



# Islamabad POST

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

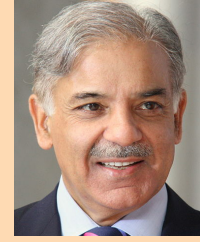
Price Rs. 20

**Pakistan to always stand with Saudi Arabia: PM Imran**

Detailed News On Page-01

**Rising dollar rate dangerous for Pakistan**

Detailed News On Page-08



**M Salah hits hatrick against Man United**

Detailed News On Page-06



**Briefs**

**Mariyum criticizes Imran Khan**

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) spokesperson Mariyum Aurangzeb has said that Pakistan cannot come out of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list in Imran Khan's government. In a statement on Monday, the PML-N spokesperson said that Pakistan couldn't get out of the FATF's grey list with the sitting fascist government of Imran Khan. She said that even inflation cannot be decreased with PM Imran Khan in power, adding that only PML-N can fix the country's economy.

**Indian cricket star abused online**

FOREIGN DESK

NEW DELHI: A torrent of social media abuse was aimed at India's only Muslim player, the bowler Mohammed Shami, after his side were thrashed by arch rivals Pakistan at the cricket T20 World Cup. Violence against Muslims was also reported after the emphatic 10-wicket win on Sunday, Pakistan's first against India at any World Cup. Cricket clashes between Hindu-majority India and Muslim Pakistan frequently heighten tensions between the neighbours, who have fought three wars since their independence in 1947. The 31-year-old Shami became the main target after the defeat in Dubai.

**Bezinjo named new CM Balochistan**

DNA

QUETTA: Speaker of the Balochistan Assembly Abdul Qudoos Bezinjo resigned from his post on Monday as the Balochistan Awami Party or BAP nominated him as the next chief minister of the province. This was stated by the acting president of BAP Zahoor Buledi and Sardar Abdur Rehman Khetran at a joint media conference in Quetta.

## Pakistan to always stand with KSA

PM Imran addresses Saudi-Pakistani Investment Forum in Saudi Arabia

NEWS DESK /DNA

RIYADH: Prime Minister Imran Khan addressed Saudi-Pakistani Investment Forum held in Riyadh. The Saudi Minister of Investment, His Excellency Eng. Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih, hosted the Forum and delivered keynote address. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi; Advisor to the Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue Shaukat Tarin; and Minister for Energy Hamad Azhar also spoke at the event. Separate presentations were made on the investment opportunities in Pakistan in the housing and hydropower sectors. The event was attended by a large number of Saudi investors and businessmen, key Pakistani business leaders, investors from Pakistani Diaspora, and stakeholders from Pakistan's private sector based in the Kingdom. The leading Saudi firms including SABIC, ACWA Power, Ma'aden, SALIC, Al-Zamil Group, Al-Bawani Group and Riyad

**John Kerry calls on PM Imran**

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The United States' Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, John Kerry, called on Prime Minister Imran Khan in Riyadh, on Monday, on the sidelines of the "Middle East Green Initiative (MGI)" Summit, the PM office said in Islamabad. Highlighting the priority attached by the government of Pakistan to Climate Change, the Prime Minister underscored the need to reinforce national as well as global emphasis against this existential threat. The Prime Minister shared his perspective with the Special Envoy on challenges faced by Pakistan and other developing countries due to climate change,

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06



RIYADH: Prime Minister Imran Khan addressing an investment forum in Saudi Arabia. - DNA

## COAS Bajwa calls global support for Afghan issue

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Chief of the Army staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa has reiterated the need for global convergence with coordinated efforts to avoid humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. He was talking to Canadian High

Commissioner to Pakistan Wendy Gilmour in Rawalpindi, today [Monday]. During the meeting matters of mutual interest, bilateral cooperation in various fields, overall regional situation and peace and stability in the Afghanistan were discussed. The Army Chief said that Pakistan desires to maintain the tradition of bilateral engagement and wish for long term and multi-domain enduring relationship with Canada. The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's role in Afghan situation including successful evacuation operations and pledged to keep working for better relations between the two countries.



RIYADH: Prime Minister Imran Khan meeting with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on the sidelines of Middle East Green Initiative Summit at Riyadh Saudi Arabia. - DNA

## Shavkat re-elected as Uzbek president

According to the election commission, over 16 million voters cast their votes out of total 19 million eligible voters. The turnout was over 81 per cent, which is quite high

CENTRELINE REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The incumbent President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev has been re-elected as the President of the Central Asian Republic, which is constantly on the move in various fields especially in the fields of trade, economy, reforms ever since President Shavkat has taken charge as the President. Shavkat Mirziyoyev got 81 per cent vote. According to the election commission, over 16 million voters cast their votes out of total 19 million eligible voters. The turnout was over 81 per cent, which is quite high. This time a large number of youths took part in this process and exercised its right.

**PM Imran, President Putin congratulate Shavkat Mirziyoyev**



DNA

TASHKENT: Prime Minister Imran Khan Monday congratulated incumbent President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of Uzbekistan on the "impressive victory" in the presidential

election. "Heartiest congratulations to my friend President Shavkat Mirziyoyev (of Uzbekistan) on impressive victory in Presidential elections. People of brotherly Uzbekistan have again

Continued on Page 06

The presidential elections in Uzbekistan were held in accordance with national legislation and the country's international obligations. This was stated by the Deputy Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Yarik Ashimov. Erik Ashimov headed the mission of observers from the organization at the presidential elections in Uzbekistan. He noted that the observers did not reveal any violations that cast doubt on the results of the voting. Meanwhile, CIS observer chief said that the presidential elections were held in accordance with the constitution and the electoral code of the Republic of

Continued on Page 06

**Pakistan records lowest covid deaths**

ISLAMABAD: The national tally of Covid-19 active cases on Monday was recorded 23,940 with 698 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 666 people recovered from the disease during the last 24 hours. Nine corona patients have died during the last 24 hours, where the deceased were under treatment in different hospitals, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). - APP

## Coup in Sudan as military detains PM UN, EU condemn military's actions

KHARTOUM: Sudan's military leader has declared a state of emergency across the country while dissolving its transitional cabinet and the sovereign council in a huge blow to the country's already fragile transition towards democracy. Abdel-Fattah al-Burhan made a televised announcement on Monday as thousands of pro-democracy protesters flooded the streets of the capital Khartoum, and its twin city of Omdurman.

AGENCIES

NEW YORK: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for the immediate release of Sudan's prime minister and all other officials after the Sudan military seized power in the nation. "I condemn the ongoing military coup in Sudan. Prime Minister Hamdok & all other officials must be released immediately. EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said in a statement that the right of peaceful protest must be respected, and violence and bloodshed avoided at all cost in Sudan. The actions of the military represent a betrayal of the revolution.

Continued on Page 06

## Direct flights from Pak to Tashkent to resume soon

Dy FM of Uzbekistan Furqat Sidikov talks to Islamabad POST; says tourists visa services to also resume soon

ANSAR M BHATTI IN TASHKENT

TASHKENT: Deputy Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan Furqat Sidikov has said direct flights between Lahore and Tashkent temporarily stopped due to the pandemic are likely to resume soon. The Uzbek air officials are constantly in touch with the Pakistani counterparts and it is hoped people of both countries will soon be able to visit their preferred and favorite destinations in both countries sooner rather than later. Minister Furqat Sidikov expressed these views while talking exclusively to daily Islamabad POST/DNA News Agency and Centreline magazine, in Tashkent on Monday. Furqat Sidikov has served in Pakistan as Ambassador of Uzbekistan for five years. To a question the deputy foreign minister said Uzbekistan has discontinued visa services for tourists because of the pandemic adding we wish to resume

these services once the pandemic situation allows us to do so. He noted with satisfaction that the Uzbek government had effectively tackled the Covid 19 pandemic. Talking about relations with Pakistan, he said during the recent visit of the Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan to Uzbekistan leaders of both countries pledged to further expand cooperation in a variety of fields. He said, Uzbekistan, together with the neighboring countries, sincerely wants peace and stability in the region because a peaceful and stable Afghanistan is in the interest of all including the people of Afghanistan. The Ambassador stressed the need for enhancement of cultural cooperation between the two countries. He emphasized more bilateral contacts in this particular field are direly needed. To a yet another question about recognition of the Taliban government by Uzbekistan, Minister Furqat said Afghanistan is very much part of Central Asia and whatever goes on in Afghanistan it has a di-

rect impact on the Central Asian states and other regional countries. Our government strongly believed that there was no military solution to the problem. "We have established some contacts with the new Taliban govt. Our first and foremost priority is to avoid any humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. That is why Uzbekistan opened its borders for goods transportation. Besides, Uzbekistan is also providing

electricity to Afghanistan". He added, restoration of connectivity is yet another issue we want to address for which both sides have held few meetings. The opening of the Mazar-e-Sharif airport for humanitarian aid transportation is also on the agenda. Similarly, we need to forge and strengthen trade and economic ties with Afghanistan for the increased economic activity will ultimately lead to po-

litical stability. While replying to a question regarding Indian role in Afghanistan he said the role of all neighboring countries is important with regard to peace and stability in Afghanistan. When asked to comment on the presence of Afghan war lord General Rashid Dostum in Uzbekistan, the deputy foreign minister categorically said he had no information about that. Furqat Sidikov

praised Prime Minister Imran Khan's approach towards Islamophobia and said we need to have collective efforts in order to address this issue effectively. He said that he will be in Pakistan on November 2 for bilateral consultations adding this interaction, for sure, shall contribute towards further strengthening of friendly and brotherly relations between the two countries.



TASHKENT: Furqat Sidikov Dy Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan talking to Islamabad POST. - DNA



TASKENT: Editor Daily Islamabad POST / Centreline and DNA News agency with Furqat Sidikov Dy Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan. - DNA

**Inside...**

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LAHORE: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farukh Habib addressing at lawyers convention. — DNA

## Govt decides to launch door-to-door dengue drive

WEB DESK

PESHAWAR, : The provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Monday decided to launch a door-to-door campaign for the prevention of dengue and increase in public awareness activities and improvement in coordination among the concerned departments. The decision was taken in a high-level meeting held here with Chief Minister Mahmood Khan in the chair to review the latest dengue situation and tightening measures to control the virus in the province. The Special Assistant to CM for Information and Higher Education Kamran Khan Bangash, Members of National Assembly Haji Shaukat Ali, Noor Alam Khan and Arbab Sher Ali and other senior officials.

## Pak-Australia forum distributes gifts among Kailash

CHITRAL: Caravan Saferani Aman-o-Muhabbat (Delegation of ambassadors of Peace and Love) members of Line Club visited Kumrat, Chitral on a four-day visit. During the visit, the caravan also visited Kailash Valley where gifts were distributed among Kailash women from Pakistan-Australia Strategic Forum to facilitate them regarding upcoming religious

festival Chattr Mass in December. The delegation is comprised of doctors, professors, engineers, intellectuals and members of civil society. The gifts were distributed on behalf of Zeeshan Raza, a Pakistani based in Australia, through his co-coordinator in Pakistan, Sabteen Raza Lodhi. Around 70 Kalashi including

the male and female Qazi (religious leaders) received the gifts. The Kalash people were told that Chief Executive of Chitral Travel Bureau Syed Harir Shah will convey all their problems to PASF, which will be sent to Zeeshan Raza so that local problems could be alleviated. Sabteen Raza assured that in consultation with Kailash elders, PASF would also arrange hostels for Kailash students in Peshawar or Islamabad so that they could pursue higher education.

Representing the Kailash people, social activist Lok Rehmat Kailash said it was very important to set up a hostel for Kailash students and take necessary steps to preserve the Kailash culture and pass it on to the new generation to keep this culture alive. — APP



## 2 cops sentenced to death in Intizar murder case

KARACHI: An anti-terrorism court in Karachi on Monday handed down death sentence to two police officials, who were serving as the guard and driver of the former chief of the police's Anti-Car Lifting Cell (ACLC), for killing teenager Intizar Ahmed in a "planned encounter" in the city's Defence Housing Authority neighbourhood in 2018. The ATC judge found police constables Bilal Rasheed and Mohammad Daniyal, who were then posted as

the gunman and driver of ex-ACLC chief (now DIG) Muqaddas Haider, guilty of shooting 19-year-old Intizar to death. The court also awarded life imprisonment to six other ACLC officials, including then-station house officer Tariq Mehmood, former inspectors Tariq Raheem and Azhar Ahsan, then-head constable Shahid Usman and ex-constables Ghulam Abbas and Fawad Khan. A seventh accused, Ghulam Abbas —

another former head constable, was acquitted for want of evidence. Intizar, who was studying in Malaysia, had returned to Pakistan for his holidays. He was travelling in his car with a friend, Madiha Kayani, on January 13, 2018, when policemen in plain clothes chased his car and shot him dead in DHA after he failed to stop the vehicle upon the cops' direction. Kayani had managed to escape the scene unscathed in a rickshaw. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Wajahat Malik a well-known writer and TV travel show host speaking on the occasion of launching of his Book 'Charsi Nama and other poems'. — DNA

## No peace without peaceful settlement of Kashmir issue

DNA

MUZAFFARABAD: Former President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Sardar Masood Khan has said that there can be no peace in the region including India without the resolution of the Kashmir conflict. "The durable peace in South Asia will not be possible without peaceful resolution of Kashmir problem. If the international community fails to play its role with regard to the Kashmir dispute; it will have serious repercussions for the peace in South Asia, Mr. Khan warned," he warned. He expressed these views in his address as the chief guest of the inaugural session of Kashmir Seminar jointly organized by the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UJK) and Kashmir Liberation Cell (KLC) at Muzaaffarabad to mark the 74th founding day of Azad Jammu and Kashmir government.

Former Chief Justice of Azad Kashmir, Chaudhry Ibrahim Zia, Vice Chancellor UJK, Prof Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi, former Secretary to the Government, Akram Sohail, Director General Kashmir Liberation Cell, Ershad Mahmood, Director KLC, Raja Sajjad Latif also addressed on the occasion. Terming the formation of a revolutionary government under the dynamic leadership of Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan on October 24, 1947 as an important event, Masood Khan said that an impossible task was made possible because of the unprecedented sacrifices offered by our forefathers. "The 3.5 million youth of Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan should stand up to preserve this freedom and liberty achieved by their elders by defeating the Dogra army in 1947," he said. Referring to the ongoing freedom struggle in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, he said that Kashmiris have the political and diplomatic support from the state of Pakistan after

the help of Allah Almighty. Pakistan, he said is the only country, which not only fought many wars with India but also lost a part of it and did not give up his principled stand on Kashmir. The former state president said that Kashmiris were demanding the right to self-determination which was recognized by the international community under UNSC resolutions but India was responding their legitimate demand with bombs and bullets. Highlighting the fruits of freedom in Azad Kashmir, President Masood Khan said that despite our weaknesses and shortcomings, Azad Kashmir has made remarkable progress in education, infrastructure and many other spheres of life. The region can be turned into the engine of Pakistan's economic growth if the proper use of human and natural resources is planned, he added. "All this happened because of the freedom we enjoy and our youth should pay tribute to their forefathers whose sacrifices gave us the blessing of liberty, he emphasized.

## FIA to organize awareness sessions for students

Syed Farid Ali Shah said that criminals have changed their modus operandi and they are also now using digital tools to carry out their nefarious designs

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) will organize awareness sessions in universities and colleges to educate students to avoid indulging in cyber crimes unintentionally. Similarly, liaison with the business community would be further enhanced to inform them about new conditionalities of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) which may prompt criminal proceedings, said Syed Farid Ali Shah Regional Director FIA. He visited Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) and had a detailed meeting with Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh, President FCCI. Vice President Rana Fayyaz Ahmad and other members were also present during this meeting. He said that Director General FIA Dr. Sanaullah Abbasi has issued clear directives to educate concerned stakeholders before initiating any action against them. He said that the Director General intends to visit FCCI so that confidence and cooperation between the business community and FIA could be further promoted. Syed Farid Ali Shah said that criminals have changed their modus operandi and they are also now using digital tools to



carry out their nefarious designs. He said that telephone and mobile phones are being used for money laundering and in cases of abduction for ransom. He said that some cases have multiple dimensions and FIA conduct inquiry into the clauses falling under its domain while the other crimes are referred to the departments including Police and FBR etc. He said that an increase in banking crimes have also witnessed phenomenal increase due to the digitalization and hence the business community must remain alert to avoid unintentional involvement in cyber crime. "It is also imperative for them to avoid financial losses", he added. Continuing, he said that generally in bank related crimes, basic infor-

mation is passed on to the criminals by the bank employees or by the concerned person himself erroneously. Regional Director FIA said that on the receipt of a complaint an initial investigation is being conducted to verify the contents and after full satisfaction of the investigation officer, the FIR is registered. He also explained in detail the various aspects of the violation of copyright act and said that receiving an objectionable mail is not a crime but by forwarding it, the receiver also commits the same crime. He advised the people that they should not click on unknown links received through whatsapp as it will transfer his entire data which could be abused by the criminals. He said that FIA is strictly implementing a zero tolerance policy and minimum punishment for FIA employees is posting out to other provinces. Earlier Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh President FCCI explained the reservation of the business community and said that the intensity of crime should be judged in accordance with intentional or unintentional acts. He said that cyber crimes are increasing day by day and regular awareness sessions should be arranged to educate the concerned stakeholders.

## KP admits adjournment motion on dengue

WEB DESK

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Monday admitted an adjournment motion to discuss increasing dengue cases in the province and the existing facilities at hospitals. The motion, moved by MPA of JUI Rehana Ismail, said that dengue cases were rapidly increasing in the province while the hospitals which were already overloaded due to corona cases were lacking the facilities. She said the dengue infection cases were increasing on a daily basis and more and more patients were being admitted at the hospitals, adding that now the space and facilities were getting short at the hospitals. On the other hand, she said the district administrations were not taking the situation seriously to prevent the dengue outbreak and apparently there was no such campaign to prevent the disease or curb its spread. Speaking on the occasion, KP Minister for Labour Shaukat Yousafzai endorsed the adjournment motion and said that it should be discussed in the House. Meanwhile the Minister presented KP Public Property (Removal of Encroachment) (amendment) bill 2021 in the House. While the House passed KP Partnership (amendment) bill 2021. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister told the House that the KP government has so far registered 12,000 miners for their welfare and social and financial security, adding that 30,000 miners of KP province were affiliated with the coal industry across the country and measures were being taken for the registration with the Workers Welfare Board.



FAISALABAD: CEO FESCO Engr. Bashir Ahmed and Regional Head ABL Ibrar Saleem, sign the Centralized Collection agreement. — DNA

## FESCO, ABL join hands for digitalize billing

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) and Allied Bank Limited (ABL) inked Centralized Collection agreement for payment of electricity bills through different digital channels including debit cards, credit cards, ATM and Internet banking. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) FESCO Engr. Bashir Ahmed and Regional Head

ABL Ibrar Saleem, signed the agreement. Under this agreement, FESCO consumers all over Pakistan would be able to pay the electricity bills through ABL. In addition, ABL would online transfer the amount of bills collected in FESCO account on a daily basis, thus payment of bills through ABL digital channels would be immediately updated. In this connection CEO FESCO Engr. Bashir Ahmed said that through

this agreement FESCO consumers would pay the electricity bills immediately and easily at their homes. The ceremony was also attended by the Chief Financial Officer Mian Nazir Ahmed, Chief Commercial Officer Muhammad Nawaz Qulla, Regional Head Allied Bank Ibrar Saleem, Regiona Head Banking Services Group Munir Zia Haider Dar and Manager Direct Sales Imran Arshad were also present.

## Corona vaccination to be administered at doorstep across Punjab

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar said on Monday that parliamentarians and social workers had been entrusted with the task to make coronavirus vaccination drive a success. According to official sources, the corona vaccination campaign had been launched in Punjab from Monday (today) to vaccinate around one million people daily and the drive would continue till November 12. The CM said, "I appeal to the public to vaccinate themselves as it is the only

remedy to control coronavirus." He said that Punjab had suffered a colossal loss of Rs 650 billion while more than 13,000 people had died due to corona pandemic. The CM was briefed about the 'Reach Every Door' campaign at a meeting which was attended by Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid, secretary primary & secondary health, DGPR and others. The teams would visit to every nook and corner of the province to provide a free vaccination facility. — APP

## HR violations can't stop Kashmiris

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader Humayun Akhtar Khan said on Monday the freedom movement of the people of IOJK could not be suppressed through the use of worst form of force against innocent Kashmiris. Talking about black day being observed by Kashmiris on October 27, he said the incumbent government, under the leadership of PMImran Khan was mobilizing all quarters at international level to effectively raise the voice of oppressed people of IOJK for resolving the Kashmir issue as per the UN resolutions. — APP

OCTOBER 2021

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## SERVICES



## Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	04:57 am
Zohr.....	11:52 am
Asr.....	03:44 pm
Maghrib.....	05:23 pm
Isha.....	06:46 pm



## Hotels &amp; Restaurants

Serena Hotel.....	111 133 133
Marriott.....	051-2826121
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## Islamabad Metropolitan

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

## Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....	0331-5022125
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# Alvi for insurance claims to policyholders' widows

The president observed that the extant law didn't empower the condonation of delay to entertain a representation which was time barred, adding that it was liable to be rejected out rightly as incompetent and time barred

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi Monday ordered the State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan (SLICP) to pay insurance claims to the widows of two different insurance policy holders. The president upheld the orders of the Wafaqi Mohtasib to pay the insurance claims to the widows of policyholders in two separate cases and rejected the representations of the SLICP in this regard. According to the details, Nagina Fatima's late husband had purchased non-medical life insurance policy for Rs 1 million and paid annual premium amounting to Rs 54,890 on 31.12.2018.

After his death in February 2019, the widow, being the nominee of the deceased policyholder, approached the SLICP for the payment of the insurance claim. The SLICP repudiated her insurance claim without issuing her any notice. Thereafter, the widow approached the office of the Wafaqi Mohtasib for the redressal of her grievance. Similarly, the husband of Rehana Kosar had purchased a policy for Rs 410,000 and after paying annual premium in

July 2019 he died. Kosar's claim was also rejected without issuing any notice to her after which she approached the Wafaqi Mohtasib to seek justice.

Subsequently, Wafaqi Mohtasib, in both the cases, passed the orders directing the SLICP to redress the grievances of the complainants by paying them insurance claims, taking disciplinary actions against the delinquent officials under the relevant laws. The Mohtasib also sought compliance report or the reasons for not doing so within 30 days in terms of the Article 11(2) of P.O. 1 of 1983. The SLICP, thereafter, filed appeals to the President assailing the orders of the Wafaqi Mohtasib.

While rejecting the representation of SLICP, the president noted that under the Article 32 of the Estab-

lishment of the Office of Wafaqi Mohtasib Order 1983 read with Section 14 of the Federal Ombudsmen Institutional Reforms Act 2013, any person aggrieved by the order of the Mohtasib may file a representation within 30 days before the president.

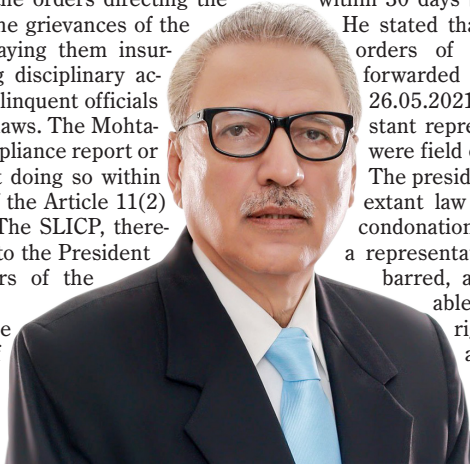
He stated that in both cases, the orders of the Mohtasib were forwarded to the agency on 26.05.2021 whereas both the instant representations of SLICP were filed on 07.07.2021.

The president observed that the extant law didn't empower the condonation of delay to entertain a representation which was time barred, adding that it was liable to be rejected out rightly as incompetent and time barred.

He remarked that the agency did not challenge the declarations made by the

deceased policyholders about their good state of health and treated the insurance policies as "good risk" and a valid contract since the date of issuance of policies till their deaths for all intents and purposes. President Alvi ordered to estop the agency to assail the policy after the death of policyholders as the agency repudiated the claim without issuing any notices and without providing the complainants the opportunity of being heard. The president in his decision wrote that the agency did not fulfil the requirements of natural justice which was one of the most sacred principles and its violation is always considered enough to vitiate even the most solemn proceeding.

"Therefore, the representation is rejected at it is time barred and the Agency must consider the matter further, redress the grievance of the complainants by paying them death insurance claims, take disciplinary actions against delinquent officers under relevant laws and report compliance within 30 days", he ordered.



# NIH issues advisory for dengue fever prevention

The objective of the advisory is to sensitize human and animal health care authorities to further strengthen and improve the level of preparedness in prevention and control of the dengue



ISLAMABAD: Keeping in view the seasonal trends of dengue fever, the Field Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance Division (FED-SD) of National Institutes of Health (NIH) has issued advisory on prevention and control of the disease.

According to NIH, the objective of the advisory is to sensitize human and animal health care authorities to further strengthen and improve the level of preparedness

in prevention and control of the disease. As per advisory, dengue is a viral disease transmitted by mosquitoes of the genus Aedes (Aedesegypti and Aedesalbopictus). It is endemic in almost all geographical regions of Pakistan and there are substantial evidences that its multiple serotypes are circulating in the different areas of the country. Despite patchy surveillance, a total of 53,498 cases with 95 deaths due to

dengue fever were reported during 2019 while 6,016 cases were reported during 2020, and 3,795 cases were reported up to September 2021. It is imperative to work on prevention while staying vigilant for detection of cases and ensuring preparedness to launch response activities for curtailing the transmission of dengue fever disease.

This advisory is therefore, intended to facilitate the healthcare authorities and professionals in effectively dealing the potential challenge during the Dengue season. The advisory also calls upon hospitals to build their capacity for management of patients, to keep rapid response arrangements in place, and to maintain regular liaison with relevant departments and stakeholders.

As per advisory, the precautions should be taken to prevent dengue fever including adopting personal protection measures like wearing long-sleeved clothes, use of mosquito repellent lotions, sprays and use of mosquito repellent coils.

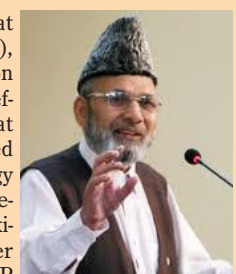
Other measures including using bed nets while sleeping outside in open environment and use mesh screens on windows. - APP

# APHC leader lauds Pakistan's efforts for Kashmir issue

ISLAMABAD: All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC, AJK-Chapter), leader Ghulam Muhammad Safi on Monday appreciated Pakistan's efforts to highlight Kashmir issue at international forums and stressed the need for a more vibrant strategy to resolve the 74-year old dispute between the two nuclear states - Pakistan and India. The Hurriyat leader in an exclusive interaction with APP in connection with the Kashmir Black Day (October 27), said basically, the Kashmir's liberation movement leaders and diaspora were highlighting the Kashmir issue and Kashmiri people's right to self-determination at international forums.

Safi said the government of Pakistan has greater responsibility towards flagging Kashmiri people's plight and blatant Indian atrocities and human rights violations. "Prime Minister Imran Khan has underscored Kashmir cause at the United Nations General Assembly, whereas Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador MunirAkram is doing a great job. However, a lot more has to be done on Kashmir," the APHC AJK-Chapter said.

He added that Pakistanis and Kashmiris would embrace peace only after the end of Indian oppression in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Safi mentioned that the Kashmiris resistance to Indian occupation and denial of her claim over IIOJK was matter of great fret and frown for Indian forces, intelligence, Rashtriyasawayamsevak-Sangh (RSS) and Hindutva goon leadership. After luring the Kashmiri youth through sports and other educational opportunities, that they had clearly rejected, the Indian Hindutva regime started them in jails outside IIOJK where they were given worst torture, the APHC leader told. - APP



# Famous painter, sculptor Ismail Gulgee remembered

ISLAMABAD: Globally famous painter and sculptor Ismail Gulgee was remembered on Monday at his birth anniversary. Born on October 25 1926 in Peshawar, Gulgee was an award winning artist who won pride of performance, sitara-e-Imtiaz (twice), hilal-e-Imtiaz and several international awards. He was a qualified engineer in the U.S. and self-taught abstract painter and portrait painter. Before 1959, as portraitist, he painted the entire Afghan Royal Family. Initially, he went to Aligarh University to study civil engineering before heading off to USA for continuing his higher education. Gulgee started to paint while acquiring his training as an engineer in the United States at Columbia University and then Harvard. His first exhibition was held in 1950. Gulgee was a gifted and completely naturalistic painter. He was perhaps his best known worldwide for his abstract work, which was inspired by Islamic calligraphy and was also influenced by the "action painting" movement of the 1950s and 1960s. He was also known for using materials such as mirror glass and gold or silver leaf in his oil paintings. His paintings were bright and full of color, but the paint was put on with great sensitivity, and paintings vibrate with intense feeling. Gulgee received many awards from Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Japan and France. Gulgee, his wife Zarrin Gulgee and a maid were found dead in their house on the evening of December 19, 2007 by his servants. Police suspected that all three had been murdered. Gulgee was buried on the evening of December 20, 2007, in Karachi. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Sheikh Rashid Ahmed addressing in a press conference in Islamabad. - DNA

# New students can apply for Ehsaas Scholarships

Students in the 4th or 5th year undergraduate degree programs of the academic year 'Fall 2021' with a monthly household income of less than Rs. 45,000 can submit application

ISLAMABAD: The newly enrolled students in the fourth or fifth year undergraduate degree programs of the academic year 'Fall 2021' with a monthly household income of less than Rs. 45,000 can submit application for Ehsaas Undergraduate Scholarship program.

This was shared by the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection, Dr. Sania Nishtar in her tweet on Monday. The Ehsaas Undergraduate Scholarship program

is underway across the country to equip talented students from low-income families with higher education, Dr. Sania said.

It is pertinent to mention here that this academic year, 50,000 merit cum need based scholarships will be provided to deserving students under Ehsaas Undergraduate Scholarship programme. The eligible students can apply through the online portal: <https://ehsaas.hec.gov.pk/>. The scholarship applications will have to mention the universities



to which they are applying. The geographical spread of the programme covers all four provinces, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan and Islamabad Capital Territory. According to the Ehsaas Scholarship Policy, fifty percent of scholarships are reserved for girls. The scholarship includes a 100% tuition fee and a monthly stipend of Rs. 4,000. During the last two years, over 142,000 scholarships have been awarded nationwide to students from low-income backgrounds.

In line with rule based Ehsaas procedures, undergraduate scholarships will be awarded strictly on merit cum need basis to benefit bright students from low-income backgrounds. Part of the Ehsaas framework, 200,000 scholarships will be awarded under the programme in 4 years. Ehsaas scholarship recipients will continue to receive scholarship throughout their undergraduate degree programme subject to satisfactory academic progress. - APP

# IHC seeks PTA's arguments in tiktok ban case

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday directed Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) to satisfy the bench on next hearing regarding imposing a ban on social media application 'TikTok'. Chief Justice Athar Minallah, hearing the case, remarked that the PTA had submitted its report regarding the matter but it had not clarified the ban on 'TikTok' in compliance of the court orders. The court noted that the authority had submitted affidavit to Peshawar and Sindh high court stating that there was only one percent objectionable material on 'TikTok'. Justice Minallah remarked that the middle class people had made the application as source of their income through presenting their talent on it. The court asked whether the PTA had taken any guideline from any social media expert before banning the application. Apparently it was violation of basic human rights, the chief justice remarked.

The court noted that the attorney general of Pakistan had told the bench that government would consult the stakeholders in this regard. Why not the court should pass an order to restore the application, the court questioned. The bench sought arguments and adjourned the case till November 22. - APP

# Baloch govt projects of women empowerment

## NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Baluchistan government on Monday initiated multiple projects to empower and facilitate women in the province to bring improvement and channelize their talent for development.

The provincial government kicked off the construction of women business incubation centers and women bazaars at Quetta, Khuzdar, Kharan, Loralai and Gwadar with the aim to support women to set up their businesses, enhance their entrepreneurship skills and overcome the challenges being faced by them in the market. The Baluchistan government has decided to set up an economic empowerment fund for women at the cost of Rs 500 million which would provide financial assistance and make them self-sufficient, an official source told APP. The government has launched Balochistan Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Policy 2020-24. The government has also announced a special internship programme for graduated girls at the cost of Rs 3.4 million. The government has also initiated a training programme to encourage more women entrepreneurs to participate in business activities. He said the government was introducing women endowment funds in Baluchistan to empower them financially and make them independent. Baluchistan government had spent Rs 600 million to build women hostels at each divisional headquarter of the province to provide safe residence for working women, he added.

# IHC directs CDA to stop operation in E-12

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday stayed CDA's operation for evacuation of land in sector E-12 till the payments of compensations to the affectees. Petitioner's lawyer Kashif Malik Advocates adopted the stance that this court had given a historical judgment to ensure payments to the affectees. However, the Capital Development Authority (CDA) had challenged the decision before the top court. On the other hand, the civic body was evacuating lands from residents without paying compensations. The court sought comments from chairman CDA besides ordering to stop operation in sector E-12 and adjourned the case till next date. - APP



## Briefs

## Pakistan's IT exports increase, touch \$635m

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce and investment, Abdul Razak Dawood on Monday informed that Pakistan's Information Technology (IT) exports increased to \$635 million in the first quarter of current FY, 2021-22.

Pakistan's Information Technology (IT) and IT-enabled service in the first quarter of FY 2021-22, exports increased to \$635 million from July to September as compared to the exports value of the last year, which stood at \$445 million, showing an increase of 42 per cent Year on Year growth, the Adviser said this on his official twitter account.

"I appreciated all the stakeholders for their efforts and dedication" he said. The adviser said that also, by seeing how the IT sector is growing, "I am optimistic that we will cross the IT exports target for FY of 2021-22." — APP

## Govt notifies posting, transfer of officers

ISLAMABAD: The Federal government on Monday notified the transfer and posting of high ranking officers. According to a notification issued by the Establishment Division, Muhammad Saleem Afzal, a BS-19 officer of Pakistan Administrative Service, presently serving in National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC), is transferred and his services are placed at the disposal of Government of Gilgit Baltistan, with immediate effect and until further orders.

Wajid Ali Khan, a BS-19 officer of Secretariat Group, currently posted as Deputy Secretary, Defence Division, is transferred and posted as Deputy Secretary, Establishment Division, with immediate effect and until further orders. — APP

## Rs 3,558m being spent on 17 aviation projects

ISLAMABAD: The government is spending funds amounting to Rs3,558.20 million, under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP 2021-22), to advance 17 different projects and schemes to ensure improved services in the aviation sector.

As per the PSDP document, an amount of Rs11.077 million has been allocated for construction of double storey Ladies Hostel/ Barrack with provision of third storey along with Mess, Recreation Hall and allied facilities at Allama Iqbal International Airport, Rs37.581 million for construction 2X double storey Barrack with provision of third storey for Corporal to Inspectors and Assistant Director along with separate Mess and allied facilities, Recreation Hall at Quetta Airport, Rs20 million for construction of Airport Security Force (ASF) Camp at Islamabad International Airport and Rs50 million for construction of Barrack accommodation for ASF personnel along with Mess and allied facilities, Ladies Rest Room MT, Store, Kote Magazine, Quarter Guard and OC Accommodation/Room at Skardu Airport.

Similarly, Rs39.534 million have been kept for construction of Barrack accommodation for ASF personnel along with Mess and allied facilities, MT, Store, Visitors Room, Ladies Rest Room, Kote Magazine, Quarter Guard, and OC accommodation/Room at Chitral Airport, Rs21.285 million for construction of double storey Barracks for ASF at Faisalabad Airport, Rs6.213 million for construction of double storey Director South Secretariat Offices ASF along with allied facilities adjacent to ASF HQs Karachi, Rs500 million for construction of Rain Water Harvesting Kasana Dam at Islamabad International Airport, Rs57.719 million for construction of triple storey living Barrack for ASF personnel. — APP

## Asad Qaiser for extension in construction package

Addressing the ceremony, Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry, said that the Prime Minister had taken a positive step by announcing an amnesty scheme for the construction industry that has given a boost to construction activities

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser said that the Prime Minister is giving special focus to the construction sector and had announced an attractive package for the construction industry as a result of which major construction projects have started across the country. He assured that he will raise his voice at every relevant forum, including the National Assembly, for further extension in construction package so that more investors can benefit from it.

He said that construction projects like Gulberg Green Islamabad should be started in other provinces including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to provide better lifestyle to the people. He expressed these views while addressing as chief guest a ceremony organized by the Gulberg Green Islamabad.

President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Muhammad Shakeel Munir, Senior Vice President Jamsheed Akhtar Sheikh, Vice President Muhammad Fahim Khan, Founder Group Chairman Mian Akram Farid, former Pres-



idents ICCI Muhammad Ijaz Abasi, Khalid Iqbal Malik, Sheikh Amir Waheed, Baser Daud and others were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the ceremony, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry, said that the Prime Minister had taken a positive step by announcing an amnesty scheme for the construction industry that has given a boost to construction activities. He stressed that the government should consider extending this

scheme to attract more investment. He further said that the government should provide a similar package to other industries which would help the industrial sector to flourish and the economy would move towards improvement. He congratulated the management of Gulberg Green Islamabad on the launch of E and F Executive Blocks and said that Gulberg Green is emerging as a new Islamabad in Islamabad by providing a high standard lifestyle to the people. He said that Gulberg Green's construction projects have provid-

ed employment to many people besides promoting business activities, which is laudable.

Shujaat Ullah Qureshi, Secretary, Gulberg Green Society said that special attention was being paid to welfare, services and quality in this housing society. He said that the land for E and F Executive blocks of Gulberg Green has been acquired and development will start soon while with the completion of development work in the next two years, people will be able to start construction of houses. He said that 11% discount

would be given to the members of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry in E and F Executive blocks.

RJ Green's Chief Executive Muhammad Imran, New York Real Estate & Builders Managing Director Musharrif Gulzar and former ICCI Senior Vice President Muhammad Naveed Malik also addressed the event and said that Gulberg Green Islamabad has made a breakthrough in the housing sector by introducing latest living environment, which is commendable. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Qatar Ambassador to Pakistan Sheikh Saoud bin Abdul Rahman Al-Thani called on Federal Minister Syed Ali Haider Zaidi in his office in Islamabad. — DNA

## Housing Ministry plans to vacate govt's quarters

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Housing and Works is planning to vacate government quarters in the federal capital from retired and relatives of late employees, who continue to occupy residences.

The ministry in that regard had also sought help from the Capital Development Authority and the Estate Office which falling under the administrative control of the Housing Ministry, sources in the Estate Office told APP.

They said that the Ministry was considering taking action against the encroachments and illegally constructed structures in government residences in the federal capital.

Strict action would be taken against the construction of extra rooms by the employ-

ees and their kith and kin, who lived in government allotted houses, they added. At present, the sources said over 17,000 government houses in Islamabad were under the management of the Estate Office and additional rooms had illegally been constructed by the allottees in over 2,400 residences.

The basic purpose of the operation was to clear the government residences of encroachments.

They further informed that over 25,000 government employees were currently on the general waiting list to get accommodation, but they could not be provided with the same as retired employees, their relatives and relatives of even late government employees continued to live in government quarters. — APP

## Gallery 6 initiates new project 'Art at the Park'

ISLAMABAD: "Gallery 6 Islamabad and Studio Sheen Artisans" Monday launched a project titled "Art at the Park" fortnightly free art classes for schoolchildren. According to Gallery 6, the project sponsored by Erce-awn Art Fund.

Today was the first session from 10 a.m to 12 noon at TMA Park in Mansehra. Renowned artists Asad Asghar and Intehash Tawakkal led the session.

They discussed "Art as a career", and conducted demonstration of drawing and colour mixing. Students were asked to choose an object of their interest to draw/paint.

"Gallery 6" is a private art gallery in Islamabad with a large collection of art, including paintings, prints, drawings and sculptures by master, established and emerging artists. — APP

## NIHCR to hold moot on cultural assimilation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research, Islamabad will organize a two-day National Conference on National Integration and Cultural Assimilation here.

The opening session of the conference will be held on Tuesday, October 26 in the morning whereas concluding session will be held on Wednesday, October 27 in the evening, says a press release.

The National Conference, to be attended by international and national historians and scholars, is being arranged in collaboration with Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training and National Heritage & Culture; Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad and the National Institute of Pakistan Studies.

## IRSA releases 88397 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) Monday released 88397 cusecs water from various rim stations with an inflow of 89157 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1511.30 feet, which was 119.03 feet higher than its dead level of 1392 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded at 31900 and 35000 cusecs respectively.

The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1180.00 feet, which was 130.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1050.00 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water were recorded at 13860 and 10000 cusecs respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, and Sukkur was recorded at 36175, 35847, and 35995 cusecs respectively.

Similarly, from the Kabul River, a total 7100 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 36297 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala. — APP

## IHC serves notices to respondents on Mohsin Dawar case

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday sought comments from respondents in a petition seeking to delete the name of MNA Mohsin Dawar from exit control list (ECL). Justice Aamer Farooq of IHC heard the case filed by Mohsin Dawar through his counsel. The petitioner appeared before the bench in person.

He adopted the stance that his name was on ECL since 2018 without any reason. He prayed the court to order for removal of his name from ECL and grant him permission to travel abroad.

The court served notices to Ministry of Interior and Cabinet Committee on ECL, and sought their comments within two weeks. The hearing of the case then adjourned till next date. — APP

## Govt paying focus on development of rural areas

MULTAN: Provincial Minister for Energy Dr Akhtar Malik said that the incumbent government paying special focuses on development of rural in order to ensure facilities equally at urban and rural areas of the country.

Addressing a ceremony of Sui-Gas project at Basti Bhojan of Union Council Makhdoom Rasheed Guryala here on Monday, the provincial minister said that the people of the area had been demanding Sui-gas facility since last many years but the previous governments had made promises only in-

stead of practical work.

He said that the incumbent government was fulfilling all its pledges made during the election adding that a new pipeline with funds of over Rs 35 million was being laid in the area for provision of Sui gas facility to local people.

He announced the construction of Multan to Vehari road that would be started soon as the tender of the scheme had already published in the newspapers as well. — APP



## HEC announces Pak-France research programme

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC), has invited research proposals from faculty members of Pakistani Public and Private sector Universities, in collaboration with the French counterparts, for funding under the PakFrance PERIDOT Research Programme.

According to Official Sources from Research & Development Division HEC on Monday, PERIDOT is the Franco-Pakistani Hubert Curien Partnership (PHC) Programme providing opportunities to Pakistani and French researchers to interact for joint research

activities. The programme is implemented in Pakistan by HEC and in France, jointly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development (MAEDI), and the Ministry of Higher Education and Research (MESR), the sources told APP.

The objective of this programme is to develop new scientific and technological cooperation between French and Pakistani higher education institutions/research laboratories by supporting the mobility of researchers from both sides, they added. Sharing the details of the

key features of project, the sources told that the expected number of grants is up to 5 per year, while maximum project duration is 03 years.

The priority Areas of the project is Agricultural Productivity and Food Security, Nutrition, Health Sciences, Sustainable Energy, Innovative Governance and Reforms.

The eligible Pakistani faculty member must prepare a joint research proposal on prescribed application form in collaboration with French counterpart.

The Pakistani faculty member must submit the joint

proposal via HEC online portal: [portal.hec.gov.pk](https://portal.hec.gov.pk) that must be endorsed by the Head of ORIC/Directorate of Research.

The proposal submission deadline is Friday, December 24, 2021.

For further details of the programme, the applicants may visit HEC and Campus France websites: HEC: <https://www.hec.gov.pk/english/services/faculty/peridot/Pages/default.aspx> or [www.campusfrance.org/fr/peridot](http://www.campusfrance.org/fr/peridot).

However, queries regarding the programme may be directed to [infoperidot@hec.gov.pk](mailto:infoperidot@hec.gov.pk). — APP

## Role of healthcare researchers pivotal to society

The international keynote speaker Dr. David Franz, a well-known researcher and an enthusiastic public health specialist, also joined the conference from the US and discussed the role of research in today's time of global pandemic

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Vice Chancellor of Air University Air Marshal (R) Javaid Ahmad, while highlighting the importance of healthcare research for the betterment of society, has emphasized that researchers must play their due role to enlighten significant information related to various disease trends and risk factors, outcomes of treatment, interventions and patterns of care.

The Chief Guest made these remarks while addressing the Annual Research Conference 2021 on "Promoting health through evidence" organized by the Department of Community Medicine, Fazaia Medical College, here at Air University, Islamabad.

The Conference started with a well-structured inaugural session in which chairperson of the conference, Prof. Dr. Rukhsana Khan emphasized the aim of the conference as promoting and encouraging evidence based practices among the young researchers. She further elaborated the importance of research and the role of said conference, which provided an excellent platform for budding researchers and critical thinkers to polish their research skills and contribute towards a better healthcare system.

Maj. Gen. Prof. Dr. Aamer Ikram, Executive Director NIH, while joining the session as a national keynote speaker, lauded the efforts of inculcating research culture amongst medical undergraduates.

He also acknowledged the crucial role of researchers for the betterment of the health



system. The international keynote speaker Dr. David Franz, a well-known researcher and an enthusiastic public health specialist, also joined the conference from the US and discussed the role of research in today's time of global pandemic. According to him, defining healthcare research and delineating its quality value to the society is the need of time. The scientific sessions started at three different venues simultaneously with seven different thematic areas, i.e: (i) Triple burden of

disease, (ii) Maternal and Child Health, (iii) Global Pandemic, (iv) Quality and patient safety, (v) Technology and innovation in health, (vi) Advances in medical education and, (vii) Mental health and wellness.

During the conference, students of Fazaia Medical College presented their abstracts whereas a large number of students from different medical colleges across the country joined online.

There was a distribution of cash prizes, shields

and certificates amongst the winners belonging to FMC, Rawalpindi Medical University, CMH Lahore and others.

The conference was concluded with closing remarks of the Principal FMC and the Patron of the conference, Maj Gen Muhammad Tahir Khadim HI(M) R. He congratulated everyone for a successful event and applauded the Chairperson, especially the Faculty of Community Medicine, FMC, for all sincere efforts and hard work.



## TLP March

AS November approaches, the TLP is once again dominating the headlines at this time of the year as they descend towards the capital with their list of demands. On Sunday, Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed was reported as saying that the proscribed TLP will not proceed with its march towards Islamabad as negotiations with the group had "almost" succeeded. It is unclear what "almost" implies here and how effective the strategy of holding dialogue has been given that this approach has also been used in the past.

Whether the protesters manage to make their way to Islamabad or not, it must be ensured that there is no further unrest or violence after the unfortunate scenes that were witnessed on Friday when three policemen were martyred and several others injured in clashes with TLP workers. This is not the first time such violence has played out in the case of the TLP and the fact that the same scenario played out again illustrates that the government's strategy of dealing with the group has not really been very successful.

Regarding the TLP's demand to expel the French ambassador from the country, the Interior Minister revealed that under an agreement signed with the group earlier, the issue will be tabled in the parliament for debate. While such an assurance may work to pacify the situation and avoid further unrest, one wonders if such issues are to be debated in the parliament in the first place. We must also be wary of the precedent this might set in terms of how the state can be strong-armed into considering the demands of groups like the TLP. The government must adopt a clear-headed strategy in dealing with the TLP. This is now becoming a trend every November where the writ of the state is challenged. Not only does this cause unrest and disruption within the country, but it also does not paint the country in the best light—especially if we want to make the case that the security situation is improving in the country.

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## Covid-19 Controlled

PAKISTAN just achieved the remarkable milestone of administering over 100 million doses in the short time-span of nine months alone. Rapid immunisation is the reason why Covid-19 has been relatively contained in Pakistan as the NCOC is only reporting an average of 500 cases a day. In comparison to the last few months, this is a monumental achievement. At the same time, we must not forget that, at any point in time, the virus could bounce back and wreak havoc. It is vital that we continue taking precautions and encourage the remaining population to get the vaccine as well.

The 100 million doses administered have effectively vaccinated 68 million, 38 of whom are fully vaccinated. It is now time for the remaining 30 million to schedule their remaining dose. This will be particularly important considering that as Pakistan resumes functions rather normally, proof of being fully vaccinated will be the way through which the masses can observe their routines as well.

It is vital that all institutions, organisations and businesses endorse preventative measures and make observing them a law within public spaces at least. Social distancing must still be practiced, especially when there is a new variant being detected in the country.

Epsilon is a Covid-19 variant that originated in California but 40 cases have been reported in Pakistan as well. This shows that the virus continues to mutate, taking on more dangerous and contagious forms as a result. The only way forward is to observe previous protocols that will keep the pandemic at bay. Our healthcare system cannot take the burden of another wave. Thus, it is imperative that the government does not let the masses forget the fact that we are still in the midst of a pandemic, even though it is fading into the background. We have earned the normalcy that is prevailing, it would be a shame to throw it out the window by being careless.

## How Saudi Arabia is leading the global climate action

Ishtiaq Ahmed



The MEGI, to be realized in coordination with other Arab allies, includes the planting of 40 billion trees in the Middle East. Together, the 50 billion tree planting program is the largest reforestation program in the world and is meant to restore an area equivalent...

THE Saudi Green Initiative Forum in Riyadh has brought together world leaders, public officials, businessmen and climate activists to chalk out the regional roadmap for tackling the disastrous effects of global climate change. Its highlight is the official launch of the Saudi Green Initiative and Middle East Green Initiative, unveiled by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in March. The forum is also a prelude to the 26th UN Climate Change Conference, or COP26, to be held Oct. 31-Nov. 12 in Glasgow, which is expected to renew the global commitment to realize the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting the global temperature rise by 2 C – ideally 1.5 C – by reducing carbon emissions down to zero by 2050. In August, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned that climate change is widespread, rapid, and intensifying. Its destructive potential was visible in this year's re-

cord-breaking summer temperatures, flash flooding across China, central Europe and the US and forest fires on almost every continent.

Fortunately, 2021 has also turned out to be a promising year, with the US re-joining the Paris Agreement and the rest of the world expressing greater resolve on climate action at various world forums, including the US Earth Day virtual summit in April and the G20 Meeting on Environment, Climate and Energy held in July in Naples. Since the use of hydrocarbons causes 80 to 90 percent of carbon emissions, oil giants like Saudi Arabia will have to lead the global climate action. It is offering such leadership through flagship projects such as the SGI and MEGI as well as other innovative ways to reduce the carbon emitting potential of oil and petrochemicals, besides undertaking major wind and solar ventures to generate renewable energy. There are pragmatic reasons why Saudi Arabia is doing so. First, the effects of climate change are especially clear in the Middle East, where drought and temperatures in excess of 50 C have now become the norm. In the past four decades, average temperatures in Saudi Arabia have risen by more than 2 C – three times the current global average. Second, under the Saudi Vision 2030, the government is implementing major reforms that aim to diversify the Saudi economy away from the depleting oil reserves. Almost 70 percent of its population is under the age of 35. Hence, the leadership has to act now to deal with the socio-economic aspirations of the youth bulge in future.

The holistic Saudi approach to climate action also focuses on current action for the sake of future generations. Apart from the two green initiatives, three one-of-a-kind climate ventures are worth mentioning: The SGI includes the planting of 10 billion trees in the upcoming decades, the equivalent to rehabilitating roughly 40 million hectares of degraded lands. It also seeks to reduce carbon emissions by more than 4 percent of global contributions through an ambitious renewable energy program that will generate 50 percent of the Kingdom's energy from renewables by 2030. The MEGI, to be realized in coordination with other Arab allies, includes the planting of 40 billion trees in the Middle East. Together, the 50 billion tree planting program is the largest reforestation program in the world and is meant to restore an area equivalent to 200 million hectares of degraded land, representing 5 percent of

the global target of planting 1 trillion trees and reducing carbon emissions by more than 10 percent of global contributions.

Saudi Arabia has introduced the framework for the circular carbon economy, which is endorsed by the G20 and which advocates the reduction, recycling and reuse of carbon emissions across industrial processes. Saudi Aramco, the Kingdom's national oil company, has undertaken several carbon capture, utilization and storage projects to turn carbon dioxide into useful and saleable products.

It is already a pioneer in developing hydrogen fuels and last year exported the first shipment of blue ammonia – a much cleaner fuel that is a byproduct of the oil and gas industrial process – to Japan for use in the latter's electricity generation industry. It has joined hands with Germany to build the world's largest hydrogen plant worth \$5 billion in NEOM, the smart, zero-carbon city being built on the Red Sea coast.

Saudi Arabia has also established its niche in wind and solar energy. In August, the Middle East's largest wind farm at Dumat Al-Jandal began producing carbon-free electricity, which will eventually meet the energy needs of 70,000 homes. Acwa Power, a company co-owned by Saudi Arabia's Sovereign Wealth Fund, is building the world's largest solar power project at Sakaka. A \$200 billion joint venture with Japan's SoftBank, initiated in 2018, aims to build several other solar projects.

Hence, besides afforestation and renewable energy, Saudi Arabia offers novel solutions like the circular carbon economy and hydrogen fuels so that oil and natural gas may continue to replenish the world economy while carbon emitting potential is simultaneously reduced.

The Kingdom has also joined major global forums such as the Oil and Gas Climate Initiative of 12 oil producing companies, the 23-nation Mission Innovation 2.0 on renewable energy and the Net Zero Producers Forum.

The SGI Forum, indeed, places Saudi Arabia at the heart of a global quest for clean energy and zero emission – a pathway worth emulating for the remaining countries as they renew their climate commitment at the forthcoming COP26.

— *Ishtiaq Ahmed is a former journalist, who subsequently served as the vice chancellor of Sargodha University in Pakistan and as the Quaid-e-Azam Fellow at the University of Oxford.*

## The greatest leader of all times

Wajeaha Bilal



The present corrupted and unjust society is in a dire need of truthful leaders who follow Sunnah, in politics instilled with ethics and morality. Leading by Example was an integral characteristic of The Prophet's personality, as he acted upon the enforced Islamic teachings himself and lead by example to be remembered forever

MANY thinkers and political figures since the ancient world have formed different ideas about the goals that politics can achieve. From moralists (who believe that political life is a branch of ethics or moral philosophy) to realists (who focus on power, conflict, and war), political life is definitely a necessary response to the challenges of everyday life and the realization that collective action is better than individual action. Making sense of human life from ancient times to the Middle Ages, and the present time requires an understanding of the variety of political ideas and achievements established throughout history.

It is generally acknowledged in the West that Magna Carta also called the Great Charter, written by a group of thirteenth century barons to protect their rights and property against a despotic ruler, was the first ever proclamation of rights in which all parties were entitled to social, administrative, and religious rights. Universally considered as the first document to establish a tradition of civil rights, it is the basis of most constitutions of modern nation states. However, analyzing history, the first person who actualized the formation of a constitution for multireligious and diverse community is The Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). The fact is that the Constitution of Madinah, antedates Magna Carter. The prophet of the Islamic faith, Hz. Muhammad (PBUH) laid the foundation for an Islamic state. He was its political and military leader as much as its spiritual guide. After Hijra to Yathrib in 622, he continued to spread his message and ultimately organized the city into a unified Islamic city-state. The city was renamed Medina (city of the prophet) and it became the world's first Islamic state with a constitution that formed the basis of an Islamic political tradition. The constitution addressed the rights and duties of every group within the community, the rule of law, and the issue of war. The key aims were peace within the Islamic state and the construction of a political structure that would strengthen Islam. The constitution helped ensure agreement among different communities securing their lives and properties. This was the first treaty in history defining how a diverse community was to function. It helped commute mutual trust for all parties holding them to the terms and conditions of the agreement. Though the guidelines had been laid down many centuries back, they still stand true for diverse communities and their governments.

Since the establishment of the current government in our country, there has been a continuous stress on ruling through the doctrine of Riyasat-e-Madinah. Being an independent country, that was established on the Islamic identity, while giving rights to

multi religious and ethnic communities, Pakistan's dream was formed on the principles of that great charter, not just in writing, but also in spirit. The concept of Riyasat-e-Madinah was embodied in a lawful state of Madinah which was created by the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) where all human beings were equal with the basic rights of living a peaceful life. Where no one had any superiority, and everyone was treated equal according to the law. While the Islamic state of Madinah was successfully able to govern itself on the Islamic principles, our country since its creation has been struggling to do that. What the leaders of struggling states fail to understand is that it is the leadership that sets an absolute example of a lawful state not vice versa. Corrupted power is the cause of poverty, oppression, and injustices. "We have guided missiles and misguided men." Martin Luther King Jr.

All the leaders who cite examples of great states like Medina should focus on their leadership qualities before having a perfect state to run. Instead of having debates over the corruption of others and how imperfect the previous governments were, the present leaders need to focus more on their own characters. Before establishing the perfect Islamic state, The Greatest Islamic Leader witnessed a very miserable society of Arabs. The Prophet (PBUH) embodied the true essence of greatest leadership, through which he revolutionized the uncivilized lives of Arabs and gave them a lawful purpose to live by. As new potentials arise for the execution of power, control and credibility, new political ideas and theories come to be formed. "Politics is too serious a matter to be left to the politicians" - Charles de Gaulle. Witnessing corrupt and unjust leaderships through media, the present Politics concerns all of us, so we try our best to understand and find ways to address the issues and spread a positive message.

Great leadership qualities have strong connections in Islamic tradition, they are also universal in spirit, making them fitting to any leader, of every religion and ethnicity. Though Muslims believe that there can be no one as pure a leader as the Holy Prophet (PBUH) but there can definitely be great leaders who follow his footsteps and lead with honesty and truthfulness. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) had a very strong and virtuous character with a perpetual display of honesty and truthfulness in his negotiations. His integrity played a vital role while forming the treaty of Hudaibiyah, when his followers felt disappointed with in the short term, but later witnessed the rise of Islam in the long term. The Companions of the Holy Prophet tried to follow his footsteps in handling the matters of the state. Great states and governments are built through men with great characters and qualities. "The best of you are the best in character."

The present corrupted and unjust society is in a dire need of truthful leaders who follow Sunnah, in politics instilled with ethics and morality. Leading by Example was an integral characteristic of The Prophet's personality, as he acted upon the enforced Islamic teachings himself and lead by example to be remembered forever. Muslims around the world celebrate the birth (the Mawlid al-Nabawi) of the greatest leader in the history of mankind, on the 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal, with religious devotion and solemnity. The influential quality of Hazrat Muhammad is still prominent in both spiritual and social issues of life. Spreading of Islam throughout the world was made possible by His meaningful and effective Sunnah. When considering the greatest leader of all times, the name of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) comes on top, not just for Muslims, but also for other honorable researchers and historians such as Michael Hart, who named Prophet Muhammad as number one in his compilation of the hundred greatest leaders in history. Michael Hart in "The 100, A Ranking of the Most Influential Persons in the History", claimed, "My choice of Muhammad (PBUH) to lead the list of world's most influential persons... he was the only man in the history who was supremely successful on both the secular and religious level... It is this unparalleled combination of the secular and religious influence which I feel entitles Muhammad (PBUH) to be considered the most influential single figure in human history."

— *Twitter@WajeahaBilal*

## Gwadar: Another Tourism Destination

Munaza Kazmi

Gwadar what I named it, "The Golden Land" enjoys the bounty of seasons, different local languages, diverse ethnic groups, clear waters exotic beaches, huge muddy plateaus, precious minerals, and the most beautiful Arabian Sea, and the loving locals

TOURISM is becoming a new fashion in new Pakistan, with this Gwadar is becoming a trend and discussion among the tourists. Needless to say, Gwadar offers a variety of attractive tourist spots, starting from Heritage to Adventure to Culture and Food. Palace where tourists from all over the world can enjoy several of natural wonders. Gwadar situated on a natural hammerhead shaped headland in the promising land of Balochistan. The city is situated on a tapered and sandy 12 kilometers long strip that links Pakistan to rocky outcropping in the Arabian Sea known as Koh-e-Batil or Gwadar Peninsula. Gwadar what I named it, "The Golden Land" enjoys the bounty of seasons, different local languages, diverse ethnic groups, clear waters exotic beaches, huge muddy plateaus, precious minerals, and the most beautiful Arabian Sea, and the loving locals. However, Gwadar

adores strategic significance for not just tourism but the economic development of Pakistan, reasoning the gateway to CPEC and OBOR. Gwadar's CPEC routes are based on M8 motorway and Makran coastal highway that connects the province of Balochistan with the rest. Tourism in Gwadar is highlighting due to the exotic beaches, the scenic sunset points, beautiful islands, golden deserts, the infamous Hingol national park where you would be finding Sphinx of Pakistan and Princess of Hope, and much wild life.

I arrive Gwadar in the first week of September, I found the tiny airport was flooded with tourists perhaps those came to experience the city, locals who have just come back and some business people. Though, in a lesser time, I find myself walking towards the car as driver from the hotel, who approved as a very good guide as well, had been waiting for my arrival. The distance from airport to Zaver Pearl Continental Hotel was about 20 minutes, however full of distance scenes of sand dunes, arty mud formation, busy fish markets and the most attractive blue green sea that stretches as far as one can see. I saw the hotel far before as it is majestically standing on a hill top, welcoming its guests in a queenly way, however when I entered into the pearly white hotel, I came to realize they have perfectly named it Zaver Pearl Continental, since Zaver is an Urdu word for Jewel, hence this seems really as a Pearly Jewel in the middle of golden sands. However, it is coincidence which later told me since Zaver was the name of the hotel owner's mother.

Walking straight to the room. The lavish hotel room was exquisitely gorgeous, comfortable and offered the landscape view of the city and the Port, from where on the coming days my eyes witnessed the beauty of early sunrise. By having supper in the modern style restaurant with the touch of Chinese architecture Taipan, I went to see the old Shahi Bazaar, that enjoys a rich flamboyant past, as Sultans come to buy and sell into it, till date its alive and inspiring, selling

numerous of local handicraft and delicious food, and The Oman Fort, that was also built in the times of Sultanate of Oman probably 16th Century. Indeed, Gwadar speaks of indispensable culture, heritage and architecture.

That dazzling night I spent in the beautiful hotel lawn overlooking the mysterious sea, I spent hours sitting in the dim light coming from the full moon in the darkest of sky, eyeing the magnificent sea, listening to the quite nature. Morning came with much of the luster, golden rays coming out from deep inside the sea, making the blue water glittering golden, I watch the sun slowly waking up from the grayish night blanket. Sumptuous breakfast items, from desi to continental dishes were on display in Taipan for the guests to douse the hunger. I filled my plate with every delicious looking piece and enjoy the pleasure play of taste and delight, Day I spent in exploring more of the city, a mud volcano, busy fish market, the boat making venture, and the catching of fish with local kids.

From my experience, along with heritage tourism, tourism in Gwadar could be marked as adventure tourism reasoning the boat riding, fish catching, some prospects of jeep rally and keeping in view the initiatives of the sea. Along Pakistan can exhibit its cultural perspective; the lost Omani culture. Moreover, there are numerous opportunities but only requirement is sustainability, otherwise we would waste the glam of nature, which is obviously irreversible.

Next, I went to the beach, a gorgeous, wonderful, and superb. Clear blue water coming along with the white foam to engulf me. My mother says right, "water have some magnetic magic in it", and yes, the waves drives me to go farther and farther until I hear some local saying, "Baji you will drown". After having lunch, I went to a hill-top called by locals as "Pakistan point". It was a steep difficult drive of about 15 minutes from the hotel, reaching first my heart beat in a patriotic wave by watching a huge Pakistani flag, fluttering in the air like of loose curls of a beautiful woman.



## Briefs

## Afghanistan thrashes Scotland

NEWS DESK

SHARJAH: In 3rd match of ICC T20 World Cup, Afghanistan defeated Scotland by 130 runs. In the opening match of Afghanistan and Scotland, Afghanistan won the toss and chose to bat first. Afghanistan gave the target of 191 runs over the loss of 4 wickets. The whole batting line up of Scotland proved a mountain of sand in front of Afghan bowlers. Scotland's whole team got bowled out in 10.2 overs. Team Scotland could chase just 60 runs. Afghan batters Najib, Rahmanullah and Zazai scored 59, 46 and 44 runs respectively. Afghan bowler Mujib ur Rehman took 5 wickets losing 20 runs. Whereas Rashid Khan took 4 wickets giving just 9 runs. Scotland's George was the only prominent batter scoring 25. Whereas scott bowler Su-fiyah Sharif took 2 wickets over 33 runs.

## Pakistan to always...

FROM PAGE 01

Bank attended the Forum and affirmed their resolve to build deeper engagement with Pakistan. The Saudi Minister for Investment, in his keynote address, underscored the longstanding and abiding ties between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan and reaffirmed the resolve to further deepen bilateral trade, investment and business links. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi focused on Pakistan's shift from geo-politics to geo-economics; Adviser on Finance highlighted economic resurgence of Pakistan; and Minister for Energy outlined the vast opportunities in the energy, agriculture, livestock and other key sectors. The Prime Minister, in his address, thanked Eng. Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih for his invaluable role in successfully organizing the Investment Forum. He also warmly welcomed the investors to the Forum and expressed the hope that tangible outcomes would be achieved for the benefit of the two countries.

Reaffirming Pakistan's long-standing deep fraternal relations with Saudi Arabia, the Prime Minister underscored the reverence Pakistanis had for the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and gratitude for Saudi Arabia's abiding support to Pakistan at every juncture. The Prime Minister said Pakistan will always stand with Saudi Arabia against any threat to its security, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Prime Minister stressed the importance of engaging the private sector to fortify the economic relationship. He hoped that the private sectors of the two countries would take full advantage of close and cordial bilateral relations to realize the untapped potential in the fields of trade, business and investment. The Prime Minister emphasized that Pakistan offered a strong and large consumer market of over 220 million, with an ever-expanding middle class. Prime Minister Imran Khan highlighted the Government of Pakistan's liberal and investor-friendly policies. He underlined that the Government was committed to providing an enabling environment to strengthen the investor-friendly dispensation in the country.

## PM Imran, President Putin...

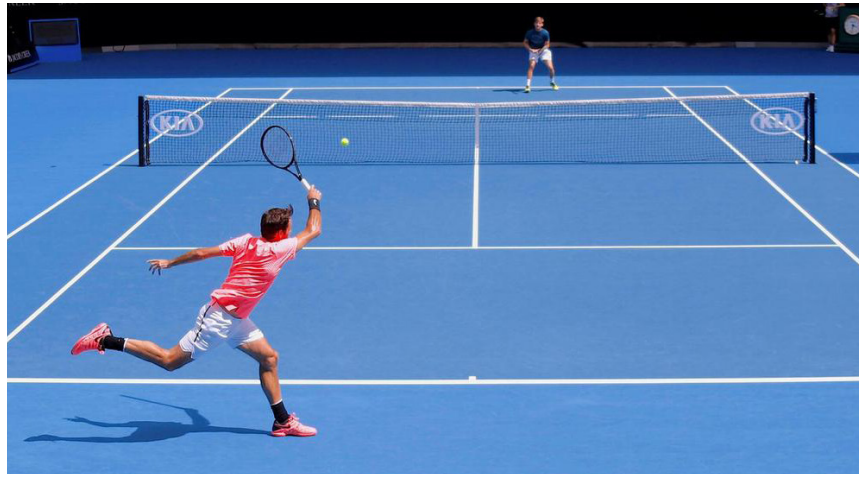
FROM PAGE 01

reposed their trust in his able leadership," the prime minister said on Twitter. Russian President Vladimir Putin, during a telephone conversation, warmly congratulated the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev on a convincing victory in the election of the head of state. This was reported by the Kremlin press service. "Mutual disposition was confirmed for further all-round development of the entire complex of Russian-Uzbek relations of strategic partnership and alliance," the Kremlin said in a statement. The Russian President also sent a congratulatory telegram to Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

## Unvaccinated players can compete at Australian Open

Leaked Email revealed, players fully inoculated against coronavirus would not have to quarantine or remain in bio-secure bubbles, enjoying "complete freedom of movement"

MELBOURNE: Unvaccinated players will be allowed to compete at the Australian Open but must complete 14 days in hotel quarantine, according to a leaked WTA email, although a government official insisted the matter was not yet settled. The rules would also likely apply to the men's tour, leaving the door open for world number one Novak Djokovic to defend his title at Melbourne Park in January. The email to players from the women's governing body was leaked to New York Times tennis writer Ben Rothenberg, who posted it on Twitter, and contradicts officials' earlier statements implying unvaccinated players would not be granted visas. The email said that players fully inoculated against coronavirus would not have to quarantine or remain in bio-secure bubbles, enjoying "complete freedom of movement". Unvaccinated players can come to Australia but would have to undergo two weeks' mandatory hotel quarantine and submit to regular testing, it stated. "We feel the need to reach out to you all to clear up false and misleading information that has recently been spread by other parties about the conditions the players will be forced to endure at next year's Australian Open," the email read. "Because Victoria's vaccination rate will hit 80 percent at the



end of the week and 90 percent next month, it has been confirmed that conditions for players at the Australian Open will improve significantly." Vaccinated players could arrive any time after December 1, must have a negative test within 72 hours of departing for Australia and test again within 24 hours of arrival. Otherwise, there will be no restrictions, the email said. The apparent move to allow unvaccinated players into Australia contradicts com-

ments from senior government officials last week, including Immigration Minister Alex Hawke, who said "every visitor to Australia will need to be double vaccinated". Victoria state Sports Minister Martin Pakula emerged from one of the world's most prolonged series of Covid lockdowns, in total more than 260 days since the pandemic began. This year's Australian Open was hit hard by the pandemic with all players going through two weeks of quarantine, while crowds were restricted and a five-day snap lockdown was called mid-event.

coming into the country at all," he said in response to the leaked email.

"We don't expect that to be settled for another couple of weeks." Nine-time Australian Open champion Djokovic is one of many players who have refused to share their vaccination status, casting doubt over whether he will defend his title.

"I don't know if I'm going to go to Australia," he told Serbian newspaper Blic last week, refusing to say whether he was inoculated, calling it "a private matter". Reports have put the vaccination rate for tennis players at between 50 and 60 percent, but Pakula spoke with Australian Open chief Craig Tiley on Monday and he believed they were much higher. "I understand from my chat with Craig Tiley this morning that the vaccination rate for players is rising pretty quickly now and it's near enough to 80 percent."

Melbourne is in Victoria state, which on Friday emerged from one of the world's most prolonged series of Covid lockdowns, in total more than 260 days since the pandemic began. This year's Australian Open was hit hard by the pandemic with all players going through two weeks of quarantine, while crowds were restricted and a five-day snap lockdown was called mid-event.

## Nations lining up to take Junior Hockey World Cup



SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The FIH Odisha Hockey Men's Junior World Cup bursts into vibrant life in Bhubaneswar, India in just a few days time. The event, featuring many of the world's best junior players from 16 nations, takes place in the Kalinga Stadium, where many a dramatic hockey event has been played out. Names that have gone onto achieve greatness on the international senior stage have made their entrance via the Junior World Cup. Germany's Christopher Ruhr first made his goalscoring prowess known at the 2013 Junior World

Cup where he was top scorer and Germany took gold. In 2016, India were gold medalists on home soil in Lucknow. The newly crowned FIH Player of the Year Harmanpreet Singh was an instrumental part of that team. World Cup winners in 2018 and Olympic gold medalists from Tokyo 2020 Arthur de Sloover, Victor Wegnez and Antoine Kina were all part of the silver medal-winning Belgium team in Lucknow. At this year's event, reigning champions India FIH World Ranking: 5) and silver medalists Belgium (WR:2) are joined by Germany, Spain, Netherlands (WR:3), France, Poland (WR:26), South Africa

(WR:14), Egypt (WR:21), Chile (WR:28), Argentina (WR:4), Pakistan (WR:17), Malaysia (WR:11), Korea (WR:16), USA (WR:24) and Canada (WR:10). For the host nation, this Junior World Cup could not come at a better time. Bronze at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, alongside a fourth place for the women's national team has raised excitement around the sport to fever pitch in the hockey mad country. Yashdeep Siwach is just one of a number of players hungry to retain the title. Germany won the Euro Hockey Junior Championship Men in 2019 with a side that contained many athletes who have now tаст-

ed Olympic hockey with the senior team. Expect players such as Alexander Stadler and Linus Müller to tap into all that experience as they push for a seventh title. Netherlands, Spain, Belgium and France finished in third, fourth, fifth and sixth place respectively at the Euro Hockey Junior Championships.

For the Dutch team, a win in Bhubaneswar would end a long wait for a gold medal, while the Belgium team will be hoping to emulate the senior men with a first title. Spain's highest finish from 11 appearances at the Junior World Cup is a bronze in 2005, while France stunned the world in 2013 when they won silver, a feat they would love to repeat, particularly with Paris 2024 just around the corner. Poland enter the fray after England withdrew due to Covid-19 related complications. The Polish team last competed at the Junior World Cup in 2009 and will be grasping this unexpected opportunity to show their skills on the international stage. Egypt and South Africa were both nominated by the African Hockey Federation after the Men's Junior Africa Cup 2019 was cancelled due to Covid-19 complications.



## Quaid-e-Azam cricket Trophy second round begins on Wednesday

LAHORE: The second round of Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2021-22 will begin from Wednesday in Faisalabad, Lahore and Multan. Though the first round saw all three matches end in draw, it served brilliant individual performances with as many as six batters stroking centuries and two bowlers recording five-wicket hauls. Balochistan's Imran Butt, Central Punjab's Abid Ali, Sindh's KhurramManzoor and Northern's Faizan Riaz, Mubasir Khan and Nauman Ali were amongst the century-makers, while Northern's Musa Khan and Balochistan's Raza-ul-Hasan took five-wickets each. The first round proved to be special for Nauman and Musa especially as the two recorded their maiden batting and bowling milestones. Central Punjab - who shared the last year's title with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa - earned maximum points from the opening round as they bagged 12 points (five draw, four batting, three bowling) from their draw against Southern Punjab at the Multan Cricket Stadium. The Azhar Ali-captained side will travel to Lahore to take on Northern at the Gaddafi Stadium. In the last season, the two teams won a match each against each other. While, Central Punjab will be hoping to make the most of their home advantage, Northern will look to implement the learnings about the conditions from the last match. The action from this match will be beamed across the globe through nine high-definition cameras on PCB's official YouTube channel. Northern took 11 points from their first round match against Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which turned out to be the second most. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, meanwhile, will travel to Faisalabad to play Fawad Alam's Sindh at the Iqbal Stadium. Both teams have nine points. - APP

## John Kerry calls on PM Imran

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while highlighting Pakistan's experience of launching nature-based solutions to address the environmental challenges, including the 10 Billion Tree Tsunami project. Reviewing the ongoing collaboration between Pakistan and the United States on climate change and environment, Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed satisfaction at the recently held inaugural meeting of the "US-Pakistan Climate and Environment Working Group" which explored potential areas of bilateral Pak-US cooperation on climate action. Special Envoy Kerry agreed that Pakistan and the US shared a longstanding relationship, which should be further reinforced in areas of mutual convergence, including climate and environment. He acknowledged various initiatives undertaken by Pakistan to fight climate change. Emphasizing the priority attached by the U.S. Administration towards the issue of climate change, Special Envoy Kerry briefed the Prime Minister on various measures undertaken by the Biden Administration for developing a broad global consensus on climate action in the run-up to the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP-26), later this month. The Prime Minister underscored that Pakistan and the United States should continue sharing ideas, expertise and technology to optimize mutually beneficial opportunities in the fight against climate change. The Prime Minister also encouraged the Special Envoy to further explore the possibility of enhanced bilateral engagement through the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) to support investment in climate mitigation, resilience, and adaptation in Pakistan and the developing world.

## Shavkat re-elected as Uzbek president

FROM PAGE 01

Uzbekistan and met the principles of democratic elections. This was stated by the head of the CIS observer mission, Sergei Lebedev. He noted that the presidential elections were well organized. All candidates were equally given the opportunity to present their programs and meet with voters, he added. Observers from the CIS came to the conclusion that the voting was held in accordance with the constitution and the electoral code of the Republic of Uzbekistan and met the principles of democratic elections. However, observers noted some technical comments. In particular, in some polling stations they were unable to obtain information on the number of voters. Lebedev said that in such cases, observers expressed their comments.

## Coups in Sudan as military...

FROM PAGE 01

after soldiers arrested several government officials. Among those detained on Monday is Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok. He was moved to an undisclosed location after refusing to issue a statement in support of the coup, said the information ministry, still apparently under the control of Hamdok's supporters. The military also raided the television and radio headquarters and shut down the internet. The capital's airport has been also closed, together with some of the city's roads and bridges. At least 12 people have been wounded so far in the protests that have been called by the pro-democracy coalition born out of the uprising which put an end to the 30-year long rule of Omar al-Bashir. In his announcement, Burhan said that the military will continue the process towards democracy, but dissolved the sovereign council, a joint military and civilian body created to run the country since al-Bashir's removal. "We have started our path towards the state of freedom and peace but some political powers are still trying to maintain everything in their hands, without giving attention to political, economic and social threats," he said.

## Waseem bags 33rd Pak Scrabble C'ship

ISLAMABAD: Waseem Khatri clinched the Gladiators 33rd Pakistan Scrabble Championship title played at the National Stadium Karachi. It was Waseem's 9th national title but the first in the last five years. Even this year Waseem had to face tough competition from the young players that he has himself trained and coached, said a press release issued here. It was a grueling 27-game championship played over three days. Waseem won with a 20-7 record and maintained a spread of 2203. Defending champion and the reigning world youth champion Syed Imaad Ali couldn't defend his title but remained in the hunt till the last moment. Imaad finished with 18-9 and a spread of 651. Another former national champion Hasham Hadi Khan stood 3rd with 18 wins and a spread of 391. Hammad Hadi was 4th while Jawed Shamim fought a lone battle against young players to finish 5th. He was the only senior player to finish in the top 15. This shows the dominance of the youth in Pakistan scrabble. Ali Salman, Hassan Hadi, Mirza Taha, Daniyal Sanauallah and Usman Shaukat finished 6 to 10th respectively. Two 9-year olds Bilal Asher and Ahmed Salman finished 13th and 18th ahead of many senior players and former national champions. This is the first instance of players that young finishing in the top 20 at any previous national championships. - DNA

## Salah's Liverpool stuns United

SPORTS DESK

MANCHESTER: Liverpool have inflicted a historic hammering on Manchester United as Mohamed Salah scored a hat-trick in a 5-0 win at Old Trafford, leaving Ole Gunnar Solskjaer clinging to his job. For the first time in Premier League history, United trailed 4-0 at half-time and failed to score in a hopelessly one-sided contest on Sunday. The Red Devils have now taken a run of one point from a possible 12 in the league. Naby Keita started the rout before Diogo Jota doubled Liverpool's lead inside 15 minutes. Salah then took centre stage to take his tally for



the season to 15 goals in 12 appearances and became the top-scoring African player in Premier League history in the process. To round off a miserable day for United, Paul Pogba lasted less than 15 minutes as a second-half substitute as he was shown a straight red

card for a reckless lunge that forced Keita to leave the pitch on a stretcher. Liverpool's first victory in front of a crowd at Old Trafford under Jurgen Klopp moves them back above Manchester City into second, just a point behind leaders Chelsea. By contrast, United's hopes of a first league title since 2013 already look over as they remain eight points off the leaders. That gap is likely to grow in the coming weeks with Tottenham and City to come in the next fortnight before an international break. Whether Solskjaer will still be in charge come November is now in serious doubt as he has completely failed to form a balanced team from a talented collection of star players. The Norwegian will wonder what might have been had Bruno Fernandes not fired over a glorious chance to open the scoring on three minutes. But soon the defensive cracks that have blighted United's season began to appear.

## Pak embassy, Tehran observes 'Kashmir Black Day'

Hujjat-ul-Islam Dr. Salman Naqvi and students from Tehran University, in their speeches, condemned the continuing atrocities and gross human rights violations being committed by the forces in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Pakistan in Tehran has observed Kashmir Black Day, to express support of Pakistani government and the nation for the Kashmiri people in their struggle against the continued Indian illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir. A number of Iranian scholars, academicians, media persons, member of Pakistani community and Pakistani and Iranian students participated in the event, said a message received here. In his remarks, Ambassador Rahim Hayat Qureshi emphasized that Kashmiris had been subjected to the use of brute force from the Indian occupation forces since October 27, 1947. Beginning from that day, the Indian security forces have had systematically maimed, executed, murdered, blinded and raped thousands of innocent Kashmiris through state-sponsored terrorism. Expressing his gratitude to the Iranian leadership, the ambassador highlighted that it had always given



a great regard to the struggle for self-determination in IIOJK. He also thanked the Iranian print and electronic media for projecting the Kashmir cause and in highlighting the systematic human rights violations committed by the Indian occupation forces. The Ambassador reiterated Pakistan's call to the world leaders, international community including the United Nations, and all human rights organizations to urge India to halt the brute use of force against the innocent Kashmiri people and resolve the Kashmir Dispute as per the charter of the United Nations and various UNSC Resolutions. Hujjat-ul-Islam Dr. Salman Naqvi and students from Tehran University, in their speeches, condemned the continuing atrocities and gross human rights violations being committed by the Indian occupation forces in IIOJK. At the end, a special prayer was held for the alleviation of sufferings of innocent Kashmiris and for their freedom from barbaric and illegal Indian rule. - APP



## Briefs

## Russia probes fake vaccine certificates

SAINT PETERSBURG: Russian authorities were on Monday investigating nurses and a doctor in Saint Petersburg accused of selling fake coronavirus vaccination certificates, as the country faces a deadly new wave.

The Investigative Committee, which probes major crimes, said a doctor and three nurses are suspected of pocketing at least 100,000 rubles (\$1,430) from 12 people after selling official certificates without having administered jabs.

The 12 alleged buyers were entered into a state registry of vaccinated people, the Investigative Committee said in a statement on Saturday.

The doctor was briefly detained on Saturday and a court later banned him from leaving the city pending the investigation, a spokesman for Saint Petersburg police, Vyacheslav Stepchenko, told AFP on Monday.

Saint Petersburg is Russia's second most affected city. — APP

## Nigeria launches eNaira digital currency

ABUJA: Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari launched the country's new digital eNaira currency on Monday as Africa's largest economy looked to tap into the growing popularity of virtual money and cryptocurrencies.

With the eNaira, Nigeria becomes the first in sub-Saharan Africa to fully launch a digital currency and joins China and a few other countries using or piloting central bank-regulated electronic tender.

"We have become the first country in Africa and one of the first in the world to introduce a digital currency to our citizens," Buhari said at the official launch.

Nigeria has seen booming interest in cryptocurrencies as people look for ways to avoid the weakening naira currency and combat high costs of living and unemployment in Africa's most populous country.

Central bank-backed digital currencies or CBDCs and cryptocurrencies are both virtual money though the CBDCs are legal tender regulated by central banks while cryptos are out of government control.

Five countries have already launched CBDCs, with another 14 including Sweden and South Korea in the pilot stage, according to the Atlantic Council's CBDC tracking project.

In West Africa, Ghana is also looking to launch its own CBDC soon.

Nigeria's central bank earlier this year sought to control the use of cryptocurrencies by ordering banks to close accounts that were involved in such transactions. But in spite of the central bank ban, many Nigerians still skirt traditional sectors to use cryptocurrency for overseas transactions.

Experts say digital currencies can potentially reduce transaction costs and ease cross border transfers while also expanding financial inclusion as people with no banking access can use their mobile phones. — APP

## Iran reopens to vaccinated tourists after 20 months

TEHRAN: Iran has reopened its doors to tourists vaccinated against Covid-19 after almost 20 months of closure due to the pandemic, media in the Islamic republic said Monday.

The country's anti-virus taskforce approved the reopening on the advice of the tourism ministry, an official was quoted as saying on the ministry's website.

The Middle East country hardest hit by the pandemic had shut its borders to foreigners in March 2020, with the exception of medical and business trips.

The average number of international trips to and from Iran decreased by 80 percent in the year to March 20, 2021, according to the customs administration. — APP

## Xi hails restoration of PRC's rights in UN 50 years ago

Chinese people have always safeguarded international fairness and justice, and made major contributions to world peace and development

## AGENCIES

BEIJING: President Xi Jinping hailed restoration of People's Republic of China's rights in United Nations fifty years ago.

Delivering here a landmark speech at a commemorative meeting marking the 50th anniversary of the restoration of the PR's lawful seat in the United Nations, he said the restoration of the seat in the UN 50 years ago is a victory of the Chinese people and the people from around the world.

The restoration of PRC's seat in the UN is of significant, far-reaching importance, he added.

Highlighting China's development and contributions, President Xi said the past five decades have witnessed China's peaceful devel-

opment and its commitment and dedication to the welfare of all humanity. Chinese people have always safeguarded international fairness and justice, and made major contributions to world peace and development. Chinese people have always upheld the authority and sanctity of the United Nations and practiced multilateralism, and China's cooperation with the UN has deepened steadily over the past 50 years.

China, he pointed out that has blazed a path of human rights development that is consistent with the trend of the times and carries distinct Chinese features, thus making major contribution to human rights progress in China and the international human rights cause.

On multilateralism, the President



said no civilization in the world is superior to others; every civilization is special and unique to its own region. Civilizations can achieve harmony only through communication and can make progress only through harmonization. To build a community with a shared future for mankind is not

to replace one system or civilization with another. We shall be firm in opposing all forms of hegemony and power politics, as well as all forms of unilateralism and protectionism, he added.

The other highlights of his speech are: The international community is confronted by regional disputes as well as global issues such as terrorism, climate change, cybersecurity and biosecurity. Only with more inclusive global governance, more effective multilateral mechanisms and more active regional cooperation, can these issues be addressed effectively.

- We should resolutely uphold the authority and standing of the UN, and work together to practice true multilateralism.

- We need to encourage green recovery, green production and

green consumption and promote a civilized and healthy lifestyle.

- The world should step up cooperation and work together to address the various challenges and global issues facing humanity.

- Countries around the world should put their people front and center and strive to realize development with a higher level of quality, efficiency, equity, sustainability and security.

- China will stay committed to the path of peaceful development and always be a builder of world peace. China will remain committed to the path of reform and opening-up and always be a contributor to global development.

China will stay committed to the path of multilateralism and always be a defender of the international order.

## Lukashenko congratulates President Shavkat



## FOREIGN DESK

TASHKENT: President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko called President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and congratulated him on his convincing victory in the elections, wishing him success in implementing his plans.

This was reported by the press service of the head of Belarus.

The presidents discussed the topics of bilateral relations, noting their high level and dynamic development.

It was noted that Belarus and Uzbekistan have good prospects for further deepening cooperation in various fields.



TASHKENT: Deputy Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan talking to Pakistani and journalists from others countries in Tashkent, on Monday. — DNA

## Pak embassy holds special event for Chinese staff

BEIJING: In order to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, the Embassy of Pakistan, Beijing organised a special event to acknowledge the service of Chinese colleagues serving the Embassy in different departments.

The event was attended by family members of the Chinese staff, media representatives and Embassy officers.

Speaking at the occasion, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque paid rich tribute to the services of Chinese staff and friends of the Embassy for their lifelong services and warm sentiments for Pakistan. He highlighted that fraternal tie stemmed from friendly sentiments, mutual respect and understanding the people of two countries have for each other. — APP

## Turkish lira drops to record low

## MONITORING DESK

ANKARA: The Turkish lira has weakened 1.6 percent to a record low against the dollar in early Asian trade after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he had ordered the expulsion of the ambassadors of the United States and nine other Western countries.

The currency had already hit record lows last week after the Turkish central bank (CBRT) cut its policy rate by 200 basis points, despite rising inflation, in a shock move derided as reckless by economists and opposition legislators.

The lira hit an all-time low of 9.75 by 18:40 GMT on Sunday, weakening from Friday's close of 9.5950. Two bankers attributed the early weakness to Erdogan's comments on Saturday. It has fallen nearly 24 percent so far this year, the worst performer in emerging markets. The lira's one-month implied volatility rose to the highest since May on Friday. "I worry ... for Turkish financial markets on Monday. The lira will inevitably come under extreme selling pressure," said veteran emerging market watcher Tim Ash at BlueBay.

"And we all know that (Central Bank Governor Sahap) Kavcioglu has no mandate to hike rates, so the only defence will be spending foreign exchange reserves the CBRT does not have," Erdogan said on Saturday he had told his foreign ministry to expel the envoys for demanding the release of businessman and philanthropist Osman Kavala, who has been held in prison for four years without being convicted.

By Sunday evening, there was no sign that the foreign ministry had yet carried out the president's instruction, which would open the deepest rift with the West in Erdogan's 19 years in power.

Previous bouts of tension between Turkey and other countries, especially the US, have taken a toll on lira assets, leading to wild swings in local financial markets. The country suffered a currency crisis in 2018 over the fate of an American pastor who was imprisoned in the country.

Erdogan's political opponents said his call to expel the ambassadors was an attempt to distract attention from Turkey's economic difficulties, while diplomats hoped the expulsions might yet be averted.

## Pak student contributes to launch of satellite

BEIJING: A Pakistani student contributed to successful launch of satellite in China, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Monday.

APSCO-SSS-1, a student satellite designed and developed by China's Beihang University in collaboration with student researchers from countries including Pakistan, blasted off aboard a Long March-2D rocket in north China's Taiyuan city in recent week.

"I had the unique opportunity to study and analyse the Electric Power Subsystem (EPS) of SSS-1. My focus was the solar array used to power SSS-1 onboard equipment," said Zeenat Rajar, a Pakistani student who participated in the development of SSS (Student Small Satellite)-1 while studying at Beihang University in 2019, at the launch of the satellite.

According to Beihang University, SSS-1 is a 30kg micro-satellite with a dimension of no more than 350mm x 350mm x 650 mm. The satellite is one of the three student satellites (namely SSS-1, SSS-2A and SSS-2B) that construct a constellation named as APSCO SSS system.

It is learned that SSS-2A, led by China's Shanghai Jiaotong University and supported by student researchers from countries such as Pakistan, was launched on the same day (Oct 14) as SSS-1 at the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre. Zeenat Rajar noted, "The rare experience and the knowledge that I gained by working on the SSS-1 project has opened new perspectives for my future career as well as study goals by providing a boost to my passion for space education."

The Student Small Satellite (SSS) project, which was initiated by the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organisation (APSCO), aims to train the students and faculties from Member States (MSs) of APSCO to study space technology and satellite engineering through the practical design of satellites, and meanwhile contribute to the development of space education systems in APSCO MSs.

The ultimate goal of this project is not only to enable universities to undertake student satellite design and development but also to impart space technologies through a satellite project as well as hands-on training. — APP

## Azerbaijan, NATO mull post-war regional situation

Hasanov briefed the delegation on Azerbaijan's activities on the liberated territories following its victory in the 44-day war with Armenia in late 2020 and the current situation on state border

## DNA

BAKU: Defence Minister Zakir Hasanov and NATO's Cooperative Security Division of the International Military Staff Director Francesco Diella have discussed the post-war regional situation, the ministry reported on October 25.

Hasanov briefed the delegation on Azerbaijan's activities on the liberated territories following its victory in the 44-day war with Armenia in late 2020 and the current situation on the state border.

Diella expressed satisfaction with the current state of NATO's cooperation with Azerbaijan.

He underlined that positive results have been achieved in the field of cooperation and stressed the importance of further development of relations.

The country's relations with NATO started in 1992 when Azerbaijan joined the North Atlantic Cooperation Council. This forum for dialogue was succeeded in 1997 by the Euro-Atlantic

Partnership Council, which brings together all Allies and partner countries in the Euro-Atlantic area.

Bilateral cooperation began when Azerbaijan joined the Partnership for Peace (PfP) programme in 1994.

Thanks to regular participation in PfP activities, Azerbaijan has been able to contribute actively to Euro-Atlantic security by supporting NATO-led peace-support operations.

Azerbaijan's participation in the PfP Planning and Review Process (PARP) since 1997 has allowed NATO and individual Allies to assist Azerbaijan in developing selected units to improve interoperability with those of the Allies.

NATO and Azerbaijan started work on a jointly agreed Defence Education Enhancement Programme (DEEP) in 2008 to integrate NATO standards into the teaching methodologies

and curricula of the country's Professional Military Education (PME) institutions.

In 2018, Azerbaijan asked NATO to also involve the Military High School, a pre-commissioning school, in DEEP.

Cooperative activities, reform plans and political dialogue processes are detailed in Azerbaijan's Individual Partnership Action Plan (IPAP), which is jointly agreed upon.



## Turkey-EU relations in the post-Merkel era

## YASAR YAKIS

GERMAN Chancellor Angela Merkel played a crucial role in the shaping of Turkey-EU relations. Every single detail was not worked out by her, but her fingerprint has been visible in most crucial turning points.

When Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party, in its early years in power, was genuinely doing its best toward Turkey's EU accession, Merkel coined a new concept in this process. She said that Turkey should not be admitted to the EU as a full-fledged member, but should enjoy the status of a "privileged partnership." Nobody offered a clear-cut definition for this concept. Furthermore, there was not in the EU a status called "privileged partnership." So this concept permanently hung in the air without a proper definition.

Merkel thought Turkey was too big to be absorbed by the EU and that it belonged to another culture, the Islamic world. Turkey's population amounted at that time to 80 million while Germany's was

81 million. It was clear that in light of its growth rate, Turkey's population was going to exceed that of Germany in a few years' time. This would mean that Turkey was going to have the highest number of seats in the European Parliament. Furthermore, the free movement of labor within the EU would facilitate a further increase of Turkish citizens in Germany, where they already constituted the highest percentage of foreign labor.

After the accession in 2005 of the Greek Cypriots to the EU and French President Nicolas Sarkozy's policy of obstructing Turkey's accession process for futile reasons, Merkel's privileged partnership formula was pushed to the second rank. Without appearing in the forefront, Merkel remained steadfast in her position.

On the other hand, she demonstrated her statesmanship when Germany assumed the sessional chairmanship of the EU in 2007. She said that Germany remained steadfast in its position of supporting the privileged partnership for Turkey, but the "pacta sunt servanda" ("agreements must be kept") rule re-

quired that accession negotiations with Turkey should continue. In other words, she put her role as the sessional chairman of the EU council before her title as German chancellor. Few leaders would accurately distinguish between these two roles.

Now that Merkel's time is almost over, there is a new situation. Turkey's EU accession process has already been stalled for the foreseeable future, if not for ever. Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan and foreign minister Mevlut Cavusoglu mention from time to time that Turkey is committed to the accession process, but actions taken by the government on various EU-related issues prove the contrary. The backsliding in democracy and fundamental rights and freedom of expression are the most visible areas in this regard. The economy is shattered. The judiciary is in a deplorable situation. Turkey has blatantly refused to implement binding verdicts of the European Court of Human Rights. It ranks as 117th in the World Justice Project index of 2021 among 139 countries.

The only area that is alive in Turkey-EU

relations is the issue of Syrian and Afghan refugees, and these issues have nothing to do directly with the accession process.

We do not yet know what type of a coalition government will emerge in Germany. The German Socialist Party is likely to be the leading coalition partner in the future German government. Before the Merkel era, the SPD was one of the strongest supporters of Turkey's EU accession. Even if the SPD becomes the leader of the coalition, this would mean little for the revitalization of Turkey's EU accession process because the circumstances are now different.

Merkel used to play a moderating role in Turkey's conflict with Greece and the Greek Cypriots. We do not know whether the new German government will be eager to assume a similar role.

Apart from Turkey-EU relations, Germany will continue to be an important partner for Ankara. In such intensive relations there will be close cooperation in areas of common interests, and frequent disagreements as well.

Eighteen Turkish-origin Germans were elected as members of federal parlia-

ment (Bundestag) in the last elections. There are plenty of Turkish origin politicians in the provincial parliaments and municipal councils so they assume important jobs in the social and political life of the country. This makes another bond between Turkey and Germany.

During Merkel's one-day farewell visit to Turkey, both the chancellor and president Erdogan underlined these bonds. But they also underlined their disagreements. This pattern of relations will probably continue in the post-Merkel era.

Germany's opposition parties frequently criticized CDU-CSU policy for not having raised frequently enough the democratic deficiency and lack of human rights in Turkey.

Given broad relations between Turkey and Germany, we may expect these relations to continue more or less at the same level while Turkey's EU accession process cannot be expected to be revitalized any time soon in the post-Merkel era.

—Yasar Yakis is a former foreign minister of Turkey and founding member of the ruling AK Party



**Briefs**

**PIA to airlift 15 m Sinovac doses**

BEIJING: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) will transport 15 million Sinovac vaccines by five special aircraft from the Capital International Airport Beijing to Islamabad from October 29 to November 2.

The national flag carrier will launch PAK-6857, PAK-6858, PK-6856, PK-6852 and PK-6853 respectively to transport Covid-19 vaccines from October 29 to November 2, PIA Country Manager, Qadir Bux Sangi told APP here on Monday.

He informed that yesterday, a PIA special aircraft had brought three million doses of Covid-19 vaccines donated by China.

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque in a tweet message said that China has played a vital role in Pakistan's vaccination campaign against the novel coronavirus and has so far provided the latter with 110 million doses of vaccines, making the backbone of Pakistan's inoculation drive.

Pakistan was the first country in the world, which received a coronavirus vaccine from China as a donation. The first donation of Sinopharm vaccine was delivered to Pakistan in February 2021. Following the first batch, Pakistan has received millions of coronavirus vaccines from China. — APP

**Kashmiris' celebrations eye opener for Modi**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said on Monday that the celebrations of Kashmiris in illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir after Indian cricket team's defeat against Pakistan should be an eye opener for the Prime Minister Modi and company.

In a tweet, he said that the way in which Muslims have once again been subjected to mental and physical torture by Modi's stooges in India must be condemned. He said that time has come to raise voice against Hindutva brigade led extremism. — APP

**China postpones marathon due to Covid surge**

**NEWS DESK**

BEIJING: China has postponed the Beijing marathon until further notice, amid a surge in coronavirus infections.

It comes as the country's top health official warned that a fresh outbreak of cases is expected to spread further.

China has reported more than 133 cases across 11 provinces so far. All of them have been linked to the highly transmissible Delta variant.

The latest surge is considered the largest outbreak in the country since Nanjing in August this year.

It has raised concerns over China's ability to maintain its zero-tolerance approach to the virus, especially leading up to the 2022 Winter Olympics.

Held annually since 1981, the Beijing marathon is one of China's biggest local sporting events.

The race traditionally begins at Tiananmen Square and ends in Celebration Square in Beijing's Olympic Park. Around 30,000 people were expected to take part in the marathon, which was scheduled to happen on October 31.

Marathon organisers said it was cancelling the event "in order to prevent the risk of the epidemic spreading (and) effectively protect the health and safety of the majority of runners, staff and residents."

The latest surge is believed to have been spread by local tour groups visiting other provinces and cities.

**Pakistan envoy calls on Bangladesh PM Hasina**

PM Hasina reciprocated her good wishes for the leadership and people of Pakistan

**DNA**

BANGLADESH: High Commissioner for Pakistan, Mr. Imran Ahmed Siddiqui called on Hon. Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina earlier today. This was his second meeting with Hon. Prime Minister Hasina since his arrival last year.

The High Commissioner conveyed Prime Minister Imran Khan's message of goodwill and friendship to Hon. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the people of Bangladesh. Prime Minister Hasina reciprocated her good wishes for the leadership and people of Pakistan.

The High Commissioner thanked Hon. Prime Minister for her support in implementing his diplomatic mandate in Bangladesh. The two sides agreed to further promote bilateral relations between the two countries.

The High Commissioner presented a photo album of late Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's visit to Pakistan in 1974 to attend the OIC Summit; videos of his engagements in Pakistan during the summit; a photograph of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's portrait in Lahore Museum, as well as Bangla version of a coffee table book "Alla'ma bil Qalam" containing calligraphic art rendered by Pakistani artists.

Prime Minister Hasina thanked the High Commissioner for the gifts. The meeting which lasted for 45 minutes was held in a very cordial atmosphere.



**Amnesty to shut Hong Kong offices**

**AGENCIES**

HONG KONG: International rights group Amnesty International said on Monday it would close its Hong Kong offices because a China-imposed security law had now made it "effectively impossible" for rights groups to work freely without the risk of reprisals.

Anhula Mya Singh Bais, the chair of Amnesty's international board, said in a statement the two offices would close by year-end, noting an intensification of a crackdown that has forced at least 35 groups to disband under the law this year.

"This decision, made with a heavy heart, has been driven by Hong Kong's national security law, which has made it effectively impossible for human rights organizations in Hong Kong to work freely and without fear of serious reprisals," said Singh Bais.

"The environment of repression and perpetual uncertainty created by the national security law makes it impossible to know what activities might lead to criminal sanctions," she added.

In the past, Hong Kong had served as one of Asia's leading NGO hubs, with groups drawn to its robust rule of law and wide-ranging autonomy — guaranteed for Hong Kong when control over the former British colony was returned to Beijing in 1997.

**Pakistan attractive destination for Chinese investors**

BEIJING: Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque on Monday said that Pakistan offers attractive policies and investment friendly environment for the foreign investors. Persuading the Chinese entrepreneurs to look at Pakistan as their future investment destination, he said that Pakistan is the sixth largest country in the world in terms of population and located in an ideal geo strategic position.

"It has very strong upcoming, middle class making it one of attractive investment destinations for foreign entrepreneurs" he said while addressing the participants of Pakistan Investment Forum and the Cross-border E-commerce Business Negotiation Conference.

The event was co-organized by Pakistan Embassy in Beijing and Juejin Group at Pakistan Embassy Beijing. Ambassador Haque said that Pakistan has also a large and competitive skilled labour force as well as improved and upgraded infrastructure including roads, highways, airports and communications network. — APP

**Karachi: SC orders removal of all encroachments**

KARACHI: The Supreme Court on Monday ordered the removal of all encroachments and buildings constructed using fake lease documents in Karachi. The order was issued by a three-member SC bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Gulzar Ahmed with Justice Ijazul Hassan and Justice Qazi Ameen. The bench was hearing the case at the apex court's Karachi Registry in reference to the removal of encroachments from Gujjar, Orangi and Mehmoodabad nullahs in the city. The court also ordered that all houses and commercial structures made on fake leases must be demolished in the port city. Expressing its frustration at the non-compliance with its earlier order to demolish Nasla Tower, the court said no concession would be given. The apex court had ordered the demolition of Nasla Tower in June and upheld the decision in a review petition filed in September.

"Demolish the towers and commissioner Karachi should start work of removing the debris," the court remarked. Earlier, the residents of Nasla Tower, allegedly built on an encroached portion of a service lane, were issued notice by the assistant commissioner of the East district to evacuate the building in compliance with the SC orders.

The district administration has directed Ferozabad Police Station SHO to get the building vacated by use of police force if the residents do not move out within stipulated time. — DNA

**Rising dollar rate dangerous for Pakistan's national security**

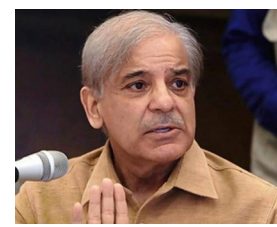
"History is witness that any increase in the dollar prices has always augmented inflation in the country"

**NEWS DESK**

ISLAMABAD: Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly and PML-N President Shahbaz Sharif Monday termed the continuous surge in the dollar rates "destructive" for the national economy and "dangerous" for national security, media reported. The PML-N president, in an official statement, said that the rise in the value of the dollar and inflation could be the result of a "clandestine agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF)".

He said that the increase in the dollar rate is making people poorer but the government just doesn't care for their plight.

"History is witness that any increase in the dollar prices has always augmented inflation in the country," said Shahbaz, adding that the rulers are maintaining a "criminal silence" over the matter of dollar price hike just like their silence over the inflation. He urged the government inform the Parliament about the result of the talks with the IMF if the deal with it hasn't ended.



"Hiding the terms and conditions agreed upon with the IMF from the Parliament has something fishy about it," said Shahbaz. He said that the people are paying the price for agreeing to the conditions put forward by the IMF in terms of inflation and unemployment.

The rupee touched a new all-time low of Rs174.43 against the US dollar in the inter-bank market on Monday in the wake of mounting pressure of import payments as well as looming uncertainty regarding a delay in the IMF's decision regarding the resumption of the \$6 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF). Today, the dollar has risen by Rs0.43 in the interbank market, while in the open market, the value of the dollar has risen by Rs1.20. Currently, the value of the dollar is Rs175.5 in the open market.

**Taliban promised to pay sales debt to Uzbekistan**

TASHKENT: The caretaker government of Afghanistan, formed by the Taliban movement, pledged to fully pay off debts to Uzbekistan for electricity, the Deputy PM/Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade Sardor Umurzakov told in an interview to Russian journalists. According to him, Uzbekistan held discussions with representatives of the caretaker government, who are responsible for the energy sector, including the Electric Networks of Afghanistan company (ENA). "An agreement was reached that as soon as the situation allows and there are a number of challenges associated

with the functioning of the banking system of Afghanistan and with the recognition of the caretaker government colleagues at ENA will immediately will pay off all the outstanding debt. But, despite this, we continue to supply electricity," TASS quoted the Deputy PM. He added that Tashkent "did not stop supplies to Kabul for one hour," Afghanistan "receives electricity in full from Uzbekistan in accordance with its needs."

According to him, the main reason for this decision is the desire "to provide support to the brotherly Afghan people at this difficult time." — APP



QUETTA: EU ambassador Androulla Kaminara met with Inspector General Police Balochistan Muhammad Tahir Rai. — DNA

**Afghanistan facing desperate food crisis, UN warns**

More than half the population - about 22.8 million people - face acute food insecurity, while 3.2 million children under five could suffer acute malnutrition

**FOREIGN DESK**

NEW YORK: Millions of Afghans will face starvation this winter unless urgent action is taken, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) has warned. More than half the population - about 22.8 million people - face acute food insecurity, while 3.2 million children under five could suffer acute malnutrition, the WFP said.

"Afghanistan is now among the world's worst humanitarian crises, if not the worst," said David Beasley, the executive director of the WFP.

"We are on a countdown to catastrophe." Afghanistan fell to the Taliban in August after the US pulled out

the last of its remaining troops and the militants swept across the country retaking ground.

The takeover weakened an already fragile economy that was heavily dependent on foreign aid. Western powers suspended aid and the World Bank and International Monetary Fund also halted payments.

A nation is considered aid-dependent when 10% or more of its gross domestic product comes from foreign aid; in Afghanistan's case, about 40% of GDP was international aid, according to the World Bank.

Many Afghans are now selling their possessions to buy food. The new Taliban administration has been blocked from accessing overseas assets, as nations assess how to deal with the hard-

line group, meaning wages to civil servants and other workers have been withheld.

"It has been more than five months that I have received my wages," a teacher in Herat told the BBC. "Life is tough. I am selling whatever we have at home. We are selling our animals, cutting our trees to sell the wood."

"People are impoverished here," said a man in Kandahar. "Yesterday I saw a woman who was going through the rubbish bins at the local hotel, collecting the leftover food. I asked her why she was doing so and she said she didn't have any other solution, she was trying to find food for her children."

The WFP warned that the looming winter threatened to further isolate Afghans dependent on hu-

manitarian assistance to survive. And for the first time in Afghanistan, urban residents are suffering from food insecurity at similar rates to rural communities, the organisation said.

"It is urgent that we act efficiently and effectively to speed up and scale up our delivery in Afghanistan before winter cuts off a large part of the country, with millions of people - including farmers, women, young children and the elderly - going hungry in the freezing winter," said QU Dongyu, the director of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation.

In September, the WFP warned that only five percent of Afghan families had enough to eat every day. Basic ingredients like cooking oil and wheat had skyrocketed in price. In October, the organisation

warned that one million children were at risk of dying from severe acute malnutrition without immediate life-saving treatment.

In September, more than \$1bn (£720m) was pledged by the international community at a conference in Geneva to support Afghans with about a third earmarked for the WFP.

But according to the WFP on Monday, the UN humanitarian assistance programme remains only a third funded. The organisation said it may require as much as \$220m (£159.6m) per month to meet the task, calling the current financial commitments a "drop in the ocean".

The food crisis in Afghanistan has been compounded by water shortages and a severe drought - the country's second in four years.