and Industry along with Chief Coordinator Malik Sohail Hussain and Group Leader of Chakwal Chamber Qazi Muhammad Akbar.

The purpose of a visit was to congratulate the newly elect-



ed bearers of Jhelum Chamber President Omar Mushtaq

Barghat, Senior Vice President Azhar Iqbal Dar, Vice President

Fahad Anwar. Zafar Bakhtawari further said that UBG Patron

Chief SM Munir, Chairman Iftikhar Ali Malik, President Zubair Tufail and other officials have sent congratulatory messages to the Jhelum Chamber officials as well as admired the work of the Group Leader of the Jhelum Chamber and Vice President of FPCCI Raja Anwar. under his leadership Jhelum Chamber is moving forward unitedly. Speaking on the occasion, Raja Anwar said that all the members of Jhelum are with UBG and insha-Allah they will play their role for the success of UBG in the next elections. Qazi Muhammad Akbar Malik Sohail Hussain, Jhelum Chamber President Omar Mushtaq Barghat, Dr Kausar Naheed, Naem Iqbal Chishti, Irfan Latif Qureshi, Ishaq Dar and others also addressed the function.

Unnecessary hostility

ADANI Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited, an India-based port infrastructure company, operates approximately 10 ports/terminals spread across over five states of India, including Gujarat, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Odisha. However, beginning from November 15, all Adani ports will no longer handle the export and import of container cargoes from Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Despite Adani Ports, which is part of the Adani Group conglomerate, not giving an official reason for this action, this move is quite apparently political. This demonstrates the reality that even private interests, like businesses, are subject to the games of states and diplomatic politics. This move should be taken as a hostile step on behalf of the Indian government towards international trade. It must also be noted that though the suspension of operations from containers cargoes from these countries occurred after Indian officials allegedly seized nearly three tonnes of heroin originating from Afghanistan worth an estimated 2.65 billion from two containers at western Gujarat's Mundra Port, Adani Ports went on to suspend operations from cargo containers from not just Afghanistan, where the objectionable material was being sent from, but also penalised containers from Iran and Pakistan as well. This is a blatant attempt to lump Pakistan and Iran with Afghanistan, presumably as a way to paint Pakistan as a troublemaker to the US and western powers. However, this move will only end up backfiring. In matters such as trade, unnecessary shots and fights are counterproductive, especially for a country like India which is already known for stirring up trouble unprompted in the region. This shows India's trust deficit with Iran as well and constitutes unnecessarily hostile behaviour towards Iran, which can only push Pakistan and Iran together. With engagement with Tehran on both defence and parliamentary levels this week, we must look to step up the relationship.

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Tax filings

AS taxpayers across the country voiced their struggles in filing income tax returns, the government decided to extend the deadline by 15 days. Meanwhile, faults and technical issues with the IRIS portal were being resolved. According to FBR reports, over 2.2 million people have now filed their income tax returns and the government has made a revenue of Rs41.895 billion. This is great news as it points towards the public fulfilling their duties to the state and entails that some burden will be alleviated off of the economy. However, this is by no means a reflection of the potential we have. This is a very small portion of our 220 million population, so the road ahead is long.

For any system to operate smoothly, its mechanisms of operations must be flawless. Keeping in mind that filing income tax returns is an extensive process that millions of people have to go through, it is vital that software like IRIS works effortlessly. The FBR's portal cannot crash as it did 2 weeks ago as it is the only tax collection body in the country. The government must enhance the capacity of the IT system to ensure that such incidences do not occur entirely.

Having said that, IRIS is still a relatively good software to cater to the needs of the people all while being an effective tool to verify tax amounts, payments, delays and history. Its estimates ensure that those filing their returns are not underpaying through tax avoidance of any kind. Furthermore, it eliminates any human error that may exist in taxpayers compiling data on their own.

There is still a long way to go; as the number of taxpayers increases, there must be efforts directed towards bringing more members of the population under the tax bracket. This is not an accurate indicator of the amount of revenue that the government can generate through taxes, but is a good way for the system to be more transparent and accessible for the average citizen.

Dhaka is risking disaster with Rohingya relocation

Dr. Azeem Ibrahim

There are good reasons to move people on from Cox's Bazar. The geography of the place can be treacherous, with frequent landslides; the "infrastructure" that emerged in the camps as people flooded in is of poor quality and dangerous; and the informal economy and criminal elements that have already taken root in the huge camp are posing a threat to both refugees and nearby Bangladeshi communities

BANGLADESH agreed a new deal with the UN early this month that will allow Dhaka to move another 81,000 Rohingya refugees from Cox's Bazar, near the border with Myanmar, to Bhashan Char, a silt island farther north in the Bay of Bengal. This will bring the total number of refugees on the island to 100,000 by the end of February, close to 10 percent of the entire Rohingya population previously gathered in Cox's Bazar.

This is significant for a number of reasons. The first is that the island remains a source of concern for international humanitarian observers because of its precariousness. Bhashan Char is made of silt and only emerged from the bay in 2006 – not exactly the most reassuring geographical feature in terms of permanence. For the island to be a long-term shelter, Bangladesh will have to invest in flood defenses and coastal management for the foreseeable future.

Then there is the absence of fresh water sources. And even if agriculture is possible, it will never be able to sustain a population of thousands, let alone hundreds of thousands. In other words, all the refugees in Bhashan Char will be dependent on Dhaka for food, water and infrastructure support indefinitely.

The second reason is that the ramping up of relocations from Cox's Bazar indicates that Bangladesh is beginning to acknowledge that a return of the refugees to Myanmar is unlikely in the foreseeable future. Far from improving, the situation in their homeland continues to deteriorate in the wake of the military coup in February, and the country continues to inch closer to civil war. Myanmar's military dictatorship is hardly going to welcome the Rohingya back with open arms after having spent the past five years trying to purge them from the country altogether.

Third, the insistence on Bhashan Char as a relocation site suggests that Bangladesh risks making profound strategic mistakes in its efforts to accommodate the Rohingya as a more permanent part of their country. For one, the island will be close to absolute capacity with the plan to increase numbers

there to 100,000. That means the plan must be to break up the Rohingya community into smaller segments as they are relocated.

There are good reasons to move people on from Cox's Bazar. The geography of the place can be treacherous, with frequent landslides; the "infrastructure" that emerged in the camps as people flooded in is of poor quality and dangerous; and the informal economy and criminal elements that have already taken root in the huge camp are posing a threat to both refugees and nearby Bangladeshi communities.

However, separating the Rohingya community into small segments, and moving them to remote and utterly dependent islands, with basically zero likelihood that these new communities will ever become economically self-sustaining, essentially ensures that the "Rohingya issue" will never be resolved in the domestic politics of Bangladesh. The Rohingya will remain a community apart. Invariably seen as a drain on public resources, they will become the subject of debate about how much the public should support them economically. This will encourage resentment on both sides, with potentially catastrophic consequences for all involved.

The situation remains fluid. If pro-democracy forces in Myanmar eventually manage to assert control over the country, the Rohingya's prospects of returning home will become much brighter. But unless this best-case scenario occurs, the decisions that Bangladesh is making for the Rohingya may well lead to a new humanitarian disaster. That is entirely avoidable, but the direction of travel is becoming increasingly concerning.

— Courtesy Arab News

The legacy of Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, Pakistan's most famous citizen

Syed Talat Hussain

Publicly, his popularity was unparalleled as he inaugurated hundreds of development projects and walked the red carpet in thousands of gatherings organised in his honour or where he was invited to speak to inspire the country's young to beat heavy odds to achieve national goals

LAST week, arguably one of Pakistan's most prominent citizens, Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan (A Q Khan) passed away. He is credited with building and expanding the country's formidable nuclear capability and missile programmes. Even though those in his profession generally remain off radar, shorn of public and media publicity, Dr Khan was always in the middle of it. Also his life's many twists and turns did not allow him to remain understated. From a national hero who loomed larger than life beyond his contributions to Pakistan's defence industry, the bird-feeding, animal-loving, soft-spoken migrant from Bhopal, India, had to suffer distresses of confinement for a while. His last two decades were mostly a battle

against his ailments and the allegations that he was involved in violating international regulatory regimes that dealt with the safety of nuclear material and technology. Khan never treated these allegations seriously and dismissed them out of hand as sensational slander by his detractors, who were, in his words, using him to malign Pakistan. In his glory days, that lasted a full generation and half, he was the go-to guy when it came to advice on all matters pertaining to nuclear deterrence and even national direction. Treated with utmost respect and honour by civilian authorities and military rulers alike, his word carried finality on sensitive issues that very few could object to or find exception with.

Publicly, his popularity was unparalleled as he inaugurated hundreds of development projects and walked the red carpet in thousands of gatherings organised in his honour or where he was invited to speak to inspire the country's young to beat heavy odds to achieve national goals. A family man who had to spend long years without the comfort of a regular life, his reach was global, in both controversy and in networking to keep Pakistan's nuclear muscle strong and functional. Khan had a big team of young followers who copied his ways and got integrated into a system that is now regarded as Pakistan most precious line of defence. His competitors and critics were not in dearth either and at home and abroad he evoked passionate opposition that tried to paint him in controversial colours, accusing him of copying nuclear designs and developing a personality cult. That never deterred the man from his path nor distracted from his

ways and views in which he was stone-set, like most high achievers always are. In his free years, during which this scribe interviewed and met him many times, he would laugh off the criticism with polished sarcasm. "I work while others sulk", he would often say closing the conversation about charges that were levelled against him, never explaining, never defending. Clearly, he enjoyed his highs.

And loathed the lows. Under General Pervez Musharraf's government, Khan found himself isolated from public life. He fought a long, and largely unsuccessful battle, for freedom of movement and complained about ungrateful friends who had let him down. Even one of his last letters that is circulating on the social media speaks of the apathy of authorities who did not care much during his medical condition. That might sound like cynical but Dr Khan was never known for not speaking his mind, a trait that catapulted him to dizzying heights of fame as well as landed him in the middle of controversies. We don't know what and how he felt and thought during the years he was bereft of limelight that made him a national icon. Perhaps he has left behind his memoirs that might get published after his death. If it is true, many would not be surprised. Dr Khan knew how to keep secrets and how to reveal them for maximum impact. Only time will tell. For now his death is being mourned nationally. And after his state funeral, the flood of condolences messages by the who's who of Pakistan's power elite, it has become clear that the final official verdict of Pakistan decorates him as a hero to be revered.

— Courtesy Gulf News

US military presence in the Middle East

James M. Dorsey

"The US has a habit of seeing itself as indispensable to regional stability around the world, when in fact its intervention can be very destabilizing because it becomes part of the local equation rather than sitting above it," noted Raad Alkadiri

IT may not have been planned or coordinated but efforts by Middle Eastern states to dial down tensions serve as an example of what happens when big power interests coincide. It also provides evidence of the potentially positive fallout of a lower US profile in the region. Afghanistan, the United States' chaotic withdrawal notwithstanding, could emerge as another example of the positive impact when global interests coincide. That is if the Taliban prove willing and capable of policing militant groups to ensure that they don't strike beyond the Central Asian nation's borders or at embassies and other foreign targets in the country. Analysts credit the coming to office of US President Joe Biden with a focus on Asia rather than the Middle East and growing uncertainty about his commitment to the security of the Gulf for efforts to reduce tensions by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt on the one hand and on the other, Turkey, Iran, and Qatar. Those efforts resulted in the lifting, early this year, of the Saudi-UAE-Egyptian-led economic and diplomatic boycott of Qatar.

Doubts about the United States' commitment also played an important role in efforts to shore up or formalise alliances like the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel by the UAE and Bahrain. For its part, Saudi Arabia has de facto acknowledged its ties with the Jewish state even if Riyadh is not about to formally establish relations. In a sign of the times, that did not stop then Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from last year visiting the kingdom. To be sure, changes in Washington's priorities impact regional defence strategies and postures given that the United States has a significant military presence in the Middle East and serves as its sole security guarantor. Yet, what rings alarm bells in Gulf capitals also sparks concerns in Beijing, which depends to a significant degree on the flow of its trade and energy from and through Middle Eastern waters, and Moscow with its own security concerns and geopolitical aspirations.

Little surprise that Russia and China, each in their own way and independent of the United States, over the last year echoed the United States' message that the Middle East needs to get its act together. Eager to change rather than reform the world order, Russia proposed an all-new regional security architecture modelled on the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) adding not only Russia but also China, India, and Europe to the mix. China, determined to secure its proper place in the new world order rather than fundamentally altering it, sent smoke signals through its academics and analysts that conveyed a double-barrelled message. On the one hand, China suggested that the Middle East did not rank high on its agenda. In other words, the Middle East would have to act to climb Beijing's totem pole.

"For China, the Middle East is always on the very distant back burner of China's strategic global strategies," Niu Xinchun, director of Middle East Studies at China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), China's most prestigious think tank, told a webinar last year. Prominent Chinese scholars Sun Degang and Wu Sike provided months later a carrot to accompany Mr. Niu's stick. Taking the opposite tack, they argued that the Middle East

was a "key region in big power diplomacy with Chinese characteristics in a new era." Chinese characteristics, they said, would involve "seeking common ground while reserving differences," a formula that implies conflict management rather than conflict resolution. On that basis, the two scholars suggest, Chinese engagement in Middle Eastern security would seek to build an inclusive and shared regional collective security mechanism based on fairness, justice, multilateralism, comprehensive governance, and the containment of differences.

In the final analysis, Chinese and Russian signalling that there was an unspoken big power consensus likely reinforced American messaging and gave Middle Eastern states a further nudge to change course and demonstrate a willingness to control tensions and differences. Implicit in the unspoken big power consensus was not only the need to dial down tensions but also the projection of a reduced, not an eliminated, US presence in the Middle East. While there has been little real on-the-ground reduction of US forces, just talking about it seemingly opened pathways. It altered the US' weighting in the equation.

"The U.S. has a habit of seeing itself as indispensable to regional stability around the world, when in fact its intervention can be very destabilizing because it becomes part of the local equation rather than sitting above it," noted Raad Alkadiri, an international risk consultant. While important, the United States' willingness to get out of the way is no guarantee that talks will do anything more than at best avert conflicts spinning out of control. Saudi and Iranian leaders and officials have sought to put a positive spin on several rounds of direct and indirect talks between the two rivals. Yet, more important than the talk of progress, expressions of willingness to bury hatchets, and toning down of rhetoric is Saudi King Salman's insistence in remarks last month to the United Nations General Assembly on the need to build trust. In Washington this week, Foreign Minister Yair Lapid told US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan that Iran was "becoming a nuclear threshold state." Back home Yossi Cohen, a close confidante of Mr. Netanyahu, who stepped down in June as head of the Mossad, asserted at the same time that Iran was "no closer than before" to obtaining a nuclear weapon.

Meanwhile, a foreplay of the fallout of a potential failure to put a nuclear deal in place is playing out on multiple fronts. Tension have been rising along the border between Iran and Azerbaijan. Iran sees closer Azerbaijani-Israeli relations as part of an effort to encircle it and fears that the Caucasian state would be a staging ground for Israeli operations against the Islamic republic. Iran and Azerbaijan agreed this week to hold talks to reduce the friction. At the same time, Iran, Turkey and Israel have been engaged in a shadow boxing match in predominantly Kurdish northern Iraq while a poll showed half of Israeli Jews believe that attacking Iran early on rather than negotiating a deal would have been a better approach.

Taken together, these factors cast a shadow over optimism that the Middle East is pulling back from the brink. They suggest that coordinated big power leadership is what could make the difference as the Middle East balances between forging a path towards stability and waging a continuous covert war and potentially an overt one.

A Johns Hopkins University Iran research program suggested that a US return to the nuclear deal may be the catalyst for cooperation with Europe, China, and Russia.

"Should the United States refuse to rejoin the agreement following sufficient attempts by Iran to demonstrate flexibility in their negotiating posture, Russia and China will ramp up their economic and security cooperation with Iran in a manner fundamentally opposed to US interests," the program warned. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatebadeh announced this week that Russia and Iran were finalizing a 'Global Agreement for Cooperation between Iran and Russia' along the lines of a similar 25-year agreement between China and the Islamic republic last year that has yet to get legs.

Even so, Iran scored an important victory when the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in which China and Russia loom large last month agreed to process Iran's application for membership.

Briefs

'Technical issues' will be resolved'

FROM PAGE 01

During the meeting, the premier took the participants into confidence over the prevailing political situation in the country. The prime minister said "no one has a better relationship with the military than me", adding that there was no misunderstanding between the government and military. The prime minister had convened an emergency meeting of the ruling party's parliamentary group at Parliament House to discuss important national issues. Several PTI members protested on being suddenly called for the meeting by the chief whip of the PTI, Malik Aamir Dogar, sources had said. They reportedly questioned why an emergency meeting had been called at the last minute, saying it would take time to reach Islamabad. Following the meeting, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry held a press conference, where he said that "the decision regarding the appointment of the director general of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) will be made in an atmosphere of trust". Chaudhry quoted the premier as saying that the "ambiguity regarding the appointment has been cleared". "PM Imran Khan said that civil-military relations have never been as good in the entire history of the country as they are now," said Chaudhry. He said that the honour and the dignity of army is dear to the entire country. The federal minister said that PM Imran Khan and army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa "settle every issue together through consultation". "The same mechanism was adopted on the matter of the appointment of ISI DG," said Chaudhry. The minister said that the DG ISI will be appointed "soon" with the process already "underway".

Afghanistan must not be left alone...

FROM PAGE 01

He said that Pakistan's position was that Afghanistan should not be left alone at this time and aid for the war-ravaged country should continue on humanitarian grounds. "We have facilitated visas for Afghan citizens, increased trade with Afghanistan, we are helping our brothers in Afghanistan and want the world not to leave Afghanistan alone and play its role for its rebuilding" he said.

PIA suspends Kabul...

FROM PAGE 01

The spokesperson said that the PIA's captains and staff endangered their lives but still kept the evacuation process going. But the airline said the flight operation was "not very lucrative financially" and it was only operating flights on "humanitarian grounds". "We would pay more than \$400,000 as insurance premium which could only be possible if 300 passengers are available," Khan said. Meanwhile, Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said that his government will investigate reports regarding the alleged mistreatment of PIA officials and passengers by authorities at Kabul international airport.

India warns of "surgical strikes"

FROM PAGE 01

Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K), being closely monitored by security analysts, are seen as a precursor for major state-sponsored terrorist activity. The Indian stance has again caused a stir in the international circles, Pakistan and besieged Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K) population. Known for his staunchly anti-Pakistan bias, Amit Shah said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar, surgical strike was conducted. He termed it an 'important step' and said "We sent out a message that one should not disrupt India's borders."

Poland-Belarus border, migrants fight for survival

UNHCR has said Poland is in breach of international law in its efforts to push migrants back to Belarus instead of offering them asylum. Poland says it is respecting its international obligations while trying to stem the flow of migrants

AGENCIES

NEAR SOKOLKA: Mohammed, a 26-year-old Yemeni migrant, flew to Belarus from Malaysia in August hoping to make it to Poland and on to western Europe. He spent two weeks in a forest near the Polish border in October, where he says he was forced across the border 11 times by Polish or Belarussian guards, had most of his belongings stolen and was cold, thirsty and hungry with only leaves to eat. During his last encounter with Polish authorities he told Reuters that he begged for it all to end. "When we reached the Polish army I requested 'Please kill me here now. I do not want to go back to Belarus'," Mohammed declined to share his last

name for fear of being identified by Polish authorities. Four hours after speaking with Reuters in the damp, freezing forest on Monday evening, he was picked up by a smuggler and taken to Germany, he said in a text message. A former travel agent, Mohammed is one of thousands of people from the Middle East, Africa and Afghanistan, including children, who have tried to enter Poland from Belarus in the past few weeks. Charities say they face harrowing conditions on the border between the two countries. Asked about Mohammed's account of his experiences, and about migrant allegations of violence and pushbacks more generally, Belarussian officials did not immediately respond. When asked about his description of what happened,

a Polish Border Guard spokesperson said that, in general, staff provide medical help to all of those in need, including resuscitation or providing access to paramedics, and that they do accept applications for international protection. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has said Poland is in breach of international law in its efforts to push migrants back to Belarus instead of offering them asylum. Poland says it is respecting its international obligations while trying to stem the flow of migrants who, it says, often do not want asylum in Poland but in western Europe. The European Union's executive blames Belarus for deliberately orchestrating the flow to put pressure on the EU in retaliation for

sanctions slapped on Minsk over human rights abuses. Belarussian President Alexander Lukashenko in late September called the situation on the border a "humanitarian disaster". The EU has also criticised Poland over its treatment of migrants. Under EU rules, migrants should in principle apply for asylum in the first country they enter, but the 27-member bloc is planning wide-reaching reforms to ensure asylum obligations are more evenly spread. The spokesperson for the Polish Border Guard said it "operates only under the auspices of Polish law." An August order from Poland's Interior Ministry made it easier to transport migrants without the appropriate papers to remain in Poland back to the border. The Polish parliament is

also debating an update to rules on migration that critics say could enshrine pushbacks on the border into law. Poland's Interior Ministry and the government's official spokesman did not immediately respond to Reuters' requests for comment on accusations of illegal pushbacks. Mohammed, his hands trembling as he described his ordeal, said he witnessed Belarus guards beating a companion so hard his leg was broken. After the group of migrants crossed the border into Poland, carrying Mohammed's companion, Polish guards refused to take him to a hospital, patching up the wound themselves. The Polish guards broke the group's SIM cards and dropped them back at the Belarus border, Mohammed said. The group then lost contact with their

wounded companion after Belarus authorities forced them back into Poland. The Polish authorities say more than 15,000 attempts to cross the border have been made since early August, mostly by Iraqi, Afghan and Syrian citizens. The attempts are becoming more frequent, rising above 500 a day in recent weeks. "The idea is that if you make it difficult to enter EU territory where they can ask for protection and you throw them out repeatedly, now with the frequent risk of death, that eventually they'll give up and go back to their country," said Piotr Bystrzanski, a senior official with the Polish charity Ocalenie Foundation. The charity has a small wooden house in the forest near to the border where Bystrzanski and his colleagues prepare humanitarian aid for migrants.

Pakistan condemns provocative statement...

FROM PAGE 01

Pakistan," Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar said in a statement issued here. "While Pakistan is a peace-loving country, we will spare no effort in resolutely thwarting any aggressive designs," he stressed. The Spokesperson recalled that Pakistan's swift response to India's Balakot misadventure in 2019, including the downing of Indian combat aircraft and capture of Indian Air Force pilot, fully demonstrated the will, capacity and preparedness of "our armed forces to deter Indian aggression". "This delusional statement only goes to further demonstrate the BJP-RSS combine's propensity to stoke regional tensions for both ideological reasons and political expediency, based on enmity towards Pakistan," he added "Such statements also serve as smokescreens to divert world attention from India's state-terrorism and systematic human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K), and against Muslims and other minorities in India," the Spokesperson remarked. He further said that Pakistan has repeatedly drawn the attention of the international community to India's sinister designs of staging "false flag" operations to implicate Pakistan and Kashmiris.

US Charge d' Affaires meets...

FROM PAGE 01

peace in the region, especially in Afghanistan. US Charge d' Affaires Angela Eagler praised Shehbaz Sharif's services as Punjab Chief Minister (CM). The meeting also discussed the steps taken under the leadership of Mian Nawaz Sharif to end loadshedding, fight against terrorism and economic development during the PML-N era. Earlier, Angela Eagler also called on PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz. During the meeting, the issues of mutual interest were discussed. The current political situation in the country, Pak-US relations, global and regional peace and security, and the situation in the region and Afghanistan in particular were also discussed. Various issues were also discussed, including the rights of women and children, education and health, and the promotion of public relations between the two countries. On the occasion, Maryam Nawaz said that we consider Afghanistan as their close neighbor and respect its sovereignty, we want peace, development and prosperity for the Afghan people, women and children, humanitarian aid to the people of Afghanistan adding the whole world has a role to play.

HQ-9/P HIMADS inducted...

FROM PAGE 01

Later, the COAS witnessed commissioning of state-of-the-art Chinese origin HQ-9/P HIMADS (High to Medium Air Defence System) into Pakistan Army Air Defence. Commander Army Air Defence Command Lieutenant General Hamood uz Zaman Khan briefed the COAS about strategic weapon system. Speaking at the occasion, the COAS said that Pakistan-China strategic partnership and defence collaboration was a factor of stability in the region. Highlighting the criticality of air defence in the overall defence of motherland, the COAS said exemplary synergy between Pakistan Air Force and Pakistan Army Air Defence made the country's air defence impregnable. Senior officials from China were also present on the occasion. Induction of HIMADS will significantly enhance Comprehensive Layered Integrated Air Defence (CLIAD) shield of aerial frontiers of Pakistan as the system is fully integrated through a well-knit Digitised System on its inventory. Capable of intercepting multiple air targets including aircrafts, cruise missiles and Beyond Visual Range Weapons at ranges over 100 kilometres with Single Shot Kill Probability, HQ-9/P is considered as a strategic long range Surface to Air Missile (SAM) with remarkable flexibility and precision. - DNA



BAKU: Pakistan ambassador to Azerbaijan met with Leyla Abdullayeva, spokesperson Azerbaijan ministry of foreign affairs to discuss bilateral relations. - DNA

Chief of Army Staff G-1 Taekwondo due in November

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Taekwondo Federation (PTF) will organise the Chief of Army Staff G-1 Taekwondo Championship will be held in Islamabad from November 6 to 8. The preparations are underway for the mega international event at Liaquat Gymnasium Hall of Pakistan Sports Complex as around 300 national athletes from Pakistan will participate in Pakistan's largest Taekwondo event, said President Pakistan Taekwondo Federation (PTF) Col (r) Wasim Janjua in a statement. Along with 2 national teams of Pakistan, provincial, de-

partments, and services teams will also participate in three days competition. International referees have been invited to supervise the matches of the event. The last date of registration for international and national players is October 25. Wasim further said that foreign teams have shown keen interest in being a part of the COAS G-1 event and all stakeholders including POA, PSB, Pakistan Army, and Taekwondo Federation are keen to see the success of the championship. Wasim Janjua said that Pakistan Taekwondo Federation would nominate international and national personalities as goodwill ambassadors for the event.

Tayyab disappointed in CAS Int'l Squash Tournament

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: It was another bad year for Pakistani squash players as they failed to reach the final of the Chief of Air Staff (CAS) International Squash Tournament since 2017 where french player Auguste Dussourd will face Moustafa El Shirty from Egypt in the final of on going CAS-Serena Hotels International Squash Tournament for Men here at Mushaf Squash Complex Islamabad on Friday. Despite the efforts and all possible facilities given by Pakistan Air Force (PAF) and Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF), disappointing performance given by the all

squash players in the CAS International Squash Tournament including tournament top seed Tayyab Aslam who is also failed to qualify in the final as he lost semi final match against World number 59 Auguste Dussourd from France by 11-9, 11-7, 9-11, 3-11, 11-4. During 60 minutes battle of In semi-final after losing first two games by 9-11 and 7-11, Tayyab Aslam won the next two games by 11-3 and 11-4 telling the audience that he will get easy victory in the fifth and last game of the match but his performance in decisive game was disappointing as Tayyab failed to give tough time against french player by losing decisive game 11-4. In the second semi final



Egyptian player Moustafa El Sirty beat World No 71 Henry Leung from Hong Kong by 8-11, 11-7, 11-7, 11-5 in 41 minutes match as he shown his best game in the important match after losing first game by 8-11. In the Serena Hotels-Com-

baxx Sports International Women squash tournament semi finals World No 69 Marie Stephan from France strom in to final with her attacking game against talented Nadeen Kotb from Egypt and winning the match by 11-7, 6-11, 11-9, 11-9 in 31 minutes fight.

Taiwan won't start a war with China: Defence minister

"The U.S. should not fantasise (about) seeking China's support and cooperation while wantonly challenging China's red line on the Taiwan question," it said

FOREIGN DESK

TAIPEI: Taiwan will not start a war with China but will defend itself "full on", Defence Minister Chiu Kuo-cheng said on Thursday, amid a spike in tensions across the Taiwan Strait that has raised concern internationally. Taiwan, a major semiconductor producer, has repeatedly said it will defend itself if attacked, but that it will not "advance rashly" and wants to maintain the status quo with China. "What is clearest is that the Republic of China absolutely will not start or set off a war, but if there are movements we will meet the enemy full on," Chiu told a parlia-

ment committee meeting, using Taiwan's official name. Military tensions with China, which claims Taiwan as its own territory, are at their worst in more than 40 years, Chiu said last week, adding that China will be capable of mounting a "full-scale" invasion by 2025. He was speaking after China mounted four consecutive days of mass air force incursions into Taiwan's air defence identification zone that began on Oct. 1, part of a pattern of what Taipei views as stepped-up military harassment by Beijing. No shots have been fired and China's aircraft have stayed well away from Taiwan's airspace, concentrating their activity in



the southwestern corner of Taiwan's air defence zone. The ministry, in a report to parliament ahead of Chiu's appearance before lawmakers, warned China of strong countermeasures if its forces got too close to the island. Chiu agreed with an assessment from a lawmaker that China's abilities were constrained by a limited

mid-air refuelling capacity, meaning it has only H-6 bombers and Y-8 anti-submarine and reconnaissance aircraft that have flown into the Bashi Channel that separates Taiwan from the Philippines. Chinese fighters have kept much closer to China's coast, according to maps of their activity drawn up by Chiu's ministry. "Their aims are on the one hand to pressure Taiwan, and on the other to say to everyone else we have the ability to scare away and obstruct foreign military forces from getting involved," he said. China on Wednesday called its military activities a "just" move to protect peace and stability, and again blamed Taiwan's "collusion" with foreign forces - a veiled ref-

erence to the United States - for sowing the tension. China's Washington embassy on Wednesday said it had complained to the U.S. government about a meeting between Taiwan's de facto ambassador to the country and senior U.S. diplomats, and of the visit of Taiwan's army commander, Hsu Yen-pu, to the United States. "The U.S. should not fantasise (about) seeking China's support and cooperation while wantonly challenging China's red line on the Taiwan question," it said. Speaking earlier in the week, Chiu said Hsu was not in the United States on a secret trip but as part of regular annual exchanges, according to Taiwan's official Central News Agency.

Briefs

Daesh West Africa leader is dead: Nigeria army

AGENCIES

ABUJA: The leader of the Daesh West Africa Province group, Abu Musab al Barnawi, is dead, Nigeria's top military commander has said. The group has not given any confirmation of Barnawi's death and Nigeria's army has claimed before to have killed the group's commanders only for them to reappear.

"I can authoritatively confirm to you that al Barnawi is dead. As simple as that. He is dead and remains dead," Chief of Defence Staff General Lucky Irabor told reporters.

He did not give details on how or when Barnawi had died.

Barnawi is the son of the founder of Nigeria's Boko Haram militant group which has been fighting a grinding insurgency in northeast Nigeria since 2009.

The group's commander rose to prominence after splitting with Boko Haram in 2016 over differences with its commander Abubakar Shekau, who died earlier this year during infighting between the two factions.

Since Shekau's death, security sources say, Barnawi had consolidated the group's control in Nigeria's northeast and the Lake Chad region but pockets of Boko Haram loyalists have been fighting back.

G20 states not on track to limit global warming

LONDON: The world's richest nations, which are responsible for around 75% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, are not on track to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius despite raising ambitions, according to a report published on Thursday.

"All G20 members need to strengthen climate policies and actions to meet 1.5°C pathways," the Climate Transparency Report 2021 stated, adding that developed countries have a vital role to play by releasing emissions reduction targets.

Mentioning the G20 countries' net-zero targets and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) updates, the report pointed out that by August 2021 a total of 14 G20 members had announced net-zero targets by mid-century, while only six parties had officially submitted NDC updates to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) by September 2021, including the US, UK, EU, Argentina, Canada, and South Africa.

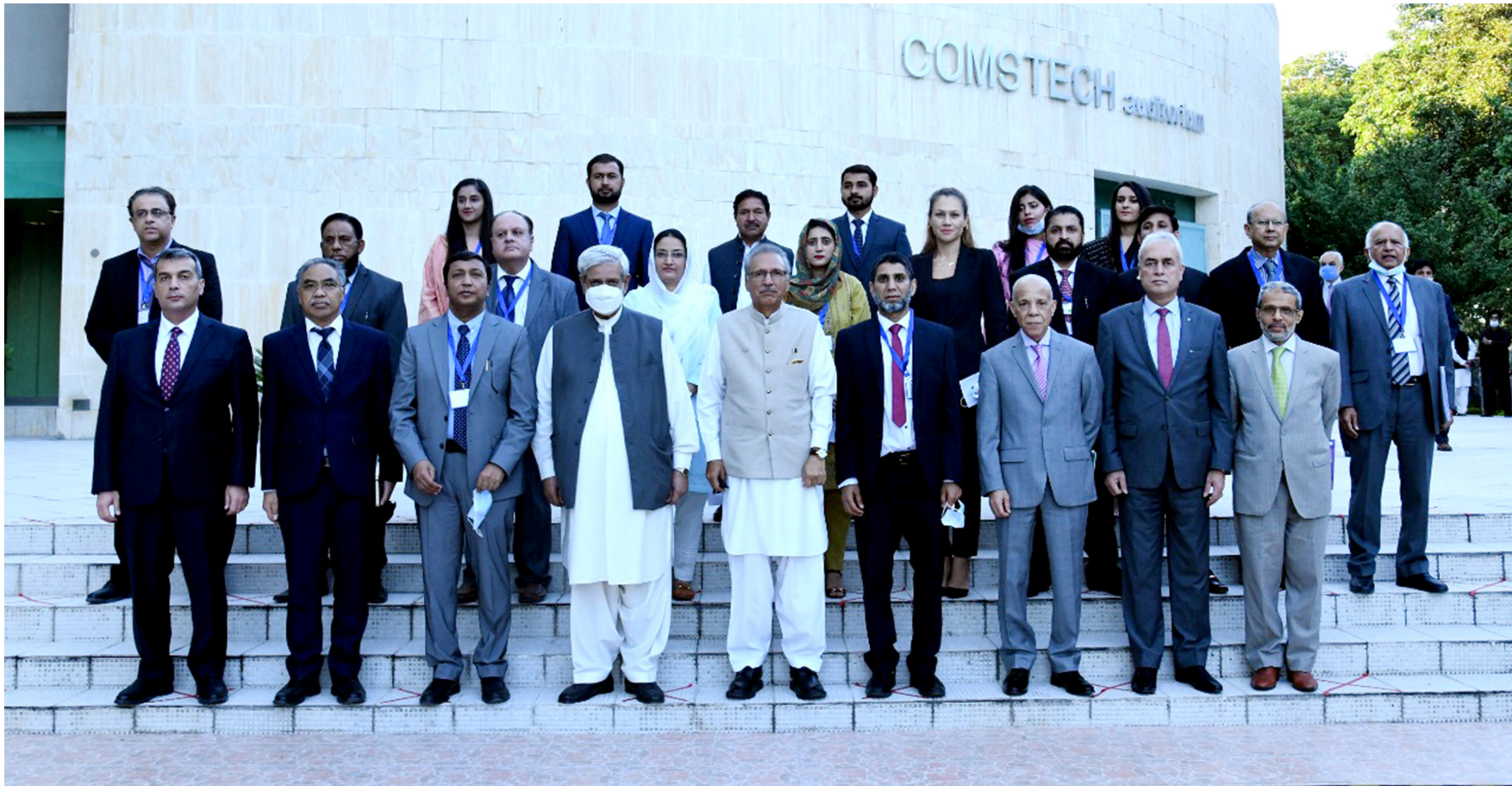
Gunfire kills 3, wounds 20 at Beirut protest

BEIRUT: Gunfire killed three people and wounded 20 at a Beirut rally. One man died of a gun shot to the head and a second of a shot to the chest, said Mariam Hassan of the Sahel Hospital in Beirut's southern suburbs.

The state-run National News Agency reported a third death at the Rasoul al-Azam hospital, also in the southern suburbs. The Lebanese Red Cross reported 20 wounded. AFP correspondents in the area heard heavy gunfire. Lebanese television broadcast images of men carrying rifles and heavy weaponry.

The army reported "bursts of gunfire in the area of Tayouneh-Badaro". "The army rushed to cordon off the area and deploy in its neighbourhoods and their entrance. Patrols started as did the search for the shooters to detain them," it said.

In a follow-up statement, the military warned that it would open fire at anyone firing live rounds, calling on civilians to evacuate the area. — APP



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi in a group photo with members of the COMSTECH team, at COMSTECH Secretariat, Islamabad. — DNA

Alvi stresses paradigm shift to save mankind from hunger

The event held in connection with the World Food Day themed 'Our actions, our future' here at the COMSTECH gathered ambassadors of nine Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member states, scientists and agriculturists

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday said a paradigm shift in approach of the nations was needed to rise above mutual conflicts and instead save mankind by addressing the challenges of hunger and food security. Addressing at the launch of collaboration between COMSTECH (Organisation of Islamic Cooperation's Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation) and UK-Pakistan academic network Sawie, he said amid the problems of growing population and climate change, the world needed to "rethink and lessen its footprint on global resources".

The event held in connection with the World Food Day themed 'Our actions, our future' here at the COMSTECH gathered ambassadors of nine Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member states, scientists and agriculturists.

President Alvi said besides defence and security, the phenomenon of food security had become increasingly significant.

"How can the nations spend billions of dollars on wars amid the looming threat of hunger," he said, adding that a sustainable food system and water conservation were important in this regard.

The president said the growing population of Pakistan was facing the problems of malnutrition with its related complications including neonatal deaths, compromised health of women due to multiple pregnancies and stunted growth of children.

For effective water management to ensure food security, he suggested practical steps by Pakistan and other countries such as reaching out to aquifers and incentivizing farmers to save water. Dr Alvi mentioned that he had asked the food ministry to work on satellite imagery to better understand the crop mapping and increase yield.

Adapting the seaweed farming, crop substitution and hydroponic farming can prove useful and profitable agricultural solutions, he said. He urged the COMSTECH to promote hybrid cooperation among all Islamic countries and exchange technology to find solutions to the challenge of food security.

Co-founder of Sawie, Dr Khalid Mehmood said Pakistan was facing a huge issue of food security due to climate change.

He said Sawie, meaning green in the local language, was aimed at food production at cheaper rates through the digital platforms for agricultural development, includ-

ing remote agricultural sensing. Coordinator General COMSTECH Iqbal Chaudhry said food insecurity and malnutrition were the challenges faced by the country's population.

He said COMSTECH in collaboration with Sawie would ensure conservation of resources and address the challenges of climate change, over population, and water scarcity.

Under the patronage of the President of Pakistan, he said, the COMSTECH had launched 120 development programmes, 500 scholarships for Muslim countries, and several healthcare initiatives. — APP

At least 6 killed in Beirut violence

AGENCIES

BEIRUT: A cautious calm descended over Beirut on Thursday evening after nearly four hours of violence in the Lebanese capital left at least six people dead and more than 30 wounded. Panic and fear gripped the city after gunfire broke out at a protest by supporters of Hezbollah and the Amal Movement near the Palace of Justice.

Hundreds of supporters of the two Shia groups had gathered to demand the removal of Tarek Bitar, the judge heading the probe into last year's deadly Beirut port blast.

Commenting on the violence, both Hezbollah and Amal groups accused in a joint statement "armed group" affiliated with the Lebanese Forces party, led by Samir Geagea, of being behind the attack. The groups called for bringing those accountable for the violence to justice.

The protest started hours after a court dismissed a complaint against the judge and allowed him to continue the investigation. The groups accuse the judge of bias, with Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah recently saying that Bitar's work "involves political targeting and has nothing to do with justice."



DHAKA: Pakistan High Commissioner in Dhaka Imran Ahmed Siddiqui called on Rear Admiral Shahjahan Chairman Chattogram Port Authority. The two sides discussed matters of mutual interest including collaboration between port authorities of the two countries. — DNA

Uzbek FM rejects prospect of US forces deployment

DNA

TASHKENT: The issue of the possible deployment of US armed forces in Uzbekistan to counter terrorist threats is not on the table and hence is not being discussed. On the sidelines of the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the CIS countries in Minsk, FM Abdulaziz Kamolov told this to journalists.

Earlier, the American publication Politico, citing sources in the US Congress familiar with the plans of the US military department, reported that officials of Pentagon representatives will discuss in Uzbekistan this month the possibility of deploying US counterterrorism forces. Reportedly, the main topic



on the agenda will be the possibility of deploying "over-the-horizon" anti-terrorist forces in Uzbekistan, which would allow the US military "to better observe and strike at targets in Afghanistan."

The Ministry of Defense of Uzbekistan said that the department had not received an official request from the Pentagon to visit the country. In May, The Wall Street

Journal reported that the US is considering options for deploying troops pulled out from Afghanistan in Central Asia or the Middle East. Uzbekistan and Tajikistan were named as better options.

According to the Uzbekistan's Defense Doctrine, adopted in January 2018, the deployment of foreign military bases and facilities in the country is not allowed. Earlier Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov claimed on Thursday that Russia's Central Asian counterparts, including Uzbekistan, stand firm in their unwillingness to host the US troops.

"Our Central Asian neighbors, allies, strategic partners in contacts with us confirm that for them, such calls (to deploy a US military mission) are unacceptable," the minister said at a news conference, following a meeting of the Commonwealth of Independent States Council of Foreign Ministers.

"To us, all our Central Asian friends say that they don't want the deployment of the US (troops) or any other NATO countries," he said. Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova in a separate statement said US Under Secretary of State Victoria Nuland, who visited Russia this week, was told that the deployment of the US or NATO military infrastructure in Central Asia is categorically unacceptable for Russia.

The APBF President, on behalf of the Pakistan trade and industry, reiterated his resolve to further expand the areas of cooperation and increase economic ties with the United Kingdom. He said that reform process is bearing fruit, as Pakistan's economy is on the path to sustainable growth, and after the successful implementation of IMF's program the government would overcome its recurring balance of payment problem.

Syed Maaz Mahmood observed that the CPEC has entered its second phase and its development would be led by the private sector while Special Economic Zones could provide attractive incentives, state-of-the-art infrastructure and facilities, transforming Pakistan in to a lucrative market for investors.

UK, Pakistan discuss potential to enhance bilateral trade

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The British High Commission's Deputy Director for Trade Olivia Campbell, calling for huge potential to enhance bilateral trade and cooperation in education, cultural and several other sectors, has said that the UK gives utmost importance to its relations with Pakistan. In a meeting with All Pakistan Business Forum President Syed Maaz Mahmood along with Senior Trade Policy Advisor Rehan Shahid both sides discussed several opportunities to increase two-way trade in various sectors, especially telecommunication, IT, agriculture, pharma, health and higher education.

Ms. Olivia Campbell pointed out that

Pakistan is a huge emerging market and British companies are ready to deepen trade and economic ties with their Pakistani counterparts, as a large number of UK companies have already been operating in Pakistan, which is the ample proof that the UK recognizes Pakistan as a potential market. Both Olivia Campbell and Senior Trade Policy Advisor Rehan Shahid appreciated the APBF's efforts to promote bilateral trade between the two countries. APBF President Maaz Mahmood, on this occasion, welcomed the UK trade office initiatives to collaborate with business community of Pakistan and assured of its full support. Both sides agreed on close interaction of APBF and UK trade office in Pakistan in future to provide full support in this re-

gard. The APBF President, on behalf of the Pakistan trade and industry, reiterated his resolve to further expand the areas of cooperation and increase economic ties with the United Kingdom. He said that reform process is bearing fruit, as Pakistan's economy is on the path to sustainable growth, and after the successful implementation of IMF's program the government would overcome its recurring balance of payment problem.

Syed Maaz Mahmood observed that the CPEC has entered its second phase and its development would be led by the private sector while Special Economic Zones could provide attractive incentives, state-of-the-art infrastructure and facilities, transforming Pakistan in to a lucrative market for investors.

Norway's new PM presents his minority government

FOREIGN DESK

COPENHAGEN: Norway's new centre-left cabinet has taken office after the incoming prime minister presented a centre-left minority government, a day after a deadly bow-and-arrow attack in a small town.

Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store, the leader of Norway's centre-left Labour Party, stood outside the royal palace with his 19-member team — 10 women and nine men — that includes the leader of the euroskeptical Centre Party, Trygve Slagsvold Vedum, who became finance minister.

Emilie Enger Mehl became Norway's youngest-ever justice minister at age 28, while the foreign minister portfolio went to another woman — Anniken Scherping Huitfeldt.

Gahr Store said it was "a special day" because of the "outrageous event" in Kongsberg, a small town outside Oslo, in which a Danish man was taken into custody after Norwegian police say he killed five people with a bow and arrows and wounded two others on Wednesday.

"It is horrible what has been revealed, it is shocking to think about what people have experienced," Gahr Store told reporters before the swearing-in ceremony of the new government, pledging the new cabinet's full attention on the Kongsberg case. — APP

Afghan refugee stabbed to death in UK

LONDON: An Afghan teenager who came to the UK as a refugee was stabbed to death in southwest London, local media reports said Thursday.

Hazrat Wali, an 18-year-old student at Richmond Upon Thames College, was attacked during a fight in Cranford Way, Twickenham on Tuesday.

"Hazrat was a very good boy. He came here to study, he was living all on his own in London. His immediate family are all back in Afghanistan," a relative was quoted as saying by the Evening Standard.

"I saw him in hospital. He had a fight in all that I've heard."

The victim was attacked during a fight on a footbridge and later he collapsed in the playing fields in Cranford Way. He died of his wounds an hour later despite first aid efforts from a teacher who was on the field with his student. — APP

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MAINTENANCE DIVISION NO.III (SB)

Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited on percentage basis on NIT cost from the contractors registered with F.B.R and duly enlisted with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in appropriate category and PEC license having validity upto 30-06-2021-22 for the works as detailed below:-

S.#	Name of Work	NIT Cost	Earnest Money	Tender Cost	Date & Time of Receiving of tenders	Date and Time of opening of Tenders
1.	Repair / Renovation of Miscellaneous work at Pak China Friendship Centre Islamabad	Rs.3,762,731/-	Rs.112,881/-	2000/-	29-10-2021 At 11.30 am	29-10-2021 At 12.00 PM

CONDITIONS:

- Application for the tender document for above mention work shall be received up to 26-10-2021 till 11 A.M.
- Tender will be issued to only those firms who will provide attested copies of valid (PEC) license for the current year and NTN & active GST having appropriate Category for the work PEC Certificate, Professional Tax Certificate in original will also be seen at the time of application submission (all documents should be Tax Certificate in original will also be seen at the time of application submission (all documents should be current year and attested). Bidder must also be on Active Tax Payers List.
- That deposit at call / Earnest money should be generated only from firms account and in the name of firm.
- Power of attorney duly registered in respective court for the each work/works.
- That the attorney holder may not be the employee of any Government/semi-Government institute.
- That only legitimate attorney holder may be allowed to get tender documents.
- The bid security of all bidders would be deposited in the CDA bank account and same may be returned after the acceptance of the contract with the successful bidders.
- The eligibility criteria of the firms with the relevant experience i.e at least 03 Nos of work orders in last two financial years may be attached with the application.
- Tender will be issued only to those firms who provide an undertaking on stamp paper worth not less than Rs.50/-, for each work in original shape that the firm/contractor are neither involved in any litigation nor black listed by ay government, semi-government or autonomous body in Pakistan and also undertakes that if any information or document provided by firm for issuance of tender document is found incorrect or fictitious the firm is liable for legal action under the law. Without the undertaking tender will not be issued to firm.
- Tender documents can be obtained on receipt of pay order (Non refundable) in the Name of Dy: Director Maint-III (SB) of the prescribed fee for the work as mentioned above from the office of the undersigned.
- No tender documents will be sold on the day of opening of the tender.
- Bid Security/ Earnest Money shall be accompanied with the request in the shape of Deposit at Call (CDR) clearly indicating the Name of Firm issued by local schedule bank in favor of Dy: Director Maint-III (SB), CDA, Cash/cheque or open CDR without indicating Name of firm will not be accepted and no application without Bid Security/ Earnest Money will be accepted for issuance of tender. Bank certificate to the effect that CDR made from the firm account must be attached.
- Bidder must submit affidavit on stamp paper regarding Integrity Pact.
- The tender document shall only be issued to the owner of firms or legitimate attorney holder, if the contractor or his legitimate attorney holder does not sign the tender opening register; their call deposit will be liable forfeited.
- Affidavit on stamp paper that bidder will comply with the BOQ and instructions of the CDA.
- Satisfactory performance certificate must be submitted by the bidder.
- Bidder on stamp paper must be provided regarding reliability and guarantee of work performed by the bidder.
- Tender should be received and open by the Director Maintenance, CDA as per schedule given above. CDA may reject all bids or proposal at any time prior to the acceptance of a bid or proposal as per PPRa rule. In case of any Gazetted/ occasional Holidays, the tenders will be opened on the next working day. Non-relationship certificate.
- Tender notice can be viewed both on CDA website www.cda.gov.pk, PPRa website www.ppra.gov.pk. Whereas tender notice can also be downloaded from CDA website.

Muhammad Riaz
(Deputy Director Maint III)

Briefs

Pak, Turkey to diversify economic cooperation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Turkey on Thursday agreed to further strengthen and diversify bilateral economic and commercial cooperation between the two brotherly countries. The agreement was reached during a meeting of Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin and Pakistan delegation visiting United States with Minister of Treasury and Finance of Turkey, Lutfi Elvan and his team. Turkish side offered to assist Pakistan in developing key sectors including agriculture, construction and tourism, according to statement issued by the Finance Ministry. Expert level discussions to take place soon, the statement added.

Court indicts Zahir Jaffer, 11 others

ISLAMABAD: The prime suspect in the murder of Noor Mukadam, Zahir Jaffer, has been formally charged for the crime by the Islamabad High Court on Thursday. Besides Jaffer, two of the family's employees – Jamil and Jan Mohammad – were also indicted, along with the Chief Executive Officer of Therapy Works, Tahir Zahoor. Additional sessions judge Atta Rabbani indicted a total of twelve individuals in the case, of which six were brought to the court from Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail. The remaining six were previously granted bail. All those indicted pleaded not guilty to the charges. Meanwhile, the court has summoned the prosecution witnesses on October 20 and directed that the trial be commenced immediately and completed within two months. During the hearing, the lawyer of Zahir's parents, Advocate Rizwan Abbasi, said that the evidence produced in the court had nothing to do with Zahir Jaffer, therefore, he could not be indicted for the murder. In response, the counsel for Shaukat Mukadam, Noor Mukadam's father, said the evidence can be reviewed during the trial. "The accused is being charged, but has not been sentenced yet," Mukadam's lawyer said. During the court proceedings, Zahir continued to interject remarks and said that the employees of Therapy Works had forced their way into the house. Zahir also apologised to Shaukat Mukadam in the courtroom and begged him for forgiveness. "My life is in danger, please have mercy on me," Zahir said. – APP

OIC-IPHRC slams hate crimes against Indian Muslims

ISLAMABAD: The Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has strongly condemned the rising wave of Islamophobia, hate speech and hate crimes motivated by the Hindu supremacist 'Hindutva' ideology with tacit complicity of the BJP-led Indian government. "OIC-IPHRC is following with great concern the increasing incidents of systematic violence, mob attacks, public lynching and dehumanizing political tirade against Muslims across different parts of India," a statement issued by OIC-IPHRC in Jeddah on Wednesday said. "The gruesome footage of ghoulish stomping by a journalist over the body of a Muslim villager in Assam, who was killed by Police at a point-blank range, has shook the world for its sheer insensitivity, depravity and impunity. Ironically, the Muslim villagers were peacefully protesting the forced eviction from their lands that the government wants to give to Hindus," it added. – APP



ISLAMABAD: Head of Missions Spouses Association visited Parliament Building today. They were briefed about the parliamentary history, history of the building and its architect. Madam Zlatomira Yurdakul, wife of Turkish ambassador organized the visit. – DNA

European MPs assure Sarwar of support

DNA

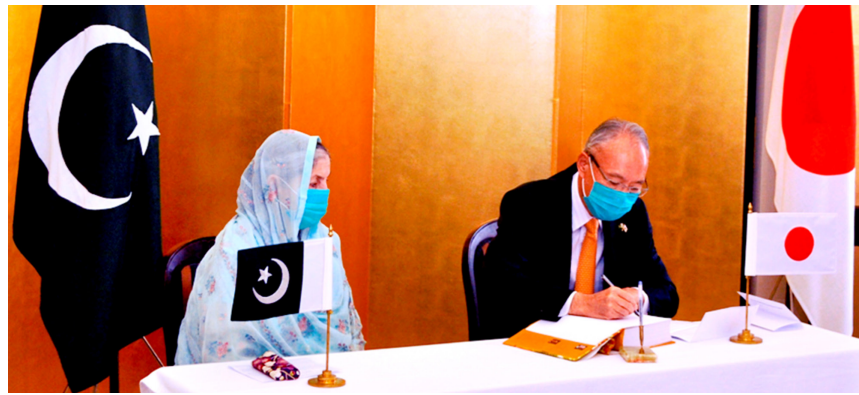
LAHORE: Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar, during his visit to Brussels on Thursday, held a meeting with more than 15 members of European Parliament, who assured him of their full cooperation for extension of GSP Plus status for Pakistan. According to a spokesman for Governor's House here, the governor met European Parliament Human Rights Committee Chairwoman Maria Arena and a member of European Parliament's Defence and Security Foreign Affairs Committee Javier Nart, members of Parliament Herve Juvin, Bernard Guetta from France, Virginie Joron, Emmanouil Fragkos from Greece, and member from Poland and other countries. The governor is currently on a mission for extension of GSP Plus status to Pakistan, broader Afghan peace process, war on terror, Kashmir and other issues. Talking to the media after the meetings, Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar said that Pakistan's efforts were succeeding and today the majority of European Parliament members were becoming supporters of Pakistan on the issue of GSP Plus. Supporting security and peace is Pakistan's top priority. The visit to the European Parliament has been a success for Pakistan in every way.

Amb. Matsuda praises PJLF for its translation work

Japan Literature Forum (PJLF) has published the Urdu translation of the classic Japanese novel "Genji Monogatari-The Tale of Genji" which was written one thousand years ago by a famous female novelist in Japan

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: MATSUDA Kuninori, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, has appreciated and extended his congratulations to Mr. Khurram Sohail, President of Pakistan-Japan Literature Forum (PJLF), for publication of the Urdu translation of the classic Japanese novel "Genji Monogatari-The Tale of Genji" which was written one thousand years ago by a famous female novelist in Japan. Ambassador MATSUDA expressed these views while speaking at an introductory session of the book which was held here on Thursday October 14th at his official residence and was attended by a limited number of guests as a precaution against the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ambassador, while commending the tireless efforts of Mr. Sohail and the late Mr. Baqar Naqvi for making this project a reality over a 5-year project, stated that translation of such a classic Japanese novel must have been a challenging task for



the duo that eventually turned out to be an excellent gift for the Pakistani readers to understand the Japanese culture and aristocratic society through this literary masterpiece. While appreciating the rich literary and cultural heritage of both Japan and Pakistan, the Ambassador said literature and heritage of any nation are so much significant as they help us to understand each other, respect each other and we all need to work together to pass on this rich heritage and literature to our future generations. Mr. Khurram Sohail, President PJLF, in his remarks, expressed his gratitude to H.E. the Ambassador for sparing his precious time to host this introductory session of the book at his residence. He hoped that the Urdu translation of this Japanese novel will prove to be a mile-

stone in further promoting Pakistan-Japan's cultural and literary relations in future. He informed that during his visits to Japan he was delighted to see that the Japanese scholars and researchers had translated the works of icons like Ghalib, Faiz, Munto and Iqbal into Japanese language and that gave him the motivation to translate classic Japanese novel "Genji Monogatari-The Tale of Genji" into Urdu language. Mrs. Sadia Rashid, President, Pakistan-Japan Cultural Association Sindh, while speaking on the occasion appreciated the efforts and hard work of Mr. Khurram Sohail underscored the need of more collaboration between Pakistan and Japan in the field of literature in order to make the people of two countries to understand each other's culture and literary achievements. It is pertinent to mention here that Genji Monogatari-The Tale of Genji is a masterpiece of Japanese literature by Murasaki Shikibu which was written over one thousand years ago and considered as one of the world's oldest novels.

US jobless claims dip below 300,000

DNA

WASHINGTON: New applications for US unemployment benefits have dipped below 300,000 for the first time since the pandemic began, a milestone in the labor market's recovery from the devastation wrought by the virus last year. The weekly applications for jobless aid became one of the most visible signs of Covid-19's economic ravaging as they surged into the millions in March 2020. They've declined throughout this year as vaccines allowed employers to rebuild their staff, and the Labor Department reported Thursday that they'd dropped to 293,000 in the week ended October 9, the lowest level since the crisis started. "Initial claims are now within striking distance of their pre-pandemic level, which could be reached later this year as the Delta wave recedes and hiring improves," Daniel Zhao of job search site Glassdoor said on Twitter. Even as claims inch closer to 256,000, their level on March 14, 2020, the last week of normalcy, American workers face headwinds. These include supply chains snarls that have pushed prices up, as well as the Delta variant of the virus, which has fueled a spike in cases in recent weeks that now appears to be ebbing. Nonetheless, Ian Shepherdson of Pantheon Macroeconomics said the data predict that better days are ahead.



ISLAMABAD: The UAE Embassy in Islamabad in presence of Hamad Obaid Alzaabi, the UAE Ambassador, Embassy officials & representative offices, organized a blood donation campaign in cooperation with Pakistan Red Crescent as part of Embassy's initiatives to promote social responsibility. – DNA

Covid infects 1016 more people

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan recorded 1,016 new cases of coronavirus on during the past 24 hours, taking the tally for confirmed cases to 1,261,685. At least 28 fatalities were also reported during the period. A total of 28,201 patients have succumbed to the virus in the country so far. Moreover, 1,750 recoveries were also reported in a day, taking the total recoveries to 1,193,175. Punjab recorded 312 Covid cases and eight more deaths due to the virus during the past 24 hours. According to provincial health secretary Imran Sikandar Baloch, three

deaths were reported from Lahore during the period. He said that active cases in Punjab now total 12,430, adding that the tally of the positive cases in the province stood at 437,046. The official further stated that the total number of deaths due to the virus is currently at the 12,805 mark. The health secretary said that some 411,811 patients have recovered from the disease so far. "As many as 18,009 tests were conducted in Punjab in the past 24 hours, totaling 7,629,034 tests," he added. The official informed that positivity ratio in the province is currently at 1.7 per cent, adding specific SOPs have been issued for various sectors.

Pakistan needs to market new products in EU: Envoy

LAHORE: Ambassador of European Union (EU) to Pakistan Androulla Kaminara said on Thursday that Pakistan needs to introduce new products to enhance its exports to European Union. She was talking to business community here at Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI). LCCI President Mian Nauman Kabir presented the address of welcome while Senior Vice President Mian Rehman Aziz Chan, Vice President Haris Ateeq, former LCCI presidents Shahid Hassan Sheikh, Tahir Javed Malik and executive committee members also spoke. Androulla Kaminara said that Pakistani products were the best and could easily make their way to the EU markets. New products and joint ven-



tures could play a vital role in this regard. About GSP Plus status to Pakistan, she said that two-year performance report of Pakistan would be reviewed soon and a decision would be made for extension of the status to Pakistan. She added that European Commission had tabled the next generation of GSP Plus. She said that five new conventions had been added and it was a good omen that Pakistan was the signatory. She said that Pakistan was the most successful country to use the GSP Plus status. "We are ready to help Pakistan expand its exports to the European Union and would like to be its partner in this regard," she said and pledged that the EU would continue engaging with partners including Pakistan to address the common challenge of climate change. She said that European Union was particularly focusing on SME sector of Pakistan. LCCI President Mian Nauman Kabir warmly welcomed the EU ambassador said that the European Parliament had extended the GSP Plus status for Pakistan till Dec 31, 2023, which was a great and appreciative initiative. – APP

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