



Islamabad POST

Monday, October 25, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

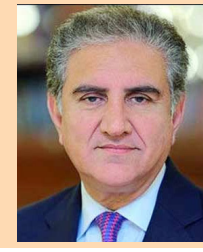
Price Rs. 20

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UN best forum to address the common issues

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Shaheen Afridi shines in World Cup Opener

Detailed News On Page-01



Briefs

Chunying promoted as China's assistant FM

DNA
BEIJING: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying has been promoted to the post of China's assistant foreign minister, the ministry's official website stated on Sunday. Born in Jiangsu Province, Hua Chunying joined the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) as staff member and Attaché, Department of Western European Affairs in 1993. During her career, she served in Chinese Embassy in Singapore and Chinese Mission to the European Union and also worked on different positions in MFA.

CM Balochistan Jam Kamal resigns

STAFF REPORT
QUETTA: Chief Minister of Balochistan Jam Kamal Khan Aylani on Sunday evening decided to step down from his position, Provincial Minister for Sports, Abdul Khaliq Hazara, confirmed the news. According to media, Kamal's resignation has been accepted by Governor Balochistan, the Governor House Secretariat confirmed. Following Kamal's resignation, the provincial cabinet of Balochistan has been dissolved and now, a session of the provincial assembly cannot take place until the appointment of a new chief minister.

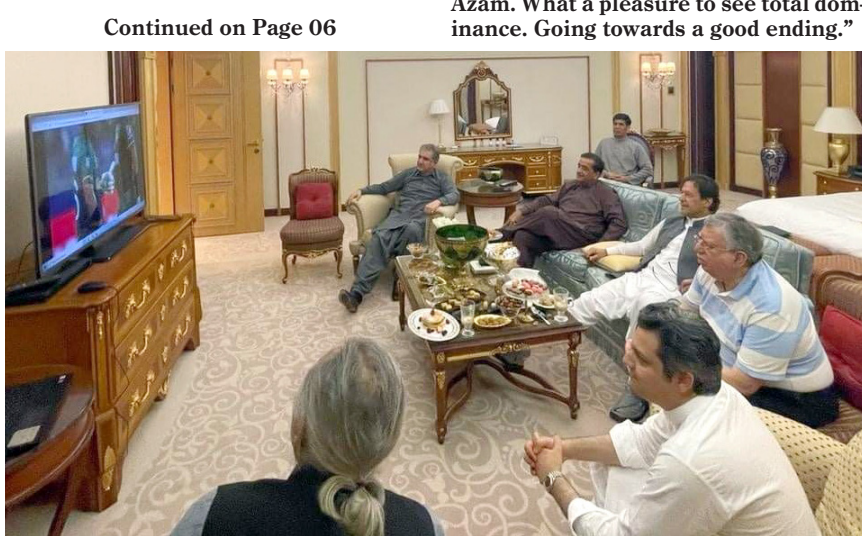
Khamenei urges to revise Arab Israeli ties

DNA
TEHRAN: Arab nations that normalised ties with Israel last year have "sinned" and should reverse such moves, Iran's supreme leader Ali Khamenei said on Sunday. The United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco all said in 2020 they would normalise ties with Israel, as Washington under the administration of then US president Donald Trump made Arab-Israeli rapprochement a foreign policy priority.

Pakistan thrash India in the opener

Rashid says PTI-led govt has initiated peaceful dialogue with protesters to return them back peacefully

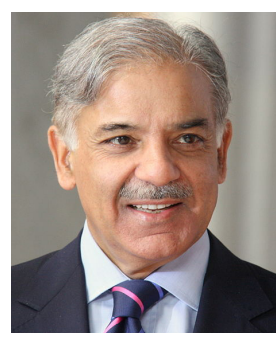
NEWS DESK
DUBAI: Pakistan have defeated India by 10 wickets for the first time in the history of the T20 World Cup at Dubai International Stadium. Skipper Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan cruised the run-chase without any hassle after they restricted arch-rivals to 151/7. Pacer Shaheen Shah started the proceedings for Pakistan in some fashion after skipper Babar Azam opted to field first. He trapped India's vice-captain Rohit Sharma for a golden duck and rattled KL Rahul's stumps in his following over as India were teetering at 6/2. Indian captain Virat Kohli and Suryakumar Yadav (11) tried to bring India's innings back on track in the powerplay, after early wickets, but Hasan Ali struck in his first over to reduce India to 36/3 in six overs.



RIYADH: PM Imran Khan along with ministers watching World Cup match between Pakistan and India in Saudi Arabia. – DNA

Govt has already struck deal with IMF: Shehbaz

STAFF REPORT
LAHORE: PML-N President and Opposition leader in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif has dubbed the present government as culprit which has put country's national security at stake by unleashing a storm of economic disaster and inflation urging people to come out of their homes in order to send the government packing. In a statement released on Sunday, Shehbaz Sharif deplored as soon as the government announced



decrease prices, instead of doing this, it hiked prices of daily use items. Does this government have any feelings for the poor masses and does it keep its own promises," he asked?

Every passing moment this government remains in power, it is incurring a loss of billions of dollars to the country, he said adding that giving any more time to this government by the people would be a serious mistake. The PML-N president asserted that he was right when he had said that the government was deceiving both the nation and the IMF. "If the government hasn't made any agreement with the IMF and if the talks have failed, then why it is raising prices of commodities," he stated.

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President Alvi congratulates Pakistan team

KHAYAM ABBASI
ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi Sunday congratulated Pakistan cricket team over their 10 wicket victory against India in the T20 World Cup match in Dubai. In a tweet on social media platform Twitter, he said, "Congratulations Green Shirts. Total Wipe-out. A win by 10 wickets. You make us proud. A good match. Tremendous batting by Mohammad Rizwan and Babar Azam. What a pleasure to see total dominance. Going towards a good ending."



MAKKAH: Prime Minister Imran Khan along with the First Lady performs Umrah, during his recent visit to Saudi Arabia. – DNA

Pakistan accuses US of trying to derail CPEC

NAZIR SIYAL
KARACHI: Pakistan has accused the United States of colluding with its longtime rival India to sabotage the multibillion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project. The rare direct charge came from Special Assistant to Prime Minister on CPEC Affairs Khalid Mansoor at a seminar organised by the prestigious Institute of Business Administration (IBA) in Karachi. Washington has long opposed the \$64 billion project, calling it a "debt trap" for Pakistan, but this is the first time Islamabad has reacted this bluntly.

New Delhi, an archrival of Beijing and Islamabad, has also opposed the project, which is part of Beijing's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), viewing it as against its strategic interests in the region. "From the point of view of the emerging geostrategic situation, one thing is clear: the United States supported by India is inimical to CPEC. It will not let it succeed. That's where we have to take a position," Mansoor said. "There's no way Pakistan will forgo any of its benefits. It has more than once burnt its fingers in the Western alliance in the past," he said, adding that attempts to dilute Beijing's strategic influence in the region will not succeed.

PM Khan off to attend Middle East Summit

Prime Minister was accompanied by FM Qureshi, Energy Minister Hammad Azhar and Special Assistant for Environment Malik Amin Aslam

NEWS DESK
RIYADH: Amid his three-day Saudi Arabia visit, Prime Minister Imran Khan is on Sunday embarking on his tour of the Kingdom's capital after performing Umrah to attend the launch ceremony of the Middle East Green Initiative Summit. According to the sources privy to the itinerary and agenda of the visit, MAKKAH MUKARRAMA: Prime Minister Imran Khan here on Saturday night performed Umrah along with his accompanying delegation on the first day of his three-day visit to the Kingdom. The Prime Minister prayed for peace and prosperity of Pakistan as well as Muslim Ummah. Earlier, soon after his arrival in Madinah Munawara in the evening, he proceeded to Masjid-e-Nabawi, paid his respects at Roza-e-Rasool (Peace Be Upon Him), offered Nawafil and prayed for the progress and prosperity of the country. The Prime Minister, upon arrival in Jeddah was received by Prince Badar bin Sultan Al Saud, Deputy Governor of Makkah region, while in Madinah Munawara he was welcomed by Prince Faisal bin Al-Khalid Al Saud, Deputy Governor of Makkah region. – APP

Normalization of situation till Tuesday

STAFF REPORT
ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed Sunday said that the government is successful for holding peaceful dialogue with Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) and current situation with protesters would be normalized till Tuesday. Talking to a private news channel, the minister said PTI-led govt has initiated peaceful dialogue with protesters to return them back peacefully and the nation would get good news soon.

SAIFULLAH
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Sahibzada Noor-ul-Haq Qadri on Sunday said the negotiations with the protesting Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) were heading towards success. In a statement, he hoped that the sit-in of the TLP would remain peaceful and the roads would be kept open. "The protestors would continue protests (from) wherever they were," he said. The government would seriously listen and consider all demands of the protesters after consultations, he said while out-rightly ruling out any clashes between police and protesters and confidently saying that the all contentious issues would be resolved with mutual understanding. "Police and security agencies would not take any action against the peaceful sit-in," he said.

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Presidential elections in Uzbekistan recognized as valid

Uzbek people expect their country to achieve further modernization during fresh tenure of Shavkat Mirziyoyev

ANSAR M BHATTI IN TASHKENT
TASHKENT: The Presidential elections in Uzbekistan have been declared by the international observers and delegates as valid where all the candidates had equal opportunities of putting forth their agendas and future plans. The turnout remained extremely high as a majority of the Uzbek voters thronged to the polling stations in order to cast their vote. It was quite encouraging to see a large number of youths casting their votes, most of them, for the first time. Though the official election results shall be announced later, the incumbent President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, according to the initial results, has won the election with a thumping majority and thus set to rule the country for another five era term. The Uzbek Election Commission had made elaborate arrangements for the facilitation of voters. This scribe had the chance of visiting a number of polling stations in the city center and the suburban areas and was greatly touched to witness smooth and disciplined polling drill. The Election Commission staff had made special arrangements to brief the



TASHKENT: President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev coming to cast his vote along with his family. – DNA

TASHKENT: President Shavkat Mirziyoyev casts his vote. – DNA

international observers about the details of the entire drill. The incumbent President Shavkat Mirziyoyev faced no big opposition but plenty of challenges as he bids to reform the ex-Soviet country. Mirziyoyev has been credited for launching what he calls a "New Uzbekistan", ending a decades-old system. He came to power in 2016 after the death of Islam Karimov, who ruled Uzbekistan for 27 years. Five candidates took part in the elections: President Shavkat Mirziyoyev (UzLiDeP), Maksuda Varisova (People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan), Alisher Kadirov (National Democratic Party Milliy Tiklanish), Bahrom Abdulkhalimov (Social Democratic Party Adolat) and Narzullo Oblomurodov (Ecological Party). A large number of foreign observers, journalist, and members of the civil society were invited to monitor the presidential election. A sizeable group comprising prominent personalities was also in Tashkent to monitor the elections. There is no denying the fact that the new leader presided over an unprecedented boom in foreign tourism in the country that borders Taliban-controlled Afghanistan and counts China and Russia among its partners. Voting across

the landlocked country of 34 million people began at 8:00 am local time and ended at 8:00 pm. Under the rule of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Uzbekistan has strengthened traditional relations with Beijing and Moscow. Similarly, Uzbekistan has ventured to have close and cordial relations with neighboring countries such as Pakistan. In July this year Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan visited Uzbekistan

to take part in an international conference. The good thing with the new Uzbekistan is that it gives you an absolutely new look whenever you visit this fast emerging economy. The country can surely be proud of being a house of the vibrant peoples and thriving business and touristic hub. A few years ago perhaps nobody could predict that Uzbekistan would acquire strategic and regional importance within a short span of time.

This great Central Asian country started making strides towards progress and development when the incumbent President Shavkat Mirziyoyev took charge of the office. The way President Shavkat carried forward the futuristic policies of the founding President late Islam Karimov, is ostensibly unparalleled. It is because of the visionary leadership that Uzbekistan now stands out prominently among the comity of nations. Internally, the country has seen colossal developmental activities. The infrastructure has been streamlined on modern lines while the living standard of people has also been improved albeit in the remote areas life still is more challenging. When I talked to people on streets, cafes; working places and even students, everybody seemed satisfied with

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FAISALABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Farrukh Habib, addressing the media persons after the inauguration of a park in Faisalabad. – DNA

Door-to-door corona vaccination kicks off in Faisalabad

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: On the directions of the Punjab government, the Reach Every Door (Red) door-to-door corona vaccination campaign has kicked off in Faisalabad district.

The major aim of this campaign is to cover 100% population of 12 years plus age or protected them from corona virus.

The campaign will continue to November 12. A review meeting on implementation of microplan was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Ali Shehzad

in which Additional Deputy Commissioner Headquarters Muhammad Khalid, District Health Officer Dr. Bilal Ahmed and UCMOs, ASVs besides Assistant Commissioners were present through video link. The Deputy Commissioner directed the District Health Authority to make all out efforts for the complete success of the important campaign to prevent public from corona and said that 100% vaccination must be ensured to prevent from fifth expected wave of corona. He said that administrative support will be provided to health department.

He said that there will be full monitoring of the door-to-door campaign and review meetings will be held daily at district and tehsil level to review the targets and completion.

During the briefing, the DHO said that the arrangements and microplan for the door-to-door Corona vaccination campaign are complete.

Each team will consist of three members including one mail, one family injector and one data entry operator.

He said that the second round of the campaign would be held in December.

459 new dengue cases reported in Punjab

LAHORE: Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) Secretary Imran Sikandar Baloch on Sunday said that during the last 24 hours, 459 confirmed cases of dengue have been reported across the province out of which 346 from Lahore. In a statement, he elaborated that 46 cases reported from Rawalpindi, 6 from Sheikhupura, Gujranwala and Sardodah, 4 from Hafizabad and Kasur, 3 from Attock, Bahawalnagar, Faisalabad, Lodhran and Multan.

So far this year, 9,996 confirmed cases of dengue have been reported across the whole province while 6,640 confirmed cases of dengue have been reported from Lahore, he added.

He informed that one death was reported from Punjab in 24 hours taking total to 30. A total of 2,212 patients were admitted across Punjab out of which 1,278 patients were admitted in hospitals of Lahore, while 934 patients were admitted in hospitals of other cities of Punjab.

While talking about the availability of beds for dengue patients in hospitals of Punjab, Health Secretary Imran Sikandar Baloch said that 4,873 beds were currently allocated for dengue in hospitals across Punjab. – APP

100 dengue cases reported in KP

PESHAWAR: As many as one hundred new dengue cases have been reported from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during last 24 hours, said updates shared by the Health Department here on Sunday. With 100 new cases, the total number of dengue cases in the province have reached to 5107 while active cases were 1683. No new death case was reported from the province. In the meanwhile, 138 patients have also been recovered from the disease, reaching the total number of recovered persons to 3418. – APP

WHO guidelines, is being implemented and children can be saved from polio through timely vaccination, so parents should also do their part.

The Deputy Commissioner appealed to the parents to vaccinate their children against polio and be a part of the government's efforts. He said that the continuation of effective measures to eradicate polio is the collective responsibility of the society and member of the civil society should be in field to win this war.

He said that the war against polio is the war of the future of the youth of the nation. He said that today we should renewed our commitment to take effective steps to eradicate polio. Earlier, Deputy Commissioner distributed certificates among health workers and Officers those shown best performance during last Polio campaign and Pashtoon influencers Iqbal Khan, Innayat ullah Khan, UCMOs Ikram Tahir, Khurram Rashid, M. Adnan, Farrukh Sultan, Muneer Ahmad, Asia Nawaz, Asvs Umar Farooq Walha, Acting DPR Muhammad Awais Abid, Chairman All Pakistan Private School Alliance Sadaqat Lodhi and others received certificate.



FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Ali Shahzad leads an awareness walk regarding world Anti Polio Day. – DNA

Hefty funds allocated for backward areas: Urmur

PESHAWAR: KP Minister for Environment, Syed Mohammad Ishtiaq Urmur has said that the provincial government has allocated hefty funds for the welfare of the people of backward areas.

Addressing a ceremony here on Sunday, the provincial minister said that the government has initiated various projects in health, education, drinking water, environment, agriculture and livestock sectors, whose completion will trigger socio-economic uplift in backward areas of the area and help address the problems and hardships of the poor. The minister said "The provincial government believes in the supremacy of merit and making historic legislation for the abolition of injustice."

Paying tributes to the Prime Minister, the provincial minister said "Imran Khan is a popular leader and his vision is the provision of indiscriminate justice and bringing real change by providing facilities at gross-root level." – APP

Two criminal gangs involved in street crimes busted

PESHAWAR: The City police here Sunday busted two criminal gangs and arrested five persons allegedly involved in different nature of street crimes, said SP City Ateeq Shah.

The first gang was busted by Bhana Mari police when two persons named Moinuddin Qureshi, and Inam Gul were arrested by police during snap checking. Police recovered 30 valuable smartphones from their possessions which have been snatched at gunpoint in different street crimes. Similarly, Fagrirabad police busted a two-member gang and arrested Khayal Malik and Asad who were allegedly involved in street dacoities. Police recovered two million cash from their possession which they looted in different incidents. – APP

DHA holds polio awareness walk

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Under the Joint arrangements of District Health Authority and UNICEF, on the eve of World Polio Eradication Day an awareness walk was held which was led by Deputy Commissioner Ali Shahzad. Additional Deputy Commissioner HQ Muhammad Khalid, DHO Dr. Bilal Ahmed, District Communication Officer UNICEF Tayab, Area Incharges and members of civil society were present in large numbers.

The walk started from Deputy Commissioner office and culminated at the same spot after passing through different roads. The participants of walk hold banners and placards inscribes the slogans of end polio now. Deputy Commissioner said that polio-free Pakistan is our mission and complete eradication of infectious diseases like polio is one of the top priorities.

He said that all resources are being utilized for giving a healthy future to the children and the administration along with the health department is also active for anti-polio.

He said that in the light of

DC Lodhran calls for dengue monitoring at sensitive places

Deputy Commissioner said that indoor and outdoor hotspots should be monitored closely, he directed DHQ and THQ Hospital's Medical Superintendent

SAQIB MUSHTAQ

LODHRAN: Deputy Commissioner Captain (R) Shoaib Ali said that to prevent the growth of Dengue Larva strict monitoring should be done at sensitive places, he added that all concerned departments should observe their duties well for dengue prevention. He said that all departments along with Health Department should play their part thoroughly to prevent dengue. He expressed these remarks while chairing the meeting of District Emergency Response Committee for Dengue Prevention. At this time notable officers from concerned departments were also there. In the meeting Dengue Prevention steps taken by Health Department and concerned departments were reviewed. Deputy Commissioner said that indoor and outdoor hotspots should be monitored closely, he directed DHQ and THQ Hospital's Medical Superintendent to note CNIC, Phone Num-

ber and Union Council of Dengue patients while filling their details. He added that Dengue surveillance in graveyard should be improved. He directed Municipal officers to set targets for cleaning parks and surveillance of graveyards and review their performance. Deputy Commissioner said that all Android mobile phones users should remain functional and upload their performance on daily basis and in this regard people who upload bogus data should correct themselves. He added that a disciplined campaign to aware public

about dengue prevention should be run using all the advertising sources and obtain effective results, all departments should play their roles in dengue prevention. It was told during the meeting that collectively 279 indoor teams and 73 outdoor teams have been deployed, in Tehsil Lodhran for dengue surveillance 93 indoor and 28 outdoor, in Tehsil Kehror Pakka 85 indoor and 23 outdoor while in Duniyapur 101 indoor and 22 outdoor teams have been deployed. It was told during the meeting that during the dengue

prevention campaign 2250 hotspots coverage will be done, all hotspots have been categorized, 73 union councils of district have been divided into categories. It was told that throughout the district 15 union councils have been put in high risk, 8 in average and 50 into low risk.

It was told that as a preventive step towards dengue surveillance of graveyards have been improved. Different departments are uploading their dengue preventive activities on the web portal and Android Mobile phones are being made functional.



Pakistan needs to create awareness about nutrition

DNA

FAISALABAD: It is a matter of grave concern that as many as 50 million people in Pakistan suffer from zinc deficiency. Therefore, it is the need of the hour to raise awareness about nutrition in order to combat the crisis at the national level.

These views were expressed by the experts while addressing a seminar on alleviating of zinc deficiency through bio-fortification of wheat organized by the National Institute of Food Science and Technology (NIFSAT) and the Institute of Soil and Environmental Sciences, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad. Addressing the seminar as the chief guest, UAF Vice Chancellor Dr Iqbal Ahmad Khan said that more than 50% of the population of the country was facing malnutrition, causing an increase in ailments and health budgets.

It is creating negative impact on economy as well. He said the world is using

adopting modern trends for which scientists and experts should come up to address the issue. She said that UAF, being the mother of all agricultural institutions, would come up with viable solution to the current agricultural problems facing the country. Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Dr. Amanullah Malik said that due to malnutrition, the country's economy is suffering a heavy loss.

He said that concerted efforts were needed to tackle the malnutrition crisis. He said that the UAF was taking all possible steps to solve the agricultural problems and farmers at their doorstep to ensure poverty alleviation, profitable agriculture and food security. Institute of Soil and Environmental Sciences UAF Director Dr Ghulam Murtaza said that with the passage of time, the fertility of the land was declining. He said that by adopting the recommendations of agricultural experts, we can not only increase the productivity but boost up income.

We need to promote best nutritious food habits promote in the society so that emerging challenges of malnutrition can be addressed. She said that it is time to accelerate the efforts about One Health in Pakistan by

Efforts against polio steps towards success

PESHAWAR: Once in spotlight in world for being a country of polio virus reservoir following reports of about 20,000 cases per year in early 1990, Pakistan is now being widely acclaimed after reaching very close to the finish line of zero polio cases this year.

Being one of the two remaining polio-endemic countries in the world along with Afghanistan, Pakistan has witnessed a significant decline in polio cases in recent years where only one case was reported from Balochistan on January 27, 2021 courtesy to the regular door to door vaccination campaigns due to coordinated efforts of the government and its allied partners.

Since the official launch of Polio Eradication Program in 1994, Pakistan has made significant progress towards stopping of polio virus transmission and boosting children immunity through safe vaccination and is heading to achieve polio free status as no case was reported from Punjab, KP, Sindh, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan this year. "Except one polio case detected in Balochistan on January 27, 2021, no case has been reported from any part of the country, Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Kashmir this year, which is a matter of great pride for us" said Sarfaraz Khan Afridi, National Professional Officer, Provincial Emergency Operations (EOC) Centre, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. – APP

13 killed, 16 hurt in clash over cutting of firewood

PESHAWAR: As many as thirteen persons were killed and sixteen others got injured in last two days over a clash between two tribes relating to cutting of firewood in a forest area at district Kurram, said DPO Tahir Iqbal.

The clash took place between two tribes of village Pewaar and Village Geedu situated near Pak-Afghan border over cutting of firewood. The security forces and district police have cordoned off the area and shifted injured to hospital. The dead were identified as Said Ali Tori, Mohammad Hassan Tori, Jawad Ali, Gulam Ali, Mazhar Ali, Rasheed Ali, Said Nazir Mangal, Noorul Haq, Khan Wali Mangal, Hazratullah and Sakhi Mangal.

Meanwhile, tribal elders of three tehsils of district Kurram and government officials held a grand jirga of both the tribes who later agreed to hold fire. – APP

Sindh announces first Green Hydrogen project

More than 10 large market economies already have established hydrogen policies in place

DNA

KARACHI: MOU Signing Ceremony for 400MW Green Hydrogen Project in Sindh was held at Energy Department, Karachi. Ms. Naheed Memon Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Oracle Power Public Ltd, a UK listed company and Mr Yang Jianduo Chief representative in Pakistan of Power China International, signed the MoU for the joint development of the first green hydrogen project in Pakistan.

The MOU signing for the 400MW Green Hydrogen Project in Sindh was witnessed by Minister of Energy Sindh Mr. Imtiaz Ahmed Shaikh and His Excellency Consul

General of China in Karachi Mr. Li Bijian.

The announced facility will produce approximately 150,000 kg per day of Green Hydrogen from a 400 MW capacity plant using energy from wind and solar farms.

This important development comes a few days before the all important COP26, the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties, which will confirm a global commitment to hydrogen economies. The initiation of this project also comes at a time when Pakistan and China have announced a plan to sign on a three year investment cooperation pact for green projects. More than 350 hydrogen projects are currently in development

around the world. These seek to decarbonise economic sectors – such as heavy transportation, industry and even aviation. With the right policy and investment, hydrogen could satisfy as much as 24 percent of global energy demand by 2050.

Currently only 4 percent of the hydrogen produced is from green sources but it is expected to grow by many multiples as the global decarbonisation drive is accelerated. Green hydrogen produced from this plant in Sindh will be exported initially and the sponsors aim to secure buyers in China and in the region.

More than 10 large market economies already have established hydrogen policies in place.

On this occasion Minister for Energy Sindh Imtiaz Ahmed Shaikh has said that this project places the province of Sindh in the lead for the development of the global future fuel and places Pakistan amongst the ranks of forward thinking nations.

Minister for Energy Sindh Imtiaz Ahmed Shaikh has assured the sponsors of Sindh government's support. The abundant renewable resource in Sindh, two ports, and infrastructure make it an ideal location for this set up.

GoS has led in the establishment of renewable energy and now has taken another step in moving to support frontier technology, sustainability and innovation. The sponsors hope to secure

global support for this important project.

This project also enables the use of Sindh's abundant renewable resource. Given the current low or absent demand for further power generation in Pakistan, it creates a much sought after captive usage of renewable energy.

Sindh province offers a potential of 50,000MW of wind and 10,000MW of solar power resource at commercial costs of as low as USc 3.5/kWh. This cost can be lower when these resources are used as captive power for producing hydrogen. It is expected that this plant will produce green hydrogen at globally competitive rates well suited for both domestic and export markets.

SERVICES



Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	04:56 am
Zohr.....	11:52 am
Asr.....	03:45 pm
Maghrib.....	05:24 pm
Isha.....	06:47 pm



Hotels & Restaurants

Serena Hotel.....	111 133 133
Marriott.....	051-2826121
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Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....	0331-5022125
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Sustainable economic growth requires stable exchange rates

Apart from increasing exports and keeping a check on imports the government will have to take administrative measures, as a large demand of cash dollars are seen in the market, says Anjum Nisar

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce Industry's Businessmen Panel has urged the government to control volatility of rupee against the US dollar, as the local currency continued to lose ground and fell to an all-time low of almost Rs174 against the US dollar in the inter-bank market, putting the industrial revival and economic growth at risk. FPCCI's Businessmen Panel Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar said that apart from increasing exports and keeping a check on imports the government will have to take administrative measures, as a large demand of cash dollars are seen in the market. He was of the view that

State Bank of Pakistan will have to remain vigilant in this regard. Besides this, the SBP and the government also need to intervene and come up with policy reforms to control depreciation of rupee which is becoming more and more valueless. Referring to the data released by the central bank, he said the rupee maintained the downtrend for the past five months, as it has lost 14.24% (or Rs21.69) compared to the 22-month high of Rs152.27 recorded in May. With a fresh decline of 0.28%, the rupee has depreciated 10.42% (or Rs16.42) since the start of the current fiscal year on July 1, 2021, he added. This indicates that the pressure on the rupee is consistently increasing, he said, stressing the need to devise



a strategy on war-footing to increase foreign investment in Pakistan so as to stop the upward trajectory of the dollar. He said that the continuous increase in imports is fueling the dollar's demand in the market, saying that there was a possibility of imports rising to \$65 billion by the year's end, up from an earlier estimate. Moreover, he added, the target for remittances from overseas Pakistanis, which was set at \$30 billion in June earlier this, was likely to be contracted to \$28 billion. However, if the approval of a \$6 billion loan package by the International Monetary Fund and the

immediate delivery of \$1 billion on that account from the Fund could improve the situation, he said. The BMP Chairman said that huge depreciation of Rupee continued to damage the economy, as the cost of deals done by the businessmen with their foreign counterparts has increased manifold due to massive fall of rupee against dollar. Apart from increasing exports and controlling imports the government will have to take administrative measures, as a large demand of cash dollars are seen in the market, he suggested.

Termining rupee depreciation against dollar a mysterious development, he said that continued fall of rupee is not understandable with a fact that there was no fundamental change in country's imports while other economic indicators are also same for a long time. Mian Anjum urged the government to control volatility of rupee against the US dollar, as the industrial revival and economic growth is not possible without stability of local currency. He said that the high import bill this year was enough to signal the market that demand of dollar was very high. He observed that the market-based flexible exchange rate system, resilience in remittances and other factors can help contain the current account deficit in a sustainable range of 2-3 percent of GDP in FY22. He said that the rising of dollar is not logical despite the fact that the State Bank says Pakistan's external position was at its strongest in 10 years with 0.6pc current account deficit in FY21.

Residents annoyed by low gas pressure

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Low gas pressure and unannounced gas load-shedding in most parts of the city has created problems for the domestic users especially in morning time from the beginning of the winter. The most affected areas facing low gas pressure are Imambara, Akal Garh, Dhoke Dalal, Karimpura, Committee Chowk, Dhoke Khaba, Umer Road, Dhoke Ealhi Bukush, Nadeem Colony, Arya Mohallah, Pirwadhai, Adiala Road, Bakra Mandi, Dhoke Syedan, Sadiqabad, Muslim Town, Shahkhalid Colony, Pindora and Shah Khalid Colony are facing worst difficulties due to low gas pressure. Nusrat Bibi, a housewife, regretted that cold wave and low natural gas pressure and gas-load-shedding create problems every winter while we have to pay gas bills every month regularly.

Unchecked drug business concern citizens

RAWALPINDI: The residents of various areas have urged the quarters concerned to take strict action against rising trend of drug peddling in the area directly jeopardizing the youth risked to contract the menace amid proliferating number of addicts. The drug dealers are operating in various localities including Dhoke Elahi Bukush, Nadeem Colony, Umer Road, Dhoke Khabba, Mohallah Hukamdad, Waris Khan, Glass Factory, Arya Mohallah etc. Muhammad Arshad, a school teacher residing in area said the drug sale and use was going unchecked in various parts of Rawalpindi areas. He said due to rising number of addicts roaming in the vicinity, Dhoke Elahi Bukush emerged on the top areas of the city in illegal trade of narcotics including heroin and ice, whereas, police and other law enforcement agencies were apparently turning a blind eye to the menace. The youth particularly school, college and university students including boys and girls were equally at risk to contract the menace of drug addiction as the buffs could be seen in large numbers injecting drugs to each other, said. Nasir Mehmood, a social activist told APP that despite many complaints raised at the relevant foras, police and other authorities concerned were turning a blind eye to the issue, allegedly ignoring the unbridled drug sale. He alleged that the key players involved in the racket of drug pushing in area were paying monthly bribes to the police department. - APP

PHA to provide recreational facilities to citizens

RAWALPINDI: Vice Chairman, Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Rawalpindi Malik Abid Sunday said that the authority was focusing to provide more tourism and recreational facilities to the citizens. He said that the authority was working to beautify the city as per instructions of the Advisor to the CM, Punjab and Chairman PHA Rawalpindi Asif Mehmood. He informed the authority had inaugurated 'Kitab Chowk' on Sixth Road. On the directives of the Punjab Government, all available resources were being utilized to make the city clean and green, he added. The work to beautify different areas of Rawalpindi city was swiftly being completed by PHA, he added. PHA after renovating the chowk on sixth road had installed another beautiful monument which was beautifully designed with models of pens and books and the chowk had also been decorated with ornamental plants, he informed. The vice chairman said that the Advisor to CM Punjab had also directed to take solid steps to enhance beauty of Raja Bazar and install dancing fountains to provide more recreational facilities to the citizens. - APP

Tourist E-portal to be completed soon

ISLAMABAD: The development of tourism E-portal was underway and would be completed shortly to provide a one-window online solution to local and foreign tourists. An official of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) has said that promotional activities on social media were being carried out vigorously to project Pakistan's an attractive tourist destination of the region. The E-visa system for over 90 countries and visa on arrival for 50 countries was introduced for the first time in Pakistan to boost tourists' arrival. He said, Draft National Minimum standards for Tourism and Hospitality sector had been developed, while coverage of PTDC and tourist attractions on print and electronic media had also been increased substantially to attract local and foreign tourists. Pakistan Tourism Development Endowment Fund (PTDEF) has been created with seed money of Rs one billion to promote tourism in the country. The government has set up an endowment fund of Rs one billion to execute its marketing plans for the promotion of the country's unexplored scenic sites and tourist resorts at the local and international levels. PTDC has also designed a ten-year roadmap National Tourism Strategy (NTS), 2020-2030 to uplift the tourism industry. A five-year action plan (2020-25) had also been introduced for the promotion of tourism. The government has restructured the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), according to its new role as a coordination body; it is to shift its model from an operator to a policymaker and regulator. - APP

Pak exports \$419m worth IT services

The export and import of computer software related services also rose by 29.01 percent



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan earned US \$419.992 million by providing different information technology (IT) services in various countries during the first two months of financial year 2021-22. This shows growth of 46.32 percent when compared to US \$287.030 million earned through provision of services during the corresponding period of fiscal year 2020-21, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. During the period under review, the computer services grew by 40.06 percent as it surged from US \$223.200 million last fiscal year to US \$312.612 million during July-August (2021-22). Among the computer services, the exports of software consul-

tancy services witnessed increase of 56.19 percent, from US \$72.681 million to US \$113.517 million while the exports of hardware consultancy services also rose by 568.83 percent from, US \$0.077 million to US \$0.515 million. The export and import of computer software related services also rose by 29.01 percent, from US \$57.012 million to US \$73.552 million whereas the exports of repair and maintenance services surge to \$0.192 million from \$0.071 million. In addition, the exports of other computer services increased by 33.72 percent going up from US\$ 93.359 million to US \$124.836 million. Meanwhile, the export of information ser-

Efforts underway to remove encroachments

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Minister for Literacy and Non-Formal Basic Education, Raja Rashid Hafeez on Sunday said that efforts were being made to remove encroachments from city areas. The provincial minister informed that all-out efforts were being made to complete the ongoing development projects in Rawalpindi within shortest possible time frame.

Talking about traffic congestion problem which has become major issue of the city, he said that the construction of long-awaited Nullah Lai Expressway and Ring Road project which had been approved by the Punjab government, would significantly reduce the traffic problems on the city roads.

The authorities concerned had been directed to make earnest efforts to remove encroachments as the encroachments on Murree Road and other city roads greatly reduce the width of the roads causing traffic gridlock problems for the road users. He informed that the shopkeepers also encourage encroachers by renting sidewalks or open spaces in front of them, while many other factors also lead to encroachments. - APP

Rector IIUI for uniformed educational system

ISLAMABAD: Rector, International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) Prof. Dr. Masoom Yasinzai has called for a uniformed educational system, as bridging the gap between religious seminaries and modern educational institutions is the need of the hour. In his address at a Dialogue at Baluchistan University organized by Iqbal International Institute for Research and Dialogue (IRD), Dr. Masoom Yasinzai said the religious leaders, scholars, Khanqas and Mashaikh have vital role to protect the ideology of Islam and Pakistan. He was addressing a Dialogue session titled "our education system, single curriculum and role of religious scholars" held at Baluchistan yesterday. Executive Director IRD Dr. Husnulamin was present along with other researchers and scholars. Dr. Masoom Yasinzai said that since counseling and deliberation is a Sunnah of the Prophet (PBUH), religious and modern educational institutions should join hands in this regard and they must be given due opportunities to contribute in preparation of a single curriculum. He said Different recommendations and suggestions for a uniform national curriculum and education system should be formulated as the federal government is taking serious steps in this regard, and in the first phase a uniform education system has been introduced at the primary level. He said that protection of the young generation from atheism is a big challenge for us as atheism is spreading among the youth at present. He said that importance of madrassas and religious scholars cannot be denied. Dr. Husnulamin, Executive Director of the Iqbal Institute for Research and Dialogue, said that recommendations of this session shall be shared with concerned forums for formulation of a comprehensive policy. He also opined that Urdu should be given importance in the curriculum and this consultation process should be further expanded by consulting all the organizations of madrassas, religious parties and people hailing from all walks of life. - DNA

108 teachers trained to prevent substance abuse

All the students and faculty members must authorize their institute to examine them for drug abuse and take action against any violation of the policy

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) Islamabad in collaboration with Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has trained over 108 teachers to curb substance abuse in educational institutions. The teacher's training was still continuing under supervision of Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training to actively educate the students about prevention, detection, and rehabilitation processes of drug menace, said official source.

The objective was to equip the teachers with necessary skills so that they could carry the message of substance use and enable them to identify early stages of addiction and facilitate the students with ways to deal with such situations. There were about three million students in universities and affiliated campuses, 40,000 faculty, and equivalent number of non-faculty member of higher education institutions (HEIs). All the students and faculty members must authorize their institute to examine them for drug abuse and take action against any violation of the policy.



It was feasible nor recommended, that every student be tested

for drugs because of serious financial, administrative, social, and medical constraints. Only those suspected of drug use, would be tested.

FDE has constituted Monitoring and Inspection committees at each educational institution, headed by the Principal concerned to conduct random testing/checking of suspected of drug use.

Higher Education Commission (HEC) in consultation with Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), has prepared drug and tobacco abuse policy to prevent, detect, and rehabilitate drug addicts in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in

collaboration with local administration. Placards were placed inside premises of the institutes to educate the students of hazardous effects of drugs addiction.

A committee has been constituted at each HEI and sub-campus to ensure drug free environment in campus, create awareness about use of narcotics among students and ensure testing of an accused from any unauthorized laboratory the society. Committees were also directed to carry out regular inspections of institutional premises, on campus canteens / cafeterias and to supervise the arrival and departure of students.

Briefs

RCB
completes
'Saddar
Project'

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) has completed 'Shining Saddar Project' at a cost of Rs 1.1 billion.

Cantonment Executive Officer (CEO) Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) Muhammad Umar Farooq Ali Malik has said that several development works worth Rs 1.1 billion including road carpeting of Haider Road, Kashmir Road, Adam Jee Road, construction of footpaths, organizing hanging electricity wires, installation of street lights and provision of parking facilities were completed under 'Shining Saddar Project' to facilitate the citizens and the traders.

He informed that RCB was facing difficulties like shortage of water, collection of revenue and enforcement etc but due to tireless efforts of the board, major issues had been resolved. The board had overcome the financial difficulties, he added.

In line with the Prime Minister Imran Khan's Green and Clean vision, "We have set up 'Quran Gardens' in different areas."

In-charge Horticulture Branch, Mehr Gul worked tirelessly to plant maximum saplings and also grown plants which are mentioned in the "Holy Quran". - APP

Lok Virsa to
hold annual
Lok Mela
from Nov 1

ISLAMABAD: National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage-Lok Virsa will hold annual folk festival titled 'Lok Mela 2021' from November 1.

According to the official announcement, Lok Virsa annual mega event would be held at Lok Virsa Complex, Garden Avenue, Shakarparian, Islamabad.

The inaugural ceremony of the 7-day event will be held on November 1 which is expected to be graced by Federal Minister for Education, Professional Training Shafiqat Mahmood.

The main features will include provincial cultural pavilions from all provinces, GB, AJK including an international pavilion, artisans at work, folk songs and dance performances, exotic craft bazaar, cultural nights, folkloric performances, food courts, and many other activities.

As per tradition, the festival will formally open with a 'chadarposhi'/'dastarbandi' ceremony, which is a way of proclaiming Lok Virsa's commitment to the high stature that craftspeople and folk artists have in the cultural mainstream.

Culture departments of all provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Jammu & Kashmir, and the diplomatic community have been invited to set up pavilions presenting their indigenous folk culture, artisans, folk artists, and traditional cuisine as link nodes of the festival's foundation grid. - APP

Over 31,000
youth get IT
training

RAWALPINDI: Under an E-Rozgaar Training program launched by the Punjab government to train unemployed youth to earn their livelihood through online work, so far over 31,000 persons were imparted training and they succeeded to earn over Rs 3.5 billion. According to a district administration spokesman, the training program was launched by the Youth Affairs and Sports Department, Govt of Punjab in collaboration with the Punjab Information Technology Board. He said, a large number of unemployed youth after getting the training were earning hefty amount through free lancing using digital skills. The government under next phase of the program has offered an opportunity to get admission for free E-Rozgaar Training Program for unemployed youth of Rawalpindi district. Applications are now open for E-Rozgaar Training Program 2021 and the youngsters who have completed 16 years education can get registered at website erozgaar.pitb.gov.pk to become part of the training program. - APP

FBR asked to address
reservations of traders

Shakeel Munir said that the government has made many amendments in tax laws through the Third Amendment Ordinance that would increase the problems of the business community

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) said that the traders has many reservations on the installation of Point of Sale (POS) in retail outlets and stressed that FBR should first address all their reservations before going ahead with this initiative. He said this while addressing a delegation of traders of Jinnah Super Market, Islamabad that called on him led by Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, former Executive Member ICCI to discuss the tax issues of the business community. Mian

Akram Farid Chairman Founder Group, Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President, Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI, Faseeh Ullah Khan, Ashfaq Chatha, Khalid Chaudhry and others were also present at the occasion.

Shakeel Munir said that the government has made many amendments in tax laws through the Third Amendment Ordinance that would increase the problems of the business community.

He said that it has been made mandatory for companies to make digital payment of expenditures beyond a certain limit instead of cross cheque that could create problems in running business ac-



tivities. He said that FBR has been empowered to issue instructions to utility companies for disconnection of electricity, gas connections and mobile SIMS for recovery of

tax dues, which has created a lot of concerns for taxpayers. He said that NADRA has also been empowered to share data of taxpayers with FBR that has raised concerns about the privacy of their data.

He said that to save the business community from unnecessary problems, these amendments should be reconsidered. He assured the delegation members that ICCI would make all possible efforts for redress of their key issues.

Mian Akram Farid, Chairman, Founder Group said that the business community was facing multiple problems due to the Covid-19 pandemic and instead of providing

them relief, the government was taking harsh tax measures. He urged that the government should reduce tax rates and broaden the tax base to improve tax revenue.

He further emphasized that the government should simplify the current complicated tax system in a way that it should facilitate the growth of business activities.

Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President, Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI and delegation members said that the government should introduce a fixed tax regime for small traders that would address their tax issues and help in improving the tax revenue of the country.

Pak close to
become polio
free state

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator of the National Emergency Operations Centre, Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI), Dr Shahzad Baig on Sunday said that Pakistan now close to delivering on a promise of a polio-free world for children.

"This World Polio Day is a reminder for all of us to ensure we deliver this precious promise to our children - a polio-free world," Dr Shahzad said in a message on World Polio Day (October 24). He said, "Today, we are closer than ever to eradicating the poliovirus from Pakistan, but this last mile is the hardest and most important, with no room for complacency."

Dr Shahzad said, "We must ensure all under-five children are vaccinated and safe from this vaccine-preventable contagious disease."

He said World Polio Day is observed across the world and nationwide with the call for concerted efforts to eradicate poliovirus from Pakistan.

In 1988, governments and global leaders embarked on an ambitious mission to eradicate all forms of poliovirus, he added.

Meanwhile, in partnership with Rotary International, the Polio Programme organised various events both at the national and provincial levels to commemorate the day. Rotary International and the Pakistan Polio Programme jointly organised a photo exhibition highlighting various activities of the polio eradication programme while a motor rally was organised alongwith the Srinagar highway to raise awareness on this disease. - APP

Theatre
Wallay to
start new
series

ISLAMABAD: "Theatre Wallay" would start a new series "Gupshup with Gurus" featuring conversation with prominent singers and artists about their respective fields from October 25. In this regard, the first session would be organized with Arieb Azhar, a well known for his unique brand of music, Director Theatre waley Fiza Khan told APP on Sunday.

"We will be talking to him about his passion for music and his stance on the arts in Pakistan," she said. He will, of course, sing a song or two and respond to participants' questions as well. Arieb Azhar's first album, Waji, released in 2006, consisted of eight tracks, in which he vocalized the classical lyrics of sufi poets like Khawaja Ghulam Farid, Bulleh Shah, Mian Muhammad Bakhsh, and even the contemporary lyrics of Sarmad Sebbai.

He is also known for his Husn-e-Haqiqi song at Coke Studio (Pakistan). - APP

ANF seizes
over 1746 kg
drugs in 38
operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan has seized 1746.149 kg narcotics valuing over US \$ 89.780 million in international market, arrested 45 culprits including two women and impounded 11 vehicles while conducting 38 counter-narcotics strikes throughout the country. According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, the seized drugs comprised 92.372 kg Heroin, 1490.04 kg Hashish, 118.2 kg Opium, 7.81 kg Amphetamine, 37.362 kg Methamphetamine (Ice), 54 Ecstasy Tablets, 0.00786 kg MDMA tablets and 0.358 kg weed. ANF Balochistan recovered 1177 kg drugs in four operations while arrested nine accused including two women and seized a vehicle. The seized drugs comprised 1154 kg Hashish, 10 kg Opium and 13 kg Ice.

ANF Punjab recovered 7.862 kg drugs in four operations while arrested four accused. The seized drugs comprised 3.2 kg Heroin, 4 kg Hashish, and 0.662 kg Methamphetamine (Ice). He informed that ANF KPK recovered 12.55 kg drugs in 4 operations while arrested 5 accused and seized 2 vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 4.8 kg Hashish and 7.750 kg Amphetamine. Similarly, ANF Sindh recovered 279.25 kg drugs in 10 operations while arrested 15 accused and seized 2 vehicles. - APP



ISLAMABAD: A view of thick clouds hovering over the skies of Federal Capital. - APP

Exhibition in
full swing at
Tanzara Gallery

Farrukh Addnan is a highly accomplished artist recognised home and abroad

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

According to details, the exhibition will continue till November 3. Farrukh Addnan is a highly accomplished artist recognised home and abroad. In his technically accomplished paintings, the aspect of memory plays a very important role.

Addnan 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.

To stand in front of Farrukh Addnan's artworks is to be drawn into a meditative space and time. Addnan received his bachelor's in visual communication design from the National College of Arts in Lahore in 2009.

He completed his master's in art and design studies from the Beaconhouse National University with the prestigious scholarship of the South Asia.

He is the recipient of the ADA Award, (honorable mention in the drawing category - ADA Awards 2020-2021). Farrukh Addnan has also been nominated for the prestigious Jameel Prize 6, 2021 and Sovereign Asian Art Prize 2019-2020.

He was recently selected for a residency "Ecologies of Displacement" a collaborative project with a Scottish artist. (Organized by Koel Gallery, Karachi and Summerhall, Edinburgh, funded by Creative Scotland and British Council.) His work has been extensively exhibited in solo and group shows home and abroad, notably in Germany, Spain, Italy and the United States.

Presently he teaches drawing at the National College of Arts, Lahore and has also taught photography in the past. - APP

IMDC
arrange
workshop
for student
career
orientation

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Medical and Dental College (IMDC) has arranged a career counselling workshop for students and graduates aimed to create awareness and to provide information about different career opportunities.

The Career Development Office of IMDC arranged a series of training workshops for the capacity building of their students and graduates, said a press release issued here on Sunday.

The topic for this session was "Road to the United States; The Decision, the Challenges and the Outcomes." Consultant Nephrologist Dr. Danyal Hassan delivered an insightful and informative lecture and discussed the possibilities, challenges, procedures, requirements and best practices for going to the U.S. for higher studies and jobs in the field of medicine.

A large number of IMDC students and graduates participated in the session and found it to be quite useful. They appreciated the IMDC and CDO management for conducting such a beneficial session. - APP

Solidarity with Kashmiris

Pakistan to observe
Oct 27 as black day

The print and electronic media would publish articles and air special programmes to highlight plight of Kashmiris in the occupied valley

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will observe October 27 as "Black Day" at national and international level to express solidarity with the people of Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) facing illegal occupation and gross human rights violation for the last 74 years.

Each year, October 27th is observed as Kashmir Black Day to mark protest and resentment by Kashmiris around the world in commemorating the forced occupation by Indian security forces of the IOJK.

On October 27, 1947, the sufferings of Kashmiri people commenced with the landing of Indian troops in Jammu and Kashmir which has been increased manifold after New Delhi suspended the special status of IOJK through revoking Articles 370 and 35-A of Indian Constitution on August 5. The government has chalked out a comprehen-

sive programme to observe the day in befitting manner through highlighting brutalities and massive human rights violations being committed by the Indian troops to suppress the indigenous freedom struggle of Kashmiris

who want their legitimate right to self-determination in line with the United Nations Security Council resolutions. The Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan has also chalked out comprehensive programmes for observing the Black Day. All the provincial govern-

ments have also planned different activities to mark the day in a befitting manner.

The print and electronic media would publish articles and air special programmes to highlight plight of Kashmiris in the occupied valley.

Public gatherings, rallies, walks and protest demonstrations would be arranged at district and Tehsil level across the country including Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan, following the COVID SoPs. Photo exhibition will also be arranged to highlight human rights abuses, extra-judicial killings, disabilities of Kashmiris through pellet guns at the hands of Indian security forces.

Black banners, Panaflex, hoardings and streamers would be displayed at prominent roads and places to mark the day in an appropriate manner. - APP



Vietnam's Envoy to increase Pak-Vietnam trade

Pakistan imports from Vietnam was \$437.95mn during 2020, including the electrical, electronic equipment, man-made filaments, coffee, tea, mate and spices, sea foods, edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers, iron and steel, rubbers, fish, crustaceans, mollusks, and aquatics invertebrates

ISLAMABAD: The Vietnam Ambassador to Pakistan, Nguyen Tien Phong on Sunday desired for increasing the bilateral trade volume between Pakistan and Vietnam up to US\$1 billion in the next two years.

"The two countries have great potential to increase bilateral trade, which is being discussed on both sides," the Ambassador of Vietnam to Pakistan told APP here.

The Ambassador said that presently, there was a bilateral trade of about US\$700 million between the two countries which was far below its potential, there was a need to enhance the trade volume, with an aim of US\$1 billion in the coming 1-2 years.

He said that the two countries have vast potential for bilateral trade in agriculture including tea, black pepper, cashew, coffee cotton and textile, seafood and dairy items.

Manufactured products such as phone and phone's parts computer and computer's parts pharmaceutical, electrical and electronics and other technology equipment, rubber, steel sector and various chemicals also in potential trade list, he said.

The Vietnamese envoy said that new avenues for mutual cooperation in trade between the two countries can be opened by including trade sectors in these and other new sectors. He said that Pakistan exports to Vietnam were US\$136.67 Million during



2020, including cotton, plastic, raw hides and skins (other than furskins), leather, residues, wastes of food industry, animal fodder, cereals, fish, crustaceans, mollusks, aquatics, invertebrates, Pharmaceutical products, tanning, dyeing extracts,

pigments and products of animal origin to Vietnam. Pakistan imports from Vietnam was US\$437.95 million during 2020, including the electrical, electronic equipment, man-made filaments, coffee, tea, mate and spices, sea foods, edi-

ble vegetables and certain roots and tubers, iron and steel, rubbers, miscellaneous chemical products, fish, crustaceans, mollusks, and aquatics invertebrates, he said.

Responding to a question, he said that the main reason for the decline in bilateral trade volume between the two countries, apart from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, there was lack of mutual awareness between the two sides, the enterprises of each, which needed to be improved in the future.

Replying to a question, he said that talks on further progress on the proposed Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between Pakistan and Vietnam were

likely to take place in mid-November this year. He said the bilateral talks on the proposed PTA to be held under the framework of the upcoming '5th Vietnam - Pakistan Subcommittee on Trade' he said.

He said that in the Subcommittee meeting both sides would discuss the two top agendas of bilateral trade and investment, PTA and the agreement on Investment Promotion Protection. The ambassador said that the fifth round of talks under the Trade Subcommittee would also discuss the other issues of bilateral trade and investment cooperation between the two countries, the dismantle of the tariff and technical barriers to trade flows. - APP

The ME Green Initiative

FOR the next three days, Prime Minister Imran Khan will be in Saudi Arabia to attend the launching ceremony of the 'Middle East Green Initiative (MGI) Summit' being held in Riyadh. This visit is on the behalf of the invitation of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The Prime Minister will be accompanied by a high-level delegation, including Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and other members of the cabinet.

It is heartening to see a growing number of influential international initiatives to discuss global efforts to preserve the well-being of the planet. The past two years have awoken a lot of countries and international organisations to the importance of implementing environment-friendly policies. As the vast majority of scientists and the United Nations warns the world of the urgency for swift action, and the pandemic shed light on the importance of global efforts to combat problems, the need for countries to prioritise the environment over profits is clearer than ever, and fortunately, it is reflecting in discussions on international platforms.

The MGI Summit is the first of its kind summit being held in the Middle East region and reflects a growing awareness in the region. The summit has promise for conducive discussions and a good role for Pakistan to play. Pakistan has taken a number of initiatives to combat climate change, foremost among them is the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme, ban on plastic bags, and formulating system-based adaptation solutions such as Recharge Pakistan to build resilience and reduce vulnerability. However, as the smog crisis gets worse with every passing year, it must be acknowledged that the side-effects of climate change can not be combated unless there is more cooperation with other countries in the region. The MGI offers a stage for climate diplomacy and could lead an unprecedented regional alliance based on climate change in the region—the Pakistani delegation must utilise it with these goals in mind.

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Transmission System

THE PTI government just promised to invest 111 billion into the power transmission system for the next three years, promising to revolutionise power distribution across the country. If successful, the initiative will ensure that the provision of power is reliable, continuous and relatively cheap considering that losses incurred through ineffective infrastructure may be minimised. What is worth focusing on is enhancing the integrity of existing structures and guaranteeing that supply and demand will work favourably with one another. The task ahead is monumental but there is no doubt that the government has all the resources and expertise that is needed. According to details revealed, the national grid system is expected to have an increased capacity of 31,500 MW by 2024 after the 111 billion is utilised fully. This could be a spectacular change that completely reforms the standard of energy distribution across Pakistan. Finally, energy could be provided to far-flung areas that have been struggling against this problem for decades. Problems of fluctuation beyond issues of shortfall may be resolved through employing high-quality material during the construction of vital infrastructure. An effort to improve existing structures will also ensure that waste is eliminated and every avenue for improvement is being utilised completely. This will make our system all the more durable.

Outside of just investment, the federal government has also promised to install 3.649 million new connections during its remaining tenure, increasing the electricity consumption capacity to 10,557 MWs by June of 2023. In theory, this is a good initiative. However, we must also be wary of where we stand in regards to our power generation capacity and keep a check on what demand trends look like. For right now, we have a surplus that will allow us to meet the demands of the country. Building more connections arbitrarily will only do us more harm in the long run as it will drain out our energy reserves and put us in a deficit. This is something that the government must focus on going forwards to ensure that a fool-proof system is created.

China at UN- successful journey of 5 Decades and on

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani



President Xi Jinping, with his vision for greater progress of humanity, has proposed building a community with a shared future for mankind

BOLSTERING Confidence and jointly overcoming Difficulties to Build a Better World", Chinese President Xi Jinping remarks at 76th session of UN General Assembly shows China's dedication for a Better World by all means and also China since restoration of its lawful seat in the United Nations since 25th October 1971. This is fact that the founding of the UN was a milestone in humanity's pursuit of peace and development and China was the first country to put its signature on the UN Charter. With an ink brush, the Chinese delegate solemnly left China's eternal imprint. Unfortunately, the People's Republic of China, since its founding, was kept out of the UN for 22 years. Chinese people despite of this, never wavered in their will to safeguard world peace. They never halted their efforts for common development. China due to his actions to words various international issues able to won support from more and more countries and peoples.

When on 25 October 1971, the UN General Assembly at its 26th Session adopted Resolution 2758 with an overwhelming majority. It decides to restore all its rights to the People's Republic of China and to recognize the representatives of its Government as the only legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations. It was a victory for New China's diplomacy, a victory for justice and fairness in the world, and a victory for the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. The great leader Chairman Mao Zedong once said, it was our fellow developing countries that "carried" the People's Republic of China into the United Nations. The meaningful word "carry" aptly captures the profound friendship between China and

other developing countries. This is something that we in China will never forget. In the five decades since, China has acted in the same spirit by firmly upholding the legitimate rights and interests of fellow developing countries and speaking up for the developing world. Past, present and in the future, China always stands together with developing countries. This is fact that China's vote in the United Nations is always for the well-being of developing countries and for justice in the world. Keeping to the spirit of "carry", we will continue to strive for the collective rise of developing countries and make it a defining trend of the 21st century.

The China's past 50 years in UN were full of ups and downs. China always stays true to its original aspiration. As the world's largest developing country and a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China always honors the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and vigorously promotes the spirit and approach of multilateralism. It has made tireless efforts and important contributions to development and progress of mankind. China has set a good example in upholding the international order, by strongly committed to democracy, rule of law and equity in international relations. China put forth the five principles of peaceful co-existence as early as in the 1950s, and has since faithfully observed them, contributing significantly to the formulation and development of the basic norms governing international relations. Over the past five decades, China has joined almost all universal inter-governmental organizations, signed more than 600 international conventions, earnestly fulfilled its international obligations, and honored its international commitments. From the Three Worlds Theory to the proposal for a new international political and economic order, from building a harmonious world to a community with a shared future for mankind, China has shared its wisdom and solution for world peace and development at every historical moment.

President Xi Jinping, with his vision for greater progress of humanity, has proposed building a community with a shared future for mankind. This major initiative rises above differences in social system and development stage, and rejects the zero-sum mentality and geopolitical calculations. It sets the common goal for different countries, different nations and different civilizations. The initiative is the banner of major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics in the new era. China will continue to take an active part in the reform and improvement of the global governance system under this banner. China has honored its responsibilities for upholding world peace by having participated in around 30 plus UN peacekeeping operations and sent a total of over 50,000 peacekeepers. China has become the largest contributor of peacekeepers among the permanent members of the Security Council. China who is also the second largest funding contributor to the UN and UN peacekeeping operations. To date, 24 Chinese military and police officers have given their lives in the line of duty. Their sacrifice will always be remem-

bered. Even now a days, more than 2,400 Chinese peacekeepers are on duty across the globe. China has also set up a standby force of 8,000 troops and a police squad of 300 for UN peacekeeping missions. They are ready to go anytime when needed to safeguard world peace. These few points shows then China's commitment to the UN charter.

China as a permanent member of the Security Council, has been actively exploring for solutions to hotspot issues in line with the spirit of the UN Charter. Like all other forums China has taken the side of fairness, upholding sovereign equality and opposing interference in other countries' internal affairs, power politics and hegemonies. China has taken the side of justice, adhering to equity and impartiality and opposing geopolitical rivalry and exclusive blocs. China has taken the side of peace, standing for political settlement and opposing the use of force and unilateral sanctions. China was among the first to reach the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). China has met 10 years in advance the poverty eradication target set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, reducing the world's poverty-stricken population by over 70%, which show dedication and devotion of Chinese Leadership and Peoples towards prosperity of the world. China being a responsible member of UN Security Council has made active contribution to addressing global challenges seriously.

In the global fight against COVID-19, China has launched as promptly as possible an emergency humanitarian operation, and have provided medical supplies to over 150 countries and 13 international organizations. President Xi Jinping has solemnly announced that Chinese vaccines will be made a global public good, and that China will be committed to ensuring accessibility and affordability of vaccines in developing countries. Till recently, China has provided 438 million doses of Chinese vaccines and raw ingredients to over 90 countries and international organizations. At the Global Health Summit 1, President Xi announced the major steps China will take to support international efforts to defeat the virus, sending once again China's strong message of solidarity to the world.

Today when China is celebrating the 50 years of its presence after resumption of its membership at this historical point, China like always will continue to make all-out efforts in participating in UN affairs, safeguard the status of the UN, and promote the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. China will uphold the spirit of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits and the banner of true multilateralism, and, together with the rest of the world, forge ahead for greater peace and development of mankind! Happy China & UNO successful 5 decades journey & ahead.

— *The writer is Secretary-General Pakistan China Friendship Association Khayber Pakhtunkhwa Province Pakistan His email is syed.gilani@gmail.com*

How world could miss climate goals

Hafed Al-Ghwel

Pressure is building on the fossil fuel industry, forcing many companies to adapt business models swiftly due to changing regulatory environments, shareholder concerns and increased scrutiny on investments in upstream projects

AT the end of October, all eyes will be on the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland. The overdue summit is widely touted as the world's last best hope to slash emissions to at least half of 2010 levels in just under a decade if we are to prevent average temperatures rising above 1.5C. Any triumphs in Glasgow will be a realization of the ideals enshrined in the Kyoto Protocol two decades ago, and the world's first formal steps toward net carbon neutrality, building on the groundwork laid by the 2015 Paris Agreement. We are in a decisive decade for tackling climate

priorities and making substantive progress on curbing harmful emissions responsible for temperatures rising faster than anticipated, according to reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Recent findings demonstrate how, despite bold targets and ambitious deadlines, most countries are not doing nearly enough to initiate critical transformations that are key to meeting shared climate goals. Further inaction, and reported pushback by countries such as Australia and Japan, risk diminishing such a rare opportunity for taking decisive action. The world cannot risk COP26, and future high-level climate summits becoming occasions for much pomp, circumstance and fanfare, with little to nothing to show for it.

While the agenda in Glasgow has largely been narrowed down to four key areas, i.e., finance, energy, transportation, and industry, very little discourse is available on emergent threats to growing consensus on urgent climate priorities. In finance, current commitments are commendable but far from ideal levels given how crucial concessional finances are for the world's poorer nations. The developing world is the least equipped to tackle climate priorities mandated by far-off advanced economies that are yet to fulfill promises to provide as much as \$100 billion a year in climate finance. COVID-19 has shifted priorities across the developing world in favor of stemming socioeconomic collapse rather than pursuing the perceived "luxury" of transitioning battered economies away from a dependence on cheap, readily available fossil fuels. It is a tall order for the wealthier economies, which remain the world's biggest emitters, to demand acquiescence from much of the Global

South while not making adequate support mechanisms available to reduce the massive burden that are climate-focused, whole-of-nation transitions. Ideally, sustainable progress on climate change mitigation is only achievable if the global response is not just fast but also just.

It can only be hoped that COP26 will address some, or hopefully all, of these concerns given how a warming planet constitutes a crisis for all, requiring massive mobilization and adequate responses from every country. Unfortunately, there is a growing, less discussed, risk of climate change-related opportunism in global finance, focusing on secretive investments made by little-known private equity firms into increasingly discounted fossil fuel assets. Since 2010, private equity investments in some of the world's dirtiest energy sources have totaled more than \$1 trillion, which is roughly \$100 billion a year — or the same amount of money wealthier nations have committed to providing the developing world in climate finance. Pressure is building on the fossil fuel industry, forcing many companies to adapt business models swiftly due to changing regulatory environments, shareholder concerns and increased scrutiny on investments in upstream projects. An energy sector trying to rid itself of fossil fuels creates lucrative opportunities for private equity and shadow financing seeking to profit from underpriced assets still delivering returns, but could end up potentially stranded as climate-focused transitions accelerate.

— *Hafed Al-Ghwel is a senior fellow with the Foreign Policy Institute at the John Hopkins University School of Advanced and International Studies.*

Will the post-Covid world be a rerun of the wild 2010s?

Andrew Hammond

To some degree, the political fallout of the 2010s was partially predicted in advance. In February 2009, for instance, Hilary Clinton, then the US secretary of state, argued that "this economic crisis, left unresolved ... will upend governments (and) it will unfortunately breed instability." Yet what wasn't seen at that time, except perhaps by a few with exceptional foresight, was the way in which this turbulence would ultimately help shape and permeate politics, not only in emerging markets but also in long-established industrialized democracies

THIS week's 10th anniversary of the fall of the Gaddafi regime in Libya exemplifies how much of the 2010s were a wild period for international politics, with a long wave of political turbulence following the 2008-09 international financial crisis. The fallout from that period, which left the global economic system teetering on the precipice, was profound, and not only economically. It spawned a seismic period of political volatility, and a key question in the years ahead will be whether the socioeconomic damage caused by the pandemic might create a similar legacy in the 2020s.

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Yet what wasn't seen at that time, except perhaps by a few with exceptional foresight, was the way in which this turbulence would ultimately help shape and permeate politics, not only in emerging markets but also in long-established industrialized democracies. This perhaps reached its zenith in 2016 with Donald Trump's election as US president, who shocked many around the world with his victory over Clinton. However, much as 2016 might have proved to be a defining year, with the UK also voting to leave the EU, significant political volatility was a feature of the international landscape for much of the post-crisis period. Perhaps most eye-catching of all have been the political revolutions, popular uprisings and protests in emerging markets. This includes the so-called "Arab Spring" that began in Tunisia in late 2010 and spread to include revolutionary changes of power in Libya and Egypt, the situation in Yemen,

plus demonstrations and uprisings in countries as disparate as Algeria, Bahrain, Jordan, Morocco and Oman. There was also the Ukrainian revolution of 2014, which resulted in the ousting of pro-Moscow President Victor Yanukovich, and the 2011 Azerbaijani protests against the government. Yet developed countries also have taken political hits, too. In Europe, for instance, millions took to the streets and administrations in more than half of the 27 EU states fell or were voted out of office between Spring 2010 and 2012 alone. Within the core eurozone, 11 of 14 governments collapsed or lost elections during that time.

To be sure, this broad range of political instability has diverse origins, and economic issues are by no means the only driver. Unrest in the Arab world, for example, quite often stemmed from deep-seated political and socioeconomic discontent that predated the financial crisis. Post-2008, however, a number of factors including liquidity crunches, increased food prices and unemployment spikes exacerbated these longer-standing grievances.

In Europe, an economic downturn and austerity measures were central to unrest in numerous countries, especially those most affected by the eurozone crisis. Even here, though, protests tapped into preexisting quietude; hence the meteoric rise of new groups such as Syriza, which won power in Greece from 2015-19 after being founded as a loose coalition of left-wing parties only a few years earlier. This disparate range of political disruption around the world has been described as a revolutionary wave. Some even compared the situation to upheavals in 1848, 1914, 1968 and/or 1989.

Whatever the validity of these historical analogies, a key forward-looking question is whether higher levels of political instability are here to stay, especially with the coronavirus crisis reaping such havoc during the past 18 months. The early signs point to a possible "yes," as in many countries, from Brazil to Belarus, the pandemic has stirred unrest. Many people are upset about economic hardships and they have seen how a disproportionate number of the rich and well-connected push to the front of the queue for medical treatment and government help. Many are also angry that their leaders have not done a better job of containing the pandemic.

Underpinning this is the growing political salience of economic inequality. Many of those who have taken to the streets have long felt shut out of their nations' prosperity, with rising prices of key services proving to be a tipping point. The suffering of wide cohorts of people has created a greater sense of solidarity that is fanning grievances that smoldered long before anyone had heard of COVID-19. Another reason for surmising that instability might be here to stay is the disruptive role of social media platforms, which have become increasingly central to our lives. It has played a mobilizing role in protests that might only grow as technology proliferates. Looking toward the post-pandemic world to come, there is therefore the significant prospect of further political unrest, with a critical uncertainty being the future trajectory of the global economy. Even if there is a new boom ahead, instability could potentially still be fueled by intensified economic inequalities, and also longer-standing discontent to which social media is giving added expression.

— *Andrew Hammond is an associate at LSE IDEAS at the London School of Economics.*

Briefs

Presidential elections in Uzbekistan...

FROM PAGE 01
the way the incumbent President had been running the country. I met a middle-age man, in a café, who had never exercised his voting right, but this time he was all agog to cast his vote for President Shavkat as according to him the President had changed the lot of the country and people as well. Without exaggeration it is worth noting that the foundation of a new era of the Renaissance is being laid in the country, requiring qualitatively new approaches in the foreign policy. In a word, Uzbekistan's foreign policy interests are based primarily on the priorities of internal development, which actually means an obvious shift towards the economization of the country's international cooperation and the strengthening of economic pragmatism in external relations. Summing up, President Shavkat during his next term would like to fulfill his agenda of social and political reforms. His focus ostensibly shall also be on how to put the Uzbek economy back on track, which is slightly disturbed by the pandemic. Like Pakistan, Uzbekistan too has successfully handled the pandemic. It is good to see life returning to Uzbekistan with international visitors once again flocking to the country in order to quench their touristic thirst by visiting the landmark sites and picturesque valleys.

Pakistan thrash India in the opener

FROM PAGE 01
Kohli paired with aggressive Risabh Pant for 53-run stand as India recovered well after the powerplay. Pant dominated briefly, hitting two sixes off Hasan but leg-spinner Shadab Khan sent him packing as he tried to accelerate. He fell after scoring a well-made 30-ball 39. Pakistan kept Kohli quiet and things were under control after Pant's dismissal. Ravindra Jadeja only managed to score run-a-ball 13 while Kohli reached fifty. He was dismissed in the 19th over by Shaheen for 57. The Indian captain hit five fours and a six in 49-ball innings. India pushed past the score to 150 after some floppy piece of fielding in the last two overs by Pakistan. Shaheen bagged figures of 3 for 31 while Hasan conceded 44, in his four overs, for his two wickets. Haris Rauf impressed in the last overs, finishing with figures of 1/25.

In return, wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan and Babar batted flawlessly from the start. The duo dominated the opposition with brilliant stroke-play and steered the run-chase without any trouble. Babar reached his fifty with a six off Varun Chakravarthy while Rizwan pulled Jasprit Bumrah for a four to reach the half-century. The total was chased down in the 18th over, bowled by Mohammad Shami. Rizwan was the fierce one among the two, batting at a strike rate of 143.63 for his 55-ball 79. He stroked six fours and three sixes while Babar hit six fours and two maximums for his 68. Shaheen was awarded player of the match for his high-class spell which set up a perfect platform for the win.

Govt has already struck deal..

FROM PAGE 01
He wondered why the government was hiding details of agreement with the Fund from people and Parliament. The constant rise in inflation and IMF's conditions pertaining to the bank accounts of our state and national security institutions has raised the alarm bells, he maintained. Shehbaz showed his astonishment what kind of good days had dawned when prices of tea, sugar, flour, eggs, milk, ghee, rice, vegetable and medicines were rising every day. Inflation on top of a wobbly economy adds fuel to fire, he opined. He called upon the people if they didn't get rid of the present government now, then the country would have to suffer an irreparable loss.

T20 WC: Sri-Lanka beat Bangladesh by 5 wickets

Charith Asalanka and Bhanuka Rajapaksa lead Sri Lanka to victory for a fourth successive win after three triumphs in the qualifying round

SHARJAH: Sri Lanka defeated Bangladesh by five wickets in a feisty T20 World Cup clash on Sunday, hammering home their status as surprise contenders for the title. Chasing an imposing target of 172, the 2014 champion Charith Asalanka (80 not out) and Bhanuka Rajapaksa (53) lead them to victory for a fourth successive win after three triumphs in the qualifying round. Earlier, Mushfiqur Rahim, with an undefeated 57 and opener Mohammad Naim, who hit 62, starred for the Tigers in the Super 12 game. England, Australia, South Africa and West Indies are the other teams in the group from where the top two will make the semi-finals. Sri Lanka's bowlers had done most of the damage in the preliminary round matches and it was left to the batsmen to keep the winning run intact for the 2014 champions. They

did not disappoint with left-hander Asalanka, who came in at number three, providing a fast start to their chase with a knock studded by five fours and an equal number of sixes. Sri Lanka was comfortably placed at 71-1 after eight overs but Shakib Al Hasan briefly turned the game in Bangladesh's favour with two wickets in four balls. Asalanka and Rajapaksa got Sri Lanka's chase back on track but were aided by Bangladesh fielder Liton Das, who was guilty of dropping both batters. Bangladesh plays England in their next match on Wednesday, a day before Sri Lanka takes on Australia. The Sri Lankan T20 world cup squad includes Dimuth Karunaratne, Dasun Shanaka, Dhananjaya de Silva,



Lahiru Thirimanna, Avishka Fernando, Dinesh Chandimal, Kusal Perera, Ashen Bandara, Pathum Nissanka, Oshada Fernando, Vishwa Fernando, Nuwan Pradeep, Dhanajaya Lakshan, Charith Asalanka, Kamindu Mendis, Ramesh Mendis, Wanindu Hasaranga, Dilruwan Perera, Dasun Shanaka, Angelo Mathews, Monidhanuka, AkilaDhananjaya, Praveen Jayawickrama, Lasith Sandakan, ChamikaKarunaratne, Binura Fernando,

Dushmantha Chameera, Asitha Fernando, KasunRajitha, Lahiru Kumara, SurangaLakmal. Whereas Bangladesh squad includes Mahmudullah (capt), Mohammad Naim, Soumya Sarkar, Liton Das (wk), Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim, Afif Hossain, Nurul Hasan, Mahedi Hasan, Nasum Ahmed, Mustafizur Rahman, Shoriful Islam, Taskin Ahmed, Mohammad Saifuddin, Shamim Hossain. - APP

Unpleasant clash between players

SHARJAH: Several players from Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are set to be scrutinised by the match referee after a heated verbal and, at times, physical confrontation during the teams' T20 World Cup clash. Sri Lankan bowler Lahiru Kumara, as well as Bangladesh batters Mohammad Naim and Liton Das, were caught up in a tense exchange on Sunday in the middle of Sharjah Cricket Stadium. After a methodical start to Bangladesh's innings, Das attempted to lift Kumara over the infield, but only succeeded in picking out DasunShanaka at wide mid-off to be dismissed for 16. But as Das began his walk back to the pavilion, Kumara appeared to engage in some heated words with Das, who didn't hold back himself. The bowler and batter then came face-to-face, with Sri Lankan players being forced to pull Kumara away from Das. Fellow Bangladesh batsman Naim then joined Das and clearly pushed Kumara away, prompting the umpires to break the confrontation up as it threatened to boil over. "Well, well, well - I don't think I've seen that. That's not a good look for the game of cricket," broadcaster Mark Nicholas said in commentary. "I'd like to say that it was handbags, but I don't know that it was. "It was quite unpleasant." - Agencies

Man Utd need time to hit their stride: Ronaldo



SPORTS DESK

LONDON: Cristiano Ronaldo admits Manchester United need time to hit their stride after Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's spending spree. Ronaldo returned for a second spell with United after leaving Juventus in a blockbuster transfer in August. The 36-year-old striker wasn't the only high-profile signing made by United boss Solskjaer in the close season. France World Cup winner Raphael Varane arrived from Real Madrid to bolster the

centre of United's defence, while England forward Jadon Sancho was lured from Borussia Dortmund. United have yet to string together a consistent run despite their influx of top-class talent. Portugal star Ronaldo believes it is a matter of allowing the team time to gel. "We are in a moment in my opinion that Manchester do a few changes. They buy me, they buy Varane and Sancho," Ronaldo told Sky Sports. "The adaptation will take time, even the system of the game that we play, but

I think step by step we have to put it in our mind that everything is possible. "Everyone should know their role. I know my role in the team, in the club, my role is to score goals, to help the team with my experience and knowhow to understand the game. "If everyone is thinking like that, sacrifice for the team, I think we will be a better team." United have gone three Premier League matches without a win, a run that included losses to Leicester and Aston Villa. They were in danger of

another damaging loss in the Champions League on Wednesday when Atalanta raced into a two-goal lead at Old Trafford.

But United eased the pressure on Solskjaer with a spirited second-half fightback capped by Ronaldo's late headed winner. Solskjaer's side have no margin for error this weekend when they host bitter rivals Liverpool, who are already four points ahead of them in the Premier League. It is the kind of high-stakes encounter that United brought Ronaldo back to Manchester for. Criticised for his work-rate in some quarters, as well as his grumpy response to being named as a substitute for the draw against Everton, Ronaldo has blocked out the noise to net six goals in eight games. He insists there is no chance he will be unsettled by the relentless scrutiny United are under. "I will close mouths and win things. Criticism is always part of the business," he said. "I'm not worried about that. And I see it as a good thing to be honest. "If they worry about me or they speak about me, it's because they know my potential and value in football still."

Gidey smashes women's marathon world record



WEB DESK

MADRID: Ethiopia's Letsenbet Gidey smashed the women's half marathon world record by running 62 minutes and 52 seconds in Valencia. The 23-year-old beat the previous best over 13.1 miles - set by Kenyan Ruth Chepngetich - by 70 seconds. Gidey is also the world 5,000m and 10,000m world record holder, win-

ning bronze in the latter distance at the Tokyo Olympics in the summer. "I'm so happy to break the world record in my first half marathon," said Gidey. Compatriot Yalemzerf Yehualaw was second with a time of 63 minutes 51 seconds. Yehualaw thought she had set the women's half marathon record earlier this year but her time was not ratified after the course was found to be 54 meters short.

I couldn't be under more pressure: Koeman

Victory against Real Madrid in Clasico will round off encouraging week for Catalan club

WEB DESK

MADRID: Ronald Koeman said on Saturday it is not possible for him to be under more pressure as Barcelona prepare to face Real Madrid in the first Clasico of the season. Koeman appeared to be on the brink of losing his job earlier this month after Barca had won only once in six matches. But the club's president Joan Laporta moved to end the speculation by insisting Koeman "deserved the benefit of the doubt" and would

stay on as coach. "I don't think it's possible to be under more pressure," said Koeman at the eve of the match press conference. "As Barcelona coach you have to take it, no problem. I know the importance of a Clasico." Asked if he still felt the backing of the club, Koeman said smiling: "I have to answer every game if that's the case. I think I am the coach of Barcelona now, tomorrow let's see. I feel supported by the club but I know everything depends on results." Barcelona sit seventh in La



Liga after winning four of their opening eight games but they are only two points behind Real Madrid. "This game won't be decisive," said Koeman. "It will just show what kind of moment the two teams are in." After beating Valencia in La Liga and Dynamo Kiev in the Champions League, a victory at Camp Nou on Sunday would round off an encouraging week for Koeman and his team. Yet many believe Madrid are favourites. "We know exactly what we have, and what we have to

do," said Koeman. "I don't have any fear." Jordi Alba trained on Saturday and is ready to play, despite suffering a minor ankle problem in midweek. Ansu Fati is expected to start after beginning on the bench against Dynamo, with Koeman managing the 18-year-old's minutes after he recently recovered from a serious knee injury. "We have to keep calm so that he can fully recover," said Koeman. "Ansu cannot do it on his own, he is part of the team but he is a player who can make a difference."

PM Khan off to attend Middle East Summit

FROM PAGE 01

PM Imran Khan is set to share his perspective on the challenges faced by developing countries due to climate change in the Riyadh summit. One of the things to be deliberated in the summit today is Pakistan's experience of launching natural solutions to address the environmental challenges including 10 Billion Tree Tsunami. The "Green Saudi Arabia" and "Green Middle East" initiatives, first of the kind for the middle east region, are the blueprints of Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman that are aimed at protecting the nature and planet. Other than calling on the royal dignitaries and meeting the Saudi leadership, the premier will also attend the event organized for the promotion of investment in Pakistan. He will interact with leading investors and businessmen from Saudi Arabia and the Pakistani diaspora there. The Prime Minister arrived in Saudi Arabia on a three-day visit of the Kingdom to attend the launch of Middle East Green Initiative (MGI) Summit being held in Riyadh. He is also expected to have a meeting with Pakistan community members in Saudi Arabia. The Prime Minister was accompanied by Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Energy Minister Hammad Azhar and Special Assistant for Environment Malik Amin Aslam.

Normalization of situation till Tuesday

FROM PAGE 01

He said the demands of TLP regarding arrested people and other reservations would be addressed on priority, adding, all blocked routes which were closed due to ongoing wave of protests and sit-ins by the banned TLP would be unblocked till Tuesday. He said government would take all those steps to maintain law and order situation in the country. He said the govt has been tackling all issues with Islamabad protesters 'peacefully' as it did not want any confrontation and clash with protesters and endeavoring for peaceful solution. "We strictly believe in the rule of law and stand with true democratic norms", he added. Interior Minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad has said that Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed was still the director-general of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). Earlier, Sheikh Rasheed had said that notification regarding the appointment of DG ISI would be issued by Friday; however, the notification could not be issued.

Star Studded INDO-PAK Match:

DUBAI: Pakistan and India faced off in their 1st T20 World Cup match in Dubai International Stadium on 24 October. Pakistan defeated India by 10 wickets chasing 152 targets. The blockbuster match was full of boom and buzz. Stadium was jam-packed with 70% attendance in the stadium to its full capacity. Along with people from every field of life. Famous personalities from across the border also appeared to watch the cricket thriller. From across the border Indian actors Akshay Kumar and Preeti Zinta were seen in the stadium. Whereas, from the Pakistan side, Minister for Information and Broadcast Fawad Chaudhry watched the match in the stadium. Pakistani actress Sadia Khan was also seen celebrating the sixers of Babar Azam. Moreover, Fariha Altaf was also attending the match. - Agencies

Babar offers prayer on ground

DUBAI: Just before the Pakistan India match in T20 world cup, Pakistani opener Babar Azam offered prayer on the ground. A video shared by fans on social media showed that Pakistani opener Babar was praying whereas Indian players were practicing on field. Babar Azam scored 68 and still remained on the crease. Babar hit 2 sixes and 6 fours in the match India got defeated. - APP



Atlanta beat Los Angeles to reach World Series

SPORTS DESK

ATLANTA: The Atlanta Braves have returned to the World Series for the first time since 1999, after overcoming the Los Angeles Dodgers 4-2 in the best-of-seven National League Championship Series. Eddie Rosario's three-run homer in the fourth inning of game six at Truist Park proved decisive as the hosts won 4-2 to end the Dodgers' dreams of back-to-back World Series titles. Atlanta will now face the Houston Astros in the "Fall Classic", also over seven games - starting on Tuesday, with the first two games in Houston. The Braves were a dominant National League team in the 1990s and early 2000s, but only had one World Series title - in 1995 - to show for that spell. However, they have won the NL East division for the past four seasons, and finally gained revenge over the Dodgers who had beaten them in the postseason in 2018 and 2020. "I am so very proud of each and every one of them," Braves manager Brian Snitker said of his players. "It takes a big village to get here." As well as Rosario's three-run shot, Atlanta were also indebted to reliever Tyler Matzek, who entered the game in the seventh inning with the Dodgers having men on second and third base - and veteran slugger Albert Pujols at the plate, ready to wipe out the Braves' two-run advantage. But left-hander Matzek struck out the first four batters he faced, did not allow a hit in the seventh or eighth inning and was credited with the win as the Braves held on.



DUBAI: Shaheen Shah Afridi takes victorious selfie as Pakistan thrashes India in 1st match of T20 World Cup 2021. - DNA

Briefs

Ethiopia launches new air raids on Tigray

AGENCIES

ADDIS ABABA: Ethiopia's military has carried out a second air attack in the northern part of Tigray, according to a statement issued by the government shortly after it said it launched an air raid on a rebel-held facility in Tigray's west. The raids on Sunday would be the seventh and eighth aerial bombardments in the war-hit region in a week. "Today the western front of (Mai Tsebr) which was serving as a training and military command post for the terrorist group TPLF has been the target of an air strike," government spokeswoman Selamawit Kassa said, referring to the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF). It was not immediately possible to verify the claims of the raids on Mai Tsebr and the town of Adwa, as communications are down throughout most of war-hit Tigray.

After the announcement of the first air raid, TPLF spokesperson Getachew Reda told the Reuters news agency he had no information about any air attack on Sunday and would seek to verify the report with his colleagues.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's government has been locked in a war against the TPLF since last November, though Tigray itself had seen little combat since late June when the rebels seized control of much of Ethiopia's northernmost region and the military largely withdrew.

France launches state-of-art satellite

KOUROU: France has successfully launched a state-of-art satellite into orbit, designed to allow all of France's armed forces across the globe to communicate swiftly and securely. Paris created a space force command in July 2019, amongst concerns that rival countries were heavily investing in space technology, seen as a new military frontier. The satellite "is designed to resist military aggression from the ground and in space, as well as interference," French air and space force spokesman Colonel Stephane Spet told AFP. The Ariane 5 rocket carrying the Syracuse 4A satellite took off from Kourou, in French Guiana late Saturday, with the mission accomplished 38 minutes and 41 seconds after takeoff. The satellite can survey its close surroundings and move itself to escape an attack.

"Thanks to its state-of-art equipment (anti-jamming antenna and digital transparent processor on board), Syracuse 4A will guarantee a high resistance to extreme jamming methods," launch provider Arianespace wrote in its mission description. Marc Finaud, an expert in weapons proliferation at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, told AFP the satellite was also protected against the electro-magnetic pulses which would result from a nuclear explosion. - APP

Colombia captures most wanted drug trafficker

BOGOTA: Colombia's most-wanted drug dealer has been captured by security forces, the government said Saturday.

Dairo Antonio Usuga, known as Otoniel, leader of the Clan del Golfo, or Gulf Clan, drug trafficking group was the world's "most feared" drug trafficker, according to President Ivan Duque. "This is the hardest blow against drug trafficking in this century in our country, only comparable to the fall of Pablo Escobar in the 90s. Alias Otoniel was the most feared drug trafficker in the world," he said from the Toleda Air Base in Tolima Department. Usuga murdered police, soldiers and social leaders, and recruited minors in Antioquia and other departments where the Gulf Clan is present, according to Duque. - APP

Azerbaijani, Iran eye current state of ties

Two officials stressed the importance of continuing the activities of the Joint Intergovernmental Commission, the composition of which was updated by the new Iranian administration. The parties stressed the importance of resolving all disagreements through dialogue

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov and his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amirabdollahian have discussed the recent development of bilateral relations, the Foreign Ministry has reported. In a telephone conversation that took place on October 23, the ministers mainly focused on the current state of bilateral relations. Having positively assessed the development of events over the past week, the ministers stressed as a mutual positive step the warning by Iran's relevant departments about respect for Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, as well as the release of two

Iranian drivers by Azerbaijan. During the telephone conversation, the two officials stressed the importance of continuing the activities of the Joint Intergovernmental Commission, the composition of which was updated by the new Iranian administration. The parties stressed the importance of resolving all disagreements through dialogue. The ministers also discussed other issues of mutual interest. Earlier, Baku returned back to Tehran two Iranian citizens, who had been detained for falsifying customs documents. They smuggled the customs border of Azerbaijan, and illegally, without documents, crossed the guarded state border, by



Jeyhun Bayramov
Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Azerbaijan



Hossein Amirabdollahian
Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Islamic Republic of Iran

passing checkpoints. The State Customs Committee press service reported that on the basis of the principles of humanism, mutual respect and good-neighbourliness and demonstrating goodwill, Azerbaijan, in compliance with the existing agreement, on the morning of October 21, re-

turned to Iran the citizens of this country - Barzegar Haji Jafar Gazanfar and Nouruzi Shahrud Heydar. Before this step by Baku, Tehran officially banned the movement of Iranian trucks to Karabakh by passing through Azerbaijan's Lachin corridor. The decision was signed

by the director-general of the Office for International Transport and Transit of the Organization of Roads and Transport of Iran. The organization sent a letter to the trade unions of Iranian international transport companies based on the directive of the Iranian Foreign Ministry dated October 9, 2021. The decision states that Iranian citizens and drivers are prohibited from entering Karabakh and Lachin corridors, which are the territory of Azerbaijan. It was noted that as a sign of respect for Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, the mentioned cases apply to all Iranian citizens, without exception, who try to go to Karabakh through Armenia. "It is resolutely recom-

mended that Iranian drivers and Iranian citizens, as a sign of respect for the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, not travel to Karabakh through the territory of Armenia, through the Lachin corridor in order to avoid unpleasant situations," the decision reads. The decision also strongly warns Iranian private freight companies that issuing documents for trucks to travel to Karabakh is against the law. The relations earlier turned strained after Baku started charging customs fees for Iran's trucks illegally passing to Karabakh through the Gorus-Gafan road, the only motorway connecting Armenia to Iran.

PM KSA visit to strengthen trade ties

LAHORE: Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Furniture Council Mian Kashif Ashfaq Sunday said Prime Minister Imran Khan's current visit to Saudi Arabia will strengthen trade ties, cement bilateral relations and gear up military and political cooperation between the two countries. Talking to delegation of furniture manufacturers led by Wasim Arshad he said both Muslim countries enjoying decades long relations remained important geo-strategic key partner and stable relationship between Islamabad-Riyadh which he hoped will continue to prosper and flourish in the day to come. He said Prime Minister visit will also help better the working opportunities of nearly 2.5 million Pakistani expatriates in Saudi Arabia who are main source of foreign reserve for the country. He said Prime Minister visit is a significant move which will set the stage for a reset in Pak-Saudi ties and a normal "characterised by relatively stable and durable relations". He said both sides will develop further sustainable and mutually beneficial partnership when he meets crown prince Muhammad bin Salman. Mian Kashif said visit will also lure Saudi investment in Pakistan in energy and petroleum sectors. He said Pak export to Saudi Arabia was \$432.2 million in 2020 while Saudi import from Pakistan was \$1.89 billion which he said needs to be boosted with mutual cooperation of private sectors of either countries. - APP

Pak-China young could share ideas

AGENCIES

BEIJING: Pak-China young could share ideas, thoughts to solve problems, says a report published by China Economic Net (CEN). "I am very happy to receive the first prize. It also motivates me to attend such competitions, training sessions and research collaborations," said Muhammad Anas Baig, a student from University of Engineering & Technology (UET) Lahore, Pakistan. Baig just won the first prize at the International Intentional Competition of Intelligent Power Supply and Distribution Technology, which is under the 2021 Belt & Road and BRICS Skills Development and Technology Innovation Competition held online and offline in recent week. This competition aims to enable students to master the vocational skills related to the operation and monitoring of power distribution grid and promote the cooperation between vocational colleges and enterprises. Baig said, "I am very glad to be part of this online competition. It was a great experience of competing with the different universities from China, Thailand and Cambodia. I think, by hearing from different universities, the key common problems related to power system can be addressed in all collaborating countries. Students from diverse backgrounds could propose astonishing ideas to solve those."

Liu Zhenying, president of executive committee of 2021 BRICS Skills Competition said that the competition could help train high-quality skilled talents for power and automation sectors.

Earthquake shakes Taiwan

TAIPEI: Buildings shook in Taipei as an earthquake of magnitude 6.5 has struck northeastern Taiwan. There were no reports of damage.

It had a depth of 66.8 km (41.5 miles), and could be felt across the northern, eastern and western parts of Taiwan, with the epicentre in Yilan county, the weather bureau said on Sunday. The Taipei metro was briefly closed for checks, but reopened shortly afterwards.

The state-run power operator said the grid was operating as normal, while the railway administration said it was carrying out track inspections.

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co Ltd (TSMC), the world's largest contract chipmaker, said it had evacuated some workers. - APP



TASHKENT: Vice Chancellor of Sargodha University Prof. Saleem Mazhar and Editor Daily Islamabad POST/Centreline Ansar M Bhatti witnessing polling process during the Presidential election in Uzbekistan. - DNA

SAARC-CCI hails trade concessions to Afghanistan

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sunday hailed the epoch making bold decisions of Pakistan for announcing special several trade and traveling concessions for Afghanistan besides committing Rs 5 billion in humanitarian aid to help bail neighbouring Muslim country out of prevailing crisis.

It was stated by President SAARC Chamber Iftikhar Ali Malik while talking to a

women delegation of importers and exporters led by Ms Hafiza Mahrukh Nasir here today. He said it's good omen that now Afghan businessmen will get five year multiple visa from Pak embassy in Kabul besides abolishment of processing fee for visa. He said the requirements of gate pass and covid-19 PCR tests for travelling to Pakistan via land border has also been down away with to facilitate them. - DNA

Belarus, Kazakhstan discuss joint efforts to maintain regional security

FOREIGN DESK

NUR-SULTAN: During the visit of the Belarusian delegation to Nur-Sultan, State Secretary of the Security Council of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Volfovich toured a number of local research facilities and industrial enterprises on 21 October. BeITA learned from the State Secretariat of the Security Council,

Trend reports citing Kazinform. In the Serge center Aleksandr Volfovich was shown the latest developments in the field of video surveillance and analysis. The Belarusian delegation was particularly interested in the Smart City project, as well as solutions in the field of public and traffic security. Another company, Kazakhstan Gharlysh Sapary, showcased its technolo-

gies in Earth remote sensing and high-precision satellite navigation. During the meetings, the parties expressed a mutual interest in furthering mutually beneficial cooperation in a wide range of industries. Military-technical cooperation was reviewed during the consultations between the offices of the security councils of the two countries on 20 October. Proposals were made to de-

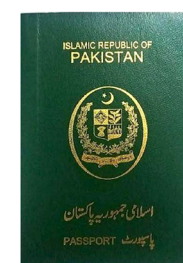
velop a bilateral interstate agreement on cooperation in the field of international information security. During the visit of the Belarusian delegation to Kazakhstan the offices of the security councils of the two countries signed a plan of cooperation for 2022-2023. Aleksandr Volfovich invited his Kazakhstan colleagues to pay a return visit to the Republic of Belarus in 2022.

Belarus includes Pakistan in "On Arrival Visa" countries

DNA

MINSK: The Government of Belarus has included Pakistan in the list of 76 countries, nationals of which can enter Belarus on arrival at one of the international airports. Starting from 17 October, Pakistani nationals holding multiple entry Schengen Visa are allowed On Arrival Visa for a maximum period of 30 days.

A traveler (Pakistan Passport holder) must have a valid document for traveling abroad with a valid multiple-entry visa of one of the European Union member states or the Schengen Area member states bearing a European Union or Schengen Area entry stamp, and also tickets with a return date



from Minsk National Airport, airports of Brest, Vitebsk, Gomel, Grodno and Mogilev. Entry by road/bus/train not allowed. The visa liberalization by Belarusian government will help expand people to people contacts, trade and investment relations between the two countries.



RABAT: first ever Pak-Morocco Special Forces, Joint Anti-Terror exercise in Pakistan was held in Morocco. The drill was a sign of robust relations and growing cooperation between the two brotherly countries. - DNA

Int'l Conference on China-Pakistan co-op kicks off in Chengdu

ISLAMABAD: The 2021 International Conference on China-Pakistan Cooperation kicked off in Chengdu, Sichuan province China on Saturday. According to China Economic Net, about 150 participants attended the conference online and offline, including Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong, Pakistani Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque, experts and entrepreneurs from China and Pakistan. They had an in-depth exchange on the cooperation achievements and future development on "Strategic cooperation and Cultural exchanges" and "Economic & trade cooperation and Industrial development" since China and Pakistan established diplomatic ties in 1951. Participants also discussed the high-quality building of the second phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the rosy prospect of China-Pakistan All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

Pro. Tang Mengsheng, director of Pakistan Studies Center at Peking University, presided over the sub-forum titled "Strategic cooperation and Cultural exchanges". Li Hongwu, president of Pakistan Sichuan Chamber of Commerce chaired the other sub-forum themed "Economic & trade cooperation and Industrial development". According to Sichuan University (SU), the sponsor of this conference, it is one of activities to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of China-Pakistan diplomatic ties. This conference is jointly organized by SU's China Center for South Asia Studies, Pakistan Studies Center and School of International Studies. The co-organizers comprise Chengdu Federation of Industry and Commerce, Huaxia Industrial Economy Research Institute, Chengdu Chamber of Commerce for Commercial Service and Pakistan Sichuan Chamber of Commerce. - APP

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MANUEL DURAN
Humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan needs to be avoided

Zahid Latif hosts dinner for visiting delegation from US

CEO Monal hosts sunset dinner for diplomats

LARGEST CIRCULATED DIPLOMATIC MAGAZINE

Briefs

Pak renews its pledge to support Kashmiris

FOREIGN DESK

NEW YORK: Marking the UN Day, Pakistan renewed on Sunday its pledge to continue to press for the implementation of the Security Council resolutions, which call for a plebiscite to enable Kashmiri people to exercise their right to self-determination. "Like other colonial enterprises, India's attempt to annex Kashmir will be defeated by the steadfast demand of the Kashmiri people for freedom and liberty," Ambassador Munir Akram said in a message congratulating the UN community on the occasion. After referring to the developments since the establishment of the UN 76 years ago, the Pakistani envoy said the promise of peace and prosperity envisaged in the organisation's charter today faced multiple challenges. These include, the worst pandemic in modern history which has reversed decades of development; an existential climate crisis; revived great power tensions; a new and wider arms race; the persistence and proliferation of conflicts and disputes; and the rise of extremist, fascist and terrorist groups in several regions.

Taliban unveils food-for-work programme

AGENCIES

KABUL: The Taliban's two-month programme aims to distribute more than 60,000 tons of wheat across Afghanistan in exchange for jobs as the country gears up to face a harsh winter. Afghanistan's Taliban government has launched a programme to tackle hunger, offering thousands of people wheat in exchange for labour. The scheme will be rolled out around Afghanistan's major towns and cities and employ 40,000 men in the capital alone, the Taliban's chief spokesman said at a press conference in southern Kabul on Sunday. "This is an important step for fighting unemployment," Zabihullah Mujahid said, adding the labourers must "work hard". The Taliban's food-for-work scheme will not pay labourers, targeting those who are currently unemployed and most at risk of starvation during the winter. The two-month programme will see 11,600 tons of wheat distributed in the capital, with about 55,000 tons for elsewhere in the country, including Herat, Jalalabad, Kandahar, Mazar-i-Sharif and Pol-i-Khomi. Work for the labourers in Kabul will include digging water channels and catchment terraces for snow in the hills to combat drought.

PBC member Rai Nawaz murdered

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Bar Council (PBC) member Rai Nawaz Kharal advocate has been killed by his relatives on domestic issues on Sunday. According to a private news channel, Rai Nawaz Kharal was returning home at Sheikhupura from Lahore when opponents killed him. The murdered advocate had enmity with his brother in law who has already killed his niece in the family dispute. Rai Nawaz Kharal was a practising lawyer and was elected on the Lahore Seat of the PBC in the last elections. Shiekhpura was his native area. The office-bearers of the PBC demanded the law enforcement agencies and the government to take notice of the murder and arrest the accused involved in Kharal's killing.

UN best organization to address common issues: FM

Struggle of the people of IIOJK to realize their inalienable right of self-determination, guaranteed under several resolutions of the UN Security Council, is being suppressed with brutal force by an occupying power

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi Sunday said the United Nations is best inter-governmental organization to address the common issues faced by humanity including the contemporary triple challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic. In his message on the occasion of the United Nations Day on Sunday (October 24), the Foreign Minister said Pakistan joins the international community today in celebrating the 76th Anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. "It is deplorable that these universal ideals still continue to be defied with impunity across many parts of the world - nowhere more egregiously than in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK)," the Pakistani Foreign Minister said while calling for the world to work towards the implementation of relevant UNSC resolutions on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. He said the just struggle of the people of IIOJK to realize their inalienable right of self-determination, guaranteed under several resolutions of the UN Security



Council, is being suppressed with brutal force by an occupying power, Qureshi explained.

Qureshi said Pakistan stood ready to work hand in hand with fellow UN member states to continue pursuing the noble ideals of the UN Charter for attaining peace, progress and prosperity worldwide. "As the most representative inter-governmental organisation, the UN is best placed to address the common issues faced by humanity including the contemporary triple challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic, the accompanying economic crisis, and the threats posed by climate change,"

COAS congrats UN, eulogizes Pakistan Army's efforts for global peace

RAWALPINDI: While extending his best wishes to the United Nations on its 76th anniversary, Chief of Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa has said that Pakistan Army has got an illustrious history of serving humanity for maintaining peace and sacrifices of our troops speak volumes of their unwavering resolve for global peace. The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) in its tweet on Sunday wrote: "Pakistan Armed Forces extend best wishes to the UN on its 76th anniversary."

The tweet further quoted Army Chief Gen Bajwa as saying: "Pakistan Army has distinguished

history of serving humanity for peace. Sacrifices by our men bear testimony to our unwavering resolve for global peace in line with our Founding Father's vision." Pakistan Armed Forces extend best wishes to the United Nations on its 76th anniversary. "Pakistan Army has distinguished history of serving humanity for peace. Sacrifices by our men bear testimony to our unwavering resolve for global peace in line with our Founding Father's vision," said the COAS. The 76th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations was observed on Sunday, October 24. - DNA

he said. The foreign minister inspired and guided by the vision of its founding father, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Pakistan had always upheld the principles of the UN Charter. The country had maintained a firm and abiding commitment to multilateralism, with the UN playing a central role for the promotion of international peace and security, sustainable development and human rights for all. Qureshi said from being a top troop-contributing country to UN peace operations since 1960, to

hosting one of the oldest peace-keeping Missions, UNMOGIP; from hosting millions of refugees for decades, to extending its support for just causes all over the world, Pakistan had been an ardent advocate of international cooperation, dialogue and peaceful settlement of disputes. During the last two months, he said Pakistan played a key role in facilitating the evacuation and relocation of diplomatic missions, international organisations including UN agencies and entities, and others from Afghanistan. Pakistan

continues to support the UN in the delivery and transit of humanitarian supplies to the Afghan people, he added. The foreign minister said the UN Charter embodied a collective determination to uphold international law and peaceful co-existence. It also provides for the development of friendly relations among nations, based on respect for the principles of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace.



TASHKENT: Editor Daily Islamabad POST/Centreline Ansar M Bhatti posing for a picture with the polling staff at a polling station during the Presidential election in Uzbekistan. - DNA

German far-right group attempt to block migrants

BERLIN: German police have stopped armed members of an extremist right-wing group from blocking migrants crossing the Polish border. More than 50 far-right vigilantes were armed with pepper spray, a bayonet, a machete and batons, police said. The group is believed to support the Third Way, a far-right party with suspected links to neo-Nazi groups. The party has called on its members to take action against border crossings,

which have increased since August. Police seized weapons and made the group leave the area near the town of Guben on Saturday night and early on Sunday, a spokesperson said. A counter-demonstration was held in opposition to the far-right patrols. "We don't want to leave the region to the neo-Nazis. We want to set an example that asylum is and will remain a human right," the organisers of the vigil told the news site Der Spiegel. - APP

AGENCIES

KABUL: As recently as last week, the U.S. immigration service was using six officers to process about 14,000 humanitarian requests for Afghans seeking relocation to the United States following the Taliban takeover of the country in August. That's what the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service recently told congressional staff, Congressman Jim Langevin, a Democrat from Rhode Island, said during a House Homeland Security

Committee meeting. "I want to say that again: 14,000 humanitarian parole applications with just six officers," Langevin said. "That is completely and utterly unacceptable, and I call on USCIS to address the shortcoming immediately." A spokesman for Langevin told Voice of America that the information about the USCIS backlog came during an October 12 agency briefing for congressional staff. Humanitarian parole is a special permission given to foreigners to enter the United States under emergency circumstances. While it

USCIS overwhelmed by 20,000 humanitarian requests

does not automatically lead to permanent residence, "parolees" can apply for legal status once they're in the U.S. In a typical year, USCIS gets fewer than 2,000 humanitarian parole requests from around the world, according to a USCIS official, who spoke on background. But since August, the agency has received a total of nearly 20,000 such requests for Afghan nationals outside the United States, the official said in a statement to VOA on Friday. That is up from 14,000 in mid-October. The vast majority of the

applications have been filed by Afghan Americans on behalf of relatives back home who have no other options for relocating to the United States, according to community activists. A much larger number of Afghans with ties to the U.S. military, U.S. government and U.S. non-governmental organizations have applied for special immigrant visas or refugee status. Asked about Langevin's criticism of the humanitarian parole backlog, the official said the agency is actively assigning additional staff to address the workload.

Govt achieves target of vaccinating 100 million

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination Dr. Faisal Sultan has said that the government has successfully achieved the target of administering 100 million doses of Covid vaccine across the country. In a message on the occasion, Dr. Faisal said that the target was achieved with the support of citizens of Pakistan and many organizations, particularly the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) for making effective strategies to ensure vaccination. He also thanked the Provincial Health Ministries, provincial administrations, vaccinators, and other staff of the immunization program and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

US urges N Korea to end 'provocative' tests

North Korea fired a newly developed ballistic missile from a submarine in its fifth round of weapons tests in recent weeks. South Korean officials said the submarine-fired missile appears to be in an early stage of development

AGENCIES

NEW YORK: A senior United States diplomat has urged North Korea to end its "concerning and counterproductive" missile tests and resume negotiations. Sung Kim, the top US official on North Korea affairs, spoke on Sunday after meeting with South Korean officials to discuss North Korea's recent streak of missile tests, including its first underwater ballistic missile launch in two years. The tests come amid a long-running impasse in nuclear diplomacy between Washington and Pyongyang. "We call on the DPRK to cease these provocations and other destabilising activities, and instead,

engage in dialogue," Kim told reporters, referring to North Korea by its official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. "We remain ready to meet with the DPRK without preconditions and we have made clear that the United States harbours no hostile intent towards the DPRK," he said. Last Tuesday, North Korea fired a newly developed ballistic missile from a submarine in its fifth round of weapons tests in recent weeks. South Korean officials said the submarine-fired missile appears to be in an early stage of development. Still, that marked North Korea's first underwater-launched test since October in 2019 and the most high-profile one since US President Joe Biden took office in January.



Missiles fired from submarines are harder to detect in advance and would provide North Korea with a secondary, retaliatory attack capability. The launch violated multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions imposed on the North and "poses a threat to the DPRK's

neighbours and the international community," Kim said. He also described the test as "concerning and counterproductive to making progress toward a lasting peace on the Korean peninsula". Pyongyang so far has rejected US overtures, accusing Washington and Seoul of talking diplomacy while ratcheting up tensions with their own military activities. It also accused the US on Thursday of overreacting to its "defensive" submarine-launched ballistic missile test, and questioned the sincerity of Washington's offers of talks. "It is a clear double standard that the United States denounces us for developing and testing the same weapons system it already has or was developing, and that only adds

suspicions to their sincerity after saying they have no hostility towards us," a spokesperson for the North's foreign ministry said. The US could face "more grave and serious consequences" if they opted for wrong behaviour, the spokesperson said, warning against "fiddling with a time bomb". South Korean nuclear envoy Noh Kyu-duk meanwhile said Sunday's talks with Kim had included "serious" discussion of Seoul's proposal to formally declare an end to the state of war that has technically existed since the 1950-1953 Korean War ended in an armistice rather than a peace treaty. South Korean officials see such a declaration as a gesture of goodwill to get talks started.

ECP summons Fawad Ch on October 27

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has summoned Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry on October 27 over allegations levelled by him on the commission. Fawad Chaudhry had criticized the election commission over raising questions on electronic voting machines that government plans to use in the next general elections. Election Commission has also issued show cause notice to Railways Minister Azam Swati for not appearing before the authorities in a matter related to allegations against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja. The commission expressed resentment and summoned the minister in personal capacity on October 26.

Covid vaccine shipment with 6.6 mn doses reaches

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Consignments originating from the United States and China carrying a total of 6.6 million Covid vaccines have landed on Sunday in Islamabad on the back of the international COVAX program and a gift from the neighbor government respectively. One shipment, reaching Pakistan via a Pakistan International Airlines flight, carries 3 million doses of Sinovac vaccines that is a gift to Pakistan from the Chinese government. Separately another shipment, via a private airline flight, carries 3.6 million Pfizer doses landing in Pakistan from the global Covax program, the sources said. The vaccines will be portioned out to the provinces based on their needs and for this the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) has asked the provinces for their data and requisitions. So far Pakistan has received 140 million Covid vaccine doses out of which 100 million were bought while 380 million were donated to it. The break up of the donated is between Covax program that claims 30 million doses while 8 million were given to Pakistan from China as aid. Pertinent to note that the Covid-19 viral disease has claimed 18 more lives in Pakistan during the last 24 hours today, taking the death toll to 28,377.

PML-N announces Shaista Malik as candidate for NA-133

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) has announced candidate for the NA-133 by-election in Lahore, days after Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) nominated Jamshed Iqbal Cheema. The PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif has approved awarding a ticket to Shaista Perviz Malik, widow of PML-N leader Perviz Malik, who died due to a heart attack earlier this month. The party leadership has decided in principle to award the ticket to Shaista Perviz. This approval of decision has been given by the PML-N parliamentary boards. PML-N spokesperson Mariyum Aurangzeb confirmed that the party has awarded a ticket to Shaista Perviz Malik for contesting the by-election from the NA-133 Lahore constituency to be held on December 5. Earlier, PTI leader Jamshed Iqbal Cheema has resigned as Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Food Security following his nomination as the party candidate for NA-133.