

# Samana

Saturday, October 23, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Japanese ambassador Matsuda ends Pak job on a high note

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China pleased over CPEC new outcomes

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Economy going right direction under PM Khan

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### Briefs

### **Draft about** fake news sent to cabinet

**DNA** 

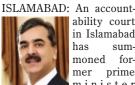


Infor mation and Broadcasting Fawac Chaudhry on

Friday said that a proposed law to curb fake news in Pakistan has been sent to the cabinet for approval. In a series of tweets, the minister said that as he has been saying since 2018, Pakistan could not move forward unless there were political reforms. "Reforms concerning judiciary and media are also necessary," Fawad added. Last week, Fawad had said the "greatest challenge" being faced by modern media was the dissemination of false propaganda through fake news. "The phenomenon of fake news emerged after a revolution in information technology (IT) and an increase in the number of media platforms," he had told a seminar.

### Court summons Gilani for indictment

DNA



ability court in Islamabad summoned forprime

and senior PPP leader Yousaf Raza Gilani for indictment in misuse of powers reference filed by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB). The accountability court judge, Azam Khan, issued the summons for the former prime minister on Friday, directing him to appear in the court on November 10 for indictment. The other accused in the reference have also been summoned on the same date. Yousat Raza Gilani has been accused of awarding an advertisement campaign contract of Universal Services Funds worth millions to a company of his choice. The NAB had filed a reference against the accused for misuse of authority.

### Holiday Notice

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

inside..

CMIFC will push GDP

growth to above 5%:

President FCCI

NAVTTC and KPIT join hands to

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Uzbekistan's foreign

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Romanian envoy

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professionalism

of Pak Army

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### Opp parties take to streets over inflation

Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly and PML-N President Shahbaz Sharif appealed to the masses and asked them to join the protest

#### STAFF REPORT / DNA

LAHORE/ISLAMABAD: Opposition parties have taken to the streets in various cities across Pakistan to put pressure on the government amid surging inflation in the country. After the call to protest was given by the Opposition, protesters took to the streets in Karachi, Larkana, Lahore, Sukkur, Mardan, Jacobabad, Mohmand, Ziarat, Mingora and other cities of the country. People shouted slogans against the government and rising inflation. Traffic at the Quetta-Chaman highway remained suspended for several hours due to the rally.

In Karachi, the demonstration started near the Empress Market area, due to which the surrounding roads had to be sealed. In Lahore, PML-N members staged a protest against inflation at the Jain Mandir Chowk while carrying utility bills and pieces of rotis (bread) in their hands. Akin to that, party members in Muzaffargarh started a protest rally from Central Jamia Masjid to Qanwan Chowk. Members of the Jamaat-e-Islami also staged a protest in front of the

Continued on Page 06

### Banned TLP protests in twin cities

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

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Authorities have suspended the Metro Bus service in Rawalpindi and blocked roads in Islamabad and Lahore as the government braces for protests organised separately by a banned outfit and Opposition parties in the above-mentioned cities. A day earlier, the Ministry of Interior had written to the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) to suspend internet services in various areas of Lahore due to a banned outfit's protest. The provincial government subsequently suspended internet services around Multan Road, Grand Battery Stop, Iqbal Town,

Continued on Page 06

### EU leaders call for tougher border controls

BRUSSELS: The divisive issue of refugees and migrants was top of the agenda as European Union leaders met in Brussels for the second day of their summit. Their meeting came amid a surge of migrants and refugees trying to cross the Belarusian border into Poland. Lithuania and Latvia from countries including Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq and Iran. Many EU leaders have accused Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko of flying in illegal migrants

to send them across the

border, in an effort to destabilize the EU. Germany's federal police said last week that more than 4.300 people had entered the country from Poland after traveling from Belarus since August, compared with just 26 registered from January to July. Arriving for the talks on Friday morning with the 27 national leaders, Lithuanian President Gitanas Nauseda said Lukashenko was "weaponizing" migration by pushing people into bloc. He called for the EU to urgently revisit its mi-

gration policies and spoke of the need for a fence to control the border.

"We also should talk about a physical fence of physical border, which is extremely needed as a short-term measure," he told reporters. "Nobody knows what will happen tomorrow. Maybe there will be three, four, five thousand migrants staying at the border at the same time or trying to cross the border in different places.

Continued on Page 06



**QUETTA:** Ambassador of European Union Androullah Kaminara meeting with Chief Justice Balochistan High Court Hon. Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan on justice sector development in Balochistan, in view of our Rule of Law program including capacity building aspects. - DNA

# LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar called on Prime Minister Imran Khan. - DNA

#### Forces gun down terrorist in N.Waziristan

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Security forces killed a terrorist during an intelligence-based operation in North Waziristan's Miran Shah area, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Friday. The terrorist identified as Ahmed Ullah was gunned down after the security forces received reports of the presence of terrorists in the area, the military's

media wing said. According to ISPR, during an exchange of fire with the terrorists, two soldiers - Naik Khalil, 34, resident of Kohat, and Sepoy Shakir Ullah, 21, resident of Lakki Marwat — embraced martyrdom. The development comes after two Federal Corps (FC) personnel and two police constables were martyred in an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blast in Bajaur on Wednesday night.

### Pak-Japan agree on debt deferral

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Governments of Japan and Pakistan agreed on debt deferral amounting to approx. US\$200 million on October 22, 2021, as the second phase of "the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI)". Prior to this, both Governments agreed on the first debt deferral amounting to approx. US\$370 million on April 27, 2021, under the same initiative. The total amount of deferred debt has

Continued on Page 06

### PM briefed about Punjab projects

Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman, Chief Secretary Punjab Kamran Ali Afzal and IG Punjab Rao Sardar Ali call on Imran Khan

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar called on Prime Minister Imran Khan. Chief Secretary Punjab Kamran

Ali Afzal and IG Punjab Rao Sardar Ali Khan were also present in the meeting. The Prime Minister was briefed on various administrative and development issues of the province. Update on different ongoing Continued on Page 06

### PM Imran leaves for Saudi Arabia today

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan will visit the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from Saturday to attend the launching ceremony of the "Middle East Green Initiative (MGI) Summit", being held in Rivadh. He will be undertaking the visit at the invitation of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz. The prime minister will be accompanied by a high-level delegation, including Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and other members of his cabinet.

Continued on Page 06

### US will defend Taiwan if china attacks: Biden

New Desk WASHINGTON: President

Joe Biden said Thursday

evening that the US would come to Taiwan's defense should China attack the island nation. Asked about coming to Taipei's defense during a CNN town hall, Biden said "Yes, we have a commitment to do that." He was likely referring to the Taiwan Relations Act. a 1979 law that has guided US relations with Taiwan. Relations have also been informed by what are known as the Three Communiques, which are bilateral agreements with China. None of the agreements

explicitly state the US will

come to Taiwan's defense,

but the Biden administration has repeatedly said its commitment to Taiwan is "rock solid." The Taiwan Relations Act says the US "will make available to Taiwan such defense articles and defense services in such quantity as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense

### Putin backs Taliban in its demand to unfreeze assets

WEB DESK

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed his support Thursday for a key demand of the Taliban, urging Western countries to unfreeze Afghanistan's financial assets. Speaking at a meeting of the Valdai Discussion Club in Sochi, Putin said Western countries bear "the main responsibility" for what is happening in Afghanistan.

"The main responsibility for what is happening there is being borne by those countries that have been fighting there for 20 years. And the first thing they should do, in my opinion, is to unfreeze the Afghan assets to give Afghanistan a possibility to solve socio-economic problems of paramount importance," he said.

### Kosovo to expel 2 Russian diplomats

PRISTINA: Kosovo has ordered the expulsion of two Russian diplomats for allegedly "endangering national security," the Balkan country's president said Friday, accusing Russia of trying to destabilise the region. President Vjosa Osmani

said in a statement that she asked the foreign ministry "to declare two officials of the Liaison Office of the Russian Federation in Kosovo 'persona non grata." She attributed the de-

cision to their alleged "harmful activities that risk endangering national security and the constitutional order" of Kosovo. Osmani provided no further details. - Agencies

### Japanese envoy ends Pakistan job on a high note

Over the past two years and ten months, bilateral defence cooperation have been steadily enhanced with the aim of stabilizing not only Pak but the entire region: Matsuda Kuninori

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan MATSUDA Kuninori has extended best wishes to Pakistan and Pakistani people as he departs the country after completing his tenure. In a message he said, "I am leaving Islamabad upon completion of my 2 year and 10 month tenure here in Pakistan. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the support and kindness I have received from all of you during this period.

Unfortunately, due to the COV-ID-19 pandemic, the movement of people and economic activities have been substantially restricted. Through this pandemic, however,the world, including Japan, has seen a dramatic shift of working styles, and more Japanese com-- Page 08 panies have come to utilize excel-



lent human resources in Pakistan through the Internet. Pakistan, with a population of over 220 million, has great potential as a consumer market and a wealth of human resources, with over 60% of the population under the age of 30. If these are utilized efficiently, it will no doubt have a positive impact on the economies of both Japan and Pakistan.

On economic cooperation, we have engaged in improving Pakistan's economic and social infrastructure, especially in the five pillars in which Japan has strengths, water and sanitation, health, education, disaster prevention, and infrastructure development for export industries. We hope that such cooperation with Pakistan will contribute to the expansion of bilateral economic relations, including the promotion of trade and investment in both directions.

Moreover, over the past two years and ten months, bilateral defence cooperation have been steadily enhanced with the aim of stabilizing not only Pakistan but the entire region. The participation of Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force's de-

### Matsuda pays farewell visit to COAS Bajwa

RAWALPINDI: Japan's ambassador to Pakistan Kuninori Matsuda on Friday paid a farewell visit to the Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa at the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi, a statement released by the Inter-Services Public Relations said. According to the military's media wing, during the meeting, the two leaders discussed matters of mutual interest, bilateral cooperation in various fields, the overall regional situation and peace and stability in Afghanistan. The COAS thanked the foreign dignitary for his services and appreciated his contributions for fostering strong ties between the two countries and extending support towards defence/security cooperation and stance on the Afghan situation, the statement added. The ambassador appreciated Pakistan's role in the Afghan situation, including the successful evacuation operations, and pledged to keep working for better relations between the two countries. - DNA

stroyer in multilateral maritime the best example. The ties between military exercise, AMAN21 organized by the Pakistan Navy for the first time in February this year is

the Japan Self-Defense Forces and

Continued on Page 06

### CMIFC will push GDP growth to above 5%: President FCCI

22 Chinese companies have so far invested in Punjab while another 40 companies will invest during next year

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: The Chief Minister's Investment Facilitation Cell (CMIFC) will not only attract local and foreign investment but also push GDP growth to above 5%, said Atif Munir Sheikh, President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI).

He was talking to executive committee members of the FCCI after attending the inaugural ceremony of CMIFC. He said that the ministry of industries and Investment Punjab under the direct supervision of Provincial Minister Mian Aslam Iqbal has taken fundamental steps to attract maximum investment.

In this connection inspector less regime is being introduced while under One Window Scheme NOCs regarding 22 different Government Departments are being issued within a week to one month

He said that NOCs will be issued within one month for high-risk industries while it could be handed over to the applicants positively within one to two weeks for low and medium risk industries.

Similarly, spector less regime will be introduced from next month and no boiler or labor inspector could harass the industrialists. He said

that a new system of third parties will be introduced for the inspection. "The Government fee relat-

ing to the boiler inspection could be deposited in Government treasury while the fee of third party could be paid through cross cheque", he said and added that under the One Window Scheme first NOC has been issued to a

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister has approved Phase-III Coal

Mine expansion project in Thar at an estimated cost of Rs 15.8

"The third phase would reduce coal price to \$ 27 per ton, mak-

ing it the cheapest base load fuel in the country and Central

Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) basket tariff would reduce

by Rs 0.49/kwh to Rs15.05/kwh by saving consumers Rs 60

billion annual and top of it the Sindh government would earn Rs 10 billion Royalty annually." This he said while presiding over

a meeting held here at CM House on Friday, said a statement.

The meeting was attended by Minister Energy Imtiaz Shaikh

PSCM Sajid Jamal Abro, Secretary Energy Abu Bakar, MD

Thar Coal Board Tariq Shah, DG Sindh Coal Authority Mush-

taq Soomro, Chief Executive Engro Ahsan Zaffar, CEO Engro

Corporation Ghias Khan, Vice Chairman House of Habib Sal-

man Burni, Vice Chairman House of Habib Tayab Tareen, CEO

HUBCO Kamran Kamal, Saleemullah Memon of HUBCO,

Chief Executive SECMC Amir Iqbal, GM Commercial SECMC

Tallah Lodhi, CFO SECMC Muhammad Mudassir, GM Tech.

Mines Expansion Faisal Iqbal Siddiqi and others.

748821

children to be

Peshawar

PESHAWAR: Deputy Com-

missioner (DC) Peshawar,

Khalid Mehmood Friday

said that 748821 children of

provincial metropolis would

be vaccinated in ongoing

He said that all the neces-

sary steps including provid-

ing foolproof security to po-

lio staff have been taken and

liaison has been developed

with concerned department

to make the drive a success.

He said that 2496 teams

have been deputed to

achieve targets of the cam-

paign that would continue

Later he inaugurated the anti

polio campaign and urged par-

ents to vaccinate their chil-

dren against crippling diseas-

es that has endangered the

future of our next generation.

He added that out joint ef-

forts are needed for complete

eradication of disease from

the society. Assistant Com-

missioner, Noman Ali Shah,

District Health Officer, Dr

Azmat Ullah, District Com-

munication Officer, Faisal

and representatives of WHO

were also present on the oc-

Massive fall

of rupee

will harm

economy

**DNA** 

LAHORE: The Pakistan In-

dustrial & Traders Associa-

tions Front (PIAF) has said

that massive fall of rupee

value continued to harm

the economy, as the cost of deals done by the busi-

nessmen with their foreign

buyers has increased mani-

fold due to unprecedented

plunge of local currency

Besides increasing exports

and controlling imports the

government will have to

take administrative meas-

ures, as a large demand of

cash dollars are seen in the

PIAF Senior Vice Chairman

Nasir Hameed and Vice

Chairman Javed Siddiqi, in a

joint statement issued here

today, observed that the

US dollar continued to rise

against the rupee, reaching a

record high of Rs173.50 in in-

terbank trade amidst growing

current account deficit

against dollar.

casion. - APP

till October 27.

anti polio campaign.

billion to excavate 12.2 metric ton coal per annum.

Chinese company "Challenge Fashion".

"This firm is making an investment of 150 million dollars", he added. He further said that 22 Chinese companies have so far invested

in Punjab while another 40 companies will invest during He said that

Mian Aslam Iqbal is optimistic that there are bright chances of maximum investment in state-of-the-art industrial

Syed Murad Ali Shah said that the journey of Thar Coal was

started in 2009 with a joint venture partnership between the

Sindh government and Sindh Engro for development of Thar

Coal. "Numerous challenges were associated with the project

and each challenge had the potential of shelving the project," he

said and added "however, only due to unwavering commitment

and resolve of the Sindh government the project was commis-

Minister Energy Imtiaz Shaikh briefing the chief minister said

that the successful execution of Phase-I of SECM project 3.8

MT/annum and 660 MW was in operation from the last two

years. He added that 2640 MW power plants were under con-

struction and 11.8 mt/a incremental mine construction was in

progress. At this the chief minister said that his government

Sharing spot prices of raw material used to produce energiated

gy in the country, the chief minister was told that the LNG

was being purchased at \$35 per MMBTU, imported coal at

\$9.7MMBTU, Residual Fuel Oil (RFO) at \$12.4/MMBTU and

would utilize Thar Coal beyond the power sector.

estates developed by FIED-MC in Faisalabad. He said that the Punjab Government is extending the best possible facilitation to the local and foreign investors. He also welcomed the statement of Provincial Finance Minister Mr. Hashim Jawan Bakht about the resolution of businesses related disputes. He said that

CM Sindh approves expansion of Thar coal mining for \$15.8 bn

business courts are being established which are bound to dispose of cases positively within 180 days.

Atif Munir Sheikh also appreciated the pro-industrial policy of Chief Minister Sardar Usman Bazdar and said that his team is making serious efforts to attract maximum investment.

He hoped that these efforts would help in establishment of new, innovative and hi-tech industrial units. He further said that land is being offered to new investors at subsidized rates in M3 industrial estate and Allama Iqbal Special Economic Zone.

He said that this investment will not only catalyze the economy but also create maximum job opportunities. He also thanked Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Bazdar and Mian Aslam Igbal for extending best possible facilities for the expeditious



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Council of Islamic Ideology, Dr Qibla Ayaz, giving the Friday sermon, at Jamia-e-Masjid, Aiwan-e-Sadr. - DNA

#### CMannounces 2nd shift at Govt schools

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Mahmood Khan on Friday announced commencement of second shift at all government schools and inaugurated provision of furniture to government schools in 28 districts of the province for 2.4 million students.

Addressing a ceremony of provision of furniture to government schools here, he said that the furniture would be provided in two phases at a cost of Rs6 billion, adding that measures are also being taken to overcome shortage of schoolteachers. He said that more teachers were being appointed through PTC to ensure transparency and merit in the appointment process. Mahmood Khan said that the PTI government initiated recorded reforms in the education sector including

introduction of uniform curriculum, merit-based appointment of teachers, second shift at schools, provision of furniture and other basic facilities to all government schools.

The CM said that the government believes that the future of the country was directly linked with the students and therefore it was the responsibility of the government to provide them all basic facilities including quality education. On the occasion he direct-

ed the Sports department to provide sports facilities at Government Shaheed Hasnain Sharif School and also asked the Archeology department to restore the building of the school in its original condition. - APP

### Prices of essential commodities

FAISALABAD: The district administration, in consulmeeting reviewed the curprices for the open market. price will be Rs 128 per kg. 120 and Rs 125 per kg. and Rs 110 per kg, Pulse

### **FESCO Chief holds** open court to listen complaints

About over 50 consumers informed the CEO about their electricity problems online. In addition, the CEO also remained online through facebook page

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) Engr. Bashir Ahmed hold an open court at FESCO headquarters here today to listen the consumers complaints online, at this occasion he said that FESCO is striving hard to provide the uninterrupted power supply to its consumers round the clock in all over the FESCO region including Faisalabad, Jhang, Toba Tek Singh, Bhakkar, Mianwali, Chiniot, Khushab and Sargodha.

He directed all Chief Engineers (CEs) and Superintending Engineers (SEs) to hold online open courts to solve the electricity consumers' problem immediately. He said that smooth and continuous power supply to consumers is top priority of FESCO, in this connection FES-CO officers and officials are performing their duty with full dedication. He lauded the performance of special teams of field staff, Monitoring Cell, 118 and toll free number 080066554 and said that they are ensuring to solve the consumers problems

He said that in the current situation of coronavirus FESCO workers are performing their duty without any fear and working in the front line to facilitate the consumers. In view of coronavirus, an online open

court was arranged. Meanwhile, about over 50 consumers informed the CEO about their electricity problems online. In addition, the CEO also remained online through facebook page. He issued orders to solve the consumers' complaints rapidly and informed them about its progress within the next 24 hours.



FAISALABAD: CEO FESCO Engr. Bashir Ahmed istens consumers' complaints during online open court at FESCO HQ. - DNA

### PPP believes in serving people

**DNA** 

KARACHI: Administrator Karachi Spokesman and CM Advisor on Law Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Friday said that the PPP believes in serving the people without any discrimination. "This city belongs to all of us, its service is our duty and we will prove it by our work. The focus is on parks and development works. The dilapidated Arfa Family Park has been renovated and reopened to the public. Work is underway in every district of Karachi," the Administrator expressed these views on the occasion of the inauguration of Arfa Family Park in Gulberg and later on a visit to different areas of Central District.

He said that road problems are also going to be solved soon, adding that garbage points in the city will be turned into green belts. He said that Karachi has to be brought back to its original condition. "PPP is determined to restore Karachi's identity," he added.

Deputy Commissioner Central District Taha Saleem, Administrator DMC Central Muhammad Ali Zaidi and other officers were also present on the occasion. The Administrator Karachi said that a few weeks before today, when he visited district Central, he saw the land which was barren and the doors of this park were closed for the citizens. "At the same time, I instructed the DMC Central authorities to open the gates of the park to the public," he said. Swings for children and canteen facilities have also been provided to the public at Arfa Family Park.

"People who used to talk about powers and resources, see that the powers are the same, the resources are the same. only the face and intention have changed and today it is clear that the administration is interested in solving the problems," he said. Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that the park was inaugurated a few days ago in Nazimabad No. 1 and another park is going to be given to the people of Central District next week. "In the current economic situation and inflation, recreation is becoming difficult for the citizens. Such parks provide easy opportunities for recreation, he said, adding that the sanitation situation in the Central District has improved in less than a year. He said that the Deputy Commissioner and the Administrator are also here and have started public service. "Today, I stand just adjacent to Nine Zero and the inauguration of this park proves that the PPP believes in serving people without discrimination of color, race, division and hatred.

### **ETEA** announces results of **KMU**

PESHAWAR: The Educational, Testing and Evaluation Agency (ETEA) has announced the results of Khyber Medical University (KMU) Centralized Admission Test (KMU-CAT) 2021 for admissions in allied health sciences.

The results were jointly announced by Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq, Vice Chancellor, KMU, and Syeda Tanzeela Sabahat, Executive Director, ETEA at Phase 7, Hayatabad, Peshawar.

Coordinator centralized admission committee Prof. Dr. Jawad Ahmed and Director Admission KMU, Arshad Khan were also present at the occasion. According to the results,

Ishtiaq Ahmed son of Ahmed and Mohammad Fayyaz of Gulzada secured first position with 87 marks out of 100, Mohammad Zeeshan of Taj Wali Khan and Syed Sharifuddin Hashmi got 86 marks and Mohammad Munsif of Qutb Khan grabbed the third position with 84 marks. - APP

#### 12 teams formed to supervise vaccination

FAISALABAD: The district administration has constituted 12 joint monitoring teams to ensure strict enforcement of obligatory vaccination regime.

The teams would inspect vaccination status of staff and passengers at entry and exit points of motorway. Deputy Commissioner Ali Shahzad said that each team would consist of five members including representative of district administration, district police, National Highways, district health authority and representative of media.

Giving details about the terms of references, he said that the teams will check/ inspect all types of transport at entry/exit points, toll plazas and interchanges on motorway with minimum inconvenience to remaining transport. - APP

### DC for taking solid vaccinated in steps to counter smog

Thar coal at 5.95 MMBTU. - APP

sioned on July 10, 2019.



SAQIB MUSHTAQ

LODHRAN: Deputy Commissioner Shoaib Ali said that considering the possible danger of smog in the district thorough precautionary measures should be taken, in this regard concerned departments should stay vigilant for the implementation of precautionary and safety measures. He urged concerned departments should ensure mutual coordination so that expected smog situation can be dealt properly.

He expressed these remarks while addressing with the District Smog prevention committee's meeting.

Deputy

Commissioner

urged to ensure the enforcement of ban on the burning of crop remains, Plastic, Garbage and other smoke emitting substances. He added that Traffic Police and Secretary RTA should catalyze the campaign against smoke emitting vehicles. Banners to aware public should be displayed at transport stands including highways and public places about Crackdown against such smoke emit-

He directed Agriculture department to catalyze the campaign to aware farmers about not burning the crop remains, farmers should be made aware about the Government of Punjab's restriction towards the burning of crop remains. Deputy Commissioner said

that installation of brick kilns on the new zigzag technology should be promoted and in this regard Brick Kiln association should be contacted. He said that awareness lectures and debate competitions in educational institutes about the smog prevention should be encouraged and ensured. He urged all concerned institutions to catalyze their plantation campaign to eliminate environmental pollution to

meet set targets. Deputy Commissioner said that steps should be taken to aware public regarding the precautionary measures against health hazards of smog. He added that to control smog everyone should observe their responsibility. In the meeting Assistant Director Environment briefed about the preventive measures against smog, he told

that agriculture department has received 14 complaints about the violations which may cause smog. He added that throughout the district 185 brick kilns have been completely converted to zigzag technology, throughout the district 45 brick kilns have been checked.

It was told during the meeting that for public awareness literature regarding smog and its prevention is being distributed.

On directions of CM Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar, under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Captain Shoaib Ali crackdown against overcharging is in progress throughout the district, District Price Control Magistrates have imposed fines worth 1.124901 million rupee against 532 persons who were involved in overcharging and regis-

tered cases against 56. According to the report issued by the District Administration Price control magistrates checked 15,597 samples from different markets and under Price control act 532 persons were fined against 2989 violations while 134 persons

### re-fixed

tation with the wholesalers, retailers, traders and consumer representatives, re-fixed the wholesale and retail prices of various essential commodities. In this regard, a meeting of the District Price Control Committee was held with Deputy Commissioner Ali Shahzad in the chair on Friday. The rent market prices of essential items, fluctuation in their availability and fixed new According to details, the price of 'basin' [gram powder] will be Rs 123 per kg in wholesale, while the retail Similarly, gram white (big) price will be Rs 164 per kg and Rs 170 per kg respectively, white gram (small) Rs 143 per kg and Rs 148 per kg, black gram (big), Rs 115 per kg and Rs 120 per kg, black gram (small) at Rs 111 per kg and Rs 116 per kg, pulse gram (big) at Rs Pulse gram small Rs 105 maash washed Rs 223 and Rs 230 per kg, pulse maash unwashed Rs 200 and Rs 208 per kg. Pulse Masoor will be sold at Rs 163 and Rs 168 per

kg, pulse masoor (small) at Rs

172 and 178 per Kg. - APP

FAISALABAD: Women must concentrate on the grooming of young generation in order to establish a true Islamic welfare state on the pattern of "Riast-e- Madina" in Pakistan, said Mrs. Nighat Shahid, President Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FWCCI).

She was addressing a "Milad Conference" specially arranged during the month of "Rabi-ul-Awal. President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) Mr. Atif Munir also participated in this spiritual sitting.

A large number of women attended it which was held in the paid poetic tribute to the prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him

FWCCI appreciat-President ed the decision of the present Government to observe "Aishra Rahmat-ul Aalmeen" in a most befitting manner and said that although every follower of Islam observe the birth day of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) with great reverence but with the involvement of Government, it would be celebrated with more festivity and in a much organized manner. She said that we must explain various aspects of the life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and convince our children to follow his (PBUH) footprint to lead a blessed life in this



world and the hereafter. Continuing, she said that FWCCI will be re-organized to make it more efficient and productive by

giving due representation to the female population of this region. She said that she would cooperate with her wingers to restore the dynamism of FWCCI.

She said that women must get membership of FWCCI so that we could resolve their issues through

our joint efforts. She also appreciated various finance schemes especially announced for the female population and said that in order to give awareness to them about these schemes, she would arrange regular awareness sessions in FWC-CI. She also stressed the need to equip young talented girls with different skills so that they could start their own businesses and play their role in the national

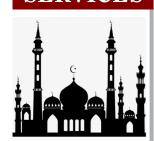
She said that training courses of mobile repairing, computer application, digital marketing etc would also be arranged for their capacity building.

She said that in order to encourage women currently working at the cottage level, an exhibition would be arranged in the month of November. "It will help them to showcase their products in an organized manner", she said and added that FWCCI was already in contact with FPCCI so that a delegation of FWCCI could participate in the Pakistan Pavilion in Dubai 2020. She said that we will also request FPCCI to allocate a reasonable space for the stalls of FWCCI

### Women must focus on training young generation

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

### **SERVICES**



#### **Namaz Timings**

Fajr 04:55 a	m
Zohr 11:52 a	m
Asr 03:47 p	m
Maghrib 05:26 p	m
Isha 06:49 p	m



#### **Hotels &** Restaurants

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



**Airlines** 

Turkish Airlines.....8494949



#### **Emergency**

Rescue (Police)	)15		
Bomb Disposal	15		
Fire Services	Rawalpindi/		
Islamabad	1122 & 16		
Emergency Aml	oulance1122		
& Rescue Servi	ices.4451122		
Motorway Polic	e9266044		
Motorway Police9270601-20			
Women Polic	e Stations		
Islamabad	9222596		
Rawalnindi	9270601-20		

qo,	
Edhi Ambulance	115
PIAFlightInfo	114
PIACargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange92	270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092



### **Hospitals**

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



### **Departments**

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



### **Complaints**

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

#### Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation3203224		
Potohar Town	9209224	
RawalTown	5773343	

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

### NAVTTC and KPIT join hands to uplift youth skills

Memorandum of understanding focuses to take measures to mobilize youth and provide them with a conducive learning environment

DNA

ISLAMABAD: NAVTTC & KPIT Board has signed an MOU for mutual collaboration in order to enhance skills of today's youth. Skill Development is at the top on the current government's agenda and we are focused to take special measures to mobilize youth and provide them with a conducive learning environment so that they are in a better position to explore their abilities and skills.

In this context, National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Technology Board agreed to enhance the cooperation in the field of high-tech training programs by signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU).

The MoU between the two organizations would cover wide array of high-tech training programs including cyber security, cloud computing, Internet of things, graphic

Institute of S

090



ISLAMABAD: MOU signing ceremony between NAVTTC & KPITB, witnessed by SAPM Mr. Usman Dar, Minister KP Mr. Atif Khan, Secretary Federal Education Ms. Farah Hamid Khan, Chairman NAVTTC Syed Javed Hassan. Signed by ED NAVTTC Sajid Baloch & Secretary ST & IT KP Dr. Amber Khan. – DNA

designing etc. This MoU will play with demand driven high-end entrepreneurial or digital facing vital role in equipping the youth skills of today's world as they offer opportunities. The MoU signing

try of Federal Education and Professional Training. The MoU was signed by Secretary Department of Science & Technology and Information Technology KPK, Dr. Amber Ali Khan and Executive Director NAVTTC, Mr. Sajid Baloch. The MoU will contribute significantly to overhaul the skill training system in Pakistan and to develop a highly-skilled, dynamic, and internationally competitive youth workforce as envisaged by the current government. This collaboration will also be fruitful in achieving the objectives of Prime Minister's Hunarmand Pakistan (Skills for All) program.

The MoU signing ceremony was witnessed bySAPM on Youth Affairs, Mr. Muhamamd Usman Dar, and Provincial Minister for Science & Technology and IT, Mr.Atif Khan, Chairman NAVT-TC, Syed Javed Hassan and Federal Secretary, M/o Federal Education and Professional Training, Ms. Farah Hamid Khan.

### Each family in Puniab to get 1M PKR per year

**legislative** 

agenda unaddressed

STAFF REPORT ISLAMABAD:The National

Assembly left the legislative agenda unaddressed on Friday and was prorogued sine

die due to lack of quorum. The House did not consider

four bills on the agenda in-

cluding the Public Procure-

ment Regulatory Authority

(Amendment) Bill, 2021; the

Criminal Laws (Amendment)

Bill, 2021; the Government

Savings Bank (Amendment)

Bill, 2021 and the Post Office

National Savings Certificates

The House did not take up

two calling attention notices

regarding excessive charges

of medical consultancy and

treatment in private hospitals

and share of the Government

advertisement in the digital

media for the year 2020-21.

A motion of thanks to the

President for his address to

Parliament was not taken up.

Syed Naveed Qamar (PPPP)

pointed out the quorum

which was found incomplete

upon counting and the ses-

sion was prorogued sine

die. It was the 37th session

of the National Assembly and the second session of

the 4th parliamentary year.

(Amendment) Bill, 2021.

News desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said on Friday that after Khyber Pakhtunkhwa every family in Punjab will now be able to get up to Rs 1 million every year through Sehat-Insaf Card. In a tweet, he said through this extensive facility quality treatment will now be available to everyone from the poorest to the middle class. Big relief, he said, would be given on health, education and the four basic necessities including flour sugar, pulses and ghee.

Fawad said the process of issuance of SehatInsaf Cards would start in December and by March the whole Punjab will have these cards. He said that the card holders will be free to use them at any doctor's clinic or hospital of their choice. The minister said that not only public but private doctors and hosnitals will also be available for free of cost treatment.

IRSA releases

61939 cusecs

water from

Tarbela

ISLAMABAD: Indus River

System Authority (IRSA) re-

leased 61939 cusecs water

from various rim stations

with an inflow of 62712

cusecs on Friday. Accord-

ing to the data released by

IRSA, the water level in the

Indus River at Tarbela Dam

was 1511.70 feet, which was

119.07 feet higher than its

dead level of 1392 feet. Water

inflow and outflow in the dam

were recorded at 33200 and

The water level in the

Jhelum River at Mangla

Dam was 1179.65 feet.

which was 129.65 feet high-

er than its dead level of

1050.00 feet whereas the

inflow and outflow of water

were recorded at 12573 and

The release of water at

Kalabagh, Taunsa, and Suk-

kur was recorded at 33311,

39654, and 35995 cusecs

10000 cusecs respectively.

35000 cusecs respectively.



Over 20 heads of states from across the region would endorse targets for shared environmental commitments. Talking to media, Ashrafi, who is also Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) Chairman, said Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were enjoying cordial and long lasting ties. He said Prime Minister Imran Khan would also leave for Saudi Arabia on Saturday to participate in the summit and he (Ashrafi) was part of PM's entourage.

The "Green Saudi Arabia" and Green Middle East "initiatives were gift for the whole world, he said adding that Saudi crown prince Muhammad Bin Salman had invited the prime minister to visit Saudi Arabia to attend the summit. Besides performing Umrah and visiting Roza e Rasoom (PBUH), the Prime Minister would also hold important meetings with Saudi Crown Prince and Saudi leadership, he added. - APP

### IGP for collective efforts to make drug free Islamabad

### SHUJAAT KHOKHAR

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Qazi Jamil urRehman Friday emphasized the need for collective efforts to make Islamabad a drug-free city. He stated this while delivering a lecture to the students of COMSATS especially held to aware them about harms of using drugs. The IGP appealed the parents, elders of families and teachers to keep continuous check on activities of children for their bright and secure future.

The ceremony was attended among others by Rector COMSATS University Muhammad Afzal Tabassum, police officials, senior faculty members and a large number of students. Qazi Jamil ur Rehman urged the students to focus on their studies, keep vigilant eye on their surroundings and inform the police in case of observing any suspicious activity. The IGP said stern action was being ensured against those involved in drug pushing activities or using drugs.

He said that anti-narcotics unit had been also established by Islamabad police to get rid of drug menace and ensure effective efforts against drug peddling activities. The police chief said that police had contacted various religious scholars, teachers, members of civil society, traders and other notables and also sought their cooperation against the menace. During the ongoing year, he said that effective action was ensured against drug pushers and cache of narcotics including heroin, hashish, ice and cocaine was recovered from them.

He said that most of the nabbed persons used to supply drugs at educational institutions while use of narcotics had significantly decline through efforts of Islamabad police. He said an awareness campaign had been also launched by the police in educational institutions and students were briefed about harms of drug use.

### ITP issues traffic alert

ISLAMABAD: Director General ISSI Former Ambassador Aitzaz Chaudhry presenting

a memento to Ambassador of Kazakhstan during his visit to the Institute and

a talk on Pakistan, Kazakhstan relations. – DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) on Friday issued a traffic alert for the city amid a protest call with the purpose to avoid inconvenience to the citizens. According to the police, traffic going to Rawalpindi from 9th Avenue Islamabad and from Faizabad is diverted to IIP Rd as diversion has been placed for both sides of traffic at 9th Avenue Signal from and to

Stadium Rd Rawalpindi. Diversion has been also placed for both sides of traffic at Murree Road, Faizul-Islam stop, from and to Faizabad. Alternatively, traffic going from Islamabad to Murree Road Rawalpindi is diverted to Islamabad Highway. Similarly, diversion has been placed for both sides of traffic from Express Chowk to D Chowk at Jinnah Avenue and NADRA Chowk and Avub Chowk can be used for

Red Zone entry and exit. Diversion has been made for traffic from Islamabad Highway to IJP Rd at Sohan Stop and traffic is diverted alternatively to Faisal Avenue. Police said that additional deployment has been also made on the main and busy avenues of Islamabad to guide road users. - APP

### 'Economy developing under Khan's leadership'

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Infor- 28% to US \$4.437 billion whereas exports mation and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib said on Friday that the national economy was on the path of development under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan. In a tweet, the minister said that in the first quarter of the current financial year, foreign remit-

tances increased by 12.5% and stood at US \$8 billion whereas exports increased by 38% with US \$7 billion. He said that the FBR has collected Rs1395 billion in taxes in the first quarter, up by 38 per cent. He said that textile exports rose by

have risen by 42.7% to US \$635 million. Large scale manufacturing increased by 7.5% in first 2 months of July-August, Farrukh Habib said. After 30 years, a prime minister had turned his attention towards agriculture sector and surplus produce would ensure Pakistan's food security. According to preliminary reports, sugarcane production was expected to increase by 25%, maize by 18%, cotton by 60% and rice by 18%, Farrukh Habib said. He hoped next year wheat

### production would also increase. - APP Development work in I-12 likely to begin soon

ISLAMABAD: After the experimental success of dumping site in Sector H-16 of Islamabad, development work in I-12 is likely to start soon. The biggest obstacle in the development work of I-12 was dumping site there. Now after CDA board decided to establish a temporary dumping site, in Sector H-16 of Islamabad to expedite these development works as directed

by the CDA administration and to protect the citizens of Islamabad from environmental pollution and provide a healthy environment. In this regard the test run of selected temporary dumping site was set successfully completed today and the road plan was found to be viable. A summary of environment impact will be submitted to EPA, then, it will be made operational 100 percent, until a permanent dumping site is set up at Mandra. - DNA



### **Clean & Green Pak : ICCI starts tree plantation drive**

Around 5 percent land area of Pakistan was under forest while the global average ratio of forest cover was over 30 percent: Chairman ICCI Muhammad Shakeel Munir

### KHAYYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Muhammad Shakeel Munir on Friday started tree plantation drive by planting a 'Moringa' sapling in Sihala Flour Mill, Industrial Area, Islamabad to support the PM's vision of promoting clean and green Pakistan. Speaking at the occasion, said that promoting healthy environment was

key preference of ICCI and Chamber had launched a 'Go Green Drive' to plant maximum trees in the federal capital, said a press release issued.

He stressed upon the business community to plant more trees in commercial centers and industrial areas to support the PM's target of planting 10 billion trees in his term.

The president said that just around 5 percent land area of Pakistan was under forest while the global average ratio of forest cover was over kistan to plant maximum 30 percent. Therefore, it trees to enhance forestawas very important for Pation and promote a healthy



proper care should also be taken of planted trees as the survival rate of plants was almost 50 percent due to various factors including damage to the plants by animals and termite.

Chairman, Founder Group, MianAkramFarid that more and more trees would be planted in Islamabad to make it a greener city of the country.

He also appealed to the business community, other organizations and the mem-

environment. He said that bers of civil society to take active part in the tree plantation campaign and plant maximum saplings to make Islamabad a greener and beautiful city of the country. Vice President ICCI, Muhammad Faheem Khan, Chairman Founder Group, MianAkramFarid, Sadiq, MianShaukatMasud. Abdul Rehman Khan, Karim Aziz Malik, Mukhtar Ahmed, OmaisKhattak, Shaukat Mehmood Hayat Khan, Ahmed Warraich and others

were also present.

#### respectively. - APP No additional marks for matric-inter students

ISLAMABAD: The intermediate education boards throughoutthe country have rejected the policy of passing students by grantingthem five percent additional marks. The decision was taken at the meeting of the Intermediate Board Chairmen Committee (IBCC) held in Karachi on Friday. The IBCC members opposed the policy, saying the students' ability tolearn is diminishing due to the additional marks. The IBCC maintained that the students would have now to take examinationthis vear to get the elevation to the next classes. - **DNA** 

#### Saturday, October 23, 2021

COVID-19

claims three more lives

RAWALPINDI: Three more corona patients had lost their

battle of life, while 28 new cases were tested positive

According to the daily situation report issued by the

District Health Authority on

Friday, among the new cas-

es, ten belonged to Rawal-

pindi Cantt, seven from Po-

tohar town, four from Rawal

town, while one each case

has emerged from Gujar

Khan, Taxila, Kalar Syeda,

Kahutta, Murree, KPK, Is-

"Presently 12 coronavirus

confirmed patients were

admitted in Benazir Bhutto

Hospital,19 in Institute of

Urology, two in Fauji Foun-

dation Hospital and one in

Holy Family Hospital ", the

The report updated that one

patient was on ventilators in

critical condition.17 stable

and 19 on oxygen support.

"As many as 3,107,402 peo-

ple including 43,353 health

workers and 3.064.049 other

citizens have jabbed them-

selves so far against the lethal

coronavirus while the positiv-

ity ratio during the past 24

hours was recorded at 1.80

per cent in the district," it

added. – APP

lamabad and Attock.

report said.

during the last 24 hours.

### Briefs

### World Snow Leopard Day to create awareness

ISLAMABAD: World is celebrating The international Snow Leopard Day to mark the healthy existence of the elusive cat necessary for healthy ecosystems and creating awareness on protection of the endangered species. The theme for International Snow Leopard Day 2021 was "Healthy Snow Leopard Population – Healthy Ecosystems".

The Day, also known as the World Snow Leopard Day, is an annual observance that takes place on 23rd October. This day provides an opportunity to celebrate these magnificent big cats.

On 23 October 2013, a declaration for the conservation of the snow leopard was adopted in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. All 12 snow leopard range countries adopted this resolution including Pakistan.

The resolution emphasized the need for urgent collective action to protect and recover snow leopard populations and their habitat. It was also declared that International Snow Leopard Day will be celebrated on 23 October each year so the first Snow Leopard Day was celebrated on 23 October 2014.

The eighth International Snow Leopard Day would be celebrated on Saturday, 23 October 2021.

Pakistan Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Programme (PSLEP) National Project Manager, Jaffar Ud Din told APP that the Snow Leopard Foundation (SLF) under the supervision of the Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) initiated a GEF-UNDP funded five-year project since, 2018 to address the issue. – APP

### 95 more dengue cases reported

RAWALPINDI: As many as 95 new dengue cases arrived at the City allied hospitals during the last 24 hours, while eight patients were in a critical position at Holy Family Hospital(H-EH)

This was stated by District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control, Dr Sajjad Mehmood, here Friday. "This year around 1964 dengue cases were brought to the three public sector hospitals of the city so far, who were provided with the required treatment and 1861 discharged after recovery".

During the last 24 hours, the HFH has registered 56 cases of dengue fever; District Headquarters Hospital(DHQ)registered 16, while 23 patients were registered with Benazir Bhutto Hospital(BBH), he informed.

"Presently, 183 dengue patients are under treatment in HFH out of which 58 are positive, eight positive out of 12 in BBH and 37 confirmed cases out of the total 52 admitted in DHQ hospital," Dr Sajjad

He added that there were 274 beds available at the allied hospitals to deal with the rising number of dengue patients, including 175 beds at HFH,69 in DHQ hospital and 30 in Benazir Bhutto Hospital. – APP

#### ANF seizes 631 kg drugs, arrests 2

ISLAMABAD: Anti Narcotics Force Balochistan and ANF Intelligence on Friday conducted joint operation, recovered a huge quantity of hashish from oil-tanker and arrested two suspects, near Hub Bypass at RCD Road.

According to ANF Spokesperson, the recovered hashish weight was 631 Kgs which was concealed in secret cavities made in different parts of the Tanker. During the course of action, two suspects residents of Pishin, were arrested on the spot.

The arrested suspects, residents of Pishin, were trying to smuggle drugs from Quetta to Karachi. Further investigation has been initiated and case has been registered under CNS Act against both the accused. – APP

## Experts call for enhancing modern military trends

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, said that four main trends are apparent. There are incentives for an arms race, a multipolarity of powers where every power is guided by unilateralism and other powers react

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Arms Control and Disarmament Centre (ACDC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI) organised a webinar on "Emerging Global Military Trends and National Security: Challenges and Options" on October 21, 2021. Eminent speakers included Dr Asma Shakir Khawaja, HOD, Department of Strategic Studies, National Defence University (NDU), Dr Ivan V. Danilin, Associate Professor, Moscow State Institute of International Relations, Russia, Air Vice Marshal (Retd.) Faaiz Amir, former Vice-Chancellor Air University, and Dr Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, Professor SPIR, Quaid-i-Azam University.

Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC-ISSI in his introductory remarks said that a careful review of military spending trends reflects that all the major powers are involved in strategic competition and investing in their weapons and military modernisation programmes. Major states are engaged in a new arms race and spending more and more on modern and lethal weapons technologies. India, the third-largest military spender in the world wanted to modernise its armed forces

and has concluded major defence deals with Russia, the US and Israel. Some major powers have already withdrawn from key international arms control treaties and norms and have shifted to warfighting doctrines and postures.

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, said that four main trends are apparent. There are incentives for an arms race, a multipolarity of powers where every power is guided by unilateralism and other powers react.

The second trend is pre-emption versus deterrence. States build capabilities for pre-emption that has increased the potential for conflicts. Also, realpolitik has trumped all ethics. Last but not least, there is greater reliance on emerging technologies especially Artificial Intelligence (AI). This will increase the gap between the haves and have-nots. Overall, he concluded that it looks like a grim picture.

Dr Asma Shakir Khawaja, talking about "Emerging Military Trends and Reconceptualisation of National Security" emphasised non-traditional military trends in security. She said that the trend of information warfare, which is increasingly sophisticated, creates a fog of war. The second trend is the use of cy-

ber technology as a tool of warfare that has the potential to shut down offensive and defensive systems and command and control systems. She also talked about the proliferation of hypersonic missiles that have

changed deterrence equations and increased chances of escalation. National security is not only about able to persuade the adversary by force. Coercive methods of warfare have been replaced by soft methods. National security conceptualisation is multidimensional now – military and non-military, traditional and non-traditional.

Dr Ivan V. Danilin said that digital technology presently is 4-5 % of global GDP. The civilian high tech sector can affect the security of a state. It is important to know that the globalisation of the digital sector. The globalised structure is a matter of regional and global security and features prominently in the policies of states. High technology markets conflicts are now real. The US sanctioned 5G technology developed by China. There are trade and economic wars among major powers. There is rising securitisation of technology. China and the US's digital markets are a zero-sum game. There is a competition where the adversary state is prevented from gaining dominance. He said that we cannot afford to get into the digital arms race.

Air Vice-Marshal (Retd.) Faaiz Amir talking about "Emerging Military Trends and Future of Warfare" said that interstate and intrastate conflicts show a decline.

However, the space between war and peace is not empty. He further said that the lines between foreign and domestic, national and international wars have been blurred. Disruptive technologies are having an impact on warfare.

Future warfare will use speed, information warfare and AI. Thus, the decision-making process in warfare will require greater speed. Kinetics engagements will be less and will depend on the capacity of the state, the prevalence of democracy, ethnicity and economic growth as well as military capacity. Modern warfare is more on the lines of Hybrid warfare. Dr Zafar Nawaz Jaspal said that military modernisation is about more than hardware, it is about organisational reforms, command, control and doctrines. Pakistan armed forces have been going through up-gradation. Pakistan has to keep in mind the adversary's capabilities. India has been working on integrated offensive and defensive systems. India had invested in offensive and

defensive missile capability as well as hypersonic missiles with the help of the US and Israel. Talking about the options for Pakistan, he said that there is a need to modernise and be competent in air, land, sea, space, cyberspace and AI. Pakistan needs to invest in technologies like hypersonic missiles, cruise and ballistic missiles, cybersecurity, IA, area-denial capabilities and space capabilities. He emphasised the need to work with China and attract new partners like Russia to keep pace with Indian

modernisation.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman Board of Governors, ISSI, concluded by saying that new technologies are causing concerns in the civil and military domains. It also has an impact on issues of deterrence and conduct of warfare. As the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, said "whoever dominates in IA would control the world."

These technologies have changed the character of the battlefield. On one hand, these technologies have benefits but on the other hand, they are also disruptive.

They are leading to arms races. He emphasised the need to develop regulations to control emerging new technologies through international cooperation.

circulating in the different

Despite patchy surveillance, a total of 53,498

cases with 95 deaths due

to dengue fever were re-

ported during 2019 while

6.016 cases were reported

during 2020, and 3,795

activities for curtailing the

transmission of dengue fe-

This advisory is therefore,

intended to facilitate the

healthcare authorities and

professionals in effectively

dealing the potential chal-

lenge during the Dengue season. - APP

ver disease.

areas of the country.

### Admission for free E-Rozgaar programme announced

RAWALPINDI: Admission for free E-Rozgaar Training Programme 2021 has been announced for unemployed youth of Rawalpindi district. Applications are now open for E-Rozgaar Training Programme 2021 and the youngsters who have completed 16 years education can get registered to become part of the training programme.

The training programme was launched by the Youth Affairs and Sports Department government of Punjab in collaboration with the Punjab Information Technology Board.

The E-Rozgaar Training Programme aims to empower the unemployed youth by giving them training in Free Lancing and different digital skills.

According to a district ad-

ministration spokesman, a large number of unemployed youth after getting the training are earning their livelihood through free lancing using digital skills. He informed that the unemployed youth between the age of 16 to 35 years having domicile of Punjab are eligible to get the admission in the course. – APP



RAWALPINDI: Nadeem Rauf, President, Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), receiving souvenir from Adam M. Tugio, Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan. – DNA

### RCCI delegation calls on Indonesian envoy, discuss bilateral ties

Amb. Adam M. Tugio said that Indonesia, Pakistan have deep and friendly relations. Indonesia desired to increase trade ties with Pakistan

SHAHEEN HANIF

RAWALPINDI: A delegation led by Nadeem Rauf, President, Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), called on Adam M. Tugio, Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan and discussed ways to enhance bilateral trade relations at the Chamber of Commerce level, increase bilateral trade and exchange of delegations.

The delegation included Senior Vice President Asim Mahmood Malik ,Vice President Tallat Awan , former president Mohammad Nasir Mirza

and executive members. Talking to the delegation, Ambassador Adam M. Tugio said that Indonesia and Pakistan have deep and friendly relations. The Ambassador said that Indonesia desired to increase trade ties with Pa-

kistan.

Bilateral trade volume though in favor of Indonesia was very low and needed to be increased, he added. Pakistan could take advantage of trade opportunities to increase cooperation in agricultural machinery and pharmaceuticals, he said. The envoy lauded Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry efforts in

promoting regional trade. RCCI President Nadeem Rauf briefed the Ambassador on the ongoing activities of the Rawalpindi Chamber and said that the Pakistan exports to Indonesia are below \$240, which are very low and suggested that there is a need to explore new sectors for joint ventures. He said there was also a need for exploring new

He said there was also a need for exploring new trade avenues, business opportunities between Pakistan and Indonesia. Bilateral trade in services, Edibles, tourism, halal food and agriculture can

be enhanced. He also invited the Ambassador to the Chamber.

### Exhibition 'Stillness in Movement' is in full swing

ISLAMABAD: A two weeklong exhibition titled 'Stillness in Movement' is in full swing at Tanzara Gallery, featuring artwork of highly accomplished artist Farrukh Adnan.

Farrukh Adnan is a highly accomplished artist recognised home and abroad. In his technically accomplished paintings, the aspect of memory plays a very important role

important role.
Adnan wanders through the ruins of his ancestral town recording in microscopic detail with pen and ink, whether on wasli or canvas, his impressions and findings as marks, dots and lines.

impressions and findings as marks, dots and lines. To stand in front of Farrukh Adnan's artworks is to be drawn into a meditative space and time. Adnan received his bachelor's in visual communication design from the National College of Arts in Lahore in 2009. — APP

### NIH, the objective of the advisory was to sensitize human and animal health care authorities to further strengthen and improve the level of preparedness in prevention and control cases were reported up to September 2021. It is imperative to work on prevention while staying vigilant for detection of cases and ensuring preparedness to launch response

NIH issues advisory

on prevention of dengue fever

ISLAMABAD: Keeping in its multiple serotypes are

of the disease.

As per advisory, dengue is a viral disease transmitted by mosquitoes of the genus Aedes (Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus). It is endemic in almost all geographical regions of

Pakistan and there are

substantial evidences that

view the seasonal trends

of dengue fever, the Field

Epidemiology and Dis-

ease Surveillance Division

(FEDSD) of National In-

stitutes of Health (NIH)

has issued advisory on

prevention and control of

the disease. According to

### CDA to plant 12000 fruit saplings

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) would plant some 12000 fruit saplings into various blocks at the Pak Secretariat under the 'Clean and Green Pakistan' campaign. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on CDA, Ali Nawaz Awan said after inaugurating a tree plantation drive at the Pak Secretariat, here on Friday. Talking to media, he said the fruit trees included red blood orange, fig, apricot, peach, apple, lemon, pomegranate, grewia asiatica and lychee. He said the federal apex agency has launched a massive tree plantation drive across the city to increase green cover of the federal capital. Under the drive, he said a record number of sapling have been planted in private and public sector educational institutes. Similarly, he said the author-

ity has developed around 35

areas of the capital city on the direction of Prime Minister Imran Khan. In these forests, the CDA

Miyawaki forest in various

planted three indigenous saplings of cheer, Dodonaea Viscosa (Sanatha) and Bauhinia Variegata (Kachnar), he added.

The Miyawaki Forest is a

method of tree plantation which was introduced by Japanese botanist and expert in plant ecology, Akira Miyawaki.

SAPM Ali Nawaz said the government has taken multiple environment friendly steps that had been acknowledged worldwide.

wide.
British Prime Minister (PM)
Boris Johnson and Saudi
Crown Prince, he said also
appreciated the Pakistan's
ambitious "Ten Billion Trees
Tsunami project' that was
launched to overcome climate issues. – APP

### MoU signed to develop KASB as 'STZ'

ISLAMABAD: Khadim Ali Shah Bukhari Institute of Technology (KASBIT) and Special Technology Zone Authority (STZA) Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to plan and develop a Special Technology Zone (STZ) in Karachi. The STZ will provide tech-

nology companies, including startups, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), and multinationals a high-tech business environment to promote technology-driven growth in Pakistan, said a press release issued by SECP here.

The MoU Signing Ceremony took place at the site of KASB Altitude Building in Clifton, Karachi which will apply for the Special Technology Zone as per STZA Rules 2021 for the status of Zone Developer after due consultation on legal framework with the Government of Sindh.

While speaking at the MoU Signing Ceremony, Chairman of the STZA, Mr. Amer Hashmi, said "Pakistan is at a turning point in its technological history. "We hear of Pakistani startups receiving enormous amounts of funding almost every day now which for us is a source of immense pride" he said.

It is our duty to provide these brilliant entrepreneurial and innovative minds with conducive environments that facilitate them to achieve their full potential.

He said that STZA focuses on an ecosystem approach to harness the country's technology potential and work towards scientific and technological growth and development. We commend KASB Group for taking the lead and initiating work to develop the KASB Altitude for this purpose." – APP

### Prof. M. Iqbal honoured with 'Mustafa (PBUH) Prize'

Five scientists each from Pakistan, Iran, Bangladesh, Lebanon and Morocco have been awarded The Mustafa Prize in their respective fields of study

Bangladesh, Lebanon and Morocco have

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Mustafa (PBUH) Prize – International symbol of scientific excellence – for the year of 2021 has been awarded to Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary for his discovery of fascinating molecules with therapeutic applications. Mustafa(pbuh) Prize award ceremony held on October 21 at Vahdat Hall in Tehran.

"For decades I have worked tirelessly and selflessly with the single aim of contributing to the alleviation of the suffering of people through my scientific discoveries. This award has strengthened my resolve to continue this work with sincerity of purpose and selfless motivation," Prof. Chaudhary said in his award speech

Choudhary said in his award speech. Mustafa Science and Technology Foundation holds the event biennially in Iran during the Islamic Unity Week that spans the two dates narrated by Sunnis and Shias as the birth anniversary of Prophet Muham-

mad (PBUH). The Mustafa Prize, a top science and technology award, is granted biennially to



the top researchers and scientists of the Islamic world in four categories: "Life and Medical Science and Technology", "Nanoscience and Nanotechnology", "Information and Communication Science and Technology", and "All areas of science

and technology". The Mustafa Prize was established in 2012 as a symbol of scientific excellence at the international level, and it is regarded as Nobel prize of the Muslim world.

chnology". The Mustafa Prize was shed in 2012 as a symbol of scienses of the control of the cont

Five scientists each from Pakistan, Iran,

and European press. He has secured 40 US patents so far.
Dr. Iqbal's work has been cited by the researchers from around the world by 27,407 times and his h-index is 70. By now 94 national and international scholars have completed their PhD degrees under

been awarded The Mustafa Prize in their

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary is

world renowned medicinal chemist. He

has published 1,175 research papers in the

fields of organic and bioorganic chemistry

in international journals, 76 books and 40

chapters in books published by major US

respective fields of study.

his supervision.
Dr. Iqbal is D.Sc., Ph.D., and C. Chem.
He has been awarded by different governments of Pakistan with Hilal-e-Imtiaz, Sitara-e-Imtiaz, and Tamgha-e-Imtiaz. He has been elected fellow by world renowned science academies named Academy of Sciences for the Developing World, Islamic World academy of Sciences, Pakistan Academy of Sciences, Royal Society of Chemistry, and

Chemical Society of Pakistan.

### Worsening Deficit

YEAR makes quite a difference when it comes to the economy. Pakistan's current account was doing better than it had fared before 2020. The current account balance stood at a surplus of \$30 million in September 2020. There were a number of reasons for this upward trend—the world economy had, in general, worsened due to the shock of the global pandemic, with developed countries facing economic crises. Pakistan was also emphasising exports and was seeing a growth in exports.

However, as those favourable factors in 2020 now recline and the global economy recovers from the pandemic, this upward trend for Pakistan's current account is also reversing, for the worse. This financial year is off to a bad start, with the month of September seeing Pakistan's current account deficit at \$1.113 billion in September. The best thing one can say is that it is an improvement from the \$1.473 billion deficit in August; still, the statistics are incriminating and indicate burdensome challenges for the road ahead.

There are a number of reasons for the slump of the current account. According to the State Bank of Pakistan, the increase in the deficit is more circumstantial, due to a strong rebound in economic activity and higher international commodity prices. However, the major problem roots back to the sad state of the currency-the Rupee reached a new record low on Wednesday, selling at 173.45 against the dollar in the interbank market to continue a slide that saw it lose more than 13.5 percent since May. The import policies of Pakistan are not being adjusted to the rapid devaluation of the Rupee-every devaluation, which now seems to be occurring every day, is an extraneous burden on the import bill, leading to a larger deficit. Our imports are currently almost double our exports. This is not sustainable. Those in charge need to adjust the import bill to a an amount that is feasible.

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### Rising Militancy

HE security situation in the border regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and the former tribal areas remains volatile as on Wednesday it was reported that five security personnel were martyred in two attacks. In addition to the tragic casualties, two civilians have been injured in the attacks as well. As per reports, the first bomb attack targeted a vehicle and when the police squad was moving towards the blast site, the second bomb exploded. The frequency of the attacks taking place in the border areas is extremely concerning. While internal security mechanisms need to be looked at, there is only so much the security agencies can do given the growing presence of militants in Afghanistan across the border.

The attacks in Bajaur district were claimed by the TTP, but reports emerged that in the Shahpur area of Peshawar, a counter-terrorism operation was conducted where three terrorists belonging to Islamic State-Khurasan (ISIS-K) were killed. A senior official from the Counter Terrorism Department revealed that all three individuals were residents of Afghanistan. While the TTP has been emboldened over the past few months, ISIS-K has also been growing its footprint as it has carried out a series of high-profile attacks in Afghanistan following the departure of US troops.

The growing presence of ISIS-K needs to be addressed urgently because the threat is not going to be just limited to Afghanistan, but will in fact spill over to a number of neighbouring countries. The Taliban realises that conducting a counter terrorism operation while the country teeters on the brink of economic collapse is going to be a very tall task. Tackling ISIS-K on its own will result in a prolonged and deadly conflict which will generate instability at both the national and regional levels. This perhaps explains why the Taliban agreed to work with Russia, China and Iran on regional security during the talks held in Moscow this week. This is certainly an encouraging development since a collaborative regional effort to stem cross-border militant movement, recruitment, alliances and funding sources is the only way forward.

### The politics of military manoeuvres in the ME

Ismail NumanTelci



The participation of the US in the exercises with Israel led to regional countries increasingly viewing these routine exercises as a foreign policy tool and added an international dimension to its ongoing regional use. Yet the goal of deterrence cannot be attained by mobilisation

N September, Saudi Arabia and the UAE held joint military exercises with Egypt and Greece. The presence of Israel and risk for regional instability pushed Iran to conduct military drills on the borders of Azerbaijan in early October. The exercises did not stop here. Months after naval drills in January 2021, Egypt and Russia started conducting a military exercise this week. The aim of a military exercise is to illustrate a "show of strength" against a third country, sometimes by national armies and in other cases with the participation of the regional allies. They exhibit the technical and tactical capacity of an army, demonstrate its competence in conflict processes and put possible war strategies into practice.

But the political rivalry between leading actors in the Middle East has led to the emergence of a new phenomenon: the use of military exercises as a foreign policy tool. Countries that tend to show power are increasingly using military exer-

cises as a tool of deterrence. Armies with lesser capacities than those of a rival country, or whose operational capabilities are more limited, ignore these facts and diverge into exercises.

The rise of military exercises

The Iranian army's "Khyber Conquerors" exercise near the Azerbaijan-Armenia border due to Baku's close cooperation with Tehran's regional rivals during the Nagorno-Karabakh War, Israel, and possibly Turkey - has been one of the most provocative examples in the show of force among the competing countries in the Middle East. The exercise could damage the already-fragile security climate and military balance in the region. The slightest military escalation may spiral into a war once more. But this time, the situation could have far broader regional and international implications. While it is possible that military exercises will be somehow detrimental to regional security, it seems unlikely that countries will achieve their goals only through exercises.

Other recent military exercises are in the eastern Mediterranean. Greece, whose military capacity is significantly below the regional average, has been conducting military exercises in the past months to intimidate Turkey, with which it has diplomatic disagreements on many issues. In August 2020, the Greek army conducted a military exercise with other Mediterranean coun-

tries like France and Italy.

Greece's use of military exercises as a tool has also included other Middle Eastern countries. On September 23-26, 2021, the special forces of Saudi Arabia, as well as the Emirati and Egyptian armies, conducted a military exercise in the Greek capital, Athens. The exercise aimed to facilitate and intensify military cooperation, training and

experience-sharing between the countries.

In this regard, the military exercise, organised by four countries that are not traditional allies, but have come together due to their respective geopolitical positions against Ankara, can be considered as part of a containment policy towards Turkey. Nonetheless, the main purpose of the military exercises of Greece and other countries is to emphasise military cooperation in the region against Turkey. In this sense, it is understandable for nations who rely on Western countries as their major source of defense industry to conduct joint military drills.

conduct joint military drills.

Since Turkey portrayed an effective use of air systems and defence capacity through its national inventory in conflict areas such as Karabakh, Libya and Syria, the countries in the region intended to show that they also possess similar capacity.

Egypt is another player aiming to establish mil-

itary deterrence via military means. The Egyptian army has conducted a number of exercises with the military forces of regional allies Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Sudan as well as international actors including the US, France and Italy. Egypt and Russia have also carried out military exercises for years. Whereas exercises between Egypt and Russia could serve as a message to the US, Egypt and France's joint activities aim to establish a coordinated positioning in the Eastern Mediterranean.

To deter or to escalate?

Every country participating in an exercise has their own objectives. The Middle Eastern states' joint exercises with Russia are likely a show of power and serve as Moscow's response to NATO's joint exercises conducted since 2018 near its sphere of influence. The recent exercise between the navies of the US and Israel in the Red Sea, and the inclusion of Israel within the US Central Command's operations have increased military activities in the region.

The participation of the US in the exercises with Israel led to regional countries increasingly viewing these routine exercises as a foreign policy tool and added an international dimension to its ongoing regional use. Yet the goal of deterrence cannot be attained by mobilisation; it can only be achieved through the rational and effective use of military power in areas of actual conflict. So even though these exercises are intended to be held for this purpose, in the international system, there are major distinctions between military drills and the application of hard power. Most of the time, these disparities can be attributed to historical capabilities, present capacity and the successful administration of national forces.

In the contemporary Middle East, states often favour military tools of foreign policy over political tools. However, actors using exercises to display military influence and capacity are states that are weak in terms of military capacity; their military exercises include the effort to take on stronger actors politically.

In this sense, the actors try to draw the US and Russia to their sides. In the end, military deterrence can be achieved through rational and justified activities of hard power on the ground, that is why military exercises will likely remain as rehearsals that include the possibility of destabilising the military balance in the region.

- Ismail NumanTelci is the Vice President of Center for Middle Eastern Studies (ORSAM). He is also an Associate Professor at the Middle East Institute (ORMER) and at the Department of International Relations at Sakarya University.

### How Daesh is leveraging Afghan geopolitics

Arif Rafiq

China is pulling back from high-risk markets. And the risk that its nationals will be targeted by IS-K will force it to maintain a distance from Afghanistan. Efforts by the Taliban to address Beijing's security concerns may inadvertently compound the problem for the former insurgent group, if it is seen as having conceded too much

RIF Rafiq is president of Vizier Consulting, LLC, a political risk advisory company focused on the Middle East and South Asia. Since the Taliban takeover in August, Islamic State-Khorasan (Daesh) has claimed responsibility for a series of high-profile terror attacks. including the suicide bombing near the Kabul airport. What is striking about IS-K is not just that it appears to be the sole major armed opposition group in an ethnically and tribally divided, heavily armed country, but also that some of its claimed attacks since the reimposition of Taliban rule seem motivated by broader strategic aims. Indeed, IS-K-or those using the brand – appears intent on manipulating the region's geopolitical fault lines and jeopardising Afghanistan's only real path to fiscal viability: connectivity and extractives.

Luring In Iran
IS-K has claimed responsibility for largescale terror attacks over the past two Fridays, targeting Shia Muslims in the north in Kunduz and in the south in Kandahar.

The assault on Shias is unsurprising. IS-K is a takfiri group with an established sectarian agenda. It has relentlessly targeted Shia communities — especially in Kabul's Dasht-e-Barchi neighborhood — during the previous Afghan government. Both recent attacks, especially the one in Kandahar — the Taliban's base — are also likely intended to undermine perceptions of Taliban control and authority.

There are also evident geopolitical dimensions to these attacks claimed by IS-K, as was the case with some early attacks attributed to the group. Firstly, these attacks complicate the Taliban's relations with Iran. Now in power, the Taliban bears the burden of protecting the population, including the Shia. But Tehran also sees itself as the defender of the world's Shias, including in Afghanistan. And it has a proven willingness to resort to extraterritorial action.

Both factors when combined with sectarian attacks by IS-K will reinforce the need for the Taliban to publicly position itself as defenders of Shia lives.

Should the Taliban fail to curb attacks on Afghan Shias, Iran could bolster armed Shia groups in Afghanistan, including the Quds Force-run international Afghan Shia militia, the Fatemiyoun. At the same time, Taliban outreach to Shias provides material for IS-K propaganda, potentially enabling the latter to absorb disgruntled anti-Shia hardliners. While sectarianism is not as pervasive in Afghanistan as compared to some other Muslim countries, IS-K - or those using the IS-K brand - could find that targeting the Shia compels the Taliban to perform a difficult balancing act between defending Afghan Shias and staving off Iran, while also placating anti-Shia hardliners.

IS-K has little to lose by continuing to kill innocent Shias. But if it manages to draw Iran into the fray, it could Syrianise the Afghanistan conflict and benefit from the resultant realignment of jihadist forces in the region. Deterring China

The purported use of ethnic Baloch and Uyghur suicide bombers in the Kandahar and Kunduz attacks claimed by IS-K suggests a message is being sent to two other neighbours of Afghanistan: China and Pakistan. Beijing is already alarmed by the rise in attacks on Chinese nationals in Pakistan, which has impacted its risk appetite for infrastructure construction and investment in Pakistan. IS-K may be signalling that, like other militant outfits in the region, it could leverage marginalised ethnic groups to exert veto power over the shaping of the region's economic geography.

Afghanistan is a resource-rich, conflict-rav-

aged, and infrastructure-poor country. It is highly dependent on foreign aid to finance its massive budget and trade deficits. These needs will become more acute as Afghanistan's economy contracts dramatically this year. The only real path toward financial solvency and sustainable economic growth is through extractives and transit trade. Chinese aid and investment would have to be an important part of this mix, though attracting inflows from Beijing will be a hard sell.

China is pulling back from high-risk markets. And the risk that its nationals will be targeted by IS-K will force it to maintain a distance from Afghanistan. Efforts by the Taliban to address Beijing's security concerns may inadvertently compound the problem for the former insurgent group, if it is seen as having conceded too much.

Through targeted terrorist strikes IS-K

Through targeted terrorist strikes, IS-K — or those wielding the IS-K brand — has the potential to develop a veto power over China's economic presence in Afghanistan, much like ethnic separatist groups in Pakistan have demonstrated. And in doing so, IS-K would jeopardise not just prospects for regional connectivity and trade, but also the very viability of the Taliban state.

What is IS-K?

Finally, when discussing IS-K, it is vital to recognise the uncertainty that surrounds the exact nature of the organisation, its connections to the parent group, and its own internal coherence as an affiliate.

It is clear that IS-K began as a collective of local Salafists who had been aligned with the Afghan Taliban and disgruntled Tehreek-e Taliban Pakistan fighters who were hosted by the previous Afghan regime. And it is geographically rooted in what has historically been a Salafi stronghold in eastern Afghanistan. (Abdur Rahim Muslim Dost, among the first Afghan militants who joined IS, was once an advisor to Jameelur-Rehman, leader of a Salafi Afghan mujahideen faction that formed an "emirate" in Kunar in 1991.)

But the group's purported leader today, who goes by the nom de guerre Shahab al-Muhajir, is a man of mystery. There is very little reliable public information on him. IS-K has yet to release a biography of him, an image revealing his face, or a recording of his voice. Statements written in his name are read by a deputy. And while his nisbah, al-Muhajir, triggered speculation that he was possibly an Arab "migrant" from Iraq or Syria, some claim that he is actually a local. In fact, a recent report by CBS News, citing unnamed security officials with the previous Afghan government, claims that al-Muhajir is not only an Afghan, but also a graduate of Kabul Polytechnic University. The report states that a raid by the previous regime's security forces indicated that al-Muhajir had been in possession of a card "identifying him as a member of the Afghan army.'

The CBS News report, which has yet to be corroborated by other sources, also claims that al-Muhajir is actually operating clandestinely within the Taliban as an "imposter," and even met with the Taliban's deputy head of intelligence, who was unaware of his true identity. The deception allegedly extends to within IS-K ranks with the group's own members meeting imposters purporting to be all Muhajir.

imposters purporting to be al-Muhajir. Now, these claims could be entirely concocted. And the general secrecy surrounding al-Muhajir could simply reflect a battered group practicing good security tradecraft. But what we don't know is the effect of such secrecy on the integrity of IS-K's internal operations. How do its cells communicate with one another? How sound is the affiliate's command and control? How is ISIS central able to confirm claims made by ISIS-K? And can ISIS central be aware of whether the local affiliate has been penetrated by outside forces?

### WW-III, Dark Clouds Began to Hovering!

Muhammad Akhter



The participation of the US in the exercises with Israel led to regional countries increasingly viewing these routine exercises as a foreign policy tool and added an international dimension to its ongoing regional use. Yet the goal of deterrence cannot be attained by mobilisation

ORLD War III could break out at any time", (Chinese media). World War III, Dark Clouds of Began to Hovering? Before reviewing the latest report issued by Chinese media. Lets' have a quick reviewto a brief "History of China-Taiwan".

these two countries, the first people to settle on the island of Taiwan were the people of the Austronesian tribes, who came from modern China. In history of 239 AD, The Island is mentioned in Chinese official records. It was the time, when China sent a researchers' team to study the region at sea. I have reviewed few articles via online sources. Now, I believe China claims sovereignty over Taiwan only on the basis of this historical record. It is also matter of fact that, after the Dutch colonial period, from 1624 to 1661, the island of Taiwan was administered by the Qing Dynasty of China from 1683 to 1895. Historian reveled, from the 17th century onwards, large numbers of Taiwanese immigrants began arriving from China. Most of them were Hoklo ethnic Chinese from Fujian Province or some from Guangdong. The people who migrated to Taiwan in both ages are now the largest ethnic group on conflicted island. In order to write an article on this very hot topic, after reviewing multiple articles i have been able to learn, the era of 1895, Japan won the First Sino-Japanese War, and control of Taiwan conceded from the Qing Dynasty to Japanese rule. On September 02, 1945, After World War II, Japan surrendered and evacuated Chinese-occupied territories. It is pertinent to mention, The Republic of China, which was part of the Allied Powers during World War II, established its rule over Taiwan with the consent of its allies, the United States and the United Kingdom.But, Later on after few years, civil war broke out in China, and the forces of then-leader Chiang Kai-shekwere defeated by Mao Zedong's communist forces. In the chapter of 1949, General Chiang and his

In the chapter of 1949, General Chiang and his remnants of the Kuomintang (KMT) government fled to Taiwan after being defeated on Chinese soil. The group, known as the "Mainland Chinese" (native to China) and in approx. calculation about 1.5 million people, has dominated Taiwan-

ese politics for many years, even though it is makes only 14% of a Taiwanese population. After inheriting dictatorial rule, Chiang Kaishek's son, Chiang Ching-kuo, allowed the process of making Taiwan a democracy after facing resentment from the dictatorship and pressure from the growing democratic movement by locals. As a result, the island's first Non KMT (Non-Kuomintang), Chen Shui-bian, was elected in 2000. In this regard, now let's talk about the latest media reports, according to an article published in China's official newspaper "Global Times" said that, the alliance between the United States and Taiwan is so offensive that it has almost exhausted the scope of any measure and has brought the region to the brink of conflict. According to the article, China warns Taiwan to stop playing with fire.

In my opinion, it is sound clear to understand the Beijing's mode of action, in case of any further escalation China could go-off to a full-fledged war, regardless care about the devastatedconsequences. On the other hand In this regard, the Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen has vowed to do everything possible to protect Taiwan. She clarified that dictatorship prevails over democracy without the help of allies.

In one of her articles, she said that the fall of Taiwan would have a devastating effect on regional peace and democracy. President Tsai Ingwen called on Beijing to stop such irresponsible provocations' over Chinese warplanes violating Taiwan's defense zone. As per media report, despite rising tensions, aircraft carriers from six countries, including Britain, the United States and Japan, conducted military exercises in the Philippine Sea last week. In addition to this, British and US naval patrols in the Taiwan Strait, the four-nation ACOs (Allied Command Operations) Defense Agreement and power struggles in the South China Sea continue to provoke Beijing.

Japanese

envoy ends Pakistan...

From Page 01

the Pakistan Armed Forces have also been further

strengthened through the cooperation in evacuating

Japanese and Afghan nationals working in the Embassy

and JICA from Afghanistan

I strongly believe that the

seeds sown through the

cooperation between the

Embassy and the Govern-

ment of Pakistan during my

tenure will blossom in the

near future. In particular,

next year marks the 70th

anniversary of the estab-

lishment of diplomatic re-

lations between Japan and

Pakistan. I am sure that

this wonderful opportunity

will lead to progress in co-

operation between Japan

and Pakistan in various

fields such as politics, econ-

omy, culture, and national

security. While both Japan

and Pakistan are gradually

overcoming the threat of

the COVID-19 by the ef-

forts of their governments

and people, including the

expansion of vaccination, I

wish that the mutual visits

of VIPs and exchanges of

business-related peopleand

tourists will become active-

at earliest possible timing,

which will give momentum

to strengthening the bilater-

PM briefed

al relationship.

to Japan.

### Briefs

### **Opp parties** take to streets over inflation

From Page 01 Muzaffargarh Press Club during which they chanted slogans against inflation. PML-N's Qari Saifullah Saifi led the protest in Murree. When protesters reached the city's Mall Road, many tourists also joined in. In Mardan, protesters started gathering at the city's Kachehri Chowk, while in Gilgit, members of PML-N, as well as JUI, participated in the protest rally at Ittihad Chowk. Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly and PML-N President Shahbaz Sharif appealed to the masses and asked them to join the protest against growing inflation in the country. He maintained that giving more time to the government means that people of the country will have to face more troubles, more inflation, more unemployment. "The economic condition of the country and its people would not improve unless we get rid of this tyrannical government," said Shahbaz, as he directed party leaders of the Pakistan Democratic

against inflation. Earlier today, PML-N leader Rana Sanaullah had said that demonstrations will be held at Lahore's Jain Mandir Chowk after Friday prayers. The former Punjab law minister invited labourers, traders, lawyers and other wings to support the Opposition's protest.

Movement (PDM) to ensure

cooperation with civic and

business organisations and

people's associations and

appealed to the people to

ioin the nationwide protests

"The masses will get relief only when this inept and corrupt government is sent packing," said Sanaullah, urging people to come out of their homes and join in. Separately, the PPP also held a protest in Karachi led by Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah – against the rising inflation in the coun-

Karachi's Malir district. CM Shah, while addressing the participants of the protest, criticised the incumbent government and said: "Thieves of wheat and sugar should spare the poor masses. Only Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari can rid the poor of inflation.

try. The protest was held in

#### Banned TLP protests in twin cities

From Page 01 Nawankot, Samanabad and Sabzazar areas of Lahore. Containers have also been placed at various points in Lahore, such as the Samanabad turn at Multan Road and at the Grid Station Stop. Containers have also been placed at the Dubai Chowk in Iqbal Town's Boulevard area to thwart protesters' attempts at assembling.

### EU leaders call for tougher...

From Page 01 "We need decisions, we need actions, and we need to do this as soon as possible," he said. He was backed by Austrian Chancellor Alexander Schallenberg, who said the EU should help pay for any possible border wall. "Why should this burden be paid exclusive ly by Lithuanian taxpayers?" he said heading into the talks. Luxembourg's Xavier Bettel, however, stressed that the fundamental rights of people crossing the border must not be forgotten. "All measures we take must be in line with human rights," said the prime minister. "We cannot simply strip people of the most fundamental rights, the right of asylum. An orderly migration must remain possible. We need to find the right balance." - Agencies

#### PM Imran leaves...

From Page 01 At the MGI summit, PM Imran Khan will share his perspective on the challenges faced by the developing countries due to climate change, the Foreign Office spokesperson said in a statement. He will also highlight Pakistan's experience of launching nature-based solutions to address the environmental challenges.

# T20 World Cup: Namibia makes way to Super XI

Namibia steals the spot light making its way to super 12s of T20 WC defeating Ireland

SPORTS DESK

SHARJAH: Namibia steals the spot light making its way to super 12s of T20 world cup 2021 defeating Ireland. Ireland won the toss and elected to bat first against Namibia in the penultimate T20 World Cup first round Group A match. The game was a virtual knock-out tie for both the teams as whoever would have won will qualify for the Super 12s stage alongside Sri Lanka from the group. Ireland gave the target of 126 runs over the loss of 8 wickets. On the other hand Namibia achieved the target and won by 8 wickets. Namibia chased the target 9 balls before.

Namibia reached the Twenty20 World Cup second round for the first time on Friday when they defeated Ireland by eight wickets. World number 19 Namibia, the lowest-ranked team in the tournament, chased down their modest target of 126 with skipper Gerhard Erasmus making an unbeaten 53.

They will finish behind Sri Lanka in Group A barring a heavy defeat for the 2014 cham-

SPORTS DESK

ABU DHABI: Scotland,

having gone "through thick

and thin", reached the T20

World Cup second round for

the first time on Thursday

with a thumping eight-wick-

et win over Oman as star

all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan

steered Bangladesh into the

next phase. The Scots com-

fortably chased down their

target of 123 with 18 balls

to spare to register a third

win out of three in qualify-

ing.Captain Kyle Coetzer

top-scored for Scotland with

41 off 28 balls with three

Richie Berrington, finished

the game with a huge six to

remain 31 not out. Matthew

Cross (26) was also unde-

feated.Scotland will go into

Group 2 of the Super 12s

KARACHI: Pakistan Taekwondo team

reached back after securing the third

position in Fajr Open held in Tehran,

Iran.Officials of the Pakistan Olympic

Association & Pakistan Taekwondo

Federation welcomed the team at Jin-

According to media Manager of team

Shiraz Asif, 17 nations participated

in the Fajr Open. The host country

Iran took the first position whereas

Turkey got second. Haroon Khan of

Pakistan won 2 silver medals and

Shahzaib won a bronze medal. Ha-

roon lost -58 kg category's final to

Muhammad Sadiq of Iran.

nah International Airport Karachi.

sixes and two fours.



Scotland joins Bangladesh

in T20 WC 2nd round

alongside Afghanistan, In-

dia, New Zealand, Pakistan

and the runners-up from

qualifying Group A - likely to

be either Ireland or Namib-

ia."This is an opportunity for

Scotland to test themselves

against the best," said Coet-

zer."There's a real togeth-

erness among our squad,

through thick and thin."This

group we were just in was a

mighty tough group so the

We will go into every

game full of hope and be-

lief that we can win more

games."Bangladesh, who

were stunned by Scotland in

their opening game, secured

the second qualifying spot in

Group B by seeing off Papua

They will now play in Group

1 alongside Australia, Eng-

land, South Africa, West In-

dies, probably Sri Lanka and

New Guinea by 84 runs.

next one will be tougher.

either Ireland or Namibia.

"What a day for Scottish

cricket, the boys are buzz-

ing," said man-of-the-match

and fast bowler Josh Davey

who took 3-25. Scotland came

into the 2021 tournament

having never progressed be-

yond the first round in their

three previous appearances,

winning just one game in

seven.Scotland restricted

Oman, who won the toss and

opted to bat, had a terrible

start when Jatinder Singh

was out second ball following

a run-out mix-up which left

him and opener Aqib Ilyas

at the same end. Ilyas went

on to top score with 37 off

35 balls but the home side

never shook off the shackles

of the Scottish bowling.Only

three Oman batters reached

"I feel sorry we couldn't de-

National TKD team secures

3rd spot in Fajr Open

Oman to 122 all out.

pions in their final qualifier against Netherlands later Friday.

That would put Namibia in the same Super 12 section as India, Pakistan, New Zealand, Afghanistan and Scotland. Earlier, Namibia defeated Netherlands on 20 oct whereas Srilanka defeated Namibia in its first match by 7 wickets.

Namibia Team squad includes Stephan Baard, Karl Birkenstock, Jan Nicol Lofie-Eaton, BernandScholtz, Michael van Lingen, Craig Williams, Picky Ya France, Michau du Preez, Zane Green, Jan Frylinck, JJ Smit, David Wiese, Gerhard Erasmus (c), Ben Shikongo, Ruben

Namibia will look to carry forward their winning momentum when they take on Ireland in a Group Stage match in the ongoing ICC T20 World Cup 2021. After losing two warm-up games, against Oman and Scotland, as well as a group stage match versus Sri Lanka, Namibia registered their first win of the competition in their latest game against Netherlands by six wickets.

### **Sports activities for less** developed areas need of hour': Fehmida Mirza

**DNA** 

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination and Sports Dr. Fehmida Mirza on Friday said that sports activities for females and less developed areas of the country are need of the hour as Pakistan has a tremendous talent for excelling in all fields of sports. The government was paying special attention to sports and committed to providing a healthy environment to our youth by reviving the culture of sports activities at school levels, she said while speaking to a private news channel.Fehmida Mirza said there is a need to develop sports in less developed areas of the country, adding, unless you have events at school levels nothing can be improved.She said before the PTI government, there was no structure for sports



governance in the country and we have been working on it to streamline things for better opportunities for sports for our youngsters. She said it is the right time for federations to explore the possibilities and attract sponsors as sports have become more demanding and without extra effort, they would lag behind. Fehmida added her ministry would extend all financial supports deserving sportsmen, particularly women living in less developed areas.

### about Punjab projects From Page 01 development and public welfare schemes was also given.

Moreover, the Prime Minister was apprised of various measures to control inflation and maintain law and order situation in the province. The Prime Minister said," We are fully aware of the suffering of common man due to inflation. The Government is working hard to provide maximum relief to people by taking sustainable steps. Price control committees have been mobilized at district and tehsil level to control inflation." "Indiscriminate crackdown on profiteers and hoarders would continue," he added.

### Nuclear talks between US-Iran envoy to hold with Europe powers

PARIS: US envoy for Iran Robert Malley was on Friday to meet diplomats from three European powers over the Iranian nuclear crisis as Vienna-based talks to salvage a 2015 deal remain suspended. Malley's trip to Paris for the meeting with the so-called E3 of Britain, France and Germany comes after he visited the Gulf for talks with allies Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

"Following consultations with partners in the region, Special Envoy for Iran Robert Malley will meet with his E3 counterparts in Paris on Friday," a US State Department spokesman said, without giving further details.

The French foreign ministry said in a statement that the talks were coming at a "critical time" when France and other world powers were still prepared to return to the Vienna talks on bringing the US back into the deal. - APP

### Pakistan-Japan agree on debt deferral

Moreover, the Prime Min-

ister directed the authori-

ties concerned to complete

all ongoing development

projects in Punjab within

stipulated time frame to

facilitate the masses. He

added," Best quality of all

public welfare projects must

be ensured for the benefit of

people."The Prime Minis-

ter said,"Law is equal for all.

No effort would be spared to

ensure rule of law.'

From Page 01

reached approx. US\$570 million, which will widen the fiscal space for the Government of Pakistan to restore its economy affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The concessional loans, subject to debt deferral, have been utilized for infrastructure development such as roads, tunnels, power plants and grids, irrigation, water supply, and drainage facilities in Pakistan from the early 1990s to the mid-2010s.

These concessional loans have favorable conditions for Pakistan in terms of low interest rate, as well as long grace and repayment period. Under the second agreement, repayments for the debt and interest due between January 1 and June 30, 2021 will be rescheduled after December 15, 2022.

In addition to the debt deferral, Japan has also extended a total of US\$23.5 million in grants to Pakistan for supplementing its counter-COVID-19 measures as follows:

- Feb 2020: Delivery of diagnostic kits,

Apr-May 2020: Disbursement of a total of \$7.41 million to UNICEF, IOM, IFRC, UNHCR and UNOPS for providing hygiene items and alternative learning opportunities, and training health workers, etc.,

Dec 2020: Grant Assistance of \$9.5 million to NDMA for procuring medical equipment; and

Mar 2021: Grant Assistance of \$6.59 million to UNICEF for improving the vaccine cold-chain.

Ambassador H.E. MATSU-DA Kuninori, who is about to be transferred to the Japanese Embassy in Ukraine after nearly three years of his tenure in Pakistan, said.

### On arrival Haroon said the best players from the world participated in Agricultural High Tech Fair initiates

BEIJING: China Yangling Agricultural High-tech Fair to focus on ensuring national food security, supporting high-quality agricultural development and promoting innovation driven rural revitalization strategy kicked off in Shaanxi province, China.

in Shaanxi province

The Fair, jointly sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Areas, Ministry of Commerce, Chinese Academy of Sciences. State Forestry and Grassland Administration. State Intellectual Property Office and Shaanxi provincial people's government in China will last for five days. "Scientific and Technological Innovation Boosting Rural Revitalization" will be the theme of this year. More than 10 agriculture related districts, counties and development zones, 150 rural collective economic organizations and 130 agricultural science and technology enterprises participated in the expo. - APP

Fajr Open which was a great learning exposure for us, during the event, we had chances to meet our contemporaries and professional coaches which will benefit us in our upcoming Chief of Army Staff G-1 Taekwondo Championship event next month.

liver, but we are confident

our moment will come,"

said Oman skipper Zeeshan-

Maqsood.Shakib Al Hasan

smashed 46 and had bowl-

ing figures of 4-9 as Bang-

ladesh crushed Papua New

Guinea. Chasing 182 for vic-

tory, PNG were bowled out

for 97 in 19.3 overs to hand

Bangladesh their second

straight win.PNG go out of

the tournament with three

losses.The Tigers bounced

back from an opening loss

against Scotland to register

two convincing wins and the

last one would have been

bigger had it not been for

KiplinDoriga's unbeaten 46.

"Every game we're playing

gives us more confidence.

Obviously it was a setback,

the first game, but in the

T20 format the team that is

better on the day wins," said

man-of-the-match Shakib.

National team's coach Shahzada Muhammad Asif said he was satisfied with players' performances against top players at Fair Open. There was an immense talent of Taekwondo in Pakistan which needed government patronage. "We are thankful to President Pakistan Taekwondo Federation Col. (R) Waseem Janjua& CEO Combaxx Sports Omar Saeed for arranging all facilities for this event", he said. – APP

### England to play Covid-19 delayed India Test in 2022

LONDON: England will play the coronavirus-delayed final match of their 2021 Test series against India in July next year at Edgbaston, the England and Wales Cricket Board announced on Friday. The match was due to take place last month at Old Trafford but the tourists said they were unable to field a team due to concerns about the spread of Covid-19 within their camp. Due to fixture complexities in next season's English cricket schedule, the finale of the five-match series, which India lead 2-1, will now take place at Birmingham's Edgbaston ground from July 1 following an agreement between the ECB and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). What promised to be a thrilling finish to this year's series was abandoned just two hours before the scheduled start in Manchester. A reported positive virus test from assistant physiotherapist Yogesh Parmar appeared to be the final straw for an India squad already without head coach Ravi Shastri and two other backroom staff, who had all previously contracted Covid-19. The abandonment was estimated to have cost English cricket up to £40 million (\$55 million). There had been hopes the match might be restaged at Old Trafford but preplanned events at the venue mean there will not be time to prepare a Test pitch. Instead, the fixture has been switched to Edgbaston, with the second Test between England and South Africa that had been due to be played at Warwickshire's headquarters now being staged at Old Trafford from August 25, 2022. The rescheduling of the match has had a knock-on effect on the scheduled Twenty20 series between England and India, with the white-ball matches now starting six days later than planned, on July 7 at Southampton. ECB chief executive Tom Harrison said: "We are very pleased that we have reached an agreement with BCCI to create a fitting end to what has been a brilliant series so far." - Agencies

### Horse racing season kicks off at UAE's 5 tracks

Seven-time champion trainer Watson is again the one to beat in the handlers' competition, although with more than 150 horses at his Zabeel Stables base

SPORTS DESK

DUBAI: The new horse racing season in the UAE will get underway at Jebel Ali Racecourse on Oct. 29. The UAE has five tracks and Jebel Ali, takes up a large one of the most popular.

chunk of land in Barsha, is Famed for its garden party atmosphere, a normal year sees around 5,000 people congregate on its lawns for picnics and a great view of the uphill finish, one of the steepest in the world.Six days after Jebel Ali kicks off the season, and five after Sharjah holds its first meeting on Oct. 30, Meydan Racecourse will swing

The home of the \$30.5 million Dubai World Cup meeting, scheduled for March 26, Meydan is iconic, a vast facility with the capacity for 60,000 racegoers and the best racing in the country. It will open with seven races on its dirt track, with the outer turf course staging racing from January.

The month will see some of the best trainers, horses, and jockeys converge on Dubai for the eight-week World Cup Carnival, which in the past has welcomed winners from as far afield as Sweden, the US, Uruguay, and Australia. All five UAE tracks - Abu Dhabi, and Al-Ain concentrate primarily on purebred Arabian racing - count toward

the Emirati championships for trainers, owners, and jockeys. The jockeys' title has been dominated by Tadhg O'Shea in recent seasons and the Irishman will be aiming for a 10th championship this time around. He has the backing of champion owner Khalid

Khalifa Al-Nabooda, as well as three-time champion trainer Satish Seemar, so will be favorite to lift the prize again.

But O'Shea will be pushed all the way by his good friend Richie Mullen, who this season has the support of the powerful Al-Asayl Stables, while

Seven-time champion train-

Italian rider Antonio Fresu, trating solely on Arabians. based with former champion The new season will be the first full campaign under the trainer Musabbeh Al-Mheiri, should also ride plenty of winners, particularly at Meydan. Others to watch out for are Brazilian Sandro Paiva, who will ride for newly licensed Ali Rashid Al-Rayhi, and the experienced Pat Dobbs, who will once again return to Doug Watson. five tracks.

er Watson is again the one to beat in the handlers' competition, although with more than 150 horses at his Zabeel Stables base, Seemar will make things hard for him. It would appear to be a three-way battle, with Ernst Oertel, who trains for Al-Nabooda, likely to be competitive despite concen-

guidance of Sheikh Rashid bin Dalmouk Al-Maktoum, the chairman of Dubai Racing Club, while Mohammed Al-Shahi has taken over as general manager of Emir-Racing Authority, which governs racing at all Under their stewardship prize money has been giv-

been introduced and - most importantly - crowds are likely to return for the first time since March 2020. General admission to all the courses is free and offers a unique day out at one of the UAE's oldest and most pop-

en a boost, new races have



### Briefs

### EU leaders laud Merkel at her last summit

BRUSSELS: European leaders heaped praise  $G\ e\ r\ m\ a\ n$ Chancellor Angela

Friday she attended what is likely her last EU summit after a 16-year reign heavily influencing the bloc through ma-

jor ups and downs. Merkel has attended a staggering 107 EU summits that saw some of the biggest twists in recent European history, including the eurozone debt crisis, an inflow of Syrian refugees, Brexit and the creation of the bloc's landmark pandemic recovery fund.

"She is someone who for 16 years has really left her mark on Europe, helping all 27 of us to take the right decisions with a lot of humanity at times that were difficult," said Belgian Prime Minister Alexandre De Croo.

Luxembourg's Prime Minister Xavier Bettel called Merkel a "compromise machine" who "usually did find something to unite us" through several marathon intra-EU negotiations.

"Europe will miss her." he said. Lithuanian President Gitanas Nauseda said he hoped Merkel, a "great politician", would remain on the political scene "in one form or another". – APP

#### Ufone partners with Facebook

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani telecom company Ufone has partnered with Facebook to launch Facebook Mobile Center, a customer engagement channel within the Facebook app that Ufone can use to deliver seamless. mobile data purchases and service experiences. With Mobile Center, Ufone customers will be able to purchase Ufone call and data bundles right from the Facebook app and browser.

The launch of Mobile Center is part of Ufone's long term ambition of delivering greater ease and enablement to its customers through constant innovation and optimization of its digital products and services. The company has continuously worked to simplify its payments mechanism by introducing multiple digital channels, in addition to a countrywide top-up retailer network.

Ufone customers will be able to purchase call and data bundles within Facebook Mobile Center with just a few clicks. They can also opt for U-Advance loan and purchase Airtime. To get started, customers can login into their Facebook accounts through their browser or mobile app and tap or click on "Buy Data". Next, they will be offered multiple data packages, where they can either purchase bundles or get a U-Advance loan. Finally, they will need to click 'Confirm' to complete the transaction. - APP

### Ethiopia intensifies air attacks on Tigray

AGENCIES

ADDIS ABABA: Ethiopia said Thursday that its air force destroyed a military training center in rebel-held Mekele - the capital of the troubled Tigray regional state.

"The air attack targeted a military training centre formerly owned by the federal government," the Communication Service Ministry told Anadolu Agency.

The target is where the Tigray Peoples Liberation Front (TPLF) has been training and organizing fighters for months, it said. Getachew Reda, a senior TPLF official, accused the government of targeting civilians in its bid to gain control of territory taken by the rebels

"(Prime Minister) Abiy Ahmed's Air Force made three attempts to strike targets in Mekelle this afternoon. Our air defence forces have so far managed to protect our people. In the meantime. Abiv's spineless army is suffering heavy losses everywhere," said Getachew, a former communications minister. - APP

### Uzbekistan's foreign trade turnover reaches US\$28.22bn

The largest volume of foreign trade turnover was recorded in May 2021 and was noted at the level of US\$4.25 billion. Compared to the same month of 2020, its increase amounted to US\$2.08 billion

**DNA** 

TASHKENT: In January-September 2021, the foreign trade turnover (FTO) of Uzbekistan reached US\$28.22 billion, which, compared to the same period in 2020, increased by US\$680.4 million (an increase of 2, 5%). This was reported by the State Statistics Committee of Uzbekistan.

Of the total volume of the FTO, exports amounted to US\$10.33 billion (by January-September 2020, a decrease of 17.2% was noted), and imports - US\$17.88 billion (an increase of 18.7%). As a result, the foreign trade balance amounted to a passive balance of US\$7.55 billion. The largest volume of foreign trade turnover was recorded in May 2021 and was noted at the level of US\$4.25 billion. Compared to the same month of 2020, its increase amounted to US\$2.08 billion. In September 2021, the volume of foreign trade turnover amounted to US\$3.25 billion, compared to the same period in 2020, it increased by 10.1%.

Uzbekistan's foreign trade turnover in the third quarter of 2021 amounted to US\$10.2 billion, which is 6.5% less than the previous quarterly indicator.

Among the 20 large partner countries in foreign economic activity, there is also an active foreign trade balance with four countries, in particular with such as Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkey. The remaining 16 countries maintain a passive balance of foreign trade turnover.

Today Uzbekistan carries out trade relations with 179 countries of the world. The largest volume of foreign trade turnover was recorded with the PRC (19.1%), the Russian Federation (18.1%), Kazakhstan (9.9%), Turkey (8.6%), the Republic of Korea (4.9%), Kyrgyzstan (2.4%)

and Germany (2.0%). In the structure of the republic's foreign trade turnover, a significant share is noted in Tashkent, which is 41.0%, or US\$11.55 billion, and the smallest share is recorded at 1.1%, or US\$306.9 million, which is noted in Surkhandarya region.

The share of foreign trade turnover with the CIS countries, compared to the same period in 2020, increased by 7.9% and their share in foreign trade turnover, in January-September 2021, made up 38.4%. The volume of foreign trade turnover of other states in January-September 2021, compared to the same period in 2019-2020, accordingly decreased and amounted to 61.6% of the total volume of foreign trade turnover.

The foreign trade turnover of the Republic of Uzbekistan with the CIS countries reached US\$10.83 billion, of which the volume of exports amounted to US\$3.77 billion, and the volume of imports -US\$7.06 billion.

The largest volume of foreign trade turnover with the CIS countries was recorded with the Russian Federation (47.3%), Kazakhstan (25.9%) and Kyrgyzstan (6.3%).

The foreign trade turnover of the Republic of Uzbekistan with the EAEU countries made up US\$8.88 billion, of which the volume of exports amounted to US\$2.91 billion, and the volume of imports -US\$5.97 billion.

In January-September 2021, the total number of exporting entities amounted to 5,789 units, which ensured the increase in the volume of gold exports to US\$8.64 billion (an increase in comparison with the same period in 2020 amounted to 34.2%).

In the structure of exports, 82.2% are goods, which mainly fall on industrial goods (30.3%), food products and live animals (8.9%), chemicals and similar products (7.2%)



The largest export volume was recorded in May 2021 and was noted at the level of US\$2.25 billion Compared to the same month in 2020, its increase amounted to US\$1.52 billion.

In September 2021, the volume of exports amounted to US\$1.05 billion and, compared to the same period in 2020, increased by 21.9%. Exports of Uzbekistan in the third quarter of 2021 amounted to US\$3.27 billion, which is 29.7% less than the previous quarterly figure. Due to a decrease in exports to other foreign countries, the share of exports to the CIS countries increased and their share in its total volume amounted to 36.5%.

Compared to 2019-2020, our main partners in the export of goods and services in foreign trade in January-September 2021 were countries such as China, the Russian Federation, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan and Taiikistan. Their share in the total export volume reached 65.2%

In the structure of the republic's exports, a significant share is noted in the city of Tashkent, which is 27.0%, or US\$2.78 billion, and the smallest share is recorded at 1.4%. or m143.7 million in Surkhandarya region. The volume of exports of fruits and vegetables amounted to 1.06 million tons and, in value terms, exceeded US\$624.9 million (the rate of decline, compared to the same period in 2020, respectively, amounted to 10.1%). On the basis of this, 593.3 thousand tons of vegetables were exported for US\$254.0 million, as well as 226.6thousand tons of fruits and berries for US\$215.8 million.

In January-September 2021, the share of fruits and vegetables in total exports amounted to 6.1%. The main export markets for fruit and vegetable products are in the

Russian Federation, Kazakhstan,

Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan. According to the results of January-September 2021, the largest volume in value terms of exports of fruits and vegetables falls on the Russian Federation (33.1% of the total volume of fruits and vegetables), which exceeds the volume of

exports to China by 6.1 times. At the end of January-September 2021, the export of textile products was carried out in the amount of US\$2.12 billion, which amounted to 20.6% of the total export volume and, compared to January-September 2020, it increased by 58.3%.

In the structure of export of textile products, the main share is taken by cotton yarn (55.2%), as well as finished knitwear and garments (22.6%). In January-September 2021, more than 477 types of textile products were exported to 63 countries of the world.

The largest share of textile exports falls on the Russian Federation (US\$661.7 million - 31.1%) and China (US\$528.4 million - 24.8%).

The volume of exports of services in January-September 2021 amounted to US\$1.84 billion, or 17.8% of total trade exports and increased by 24.4% compared to the same period in 2020.

The lion's share of the export of services is taken by transport services (69.8%), travel (tourism) (14.5%), telecommunications, computer and information services (7.1%), and other business services (4.5%). At the same time, other services (4.1%), respectively, account for the largest share of financial services (1.1%), insurance and pension services (0.9%), construction services (0.7%), etc.

During the reporting period, imports amounted to US\$17.88 billion (an increase in growth rates, compared to January-September 2020, amounted to 18.7%). The main share in its structure is occupied by machinery and transport equipment (33.5%), industrial goods (18.3%), as well as chemicals and similar products (14.2%)

An analysis of the dynamics of imports of goods also showed that in January-September 2021, compared to the same period in 2020, the volume of imports of goods increased by US\$2.44 billion and amounted to US\$16.66 billion. while imports of services reached US\$1.22 billion.

The largest volume of imports was recorded in July 2021 and was noted at the level of US\$2.5 billion. Compared to the same month

to US\$773.5 million. In September 2021, the volume of imports amounted to US\$2.2 billion and, compared to the same month period of 2020, it increased by 5.2%. Uzbekistan's imports in the third quarter of 2021 amounted to US\$6.93 billion, which is 10.9% more than the previous quarterly figure.

The share of imports from the CIS countries, compared to the same period in 2020, increased by 3.5% and their share in foreign trade turnover, in January-September 2021, amounted to 39.5%.

In general, according to the results of January-September 2021, goods and services from 153 countries were imported to the Republic of Uzbekistan. One third of imports comes from such large partner countries as the Russian Federation, China, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, Turkey, Germany and Turkmenistan.

In the structure of the republic's imports, a significant share is noted in Tashkent, which is 49.0%, or US\$8 769.1 million, and the smallest share is recorded in Surkhandarya -0.9%, or US\$163.2 million.

The volume of imports of services in January-September 2021 amounted to US\$1.22 billion, or 6.8% of its total volume, and increased by 44.9% compared to the same period in 2020.

Travel (tourism - 48.8%), other business services (11.9%), transport services (11.3%), telecommunications, computer and information services (8.0%) account for the main share of imports of services.

In addition, other services accounted for 20.1% of total imports of services, including a high share of construction services (6.8%), fees for the use of intellectual property (4.9%), maintenance and repair services (3.8%), etc.

### TDAP to participate at Heimtextil Frankfurt 2022

from January 11, 2022 and will continue till January 14,

Heimtextil is the biggest international trade fair for home and contract textiles, and will next be held in Frankfurt am Main from 11 to 14 January 2022. The first trade fair of the year for its sector, it is a climate and trend barometer for the new business year. According to Omar Sala-

huddin, Representative of Messe Frankfurt Pakistan,

KARACHI: The world fa- the Trade Development mous exhibition "Heim- Authority of Pakistan will Frankfurt" will start participate in the Ham Textile Frankfurt 2022 with the Pakistan Pavilion. From Pakistan 56 exhibitors

participated under Pakistan pavilion and 175 exhibitors participated individually in Heimtextil Frankfurt 2020. which is the largest participation in any exhibition from Pakistan. Pakistani companies were located in 4 levels of Hall 10 with the premium exhibitors such as Gul Ahmed, Kamal Textile, and Al-Karam Textile located in hall 10.2. - APP



department for external affairs Mounir Fourati and the ambassador of Tunisia Borhene El Kamel called on the federal minister of national food security and research Syed Fakhar Imam. - DNA

### Benefits of devaluing rupee less then disadvantages

**DNA** 

KARACHI: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Friday said the disadvantages of devaluing the rupee are more than advantages as it is hitting the entire population and stoking poverty.

The policy of devaluing local

war with rival countries that can result in a loss rather than a gain, he said, Mian Zahid Hussain said that the formula of devaluing currency is not applicable in Pakistan as many countries have suffered huge losses by devaluing their currency against USD

and other currencies. Reacting to a statement issued by Governor State Bank Dr. Reza Bagir, he said that devaluation of local currency can increase exports to some extent and reduce the trade deficit but at the same time it makes imports more expensive and increases the pace of inflation.

He noted that in a country like Pakistan where imports are almost three times higher than exports and huge quantities of imported raw materials are being used in exports, this formula is not applicable. The devaluation of the currency has increased the country's debt by about Rs 2400 billion, while local and foreign investors are worried over uncertainty, he said. The business leader noted that many losses by devaluing their cur-

currency wars with nations that rival them in the international market.

Governor State Bank has said that cheap rupee benefits overseas Pakistanis and remittances are increasing due to depreciation of rupee while the families of Pakistanis living abroad are already getting Rs. 500 billion more.

But, he said, in reality the government has failed to properly invest thirty billion dollars received as remittances which is also contributing to the huge increase in inflation.

### UNDP facilitates training for Uzbek govt officials

TASHKENT: Ahead of the 5th Working Party meeting on the accession of Uzbekistan to the World Trade Organization (WTO) scheduled for December 2021, UNDP jointly with WTO Expertise Center (Russia) organized a series of seminars and training on WTO rules and the accession process.

This technical assistance activity was aimed at building knowledge capacity of Uzbekistan government officials on trade remedies, non-tariff measures, special and differential treatment, potential benefits and challenges of the accession to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) before and after WTO membership, negotiations with WTO Members on market access in services and agricultural goods. The five-week-long capacity-building event was organized virtually between 16 Sep and 7 Oct 2021. It involved more than 100 participants from the ministries and government agencies in the accession process of Uzbekistan to the WTO. - APP

### EU leaders' summit BRUSSELS: Hungarian

Energy debate

heats up at

leader Viktor Orban and other eastern Europeans on Thursday poured scorn on the EU's ambition to achieve net zero carbon emissions as the rising cost of energy frayed tempers at a summit in Brussels. The right-wing leader spoke

as he arrived for a meeting of EU leaders in which former communist bloc countries were also under pressure over Poland's recent defiance of EU law. "The Hungarian position is

very clear.... This plan increases energy prices,"Orban said of the EU's intention to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. These prices are already "barely bearable, and if it continues to rise, it will kill the European middle class," Orban said as he arrived for the talks. Orban said the plan was

"toxic" for European democracy and that it must be cancelled and "rethought completely". Diplomats said Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis, backed by Orban, refused to sign off on the summit conclusions on energy, wanting to get new language on the EU's landmark carbon emissions system, which he said was being manipulated. - APP

### Fire kills 16 at Russian explosives factory

MOSCOW: Sixteen people were killed and one person was missing after a deadly fire broke out at a Russian explosives factory southeast of Moscow on Friday, local authorities said.

The blaze took place in the village of Lesnoy, 300 kilometres from the capital in the region of Ryazan.

Authorities originally said 15 people had died, but later said one man who received severe burns had died in hospital.

"The fate of one more per-

son is unknown," the local government said on its website, adding that rescuers are "looking for him". Seventeen people were be-

lieved to have been inside the plant's workshop at the time of the fire. Images released

authorities showed firefighters working their way through the debris at the severely damaged factory building. The plant is considered a "strategic company" by the Russian government. - APP

### Baku urges fight against anti-Azerbaijan campaign Hajiyev described Karabakh's restoration as Azerbaijan's main post-war period goal

viously occupied territories.

**DNA** 

BAKU: Presidential aide Hikmat Hajiyev has called on the Turkic world to jointly fight against the fake news campaign against Azerbaijan at the international level, local media reported on October 22.

Hajiyev made the remarks at the media forum of the Turkic Council held in Istanbul, Turkey. "Unfortunately, such campaigns against our country are still being carried out. The best way to combat them is to present correct information about the existing realities. For delivering this truth, our joint, coordinated work and mutual support are very important," Hajiyev stressed.

He noted disinformation and fake news campaigns launched against the Turkic countries. Hajiyev stressed that Azerbaijan has become the target of similar campigns since the first day of its independence. "It's also extremely important to closely monitor new tendencies in social media and exchange experience. Thus, we'll protect our countries and citizens from the pressure and influence of a speculative nature. During the 44-day war [ with Armenia in 2020], we witnessed such attacks on Azerbaijan," he added.

He stressed that 2020 had become a particularly significant period for the Azerbaijani



nation, when Karabakh was liberated from Armenia's 30-year occupation.

"The Azerbaijani people, closely rallying around President Ilham Alivey, rose for the Patriotic War and liberated their lands from occupation, following the call 'Karabakh is Azerbaijan!'," he stressed.

Hajiyev thanked Turkey, reminding its political and moral support to Azerbaijan during last vear's war.

"The countries of the Turkic Council also made every effort and provided support to the Azerbaijani people during the 44-day war. I would like to emphasize the support that the Turkish media provided to Azerbaijan. Fighting shoulder to shoulder, we won the information war as well," Hajiyev said.

Azerbaijan's main post-war period goal. He reminded that Armenia had totally destroyed the Azerbaijani cities and villages over 30 years of its occupation.

future," the presidential aide said.

Hajivey described Karabakh's restoration as

"It is impossible to imagine such destruction in the 21st century. Our goal is to call for peace and to prevent such incidents in the

He added that Armenia severely damaged the Azerbaijani cultural heritage in the pre-

"As many as 67 mosques were destroyed. Livestock was kept in mosques, which is an insult to Islam," Hajiyev stressed. Armenia's aggression and illegal occupation caused irreparable damages to Azerbaijan's

of cultural values, including monuments of the world and national importance, mosques, temples, mausoleums, museums, art galleries, sites of archaeological excavations, libraries, and rare manuscripts. More than 900 cemeteries were destroyed and vandalized by Armenia. The evidence of

cultural heritage, which includes thousands

illegal "archaeological excavations" and socalled "restoration work" was found on the liberated Azerbaijani territories, confirming previous reports of Armenia's attempts to hide and falsify cultural, historical, and scientific evidence.

In its official statement in May 2021, the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry said that hundreds of cultural institutions, 927 libraries with a book fund of 4.6 million, 22 museums and museum branches with more than 100,000 exhibits, 4 art galleries, 8 culture. and recreation parks, as well as one of the oldest settlements in the world in Fuzuli district - Azikh Cave, Shusha State Historical and Architectural Reserve has become a victim of Armenian vandalism.



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### Briefs

#### **Arab** coalition strikes Sanaa

**AGENCIES** 

AL-MUKALLA: The Arab coalition carried out a series of airstrikes on Thursday against military sites in Houthi-controlled Sanaa.

Coalition spokesperson Brig. Gen. Turki Al-Maliki said the coalition launched airstrikes on a number of military locations in Sanaa believed to host explosive-laden drones and ballistic missiles, thus "foiling deadly attacks" on civilian targets inside and outside Yemen.

Al-Maliki said the airstrikes were launched in response to Houthi attacks on Saudi airports, power stations and other public infrastructure. "If the Houthi militia continues with its grave violations of targeting civilians, civilian objects and infrastructure, the militia should brace for broader and more comprehensive airstrikes in accordance with international humanitarian law," Al-Maliki said in a statement.

On the ground in Yemen, fighting intensified outside the central city of Marib on Thursday, a day after the UN Security Council condemned the Iran-backed Houthi militia's military operations in Marib province. Residents and local military officials said fierce fighting between government forces and the Houthis in the district of Juba, south of Marib, left dozens of combatants dead as the militia stepped up its ground attacks and drone and missile strikes on government-controlled areas in the province. The fighting began on Wednesday when the Houthis attacked government troops in Juba in an attempt to break through to the city of Marib.  $-\mathbf{APP}$ 

#### Friday prayers resume in **Tehran**

Web News

TEHRAN: Mass Friday

prayers resumed in Tehran after a 20-month hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic, state TV reported. The prayers at Tehran University, a gathering of religious and political significance, came as authorities warned of a sixth wave of the coronavirus, which has so far claimed 124,928 lives in Iran and afflicted more than 5.8 million. On Saturday, schools with less than 300 students are also due to reopen. Also starting on Saturday, government employees, except those in the armed forces, will be barred from work if they are not vaccinated at least with a first dose, according to a government circular released earlier this week. The government says more than 28.2 million people have so far received a second dose of the Covid-19

### **National** tally reports drop in Covid spread

ISLAMABAD: The national tally of Covid-19 pandemic on Friday reported one of the lowest positive cases during past 24 hours amid decline in national positivity ratio, disease trend and death rate. The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) in a tweet on it's official handle shared the latest disease statistics. The nerve centre of the country in its fight against the pandemic wrote that some 39,200 tests were conducted across the country with 567 more people tested positive for the contagious disease. There were 1,704 Covid infected patients under treatment in critical condition in various Covid dedicated healthcare facilities of the country.

The National Covid positivity ratio during past 24 hours was recorded 1.44%. The Covid positivity ratio is the percentage of actual positive cases appearing in every 100 tests performed to identify in fected individuals. - APP

### Romanian envoy acknowledges professionalism of Pak Army

Ambassador Nicolae Goia says 77 year later, Romania is today a powerful state allies and partners can rely on

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISAMABAD: Ambassador of Romania to Pakistan Nicolae Goia has acknowledged the excellent professional level of the Pakistani Army and the good relations existing between the military and the ministries of defense of our two countries. The high level of interaction between the embassy and prominent commanders of the Pakistani Armed Forces have identified a large number of fields where we can strenghten ad diversify the cooperation. Ambassador Goia expressed these veiws while speaking ont the occasion of the Armed Forces Day of Romania. He furhter siad, it was a real privilege for him and colonel Leonard VEZA, Romanian Defense Attache to warmly welcome all guests in joining the celebration of Romanian Army's Day. On 25th of October 1944, Romanian Army had liberated the last inch of our homeland territory from alien occupation. The sacrifices of more than 700.000 military who paid the ultimate price during the four years of fierce battles, made Romania the fourth contributing power in defeating

Fascism in the WWII. He said, 77 year later, Romania is today a powerful state allies and partners can rely on, a pillar of stability and security provider in our region and worldwide, with an Army operating at highest professional standards, being ready and fully prepared to contribute to the protection of European and democratic community



of values. The proximity of the Eastern border of the Euro-Atlantic space makes Romania both a gate-locker and a strategic opener of the roads. The multiple threats to the glocal security, terrorism above all, make cooperation between all peace loving countries in the world in confronting the menaces of extremism of all kind, more critical and necessary then in other moment of the history.

As a responsible member of the European Union my country is contributing fully to the EU endeavor to cope with the great transformations and challenges for the future of the European project. In a probably most complicated world than ever before, my country had fully demonstrated its capacity to become and added valropean Union as well as building confidence in the capacity of the Union to overcome all the difficulties and emerge even stronger and more united. Living in the critical time of COVID it is absolutely imperative to have unity and cohesion of all member states of the EU in order to fight a crisis the mankind never had encountered in the past. We are confident that as much as difficult the situation appears to be, by the synergetic efforts of all nations we will finally manage to have our lives back. Presently, Romania's Army takes part in various international peace

keeping, combatting terrorism and humanitarian missions in the most difficult and sensitive regions of the Planet. We are proud that two Romanian officers are currently serving in UNMOGIP,



the ambassador said, as we celebrate Romanian Army's Day, I hope for an even stronger partnership between Romania and Pakistan to benefit of the tremendous opportunities and potential that lie ahead.

On this auspicious occasion I also would like to convey to the Pakistani people and all the women and men serving in the Pakistani Army a sincere message of friendship as well as warm wishes of peace and prosperity.

### Russian president holds 1st meeting with Israeli premier

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin hosted Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett at his residence Bocharov Ruchey in Russia's Black Sea resort of Sochi on Friday. This is the first meeting of the two leaders since Bennett assumed the office of Israel's prime minister in June. Opening the meeting, Putin hailed Russian-Israeli ties as "unique," saying Israel is home to the largest Russian-speaking community abroad. He said the volume of trade and economic relations is "modest," but they are on a positive trajectory.

in bilateral ties, as Moscow developed "quite businesslike and trusting relations with the former government. The Russian leader suggested exchange opinions on Syria, and the situation in the region

Bennett's government will

pursue a policy of continuity

in general, saying there are issues but also "points of contact and opportunities for cooperation," especially in the fight against terrorism. Bennett agreed that sian-Israeli relations are "spe-

cial because of common past, present, and future." He recalled the Soviet role in

World War II, and vowed "to convey to future generations

### the feeling of gratitude to-Putin expressed the hope that TLP protesters kill two policemen

**DNA** 

LAHORE: Two policemen were killed and many more got critically injured when protesting members of a banned outfit pelted stones on them in Lahore.

According to details, two policemen Ayub and Khalid got martyred when the protesters of banned outfit Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan attacked the police. Many policemen also got injured during the attack who were shifted to the hospital where there condition is said to be critical.

According to a spokesperson

of Lahore police's operation wings, the members of the banned outfit also threw petrol bombs on police.

According to the spokesper son, the protesters attacked the police when they tried to refrain them from destroying the public and government properties.

The spokesperson added that the protesters attacked the police with sticks and also pelted stones on them. The spokesperson said the policemen are standing their ground in order to keep the writ of the state and showing restraint and tolerance in response to the violent protesters.

#### **CAR** officers move NAB against top bosses

PESHAWAR: Some four senior officers of the Commissionerate Afghan Refugees, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have filed a joint application in the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) against the alleged corrupt practices, maladministration, nepotism, maltreatment, and blackmailing of their top bosses, seeking their strict accountability under the law.

The application, filed by four deputy directors, including two females and two assistant directors, has named the Commissioner, Chief Finance Officer (CFO) and a project director of the Commissionerate Afghan Refugees KP, Peshawar as accused.

Talking to media here Friday after filing the complaint, Deputy Director Sifatullah Khan and Assistant Directors Khalid Rehman and Muhammad Hammad said the three top bosses of the commissionerate committed mega financial corruption involving billion of rupees in the funds meant for the welfare of Afghan refugees, who have been taking refuge in KP for over three decades.

The applicants requested the NAB to investigate the utilization of budget granted by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) to the KP commissionerate during the last 20-yaers. – APP

#### Pak-Turkey to launch joint film venture

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senator Faisal Javed Khan Friday said that Pakistan would launch a joint venture with Turkey to produce movies and dramas based on Islamic culture, heritage, social values, history and achievements of Islamic heroes. Talking to a private news channel, he said that in collaboration with brotherly neighbour country Turkey,

Pakistan has planned to flourish its entertainment industry with highlighting the Islamic values, culture and historic heroes' lifebased stories to guide future generations. He said Muslim world has

a large number of heroes and there was a need to disseminate information about them so that the youth could be able to learn their true Islamic values. - APP

#### Pakistan HC Colombo celebrates Eid-e-Milad

COLOMBO: Pakistan High Commission, Colombo, Sri Lanka, celebrated Eid Milad-un-Nabi on Friday with traditional fervor and reverence by organizing a special event at the High Commission in collaboration with Pakistan Friendship Association. Members of the Pakistani

diaspora and friends of Pakistan participated in the event. The event started with recitation from the Holy Quran by Acting High Commissioner, Tanvir Ahmed, who spoke about the significance of the holy occasion. He also shed light on the various aspects of the blessed personality of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). –  $\overline{\mathbf{D}}\mathbf{N}\mathbf{A}$ 



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov met with Mushahid Hussain Syed, Chairman of Defence Committee of Senate of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. - DNA

### Indian troops in Kashmir use rape to punish communities

NEW YORK: Reaffirming it's support for the full and equal participation of women in UN peacemaking, conflict prevention and peace-building efforts, Pakistan Thursday called for protecting females in situations of conflict and foreign occupation. "Women and girls in these situations are extremely vulnerable to sexual violence, including the use of rape as a weapon of war," Ambassador Munir Akram said in statement submitted to the UN Security Council, which held a debate on women,

peace and security. The Pakistani envoy said

that there was documented evidence that Indian occupation forces in Kashmir use rape as a means of targeting the Kashmiri women, whom they often accuse of being sympathizers of freedom fighters. In perpetrating rape and

sexual violence, Ambassador Akram pointed out, the Indian occupation forces aim to inflict punishment and humiliation on the entire community. "This is corroborated by the two reports of 2018 and 2019 of the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights, the international media and human rights organizations." In his remarks the Pakistani

envoy also emphasized that women must facilitate the Security Council in addressing the root causes of conflict and in creating an enabling environment for them to rise to their fullest potential to contribute to peace. "This could be achieved by protecting women against all types of violence," Ambassador Akram added.

While remaining mitted to advancing the gender perspective in UN peace operations, he said Pakistan had taken practical steps in the field: In 2019, dispatch its first all-female community engagement team to Africa'; Increasing number of Pakistani women peacekeepers serving as doctors, nurses and police officers in some of the most challenging environments; Achieved 50 percent female participation across our community engagement platoons serving in various United Nations peacekeeping missions; and, A female Pakistani police officer appointed this year as the police commissioner in the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mis-

sion in Sudan (UNITAMS).

### China pleased over CPEC achieving new outcomes

ing pleasure over progress of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Chinese Ministry Foreign Spokesperson Wang Wenbin Friday said that this



high quality development. We are glad to see that CPEC has achieved new outcomes and entered a stage of high quality development, he said while responding to a question asked by APP during his regular

press conference held here at the Internation-

al Press Center (IPC). He also referred to National Development Reforms Commission (NDRC) briefing in which a spokesperson of the Commission gave an update on the new progress of the CPEC de-

In his remarks, Wang Wenbin said that the Chinese side was glad to see that CPEC has achieved new outcomes and entered a stage of high quality development and added. This is a demonstration of China- Pakistan friendship, and also an example of promoting the prosper ity and development of countries along BRI. He said that Chinese will work with Pakistan to implement the important consensus reached between the leadership of the two countries and build the CPEC into a demonstration project for BRI's high quality development and to boost the building of an even closer China-Pakistan shared community.

Earlier, Meng Wei, a Spokesperson of the NDRC during a press briefing said that the CPEC has entered a new phase of high-quality development after making significant achievements in a wide range of areas over the years. The CPEC has made significant progress, as expressways, vocational schools and power plants funded by China have been put into operation in Pakistan. The NDRC spokesperson also remarked that as a major pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative, the CPEC will accelerate Pakistan's socioeconomic development in multiple areas, including energy and transportation. - Agencies

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