



# Islamabad POST

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Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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**Tayyip Erdogan threatens to expel 10 Western envoys**

Detailed News On Page-01

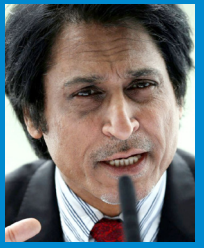
**SA envoy for boosting ties with Pakistan**

Detailed News On Page-08



**Won't take a 'single penny' for 3 years**

Detailed News On Page-06



**Briefs**

**PM to leave for three day Saudi Arabia**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan is set to visit the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on a three-day trip starting October 23, wherein he shall attend the Green Initiative Conference. According to the reports for credible sources, the premier shall leave for the trip the day after tomorrow and will perform Umrah and visit Roza e Rasool (S.A.W.W.) during this trip. He shall also call on the royal leadership and discuss regional affairs and bilateral relations.

**SC grants bail to Khursheed**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan Thursday accepted PPP leader Khursheed Shah's bail plea in the assets beyond known sources of income case. The apex court directed Shah to submit bail bonds worth Rs10mn as the surety against his bail. Justice Umar Atta Bhandial directed NAB to continue its investigations but not keep the PPP leader permanently in jail. Shah was arrested by the anti-corruption watchdog's Sukkur chapter on September 18, 2019, in the assets beyond known sources of income case. Back in July 2021, the Sindh High Court had dismissed a petition seeking Shah's request for bail.

**PIA to start special flights from Kabul**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan International Airline or PIA will start special flights for evacuating people belonging to NATO and other European countries, this was announced by the chief executive officer or CEO of the airline on Thursday. Air Marshal Arshad Malik assured members of a delegation of NATO, including Ambassador of Belgium Philippe Bronchain, who called on him at the PIA Head Office in Islamabad.

## Pak assures Afghans of full support

Facilitative visa regime for Afghan nationals and border crossing procedures for trade and cargo have been instituted



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KABUL: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Thursday met interim Afghanistan Prime Minister Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund, as he visited the country for the first time after the Taliban took over in mid-August. The interim prime minister received Qureshi at the ARG Presidential Office, where they had a meeting in the presence of the Afghan leadership, Ambassador of Pakistan to Afghanistan Mansoor Ahmad Khan said. The discussions focused on facilitating people-to-people interaction, trade, transit, and connectivity between two brotherly nations, the ambassador said. Qureshi is the third foreign minister after those of Qatar and Uzbekistan to visit since the Taliban took power after ousting Ashraf Ghani's regime. In a statement issued earlier, the Foreign Office said Qureshi was in Kabul for a day-long visit and is set to hold important talks with the Afghan leadership.

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**Taliban officials beat journalists**

DNA

KABUL: At least three journalists were beaten up by Taliban members armed with M16 assault rifles and AK-47s for reporting on women marching in Kabul in support of women's participation in society, education and employment. The Taliban officials have struck several journalists to prevent media coverage of a women's rights protest in Kabul. A group of about 20 women marched from near the ministry of education to the ministry of finance in the Afghan capital. Wearing colourful headscarves they chanted slogans including: "Don't politicise education", as traffic drove by shortly before 10 am. The women held placards saying: "We don't have the rights to study and work", and "Joblessness, poverty, hunger", as they walked with their arms in the air. The Taliban authorities allowed the women to walk freely for around an hour and a half, AFP journalists saw. However, one foreign journalist was struck with the butt of a rifle by one Taliban member, who swore and kicked the photographer in the back as another punched him. At least two more journalists were hit as they scattered, pursued by Taliban members swinging fists and launching kicks.

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## Erdogan threatens to expel 10 Western envoys

"I told our foreign minister that we cannot have the luxury of hosting them in our country"



**Turkey arrests 15 for links to Israeli spy agency**

NEWS DESK

ISTANBUL: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Thursday threatened to expel the US, German and eight other Western ambassadors after they issued a rare joint statement in support of a jailed civil society leader. Parisian-born philanthropist and activist Osman Kavala, 64, has been in jail without a conviction since 2017. The 10 ambassadors issued a highly unusual joint statement on Monday - distributed widely on their Turk-

ISHANBUL: At least 15 people with links to an Israeli intelligence service have been apprehended in Turkey, sources said on Thursday. They were arrested as part of an investigation launched by the Istanbul public prosecutor's office, according to Turkish judicial sources. The suspects were relaying information and passing documents to the Israeli spy agency, said the sources, who requested anonymity due to restrictions on speaking to the media. The network relied on Palestinian and Syrian nationals living in Turkey, who received payments through wire transfers and couriers, the sources added. The suspects were presented in court and then transferred to the Maltepe prison in Istanbul.

ish social media accounts - saying Kavala's continued detention "cast a shadow" over Turkey. "I told our foreign minister that we cannot have the luxury of hosting them in our country," Erdogan told reporters in comments published by Turkish media. - APP

## ARMY DAY OF ROMANIA



ISLAMABAD: Real Admiral of Pakistan Navy Faisal Lodhi, Ambassador of Romania Nicolae Goia, Defence Attache of Romania Col Veza Leonard listening to national anthems on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day of Romania. -DNA

**Three IS-K terrorists killed**

STAFF REPORT

PESHAWAR: Three suspected terrorists were killed during an operation by the Peshawar police and Counter-Terrorism Department. The militants belonged to Daesh-Khorasan, the group's Afghanistan chapter. Police said that three other accomplices managed to escape during the nighttime operation because it was dark. The CTD and police launched a joint operation in Peshawar's Shahpur area over a tip-off about the presence of terrorists, said the CTD officials. They said that the terrorists opened fire at the law enforcement personnel as soon as they arrived. "Three of the terrorists were shot dead in retaliatory fire by the CTD and police," the CTD officials said. According to the CTD, three SMGs, grenades and cartridges were seized from the possession of the militants. A search operation has been launched to arrest the terrorists who fled, CTD added.

**Four security personnel martyred**

PESHAWAR: Four security personnel were martyred when their vehicle hit an improvised explosive device (IED) in the Bajaur district of erstwhile FATA. Pakistan Army's Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Thursday that a vehicle of the security forces hit the IED during an operation in Bajaur on Wednesday night. The ISPR said the martyrs include two FC personnel and two police officers. - APP

## Pakistan to remain on FATF grey list

Pakistan has two concurrent action plans with a total of 34 action plan items. "It has now addressed, or largely addressed 30 of the items"

NEWS DESK

PARIS: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on Thursday announced that it is retaining Pakistan on the grey list, while noting that "good progress" has been made in completing the required action items for removal from the list. FATF President Dr Marcus Pleyer addressed a post-plenary conference in which he announced that Pakistan remains on the "increased monitoring list". According to the president, Pakistan has two concurrent action plans with a total of 34 action plan items. "It has now addressed, or largely addressed 30 of the items,"

he said. "It's most recent action plan from June this year which largely focused on money laundering deficiencies was issued after FATF's regional partner APG (Asian Pacific Group) identified a number of serious issues. Overall, Pakistan is making "good progress" on the new action plan, he said, adding that of the 7 new items, four have been "addressed or largely addressed". He said this includes showing that financial supervisors are conducting on-site and off-site checks on non-financial sector businesses and inacting legislative amendments to improve international cooperation. Dr Pleyer also spoke of Pakistan's earlier action plan, dating back to June 2018, and

which focuses on terrorist financing issues, "Pakistan is still assessed to have largely addressed 26 out of 27 items". He said Pakistan still needs to demonstrate investigations and prosecutions are being pursued against the senior leadership of UN designated terror groups. "I thank the Pakistani government for their continued strong commitment to this process." The FATF president said that two countries, Mauritius and Botswana, have been removed from the grey list. Three countries, on the other hand, are coming onto the list - Jordan, Turkey and Mali. The FATF held a plenary in Paris which began on October 19 and concludes today, October 21.

## California variant cases found in Pakistan

Vaccination targets must be met: Asad

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Epsilon COVID-19 variant, with origins in California, has been found in several patients in the country, local channel reported Thursday. Scientific Task Force on COVID-19 member Dr Javed Akram said that all the anti-coronavirus vaccines being used in the country are effective against the variant with origins in California. Earlier in the day,

ISLAMABAD: National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) chief Asad Umar on Thursday said vaccination targets need to be met in order to ensure that there is no fifth wave of Covid-19 in the country. Asad Umar, who is also the Minister for Planning and Special Initiatives, took to his official Twitter handle to state that "despite [the] sharp decline in cases we remain vulnerable if [a] large number of people remain unvaccinated". The minister reminded people that the second job is "vital" for complete protection against Covid.



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T20 WC: Shakib empowers Bangladesh to Super 12s - Page 06

Turkey determined to get back owed money from US - Page 07

South Africa envoy for boosting ties with the private sectors - Page 08

## Cannot expel French envoy on TLP's request

Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed says Prime Minister Imran Khan has been making efforts to make Pakistan a true Islamic welfare state

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid said on Thursday that the French ambassador cannot be expelled from Pakistan at the request of the proscribed Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP). The interior minister's remarks came a day after the organisation's members staged protests for the release of party chief Saad Rizvi, as well as against 'arrests' of fellow party members. He was addressing police passing out parade ceremony wherein he calmed that no one was a 'greater soldier of defending finality of Prophet (PBUH) than him'. On April 23, lawmakers during the National Assembly session were divided on a resolution presented by the government on the issue of Namoos-e-Risalat and expelling the

French envoy over the publication of blasphemous caricatures in his country. The treasury and opposition benches were unable to amicably discuss the contents of the resolution, and the deputy speaker prorogued the session for an indefinite period. The minister further stated that, "Expelling the French ambassador means pulling oneself out of the European Union. Whether it is the TLP or PDM, neither should do anything to take the law in their own hands," he warned. Regarding the opposition's protest against the sitting government, Rashid added that they had been doing so for the last three years, adding that the law will take its course if they try to take it into their own hands. "I'm glad the PDM chose my city [Rawalpindi]," the interior minister said. "If they protest with great enthusiasm and do not take the law into their own hands, there



will be no problem. If they spread anarchy, they will be digging a grave for themselves." He added that Prime Minister Imran Khan was keeping a keen eye on every problem and that the people were wrong to believe otherwise. "New alliances will emerge as soon as the elections come near," he said. "The divide between the PML-N is obvious. Even the US is aware of it," he added. Earlier, the

interior minister alleged that the United States was also aware of the two factions - 'N' and 'S' - of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, saying that because of such a reason the US envoy had separate meetings with both the leaders. Rashid, who is known for his prophecies in political affairs, was referring to the recent meetings of US Charge d' Affaires to Pakistan Angela Aggeler with PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif and PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz. The US envoy had separately called on the two leaders and discussed national and regional development - including the Afghanistan situation. Such meetings had apparently shown discord in one of the major opposition parties of the country. "The US charge d' affaires also knows that 'N' and 'S' are separate. That's why the envoy had separate meetings with them [Shehbaz and

Maryam]," Rashid told reporters on Wednesday after an event at the Girls' College in Rawalpindi. "There will be a new alignment of the PML-N before the general elections," he said. "The PML-N will be in three groups before the elections." Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said Prime Minister Imran Khan has been making efforts to make Pakistan a true Islamic welfare state on the pattern of the State of Madina. Talking to media in Islamabad on Thursday, he said there is complete political and democratic freedom in Pakistan. The Minister said Pakistan believes in peaceful coexistence. Responding to a question about protest demonstrations by opposition parties, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said anybody can hold demonstration; however, if anyone takes law into his own hands, action will be taken against him.

## PDM rallies from today

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) has announced to hold protest rallies nationwide against rising inflation on Friday. According to the details, PDM will lead rallies against rising inflation in the country. Meanwhile, Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) held the first power show on October 20. As per the shared details, the demonstrations will be held in various cities across the country including Lahore, Peshawar, Sargodha, Khushaab, Mianwali, Bhakhar, Jhang, Joharabad and other cities of the Punjab province. PML-N spokesperson Maryam Aurangzeb announced that PDM will hold the rallies in different cities around country while in Mianwali and Bhakhar demonstrations will be held on October 24.



ISLAMABAD: Wouter Plomp, Netherlands ambassador to Pakistan, join 7daychallenge initiated by Swedish embassy and WWF Pakistan. Team Netherlands collected plastic waste to clean the streets. – DNA

## KP PRCS to establish Junior Youth Clubs at 300 schools

Under the campaign, students of Class 6 to 10 would be empowered to choose their representatives to sharpen their leadership skills

PESHAWAR: In order to teach school kids about democracy and to inculcate a spirit of serving the humanity in children, Pakistan Red Crescent Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Thursday launched a unique campaign to establish Junior Youth Clubs at 300 high schools across the province and later be extended to colleges and universities.

Under the campaign, students of Class 6 to 10 would be empowered to choose their representatives to sharpen their leadership skills. In this regard, KP PRCS Chairman Lt Gen (Retd) Mohammed Hamid Khan said the COVID-19 positivity ratio was getting favourable for PRCS to resume various activities for students in educational institutions. Under the campaign, he said students were not only to be taught to find solutions to their problems

democratically, but also to instill the spirit of service to humanity under the basic seven fundamental principles of The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. He further said that during the campaign the elected members of youth clubs would be trained by PRCS



on basic First Aid, Youth as agents of behavioral change, and climate change adaptation, so in future, they could spread the knowledge with their peers. While speaking to media on the occasion, Secretary PRCS KP Syed Ali Hassan

said, "We are having the support of International Federation of the Red Cross and Italian Red Cross for the said campaign, which has initially selected government schools for setting up of junior youth clubs by PRCS youth and volunteer department.

In the first phase, kids studying from class 6 to 10 would be given a right to vote to choose right person for the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Finance Secretary and 6 members while school principal would be given a position of President of the Youth Club and one each school teachers as the chairman and vice-chairman.

He further said that the elected cabinet would also be involved in taking the problems of the students to the school administration and organizing various activities for the other fellows in the school. – APP

## KMU, DKT sign MoU for scientific cooperation

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Medical University (KMU) and the DKT Pakistan Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for technical and research collaboration.

Vice Chancellor KMU Prof. Dr. Zia-ul-Haq and Country Director DKT Pakistan Justin Main Thompson signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations. According to the details, under the MoU the KMU and DKT Pakistan undertake to pursue a program of research, scientific and technical collaboration for the exchange of ideas, skills, and techniques on problems of mutual interest as agreed from time to time.

In the said MoU both the partner agreed upon to exchange and training of scientific and technology personnel for teaching, research and development in the field of mother, neonatal and child health (MNCH), HIV/AIDS prevention, breast cancer (prevention, early diagnosis, treatment) and other related fields pertaining to the interest of both parties. – APP

## 1609 active cases of dengue reported

PESHAWAR: As many as 1609 active cases of dengue has been reported from various areas of the province while 207 patients have been admitted in different hospitals of the province. According to Provincial Health Authorities, 26295 dengue screening tests have been conducted so far while 2896 patients have been recovered among 4511 cases reported.

The total active dengue cases in Peshawar, Mardan, Manshera is 798, 153 and 113 respectively. So far 1650 dengue cases have been reported for provincial metropolis that are highest while 394 cases were reported from Nowshera, 314 from Mardan, 306 from Haripur, 304 from Manshera, 262 from Buner, 250 from Swabi, 220 from Khyber.

The number of dengue patients admitted in Peshawar is 102, 17 in Mardan, 16 in Nowshera, 15 in Haripur, 14 in Abbotabad and 13 in Swabi. Eight areas of Peshawar including Sarband, Acheeni, Sufaid Dheri, Charsadda, Canal Road, Danishabad, Board Bazar and Tehkal Bala has been declared high risk areas while Mabhikhel dokhail of Buner has ALSO been declared as high risk area. Darwaish, Panian, Serai Saleh of Haripur and Lundh khaur and Takhtbhai of Mardan have been declared hotspot areas of dengue. – APP

# UAF, SU join hands for scientific-based agriculture economy

Prof. Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan said that the country was importing pulses and edible oil worth Rs 5bn rupees, which was a matter of concern for an agricultural country

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: University of Agriculture Faisalabad and Superior University Lahore inked a Memorandum of Understanding to conduct joint efforts in the field of academia, and research with the special focus on agriculture as a step towards knowledge-based economy. UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Iqar Ahmad Khan and Rector of Superior University Prof. Dr. Sumaira Rehman signed the MoU at the Syndicate Room. Under the agreement, the both institutions will conduct faculty and student exchange programs, joint teaching and research, publications, seminars, and conferences etc in order to prepare trained manpower while benefiting from each others experiences. The possibility of holding joint degree program would also be explored.

Prof. Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan said that the country was importing pulses and edible oil worth Rs 5 billion rupees, which was a matter of concern for an agricultural country. He said that under the MoU, joint efforts would be made to fight the challenges of agriculture sector. He said that the UAF was successfully running two

plus two BBA program with IBA Sukkur under which business skilled manpower is being produced. He said that under research fund of Superior University, the experts of the UAF should come up with the best research recommendations and play their role in taking agriculture to new heights. He lamented that kid of farmer were reluctant to adopt agriculture as a profession. If we can make agriculture a profitable business by introducing modern trends, it will not only help ensure food security but also improve the lifestyle of farmers. He said UAF was offering 187 degree programs to produce best

manpower in agriculture. We have to hone entrepreneurial skills, not only for their bright future but also it will better the country economy. Rector of Superior University, Prof. Dr. Sumaira Rehman said that Pakistan was blessed with immense resources but there was a need to make concerted efforts to find solutions to the problems facing the country by using these resources wisely. She said that adoption of modern trends in agriculture could not only increase productivity but also reduce poverty with a stable agricultural economy. She said that Superior University Research

Fund has been launched to provide the grant. She said that scientists of UAF should also come up with research proposals to avail this opportunity to work for welfare of farming community. She said that the final year of the undergraduate degrees at Superior University is dedicated to sharpen entrepreneurial skills among the students in which students come up with innovative business plans so that they can become successful entrepreneurs in the future. Last year, the students launched 40 new businesses, generating Rs 300 million revenue and new jobs.



## Governor returns home after paying 10-day EU visit

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar Thursday returned to Lahore after completing his 10-day visit to the Europe Union countries regarding the extension of GSP Plus status for Pakistan.

During his visit, he met four vice presidents of European Parliament, 30 MPs of Italy, senators, ministers from Hungary and Austria and Overseas Pakistanis. He also addressed a Kashmir Conference 'Aik Shaam Kashmir Ke Naam' in Italy. According to a spokesman for the Governor's House here, Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar returned to Lahore after successfully completing his visit to Europe. During his visit, he met more than 30 members of the European Parliament including Dr Fabio Castaldo, Pedro Silva and Heidi Hotala, as well as members of parliament in Italy, Hungary and Austria, senators and ministers, for the extension of GSP Plus status for

Pakistan. Pakistan's role for peace, Kashmir and Palestine issue, religious freedom of minorities in Pakistan and measures for their protection, Afghanistan and other issues were discussed in the meetings.

The Punjab governor also had important meetings with leaders of European Parliament's Human Rights Committee and other important committees. EU Pak Friendship Federation Chairman Parvaiz Iqbal Losar and Coordinator Farooq Arshad were also present. Talking to the media here at Governor's House, Ch Sarwar said that extension of GSP Plus status was a challenge for the country, adding that India had been spreading negative propaganda against Pakistan but during his visit to Europe, he presented all facts to the members of European Parliament. He said that the EU parliamentarians appreciated Pakistan's role for

peace and the steps taken to protect minorities.

The governor said that anti-Pakistan forces including India had been obstructing the extension of GSP Plus status for Pakistan in the past, but we are united as a team to thwart India's plans. He said that despite Indian propaganda, not only Pakistan achieved GSP Plus status but would also succeed in extending it. Chaudhry Sarwar said that minorities were safe in Pakistan and human rights were also being ensured across the country. Pakistan armed forces and the citizens of Pakistan were working together to end terrorism and eliminate their facilitators. He said that the minorities in India, including Muslims, were being victimised and massacred by the terrorist RSS and Indian security forces.

He said that it was a fact that until the Kashmir issue was resolved, peace in the region was not possible. – APP

## Faisalabad, Qingdao agreement to boost co-op

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib said on Thursday that 'Sister City Agreement' has been signed between China's Qingdao city and Faisalabad. In a tweet, he said the agreement will lead to cooperation in areas including industry, people-to-people contacts, business-to-business cooperation, culture, tourism, education and science and technology. He said this type of cooperation was an important source of civic diplomacy. Farrukh Habib said that bilateral cooperation with China will continue with the same enthusiasm. – APP

## Several institutions sealed over SOPs violation

PESHAWAR: On the directives of the National Command and Operation Centre (NOC) district administration Peshawar sealed several business centres and educational institutions while others issued notices over violation of Corona preventive standard operating procedures (SOPs) here on Thursday. In this connection, the officers of the district administration inspected the status of the implementation of Corona SOPs and vaccination process at Peshawar Bus Terminal, General Bus Stands, Kohat Road Bus Stands, BRT stations, business centres, educational institutions and bazaars. The officers of district administration ensured the implementation of Corona SOPs and also checked Corona vaccination certificates. – APP

## FIRs registered against 53 brick kilns

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: On the initiative of Divisional Commissioner Zahid Hussain, in connection with anti-smog measures, environment department has taken strict action against industries, Bricks kilns and smoky & noisy vehicles. DD Environment Waseem Ahsan Cheema informed that during last week 5 industries sealed due to excessive emissions smoke and use of standard fuel. He informed that Excel Food 202 R.B, Azhar sizing and Tariq Sardar sizing 66 J.B, Hussain calendar and Arif Bashir sizing 66j dhandra were sealed for violating. He further informed that FIRs registered against 53 bricks kiln for running without Zig-zag technology and challaned of 169 vehicles besides Fine Rs.102900 to the drivers.

DD said that the teams are cracked down on polluting industries, kilns and smoke emitting vehicles, so avoid violations and refrain from polluting the environment, otherwise not only point sealed but also will have to be behind the bar. – APP

## Eight illegal private housing schemes sealed

FAISALABAD: The Faisalabad Development Authority (FDA), in an operation against illegal private housing schemes, sealed offices of eight societies, here on Thursday.

A spokesperson for the FDA said that the enforcement team checked legal status of the schemes and found eight of those illegal in different areas. The team sealed offices of Sultan Valley, Hamad Housing Scheme and two additional localities in Chak No 8JB, Universal Town in Chak No 9JB, Al-Noor Valley, Adan Garden, Bohlewal Town in 100JB. The FDA also demolished illegal structures made in the colonies and directed the developers to get approval before sale of plots. – APP

## ANF seizes 1102kg drugs valuing \$ 89.780 million

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Anti Narcotics Force Pakistan seized 1102.149 Kg narcotics valuing US \$ 89.780 million internationally, arrested 41 culprits including 2 women and impounded 10 vehicles while conducting 36 counter-narcotics strikes throughout the country.

According to ANF spokesperson, the seized drugs comprised 92.372 Kg heroin, 859.04 Kg hashish, 118.2 Kg opium, 7.81 Kg amphetamine, 24.362 Kg methamphetamine (Ice), 54 ecstasy tablets, 0.00786 Kg MDMA Tablets and 0.358 Kg weed.

Sharing the details of the operations, he said, ANF Balochistan recovered 533 Kg drugs in 2 operations while arrested 5 accused including 2 women and seized 1 vehicle. The seized drugs comprised 523 Kg Hashish and 10 Kg Opium.

ANF Punjab, he said, recovered 7.862 Kg drugs in 4 operations while arrested 4 accused. The seized drugs comprised 3.2 Kg Heroin,

4 Kg Hashish, and 0.662 Kg Methamphetamine (Ice). In KPK, he said, ANF has recovered 12.55 Kg drugs in 4 operations while arrested 5 accused and seized 2 vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 4.8 Kg Hashish and 7.750 Kg Amphetamine.

ANF in Sindh has recovered 279.25 Kg drugs in 10 operations while arrested 15 accused and seized 2 vehicles, he added. The seized drugs comprised 84.46 Kg Heroin, 169.09 Kg Hashish, 4 Kg Opium and 21.7 Kg Methamphetamine (Ice).

ANF North, he said has recovered 269.48786 Kg drugs in 16 operations and arrested 12 accused while seized 5 vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 4.712 Kg Heroin, 158.15 Kg Hashish, 104.2 Kg Opium, 0.060 Kg Amphetamine, 2 Kg Methamphetamine (Ice), (0.00786 Kg) MDMA Tabs, 54 Ecstasy Tabs and 0.358 Kg weed.

All cases have been registered at respective ANF Police Stations under CNS Act 1997 and further investigations are under process.

## 33,117 Afghan school children getting free education in KP

PESHAWAR: Pakistan has always helped, accommodated and treated Afghan refugees like its own citizen and provided them all the basic facilities in limited resources and challenging situation. The top priority was paid to health and education of Afghan children at refugee camps to protect them from the adverse effects of displacement and to make them useful citizen to serve their country and nation.

The government of Pakistan has established as many as 99 schools from KG to Grade six in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province for Afghan refugees' children in five districts including Peshawar, Kohat, Mardan, Hari Pur and Lower Dir where 33,117 children including girls and boys are currently enrolled. According to an official of Afghan Commissionerate there are a total 27 girls schools including seven in Peshawar,

three in Kohat, five in Mardan, seven in Haripur and five in Lower Dir. Similarly the government has set up 43 boys and 29 co-education schools in these districts. He said that till September this year 12020 girls and 21097 boys were enrolled at these schools, adding that in August this year the accumulative strength of girls and boys children was 31508.

He said that the government has also hired services of Afghan nationals along with Pakistani teachers at the schools to provide opportunities to Afghans. He said that out of a total 99 head teachers 52 are Afghan males and 11 female heads and only 18 Pakistani male head teachers were appointed.

Similarly, out of a total 516 teachers 155 males and 107 females are Pakistani while 35 females and 219 males are Afghan national. Regarding dropout of school children, he

said that 160 left the schools due to repatriation to their motherland, 127 shifted to other places and 105 remained absent for a long time, however efforts were being made to enroll more children of refugees to the schools.

Shahid Anwer a school teacher at Afghan refugee camp here told APP that he has been teaching at the refugee school from last 29 years adding that all basic facilities including books, washrooms, play grounds, solar electricity and clean drinking water were available at these institutions.

He said the schools are being run in morning and evening shifts wherein boys come in morning and girls in afternoon, adding that hundreds of Afghan students have completed their education from this school and now serving as engineer, doctors, lawyers and at other important posts. – APP

## Labour department completely digitalised

FAISALABAD: Punjab Minister for Labour and Human Resources Ansar Majeed Khan Niazi has said that his department has been fully digitalised and 99 per cent employers are making their contribution online.

Addressing the business community at the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) on Thursday, he said that Faisalabad was the largest industrial hub of Punjab but the number of registered workers was only 2.5 to 3 lakh. However, he added, according to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), their number was much higher than the reported figure. He said that his department had introduced a self-assessment scheme under which an audit of only 15 per cent units would be conducted. He said

that he had already announced an amnesty scheme under which one-time benefit of Rs 5.5 billion had been passed on to the employers, while they were also entitled for another relief of Rs 400 million per annum.

"All claims filed under self-assessment scheme would be accepted without any objection," he said and added that "We have signed an MoU with the Bank of Punjab to issue labour cards under which the card-holder could also enjoy special subsidy on their selected purchases". He said that

in Punjab, the number of registered labourers had jumped to 1,140,000. He said that Workers Welfare Fund had been established in Punjab and employers have so far contributed Rs.1.5 billion in this head. – DNA

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The Capital Development Authority intends to remove all encroachments from CDA / state land in accordance with the rules / regulations made under the CDA Ordinance-1960.

It has been observed that some of the owners have encroached on CDA land beyond their plot lines by erecting fences, gates, installation of generators, Security Guard rooms and also occupied green area adjacent to their plots.

The Authority has already issued a number of notices in newspapers for removal of these encroachments, but in vain.

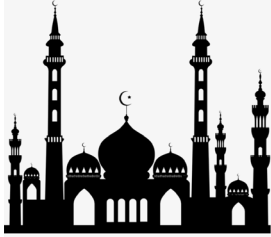
Now, through this PUBLIC NOTICE, all concerned are informed in their own interest to remove these encroachments on their own within 72 hours of publication of this advertisement in newspapers. In case of failure to comply, CDA would remove / demolish encroachments and would not be responsible for any damage that might occur during this process. CDA will also impose fines and penalties for use of government land.

Director General (Environment),  
Capital Development Authority,  
Islamabad.

PID (I) No. 2495/21

Ph. No. 051-9261786

## SERVICES



### Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	04:54 am
Zohr.....	11:52 am
Asr.....	03:48 pm
Maghrib.....	05:27 pm
Isha.....	06:50 pm



### Hotels & Restaurants

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



### Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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# ICCI & NCSW to work for women empowerment

Awareness session about workplace harassment should be conducted. This year 16 days of activism against gender-based violence will be celebrated from Nov: 25 to Dec: 10, says Nilofar Bakhtiar

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Nilofar Bakhtiar, Chairperson, National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) said that lot of work is to be done to bring women in the mainstream of economy and added that NCSW in collaboration with ICCI would work for economic empowerment of women so that they could play more effective role in developing the economy. She said that ICCI would be given representation in the Economic Empowerment Committee of NCSW to make joint efforts for the protection and promotion of women. She said this while addressing a large gathering of women during her visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI). Nilofar Bakhtiar said that this year 16 days of activism against gender-based violence will be celebrated from Nov: 25 to Dec: 10, 2021 and NCSW would organize various programs for women where violence against the wom-



en would be on top of the agenda. She said that ICCI should also organize an awareness session at this occasion about the Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act and invite women working in industrial and business units to sensitize them about this act. She said that posters of the said Act should also be displayed in ICCI and business firms for the information of working women.

She also briefed the women about the key initiatives of NCSW for protection of women and vowed that NCSW would work with stakeholders including ICCI for the better protection and empowerment of women. Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that women are over half of our total population and it is not possible for Pakistan

to achieve sustainable growth without bringing them into the mainstream of economy. He stressed that the government should formulate more conducive policies for the economic empowerment of women. He said that obtaining credit from banks for business is the most serious issue for women and urged that the government should focus on providing easy credit to women entrepreneurs so that they could

achieve better growth in business. Mian Akram Farid, Chairman, Founder Group and Chairman Skills Development Council said that SDC has trained 9500 women in various fields for their economic empowerment and more trainings would be provided to them. He said that women have the potential to earn sixty to seventy thousand rupees per month by getting training in various fields of IT and working from home. He said that women have good scope in various professions including pharmaceuticals, banking, hotel, digital marketing, and sales. He said that by focusing on IT, Pakistan could enhance its annual IT exports from USD 2 billion to USD 30 billion. Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President, Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI, Ejaz Abbasi, Baser Daud, Muhammad Naveed, Khalid Chaudhry, Nasira Ali and others also spoke at the occasion and stressed that the government should make policies for economic empowerment of women.

## HEC invites faculty of public sector varsities for Int'l fellowship

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE), based in Higher Education Commission (HEC) Islamabad, is the national institution for capacity building of faculty in the higher education sector and its recognition through national and international certifications and fellowships awarded by the professional bodies. One of its key initiatives is the Associate Fellowship Programme for eligible faculty serving at public sector higher education institutions (HEIs). This Fellowship Programme is being launched in collaboration with Advance HE, UK under the Pak-UK Education Gateway Project. The aim of this internationally recognized Advance HE Fellowship is to recognize faculty members who engage in innovation, effectiveness, and excellence in teaching and learning. In the recent past, this Fellowship was only offered to the Fellows of Interim Placement of Fresh PhDs (IPFP) programme who are trained by NAHE through its National Faculty Development Programme, however, this opportunity is now being extended to all the eligible faculty serving at public sector HEIs. Advance HE Fellowship offers an opportunity to faculty members to demonstrate their commitment to professional practices in HEIs and get acknowledged for their commitment aligned with internationally recognized UK Professional Standards Framework.



ISLAMABAD: CEO PIA, Air Marshal Rtd Arshad Malik welcomed the NATO team led by Ambassador Stefano Pontecorvo, NATO Senior Civilian Representative to Afghanistan and Belgian Ambassador Philippe Bronchain. Matters of mutual interest including assistance to uplift people from Kabul were discussed. - DNA

## Lok Virsa to hold annual Lok Mela

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage- Lok Virsa has planned to hold an annual folk festival titled 'LokMela 2021' from November 1. According to the official announcement, Lok Virsa annual mega event would be held at Lok Virsa Complex, Garden Avenue, Shakarparian, Islamabad. The inaugural ceremony of the 7-day event will be held on November 1 which is expected to be graced by Federal Minister for Education, Professional Training Shafiqat Mahmood. The main features will include provincial cultural pavilions from all provinces, GB, AJK including an international pavilion, artisans at work, folk songs and dance performances, exotic craft bazaar, cultural nights, folkloric performances, food courts, and many other activities. As per tradition, the festival will formally open with a 'chadarposhi'/'dastarbandi' ceremony, which is a way of proclaiming LokVirsa's commitment to the high stature that craftspeople and folk artists have in the cultural mainstream. Culture departments of all provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Jammu & Kashmir, and the diplomatic community have been invited to set up pavilions presenting their indigenous folk culture, artisans, folk artists, and traditional cuisine as link nodes of the festival's foundation grid. Special attractions featuring folk singers, folk entertainers, and other entertaining shows will be organized throughout the festival period duration. Display of traditional folk dances from all over Pakistan will be held in the open-air theatre at intervals. Folk entertainers and rural musicians are invited from all over the country to participate in the festival. An exotic craft bazaar with a score of tastefully decorated pavilions offering a variety of knick-knacks souvenirs, antiques, craft items, gems & jewelry, and cultural materials will also be set up erected.

## Zahir Jaffer terms 'Noor Mukaddam Case' as a joke

STAFF REPTRER

ISLAMABAD: The main suspect in the brutal murder of Noor Mukadam, has termed the case proceedings against him to be "a big joke" while responding to a media question during his escort out of a courtroom in Islamabad. "That is all I have to say," Zahir, is one of 12 indicted in the killing of the daughter of a former diplomat, in Islamabad, the heart of the country, went on to say. In the footage, which soon went viral, Zahir can be seen not only using expletives to describe the case proceedings but also displaying his displeasure at the way policemen take him inside the courtroom as he seemingly loses his balance while walking. Meanwhile, a sessions court in the federal capital on Wednesday started the trial as the first formal witness, a police official, recorded his testimony.

## 10th Avenue tender to float in November

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Asad Umar on Thursday directed the authorities concerned to complete the 10th avenue road project within a period of 21 months and that the project must be launched by the end of next month. The minister was chairing a meeting to review progress on water issues of the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) region and the development of the 10th Avenue project, where he was informed that the tender for the project of 10th avenue would be floated by mid-November 2021. The meeting was attended by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on CDA Ali Nawaz Awan, MNA Raja Khurram Nawaz, Chairman PCRWR, and other senior officials and departments' representatives. The meeting was informed that the alignment of 10th Avenue Phase I from IJP road to Margalla

road contains two packages. Package one is from IJP to Srinagar highway which includes 8 bridges, underpasses, and flyovers. While package-II includes Srinagar Highway Interchange and connections with G-9/G-10 sectors. Federal Minister for Planning Asad Umar directed in the meeting that the project must be completed within 21 months and both packages must be initiated simultaneously. Most importantly, he said this project must be launched by end of November. He further added that the 10th Avenue is a major initiative of the present government for the citizens of Islamabad especially for the residents of I-10 and I-9 who will have direct access to IJP Principle Road and the Srinagar highway road. Mr. Umar also reviewed the progress on the rainwater harvesting project being implemented by Capital Development Authority

(CDA) in collaboration with Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR). Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman-PCRWR and Member, CDA briefed the chair that the drilling work on 25 sites had been started, and by December 2021 a total of 50 sites for grand water recharge wells would have been developed, and under this initiative, the CDA would develop more than 100 recharge wells. Housing Authority representatives also informed the meeting that they were working on 25 recharge wells for their Sector G-13. Asad Umar directed them to start work on the rest of the housing sector as well and come up with a comprehensive plan to finalize it at the next meeting. Asad Umar appreciated the technical expertise extended by PCRWR and directed CDA and Housing Authority to speed up the work as well as ensure the completion of all the sites by June 2022. - APP

## Approx 1800 dengue cases detected in Rawalpindi

56 more cases were surfaced in the last 24 hours; 98 dengue patients in Holy Family Hospital (HFH), eight positive out of 12 in Benazir Bhutto Hospital and 28 confirmed in District Headquarters Hospital

RAWALPINDI: As many as 1869 confirmed dengue cases had been brought to the allied hospitals of the city, out of which 1791 were discharged after recovery, while 56 more cases were surfaced in the last 24 hours. District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC) DrSajjadMehtood informed Thursday that presently 98 dengue patients were under treatment in Holy Family Hospital (HFH), out of which 42 were tested positive, eight positive out of 12 in Benazir Bhutto Hospital(BBH) and 28 confirmed cases out of the total 49 admitted in District Headquarters Hospital(DHQ), he added. DrSajjad informed that HFH had registered 1153 positive cases of dengue fever, DHQ registered 237, while 479 had been registered with BBH. He added that out of the total confirmed cases reported so far,1134

belonged to the Rawalpindi district while the remaining of the other districts included the Federal capital area. He informed

that among the 56 new cases reported during the last 24 hours with 23 belonged to the Rawalpindi Cantonment area, six from



Pothohar Town, eight from Metropolitan Khan Rawalpindi, three from ChaklalaCantt and one each case arrived from Taxila Cantonment, Gujjar Khan and Murree while the addresses of the remaining cases were not confirmed yet, "he added. DrSajjad that during indoor surveillance from October 13 to 21 in all tehsilis of the district and Cantonment areas, 263,443 houses were checked and larvae were found at 3837 homes while 408 teams during outdoor surveillance checked 84,487 sites and larvae was located at 121 points. He urged the residents to keep their water tanks clean and not leave any place wet with stagnant water. Currently, he said prevention of the disease was the government's priority, and the district health administration was working day and night to control the outbreak of the infection. - APP

## Familiarizing with Islamic history proves helpful: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan stressed the need to familiarize the younger generation with Islamic history and said the use of multimedia could prove helpful in this regard on Thursday.

In a meeting with filmmaker Shehzad Nawaz and Turkish producer Emre Konuk, the prime minister said it was high time to create dramas and films based on historical narrative rather than opting for the routine topics.

In view of the upcoming Pakistan and Turkey's joint production of television series on Muslim warrior Salahuddin Ayubi, the prime minister said even the West quotes him as the great personality of the history.

The prime minister mentioned that Salahuddin Ayubi had announced a general amnesty after the historic conquest of Jerusalem.

The series on the life of SalahuddinAyubi will make the youth aware of his historical role, he added.

Senator Faisal Javed, Syed Junaid Ali Shah and DrKashif also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the prime minister was briefed on the details of the joint project of television series between Pakistan and Turkey.

It was highlighted that the planning of the series had been finalized, while the shooting will commence in April next year. - APP

## PAL to organize International 'Muzakra'

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) would organize an online International Muzakra titled "Culture of Naat in Pakistan" on October 22 in connection with EidMilad-un-Nab (SAW).

Eminent scholars DrIhsan Akbar and Dr. RiazMajeed would preside over the Muzakra. Renowned scholars Dr. TaqiAbidi and Dr. Arshad Mahmood Nashad would be chief guests on the occasion.

Eminent scholars Dr. Anwar Mahmood Khalid and Dr. Aziz Ahsan would be guests of honour. Chairman PAL Dr. Yousaf Khushk said that eminent scholars including Nowreen Talat Aroba, Quratul Ayeen Naqvi, Mobin Mirza, Dr. ShakirKandan, Sarwar Hussain Naqshbandi, Dr Ashraf Kamal, Dr. Kashif Irfan and Dr. Bibi Amina would shed light on the topic.

He said that PAL would also organize international Naatia Mushaira to pay tributes to the Holy Prophet (Peace Be upon Him). - APP

## AIOU offers admission in certificate courses

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is offering admission in 6-month certificate courses in Al Lisanul Arabi, Arabi Bole Chall, Certificate in Librarianship, Certificate in Literacy & Non-Formal Education, French Online, Lughatul Quran and Certificate courses in Public Health.

The last date to apply for these courses is October 28, according to the AIOU. Candidates who can read and write are eligible for admission in Al LisanulArabi, Arabi Bole Chall and Lughatul Quran.

Students with at least a matriculation degree will be considered for admission in Certificate in Literacy and Non-Formal Education, while at least Intermediate education is required for admission in Certificate in French Online and Certificate in Librarianship.

Only candidates with at least 16 years of education can take admission in Certificate courses in Public Health.

It is pertinent to mention here that VC, AIOU, Prof Dr Zia Ul-Qayyum has approved the extension of the date of admissions for the second phase of autumn semester 2021 till October 28. - APP

## Briefs

## Pakistan's regional exports increase 31%

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's exports to the seven regional countries witnessed an increase of 31.60 percent in first three months of current financial year (2021-22) as compared to the corresponding months of last year. The country's exports to the regional countries including Afghanistan, China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, and the Maldives account for a small amount of \$946.212 million, which is 13.64 percent of Pakistan's overall exports of \$6933.080 million during July-September (2021-22), State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.

China tops the list of countries in terms of Pakistan's exports to its neighbouring countries such as Bangladesh and Afghanistan. Pakistan carried out its border trade with the farther neighbour Sri Lanka, India, Nepal and Maldives. Pakistan's exports to China posted growth of 69.73 percent to \$559.153 million in three months of this year from \$329.421 million during last year while exports to Bangladesh also increased by 37.572 percent to \$175.389 million from \$127.487 million. — APP

## Italian experts to train Pak wood workers

ISLAMABAD: Italian furniture designers expressed willingness to share their expertise and train Pakistani woodworkers to help meet international standards. It was stated by Shehryar Khan, honorary investment consul of Pakistan in Italy while talking to CEO Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) and former chairman FIEDMC Mian Kashif Ashfaq on Thursday. He said that vast scope of bilateral economic cooperation exists between the two countries and stressed the need to strengthen with mutual collaboration. He said Italy is one of the leading furniture exporters and the fourth largest furniture manufacturers in the world which plays an important part in Italian economy. He said he held detailed result oriented fruitful meetings with Italian furniture designers of Milan which is the biggest industrial city with many different sectors who are willing to visit Pakistan for imparting short duration training. Shehryar Khan emphasized the urgent need to explore foreign markets in European Union especially France and Germany including the Asia-Pacific region followed by the United States and Canada where Pak hand engraved furniture is in great demand. — APP

## All set for Kashmir seminar

RAWALPINDI: Arrangements for the Kashmir seminar organized by the University of Kashmir on the occasion of the 74th founding day of Azad Jammu and Kashmir have been finalized. Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi, Chairman Kashmir Committee Shahrir Khan Afridi, Former President Azad Kashmir Sardar Masood Khan, Former Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Raja Farooq Haider, Leader of the Muslim Conference and former Minister Azam Sardar Atiq Ahmad Khan, Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Latif Akbar, Distinguished Diplomat and Former Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Tasneem Aslam, Executive Director of Iqbal Institute of Research and Dialogue Islamabad Dr. Hassan Al-Amin, Azad Jammu and Kashmir University Apart from Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbas, other speakers will also address. The first session will be chaired by Shehryar Afridi, chairman of the Kashmir Committee of Parliament, while former Azad Kashmir president Sardar Masood Khan will be the chief guest. — APP

## Pakistan's biggest freelancing incubation network launched

The facility can accommodate more than 2000 freelancers at the same time across the 08 cities in Pakistan. The network will expand to 10 cities by the end of 2021

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is host to more than one million freelancers working for various global platforms. Although the majority of freelancers are from Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad, the freelancing landscape is about to change in the country. Pakistan's largest E-Commerce training platform, "Extreme Commerce" is creating the country's largest freelancers incubation network. The Freelancers' Incubation Network will have a nationwide incubation facility in 10 major cities of Pakistan. With more than 2000+ freelancers to be accommodated

at once, the capacity currently accommodates freelancers from Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Sialkot, Peshawar, Rahim Yar Khan, Multan, and Hyderabad. The network is anticipated to be expanded to 10 cities by the end of 2021. The Largest Freelancers Incubation Network is part of Extreme Commerce's founder Sunny Ali's vision to achieve a Billion Dollar Pakistan, which aims to position Pakistan as the back-office hub for e-commerce and freelancing. He is doing this by encouraging our youth in the right direction, helping in developing an entrepreneurial mindset, and promoting entrepreneurship in the country,

making the bulge of the youth self-dependent. The efforts to set up the largest incubation network for freelancers in Pakistan or Incubation for Freelancers is a new concept coined by Sunny Ali, this approach has not been adopted anywhere in the world to date. Extreme Commerce has been organizing a series of seminars and freelancers' interactions across Pakistan to get their input in the design and functioning of the incubators for freelancers. This initiative has attracted more than 10,000 youth across the country to participate both online and offline to shape their future collectively.

Sunny Ali is Pakistan's leading entrepreneur and philanthropist best known for Founding and Leading Pakistan's Largest E-Commerce Training Platform named "Extreme Commerce". The Extreme Commerce meetups have created opportunities for young freelancers and entrepreneurs to meet Sunny Ali, who is known to be Pakistan's top-rated, international life, wealth, and business coach. He is dedicated to achieving his vision of building a multi-billion-dollar business economic drive in Pakistan through E-Commerce trading on platforms like Amazon, eBay, Shopify & more. Sunny Ali believes in empowering the youth

along with experienced guidance from experts in the field of E-Commerce. Extreme Commerce is Pakistan's first and the largest EdTech company with a sole focus on skill development and capacity building within the e-commerce and digital arena. Founded in 2017, it is the largest community of its kind in Pakistan, with more than 950,000 members to date and with over 150+ courses and income streams to choose from. Extreme Commerce estimates that by the end of this year, its community will surpass 1 million members, generating well over \$10 billion in inward remittances by 2025 for Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Bahrain Mohamed Ebrahim Mohamed Abdul Qader called on Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser in Federal Capital. — DNA

## CDA installs tracker in environment wing vehicles

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) has installed tracker and wireless system in vehicles to further improve the performance of environment department. In the first phase modern tracker systems had been installed in 66 vehicles and tractors of the department, while rest of the vehicles would be equipped with the gadget soon, said a spokesman on Thursday. He said over fifty wireless

sets had been handed over to the concerned staff for testing while five sets were set aside for the supervision of the vehicles, tankers and tractors. The movement of staff and vehicles would be monitored from the control room, set up in the environment department. The move was aimed at monitoring the vehicles and staff in the field, besides reducing expenditures of the department, the spokesman added. — DNA

## RDA focusing to promote kitchen gardening

RAWALPINDI: Chairman Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) Tariq Mehmood Thursday said that RDA was focusing to promote kitchen gardening. RDA had launched a project last year and nearly 500 five marla selected houses were provided stands and seeds for kitchen gardening. Steel framed kitchen gardening racks were distributed among selected households, he added. Selected persons were also imparted training and women were particularly motivated to grow vegetables at their homes.

He said that planting vegetables in homes had benefited the common people and they were getting free healthy vegetables. The chairman said that a plan was being finalized in collaboration with Akhuwat Foundation. A project would be launched to provide micro loans. Under the project interest free loans would be provided for kitchen gardening and RDA would provide seeds free of cost. He said that such small scale, social sector projects could provide jobs to the people and they could get better livelihoods. — APP

## Government to control price-hike soon: Ali Nawaz

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Capital Development Authority Affairs Ali Nawaz Awan on Thursday said the government was trying to control price-hike soon as the entire world was in grip of severe inflation and major currencies fluctuated during the corona period. Talking to a private news channel he said, the government would provide subsidies on five essential items for twenty million poor people which were directly affected by price-hike. Ali Nawaz said that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) also appraised the government's efforts that all indicators are positive, due to relentless efforts the gov-



ernment achieved the highest ever exports growth and also recorded the highest foreign remittances. He criticized the opposition that all parties doing politics of loud marches and sit-ins, rather come up with solutions of important matters. The government was paying back loans on high interest rates because of previous governments' high ratio agreements. — APP

## High-yielding Chinese rice makes farmers happy: Report

DNA

ISLAMABAD: High-yielding Chinese rice makes farmers happy, as now they receive good output of their hard work. With too much effort and less yield, we switched from sowing traditional seeds to the cultivation of Chinese rice," a farmer Fazal Wahab told Gwadar Pro. Another farmer Abdul Hakim, 49, is delighted to see his rice yield triple. Living on the bank of the Swat River at village Nagam, the farmer said, "With Chinese seeds, the yield is three times that of the local seeds." Abdul Hakim is not the only cultivator to achieve high yield. The other farmers in the area also attributed the increase in production to Chinese seeds.

"The rice is early maturing, medium heighted and with medium grains," said farmer Muhammad Khaliq, adding that the farmers do not know the exact name and variety of the rice but locally they call it China Sholi (Chinese rice). In the past, the majority of farmers in this area sowed Sara Salla (Basmati rice). The farmers had to soak the rice in water, and then subject it to heat treatment followed by a drying process. He said that Chinese rice has a high demand in the market. So farmers do not need to store the rice in their stowage but traders buy rice in fields from them and take the grains to nearby markets and mills. "Sata" is the name for a traditional unit of mass used in the Malakand region. One



Sata is equal to 110 kilograms of weight. Currently, the Chinese rice is sold at Rs. 5200 per Sata (Rs. 47 per kg). "Chinese rice has great demands in the market. We take the rice to different rice mills of the country," Bakhtid Mal Sha, a trader told Gwadar Pro. According to him, the price of Chinese rice and other local varieties is almost equal,

so farmers choose to cultivate the most profitable crop with less effort. Farmer Muhammad Anas hoped that in addition to hybrid seeds, China would also transfer agricultural technology to help increase the cultivation of different crops in Malakand Division. The farmers are using traditional tools for harvesting rice in Malakand region. Fazal Wahab said, Pakistan and China are enhancing agriculture cooperation under the framework of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). In April 2020, around 500 tonnes of hybrid rice seeds were brought from Jiangsu, China to enhance rice yield in Pakistan. The Universities of Wuhan and Punjab are jointly developing high-yield hybrid rice varieties with the latest technologies.

## KIIR chief condemns ruthless torture of HR activists

ISLAMABAD: Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR) Chairman Altaf Hussain Wani here on Thursday condemned in strong terms the torture of veteran rights activist and chairman International Forum for Justice and Human Rights, Muhammad Ahasan Untoo by the Indian forces in occupied Kashmir. In a statement issued here, the KIIR chief while highlighting Untoo's peerless contribution in highlighting Indian brutalities and the plight of common Kashmiris said that IFJHR chairman has been tortured and incarcerated many times in the past for his human rights activism. "He is one of the bold and brave voices of the region who is being victimized just for standing up for the rights of common Kashmiris, calling spade a spade and speaking truth to the power", Wani said adding that atrocious attack on Untoo was a sheer hooliganism and a flagrant violation of basic

human rights. Urging the world human rights organization to take effective notice of the Indian brutalities, the KIIR chairman said that the BJP government was hell bent on choking every dissenting voice in Kashmir. "Intimidation, torture, arbitrary arrests of rights defenders and terrorizing their families remain to be one of the extreme measures the Indian government has been using as a state policy to enable complete silence on Kashmir and to subdue critical voices who dare to speak truth to power". Wani said adding that it was high time that the world should break its silence and hold Indian government accountable for the past and ongoing human rights abuses in the region. It is worth recalling here that Mr Untoo's was ruthlessly thrashed and beaten to a pulp by the CRPF and police cops on October 19 while he was on a private visit to Watergam village of Rafiabad area of district Baramulla. — APP

## CNY mechanism solve the major difficulty of CPEC: SBP

The usefulness of SBP initiatives in the right direction resulted in expansion of local CNY settlement and clearing mechanism in Pakistan and yielded in long-term benefits to China-Pakistan relationship in general, and Pakistan's economy and banking system in particular

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: "With the rise of CNY as a popular choice among world payment currencies, the availability of CIPS service to Pakistani customers will accelerate trade and investment opportunities in CNY and hence it gives a unique opportunity to reap benefits arising out of internationalization of CNY." This was stated by Ali Raza, Director of TOD, SBP, said at a webinar in celebration of Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC)'s CIPS (Cross-Border Inter-Bank Payments System) initial operation in South Asia. According to a Gwadar Pro's report, in order to facilitate the cross-border CNY clearing and settlement, and improve the service quality and efficiency of CNY clearing operation in Pakistan, the Webinar was held on October 20, 2021 by ICBC Karachi Branch. More than 100 participants of whom most are from local banks had attended the webinar. Dignitaries from ICBC Head Office, State Bank of Pakistan, Embassy of P.R. China in Pakistan, CIPS Company had given keynote speeches at the Webinar. In September, ICBC obtained the direct

participation qualification of the first cross-border CNY clearing mechanism of CIPS in South Asia. As the most important host country of ICBC in South Asia, Pakistan's CNY clearing capability will be efficiently improved and the trade with China will be more convenient. Chen Yuncheng, the CEO of ICBC Karachi Branch presided over the meeting and delivered a welcome speech to the audience. He said: "ICBC Pakistan, as the earliest and biggest CNY clearing bank and the first direct participant of CIPS in South Asia, will go on communicating with local banks in Pakistan and better serving all partners to promote CNY utilization in Pakistan and China-Pakistan bilateral economic prosperity." Ali Raza believed that this event will be a landmark of China-Pakistan trade relationship and greatly in favor of development of Pakistani economy. He said: "The usefulness of SBP initiatives in the right direction resulted in expansion of local CNY settlement and clearing mechanism in Pakistan and yielded in long-term

benefits to China-Pakistan relationship in general, and Pakistan's economy and banking system in particular. This direct participation will result in time saving and quick response in case of any settlement related queries from local banks. It will also add to the overall efficiency since ICBC Pakistan would not require any intermediary in the on-shore market in China. The provisions of CIPS related services in our local market will improve Pakistan's financial market infrastructure, especially in terms of increasing efficiency of the local banking system in relation to CNY transactions, enhancing market liquidity and supporting SBP's aim of providing a conducive policy and regulatory environment to encourage the use of local currencies in trade and finance." Xie Guoxiang, Commercial Minister-Counselor of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan appreciated the efforts made by ICBC Karachi Branch in cross-border CNY clearing infrastructure construction in Pakistan and placed high hopes on the development

prospect of bilateral trade in CNY between the two countries in the future. "Each of regulator and participants of financial sectors are the best bridge and tie in Pak-China economy cooperation, also as the best angel of the friendship between China and Pakistan. In the coming years, the Embassy of P.R. China in Pakistan will focus our efforts on promoting CNY usage in Pakistan and support both countries as always to boost bilateral cooperation." Under these circumstances of COVID-19, CIPS System has made a great effort to push forward the global use of CNY. The president of CIPS introduced at the occasion that in 2021, CIPS processes over 12 thousand transactions per day on average, reaching a year-on-year increase of 59%. The daily transaction amount reaches CNY 310 billion, a year-on-year increase of 84%. Despite a still-recovering world economy, CIPS transaction volume has constantly hit new highs in 2021. In October this year, the record high of daily trading amount and trading volume reached CNY 516 billion and 33.6 thousand payments. The transaction from and to Pakistan have also seen exponential growth. Now 10 months into 2021, the trading amount has already suppressed that of 2020.

## Leather exports increases 6% in 3 months

ISLAMABAD: The leather manufactures exports from the country witnessed an increase of 5.99 percent during the first three months of current financial year (2021-22) as compared to the exports of corresponding period of last year. Pakistan exported leather worth US \$154.457 million during July-September (2021-22) against the exports of \$145.733 million during July-September (2020-21), showing growth of 5.99 percent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). Among the Leather products, the exports of leather garments increased by 3.79 percent by going up from \$77.551 million last year to \$80.487 million during the current year. The leather gloves exports also rose by 8.07 percent to \$69.387 million from \$64.206 million. Likewise, the exports of all other leather manufactures commodities also increased by 15.27 percent during the period under review as these went up from \$3.976 million last year to \$4.583 million during the current fiscal year. — APP

## Gwadar Power Plant to start functioning by 2023

ISLAMABAD: A 300 megawatts coal-fired Gwadar Power Plant would start functioning from October 2023, said official sources. The power plant would cater the needs of some 150,000 people of Gwadar by the end of 2023 under the 2050 Master Plan of Gwadar. The power plant of independent power producer, is one of the key energy projects on the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The project aimed at improving reliability on local power supply would help gradually solving the problems in current economic development and urban construction in Gwadar region being restricted by the shortage of power. "We are currently spending millions of dollars per annum to generate electricity from diesel generators. I hope the plant would be operationalise soon to solve the port's power scarcity issues. The power plant is of great significance to deepening the energy cooperation between China and Pakistan, boosting the development of the Belt and Road Initiative, improving the overall power structure of Balochistan, and promoting local economic development in Gwadar Port. All major projects under CPEC in Gwadar, including Gwadar Power Plant, the New Gwadar International Airport Project, the China Pak Friendship Hospital, China-Pak Technical and Vocational Institute in Gwadar, the Gwadar East-bay Expressway Project, Gwadar Free Zone, and Gwadar Port would become a shining pearl in the region. — APP

## 1190 died during 4th waves of pandemic

RAWALPINDI: As many as 35,902 coronavirus cases had so far been recorded, while 1190 had lost their battle of life during the four waves of the pandemic in the Rawalpindi district. Giving details of the patients and deaths that surfaced in Rawalpindi, District Health Officer for communicable diseases Dr Waqar Ahmed told APP that 6043 people had arrived with positive symptoms during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, which continued from March 20 to August 20, 2020, in Pakistan while 281 had died to this lethal disease. During the second wave, which lasted from September 2020 to March 20, 2021, the number of confirmed cases was 10,820, while 462 victims of this malignant disease. He added that 357 more people left to survive, and 15,495 had tested positive in the third wave, which remained from April 20 to August 20, 2021. Dr Waqar informed that the 4th wave, which was developed from September 20, 2021, the number of cases had reached 3534, to date, while 90 people had lost their battle of life facing this Pandemic. — APP

## Urging Action

ONCE again, in what seems like a necessary fortnightly routine, a Pakistani ambassador rang the alarm against the mass repression, violence and the implementation of arbitrary laws by India in IIOJK to the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres. Matters continue to escalate yet, the international community has not interfered in the slightest. With only some 'deep concerns' being expressed, the matter is pushed under the rug every single time. At a time when Delhi is becoming a threat to an already unstable region, more is desired from a global community that preaches the values of humanitarianism and justice.

The people of Kashmir are living under an illegitimate BJP-RSS regime that carries out extrajudicial killings, conducts fake search operations, condones censorship, promotes an autocratic rule and is willing to commit crimes against humanity in an attempt to enhance its influence in the area.

Not only has the Indian government looked to cross over into our waters recently through directing its submarine towards Pakistani territory, but it also threatened to carry out surgical strikes against Pakistan. It has also gone the extra mile to intensify the border dispute with China as well. It is acting as an aggressor in the region and is creating a viable enough threat for the international community to clamp down on it and put pressure to de-escalate tensions. In the face of this, the silence and lack of action is alarming.

Far too many times have global actors like the US intervened diplomatically, and directly, to safeguard the rights of the people so its failure to act accordingly in the case of Kashmir is confusing. The Hindutva ideology is seeking to destabilise countries as India forges alliances that allows its actions to go unchecked. This cannot be tolerated any longer and the members of the UN must come to the realisation that their silence speaks volumes to all those Kashmiris that are suffering on an hourly basis.

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## A new Quad

NEW diplomatic developments are occurring, which have the potential of changing the course of the politics of the region. Four countries—Israel, United Arab Emirates, India and the United States have decided to launch a new quadrilateral consultation for expanding economic and political cooperation in West Asia. This is not just a simple meeting designed to discuss economic possibilities between the four countries but rather it signifies the future of a strengthening alliance that has been in the works since 2020. Israel achieved several landmark successes with its relationship with the UAE in 2020. Israel's newfound friendship with the UAE, facilitated by the US, is a relic of the Trump administration policy. Another relic of the Trump legacy are India's budding relations with Israel and the US. These continued ties show that the Biden administration is eager to continue with this aspect of foreign policy inherited from Trump, albeit in a more restrained way.

So far economic opportunities are being discussed, but the underlying reason for greater cooperation is undeniable defence. The US, UAE and Israel have several strategic interests—most importantly with regards to Iran. The US, Israel and India also have interests with regards to containing China—reports suggest that the US used the trilateral talks to highlight its concerns over China's growing presence in both Israel and UAE.

While any development in this consideration impacts Pakistan, with Islamabad being an activist for Palestinian rights on the international stage, and due to our friendly relations with the UAE, perhaps the biggest reason for keeping up this forum is the opportunity it provides India to interfere further with Pakistan's foreign policy. India has become alienated from its neighbouring countries and generated hostility in the region—its foreign policy requires allies and cooperation beyond the region. Pakistan needs to keep updated with any ensuing developments in this regard, while continuing our policy of reaching out to other countries in the region, particularly in Central Asia.

## Will policymakers put Pandora's Papers back in the box?

Alex Cobham

The Pandora Papers have returned public and media focus to the shameful issue of financial secrecy. Each previous leak (including LuxLeaks, the Panama Papers and Paradise Papers) created a similar spike of interest. And, while that spike then passes, the underlying level of public engagement...

THERE are clear measures that can be taken to dismantle financial secrecy. All that is needed is political will. In early October, the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, along with a number of media partners, published the Pandora Papers, which revealed a slice of the trillions stashed away in tax havens by politicians, officials and celebrities, in particular.

These leaks tell us, once again, that financial secrecy is at the heart of the global economy and runs like poison through the veins of our political systems. This institutional corruption does not make progress impossible, but it does mean that responses to the growing public anger about the revelations in the leaks will only be successful if they are precise and forensic. Policymakers must deliver measures that ensure ongoing accountability for the leading actors in these abuses – including themselves. The hidden assets and secret incomes now being disclosed represent only a small part of what is in the near-3 terabyte cache of documents from 14 different professional services firms around the world. And the documents in total touch on just a tiny fraction of the estimated \$11 trillion in undeclared assets held offshore globally, generating annual tax losses of \$182bn.

The individual names and the specific cases may do more to grab public attention than these un-

thinkably large numbers: 35 world leaders, past and present; more than 300 public officials from nearly 100 countries; more than 100 billionaires, plus a scattering of celebrities.

The Pandora Papers have returned public and media focus to the shameful issue of financial secrecy. Each previous leak (including LuxLeaks, the Panama Papers and Paradise Papers) created a similar spike of interest. And, while that spike then passes, the underlying level of public engagement and policymaker concern has remained higher each time. The challenge is to convert that engagement and concern into comprehensive action. As researcher and writer Zuhuman Dapel put it, what can we do "when those in charge of the tools – the policies and the willpower of government with which to thwart the network of dirty money – seem to be among the primary beneficiaries of the status quo?"

The last two decades have seen substantial shifts in the international policy context. When the Tax Justice Network was established in 2003, we began to lay out the policy platform known as the ABC of tax transparency. A is for automatic exchange of financial information – so that each tax authority will be informed of the foreign bank accounts of their own taxpayers, making simple tax evasion much less pervasive. B is for beneficial ownership transparency, requiring public registers of the warm-blooded human beings behind companies, trusts and foundations, to end the damage done by anonymous ownership.

And C is for country-by-country reporting, a simple measure to ensure that multinational companies publish data that can reveal the extent of profit-shifting. Each element was originally dismissed as utopian and unrealistic. But changes in attitude started with the efforts of the global tax justice movement and the impetus for progress following the 2008 financial meltdown. The summit of the G8 group of countries in 2013 gave broad support to the three elements in principle, and practical steps were taken towards the introduction of each.

Since 2012, the High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows out of Africa, backed by the African Union and the Economic Commission for Africa, has worked to build political support to end these abuses across the continent and beyond. The panel's final report established the scale of illicit flows and the damage to governance that they can do. It also confirmed the centrality of the ABC measures and laid the grounds for the adoption of a global target to curb illicit flows as part of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The panel also provided an important definitional statement, recognising that the common

feature of illicit financial flows is that of being hidden. This is true whether we are concerned with tax-related illicit flows (hiding the tax abuses of multinational companies or of individuals with offshore interests); with other commercial flows (hiding market dominance, for example, or the true origin of investments); or with laundering the proceeds of crime – from the trafficking of drugs and people to the bribery of public officials and the theft of public assets. Financial secrecy is therefore the crucial facilitating element for illicit flows. Consistent progress in dismantling is key to ensuring accountability and a managed reduction in tax abuses and other criminal and corrupt activity.

Change has been painfully slow, however. Lobbying by multinational companies and professional enablers – bankers, lawyers and accountants – has undoubtedly undermined efforts to bring transparency to the global financial system. On top of that, the decisions on key policy reforms are largely taken at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) or related organizations. Our research shows this is highly problematic. The Financial Secrecy Index, which we first published in 2009 and update biennially, assesses jurisdictions across a wide range of objectively verifiable criteria (including the ABC). The 2020 index saw the United States climb above Switzerland into second place, with Cayman the top-ranked secrecy threat. The UK and its network of Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies would rank a clear first if it were treated as a single entity.

In total, OECD countries and their dependencies together are responsible for about half of all financial secrecy risks, according to the index. The State of Tax Justice 2020 meanwhile assesses that the same group is responsible for 59 percent of the \$182bn the world loses to private offshore tax evasion every year. DrDereje Alemayehu of the Global Alliance for Tax Justice summed up the concerns: "Trusting the OECD to set global [tax] rules... is like trusting a pack of wolves to build a fence around your chicken coop."

Compounding the role of OECD members are the domestic dynamics laid bare by the Pandora Papers. Within many countries, elites including policymakers are among the main users, or abusers, of financial secrecy. As Professor Brooke Harrington, the leading sociologist studying the wealth-hiding industry, has written, financial secrecy offers "something even more appealing and dangerous [than tax avoidance], which is law avoidance in general. To the already rich and powerful, offshore offers a kind of superpower: impunity."

## Why are Indian farmers protesting for over a year?

The police blocked the procession at the border of New Delhi, but the farmers were determined to revoke the farm laws. The situation came to the point when the Modi government entered a year-long deadlock with farmers. Their movement became India's longest-running farmers' protest against the government. Although the Modi government initially either downplayed or dismissed the farmers' agitation, it eventually came to the table with them, holding several rounds of talks with farm union leaders

HERE'S a look into the country's most prolonged farmer protests in history, as unions intensified their year-long protests at the borders of New Delhi ahead of a crucial court hearing on October 21. Hearing a petition on whether India's farmers have the right to protest, India's Supreme Court said that farmers can protest but cannot block roads indefinitely. The judgement came on Thursday, giving farmer unions three weeks to remove their protest tents outside at the New Delhi border.

How did India, a country which takes pride in its farmers, reach a point where farmers have been encamping outside the capital city for over a year?

It all began almost immediately after the Indian parliament led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's majoritarian government cleared the farm laws last fall. Tens of thousands of farmers from Punjab, an agricultural state known as the breadbasket of India, and its neighbouring state Haryana, marched towards the capital city New Delhi.

The police blocked the procession at the border of New Delhi, but the farmers were determined to revoke the farm laws. The situation came to the point when the Modi government entered a year-long deadlock with farmers. Their movement became India's longest-running farmers' protest against the government. Although the Modi government initially either downplayed or dismissed the farmers' agitation, it eventually came to the table with them, holding several rounds of talks with farm union leaders. The deadlock, however, ensued. While engaging in talks with the farmers union and ensuring that

the police barricade remained intact to keep the protesting agricultural population in the north outside the capital city's borders, the Modi government failed to convince the farming communities from the rest of the country with the new farm laws.

Farmers from other parts of the country joined the protest and simultaneously led a series of demonstrations in different states.

For several decades, Indian farmers have relied on 7000 government-regulated wholesale markets to sell their yearly agricultural yield. These markets are largely run by committees comprising farmers with large landholdings, local traders or agents who arbitrate between a farmer and a wholesaler. The committees also look after the logistical needs, such as organising transportation and storage facilities.

The new farm laws have certain provisions that farmer unions fear will render these committees irrelevant, allowing farmers to rely less on these wholesale markets and shepherd them toward big businesses who have strong financial capitals to monopolise the entire agricultural sector.

"We will lose our lands, we will lose our income if you let big businesses decide prices and buy crops. We don't trust big business. Free markets work in countries with less corruption and more regulation. It can't work for us here," Gurnam Singh Charuni, one of the main leaders of the agitation, said to BBC at the peak of the agitation last year. A year on, farmer unions are calling for the complete withdrawal of the laws and asking for a new law that would make the government legally bound to purchase every farm produce at a state-regulated price.

The new demand has become widely popular among India's farming community. Now the farmer protests are not just confined to the Punjab and Haryana states. It's become a pan-India agitation. Farmer unions play hardball

Aware of the ruling BharatiyaJanata Party's strong appetite for winning elections in every state and maintaining a strong presence in both the central parliament and state assemblies, union leaders have taken their fight to the north Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, which is going to hold elections in May 2022.

Home to 240 million people, Uttar Pradesh is India's most populated state, which the BharatiyaJanata Party has led since 2017.

Farm union leaders plan to portray the BJP as an anti-farmer party, knowing that this rhetoric would cost them electorally, especially in western Uttar Pradesh, where agriculture is a mainstay.

Farmers leaders plan to visit every city and town in Uttar Pradesh to inform people how dangerous Modi's government is for the farming community.

The electoral victory in Uttar Pradesh, which sends the highest number of lawmakers to parliament, is often seen as a significant indicator of which party will come to power in the national elections. Therefore, farmer unions are now sharpening their focus on the state to upset the ruling party as much as possible.

— Source: TRT World

## Moving towards a UN 2.0

Anna Karin Enestrom  
/ Alya Ahmed

The proposed 2023 summit idea merits the world's highest consideration. Whether the concern is strengthening prevention, detection and response in global public health, mitigating the triple crises of climate change

THE UN secretary-general's proposal for a 2023 summit of the future merits the world's highest consideration.

In February 2020, just weeks before New York City and much of the world went into lockdown in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we and our fellow ambassadors at the United Nations began six months of negotiations, culminating in the adoption of the "Declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations" by all heads of state and government. Against the backdrop of the pandemic and other current and looming threats and challenges from climate change and extreme and persistent poverty to violent conflict, terrorism and human rights violations, particularly those inflicted on

women and girls – the UN75 Declaration presented a vision for a more just, sustainable and peaceful world, where no one is left behind. It was a manifest for multilateralism as the only way to handle today's crises and to build a better future. The declaration focused on everyone in the world, especially the youth and future generations, through 12 commitments.

At the same time, acknowledging multilateralism's many shortcomings and the need to modernise our institutions of global governance to better confront 21st-century problems, we called upon Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, in the UN75 Declaration to: "report back before the end of the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly with recommendations to advance our common agenda and to respond to current and future challenges".

The secretary-general answered our call on September 10 and presented a report titled Our Common Agenda with recommendations for the General Assembly, before the gathering of world leaders in New York City for the first time in two years. In the document, Guterres lays out the choice for world leaders, of either a breakdown or breakthrough scenario. He calls for global solidarity, a renewal of the social contract to build trust and to ensure respect for human rights, an end to the war on science, and new approaches to how we measure economic prosperity and progress.

Our Common Agenda, which was welcomed by world leaders during the UNGA High-Level Week, emphasizes solidarity with young people and generations to come. It contains three major recommended actions: convening a summit on transforming education in 2022; strengthening the UN youth envoy's office to enhance young people's participation in intergovernmental policymaking on matters that affect their lives; and

appointing a special envoy for future generations. Perhaps the secretary-general's most unique and consequential recommendations centre around his call for more inclusive and comprehensive multilateralism. To prepare the UN to safeguard our global commons, improve the provision of global public goods and respond better to future global risks, he recommends convening a summit of the future in 2023. Such a process could contribute to a more tech-savvy, efficient and results-oriented UN 2.0 – a progressive world body that functions at high bandwidth.

The proposed 2023 summit idea merits the world's highest consideration. Whether the concern is strengthening prevention, detection and response in global public health, mitigating the triple crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution or providing urgent humanitarian relief to war-ravaged people, the need for strong global collective action and for a UN 2.0 has arguably never been greater.

Achieving an ambitious global governance renewal architecture in two years will take vision, imagination and leadership from committed political leaders from across the UN's membership. Building on extensive civil society outreach during UN75, and on the Our Common Agenda report over the past year, a summit of the future would also benefit from the creative ideas and public awareness-raising by scholars, religious and cultural leaders, civil society, industry and young people. Moreover, we very much welcome the secretary-general's proposal to convene a High-Level Advisory Board to propose a plan on how his recommendations could be achieved. Only through a meaningful, frank and broad dialogue, where diverse perspectives are respected and reflected in the final results, will humanity succeed in making the future we want and the UN we need a reality.

## Briefs

## Moscow returns to lockdown

WEB DESK

MOSCOW: Moscow will impose a 10-day lockdown from next week in an effort to curb soaring Covid-19 cases, the city's mayor has said, as Russia endures its worst-ever phase of the pandemic. "In the coming days, we will reach historic peaks in Covid cases," Sergey Sobyannin wrote in his blog, before announcing strict restrictions from October 28 to November 7. "During this period, the work of all enterprises and organizations on the territory of the city of Moscow should be suspended," he said, before outlining a few limited exemptions.

Earlier this week the city ordered all unvaccinated residents over 60, as well as unvaccinated people "suffering from chronic diseases," to remain home for four months until late February.

Russia's Covid-19 crisis is deepening and its officials have started openly admitting that the country is facing a dire winter. It reported its highest numbers of daily cases and deaths multiple times in recent days, and registered a record 1,028 official fatalities on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin said at a Covid-19 taskforce meeting on Tuesday that the burden on medical institutions is seriously increasing, while the governor of the Oryol region, Andrey Klychkov, recently revealed that the region does not have the capacity to hospitalize any more coronavirus patients.

## Around 180,000 health workers died from Covid

GENEVA: A grim estimate features in a new WHO working paper based on the 3.45 million coronavirus-related deaths reported globally to the UN health agency up to May; a figure that WHO said may well be at least 60 per cent lower than the actual number of victims.

To highlight the need for better protection, WHO was joined by global partners working to end the pandemic, to issue an urgent call for concrete action on behalf of workers in the sector.

Speaking to journalists in Geneva, WHO Director-General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, reiterated that "the backbone of every health system is its workforce."

"COVID-19 is a powerful demonstration of just how much we rely on these men and women, and how vulnerable we all are when the people who protect our health are themselves unprotected", he added.

## Paraguay hires twins as new coaching team

ASUNCION: Paraguay have hired Argentine twins Guillermo and Gustavo Barros Schelotto as their new coaching team following the sacking of Eduardo Berizzo, the South American country's federation said on Thursday.

Berizzo was sacked a week ago following Paraguay's 4-0 thrashing away to Bolivia that left the country eighth in the single South American World Cup qualifying table, four points off an automatic spot at Qatar 2022.

"Guillermo Barros Schelotto is the new coach of the Albirroja (white and reds). Welcome," wrote the Paraguayan Football Association on Twitter.

Gustavo Barros Schelotto will be his brother's assistant, as he was from Argentine giants Boca Juniors, as well as Lanus and LA Galaxy. The brothers guided Boca to back-to-back titles in 2017 and 2018 and have signed contracts that run until 2024. In 2013, they also took Lanus to the Copa Sudamericana title - South America's equivalent of Europe's Europa League. Paraguay host Chile in Asuncion next month before a trip to Colombia, who sit in the final automatic qualification spot.

## T20 WC: Shakib empowers Bangladesh to Super 12s

Bangladesh crushed Papua New Guinea by 84 runs to qualify for the Super 12 stage of the Twenty20 World Cup

MUSCAT: Shakib Al Hasan smashed 46 and had bowling figures of 4-9 as Bangladesh crushed Papua New Guinea by 84 runs to qualify for the Super 12 stage of the Twenty20 World Cup on Thursday. Chasing 182 for victory, PNG were bowled out for 97 in 19.3 overs to hand Bangladesh their second straight win of round one in Muscat. PNG go out of the tournament with three losses. The Tigers bounced back from an opening loss to register two convincing wins and the last one would have been bigger had it not been for Kiplin Doriga's unbeaten 46. PNG were never in the chase after losing their openers including skipper Assad Vala, for six, and Shakib's introduction made matters worse for the World Cup debutants.



Shakib, a left-arm spinner, struck twice in his first over and then took two more to equal Pakistan's Shahid Afridi as the leading wicket-taker with 39 scalps in T20's showpiece event.

Earlier Skipper Mahmudullah Riyad, who hit 50, and Shakib helped Bangladesh to 181-7 after they elected to bat first.

Afif Hossain's quick-fire 21 and an unbeaten 19 off 6 balls from Mohammad Saifuddin, who finished the innings with two sixes and a four, fired Bangladesh to the highest total of the tournament so far. Scotland, who beat Bangladesh in their opening match and have two wins in as many games, take on Oman in the second match of the day to decide the second team to fill a Super 12 spot two from Group B. - APP

## Won't take a 'single penny' for 3 years: Chairman PCB

## Amir hits back at Ramiz Raja



NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Ramiz Raja said on Wednesday that he will not receive a "single penny" from the cricket board for the next three years, stressing that this "innings" of his career is being played for respect. Islamabad: The former Pakistan captain made these remarks while speaking at a meeting with club owners falling under Central Punjab Cricket Association's jurisdiction at the National High-Performance Centre. His remarks came in the context of stressing that it was important to uplift Pakistan cricket by focusing at the grass-root level, in which he argued that "fixing" was a menace that needed to be

addressed at the very beginning. "We need to teach our cricketers at the very beginning that they are ambassadors of the sport," said Ramiz. "Fixing hits our cricket and it's in our system. Hence, it is important that these junior players are taught the importance of respect in cricket. They need to be lectured that money is not important. "I have joined the cricket board at 'zero money'. For three years, I will not get a single rupee." The chairman said that he has sacrificed his commentary career to set the direction of the cricket board, and he is playing this "innings" for respect. Meanwhile, Ramiz praised the efforts of the club runners and promised that the PCB will "undertake unprecedented initiatives" to extend support to the clubs

across the country. "Our national cricket team will become number one through your efforts," he said. "So, your success is my success." The chairman also stressed the need to make the system conducive to helping young cricketers grow. "Your role is of the parents, and in a way, it is beyond that," he said. "Give a good environment to players and make every effort to ensure their dreams are fulfilled. This is a big responsibility. Your steps will shape society. There should be no compromise on merit and our system should look after players."

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan pacer Mohammad Amir has again hogged the limelight with a controversial statement. The left-arm pacer took a sly dig at Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ramiz Raja over his comments that he won't charge any money as salary during his tenure. Amir retaliated Raja's claim by highlighting the fact that the PCB chairman doesn't receive the monthly paycheck but gets plenty of other benefits.

For the unversed, Ramiz Raja, who assumed the position at the helm last month, made the comment while addressing club presidents in Pakistan on Wednesday (October 20). With the former Pakistan captain being a renowned commentator, Raja asserted that he sacrificed his career in order to take Pakistan cricket forward. Raja also said he doesn't regret not having a massive house or expensive assets. - DNA

The chairman promised full support of the cricket board for clubs that require equipment, and urged the owners to make provision of quality pitches as their top priority. "In this setup, we will work together to eradicate your problems and difficulties. You are all very important to me, as your role is very critical. We need quality pitches so players are technically stronger and curating top-quality pitches should be your top priority. The PCB will provide you technical and financial support." He also announced to start a talent hunt program soon.

## WI Women to tour Pakistan for three ODIs ahead of WC

All three matches to be held in Karachi, with West Indies set to fly directly on to Zimbabwe

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD: West Indies Women are set to tour Pakistan for three ODIs in November ahead of the ODI World Cup Qualifiers in Zimbabwe. The matches will be held from November 8 to 14 with all games scheduled to take place at the National Stadium in Karachi. West Indies will then fly directly to Zimbabwe, with the Qualifiers to begin on November 21. Earlier this year, Pakistan Women had toured West Indies for three T20Is and five ODIs, and Johnny Grave, Cricket West Indies' CEO, said West Indies' visit to Pakistan this time would serve as ideal preparation "in different conditions" ahead of the Qualifiers. "This reciprocal tour to Pakistan is an important part of our preparation plans ahead of the World Cup qualifying tournament that is scheduled to take place in Zimbabwe in mid-November," Graves said. "This tour to Pakistan will give the team the chance to play in different conditions compared to the Caribbean and have higher level competitive cricket ahead of aiming to secure one of the three qualifying spots available for the Women's Cricket World Cup next year." The West Indies players are currently in Antigua for a high-performance training camp as part of their preparation for the World Cup Qualifiers, where they will be one of ten teams to compete for three spots in the tournament proper, to be held in New Zealand next year. Meanwhile, Grave sounded confident of the security measures to be provided by Pakistan for the West Indies side, after the New Zealand and England's men's teams and England Women, recently pulled out of their Pakistan tours. "The security plan arranged by the PCB is the same high level that the West Indies men's and women's teams received when they last toured Pakistan in 2018 and 2019, respectively," Grave said. "Independent security advisors, Eastern Star International (ESI) have confirmed to both CWI and WIPA [West Indies Players' Association] that they are satisfied that the risk is manageable and can be mitigated to an acceptable level of safety. We will now take a final recommendation to our Board of Directors before the Selection Panel confirms the squad."

## Indo-Pak encounter 'final before final' Inzamam ul Haq

ISLAMABAD: Former Skipper Inzamam ul Haq believes the group match between Pakistan and India was final before the final saying whichever team wins the game would have a massive morale boost.

Pakistan was scheduled to face India this Sunday (October 24) in Dubai in the Twenty20 World Cup game.

"The group match between India and Pakistan is the final before the final. No match will be hyped as much as this one," Inzamam, who scored 35 international hundreds, said. "Even in the 2017 Champions Trophy, India and Pakistan started and finished the tournament by facing each other, and both the matches felt like finals."

"The team that wins that match will have a massive morale boost," he said. Pakistan have impressed in T20 World Cups, lifting the trophy in 2009, reaching the final in 2007 and progressing to semi-finals in 2010 and 2012. Meanwhile, India won the first World T20 in 2007 but have largely flattered to deceive since, failing to reach the semi-finals in three of the last five competitions.

However, Inzamam said in any tournament, it cannot be said for certain that a particular team would win. "It's all about how much chance do they have of winning. In my opinion, India have a greater chance than any other team of winning this tournament, especially in conditions like these. They have experienced T20 players."

"India played their warm-up fixture against Australia and won. They chased 155 without even needing Virat Kohli," he said. - APP

## Solskjaer turns around pressure on Liverpool

Little wonder no-one has a clue what United team is going to turn up against Jurgen Klopp's side, and that includes Solskjaer himself

LIVERPOOL: The reaction to Manchester United's 3-2 win over Atalanta was just about as confused as trying to sum up Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's present status as manager. Solskjaer thought they "played well" in the first half. Former United midfielder Paul Scholes described the same 45 minutes as "a major worry" and a period that would see them rolled over by Liverpool when they meet on Sunday. Fellow pundit and former United defender Rio Ferdinand praised the "intensity", saying "there is no better game to roll into the weekend," while captain Harry Maguire admitted his side conceded "bad goals" but also "showed great togetherness". Little wonder no-one has a clue what United



team is going to turn up against Jurgen Klopp's side, and that includes Solskjaer himself. A pattern continued, though, in the latest of these famous European nights at Old Trafford. Just when it seems Solskjaer's back is against the wall and his status is becoming weak, he and his players produce a result to release the pressure. It happened against Liverpool in October 2019 when, after a run of five games without a win, United dominated Klopp's men and became the only side in the first two-thirds of the season to take a point off them. Two months later, they had won one

in four, and then defeated Tottenham and Manchester City to quell growing discontent. Last season, United had won once in five games before they went to City and won again. Prior to this Wednesday's game, they had won one in five - and that was a lucky success against Villarreal. So, when widespread booing from a frustrated Old Trafford crowd tumbled out of the stands at the end of the first half, with his team 2-0 down and having conceded the type of routine goals that have become familiar in recent matches, Solskjaer seemed like a man on the edge. - Agencies

## Sports revival the need of hour: Senate IPC committee

Sports is most neglected sector by Government, says Irfan Siddiqui

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: The newly formed sub-Committee of Senate Standing Committee on Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) will take all stakeholders on board and make recommendations after fruitful consultation for the revival of sports glory in the country. It was decided during the elective meeting of sub-Committee on the Senate Standing Committee on Inter-Provincial Coordination here at Parliament House where Senator Irfan-ul-Haq Siddiqui unanimously elected convener of the committee by the other two members of the sub-Committee - Senator Rana Maqbool Ahmed and Senator Gurdeep Singh. The agenda of the sub-Committee entailed discussion regarding the workplan of the Committee. Members reminiscence the grandeur of the past and attributed it to sportspersons being sponsored by different government departments. It was asserted that for sports to

prosper in Pakistan it was essential that the welfare of sportspersons is prioritized. The Committee stressed the need for ensuring that every school in the country boasted a playground. This would be an important step towards promoting sports at the grassroots level in Pakistan that would generate heroes in the future. The Committee decided that Pakistani sports would benefit greatly if Local Bodies step in to ensure that all urban and rural vicinities are allotted playgrounds. The government must incentivize

sports in the country to provide sportspersons with initiative. Employing sports persons would secure their future that is crucial for the development of sports in Pakistan. The work plan of the Committee would entail reviewing the strengths, weaknesses, accomplishments and challenges of national sports federations affiliated with the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) via a performa created to review details minutely. The Committee was of the view that a criterion for the Minister for Inter

Provincial Coordination (IPC) must be devised by the committee to ensure that the right person is granted office. Talking to media Senator Irfan-ul-Haq Siddiqui said that sports revolution is the need of the hour for the country's esteem as sports is the most neglected sector by the government in Pakistan and the sub-committee would work beyond party lines ensuring that our sports reaches new heights and its previous glories restored. Senator Irfan-ul-Haq Siddiqui urged the media to assist the

Committee in this cause, terming this a great service to Pakistan, enhancing its soft image in the world, adding that he welcomed media suggestions regarding improvement of sports in Pakistan. The media recommended that the Pakistan Sports Board must be summoned to get a clear picture of the sports landscape in Pakistan. They added that Olympians and legendary sports persons must be invited to get a firsthand account of the challenges they face in the Country.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Irfan ul Haq Siddiqui, convener sub-committee of the senate standing committee on IPC presiding over a meeting of the committee at parliament house Islamabad. - DNA

## Pak assures Afghans of full support

FROM PAGE 01

Facilitative visa regime for Afghan nationals and border crossing procedures for trade and cargo have been instituted, it added. In recent months, Pakistan has provided humanitarian aid and assistance in the form of food stuffs and medicines. The foreign minister's visit reflected Pakistan's consistent policy of supporting the brotherly Afghan people, deepening bilateral trade and economic relations, and facilitating closer people-to-people contacts, read the statement.

On Wednesday, the Russian government hosted a high-level Taliban delegation and officials from 10 countries, including China and Pakistan, to push the group for action against Daesh fighters which it says have massed in perennially volatile Afghanistan. In return, the Taliban - which is facing economic and humanitarian crises within its borders - urged the international community to recognise their interim government. "Isolation of Afghanistan is not in the interest of any sides. And this has been proven in the past," the Taliban Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Salam Hanafi told the Moscow conference. "Therefore, we call on the international community to recognise the current government of Afghanistan."

## Taliban officials beat journalists

FROM PAGE 01

Zahra Mohammadi, one of the protest organisers, told AFP the women were marching despite the risks they face. "The situation is that the Taliban don't respect anything: not journalists - foreign and local - or women," she said. "The schools must reopen to girls. But the Taliban took this right from us."

High school girls have been blocked from returning to classes for more than a month, while many women have been banned from returning to work since the Taliban seized power in mid-August.

Children walked alongside the protest in downtown Kabul, although it was unclear if they were part of the organised group.

Some Taliban fighters policing the march wore full camouflaged combat gear, including body armour, helmets and knee pads, while others were wearing traditional Afghan clothing. Their weapons included US-made M16 assault rifles and AK-47s. Unthinkable under the group's last rule in the 1990s, Afghans have staged street protests across the country since the Taliban returned to power, sometimes with several hundred people and many with women at forefront. But a ban on unauthorised demonstrations has meant protests against Afghanistan's new masters have dwindled.

## California variant cases found in Pakistan

FROM PAGE 01

National Command and Operation Centre (NCCOC) chief Asad Umar had emphasised on meeting vaccination targets to ensure the country doesn't have to experience a fifth wave of COVID-19.

Talking to Twitter, the federal minister for planning said that despite a sharp decline in new COVID-19 cases, we will remain vulnerable if a large number of people remain unvaccinated.

Urging the public to get themselves vaccinated against COVID-19, the minister said, "Remember that 2nd dose is vital for protection against covid."

Expressing concern over the slow pace of COVID-19 vaccination drive in various cities, including Karachi, Hyderabad and Quetta, the federal minister had said that the district admin and health teams in these cities needed to improve their performance.

Umar commended the vaccination progress in Islamabad, Peshawar, Gilgit, Sargodha and other cities. The federal minister, however, underscored the need for improvement in the vaccination process in Karachi, Hyderabad, Nowshera, Faisalabad, Quetta, Mardan and other cities.

## Briefs

UNSC calls  
end of  
violence in  
Yemen

UNITED NATIONS: The UN Security Council called Wednesday for "de-escalation" in Yemen in a unanimously adopted statement to counter "the growing risk of large-scale famine" in the country. The 15 council members "stressed the need for de-escalation by all," demanded an immediate nationwide ceasefire and called for an end to the escalation by Huthis in the strategic city of Marib. They also "condemned the recruitment and use of children, and sexual violence, in conflict," according to a statement. "The members of the Security Council expressed grave concern for the dire humanitarian situation, including prolonged starvation and the growing risk of large-scale famine," the text said. Their communique called on the Yemeni government to facilitate "regularly and without delay" the entry of fuel ships into Hodeida port, and for all parties to ensure "the free flow of fuel inside the country to deliver essential commodities and humanitarian aid." The UN body also repeated its concern over "the grave threat posed by the Safer oil tanker." — APP

Police  
shooting  
looms over  
Biden's Japan  
envoy pick

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden's pick to be ambassador to Japan, Rahm Emanuel, faced lawmakers Wednesday at a confirmation hearing where he was confronted over his handling of a deadly police shooting while he was mayor of Chicago. The veteran Democratic politician who once served as Barack Obama's chief of staff was made to address the crisis that followed the 2014 death of Black teen Laquan McDonald, who was shot 16 times by Chicago police. Seated before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Emanuel sought to demonstrate his capacity for sensitive international diplomacy as top envoy to Japan, as Washington and Tokyo align against common adversary China. But with the hearing held on the seventh anniversary of McDonald's killing, focus on the shooting and Emanuel's handling of the aftermath was inevitable. Progressives have protested Emanuel, saying his actions as mayor of the nation's third largest city — including refusal to make police video of the killing public for more than a year — should disqualify him from representing a US administration that claims police reform is a top priority. — APP

North Korea  
accuses US  
of 'double  
standards'

SEOUL: North Korea accused the United States of "double standards" over weapons testing, state media reported Thursday after an emergency UN Security Council meeting on the issue. Pyongyang fired a new type of submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) on Tuesday, the latest in a series of tests in recent weeks, prompting the US and Britain to call the diplomatic meeting in New York. But a spokesperson from the North's foreign ministry said the test was not aimed at the United States and was carried out "purely for the defence of the country." "So there is no need for the US to worry or trouble itself over the test-firing," the spokesperson said in a statement carried by the official KCNA news agency. The statement added Washington's criticism of the North for "developing and test-firing the same weapon system as the one the US possesses or is developing is a clear expression of double standards." "It only excites our suspicion" about the sincerity of Washington's insistence it has no hostile intent towards the country, it said. Kim met three times with former president Donald Trump, who boasted of stopping a war but failed to reach a comprehensive agreement on ending North Korea's nuclear programme. — APP

Turkey determined to get  
back owed money from US

Last year the US suspended Turkey from the F-35 jet program, claiming the S-400s would expose the F-35s to possible Russian subterfuge

## AGENCIES

ANKARA: Turkey is determined to get back the \$1.4 billion the US owes it over F-35 jets Turkey paid for but were never delivered, the Turkish president has stressed. "We will get back the \$1.4 billion in one way or another," Recep Tayyip Erdogan told reporters late Wednesday on the plane returning from a trip to Africa, adding that Turkish defense minister and US defense secretary have been discussing the issue. Saying he believed positive steps would be taken, he said the issue would be discussed with US President Joe Biden during this weekend's G20 meeting in Rome. "In no way will we let anyone

abuse Turkey's rights," he added. In 2017, when its protracted efforts to buy the Patriot air defense system from the US proved fruitless, Turkey signed a contract with Russia to acquire its S-400 defense system. Last year the US suspended Turkey from the F-35 jet program, claiming the S-400s would expose the F-35s to possible Russian subterfuge. Turkey, however, stressed that the S-400 would not be integrated into NATO systems and poses no threat to the alliance or its armament. It has repeatedly urged a working group to clear up the technical compatibility issues. On his visits this week to Angola, Togo, and Nigeria, Erdogan stressed Turkey's efforts to forge



common ground with African countries against the threat of the Fetullah Terrorist Organization (FETO), the group behind the 2016 defeated coup in Turkey.

At a quadrilateral meeting held in Togo, FETO was listed as a terrorist organization in a text specific to Africa for the first time, said Erdogan. He added that the terror group has faced "a serious collapse" on the continent, especially in its private schools, which it uses as a revenue stream and a fig leaf to project false respectability. "A noteworthy number of schools have been transferred to our Maarif Foundation; it has taken over 216 FETO-affiliated schools in 19 countries," he said, referring to a Turkish foundation established after the defeated coup to transfer FETO-affiliated schools to responsible administration. The FETO terror group has started to slowly collapse in Southern

Africa, said Erdogan. Stating that the terror group still has a presence in Nigeria, Erdogan touched on his meeting with the country's President Muhammadu Buhari. He added that the dozens of school acquisitions by Turkey's Maarif Foundation in Africa are proof that the FETO terror group has been slowly collapsing on the continent. FETO and its US-based leader Fetullah Gulen orchestrated the defeated coup of July 15, 2016, which left 251 people dead and 2,734 injured. Ankara accuses FETO of being behind a long-running campaign to overthrow the state through the infiltration of Turkish institutions, particularly the military, police and judiciary.

Nigeria to  
buy UAVs  
from Turkey

## FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: Nigeria has announced that it will buy Turkish unmanned aerial vehicles, Yeni Shafak newspaper has reported. Following Morocco, Algeria and Rwanda, another African country Nigeria expressed its interest in Turkey's Bayraktar TB2 UAVs, the report added. Nigeria-based Humangle newspaper said that Nigeria's Zamfara State Governor Bello Matawale announced that they want to acquire Turkish UAVs to be used against the Boko Haram terrorist organization, which they have been fighting for years. "We will procure UAVs from a Turkish company for a more effective fight against terrorism," Matawale told the country's media. Details of the deal were to be discussed during President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's visit to Abuja as part of his African tour on 18-20 October. Matawale also noted that Turkish-Nigerian cooperation had been established during his recent visit to Turkey. He stressed the importance of the Turkish-Nigeria Business Congress, where more than 20 Turkish companies expressed their willingness to invest in Nigeria. Nigeria, Africa's densely populated country with 210 million people and the largest economy in the continent with a national income of \$1 trillion, has an important market potential for Turkish defence products. — APP

African  
envoys head  
to Eswatini

MBABANE: One person died and at least 80 people were injured in pro-democracy protests in Eswatini Wednesday, a union leader said, as African nations deployed envoys to try to stem the unrest. Gunfire was heard into the night in the capital Mbabane, and the civil servants' union NAPSASU said at least one man had been shot dead earlier in the day. "The army and the police killed one person at about 3pm today," union president Oscar Nkambule told AFP. Fifty of its members were taken to hospital in the capital Mbabane, with another 30 hospitalised in the city of Manzini, including some with gunshot wounds, he added. Hundreds of soldiers and police began fanning through both cities early in the day, firing teargas at even small gatherings of people and unleashing volleys of rubber bullets, an AFP correspondent saw. The kingdom — formerly known as Swaziland — again shut down the internet as images of the violence began circulating on social media. — APP

US voting  
rights push  
sunk by  
Republicans

WASHINGTON: The 2020 US election drew the highest turnout in more than a century, despite a raging pandemic and efforts by Donald Trump and his allies to undermine trust in the voting system. It was declared the most secure election in US history. Yet states across America have spent months leveraging Trump's false claims of a stolen election to introduce restrictive laws that opponents say are an assault on voting rights. The curbs have alarmed civil rights activists and prompted President Joe Biden to issue an 11th-hour plea Wednesday for the soul of the nation — just as senators were voting against debating the issue. "United States Senate needs to act to protect the sacred constitutional right to vote which is under unrelenting assault by proponents of the Big Lie and Republican governors, secretaries of state, attorneys-general, and state legislatures across the nation," he said in a statement. "It is urgent. Democracy — the very soul of America — is at stake." In Georgia, people handing out drinks or snacks to voters waiting in line can now be criminally charged. In Iowa and Kansas, people returning faulty ballots on behalf of voters with disabilities face prosecution. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan ambassador to Azerbaijan, Bilal Hayee host the group of Azerbaijani students from Urdu Department of Baku State University and served them with traditional Pakistani food and talked about Pakistani culture. — DNA

Trump announces  
plans to launch new  
social network

WASHINGTON: Former US president Donald Trump announced plans Wednesday to launch his own social network, in the latest push to reclaim his internet dominance after he was banned from Twitter and Facebook in the wake of the violent Capitol insurrection. "TRUTH Social" will be owned by Trump Media & Technology Group (TMTG), and is expected to begin its beta launch for "invited guests" next month. It is already available for pre-order in Apple's App Store, the group said in a statement. TMTG also intends to launch a subscription video on-demand service that will feature "non-woke" entertainment programming and will be led by Scott St. John, an executive producer from "Deal Or No Deal" and "America's Got Talent," the statement said. "I created TRUTH Social and TMTG to stand up to the tyranny of Big Tech," Trump, who was banned from Twitter and Facebook for stoking the attack at the US Capitol on January 6, was quoted as saying in the statement. The Trump Media & Technology Group will merge with blank check company Digital World Acquisition Corp (DWAC) to make TMTG a publicly listed company, the statement said. "The transaction values Trump Media & Technology Group at an initial enterprise value of \$875 million, with a potential additional earnout of \$825 million in additional shares (at the valuation they are granted) for a cumulative valuation of up to \$1.7 billion depending on the performance of the stock price post-business combination," it stated. "Given the total addressable market and President Trump's large following, we believe the TMTG opportunity has the potential to create significant shareholder value," DWAC chief Patrick Orlando said in the statement. For years, Trump, who wielded Twitter in particular as a rhetorical weapon during his presidency, has battled tech giants whom he argues have wrongfully censored him. The free-speech fight escalated when Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and the rest of the world's dominant social media platforms banned him as punishment for stirring up the mob that ransacked Congress. — APP

Libya conference seeks support  
ahead of key elections

Libya and the UN have been striving to turn the page on the violence that has wracked the country since a 2011 NATO-backed uprising toppled and killed dictator Moamer Kadhafi

TRIPOLI: Libya's fragile unity government hosts senior foreign officials on Thursday to drum up support on spiky transitional issues as the war-torn country gears up for a landmark December election. The conference comes two months ahead of planned presidential polls under a United Nations-led peace process that seeks to end a decade of conflict and chaos. Tripoli has said the world body's Under-Secretary General for Political Affairs Rosemary DiCarlo and Libya envoy Jan Kubis will attend. French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said Wednesday he would also be there, and officials from regional powers including Italy, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Egypt are also expected, according to Libyan press agency LANA. Libya and the UN have been striving to turn the page on the violence that has wracked the country since a 2011 NATO-backed uprising toppled and killed dictator Moamer Kadhafi. A ceasefire between eastern and western factions last year led to a unity government

taking office in March with a mandate to take the country to elections. The presidential vote is set to take place on December 24, but legislative polls have been delayed, with a date to be set in the new year, amid east-west wrangling. Thursday's conference aims to "gather the necessary support, in a transparent way" for the presidential election, said Foreign Minister Najla

al-Mangoush in a video published by her ministry on Sunday. Foreign powers have been pushing hard for the election to be held as scheduled, after the date was agreed at UN-led talks last year. But the process has been beset by sharp disagreements over the legal basis for the vote. Libya expert Emadeddin Badi said the basis for the polls was "becoming more precarious by the day".

But, he added, the conference aims to "capitalise on the momentum to see Libya stabilised, because several countries do actually want to see a stable Libya, even if on their own terms." Mangoush said the conference seeks to promote "respect for Libya's sovereignty and independence (as well as) preventing negative foreign interference". — APP



## Pak calls IIOJK 'worst manifestation' of colonialism

Since 1946, 80 former colonies have gained independence, he pointed out but still the people of Jammu and Kashmir and Palestine are among those who are denied the right to self-determination

NEW YORK: Pakistan has called on UN's Decolonization Committee and the Security Council to take action to end India's colonialization of Jammu and Kashmir and enable its people to exercise their right to self-determination. "Eradicating colonialism is part of the unfinished agenda of the United Nations," Ambassador Munir Akram emphasized in a speech to the General Assembly's Special Political and Decolonization (Fourth) Committee on Wednesday. After his speech, delegates of India and Pakistan had a verbal duel over the Kashmir dispute. In his remarks, Ambassador Akram said that the Indian occupation of Jammu and Kashmir is the "worst manifestation of modern-day colonialism." "It only excites our suspicion" about the sincerity of Washington's insistence it has no hostile intent towards the country, it said. Kim met three times with former president Donald Trump, who boasted of stopping a war but failed to reach a comprehensive agreement on ending North Korea's nuclear programme. — APP

the UN Security Council resolutions that calls for the final disposition of the state should be decided by its people through a free and fair plebiscite held under UN auspices. But Kashmir today is the most densely occupied place in the world, with 900,000 Indian troops, deployed in the disputed territory, he said adding that the entire Kashmiri leadership has been imprisoned, thousands of Kashmiri youth, including women and children, detained, protests put down violently, with neighborhoods and villages destroyed as "collective punishment." "It (India) has locked down the internet and locked out impartial observers from occupied Kashmir," Ambassador Akram remarked. The iconic Kashmiri leader, Syed Ali Shah Geelani's body was snatched from his family, whisked away and buried hurriedly in a non-descript place, denying his family the right to the prescribed Islamic burial rites. "This is not only a measure of Indian tyranny but also its fear of the free choice of the Kashmiri people," the Pakistani envoy said. Since its illegal attempt to annex Jammu and Kashmir, he said, India

aims to achieve its ominous "final solution" by seeking to change the demographics of the region, providing fake domicile certificates to Hindu outsiders. "This surely amounts to genocide," he stressed, calling for action by the Security Council that would enable the people of Kashmir to exercise their right to self-determination. Speaking about UN peacekeeping operations, Ambassador Akram emphasized the need to protect peacekeepers and welcomed the use of modern technology to strengthen camp security, monitor convoy movements and provide

troops with telemedicine care. Over the last six decades, he said, Pakistani peacekeepers have operated effectively in some of the most challenging environments due to high morale, discipline, rich experience and training. Underlining that the UN Secretary-General's AAP (Action for Peacekeeping) initiative stipulates that peacekeeping is most effective when it is supported by an overall political strategy, he said considerable work needs to be done in this context. The Security Council, Ambassador Akram pointed out, has been unable to develop political solutions to several old and new disputes across the world, including the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, where one of the oldest UN missions, the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), is stationed. Reacting to Ambassador Akram's tough statement, an Indian delegate repeated allegation about Pakistan's involvement in terrorism, and said that by raising the Kashmir issue, Pakistan had wasted the committee's time. The Indian delegate also claimed that the entire territory of Jammu and Kashmir was, is and will always

be an integral part of India. Pakistan's Delegate Bilal Mahmood Chaudhary hit back at India immediately. He said that drawing attention to the continued Indian colonization of Jammu and Kashmir is not a waste of the committee's time. "Kashmir is an internationally recognized disputed territory, and not an integral part of India, making a wrong claim again and again, does not alter the legal reality," remarked Bilal Chaudhry, a counsellor at the Pakistan mission to the UN. The Security Council resolutions, he said, established self-determination as the governing principle for the settlement of the Kashmir dispute. "This is the world body's commitment to the people of Jammu and Kashmir," the Pakistani delegate said. Pointing out that for its narrow political reasons, India equates the freedom movement in Kashmir to terrorism, he said that such propaganda is only meant to deceive the international community. "The United Nations has not only the right, but the obligation to discuss the Kashmir dispute", Bilal Chaudhry added. — APP



right to self-determination. Speaking about UN peacekeeping operations, Ambassador Akram emphasized the need to protect peacekeepers and welcomed the use of modern technology to strengthen camp security, monitor convoy movements and provide

**Briefs**

**Gill lambasts opposition parties**

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Political Communication Dr Shabbaz Gill Thursday said Prime Minister Imran Khan's mission was to create a sense of comfort and compassion for the poor. The SAPM, in his response to Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N)'s Spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb, said propaganda against government's initiatives launched for the people was the modus operandi of the incompetents (alluding to PML-N leadership). Dr Gill while referring to the PML-N leader, Nawaz Sharif said, "Mian Maqsood (fugitive) has been the ring-leader of all mafias, whereas in the past, only mafias under his influence has been given targeted subsidies." The Prime Minister, he said announced a targeted subsidy plan for the masses due to his empathy and feeling of the poor. He added that targeted subsidy to low-income masses through utility stores was the top priority of the government. Dr Gill said that the incompetent courtiers (PML-N spokesperson and leaders) were in a fix on this initiative of the government. - APP

**PPP clarifies Bilawal's 'anti media' remarks**

KARACHI: The PPP has clarified that a part of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhatti to Zardari's speech at a Sunday rally at Karachi's Bagh-e-Jinnah was in no way targeted at the media, adding that the people should "understand the context of a statement instead of believing in propaganda". PPP issued a video for clarification containing a bit from Bilawal's speech from the rally, where he appeals to Pakistanis to "not fall for the media's character assassination". The video clarifies that Bilawal's statement was misunderstood - he did not mean that the media was indulging in character assassination, but that the media was being targeted and discredited, and the people should not accept it. The video also referred to another statement made by Bilawal, where he said: "You should not follow those who bark against the PPP". For this, the PPP clarified that this statement was not directed towards the media, but those trolls who target the PPP with false assertions. "Some elements are trying to misinterpret Bilawal's speech in a way that has no connection with the reality," said the statement.

**Banned TLP holds sit-ins after workers, leaders held**

LAHORE: The banned Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) on Thursday continued its sit-ins in different cities of the country against the recent arrests of its party workers and leaders. A sit-in is also being held near YateemKhanaChowk in Lahore. The Punjab government is on alert in case the situation deteriorates and has further issued a security alert at all entry and exit points of Lahore. A large presence of law enforcers has been reported around the YateemKhanaChowk area and internet services have also been reportedly suspended. Roads from Kali Kothi, Iqbal Town, Scheme Moor, Sodiwal, Niazi Ada, and Samanabad have been sealed with barbed wire and containers. Earlier in October, the Punjab government approached the Supreme Court's Lahore Registry challenging the Lahore High Court's (LHC) order for the release of TLP chief Hafiz Saad Rizvi.

**S. Africa envoy for boosting ties with the private sector**

The High Commissioner said that the bilateral trade volume is below one billion dollars and it could increase to 2 billion dollars in the next few years

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: South Africa High Commissioner Methuzeli Madikiza has said that South Africa considers Pakistan an important market for trade cooperation and is keen to further enhance bilateral trade with it as the two countries have good potential for trade in many areas. He said that the trade relations between the Chamber of Commerce and the private sector of both countries needed to be further strengthened. The high Commissioner expressed these views during his visit to the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI). He was accompanied by trade and information officer Qaiser Abbas. President of the Chamber Nadeem Rauf, Senior Vice President Asim Malik, former president Nasir Mirza, members of the executive committee and chamber members were also present on the occasion. During the meeting, the High Commissioner said that the bilateral trade volume is below one billion dollars and it could increase to 2 billion dollars in the next few years. Cooperation and joint ventures can be initiated in other sectors, including mining, construction, tourism, agriculture, pharmaceuticals



and services. The efforts of the Rawalpindi Chamber in expanding trade activities and promoting trade relations are commendable, he said. He assured that the South African High Commission would facilitate the business community of Pakistan in linking them with South African counterparts for promoting collaboration in areas of mutual interest. Earlier, Chamber President Nadeem Rauf briefed the High Commissioner about the ongoing activities and future programs of the Chamber. In order to increase trade with South

Africa, trade related information should be shared and exchanged at the delegation level, he suggested. He also apprised the High Commissioner about the investment opportunities in Pakistan. Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) were also signed with South Africa and

the Minara Chamber to promote chamber to chamber relations, he added. Joint ventures can also be launched in the fields of information technology and construction, including pharma, marble, engineering, poultry and textiles, he further added.

**Bahraini envoy lauds Pak role for peace**

Islamabad desires to enhance trade with Bahrain as the bilateral trade scope is less than available business opportunities

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly AsadQaiser says Pakistan gives immense importance to its relations with Bahrain and both countries are enjoying best relations at parliamentary level. Talking to Ambassador of Bahrain Mohamed Ebrahim Mohamed Abdullqader in Islamabad on Thursday, he said that Islamabad desires to enhance trade with Bahrain as the bilateral trade scope is less than available business opportunities. He stressed the need to enhance cooperation between chambers of commerce of both countries to increase trade range. The Speaker said that the expected visit of the Bahraini Counterpart to Pakistan would lead to further improve parliamentary relations between the two countries. AsadQaiser said that Pakistan is blessed with a large number of skilled manpower and Bahrain can get benefit from this work force. Bahraini Ambassador Mohamed Ebrahim Mohamed Abdullqader on the occasion said that his country wants to expand bilateral ties with Islamabad promoting trade and people to people contact. He said Pakistani diaspora, living in Bahrain is playing vital role in the development process of the homeland and his country is taking deep interest to import more workforces from Pakistan. He also appreciated Pakistan's role in establishing peace and stability in the region.

**Buledi appointed new parliamentary leader of BAP**

DNA

QUETTA: Zahoore Buledi has been appointed as the new parliamentary leader of the ruling Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) ahead of the no-confidence motion against the Balochistan CM Jam Kamal. A notification was issued regarding the appointment of Zahoore Buledi as the new parliamentary leader of the ruling BAP. A session of the Balochistan Assembly has been summoned on October 25 (Monday) for voting on a no-confidence motion tabled against CM Jam Kamal Aliyani by disgruntled lawmakers. The session was summoned by Balochistan Assembly Speaker Qudus Bizenjo. BAP spokesperson Abdul Re-

hman Khetran had presented the no-confidence motion before the assembly. Of the 65 lawmakers present in the assembly, 33 backed the vote of no confidence against CM Jam Kamal. The estranged lawmakers, in a motion submitted to the assembly, stated that the chief minister had failed to deliver during his three-year tenure and should be removed immediately. Speaking on the floor of the assembly, Khetran was of the view that performance of every provincial department under CM Jam Kamal had remained poor during three-year tenure while unemployment had also spread.

**Moderna, J&J approved for booster shots in US**

NEW YORK: The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Thursday approved emergency use of booster doses by Moderna and Johnson & Johnson against the COVID-19 pandemic. The FDA said in a statement that it has approved the "use of each of the available COVID-19 vaccines as a heterologous (or 'mix and match') booster dose in eligible individuals following completion of primary vaccination with a different available COVID-19 vaccine." The agency noted that the use of a single booster dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine may be administered at least two months after completion of the single-dose primary regimen to individuals 18 years of age and older. - Agencies

**Deputy Chairman Kyrgyz NSC calls on Dr Moeed Yusuf**



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman, National Security Council (NSC) of the Kyrgyz Republic, Taalatbek Masadykov Thursday called on National Security Adviser (NSA) Dr Moeed Yusuf. Both the dignitaries discussed matters of mutual interest, including regional and global issues, said a National Security Division media release. Dr. Moeed Yusuf and Taalatbek Masadykov reiterated the importance of peace and stability in Afghanistan during the meeting. The NSA and Kyrgyz Deputy Chairman of the National Security Council expressed satisfaction over bilateral relations between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan. - APP

and stability in Afghanistan during the meeting. The NSA and Kyrgyz Deputy Chairman of the National Security Council expressed satisfaction over bilateral relations between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan. - APP

**Khurshid paid price of loyalty to democracy**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Qamar Zaman Kaira said that Khurshid Shah has paid price of loyalty to his party and democracy. Supreme Court on Thursday approved bail plea of PPP leader Khurshid Shah in assets case after Sindh High Court rejected his bail petition. Qamar Zaman Kaira, while talking to media persons along with Nayyar Bukhari outside the apex court, said that case against the PPP leader was filed with malicious intent but arrests and jails are not a big deal for political workers. Kaira further said that PPP only takes directions from public and the party does not give importance to instructions from anywhere else. He further said that PPP was the first party to protest against rising inflation in the country.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf Saeed Al Maliki in a meeting with Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani. - DNA

**New tariff system bringing hike in gas bills on the cards**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: On one hand, the government has given an electric shock to the people by raising electricity prices, on the other, it has decided to introduce a new gas tariff system bringing a drastic hike in gas bills. Sources divulged to a private television channel on Thursday that a new tariff system will be put in place on the Sui Northern Gas Company (SNGC) system by combining natural gas and LNG gas tariffs. It is suggested to raise the monthly bill of the utility for domestic consumers by a staggering Rs1,600.

Sources say it seems that the government is making a plan to deprive people of the facility of cheap natural gas. There are suggestions to increase the monthly bill of domestic consumers from Rs200 to Rs1,800. The government is planning to introduce a new tariff for natural gas consumers on the pattern of LNG tariff. And it has already started work on three suggestions regarding change of billing system. The government is working to link together the imported LNG tariff and natural gas tariff and come up with a new formula for billing. The SNGC has 750mcf natural gas and it runs its system by adding 1,800mcf LNG. At present, the price of LNG is Rs2,623/MMBtu.

**Imran will shiver if Nawaz announces his return: Zubair**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader and former Sindh governor Muhammad Zubair Thursday said Prime Minister Imran Khan will "shiver" the day PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif announces he is returning to the country. Criticizing the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-led government, Zubair said the Opposition has taken to the streets to register their protest against rising inflation in Pakistan. "We will keep threatening the PTI-led government from time to time," said Zubair. In response to another query, the PM-N leader said Nawaz Sharif will be among party workers. He, however, clarified that the date for his return will be decided by the party's leadership.

"Nawaz Sharif will come back to Pakistan if it is necessary for the country's future," added the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leader. Earlier on September 9, PML-N leader MianJavedLatif had claimed that Nawaz Sharif was returning to Pakistan this year. Talking to the media after his appearance in National Accountability Bureau (NAB) office in Lahore, Latif had said: "Those who disqualified him [Nawaz Sharif] have now understood that there is no other option than to bring him back; they would now let Nawaz Sharif become the prime minister for the fourth time." The MNA had claimed that Nawaz Sharif is returning because he cannot stay abroad after seeing the people of Pakistan stuck in this crisis. "He is coming here to lead the nation himself," Latif had added.

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