

Samana

Saturday, October 16, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Azerbaijan blocked Iran-Armenia-Europe drug trafficking route

Detailed News On Page-07

Envoy visits Eurasia Legal Framework Cell

Detailed News On Page-08



UK lawmaker **David Amess** stabbed to death

Detailed News On Page-01



Briefs

Talks with Iran 'cordial'

Monitoring Desk

RIYADH: Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan has said

that talks with Iran had been "cordial," describing the negotiations as "exploratory," the Financial Times reported on Friday. "We are serious about the talks," bin Farhan told the FT in an interview. "For us, it's not that big a shift. We've always said we want to find a way to stabilise the region." The Saudi foreign minister said that four rounds of talks had been held with Iran since April, adding that Iran's attitude had been "very friendly." Earlier this month, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian, referring to efforts to improve ties between the two countries, had said that talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia have gone a "good distance".

Asad warns of Covid surge in winter

DNA



Planning and Special Initiatives Asad Umar, who heads the National

Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), warned on Friday that there is a risk of the spread of novel coronavirus during winter in Pakistan if people do not get vaccinated. Umar also shared an image of the Gallup & Gilani Pakistan survey, stating that 86 per cent of Pakistanis believed that Covid-19 will be successfully controlled in the near future. However, he also advised a word of caution amidst the optimism. "According to the survey, 86% Pakistanis believed that coronavirus will be successfully controlled in the near future. We are deeply grateful for this trust by the masses but it will only be possible if people get vaccinated," he wrote on his official Twitter handle.

Holiday Notice

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

Inside.

Following Sunnah key to success

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Uzbekistan is not limited to formal co-op with the EAEU

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Mosque blast kills at least 62 in Kandahar

The blast marked the second massive attack in a week targeting worshippers

Economy being sacrificed

at IMF's altar: Shehbaz

- alleges that Imran Niazi was not working

for Pakistan, he was working for the IMF

Ch Fawad urges media

houses to curb fake news

with the modern narrative

warfare, while disseminat-

He said the media should in-

itiate a debate within itself

to face the challenge of fake

news. He stressed the need

for providing information

ing information.

with responsibility.



News Desk

KANDAHAR: At least 62 people were killed and 68 are said to be injured in Afghanistan's Kandahar after a bomb blast ripped through a mosque in the city on Friday, the official news agency Bakhtar reported. According to a health official, the casualty toll is likely to rise. The bomb blast occurred during Friday prayers. The blast marked the second massive attack in a week targeting worshippers.

Continued on Page 06

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim

sembly Shehbaz Sharif has

termed the hike in the prices

of electricity and petrol and

rising taxes as mini-budget.

In a statement on Friday, She-

hbaz said the time had proved

him right as he had predicted

on the floor of the house on

the eve of the budget ses-

sion that the government

would bring a mini-budget.

Continued on Page 06

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ter for Information and

Broadcasting Chaudhry

Fawad Hussain has urged

the media to provide solu-

tions to deal with the is-

Addressing a ceremony,

in Islamabad on Friday,

he said the issue of fake

news has become a big

challenge the era of mod-

ern technology. He empha-

sized on imparting train-

ing to journalists in the

realm of modern technol-

ogy, enabling them to deal

Minis-

ISLAMABAD:

sue of fake news.

League-

Nawaz

(PML-N)

President

and opposi-

tion leader in

National As-

Moscow to host US, China, Pak for talks

A sister publication of **CENTRELINE & DNA News Agency**

News Desk

MOSCOW: Moscow will host the United States, China and Pakistan next week for talks on Afghanistan, the Kremlin's envoy to the country told Russian news agencies Friday. News agencies cited Zamir Kabulov as saying the meeting would take place on Tuesday and that the countries "will try to work out a common position on the changing situation in Afghanistan" It should be recalled that back in March this year, the then Afghan government and the Taliban had decided to try and expedite the peace talks at a meeting in Moscow that came after an international conference there on the peace process. The United States, Russia, China, and Pakistan called on Afghanistan's warring sides to reach an immediate ceasefire at

Continued on Page 06

Shaukat Tarin to

act as adviser

as senator. It is pertinent to mention here that Tarin con-

stitutionally requires to be elected as a Member of Parlia-

ment till October 16, 2021 for continuation as the federal

minister for finance. According to the sources, the term of

Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin as the federal minister will

end today. The government has decided to appoint Tarin an

adviser. He will continue his responsibilities as an adviser.

The sources also said that Prime Minister Imran Khan

will soon approve the appointment of Tarin as an adviser.

Continued on Page 06

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has

decided to appoint Shaukat Tarin as PM's

adviser on finance as stopgap arrangement

till completion of the process to elect him

terrorist attack "The Govt

Pakistan

condemns

and people of Pakistan convey their support to the people of Afghanistan"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan condemns in the strongest terms the heinous terrorist attack at a mosque in Kandahar, resulting in loss of so many precious lives and injuries to others. "The Government and people of Pakistan convey their support, and heartfelt condolences, to the people of Afghanistan and stand in solidarity with them in this hour of grief", said a foreign office statement. Pakistan condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including despicable attacks on places of worship, it concluded.

US to lift curbs for vaccinated travelers

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: The White House on Friday said it will lift COVID-19 travel restrictions for fully vaccinated foreign nationals effective Nov. 8, ending historic restrictions that had barred much of the world from entering

the United States. Announcing the starting date for the new rules on travel into and out of the country, White House spokesman Kevin Munoz posted on Twitter that the policy "is guided by public health, stringent, and consistent." The unprecedented travel restrictions kept millions of visitors out of the United States from China, Canada, Mexico, India, Brazil, much of Europe and elsewhere; shrunk U.S. tourism; and hurt border community economies. They prevented many loved ones and foreign workers from reuniting with families.

has to be introduced to the

new technique, there is also a

training program. The CPEC

NCOC eases curbs for vaccinated people

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan chairs a meeting on sugar price

and steps to curb hoarding in Punjab. - DNA

Cinemas, shrines reopened; one-day weekly closure of businesses abolished

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) further eased coronavirus restrictions on Friday, allowing the reopening of cinemas and shrines for fully vaccinated citizens

across the country. According to a statement issued by the forum – which is the nerve centre of Pakistan's virus response - the decision to relax restrictions was taken during a meeting convened to review the pandemic situation in the country. Cinemas and shrines have been reopened for fully vaccinated citizens. One-day weekly closure of businesses is abolished.

Continued on Page 06

Active cases drop

below 40,000

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan reported less than 40,000 active COVID-19 cases for the first time since the fourth wave of the pandemic started back in July in the country. The total number of active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan decreased by a little over 300 to 39.593, data released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) showed Friday. The country last reported less than 40,000 cases on July 13 at 39,644 cases. The NCOC also reported 1,086 new COVID-19 cases, bringing the country's total infections to 1,262,771. The positivity rate now stands at 2.02% The death toll from the virus rose by 27 to 28,228. The total recoveries rose to 1,194,590 after 1,415 newly recovered cases were added. COVID-19 infections are decreasing in Pakistan, with 909 new infections reported on average each day. That's 15% of the peak - the highest daily average reported on June 17.

UK Conservative MP David Amess stabbed to death

DNA

LONDON: Conservative British lawmaker David Amess was killed on Friday after being stabbed "multiple times" during an event in his local constituency in southeast England, in the second death of a UK politician while meeting

voters since 2016. Local police did not name Amess but said a man had been arrested "on suspicion (of) murder" after the stabbing in Leigh-on-Sea. 'We are not looking for anyone else in connection with this incident," said Essex police, adding that the man in custody

was aged 25, and a knife was recovered. The force said officers had earlier responded to "reports of a stabbing" shortly after 12:05 pm (1105 GMT).

British media, including Sky News and the BBC, identified the victim as the 69-year-old politician from Prime Minister Boris Johnson's ruling Conservative Party.

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps called Amess "a dedicated, thoughtful man and a true Parliamentarian, who lost his life while serving the constituents who he worked relentlessly for throughout his career". Amess is the latest British MPs to have been attacked at his weekly constituency "surgery" with voters, which are typically held on Fridays when parliament is not sitting.

urges PIA to continue flights PIA says the flight operation will remain suspended

DNA

Afghan govt

ISLAMABAD: Afghan Taliban on Friday assured the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) management that the dispute arising out of keeping the PIA country manager hostage in Kabul would be resolved as early as possible. Quoting its sources, the TV channel reported that the Afghan government had assured the national flag carrier that the issue would be settled amicably, requesting the airline to continue with its flight operation. A spokesman for the airline, however, has said that the flight operation will remain suspended until further government orders.

down Quran app in China

WEB DESK LONDON: Apple has taken

Apple takes

down one of the world's most popular Koran apps in China, following a request from officials. Quran Majeed is available across the world on the App Store - and has nearly 150,000 reviews. It is used by millions of Muslims. The BBC understands that the app was removed for hosting illegal religious texts. The Chinese government has not responded to the BBC's request for comment. The deletion of the app was first noticed by Apple Censorship - a website that monitors apps on Apple's App Store globally.

PM Imran launches 'Kisan Portal' for farmers

The premier says government is focusing on rural development with the uplift of farmers their produce. He said the

Ansar M Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday launched 'Kisan Portal' for the farmers under Pakistan Citizen's Portal. Under Kisan Portal, a total of 123 dashboards have been established in relevant departments at the federal and provincial levels. Addressing the inaugural ceremony in Islamabad, PM Imran Khan said Allah is pleased with the help of the working class as the majority of the working class are small farmers. The premier

said that our effort is to help

the small farmers. When a

farmer goes to sell his crop, he has to sell it cheaply, our government is working to provide a due rate of the crops to the farmers.

of sugarcane to the farmers and when they started getting the full price of the crop, the production also increased," he said. The important thing is how the product will increase unless we focus on research, PM Imran Khan said and added that despite having cows and buffaloes, we have to import dry milk. While underlining the need to store water, he said, after 50 years, 10 big dams are being built in Pakistan. "We

need to store water so we can also avoid flood damage." The premier said the farmer

said India has created

785 websites to dissem-

inate fake news against

Pakistan. He said these

websites were linked with

media and India's leading

news channels to give cre-

He said on average 175 fake

news were created on daily

basis by an Indian based

channel. Similarly, he said,

the incident of mistreat-

ment of a TikToker at Mi-

nar-e-Pakistan and murder

of Noor Maqadam were

used to malign Pakistan

that women are unsafe in

the country.

dence to falsehood.

We tried to get the full price

has also included the agriculture sector in its umbrella. Imran Khan has said his vision for the promotion of the agriculture sector was focused on bringing improvement in the life of small farmers and resolving their grievances on priority. PM's Special Assistant Jamshed Iqbal Cheema said under the government's initiative, the farmers would get subsidies on seeds, fertilizers and the purchase of agricultural machinery.

He said the government was focusing on rural development with the uplift of farmers and giving them better support prices for

facilities to farmers. Prior to the launch of the Kisaan Portal, there was no specific category to register the grievances of farmers at the Pakistan Citizen Portal. The step will help the farmers et their problems resolved on a priority basis, the PM Office said. A total of 123 dashboards have

and provincial levels under the Kisaan Portal.

been set up at the federal

budget for the agriculture

sector had been doubled at

federal and provincial levels.

He mentioned that never in

the history of Pakistan, a

government extended such



FAISALABAD: Punjab Minister for Public Prosecution Ch. Zaheer ud din addressing the Serat un Nabi Conference in connection with Ashra Shaan e Rehmatul lil Alameen(PBUH). - DNA

AIIC sign MoU to establish trade cooperation

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Memorandum on Establishing Economic and Trade Cooperation between SCO demonstration area and Allama Iqbal Industrial City. In this regard MOU ceremony was held between the city Qingdao of the People's Republic of China and the city of Faisalabad of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the establishment of friendly cooperative rela-

The ceremony was inter

linked between Faisalabad, Islamabad and China at the same time.

Commissioner Divisional Zahid Hussain and CEO Faisalabad Industrial Estate Management Company(FIEDMC) Rana Yousaf signed the dicuments at Metropolitan Corporation Parliamentarians Shakil Shahid and Waris Aziz were also present. CCO MPC Zubair Hussain Nat, TOs Ilyas Shakir, Mujeeb ur Rehman and other officers were present. Divisional Commissioner said that the purpose of MOU

is to further enhancing and developing friendship and cooperation between the two countries. He informed that both parties will share experiences and information ans will cooperate in the field of economy, trade, tourism, Science and Technology, culture, agriculture, education and other areas on the basis of equality, reciprocity, sincerity and loyality. Commissioner thanked the authorities and said that it was a great honor for me to sign the MOU as administrator of Metropolitan Corporation.



KP Govt to develop 4 ITZ to bolster tourism

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakthunkhwa Government has decided to develop four integrated tourism zones (ITZ) in Malakand and Hazara divisions to reduce tourists' loads on existing destinations and open-up remote scenic areas for eco-tourists, trekkers, mountaineers and adventure sports lovers. A master plan for development of four integrated tourism zones at Mankial Swat, Thandiani Abbottabad, Ganol Manshera and Madaklasht Lower Chitral have been developed and would soon be presented to the World Bank for imple-

mentation. A renowned Malaysian firm under the auspices of KhyberPakhtunkhwa Integrated Tourism Development Project (KITE) has presented themaster plan for development of four integrated tourism zones to KP Government.

Khyber Pakthunkhwa Chief Minister, Mahmood Khan has principally agreed to the master plan which would soon be presented to the World Bank for implementation. - APP

12-day anti measles drive from Nov 15

PESHAWAR: The Health department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would launch a special 12-day anti-vaccination drive against measles and Rubella viral infections from November 15 to November 27 across the province.

During the campaign jabs of anti-measles and Rubella vaccines would be administered to children from the age of 9 months to 15 years to protect them from the two viral diseases, said an official of the Health department.

Explaining Rubella infection, he said that it was a contagious disease caused by a virus known as Rubella. It could cause a miscarriage or serious birth defects in a developing baby if a woman was infected while she was pregnant.

Most people who get rubella usually have a mild illness, with symptoms that could include a low-grade fever, sore throat, and a rash that started on the face and spreads to the rest of the body. - APP

UAD organizes breast cancer awareness seminar

Dr. Ghazala Ali said that early detection and treatment of the disease can save many lives

DNA

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Breast cancer awareness seminar was organized at university of agriculture Dera Ismail khan where experts delivered speeches to raise awareness regarding the causes, symptoms and early treatment of the breast cancer.

The program was jointly organized by university of agriculture Dera Ismail khan, Pakistan Scientific and technological information center and Dinar Cancer Hospital Dera Ismail

While talking on occasion, Director Pakistan Scientific and technological information center, Dr. Ghazala Ali Khan said that early detection and treatment of the disease can save many precious lives.

She further added that cooperation of men in this regard is very crucial and other awareness seminars

will be organized to reach to the mass audience. Director Dinar Cancer Hospital Dr. Nabila Said that unluckily, this issue was considered as taboo for many years but now the situation has changed and every effort shall be made for early detection and treatment of the breast cancer. Chief guest of the program, Vice Chancellor of Agriculture University, Prof. Dr. Masroor Elahi (TI) said that such programs bring positive changes to the society and Agriculture university will always be part of such ini-

tiatives. Director Department of Food Sciences and Nutrition, UAD, Dr. Sadaf Javaria, Coordinator Forestry Department Syed Abdul Wahid Shah, Director Finance Johar Zaman and others were present at the occasion. Vice Chancellor distributed certificates among the participants at the end of the program.

US CG. Faysal visit Karachi Expo Center

DNA

ISLAMABAD: US Consul General Mark Stroh and actor Faysal Qureshi visited one of Pakistan's largest vaccination facilities at the Karachi Expo Center as part of the United States and Sindh government's ongoing immunization awareness campaign, 'Fizaaoon se Falaah Tak'.

The campaign is encouraging Pakistani citizens to get vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus and save lives. Consul General Mark Stroh observed U.S. Pfizer vaccine inoculations firsthand, thanked health care workers, and congratulated Pakistanis receiving Pfizer

"The United States stands with the people of Pakistan in the fight against this global pandemic. Since July 2021, the American people have sent 15.8 million life-saving COVID-19 vaccine doses to the people of Pakistan, and another 9.6 million Pfizer doses will be arriving this month, in October," said Consul General Mark Stroh, while interacting with people getting Pfizer vaccines at the Karachi Expo Center.

These Pfizer vaccines are part of 500 million Pfizer doses the United States purchased this summer to deliver to 92 countries worldwide, including Pakistan, to fulfill President Joseph R. Biden's commitment to provide safe and effective vaccines around the world and supercharge the global fight against the pandemic.

KPFSA observes Food Day

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority (KP-FS&HFA) Friday organized an event in connection with 'World Food Day' to create awareness among people about safe and hygienic food in the province. Theme of Day, is 'our actions are our future, better production, better nutrition, a better environment and better life'. The event formally inaugurated the newly formed Volunteer Task Force with cake cutting ceremony.

While addressing to the event, Director General KP Food Safety Authority, Shahrukh Ali Khan said around 1300 hundred applications were received for the Volunteer Task Force; in which 150 were selected for Peshawar after their inter-

key to success He said that deep love and teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is required to include in our lives which are the guarantors of peace and security and mutual love Khalid, AC City Sahibzada ISHFAQ MUGHAL Muhammad Yousaf, CEO DEA Ali Ahmad Siyan, FAISALABAD: Provincial Mohammad Sadiq, Akhtar Butt, Maulana Mohammad

Minister for Public Prosecution Ch. Zaheer-ud-Din has said that the solution to our problems lies in sincere adherence to Uswa-e-Hasana of Prophet Muhammad(PBUH). He said this while participating the Serat un Nabi (SAW) Conference under Ashra Shaan Rematulil Alameen celebrations here at Metropolitan Corporation Hall. Commission-Additional

er General Muhammad

Riaz Kharal, Dr. Ifikhar Naqvi and other scholars, teachers and members of civil society were also present. The Provincial Minister for Public Prosecution said that the entire life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is in

enlightenment. He said that the guiding

fact an interpretation of the

Holy Quran by which we can

improve our lives by getting

principles of trust and truthfulness for us.

Following Sunnah

He said that deep love for the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is required to include in our lives the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) which are the guarantors of peace and security, mutual love and brotherhood and solidarity.

He said that patience, forbearance, tolerance and respect for humanity is the hallmark of Islamic society which should learn lessons from Islamic teachings for its development. Maulana

and others praised the Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH). Explaining the glory of Mustafa (peace be upon him) they said that there is an urgent need to follow teachings of Hazat Muhammad. They said that by fol-

lowing the pattern of beau-

ty, patience and endurance

should be nurtured. During the conference, Naat reciters presented Naats and prayers were offered for the development and prosperity of the country and the nation.

WAPDA to

add 9000MW

power by

2029

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

Water and Power Develop-

ment Authority (WAPDA)

is committed to the water,

food and energy security

of the country. At present,

it has been constructing as

many as 10 projects in wa-

ter and hydropower sectors

under 'Decade of Dams', to

be completed in a phased

manner from 2023 to 2029.

Pakistan

FAISALABAD:

Encouraging women entrepreneurs is top priority: Shehla Raza



NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Women's Development and former Deputy Speaker Sindh Assembly Shehla Raza has said that encouraging women businessmen and industrialists is among the priorities of the PPP

The Sindh government is providing all possible optrepreneurs in the fields of trade and industry and the difficulties and obstacles faced in this regard will be removed.

She said this while addressing the meeting with the Standing Committee of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) and a delegation of Entrepreneurs,

Karachi Women Chambers of Commerce & Industry Malir (KWCCI) led by its founder president Nazli Abid Nisar.

Shehla Raza appreciated the services of Nazli Abid Nisar, former VP FPCCI and Convener Standing Committee Women Entrepreneur Sindh Region for 2021, Founder President Karachi Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry Malwomen entrepreneurs and promoting women's development. She also congratulated the establishment of Karachi Women's Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Malir (KWCCI). The delegation included SVP KWCCI Malir, Afzala Shaheen, VP Yasmeen Arif, KWCCI East's Mehreen Elahi, Deputy Convener

FPCCI Standing Committee Women Entrepreneur Sindh Region Farah Sadiq Khan and Dr. Tobia.

Women entrepreneurs visited the 1094 helpline, call centre, day care center, play area and other support measures set up to help women. Delegation appreciated the efforts of the Sindh government for Women's Development.

Shehla Raza said, "women the society so they should get their due place and rights. The Ministry of Development Women's has taken important steps to help women, including the Helpline 1094, which not only provides full support and safety to women, but also makes every effort to address the issues facing them", she added.

Chairman WAPDA Lt Gen Muzammil Hussain (Retd) expressed these views while addressing the students and the faculty members at University of Agriculture, Faisalabad. The Chairman said that WAPDA has been tremendously contributing as a vibrant organization towards

national development by harnessing the vital resource of water. The under construction WAPDA projects include five dams, three hydropower projects, one canal and one water supply scheme. Diamer Basha Dam, Mohmand Dam, Dasu Hydropower Project, Nai Gaj Dam, Kachhi Canal Extension, Sindh Barrage and K-IV Project are to name a few.With completion of 10 under construction WAPDA projects, the gross water storage capacity in Pakistan will increase from 13 million acre feet (MAF) to more than 24 MAF with an addition of 11.7 MAF, sufficient to irrigate another 1.6 Million Acres of land. In addition, 950 million gallons water per day would also be made available for drinking purpose to Karachi and Peshawar. The installed hydel generation capacity will be doubled to cross 18000 MW with an addition of 9000 MW on completion of these projects. The under construction WAPDA projects will also provide about 35,000 job opportunities during the construction, he further said.

Zero gas pressure, Site industries come to a halt

DNA

KARACHI: President SITE Association of Industry, Abdul Rasheed has demanded the government to direct SSGC to provide gas to industries of SITE with required pressure to complete export orders without disruption. In a statement issued here,

the SITE President protested over zero gas pressure in the SITE area, and said that it is impossible to run industry. Industrial production has come to a halt and shipping export orders on time is also not possible. He added that the SITE area is hurt the most as compared to other industrial areas of Karachi. Expressing dismay over the prevailing situation, SAI President said that despite increasing prices and promises by the government, the gas pressure has come down to zero which is nullifying the government's own claim of facilitating the foreign exchange earning export sector.

Abdul Rasheed demanded the government to accord first priority to industries over all other sectors and ensure that the SSGC supplies gas to Industries with required pressure on an emergent basis.



Campaign launched to promote eco-friendly lifestyle

Henrik Persson, Ambassador of Sweden to Pakistan, welcomed the participants and said "Let's start a more sustainable and smarter lifestyle together

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The seven-day Challenge - Eat, Move, and Live Sustainably was launched by the Embassy of Sweden in Pakistan, together with WWF-Pakistan.

According to a press release issued here on Friday, the aim of the campaign is to promote eco-friendly lifestyle choices and create awareness about their impact on the environment. The campaign is challenging Pakistanis to live, eat and move smart for seven days.

It will highlight small yet sustainable changes that individuals can make in their daily routines. As the number of participants grows, the challenge will contribute to a greater public awareness about climate change and reducing individual carbon footprints.

To ensure that the challenge receives much-needed public attention, climate activists, influencers, and policy makers will participate and actively promote the challenge through their social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

H.E. Henrik Persson, Ambassador of Sweden to Pakistan, welcomed the partic-

ipants and said "Let's start a more sustainable and smarter lifestyle together today! It can be as simple as saying no to single use of plastic products or using a bicycle whenever you can to reduce your carbon

WWF-Pakistan's Director General, Hammad

pact of human activities on the environment; including droughts, heat waves and floods. As the world embarks on the UN decade for ecosystem restoration, Pakistan is well-positioned to take advantage of a wide window of opportunities.

The government, private sector and non-profit



of the total waste in Pakistan and 36 million tonnes of food go to waste every year. This campaign with the Embassy of Sweden is an effort to create awareness around this issue and address the missing link, by encouraging individuals to step up and make eco-friendly choices for a sustainable future." During the event a panel of experts, including Swedish Company representatives from Tetra Pak Pakistan, Tundra Founder

Despite this, plastics account for 65 per cent

ervation of natural resources.

AB, and H&M Hennes & Mauritz AB, shared their business strategies to address climate change.

Another panel featured the Chair of Islamabad Wildlife Management Board and experts from WWF-Pakistan and Saaf Suthra Sheher talked about rethinking lifestyle choices and discussed some of the easiest and most impactful habits on the individual level.

The event was attended by partners of Sweden and WWF-Pakistan from different spheres of the society including high-level officials from government, diplomatic missions, private sector, Swedish alumni, media, and the civil society.

SERVICES



Namaz Timings

гајг	04:50 am
Zohr	11:54 am
Asr	03:54 pm
Maghrib	05:34 pm
Isha	06:57 pm



Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

Rescue (Police)13				
Bomb Disposal15				
Fire Services Rawalpindi,				
Islamabad1122 & 16				
Emergency Ambulance1122				
& Rescue Services.4451122				
Motorway Police9266044				
Motorway Police9270601-20				
Women Police Stations				
Islamabad9222596				
Rawalpindi9270601-20				

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CAA	9281092



Hospitals

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DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa Internation	nal.4603666



Departments

cp	
CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment B	Soard 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-12,9266316 Wapda Islamabad....9217579 Wapda Rawalpindi 111-309-309

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
RawalTown	5773343

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

Passing marks: Fate of thousands of students hangs in the balance

Students have demanded of the Education Minister Shafqat Mahmood, the Chairman of the Higher Education Commission and even the Prime Minister to look into the matter and provide immediate relief to all such students

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Due to an indiscreet decision of the Ministry of Education and the High Education Commissioner the fate of thousands of students hangs in the balance as those who got 3rd divisions are not able to even apply for the admissions to the next class.

According to the details the government had passed

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Rawal-

pindi Chamber of Com-

merce and Industry (RCCI)

in collaboration with the

Federal Board of Revenue

(FBR) organized an awards

ceremony in recognition of

the taxpayers. The purpose

of the event was to appre-

ciate the role of taxpayers

and business institutions

in various fields. Moreover.

the aim was to highlight

the government's efforts to

recognize the facilities and

President Dr. Arif Alvi was

the chief guest at the func-

tion held at the Awan e Sa-

dar while Federal Minister

for Privatization Muham-

mad Mian Soomro, senior

FBR officials, government

President RCCI

services for taxpayers.

examination giving them just passing marks. When those students approached various universities for admissions, they were denied admissions because according to HEC rules only those who have 45 per cent marks can apply for admission to the next class.

Even the Allama Iqbal Open University, which used to entertain all students regardless of their percentage, has also refused admissions saying the HEC has barred it and put a condition of 45 per cent.

The affected students and parents are of the view that if the students could not get admission then why were they passed? And if they were passed they should have been passed with at least 45 per cent marks or a directive should have been issued to all colleges and universities that students with 3rd division may be given ad-

Soomro and award winners. - DNA

Nadeem Rauf, Group Lead- officials of RCCI for organ- of the country. He said that

er Sohail Altaf, SM Naseem izing the function in honor RCCI has organized various

of the leading taxpayers. He

said that Pakistan is on the

path of development, and

the Government is focusing

on making the country a

hub of economic develop-

ment. Peace in Afghanistan

will open the door to trade

with Central Asian coun-

tries and as a result this will

strengthen Pakistan and

the region. He said that if

traders are prosperous then

Pakistan will be prosperous.

The President said that

traders should introduce

On this occasion, RCCI

President Nadeem Rauf said

that Rawalpindi Chamber is

an active organization of

businessmen of the country

and the business communi-

ty is playing its full role for

the economic development

Aiwan-e-Sadr certified as world's

first presidency to go green

50001 EnMS making it the world's first such President Secretariat, what President Arif Alvi said had successfully

curtailed over 35% of its energy usage and would save Rs72.5 million to national kitty. After assuming the office in

2018. President Dr Arif Alvi envisioned a Green Presidency Initiative to curtail President's Secretariat energy usage

and shift it to renewable energy source. Describing the monetary benefits of going green, the president said savings

from energy conservation and clean energy generation are equivalent to 3,154,750 KWh. The initiative equates to

3,144 tons reduction of Green House Gases and plantation of 142,909 mature trees. The Aiwan-e-Sadr also got GBC

SEED Platinum as the building is now fully powered by an in-house 1-MW Solar System. The ISO 50001 EnMS certif-

icate was awarded to Project Director Shahid Shaukat by Abdur Razzaq Lakhani of SGS and GBC SEED Platinum cer-

tificate by Rashid Bashir of Green Building Council. Addressing the ceremony, the president said the Presidency's

initiative should also be replicated across the country considering the importance of energy conservation across the

world. He thanked the private sector companies who supported the initiative under their Corporate Social Respon-

sibility. President Alvi said it was always wise to prevent carbon emission as the world including Pakistan was under

the brand Pakistan.

RCCI organizes taxpayers

recognition awards ceremony

were present on the occa-

sion. Senior Vice President

Asim Malik, Vice President

Talat Awan, former presi-

dents, executive committee

chairman Osman Ashraf.

prominent business person-

alities and representatives

of institutions also attended

In his address, Dr. Arif

Alvi said that there is a

need to popularize the cul-

ture of tax payment in the

country. The chamber of

commerce should provide

assistance to people, es-

pecially women in getting

loans. Also the chamber

should encourage women

in medium-sized business-

es, increase employment

opportunities for women

in the industry, he added.

The President thanked the

the ceremony.

missions only for this year. Now thousands of students have been left in the lurch and they do not know what to do. They have demanded of the Education Minister Shafqat Mahmood, the Chairman of the Higher Education Commission and even the Prime Minister to look into the matter and provide immediate relief to all such students.

Sources at the AIOU revealed that the decision badly affected their financial po-

trade conferences at nation

al and international level.

The aim is to promote trade

and investment in the coun-

try. Stressing on the need

to increase the tax base, he

said that the FBR should

provide a one-window facil-

ity to all chambers for the

Group leader RCCI Sohail

Altaf said that as a result

of government initiatives,

traders were being encour-

aged and higher taxpayers

were being honored. He

said that small and medi-

um enterprises have to be

brought forward to increase

trade activities and promote

tax culture in the country.

In the end President Arif

Alvi distributed the awards

among the winners in differ-

ent categories.

convenience of traders.

this condition of 45 per cent the University cannot enroll hundreds of students, which means it has to incur loss of millions of rupees.

Insiders say the Open University means it is open for all kinds of students regardless of their percentage therefore the new condition by the HEC has on one hand deprived hundreds of students of getting admissions and on another caused huge financial loss

be mentioned here that the government had decided to pass all students because of the Covid situation. As a result of govt decision some students got abnormally higher marks and some abnormally low. The decision to pass all students may have been a right one however all students should have been passed with at least 45 per cent marks so that they could have applied for admissions.

IHC restores PMC member

High Court (IHC) Friday restored the Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) member examination on his post and sought comments from respondents in petition challenging his termination. Petitioner Dr Qazi Tahiruddin appeared before the court and adopted the stance that he was terminated from the post after he refused to sign the increase of MDCAT fee. He said the termination was violation of Constitution and the PMC rules 2020 as well. He said one could be terminated from his job only on misconduct, adding that the decision of his job dismissal was against the law. He prayed the court to turn down the termination order of PMC against him from the service. - APP

exam ISLAMABAD: Islamabad

measures to control dengue, Dr Faisal

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Dr Faisal Sultan Friday appreciated the efforts of dengue control team in curbing the spread of the disease in the federal capital. In a tweet, Dr Faisal said that the ministry was mak ing sincere efforts to protect citizens from carrying dengue virus and its team's work in that regard was appreciable. Meanwhile, the health experts had advised the citizens to take special preventive measures to protect them from the

and stop water storage practices at their residences to prevent any access to egg-laying female mosquitoes. They said mosquitoes breed primarily in containers like earthenware jars, metal drums and concrete cisterns used for domestic water storage, as well as discarded plastic food containers, used automobile tyres and other items that collect rainwater. Dr Wasim Khawaja from the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) said that dengue was a mosquito-borne infection, which in recent years had become a major public health concern. He said dengue fever was a severe, flu-like illness that affects 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 is the pre dominantly urban species Aedes aegypti.

bringing ever greater numbers of people into contact with this vector, especially in areas that are favourable for mosquito breeding like in places where household water storage is common and where solid waste disposal services are inadequate. He said that dengue viruses were transmitted to humans through the bites of infective female Aedes mosquitoes. He added mosquitoes generally acquire the virus while feeding on the blood of an infected person. He said after virus incubation for eight to ten days, an infect ed mosquito was capable, during probing and blood feeding, of transmitting the virus to susceptible individuals for the rest of its life. He said the virus circulated in the blood of infected humans for two to seven days, at approximately the same time as they suffer from fever. He added the clinical features of dengue fever vary according to the age of the patient. Medical expert, Dr Sharif Astori said infants and young children may have a non-specific febrile illness with a rash as older children and adults may have either a mild febrile syndrome or the classical incapacitating disease with an abrupt onset and high fever, severe headache, pain

ISLAMABAD: President Arif Alvi in a group photo with President RCCI Nadeem Rauf, Federal Minister Mian Mohammad Government taking

dengue virus in wake of an increasing number of cases. They said that citizens should properly dispose of solid waste

He said the rapid growth of the urban population was

pressure regarding availability of water and other natural resources. Through this initiative, the Green House Gas production has been reduced at the building from 102 tons in 2018 to 2028 tons this year.- DNA behind the eyes, muscle and joint pains and rash. – DNA **UAE Embassy, IDC raise breast cancer awareness**

Dr. Rizwan Uppal, CEO IDC expressed his sincere gratitude to H.E and the Embassy of UAE for this joint collaboration to support Pink Ribbon initiative

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in the Islamic Republic of Pakistanin partnership with Islamabad Diagnostic Center launched an awareness and preventive campaign for breast cancer to promote health awareness and empowerment of community through provision of 50% discount on breast cancer diagnostics including xray mammography for the month of october, 2021 at IDC to enhance communi-

ty support services. The eventto support Pink Ribbon campaign for Breast Cancer Awarenesswas attended by a large number of people alongwith the representatives of the

attached offices and the employees of the Embassy and senior officials of IDC. H.E. Hamad Obaid Al Zaabi inaugurated the event with ribbon cutting followed by his address on the importance of breast cancer awareness amongst women globally. H.E expressed his solidarity and seriousness in raising awareness about the timely detection and protection from breast cancer. H.E quoted "UAE Embassy and IDC will join hands to support such awareness initiatives in future as well." Dr. Rizwan Uppal, CEO IDC ex-

pressed his sincere gratitude to H.E and the Embassy of UAE for this joint collaboration to support Pink Ribbon initiative. He said "The only ray of hope for curing breast cancer lies in early detection'.



policemen in Osama Satti murder case

ISLAMABAD: An Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Friday framed charges against five accused police personnel allegedly involved in killing of a citizen Osama Satti.

ATC Judge Muhammad Ali Warraich heard the case regarding the above matter. The five accused were produced before the court during hearing. The judge read out the charge sheet against the accused. The accused, however, denied the charges against them. At this, the court instructed the prosecution to present evidence on October 27. The citizen Osama Satti was shot dead by the police personnel in Islamabad a few months ago. - APP

Wheelchairs distributed among people

RAWALPINDI: Al-Khidmat Foundation (AKF) Islamabad on Friday distributed 12 wheelchairs among deserving and needy people.

These chairs were distributed by Hamid Athar Malik, President, Al-Khidmat Foundation Islamabad, on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The president said that the provision of wheelchairs facilitates the transportation of persons with disabilities so that they can play an effective role in society.

He urged the philanthropists to come forward and help facilitate the people. He said that people with disabilities have a desire to do something and the feeling of deprivation can be reduced. Rizwan Ahmed, President Khidmat Foundation Punjab North, Chairman Ittehad Steel Mill Chaudhry Khalid Javed and others also participated in the program. - APP

UoB, IIUI ink MoU to collaborate in academic activities

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the University of Buner (UoB) and the Igbal International Institute for Research and Dialogue of the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) on Friday. The MoU was signed by Prof Dr Mushtaq Ahmad (Director ORIC IIUI) and his counterpart Dr Saif ul Islam (Director ORIC UoB). The MoU was also signed by the UoB Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Amin Badshah and the Executive Director IRD. Dr Husnul Amin.

IHC orders CDA to remove encroachments

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday directed Capital Development Authority (CDA) to remove all encroachments from entire federal capital area. The court directed the civic body to demolish all illegal structures, which have been built illegally beyond one's plot line. The court also asked the CDA to stop further encroachments in slum areas of the city. Chief Justice Athar Minal-

lah passed the above orders during hearing. The court also canceled the stay orders of petitioners who had illegally constructed residential structures at the land of Korang Nullah. The chief justice directed

the CDA to take actions without any discrimination against the encroachments. The hearing of the case then adjourned for two weeks.

Noor case: Notices served to respondents

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday served notices to respondents on a petition of Zahir Jaffar's parents seeking provision of digital evidence in Noor Mukadam murder case.

Justice Aamer heard the case filed by accused Zakir Jaffar and Asmat Jaffar challenging the decision of trial court dated October 7. - APP

Saturday, October 16, 2021

Govt initiated hand hygiene awareness:

Ezdi

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson

Senate Standing Committee

on Climate Change Senator

Seemi Ezdi on Friday said the government initiated

hand hygiene awareness

through proper hand wash-

ing facilities at the entrance

of Panagahs during the test-

She was addressing the

Global Hand Washing Day

celebration organized by

the German International

Development Agency (GIZ),

German Embassy, UNICEF

Pakistan, WaterAid and

partnered by the Ministry

of Climate Change and Sani-

Senator Ezdi said at least five

panagahs or shelter homes

were established in the fed-

eral capital where proper

water, sanitation and hygiene

(WASH) facilities specifically

hand washing sinks were set

"It has helped in reducing

disease spread among the

people staying at the Pa-

nagahs and also promoted

education and awareness

on hand hygiene among the

marginalized strata of the

The Senate body chair also

mentioned that hand wash-

ing; sanitation and social dis-

tancing became a new normal

that would stay in the public

She suggested that hand

washing stations should be

established at the schools

to inculcate hand washing

among the children for

mobilization of younger co-

horts to adopt best hygiene

She underscored that Islam

as a religion put huge em-

phasis on hygiene and clean-

practices.

life style for some years.

tation for Millions.

up at the entrances.

society," she said.

ing times of pandemic.

PAL to organize Int'i naatia mushaira

ISLAMABAD: Academy of Letters (PAL) would organize an online in ternational naatia mushaira on October 22 in connection with Eid Milad-un-Nab (saw). Eminent scholars Tabish Alwari, Jalil Aali, Hamid Amravi, Jamshed Masroar and Sadiq Jamil would preside over the Mushaira. Chairman Islamic Ideology Qibla Ayaz, renowned scholar Ayub Khawar, Naseem Sahar, Nasir Ali Syed, Dr. Akhtar Shumar, Ijaz Kanwar Raja, Musarat Jabeen Zehra and Shaukat Ali Naz would be chief guests on the occasion.

Eminent scholar Zakiya Ghazal, Dr. Nasreen Haseeb Anbar, Dr. Father Abbas, Qaiser Wajadi, Iqbal Naveed, Sabir Raza, Dr. Anbar Abid and Yadullah Haider would be guests of honour in Mushaira. Chairman PAL Dr. Yousaf Khushk said that eminent poets would recite their fresh Naatia Kalams in mushaira.

He said that naat connects younger generations with rich traditions of Islamic culture. He said that PAL would organize international Naatia Mushaira to pay tributes to the Holy Prophet (PBUH). - APP

Fawad, Qadri chair meeting regarding Eid Milad

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain and Minister for Religious Affairs Pir Noorul-Haq Qadri jointly chaired a meeting to review arrangements for various events of Eid Milad-un-Nabi on 12th Rabi-ul-Awal.

The ministers said according to the directives of the Prime Minister, Eid Milad-un-Nabi would be celebrated in a grand manner. The meeting reviewed the arrangements for holding

the functions on the auspicious occasion of Eid Milad. In the meeting, preparations for Eid Milad-un-Nabi and Rehmat-ul-Alamin Scholarships were discussed in detail. The meeting was informed

that there would be two major events on 12th Rabi-ul-Awal, one at the Presidency and the other at the Convention Center where the Prime Minister would

Chaudhry Fawad said the name of the Holy Prophet (SAW) was the message of the truth, in the light of which the nation would move forward.

creating awareness among the people about the "Paigham-e- Pakistan" on the occasion of the "Ashra Rehmat-ul-Alamin" celebrations, formation of a society based on tolerance and peaceful coexistence was being made possible.

He said life and teachings of the Holy Prophet (SAW) were a practical example for the whole society, and the nation should follow his teachings practical lives.

The ministers termed announcement of the establishment of Rehmat-ul-Alamin Authority a welcome step. Through this authority, the young generation would be made aware of the history of Muslims and aspects of the Islamic Revolution. – **APP**

NIFTH opens door for new talent

ISLAMABAD: National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage-NIFTH (Lok-Virsa) is providing an opportunity to young talent every Thursday at Hill Joint open stage.

"Open stage is a event which takes place every Thursday in which various artists bands that need a platform to practice and they do not often find a place to do so can perform", an official of NIF-

TH said. NIFTH started this open stage for young artists to explore their talent, write new songs, meet new artists, perform live at stage and improve their craft in

the process, told APP. He said the new talent would perform under the guidance of seniors musicians to improve their skills. - APP

Briefs Women moot ends on a pledge to enhance women's resilence

The session was focused on, "Importance of Rural Women in Electoral Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in Democracy during & post COVID-19 World"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The speakers at the concluding policy session of the 14th Annual Rural Women Conference were of the view that the shift in women's political role promises their economic freedom.

3-Day Annual Rural Women Conference organized by PODA-Pakistan concluded here at Lok Virsa, Islamabad today (Friday) on a resolution passed by the rural women who were representing 109 district of the country.

The session was focused on, "Importance of Rural Women in Electoral Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in Democracy during & post COVID-19 World." The focus of the policy session was on Importance of Rural Women in Electoral Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in Democracy during

To celebrate International Rural Women Day that is being observed every year on 15th of October, PO-DA-Pakistan organized the 3-day conference to voice rural women's concerns which were translated in to the conference resolution.

& post COVID-19 World.

The conference participants urged the government to ensure women's equal participation who are vastly underrepresented in local and national assemblies.

Tariq Malik, Chairperson of National Data Base and Registration (NADRA) identified that there was an inherent unofficial bias of the implementers in the system to compel married women to adopt their husband's names after marriage. "There is no such binding in the law that requires women to adopt a certain name. It is upto women to adopt their maiden names or

VIQAR UN NISA WOMEN UNIVERSIT



change their names after marriage. We are all set to remove this algorithmic gender bias," he added. The chairperson also lauded efforts of Qamar Bano who supported NAD-RA to register 5000 Hindu women in Jacobabad, Sindh. He also informed the audience that they have also taken measures to register minorities comprised of Hindus, Jews, Christian, Sikh, and Dalits.

"ID card is just not mere a plastic card, it protects not only human rights of women, but also empowers them to be beneficial from the governments' policies and steps. After my joining, within 100 days

we have reduced the existing registration gap between women and men from 14 percent to 10 percent. We have taken revolutionary steps to increase women's registration to empower them and protect their rights. To ensure this, an inclusive registration unit has been setup that is working rigorously to increasewomen registration.

The unit is reviewing all polices to enhance women registration whether is it linked with awareness or outreach. Also, within few months, approximately 40 million households have validated their family members through our dedicated service 8009. Through this service a stranger can be identified in your family," Tariq Mailk added. The organizations who supported the Conference were: European Union (EU), United Nation' Development Fund (UNDP)-USAID, UN Women, GAIN, Oxfam, International Foundation for Electoral System (IFES)- Global Affair Canada (GAC), Food and Agriculture -Pakistan, National Endowment for Democracy (NED), Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), University of Veterinary and Animal Science (UVAS), CiMMYT, Department of Agriculture Information Punjab, and Iyzil

in shaping their communities with concrete and substantive actions,"

App (1st security App for Women). Luke Myers, Head of Aid, Canada High Commission in Pakistan stressed on the point to avoid token representation and participation of women and urged the guests to replace it withgenuine commitment to resolve their issue with pragmatic gender-sensitive policies. "The upcoming local governments' elections provide women an opportunity to women to take active role both as candidates and voters to have a strong voice and agency

PHA plants over 300,000 saplings

RAWALPINDI: Parks and ous Rawalpindi project, was Horticulture Authority (PHA) Rawalpindi has planted over 300,000 saplings under Clean and Green Pakistan programme in Rawalpindi city while solid steps are being taken to beautify several areas, renovate historical sites and eliminate encroachments.

Director General PHA, Zaheer Anwar Jappa said all available resources were utilized to achieve the plantation target set for monsoon plantation campaign 2021 which help reduce environmental pollution.

He said PHA, in collaboration with the departments concerned under the Glorialso taking solid steps for the betterment and beautification of the city, he told APP. PHA was striving to renovate public parks of the city besides carrying out plantation, he said adding, more facilities were being provided to the citizens at all parks.

PHA had come tree plantation plan on the banks of Nullah Leh, adding, seeds of locally grown plants in over 50,000 soil balls were planted along the The soil balls were thrown

over a stretch of 14 kms and the tree-planting process was also extended to Soan River. - APP

liness of an individual as it declared that cleanliness was half of the faith. - APP Farewell visit of Brigadier

Kiani to Rwp

Cantt Board

RAWALPINDI: A farewell function was held in the lawn of Cantt Office vesterday in honor of Brigadier Ijaz Qamar Kayani, Commander Cantonment Board Rawalpindi. Addressing the function, Additional CEO Naveed Nawaz said that the board headed by Brigadier Ijaz Qamar Kiani and CEO Muhammad Omar Farooq Ali Malik has made significant progress and financial difficulties have been overcome. In his address, the CEO said that Kent Board Rawalpindi had been facing various problems till recently, the biggest of which were water, revenue collection, enforcement and so on. These issues were resolved with the tireless efforts and full cooperation of Brigadier Ijaz Qamar Kiani. According to the Prime Minister's Green and Clean Vision, we have set up "Quran Gardens" in different areas where there used to be piles of rubbish. In this regard, our Horticulture Branch Mehr Gul, incharge of the department, has worked tirelessly to plant lush trees and shrubs which are mentioned in the "Holy Quran". The installation work ended very well. - APP

NHMP adopts mechanism to control traffic accidents

National

ISLAMABAD:

Highway and Motorway Police (NHMP) has adopted contemporary gadgetry mechanisms to control traffic accidents and save precious lives through the use of modern technology on motorways and highways. Performance Audit Automation System (PAAS) - a web based real time performance evaluation and assessment application - was recently launched to further improve the of Motorway Police, said a NHMP statement.

Due to various steps, NHMP showed remarkable results in reducing road accidents by 46 percent, both fatal and non-fatal.

The use of modern technology was need of the time. The new system evaluation has been introduced across the country to check the performance of Beat level in a short period. The National Highways and Motorway Police is at the forefront of providing all possible assistance to the public.

To promote safety on motorways and highways through effective enforcement and provision of assistance to road users by applying highest standards of courtesy, integrity and professionalism is our mission. - APP

Remove all encroachments in Islamabad: IHC

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court has instructed the Capital Development Authority to immediately remove encroachments across Islamabad. The Islamabad High Court has instructed the Capital Development Authority to immediately remove encroachments across Islamabad. At a hearing on Friday, the court ordered the authorities to demolish all buildings constructed outside the allotted plot line.

"Demolish houses and buildings constructed around nullahs," Justice Athar Minallah instructed. "Build a boundary wall around the Korang Nullah and crack down on people living around it." The court ordered the CDA to act as per the law "without any discrimination". Justice Minallah added that all stay orders on encroachment operations on government land should be declared null and void.

The court has also summoned a report on Islamabad's katchi abadis and the provision of basic facilities for its residents from the authority. The hearing has been adjourned for two weeks. - DNA

Capital to get 100 mgd water from Ghazi Barotha reservoir ISLAMABAD: Advisor to in this direction", he said while speaking at a consultative meeting on 'demon-

the Prime Minister on Capital Development Authority (CDA) Affairs, Ali Nawaz Awan said the government has started a project, in collaboration with FWO, to bring 100 million gallons per day (MGD) water from Ghazi Barotha reservoir to fulfill the needs of people living in the federal capital.

RAWALPINDI: Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Ussman Buzdar along with minister for interior

Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed unveiling the plaque of the up gradation of Viqar un Nisa Women College

Rawalpindi to the status of a University. - DNA

"The government is working on long and short term initiatives to meet water requirements of the federal capital. We have also worked on efficient water management as a shortterm measure. A lot of stration of nature-based solutions for improving the resilience of ground-

water aquifers here. The advisor said, according to the 1998 Census, Islamabad's population was about 0.8 million and now in the current census, which was conducted after almost 19 years, the federal capital's population had reached about 2.3 million.

"Within 20 years, the population in Islamabad has tripled; there are multiple reasons for migration into the capital including better infrastructure, good schooling system, and availability of healthcare, employment opportunity, and good living standards. Though the population increased manifold, the facilities didn't and that has put a lot of burden on the existing infrastructures and facilities," he added.

He said there was a need to take steps to make the future of the country's next-generation secure.

"God has gifted us this water in the shape of rains and every year, we are wasting it into Nallah Lai. I directed the CDA to make it a pri-

water recharge wells at the earliest. The more we built these wells, the more we will be able to secure the rainwater" he added In the past, he said, water

ority and complete the soil

storage was not on the priority list of the previous governments, However, he said, looking at the depleted resources, the government is working hard to address this issue.

He said that no one can imagine that a city like Islamabad would face the non-availability of water, but sectors such as G-10, G-11, I-10, G-13, are facing extreme water shortage. - APP

UNDP, TCCF join hands for awareness about vaccination

Close to 3,000 young healthcare workers will be trained on effective vaccine administration and side effects management

DNA ISLAMABAD: United Nations

Development Programme (UNDP) and The Coca-Cola Foundation (TCCF) have designed a Stop the Spread of COV-ID-19 project to increase awareness about Covid vaccinations. The \$20 million TCCF's global support under Stop the Spread initiative will work with nonprofit organizations in response to the pandemic, said a press release. Commenting on the initiative, Saadia Madsbjerg, President of TCCF, said, "We are proud to use our resources to fund initi-

atives to help curb the spread

of COVID-19 around the world,

including this grant to support

the important work of UNDP

The signing agreement for the project was announced at UN-DP's Islamabad Head Quarters. Laura Sheridan, Programme Manager, Youth Empowerment Programme at UNDP said, "We

Pakistan".



have worked together with TCCF to design the project on international best practices. We are aiming to impact thousands of people

by the end of this campaign to not just get vaccinated but also actively guide others to follow the NCOC registration process

till the point citizens have their vaccination certificates. To reduce exposure of participants, the event was live

streamed with leading behavioural change scientists, digital media specialists, journalists and health experts who participated in a discussion on how to meet the pandemics fast-changing landscape.

Stop The Spread project will involve training of youth volunteers facilitation of local hospitals to conduct mobile vaccination drives as well as coordination with the Government for vaccination registration drives for greater vaccine coverage in Pakistan, particularly in areas with little access to medical support.

Close to 3,000 young healthcare workers will be trained on effective vaccine administration and side effects management.

The project also includes distribution of personal protective equipment for health care workers and volunteers. It a will also engage at least 2 million people digitally with support from Google Ads and social media marketing for greater impact.

Cutting losses

020 was a terrible year for Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). After several controversies and incriminating revelations, receiving a ban imposed by the European Union, and incurring a loss of Rs36.5 billion in the financial year, in 2021 PIA has been on a path of recovery, exploring several options to cut its losses and get back on the international stage again.

Some of these initiatives include some very difficult and harsh decisions with regard to human resources. PIA's institutional mismanagement and over the hiring of employees had been a major contention with the national flag carrier for many years; yet changing the hiring process and practices elicited a strong reaction for the institution's employees. However, the series of failures the airline faced in 2020, leading to it reaching the threat of privatisation, has forced it to induct some ground-breaking changes. Some of these changes included a voluntary separation scheme (VSS) for its employees, a one-time opportunity aimed at restructuring the airline in a way that the workers would not face heavy losses. More recently, along the same line of thought, the PIA has fired over 1,500 employees recruited on forged documents.

While these measures may seem harsh, it is imperative to remember that PIA's loss-making has been going into the billions for years. The PIA had suffered Rs67.4 billion losses in 2018. Only after addressing the root of the problem, which has been severe mismanagement in its human resource departments, has the PIA been able to mitigate its losses somewhat, cutting them down to the loss of Rs25 billion in the half-year ended June 30, 2021.

This is still a large number, yet amounts to half of the losses the airline incurred in previous years. However, it signifies that there is still a significant burden that the national flag carrier has to handle before it can actually be turned into a venture that can be privatised.

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New protection centre

HE inauguration of the country's first Transgender Protection Centre in Islamabad is a big step forward by the government. The Human Rights Minister has stated that this is only the first of many, which is positive to hear. The transgender community is and always has been a very fundamental part of Pakistani society. But in recent times, little in the way of protection has been offered by the state. This community is exposed to all the worst sort of violence. The lack of employment opportunities all but ensure that sexual violence, assault, blackmail and having to contend with the criminal world become a significant threat for all members of the community.

With families often ostracising transgender persons, this initiative is extremely helpful. The new protection centre will look to offer basic health facilities, legal aid, psychological counselling and temporary shelter. This will help transgender persons under threat look to the state for protection, as it should be. The state has a responsibility to protect all citizens equally, and an efficient mechanism can ensure that the government stands by the community.

It is hoped that the government fulfils its promise of this being only the first centre of many; transgender persons are present all over the country and as such, we need more than one functioning centre in every district for this strategy to be effective. Moving forward, it is important for the government to also work on making society more inclusive, and this can only take place if the state prioritises on protecting vulnerable communities such as transgender persons and makes sure than no violence against them is tolerated. The centre is a good project, but its nature is still reactionary. Only victims will be able to approach the state for recourse under this model. After this the government must offer a more proactive means for the transgender community to thrive in Pakistan. This is only possible by safeguarding their physical and economic welfare and allowing for the community to step into the mainstream and vocalise its problems itself.

Uzbekistan's chairmanship in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

Vladimir Norov



"Central Asia should continue to be one of the priorities of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization," said the head of Uzbekistan at the Bishkek SCO Summit in 2019. Indeed, due to its geopolitical and geostrategic significance, Central Asia is the core of the SCO and remains the focus of the Organization's attention. At the SCO summits in 2018-2021, the leaders of the G8 expressed support for the efforts of the Central Asian countries to intensify cooperation in the political, economic, cultural and humanitarian spheres.

OLLOWING the results of the jubilee Dushanbe meeting of the Council of Heads of SCO Member States, held on September 17, 2021, the chairmanship of the Organization passed to the Uzbek side. Having accepted this responsible mission, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev outlined at the summit its main priorities aimed at the further development of the SCO.

Uzbekistan, as a founding state of the SCO, attaches particular importance to strengthening multilateral cooperation within the Organization in the system of its foreign policy priorities, and also considers it a significant platform for open and constructive dialogue, an important tool for cooperation in ensuring regional security, promoting mutually beneficial economic ties, partnership in social, cultural and humanitarian spheres.

Since Shavkat Mirziyoyev was elected President of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2016, more than 40 initiatives have been put forward within the framework of the SCO summits aimed at strengthening diverse cooperation in the Organization's space, increasing its role and authority in the world. At the same time, one of the key factors in achieving the SCO's main goals and solving the tasks facing it was identified by the Uzbek side as ensuring the stability and prosperity of Central Asia, where in a short time, thanks to the efforts of the head of Uzbekistan and the countries of the region, it was possible to make significant progress in constructively solving acute regional problems, including issues of borders, trade, transport and water use. This creates favorable conditions and unique opportunities for ensuring security, broad cooperation, and promoting the most important regional investment and infrastructure projects throughout the Organization.

"Central Asia should continue to be one of the priorities of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization," said the head of Uzbekistan at the Bishkek SCO Summit in 2019. Indeed, due to its geopolitical and geostrategic significance, Central Asia is the core of the SCO and remains the focus of the Organization's attention. At the SCO summits in 2018-2021, the leaders of the G8 expressed support for the efforts of the Central Asian countries to intensify cooperation in the political, economic, cultural and humanitarian spheres. They welcome the holding of Consultative Meetings of the Heads of Central Asian States on a regular basis and advocate for the active role of the SCO in further strengthening the stability and socio-economic development of this region.

The challenges faced by the Central Asian countries are common to the entire SCO space. One of the factors of the manifestation of international terrorism in this region is the unstable situation in Afghanistan. Uzbekistan is well aware that the restoration of a peaceful Afghanistan, free from terrorism and drug crime, is impossible without the implementation of adequate economic measures. It is important to note that Tashkent considers Afghanistan not as a source of threats to peace and stability, but as a unique strategic opportunity, as a country, the establishment of peace and stability, in which it can give a fundamentally new impetus to the activation of trans-regional cooperation throughout the Eurasian space.

In this regard, Uzbekistan is taking effective steps in this direction and is becoming an active participant in international efforts to restore peaceful life in Afghanistan. In particular, in 2017, at the suggestion of the Uzbek side, the work of the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group was resumed in a new capacity, the level of representation in it was raised to deputy foreign ministers.

The high-level international conference on Afghanistan held in Tashkent in 2018 brought the international community's understanding of the need for regional cooperation for the peace process and development in this country to a new level. The main outcome of the International Conference was a consolidated appeal to all parties to the conflict to start peace talks as soon as possible without preconditions. Uzbekistan is actively involving Afghanistan in major railway and energy infrastructure projects necessary to strengthen regional interconnectedness between Central and South Asia and in the SCO space as a whole. The results of the international conference held on July 15-16, 2021 in Tashkent on the topic "Central and South Asia: regional interconnectedness. Challenges and Opportunities" showed the importance of Afghanistan's role as a "regional bridge" to connect the two regions and support the economic development of this country through the implementation of common regional projects. Afghanistan can play a key role in increasing the transit potential of Central Asia by creating transport corridors for geographically closed countries of the region to enter the markets of East and Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Europe and the ports of the Mediterranean Sea. In this

regard, great importance is attached to the construction of high-speed highways and railways through the Afghan territory, including along the Mazar-I-Sharif-Herat and Mazar-I-Sharif-Peshawar routes, which will form a new transit corridor with access to Iranian, Pakistani and Indian railways, as well as to the seaports of Chahbahar and Gwadar.

At the SCO summit in Dushanbe, the President of Uzbekistan positively assessed the joint achievements of people's diplomacy and proposed to establish the institution of the "SCO Goodwill Ambas-

sador". Indeed, in recent years, the role of people's diplomacy in strengthening mutual trust and good-neighborliness, interethnic and interfaith harmony, and inter-civilizational dialogue between the Organization's member states has been noticeably increasing within the SCO. People's diplomacy is gaining key importance with its inherent openness and impartiality. Unlike traditional diplomacy and official state channels, scientists, artists and cultural figures, businessmen, religious figures, youth, tourism and sports organizations take part in it without political and legal restrictions. In this context, it is important to note the activities of institutions of people's diplomacy, such as the Chinese Committee for Good Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation, the SCO People's Diplomacy Center in Tashkent and the SCO Friendship and Cooperation Center in Dushanbe.

At the Dushanbe Summit, one of the key topics was undoubtedly the development of joint measures to overcome the consequences of the crisis caused by COVID-19. The Heads of State approved a corresponding Plan of joint advisory measures. At the same time, the Uzbek side put forward an initiative to develop and adopt a roadmap for establishing partnerships between the leading medical centers of the SCO space in the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases, post-ovarian rehabilitation and mutual recognition of vaccination certificates. The aim of the initiative is to further enhance the effectiveness of cooperation between the SCO member states in preventing, identifying and jointly responding to situations during epidemiological threats. It is focused on the development of preventive measures to improve the epidemiological situation in the SCO space, the exchange of information, knowledge and experience in the field of prevention and treatment of infectious diseases. According to experts, the implementation of this initiative will contribute to the formation of uniform conditions for citizens of the SCO countries when crossing borders and will provide greater opportunities for free movement. The unified system will also create a system for monitoring the results of analyses and certificates issued at

the interstate level. In his speeches at the SCO summits, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev also pays great attention to issues of environmental protection, preservation of ecological balance, as well as mitigation of the consequences of the ecological disaster caused by the drying up of the Aral Sea. This tragedy is one of the most acute problems of the Central Asian region, entailing irreparable consequences for the gene pool and health, conditions and quality of life of the population of the Aral Sea region, the diversity of its flora and fauna. The world community has recognized that it is unfortunately impossible to restore the Aral Sea. Therefore, the task of mitigating the destructive impact of this crisis on the environment and the livelihoods of the population of the Aral Sea region comes to the fore.

The third chairmanship of Uzbekistan fell on the 15th anniversary of the SCO. During the SCO summit in Tashkent in 2016, memoranda of obligations of the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan were signed in order to obtain the status of SCO member states. Memoranda on granting the status of the SCO dialogue partner to the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, the Kingdom of Cambodia and Nepal have been signed. Another of the main outcomes of the summit was the approval of the Action Plan for 2016-2020 for the implementation of the SCO Development Strategy until 2025, which brought the SCO to a qualitatively new level of cooperation, characterized by increased efficiency of interaction in all areas of the Organization's activities.

Geopolitical reality of super power

Dr. M Akram Zaheer



The other aspect is related to technological development. In this regard, in the field of cyberspace, the absence of an international regulatory framework facilitates the understanding of the threats to States and the people are exposed. This situation leads to activities involving identity theft, financial crime or the handling of weapons of mass destruction

HE current geopolitical reality imposes new challenges and opportunities to resolve conflicts of interest through international cooperation, while maintaining a strategic vision or calling into question the balance of power. However, uncertainty is constant, as are circumstances and actors. In this constant concern for improvement, we cannot fail to evoke two kinds of strategic ideas. First from a real political point of view (The enemy of my enemy is my friend), which facilitates the formation of alliances. Second, by following a strategic and confrontational approach (The success or achievement of my opponent's goals affects my accomplishment), it is therefore important that the opponent does not achieve his goals. Despite the complexity of the strategic environment, it has been observed that countries are increasingly interconnected and interdependent due to the global nature of the threats and the common aspects of their development. Currently, there are very competitive regional blocs, where robotics, electronics, communications, biotechnology, as well as their military capabilities and levels of interoperability are measured. All this, marked by a common aspect: defending their interests.

In this context, everything indicates that in the 21st century the following aspects will mark geopolitics: the impact of an economy in a market that has neither flag nor nationality, technology is a certain variable, hostility to alternative cooperation, sustainable development within the framework of a supernatural policy of environmental protection and the promotion of democracy with security as a key element of development and welfare.

Regarding these aspects, it described a free market as the most important economic model in the world, with the exception of certain activities considered appropriate for the state, such as laws, public order, rehabilitation or national defense, etc. In this sense, when we refer to

the free market, we consider that these economic activities and transactions depend exclusively on the free initiative of individuals. This interaction creates an environment in which individuals are free to achieve their goals and maximize their profits without state intervention. However, there are contradictions between these activities, which one way or another, the state should control, and which should be an independent initiative. Therefore, the production of wealth without any control, through the exploitation of the resources necessary for the life and development of a state, is complex and controversial from a nationalist and conservative point of view. In this regard, a look back at Peru at the beginning of the 20th century shows that the influx of foreign capital introduced an economic export policy which benefited a particular group. However, this situation has not made it possible to increase national power and capacity, as these power groups have a brief idea of what homeland and state mean. In many cases, these ideas are not just in your imagination. There is a question, how can we estimate the power of a state? To answer this question, econometric models make it easier to determine national strength and capacity for which a state owner considers the number of square kilometers as the basic variable. That is, the larger the area, the greater the power.

The other aspect is related to technological development. In this regard, in the field of cyberspace, the absence of an international regulatory framework facilitates the understanding of the threats to States and the people are exposed. This situation leads to activities involving identity theft, financial crime or the handling of weapons of mass destruction. These scenarios allow us to analyze how an increase in technology and mechanization can have a fundamental impact on global production models, as well as on production costs and labor costs. Under this approach, countries that dominate the technology will set standards in electricity generation and national potential.

The third aspect explains how animosity between two states resolves regional disputes by force of arms. Moreover, if the two states fail to implement this concept of war, they have their own consequences, but through the interests of third parties. At present, however, international cooperation and various organizations, such as the United Nations (UN) is setting the tone for dialogue and building new spaces for trade. The fourth aspect of sustainable development, as the basis for the development of new generations, is the commitment not only to the people of the country but also to the people of the world. The country that depends on the export of raw materials, it is necessary to set the goals and objectives of public and private institutions to achieve sustainable economic, political, social and environmental development. A responsible country is therefore a country recognized and integrated into

the international community. And the new perspective on politics takes multilateral relations of interest and global security to a new level. Likewise, strategic planning in which countries make internal national goals at all levels of government and adapt to international contexts facilitates the development of a state. On the other hand, the possibility for states to join supranational organizations and foreign trade opportunities builds national capacity and strength. Furthermore, it is important to remember that in the international context, States are not friends, but have common interests where the instruments of national power complement each other for weight and negotiating capacity. Therefore, one must understand the method of studying geopolitics that allows important pieces of a state to be strategically transferred to the Grand International Council.

Mosque blast kills at least 62 in Kandahar

From Page 01 the entrance to the mosque with the two others detonating their devices inside the building. "The situation is very bad. Mirwais hospital is messaging and calling on young people to give blood," he said, referring to a local hospital where dead and injured had been taken. Photographs and mobile phone footage posted by journalists on social media showed many people apparently dead or seriously wounded on the bloody floor of the Imam Bargah mosque.

A health official gave figures of 33 dead and 73 wounded and said the final total could be higher. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. Interior ministry spokesman Qari Saeed Khosti of the ruling Taliban movement said authorities were collecting details. The blast took place just days after an attack claimed by Daesh militants, which killed scores of Shia worshippers at a mosque in the northern city of Kunduz. The full death toll from that attack has been estimated as high as 80.

The Taliban have pledged to protect all ethnic and sectarian groups since sweeping into power in August as US forces withdrew. The embassy of Iran, Afghanistan's neighbour and the region's largest Shia power, condemned the attack.

"We hope Taliban leaders take decisive action against these wicked terrorist incidents," it said in a tweet.

Taliban special forces arrived to secure the site and an appeal went out to residents to donate blood for the wounded. The blast, coming so soon after the Kunduz attack, underlined the increasingly uncertain security in Afghanistan as the Taliban grapple with an escalating economic and humanitarian crisis that threatens millions with hunger.

The local affiliate of Daesh, known as Daesh Khorasan after an ancient name for the region covering Afghanistan, has stepped up attacks following the Taliban victory over the Western-backed government in Kabul in August. Taliban officials have played down the threat from Daesh and dismissed suggestions they may accept US help to fight the group. But the repeated attacks have tarnished their claim to have brought peace to Afghanistan after four decades of war.

Moscow to host US...

From Page 01 the conference, held in Russia just six weeks before a deadline agreed last year to withdraw US troops.

Moscow had hosted the international conference on Afghanistan at which Russia, the United States, China, and Pakistan released a joint statement calling on the Afghan sides to reach a peace deal and curb violence, and on the Taliban not to launch any offensives in the spring and summer.

The conference aimed to reinvigorate negotiations that have been taking place between the Afghan government and the Taliban in Qatar's capital Doha. largely stalled over government accusations that the insurgents have failed to halt the violence.

The Moscow conference was the first time the United States had sent a senior representative to talks on Afghanistan under a format launched by Russia in 2017. Washington agreed last year with the Taliban to withdraw its troops after nearly two decades and was looking for support among regional powers for its plans for the peace process.

Shaukat Tarin to act as adviser

From Page 01 "He could not become senator due to non-implementation of Elections Act Amendment Ordinance on Ishaq Dar's seat." In this regard, the federal government has approached the Supreme Court on Dar s seat. In this regard, the federal government has approached the Supreme

Court on Ishaq Dar's seat.

Pakistan, Belarus vow to increase IT cooperation

Hi-Tech Park Belarus is considered the leading IT cluster in Central and Eastern Europe with the best conditions for setting up and developing business

DNA

MINSK: Today, Ambassador Sajjad Haider Khan accompanied by the Deputy Head of Mission Abdullah Amin and Mr. Shahmir Amir (who has been recently ranked the third most accomplished bug hunter in the world by Dark Reading) visited Hi-Tech Park. Deputy Head of the Park Mr. Kirill Zalessky, Head of the Global Cooperation Office Ms. Lyubov Mayorova and the Chief Specialist of the Public Relations and International Cooperation Department Mr. Timur Luksha received the delegation and briefed them on the company and its achievements.

The Ambassador shared the IT achievements of Pakistan, the abundance of trained Human Resources in Pakistan, the growing



and readiness of Pakistani firms to provide backend support to Belarusian IT Industry. The two sides discussed the opportunities of co-

operation between HTP and the IT Park in Lahore, as well as the possibilities of having joint ven-

office in Pakistan. It was agreed to hold a virtual interaction between the managements of IT Park Lato find the areas of mutual interest for further cooperation. Hi-Tech Park Belarus is considered the leading IT cluster in Central and Eastern Europe with the best conditions for setting up and developing business. It provides its residents with minimal taxes, instruments of the so called "English law", possibility of free movement of capital, transparent regulations for block chain and crypto currency, a lot of other benefits. HTP resident companies may operate within 37 types of activities: from advanced solutions in the sphere of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to the development of top-level software, engineering solutions, games and mobile applications, IT for healthcare, agriculture, fintech, banking software, laser technologies, optics. In 2020 the HTP export amounted to the unprecedented \$2.7 billion which is likely to

increase by around 30 % this year.

Economy being sacrificed at IMF's...

From Page 01 Taking to Twitter, Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid condemned the attack and wrote: "The Islamic Emirate condemns the barbaric attack on civilians in a mosque in Kandahar. We have directed the security forces to find the perpetrators of such grave crimes as soon as possible and bring them to justice." "The Islamic Emirate also extends its deepest condolences to the families of the victims," he added. A local reporter in Kandahar told Reuters that eyewitnesses had described three suicide attackers, one of whom blew himself up at He said that the government had deceived the nation

The opposition leader said as long as this government was holding to power, the economy of the country would keep tumbling. He dubbed Prime Minister Imran Khan Niazi as an inept, cruel and corrupt ruler.

The extreme inflation has raised the question of the country's economic viability which does not augur well for Pakistan, Shehbaz held. He alleged that Imran Niazi was not working for Pakistan, he was working for the IMF. "We reject hike in prices

of electricity and petroleum products. Government must withdraw the price surge notice," he added. Shehbaz lamented that the government had become so insensitive to the economic miseries of people. "Imran Niazi is sacrificing nation and Pakistan economy at the altar of IMF," he added. He was of the view that Imran himself took such decisions which caused inflation in the country then he started making complaints with the nation that they did not understand the reasons behind the rising inflation. Shehbaz dubbed the act of putting 17% sales tax on tax-exempted goods and increase in petrol and electricity rates as terrorism against people and the economy. The reaction came after Federal Cabinet approved an increase of up to Rs1.39 per unit in electricity prices. The price hike has been carried out in the wake of quarterly

Egyptian pair clinch CAS International Squash title



AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Egyptian pair of Moustafa El Sirty and Salma El Tayeb thrashed their opponents to clinch the titles in the Serena Hotels Chief of Air Staff International Squash Tournament for Men and Serena Hotels-Combaxx Sports International Women Squash Tournament here at Mushaf Squash Complex on Friday. Chief of Air Staff and Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF) President Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babar was the chief guest at the closing ceremony.

He witnessed the final along with PSF's Senior Vice President Air Marshal Amir Masood, CEO Serena Hotels Aziz Bolani, Combaxx

Sports CEO Umar Saeed, Senior Manager Corporate Marketing and Communications Hussain Odhwani, Secretary General Wing Commander Armghan Aziz and other dignitaries. In the men's

19-year-old E1 proved too strong for Auguste Dussourd and won 9-11, 11-7, 11-6, 12-10. The Egyptian did not allow

his French opponent to take control after losing a close first game. El Sirty displayed his wonderful skills and played aggressively to take the next two games with relative ease.

Dussourd fought back in the fourth game and at one stage was leading 8-5. However, the Frenchman lost two easy points and gave some space to El Sirty, who levelled the scores at 10-10. He continued to play well and took the game 12-10 to become the men's champion.

In the women's decider, emerging player Salma El Tayeb showcased one of her best games against world No 69 Marie Stephan from France.

The 17-year-old Egyptian dominated throughout the final to win 11-6, 12-10, 11-4. As many as 22 foreign players from nine countries participated in both tournaments which were organised by Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF) in collaboration with Pakistan Air Force, Serena Hotels and Combaxx Sports.

FIFA, Qatar evacuate female footballers from Afghanistan

DNA

DOHA: Qatar, in coordination with FIFA, has evacuated almost 100 footballers and their families from Afghanistan, officials in Doha confirmed. The group was flown from Kabul to Doha on a flight that carried 357 passengers on Thursday, among them many women athletes involved in football in Afghanistan.

It was Qatar's eighth and largest passenger evacuation flight from Kabul since the Taliban regained control of Afghanistan in late August. Upon arriving in Qatar, the passengers were transported to a compound facility currently hosting other Afghan civilians and evacuees in the west of Doha.

FIFA confirmed it played a role in evacuating the athletes and their families "following complex negotiations" and "with the support of Qatar" Football's ruling body said the footballers were "deemed to have been at the highest risk" before being flown to the Qatari capital.

Many female footballers had gone into hiding since the Taliban regained power in August, and a group of junior players managed to flee to Pakistan, and have now been given visas to go to Britain. Women were not allowed to participate in sport during the Taliban's first reign that lasted until 2001.

"The FIFA leadership has been closely coordinating with the government of Qatar since August on the evacuation of the group, and will continue to work closely on the safe evacuation of further members of the sporting family in the future," FIFA said. "FIFA would like to express

its sincere thanks to the government of Qatar for its support facilitating extensive discussions and for ensuring the safe passage of these individuals," the football federation said.

Qatar's Government Comgroup of evacuees would have access to COVID-19 testing and would remain in Doha until departing to their final destination

curbs for vaccinated people

tariff adjustment.

From Page 01 Number of guests allowed to attend indoor weddings has been increased from 200 to 300 and from 300 to 500 for outdoor weddings.

NCOC eases

'In light of the spread of the disease (Covid-19) slowing down and the ongoing vaccination campaign, the forum has [also] decided to end the one-day [weekly] closure of businesses across the country," the statement said. It added that the number of guests allowed to attend indoor weddings had been increased from 200 to 300 and from 300 to 500 for

However, the NCOC said, non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs), which had reporting a high incidence of Covid-19 cases, would re-

"The NPIs will be reviewed in an NCOC meeting on October 28," the forum added. Meanwhile, Federal Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Minister Asad Umar, who also heads the NCOC, urged citizens in

outdoor weddings.

been imposed in districts main in place from October 16 to October 21.

a tweet to get vaccinated.

International call for Myanmar to let envoy meet Suu Kvi SYDNEY: Eight countries

and the EU diplomatic chief on Friday urged the Myanmar junta to let a regional special envoy meet ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

The call comes as concerns grow over the military government's commitment to a "five-point consensus" agreed with regional bloc ASEAN to defuse the bloody crisis that erupted after Myanmar's February 1 coup.

ASEAN foreign ministers are set to meet virtually on Friday evening to debate whether to exclude Myanmar junta chief Min Aung Hlaing from an upcoming summit over his government's intransigence.

The military authorities have said they will not allow ASEAN special envoy Ervwan Yusof to meet anyone currently on trial, which includes Suu Kyi. In a joint statement, the US, Britain, Australia,

Canada, South Korea, New Zealand, Norway and East Timor say they are "deeply concerned about the dire situation in Myanmar" and urged Naypyidaw to "engage constructively" with the special envoy.

"We further call on the mil-

itary to facilitate regular visits to Myanmar by the ASEAN Special Envoy, and for him to be able to engage freely with all stakeholders," said the statement, also endorsed by EU foreign affairs chief Josep Borrell. This last phrase is an apparent reference to the junta refusing Yusof, who is also Brunei's second foreign minister, access to Suu Kyi. Rebuffing pressure from several other ASEAN member states, the Myanmar foreign ministry on Thursday insisted Yusof could not "go beyond the permission of existing laws" and urged him to focus on meeting government officials in-

Martinez takes Argentina run to 25 unbeaten

SPORTS DESK

MONTEVIDEO:Argentina took their unbeaten run to 25 matches and moved a step closer to qualifying for the World Cup with a hard-fought 1-0 win over Peru. Lautaro Martinez scored the only goal of the game two minutes before the break with a powerful header while Yoshimar Yotun missed a second half penalty for Peru.

On his first start for his country, Raphinha scored a brace as Brazil all but mathematically booked their place at the World Cup with a 4-1 thrashing of Uruguay. Neymar and Gabriel Barbosa scored the other goals while Luis Suarez notched Uruguay's consolation. Brazil top the single South American qualifying group by six points from Argentina, who have a nine point gap to those that could deny them a berth at Qatar 2022. Argentina last lost in the 2019 Copa America semi-finals -2-0 against Brazil.

Since then the South American giants have been unstoppable, beating Brazil twice on their run, including earlier this year in the 2021 Copa America final. In the early stages in windy Buenos Aires, Peru looked ca-



pable of causing an upset, but striker Gianluca Lapadula prodded their bets chance straight into Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez's midriff. Argentina center-back Cristian Romero thought he had put the hosts in front when headed in a Rodrigo De Paul free-kick, only to be flagged offside. Peru's approach was industrious and crude, with Lionel Messi subjected to several rash challenges. Argentina took the lead two minutes before half-time as Lautaro Martinez sent a bullet header from Nahuel Moli-

na's cross straight over goalkeeper Pedro Gallese's head. Peru were given a lifeline 20 minutes into the second half after bringing on the pacey Jefferson Farfan, who almost immediately broke clear of the Argentina defense before Emiliano Martinez brought him down in the box. But Yotun's wild penalty clipped the top of the bar to give Martinez a huge let-off. Argentina had the ball in the net for a third time two minutes from the end but Guido Rodri guez's header was ruled out for a push

Europe fearful of Afghan refugee crisis

Similar cooperation is once again in the works. "We discussed challenges resulting from the situation in Afghanistan and other areas of concern – challenges that can only be solved by working together," tweeted Ylva Johansson, the EU Commissioner for Home Affairs, after her recent visit to Ankara

AGENCIES

BRUSSELS: It has been two months since Kabul fell to the Taliban and thousands are still trying to flee Afghanistan, in search of refuge. The United Nations' refugee agency, UNHCR, recently warned that by the end of 2021, the humanitarian crisis could displace half a million more Afghans as it called on countries to keep their borders open. But for European Union members, this warn-

ing brought flashbacks of the 2015 migration crisis, delaying a unified response on Afghan asylum. "Back then, the EU was caught completely by surprise by the arrival of so many refugees," Jeff Crisp, research associate at the University of Oxford's Refugee Studies Centre and associate fellow at Chatham House, told Al Jazeera. "Now with the Taliban's takeover in Afghanistan, the priority of the EU is to prevent a repeat of that scenario." With the

migration decisions, European Commissioner Margaritis Schinas, who has been coordinating the bloc's work on a migration and asylum pact, recently revealed a new report highlighting the EU's plan to initiate a "regional political platform of cooperation with Afghanistan's direct neighbours", to handle the migration crisis. "If we have learnt anything in recent years, it should be that flying solo on these issues is not an option," Schinas told reporters in Brussels on September 29. According to Crisp, the thrust of Europe's asylum policy has always been to externalise the management of refugees. "The support the EU has provided the Libyan coastguard and countries like Turkey to limit the number of people crossing the Mediterra-

ghosts of the past influencing current

nean Sea to reach European borders in the past, is something some EU leaders might argue has been beneficial for migration management. But it is in fact extremely expensive and undermines basic human rights principles," he said. At the height of the refugee crisis in 2015-2016, the EU struck a deal with Turkey in 2016, under which the

union allocated six billion euros (\$6.96bn), paid in two instalments, to Turkey, for Ankara to stop Syrian migrants from crossing into European borders. Similar cooperation is once again in the works. "We discussed challenges resulting from the situation in Afghanistan and other areas of concern - challenges that can only be solved by working together," tweeted Ylva Johansson, the EU Commissioner for Home Affairs,

after her recent visit to Ankara. Catherine Woollard, director of the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), argues that continuing externalisation in this manner, is

a flaw in the EU's migration strategy. "We have to go beyond the money. As a part of the EU-Turkey deal of 2016, Turkey was able to construct barriers at its border with Syria and prevent Syrians from leaving. This also gave Turkey the power to do what it wants in Syria without opposition or reaction from EU countries. "So while EU money and security is given in exchange for migration controls, such an externalisation strategy gives leverage to countries that are also playing a role in generating the displacement of people," she said. Since August, the EU has managed to evacuate around 22,000 people from Afghanistan to 24 member states. They mainly included EU officials and their dependents, as well as Afghans who helped EU operations in the country.

Pakistan to host Asia Cup 2023

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) has decided to allot the 2023 edition of the Asia Cup to Pakistan. The tournament, set to be played in the ODI format, will follow a T20 Asia Cup in Sri Lanka next vear. The decisions were taken by an ACC meeting which was held in Dubai on Thursday (October 15).

The ACC meeting, chaired by Jay Shah, the secretary of BCCI, has recognised that it is the turn of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to host the event and the Pakistan board, as it has been maintaining in the recent times, has declared that it will not host the event at a neutral venue, but in Pakistan only.

Business / World



Cambridge suspends £400M deal with UAE

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: Britain's Cambridge University has suspended a record £400 million deal with the United Arab Emirates over the latter's alleged use of Pegasus spyware, The Guardian reported Thursday.

The decision was made public by Stephen Toope, the university's outgoing vice-chancellor.

As recently as July, the proposed deal was praised as a potential "strategic partnership" aimed at helping resolve "some of the greatest challenges facing our planet." A donation of over £310 million over a decade would have also been included. It would have been the biggest donation of its kind to the university.

This has now been undone by the UAE's alleged use of Pegasus phone hacking spyware developed by the Israeli firm NSO Group. The Guardian claims that many of the UK phone numbers targeted by the spyware were at the apparent behest of the UAE. NSO Group has previously denied any wrongdoing.

In an interview with the student newspaper Varsity, Toole said: "There were further revelations about Pegasus that really caused us to decide that it's not the right time to be pursuing these kinds of really ambitious plans with the UAE."

Anguish after Taiwan building blaze kills 46

AGENCIES

KAOHSIUNG: Taiwanese residents voiced anguish and outrage on Friday after 46 people perished in an inferno that tore through a dilapidated housing block, as investigators searched for what sparked the island's deadliest fire in decades.

The blaze is the latest tragedy to highlight concerns over lax safety standards in Taiwan and has exposed the poor living conditions of many elderly in a society that is rapidly ageing.

The fire broke out during Thursday's early hours in a 13-storey, mixed-use building in the southern city of Kaohsiung, raging through multiple floors before firefighters finally got it under

control. The run-down housing block was in poor condition and many of those killed were low-income elderly people, some of whom had disabilities and dementia. Officials said 41 people were hospi-

On Friday morning Lee Mao-shen, 61, was watching nigeons land on the railings of an apartment where a friend had died the night

Russia starts census amid pandemic crisis

MOSCOW: Russia on Friday launched a population census delayed several times by the coronavirus pandemic that has exacerbated the country's worsening demographic crisis.

Russia's population has been in near constant decline since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, due to a low birth rate, an under-resourced healthcare system and emigration. The coronavirus pandem-

ic, which has killed at least 400,000 people in Russia according to the national statistic agency Rosstat, has seriously aggravated the problem.

In 2020, the population shrank by 510,000 people - the sharpest decline in 15 years, Rosstat calculated.

It found that the population, which numbered 146.2 million as of January 1, declined by another 595,000 people by the end of August. Russia has also seen its birth rate stagnate as the mortality rate spikes, Ross-

tat data shows. The country is seeing falling birth rates because the generation becoming parents now were born in the 1990s. when the birthrate fell drastically due to economic uncertainties. - APP

Briefs Uzbekistan is not limited to formal co-op with the EAEU

The head of Uzbekistan is participating in the summits of this integration association for the third time since Uzbekistan received the status of an observer state in the EAEU in December 2020

Foreign Desk

TASHKENT: President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev took part in an extraordinary meeting of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council (EAEU) in the format of a video conference.

The head of Uzbekistan is participating in the summits of this integration association for the third time since Uzbekistan received the status of an observer state in the EAEU in December 2020.

The event, chaired by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, was also attended by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan, President of the Republic of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko, President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Japarov, President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, President of the Republic of Cuba - an observer country under the EAEU Miguel Bermudez and Chairman of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission Mikhail Myasnikovich.

The agenda of the meeting included issues of further deepening multilateral economic partnership, as well as promoting practical interaction in such priority areas as trade, industrial cooperation, development of transport and transit potential, food security, digitalization, green economy and other areas.

The head of our state in his speech outlined the priorities for the development of mutually beneficial cooperation with the EAEU,



whose members are natural trade and economic partners of Uzbekistan.

In particular, it was noted that in the context of a pandemic, the trade turnover of our country with the countries of the Organization is steadily growing. Active interaction with the Eurasian Economic Commission has been established, a joint Working Group has begun its activities. In addition, promising cooperation projects with the Eurasian Development Bank are being prepared.

The leader of Uzbekistan, emphasizing the importance of intensifying efforts to build up trade and economic ties, proposed to develop a joint "Roadmap" to eliminate

existing barriers, harmonize technical regulations and standards, digitalize customs procedures in mutual trade.

It was noted that Uzbekistan is interested in expanding cooperation in the creation of interregional value chains by deepening industrial cooperation. New opportunities for this will be opened by the annual holding of the industrial forum "Innoprom - Central Asia" in Tashkent.

The President of our country pointed out the importance of improving the network of transport corridors and logistics infrastructure as a key factor in the sustainable development of national economies.

He invited to join the Agroexpress project launched by Uzbekistan jointly with Russia and Kazakhstan, which is designed to ensure quick mutual delivery of the goods in demand. Taking into account the particular relevance of issues of ensuring food security, the leader of Uzbekistan noted the importance of consolidating efforts and finding new points of interaction in this area by developing a joint Program of Cooperation.

They also noted the interest of our country in participating in digital transformation processes, sharing practical experience and mutual transfer of advanced technologies within the EAEU.

The head of our state paid special attention to the environmental agenda and stressed the need for coordinated measures to mitigate the effects of climate change.

The President of Uzbekistan called on partner countries to take an active part in joint projects to create a zone of environmental innovations and technologies in the Aral Sea region, and also invited them to the International Forum on Green Energy, which will be held next September in the city of Nukus.

In addition, it was proposed to establish interaction with the High-level Working Group on the Climate Agenda, created within the framework of the Association.

In conclusion of his speech, the leader of Uzbekistan expressed confidence that the practical results of the summit would contribute to the promotion of mutually beneficial cooperation and close cooperation with the EAEU countries.

1 in 5 at risk of poverty in EU

AGENCIES

BRUSSELS: One in five people in the EU is at risk of poverty or social exclusion, the bloc's statistical office said on Friday.

"In 2020, there were 75.3 million people at risk of poverty in the EU," Eurostat said in a press release, adding that "27.6 million were severely materially and socially deprived, and 27.1 million lived in a household with low work intensity."

In total, 96.5 million people representing 21.9% of the EU population fell into at least one of the three above-mentioned categories of poverty and exclusion risks.

About 5.9 million people simultaneously experienced risk of poverty, social and material deprivation and lived in a household with low work. Among the 27 EU member

states, Romania has the highest share of the population at risk of poverty or social exclusion with 35.8% of its citizens experiencing at least one of these difficulties.

The southeastern European country is followed by Bulgaria, Greece, and Spain, with 33.6%, 27.5%, and 27% of its people at the risk, respectively.

Meanwhile, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Slovenia had the lowest share of their population at risk of poverty or social exclusion with 11.5%, 13.8%, and 14.3%, respectively.

Azerbaijani, Turkey eye military co-op

Foreign Desk

BAKU: Azerbaijan's and Turkey's land forces commanders have discussed military cooperation at a meeting held in Turkey as part of the Eurasian Peace 2021 drills, the Defence Ministry reported.

Azerbaijani Land Forces Commander Maj-Gen Anvar Afandiyev met his Turkish counterpart Army General Musa Avsever at the Distinguished Visitors Day event conducted as a part of the abovementioned drills.

The military officials discussed cooperation in the military, military-technical, military education and several other areas, the ministry said. The sides also highlighted the importance of joint exercises for exchanging experiences, and further strengthening the friendship between the two countries.

It should be noted that Afandiyev paid an official visit to Turkey at the invitation of the Turkish Army General Musa Avsever to take part in the Distinguished Visi-

Tarin highlights Pak economic priorities

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance Shaukat Tarin on Friday highlighted the economic priorities of the Government, emphasizing that PM Imran was committed to inclusive and sustainable economic growth that benefits all segments of the society especially the poor. Speaking at a seminar on Pakistan's Economy organized by the Embassy of Pakistan, Washington, D.C. in collaboration with Institute of Business Administration Karachi, Tarin shared that prudent fiscal reforms had helped to improve tax to GDP ratio, bring down current account deficit and fiscal deficit while improving revenue generation. Increasing tax collection and broadening the tax base were key

targets of the Government's fiscal agenda, he added. Tarin identified priority sectors such as modernization of agriculture, IT and industry as vital for increase in exports and said that 24 special economic zones have been created under CPEC to attract foreign investment. He thanked Overseas Pakistanis for sustaining the economy through high levels of remittances. The Minister also shared steps taken to help the underprivileged through Kamyab Pakistan program, which he said would

help them to achieve self-sufficiency. - APP



WASHINGTON: Minister for finance and revenue Shauat tarin delivering a keynote remarks at a seminar on Pakistan's economy organized by embassy of Pakistan in Washington, DC. - DNA

Azerbaijan blocked Iran-Armenia-Europe drug trafficking route

News Desk

BAKU: President Ilham Alivev has said that Azerbaijan blocked the drug trafficking route from Iran to Armenia and then to Europe that used to pass through the country's liberated Jabravil region, Azertag has reported. He made the remarks in an address to the session of the Council of the CIS Heads of State held in the format of a video conference on October 15.

"Over the past year, after Azerbaijan had regained control over the 130-kilometer section of the state border with Iran which was under the control of Armenia for about 30 years and thereby blocked a drug trafficking route from Iran through Jabrayil district of Azerbaijan to Armenia and further to Europe," he said. The president added that the volume of heroin Azerbaijan had seized on other

sections of the Azerbaija-

ni-Iranian border doubled



od of previous years. "This suggests that for about 30 years, Armenia,

in collusion with Iran, used the occupied territories of Azerbaijan to carry out drug trafficking to Europe," Aliyev said.

He stressed that during the years of occupation, he had repeatedly stated that the occupied territories were used for drug trafficking and training of international terrorists.

Later, he spoke about Azerbaijan's readiness for talks with Armenia over the border delimitation. "War and the conflict are now things of the past. We are ready to start negotiations with Armenia on the delimitation of borders on the condition of mutual recognition of territorial integrity. We are also ready to start negotiations on a peace agreement with Ar-

menia," he said. The head of state noted that Azerbaijan is ready to normalize relations as a victorious country. "We do hope that Armenia will not pass up on this historic opportunity," he added.

Aliyev stressed that Armenia refuses to provide Azerbaijan with maps of mines it had planted on liberated

"Since the war ended, more than 150 Azerbaijani citizens have been killed or seriously injured by land-

mines," he said. Aliyev stressed that Armenia was refusing to provide Azerbaijan with full maps of mined areas.

"The accuracy of the few maps provided to Azerbaijan so far is about 25 percent," he added. The president also touched on the so-called prisoners of war issue raised by Armenia.

"Azerbaijan handed over all prisoners of war detained during the war before Armenia handed over Azerbaijani prisoners of war to us. More than two weeks after the signing of the Tripartite Declaration, a group of 62 saboteurs was sent from Armenia's Shirak region to the rear of the Azerbaijani armed forces in late November last year to carry out provocations on the liberated territories. Azerbaijani servicemen captured and disarmed the

group," he said.

Iran, Russia FMs hold phone call

TEHRAN: Following the resumption of talks between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the European Union that saw negotiations between Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Bagehri Kani and Deputy Secretary General of the European External Action Service Enrique Mora in Tehran, the Iranian and Russian foreign ministers held a telephone conversation and exchanged views on the matter. Following the resumption of talks between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the European Union that saw negotiations between Iranian Deputy FM Ali Bagehri Kani and Deputy Secretary General of the European External Action Service Enrique Mora in Tehran, the Iranian and Russian foreign ministers held a telephone conversation. - DNA

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CAPITAL HOSPITAL)

TENDER NOTICE

Capital Hospital intends to invite Sealed Bids on Single Stage one Envelope

Procedure for supply of Food items for patients through rate running contract basis from reputed Firms having experience in the relevant field / registered with Sales Tax Department. Earnest Money 3% of bid value in shape of call deposit in favour of Drawing & Disbursing officer (DDO), Capital Hospital, CDA must be attached with tender/bid. The detail of procurement, tender cost, Earnest Money and opening dates

Tender No.	DESCRIPTION	Cost of Tender	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	SUBMISSION DATE & TIME AT 11:00 AM	DATE & TIME AT 11:30 AM
No.CDA/CH-2 (4)/ Food/ 2021-22/115	Supply of Food Items	Rs.2000/-	Rs.16.200 million per year	3 % of bid value	01-11-2021	01-11-2021

Tender documents containing complete specifications, terms and conditions can be obtained on payment noted against tender (non-refundable) from Drawing & Disbursing Officer (D.D.O), Capital Hospital, CDA Sector G-6/2, Islamabad. The same are also available at CDA website. However at the time of submission, pay order amounting to tender cost in favour of Drawing & Disbursing Officer (D.D.O), **Capital Hospital, CDA** must be attached along-with downloaded tender documents.

Sealed tenders will be received in the office of undersigned on date and time mentioned above and will be opened in the presence of bidders or their representatives who care to attend.

Tender without earnest money will not be considered in any case. The successful bidder shall deposit security @ of 5% of the contract value in the shape of Call Deposit at the time of signing the contract.

No. tender will be sold on the date of opening of tenders. "The Authority reserves the right to reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to the acceptance of a bid or proposal".

The Bid must have Six months (180) days validity period.

Tender advertisement is available at PPRA website www.ppra.org.pk & CDA website.

> DR. IRSHADALI JOKHIO Dy. Director Medical-I, Capital Hospital, (CDA) ISLAMABAD, Tel: 051-9221334-274

PID (I) No. 2403/21

Pak-China agree to cooperate in higher education sector Research Institute would play a very

DNA

BEIJING: Higher Education Commission of Pakistan and the China Association of Higher Education jointly launched "China-Pakistan Higher Education Research Institute" during the "4th Exchange Mechanism Conference of CPEC Consortium of Univer-

The institute brand was simultaneously unveiled at impressive ceremonies held in hybrid mode at National University of Sciences & Technology, Islamabad, and Peking University, Beijing on Friday.

The institute is envisioned to serve as an impetus for reinforcing the existing academic and research collaboration between HEC, Pakistan and China Association of Higher Education.

Prominent amongst those present at the occasion were Minister for Federal Education & Professional Training of Pakistan, Shafqat Mahmood: Ambassador of Pakistan to China, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Executive Director Dr Shaista Sohail, Rector NUST Engr Javed Mahmood Bukhari; Lt Gen (r) Muhammad Asghar, Consultant CPEC, and President of China Association of Higher Education.

Speaking at the occasion, Shafqat Mahmood gladly expressed that the higher education institutions of China and Pakistan are building strong academic linkages under the umbrella of CPEC consortium of universities.

The consortium was established in 2017 by China Association of Higher Education and the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan.

He felicitated them for organizing the 4th Mechanism Conference of the consortium that now comprises 83 leading universities of the two countries. He maintained that it is a manifestation of increasing cooperation between the two countries developed over the last 70 years. He further said, "We fully support the Belt & Road Initiative of which the China Pakistan Economic Corridor is a flagship project."

Lt Gen (r) Muhammad Asghar said that we have come a long way in our cooperation and we look forward to even more meaningful cooperation between our universities. He asserted that China-Pakistan Higher Education

important in our collaborative efforts in future, and hoped that China would contribute to our research fund, which would support scholars on both sides. In her virtual address, Dr Shaista said that a large number of Pakistani students studying in China can become agents of change by connecting with universities on both sides. She added that the establishment of China Pakistan Higher Education Research Institute would help promote high quality research between the two countries. DG CPEC Brig (r) Dr Safdar Ali Shah remarked upon various perspectives of the CPEC consortium of universities as well as new initiatives and collaborations that have taken place in the past 3 years. The conference was also addressed by Ambassadors of

both countries. CPEC consortium of universities was launched at a conference held at NUST in August 2017. Initially there were 19 member universities (9 Chinese and 10 Pakistani universities), which grew to 55 in 2019, and now there are 83 members, including 63 Pakistani universities.







Cabinet nods

to raising electricity

prices

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan

Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government has dropped yet

another bombshell on the

masses already struggling

to come to terms with re-

cord inflation as the federal

cabinet on Friday approved

an increase in the electricity

The cabinet had approved the

hike in the power rates by

moving a circulation summa-

ry. The price hike has been

carried out in the wake of

quarterly tariff adjustment.

The cabinet approved the in-

crease in power cost through

The Ministry of Energy had

when the entire country is

with petrol prices standing at

Rs127 per liter, and to make

matters worse these are ex-

Pakistan Muslim League-

Nawaz (PML-N) president

and opposition leader in

National Assembly Sheh-

baz Sharif has termed the

increase in tax and electric-

ity and petrol prices as mini

In a statement, the PML-N

leader said he had earlier

predicted that Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) gov-

ernment will soon unveil

mini budget and here it

comes. It has been proved

that the government has

misguided the nation on

budget, he added.

budget.

pected to go up further.

circulation summary.

prices by Rs1.68 per unit.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2021 | WWW.ISLAMABADPOST.COM.PK

Briefs

11 Indonesian scouts die in river trek

AGENCIES

BANDUNG: Eleven students have drowned and two more are in critical condition after a trekking accident in Indonesia, an official said Friday.

Some 150 members of an Islamic scouts group, aged from 13 to 15 years old, were walking along the Cileuleur river when 21 are thought to have attempted to ford the water. Nearby locals managed to pull ten to safety, said Supriono - who, like many Indonesians, only has one name - an official with Bandung's search and res-

cue team. "Two students... are in a critical condition in the hospital, while 11 were found dead," he told AFP. Authorities are still investigating the cause of the accident, as well as working to ensure all on the trip have been accounted for.

The students were trekking and cleaning the riverbank, despite official warnings from the national disaster mitigation

Hefty increase in rates of utility store items

ISLAMABAD: The government on Friday issued the notification for an increase in the prices of different items of essential use at Utility Stores Corporation of Pakistan as the nation is already confronting extraordinarily high prices.

According to the notification, an increase between Rs15 and Rs49 per kilo has been made in the rates of ghee of different brands, while the prices of different varieties of cooking oil are now up between Rs14 to Rs110 per liter.

Similarly, an increase between Rs10 and Rs21 has been notified in the prices of a two-kilo of powder used for washing clothes. - DNA

Reham Khan apologises to Zulfi Bukhari



DNA

LONDON: Anchorperson Reham Khan apologised to PTI leader Zulfi Bukhari on Friday after losing a defamation case brought by the latter against her in the United Kingdom.

In 2019, Khan had made several allegations of corruption and nepotism against Bukhari, claiming that he, in connivance with Prime Minister Imran Khan, was involved in a "corrupt plan" to sell Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) owned Roosevelt Hotel in New York and later to purchase it at a lower market price.

Bukhari had objected to these allegations and served a libel case against her, seeking a retraction, damages and cost of legal fees.

Pak asks India to stop peddling falsehood, smear campaign

Alluding to Gujarat massacre and Delhi riots as well as recent attacks on Muslims in Assam, the spokesperson stressed that this international scrutiny of India must continue

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has welcomed recent OIC statements demanding an accountability for increasing Islamophobia and systematic and targeted violence against Muslims in India.

At his weekly news briefing in Islamabad on Friday, Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar said it is encouraging that the human rights situation in India and illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir has gained increasing attention of international community.

Alluding to Gujarat massacre and Delhi

riots as well as recent attacks on Muslims in Assam, the spokesperson stressed that this international scrutiny of India must

The Foreign Office Spokesperson asked India to stop peddling falsehood and smear campaign against Pakistan. He condemned the recent irresponsible and provocative statement of the Indian Home Minister. He said 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.

He reiterated that Pakistan is a peace loving country, however, it will spare no effort in resolutely thwarting any aggressive Indian designs.

When asked about relationship with the United States, the spokesperson said Pakistan is looking forward to a balanced and broad-based relationship with Washington. Beyond Afghanistan, our relationship is progressing in a healthy manner. He said we are focusing in building a stand-alone and comprehensive partnership.

Regarding Afghan situation, the spokesperson said Pakistan has repeatedly underlined its commitment to a peaceful, stable and sovereign Afghanistan. Peace in Afghanistan is also critical for reaping the dividends of regional connectivity that is in line with Pakistan's renewed focus on geo-economics and economic security.

Asim Iftikhar said continued and constructive engagement of the international community with Afghanistan is crucial for addressing the immediate humanitarian needs, ensuring economic stability, and durable peace. He said we note the recent international engagements with Afghanistan as positive steps.

The Spokesperson said Pakistan stands with the people of Afghanistan. We are continuing our humanitarian assistance. Over 900 Afghan students enrolled in Pakistan are being facilitated to travel to Pakistan to resume their studies.

> Germany parties agree initial deal for govt

> > AGENCIES

BERLIN: German Finance Minister Olaf Scholz on Friday took a step toward succeeding Angela Merkel as chancellor, as his Social Democrats, the Greens and liberal FDP announced a preliminary deal to form a new government.

holding talks since Scholz's centre-left Social Democratic Party (SPD) won the general elections on September 26 with Merkel's conservatives in second place as she prepares to leave politics. "We can sense here that a new beginning is possible, brought about by the three parties that have come together here," Scholz told reporters.

He said the preliminary agree-



ment "clearly shows that a government that aims to ensure we achieve progress can be formed in Germany".

sent the summary for the increase in the electricity tariff to the cabinet. The hike in electricity prices has almost become a routine now. Moreover, the cabinet's decision has come at a time in the grip of worst inflation,

The three parties have been

Minorities, women rights raised during sermons

LAHORE: Ulemas-Mashaykh and religious scholars delivered Friday sermons on the topic of "Rights of Women and Minorities in the light of 'Sirat-e-Mustafa' (SAW) all over the country stating that Islam is the protector of the rights of non-Muslims and women and there is no concept of coercion in Islam, if anyone tries to make someone forcibly convert to Islam, he should be punished severely. On call of Pakistan Ulema Council, Friday Sermons all over the country were held here on Friday on the topic of "Rights of Women and Minorities in the light of 'Sir-

The clerics said that everyone should start making of the 'Madinah-style state' from their very home, adding 'Mahbat-o-Ishq-Mustafa' (SAW) requires to refrain from lying, adulteration, bribery and deprivation of human rights.

at-e-Mustafa (SAW).

The clerics stated that do not burden the family of the deceased with food, and the family of bridegroom with dowry and asked to treat the non-Muslims with kindness. Thousands of religious con-

gregations and events are taking place across the country under the "Ashra-e-Rehmatulil-Alameen" and a grand event will be held on 12th Rabiul Awal in Islamabad.

On call of Pakistan ma Council, leading Ulemas-Mashaykh Friday sermons all over the country on the topic titled: "Rights of Women and Minorities in the light of Sirat-e-Mustafa (SAW).

ease coronavirus curbs from Oct 17

News Desk

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia will ease COVID-19 curbs from October 17, the interior ministry said on Friday, in response to a sharp drop in daily infections and a considerable development in vaccinations.

The government will lift social distancing measures and will allow full-capacity attendance at the coun-

try's two Holy Mosques in Mecca and Medina for those who have taken the full dose of vaccines, the ministry added.

The authorities also cancelled curbs on fully vaccinated people at closed venues, gatherings, transportation, restaurants and cinemas. Masks are no longer man-

datory at public open places while still imposed at closed venues, it added.

Saudi Arabia to Six killed in Beirut clashes as tensions soar ting in her house. tion. The injured and trapped

AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD: Spouses of defence attaches based in Pakistan gathered at the residence of the wife of the Egyptian defence

attaché Mrs. Nancy Mahmoud for a coffee morning. The wife of the Egyptian defence attaché is the President of Cosala. - DNA

BEIRUT: At least six people were killed in Beirut on Thursday amid a protest organized by Hezbollah and its allies against the lead judge probing last year's blast at the city's port. Dozens were wounded in

the most protracted street fighting in the city in years. The protest, called by Hezbollah and the Amal Move-

ment, was demanding the removal of Judge Tarek Bitar from the investigation. But it turned into armed clashes between the groups' supporters and armed men whose political identity was

unknown Rocket-propelled grenades and sniper shots were fired during the protest that people called a "genocide against them." Among the dead was a woman shot in the head while she was sitSerious material damage was also reported in the area, according to preliminary reports from the Lebanese Red Cross. People were trapped inside

houses and shops, while hundreds of students were stuck inside their schools near the violence-hit area. The clashes lasted around three hours, with the Lebanese army failing in its attempts to contain the situa-

fight against the pandemic.

ing in January 2022. - DNA

US donates almost

10mn additional Pfizer doses to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The United States is shipping an additional 9.6 million doses of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines through the

COVAX facility to Pakistan. This donation brings the total

number of COVID-19 vaccines donated by the U.S. gov-

ernment to the Pakistani people to more than 25 million.

These Pfizer vaccines are part of the 500 million Pfizer

doses the United States purchased this summer to deliv-

er to 92 countries worldwide, including Pakistan, to fulfill

President Biden's commitment to provide safe and effec-

tive vaccines around the world and supercharge the global

At the virtual Global COVID-19 Summit held on the mar-

gins of the UN General Assembly in September, President

Biden announced the United States will provide an addi-

tional 500 million Pfizer vaccines to low and lower-middle

income countries around the globe, with shipments start-

Students in schools rushed to the hallways separating classrooms. Several were injured by shattered glass and were taken to hospital. Lebanon's army said on Thursday evening that it arrested nine people, including a Syrian, over the violence. The army said on Twitter that it remained deployed in the area to ensure violence did not occur again.

made calls to be evacuated.

KSA: Airlines to repay travelers for all canceled flights

DNA RIYADH: Saudi aviation

authority has updated regulations for handling tickets for flights canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA), the move is to ensure necessary flexibility to travelers, to preserve their rights, and "to maintain the highest standards of quality and efficiency in services...", the local media reported Friday. A new GACA circular says

that airlines that have canceled any flight due to the COVID-19 pandemic must address the woes of their passengers as follows: Return the full amount of the ticket of the unused itinerary should the passenger choose to terminate the contract.

The traveler shall have the choice to redeem or resue the voucher if the airlines reissue it without having to pay additionally for it in any way. If the said traveler accepts to reschedule his flight, this must not be followed with having to pay any extra amounts or fee given the itinerary is unchanged. However, should the pas-

senger request a change of itinerary, only then the airline can collect the fare difference only. But that too without adding any other fee. Separately from the international airlines, British Airways, which axed thousands of staff

during the pandemic, said it will start hiring new cabin crew for next summer, preparing for growth in travel demand in 2022.

The airline, owned by parent group IAG, made about 10,000 staff redundant in 2020 when COV-ID-19 grounded planes for months. Some cabin crew who lost their jobs opted to be considered for future BA jobs, and BA said it had already contacted the exstaff. New recruits were also being considered.

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Indonesian envoy visits Eurasian Legal Framework Cell The Eurasian Legal Framework Study Cell has been estab-



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Adam M. Tugio, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Pakistan visited Eurasian Legal Framework Study Cell. During the visit, a meeting was held between H.E Adam M. Tugio, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Pakistan, Mian Abdul Rauf, Former Advocate-General Islamabad, and Mr. Khalid Taimur, Executive Director, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad.

lished at Mian Abdul Rauf Law Associates in collaboration with Area Study Center (Russia, China, and Central Asia), University of Peshawar, and Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad. During the meeting, it was discussed that the Eurasian

Legal Framework Study Cell will work to create awareness regarding the economic laws of Indonesia in order to enhance bilateral economic and trade relations between Pakistan and Indonesia. Additionally, it was decided that the Eurasian Legal Frame-

work Study Cell will make efforts to produce a plan which will ensure smooth collaborations and cooperation between both countries, Pakistan and Indonesia, in various domains. Moreover, cooperation in academics and research was also discussed. It was decided that in order to equip the young scholars and experts with the required legal knowledge, linkages between the legal institutes of the involved countries will also be supported. In this regard, Eurasian Legal Framework Study Cell will make significant efforts to develop cooperation between law colleges of Pakistan and Indonesia. During the meeting, it was also decided that the study cell

will help develop linkages of Area Study Centers of Pakistan with the relevant Indonesian institutions.