



Islamabad POST

Wednesday, October 27, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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China, Pak working hand-in-hand for regional peace

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UN must settle Kashmir issue: Azerbaijan envoy

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Lt. Gen Nadeem appointed as new DG ISI

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Briefs

October 29 rally will be historic

NEWS DESK

LAKANA: Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that the October 29 rally against inflation will be historic. The chairman of PPP visited Sachal Colony in Larkana and held a meeting. The meeting was attended by a large number of workers and officials. On the occasion, Bilawal was given detailed briefing on the issues of the area. Bilawal also discussed with the workers, officials and dignitaries ways to resolve problems of the district and expressed happiness over the identification of the problems.

Army pays tribute to Naik Saif Ali

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Army has paid tribute to Naik Saif Ali Janjua on the 73rd martyrdom anniversary, saying he "valiantly" repulsed Indian forces attacks and fought till his last breath. "On 73rd Shahadat [martyrdom] Anniversary, Nation pays tribute to gallantry of Naik Saif Ali Janjua Shaheed, NH [Nishan-i-Haider], who valiantly defended vital Pir Kaleva Ridge against repeated Indian attacks in 1948. He led his men with conviction to fight till end while ensuring defence of motherland," the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a tweet late Monday.

India must stop HR violations

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Former Minister of Afghanistan, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar on Tuesday urged India to address the issue of Kashmiri Muslims in accordance with the United Nations Resolution. The bloodshed and massive human rights violations were being reported in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), should be stopped, he said in an interview with a state television channel.

PM Imran, Xi discuss CPEC, Afghanistan

PM stressed the need to continue with the momentum of high-level exchanges to further diversify Partnership

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan spoke on telephone with President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China. The Prime Minister congratulated President Xi on the centenary of the Communist Party of China, the unprecedented victory in the Chinese people's battle to eradicate absolute poverty, and appreciated China's stellar development in four decades of reform and opening up. The two leaders also felicitated each other on the important milestone of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, reviewed the entire gamut of the bilateral strategic cooperative partnership, and discussed the regional and international situation. The Prime Minister appreciated China's successful containment of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as relief and assistance measures for the developing countries, including the vaccine cooperation with Pakistan. Taking stock of the negative impact of COVID-19 on the global economy, the two leaders agreed on further strengthening bilateral economic and commercial ties, including full realization of the potential offered by the Phase-II of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement, to overcome the economic headwinds.

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Indian atrocities in Kashmir are unprecedented

NEWS DESK

BRUSSELS: On this day, 74 years ago, Indian security forces landed in Srinagar to illegally occupy the territory of Jammu and Kashmir and subjugate the Kashmiri people. Since then, the Indian government has continued to intensify its inhumane crackdown, military siege and denial of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms to the Kashmiris. On August 5, 2019, the Indian government revoked the special status of the Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir in utter violations of international law, United Nations Security Council Resolutions and Pakistan-India bilateral agreements. With the deployment of over 900,000 Indian security forces, IIOJK has been converted into the world's most militarized zone and the largest open air prison. The civil rights and fundamental freedoms of the 8 million innocent Kashmiris have been curbed through the imposition of curfew, internet and media blackouts.

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Pakistan down NZ after fascinating clash

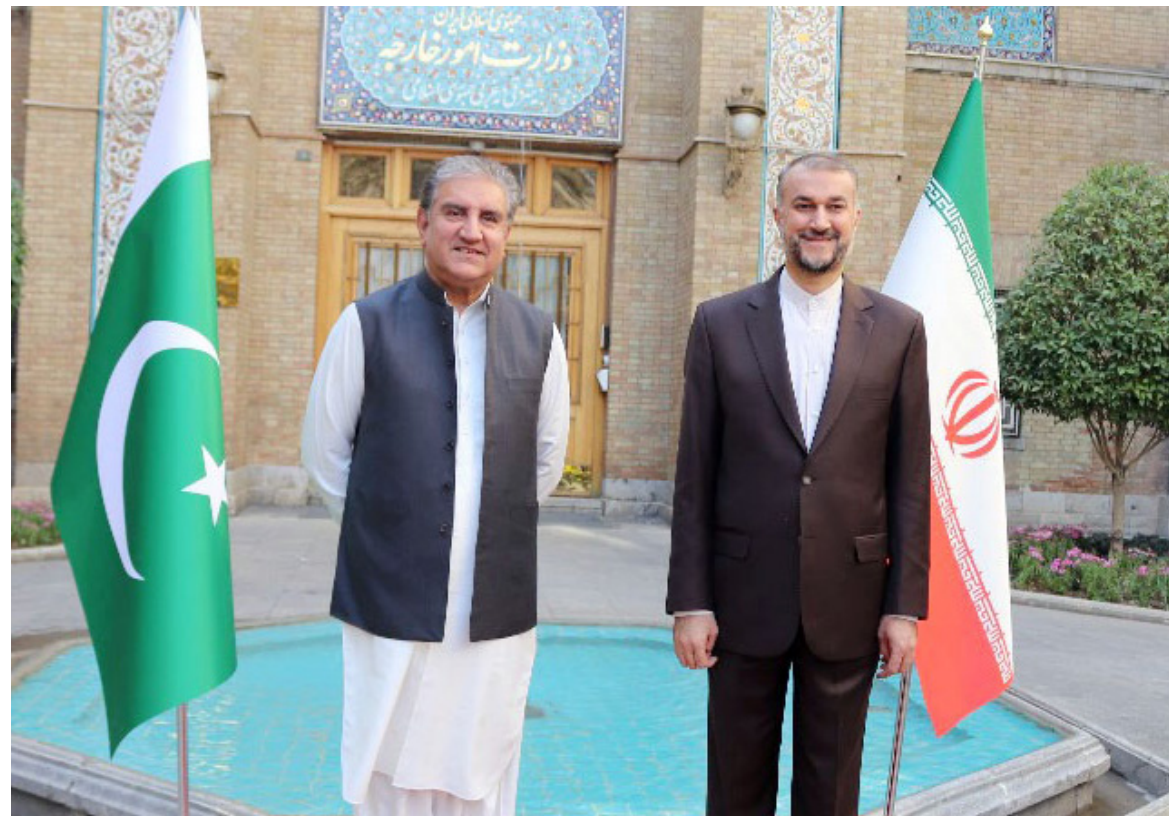


SPORTS DESK

SHARJAH: Pakistan have thumped New Zealand by five wickets in a low-scoring thriller at Sharjah Cricket Stadium. Asif Ali's power-hitting and Shoaib Malik's patience during the chase helped the Men in Green chase down the 135-run target after Haris Rauf laid a perfect platform to restrict New Zealand to 134/8. Back-to-back victories for

Pakistan! A remarkable victory for the Men in Green. Pakistan captain Babar Azam repeated the pattern from last match as he called to bowl first against Black-caps at the toss. The openers started cautiously against Pakistan bowlers. Martin Guptill (17) was the first to be dismissed courtesy sheer pace from Haris, rattling his stumps in the final over of the powerplay. Daryll Mitchell fell to Imad Wasim as he tried

to clear the rope. He hit two sixes and a four in his 20-ball 27. Jimmy Neesham was promoted up the order to give momentum to the innings, however, he was sent packing by Mohammad Hafeez for one. New Zealand captain Kane Williamson and left-hander David Conway tried to recover but brilliant work from Hasan Ali on his follow-through ran Williamson out to create further havoc. Williamson scored a 26-ball 25.



TEHRAN: FM Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi was warmly received by Iranian Foreign Minister, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, upon his arrival at Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tehran. - DNA

FM Qureshi meets Iranian counterpart

DNA

TEHRAN: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met Dr. Amir Abdollahian today over a working luncheon at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tehran. Special Representative for Afghanistan Ambassador Muhammad Sadiq, Ambassador of Pakistan to Iran, Rahim Hayat Qureshi and other senior officials accompanied the Foreign Minister. The two Foreign Ministers had extensive discussions on matters of mutual interest. Recalling Pakistan's initiative to evolve regional approach on Afghanistan, the Foreign Minister remarked that his visit of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Iran led to the first meeting of the Neighbouring countries of Afghanistan, which was held virtually on 8 September 2021. Foreign Minister Qureshi highlighted importance of close coordination between the two countries, adding that joint efforts would achieve shared objective of a peaceful and stable Afghanistan. Sharing his perspective on Afghanistan following his visit to Kabul on 21 October 2021, the Foreign Minister highlighted the urgent need to provide humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan to stabilise economic situation. He reaffirmed that Pakistan would continue to extend support to Afghan brethren by facilitating trade and movement across border. In the bilateral context, the Foreign Minister reiterated Pakistan's commitment to enhance bilateral relations in all areas.

Civil, military leaders to handle TLP sternly

The meeting was held soon after the return of the PM from KSA three-day-long official visit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: An important meeting among Prime Minister Imran Khan, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa and Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Chief General Faiz Hameed was held here in Islamabad on Tuesday. According to private television channels reports, the meeting was held soon after the return of the Prime Minister from Saudi Arabia's three-day-long official visit.

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Lt. Gen Nadeem appointed DG ISI

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Lt Gen Nadeem Anjum has been appointed the new DG ISI by Prime Minister Imran Khan, Geo News reported on Wednesday. Geo News was the first to inform the masses of the development. Lt Gen Faiz Hameed will remain the DG ISI till November 19 while Lt Gen Nadeem Anjum will take charge of the post by November 20. The notification issued for

Continued on Page 06

EU notices its diplomatic duty in Afghanistan

NEWS DESK/DNA

LONDON: Member states of the European Union have just now noticed that they are responsible for destructive aftermath of war in Afghanistan and they should shoulder their diplomatic and economic duties in the war-torn country, a European academic says. According to reports, the bloc plans to reopen its diplomatic mission in Afghanistan within a month, because it is seeking to deepen restricted interaction with the Taliban. The Financial Times reported on Monday that the European External Action Service (EEAS) intends to reopen its diplomatic rep-

resentation in capital Kabul, writing, "EU diplomats will return to Kabul about 12 weeks after they fled the city, as Brussels seeks to coordinate aid efforts and the continued evacuation of Afghan citizens." Heinz Gartner, lecturer in the Department of Political Science at the University of Vienna and at Danube University, told IRNA on Tuesday that many EU member-states have been also members of NATO; then, they are responsible for the repercussions of war in Afghanistan. A total of 20 years of military intervention in Afghanistan did not bring about a proper and pleasant

Continued on Page 06

Shehbaz to hold protest in parliament

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president and opposition leader in National Assembly (NA) Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday has announced to record protest in the Parliament against inflation. In a statement, the PML-N leader said that no compromise on the economic and constitutional rights of the nation will be tolerated. He also urged the people of Pakistan to come out of their houses and protest against the cruelty of Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan and incumbent government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Meanwhile, PML-N leader and former PM Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said that early elections is the only solution to resolve national issues. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is running the matters of Pakistan instead of PM, he added.

30 Brits in video plea for help escaping Afghanistan

LONDON: A group of 30 Britons stranded in Afghanistan has released a video pleading for help in getting them and their families out of the country, accusing London of abandoning them to the Taliban. Sixteen men, many of them clashing their British passports, appeared in the video, begging the British government to evacuate them and their families. A spokesperson for the group said there are 100 of them in the country, all part of a WhatsApp group, and 30 had managed to make it to Kabul in secret to record the message earlier this month. - Agencies

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Kashmir issue must be resolved as per UN resolution - Page 08

EU, JPP mark world day against death penalty

Androulla Kaminara, in her welcome address recognised the fact that Pakistan has carried out no executions for the past 22 months, as well as the landmark decision of the Supreme Court prohibiting the execution of prisoners who are severely mentally ill

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Delegation of the European Union (EU) to Pakistan and Justice Project Pakistan (JPP) on Tuesday hosted an event to commemorate the upcoming World Day Against the Death Penalty (October 10). At the event, Justice Project Pakistan launched their latest campaign, titled 'This Is (Not) A Game', highlighting systemic issues in the criminal justice system, with a particular focus on the struggles of women who have to engage with the system and the difficulties they face in terms of access to justice. The Chief Guest at the event was Mr. Riaz Fatyana, member of the National Assembly and Chairman of the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Law and Justice. The keynote address was delivered by award-winning filmmaker and actor, Sarmad Khoosat. The event was attended by Ambassadors of EU Member States, UN representatives, members of civil society



organizations and parliamentarians. The Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, Androulla Kaminara, in her welcome address recognised the fact that Pakistan has carried out no executions for the past 22 months, as well as the landmark decision of the Supreme Court prohibiting the execution of prisoners who are severely mentally ill. She reminded that Pakistan has signed the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in 2010 - well before the existence on GSP+ - and the ICCPR calls for the death penalty only to be applied to the "most serious crimes". However, Pakistan currently has 33 crimes that can lead to a death penalty. She added, "This year's global theme is 'women and the death penalty' which focuses on inequalities within the justice system and how this disproportionately affects women as they engage with courts and law enforcement authorities.

Continued on Page 06



FAISALABAD: Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar talking to media persons during his visit to Faisalabad. – DNA

New era of prosperity to start very soon: CM Punjab

Giving details of few projects, he said that a 60-bed Khurarianwala Rural Health Sector would be upgraded with an estimated cost of Rs 200 million

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar on Tuesday said that a new era of progress and prosperity would usher in very soon as the government had already approved 97-98 percent development schemes with allocation of funds of Rs 700 billion. Talking to the media, he said that Faisalabad was one of the most important cities of Pakistan which had mandated PTI in the last general elections. "We had announced an unprecedented mega development package for Faisalabad and today I have laid foundation stones or inaugurated as many as 78 development projects costing Rs 8.16 billion. Giving details of few projects, he said that a 60-bed Khurarianwala Rural Health Sector would be upgraded with an estimated cost of Rs 200 million. A cricket stadium in Tandlianwala would be developed at a cost of Rs 75 million while 11 road projects would also be completed at a cost of Rs 3.4 billion. He said that Jhang Road from Model Bazaar upto Chohla would be repaired

as Rs 180 million had been earmarked for it. About water supply and sewerage schemes, he said that 19 projects would be completed with the cost of Rs.4 billion. He said that 15 dispensaries would be repaired and rehabilitated with Rs115 million. About education, he said that 25 projects at a cost of Rs160 million would be completed in Faisalabad. Regarding Rural Access Program (RAP), he said that 5 link roads would be constructed with Rs 300 million. About other projects, he said that 2362 projects were in the pipeline which would be completed at a cost of Rs 105.424 billion. Among these, 472 projects involving Rs 88 billion were being completed under Annual Development Programme 2021-22. Similarly, 402 Community Development Projects would also be completed at a cost of Rs 3.7 billion. Under Special Annual Programme (SAP), 828 projects would be undertaken with an estimated cost of Rs 3.2 billion. Similarly, Rs 850 million have been earmarked for 51 projects under Sugarcane Cess Development Programme. Regarding Punjab Municipal Services

Programme, he said that Rs 1.2 billion had been allocated for 441 projects. About Local Development, he said that 610 development projects would be completed with Rs 2.7 billion. Regarding specialized health programme, he said that 4 projects were in the pipeline which would be completed at a cost of Rs 1.39 billion. He said the Punjab government in collaboration with French agency AFD would undertake 4 water supply and drainage projects at a cost of Rs. 41 billion. Regarding Parking Plaza outside Chinot Bazaar, he said that land measuring 3 Kanal was available. "We are reviewing the project which would be started very soon to minimize the traffic mess on city area", he said. The CM said the federal government was also providing Rs 2.45 billion to Faisalabad under Sustainable Development Achievement Programme and work on these projects would soon be started. He said, "We are consulting stakeholders and to redress the traffic related problems, a ring road with total length of about 100 kilometer would be developed around Faisalabad".

Zero tolerance policy against corrupt police officials: DPO Lodhran

He vows to curb corruption, illegal detention, and arbitrary arrest, abuse and misuse of power by police officials in District Lodhran

SAQIB MUSHTAQ

LODHHRAN: He made it very clear that police officials engaged in corrupt practices will not be tolerated and matters relating to corruption, abuse, misuse of power of police officials shall be investigated promptly and appropriately. Police officials who are in connivance with land grabbers and qabza mafia shall be dealt with an iron fist manner DPO Lodhran further stated that the Regional Police

Officer Multan Syed Khuram Ali Shah has given very explicit message to all police officers working under his auspices to protect themselves from political and other improper interference and harassment. He expressed his resolved to our correspondent in District Lodhran by saying it is sole responsibility of police to protect rights and liberties of the citizens maintain law and order irrespective of social evils like nepotism, partiality and political pressure.

He further added that he vows to curb corruption, illegal detention, and arbitrary arrest, abuse and misuse of power by police officials in District Lodhran. In wake of his zero tolerance policy against corrupt police officials Abdul Rauf Qaisarani DPO Lodhran suspected 8 constables, 4 head constables including 3 Assistant Sub Inspectors on corruption charges. Punishments awarded to police officials include 17 dismissals from service, 10 stoppage of increment, 9 forfeiture

of approved service, 3 withholding of promotions, 121 censures and 241 fines. "He further added that electronic and print media holds the status of 5th pillar in every civilized society but unfortunately sometimes media portrays guilty persons as victim without probing the matters in depth. He said that in near past he suspended a head constable namely Mazhar Iqbal on misusing of his power and aligning himself with land grabbers against whom already 3 first information reports have been chalked but dawn newspaper has portrayed him as victim without seeking version of his office. He expressed his concern by saying that at least staff reporter should have sought version to probe that on which grounds he has been suspended. The staff reporter of dawn news acted on distorted facts and published the same " Abdul Rauf Qaisarani stated that he aims to reduce crime, bring more offenders to justice and raise public confidence of the district Lodhran in police and deliver justice to law abiding citizens.



FESCO issues shutdown program

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) issued shutdown program for Wednesday due to necessary repair, maintenance and expansion of electricity lines.

According to the program issued by the company, power supply from Faisalabad Road feeder emanating from 132-KV Jaranzwala Road grid station, Sultan Nagar and Darul Ehsan feeders originating from 132-KV Chak Jhumra grid station, F-5 feeder emanating from 132-KV Bandala grid station, Lahore Road and Kot Ahmad Yar/Jhok Lamia feeders originating from 132-KV Chinot grid station, Langar Makhdoom feeder emanating from 132-KV Lalian grid station, Meerawala feeder originating from 132-KV Industrial Estate grid station, Johar Colony, SKP Road and Bagaywala feeders emanating from 132-KV Nishatabad grid station, Gaushala, Tata Bazaar, Momin Abad and Fowara Chowk feeders originating from 132-KV Factory Area grid station, new Khurd Pur feeder emanating from 132-KV Amin Pur grid station, Khizra, Scarp Colony and Khayaban Colony feeders originating from 220-KV Jaranzwala Road grid station, Shadi Pura and Niamaana feeders emanating from 132-KV Samundri Road grid station, Sitiana Road feeder originating from 132-KV Khannuana grid station, Gojra Road feeder emanating from 220-KV Samundri Road grid station, Khawaja Garden feeder originating from 132-KV City grid station, Naradada feeder emanating from 132-KV Samundri grid station. – APP

KMU, PICO sign MoU for co-op in eye health research

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Medical University (KMU), Peshawar and Pakistan Institute of Community Ophthalmology (PICO) Hayatabad Medical Complex, Peshawar Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to combine excellence in research, teaching and learning in all undergraduate and postgraduate programs including MPH Community Eye Health, MPhil vision sciences, bachelor of vision sciences and ophthalmic technicians.

Director KMU-IPH&SS Dr. Saima Afaq and Dy. Director Academics PICO Dr. Sidiq ullah were also present at the occasion. The MoU stated that both KMU and PICO will be responsible for contributing in terms of human resources for the selected programs offered by KMU and PICO. The programs would be jointly offered by both KMU and PICO including MPH in Community Ophthalmology and MPH general. KMU and PICO will receive 50 percent shares of tuition fee for all the approved number of students. PICO will be responsible for arranging clinical training in HMC and PICO. Admission process, stu-

dents' induction, time table management, clinical rotation and conduction of examination will be the responsibility of KMU. PICO will provide infrastructure facilities including furnished classrooms, computer lab, library and skill lab facilities to students. The MoU said that KMU will help PICO faculty by providing PhD scholarships to fulfill the requirements for future development of the institute at national and international level for all the courses. PICO and KMU will share the remuneration of visiting faculty; KMU will be responsible for 75 percent of the faculty and the rest 25 percent would be paid by PICO. – APP

CRBC canal to ensure development of Southern districts

PESHAWAR: Member Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, Faisal Amin Khan on Tuesday said that construction of the Chashma Right Bank Canal (CRBC) Lift Low Gravity Project will be a real game changer for the socio-economic development of Southern districts. He told APP that upon completion, the project will irrigate about 300,000 acres of barren land in the province which Khyber will not only ensure food security in the region, but also increase the export of agricultural products to the Middle East, which will be a source of foreign exchange for the country. "CRBC Lift/Gravity Canal to irrigate 300000 acres presently barren lands, which is critical food security project and huge potential for developing agro-industry as highlighted

by Prime Minister Imran Khan at Saudi-Pak investment forum". Faisal Amin Khan said that Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chief Minister Mahmood Khan had directed the concerned authorities to take effective steps to promote corporate farming in the area. He said that Chashma Right Bank Canal (CRBC) Lift Low Gravity Project would not only increase the income of farmers in the area but also help in eradicating poverty and hunger, ensuring good education for the local population besides improving basic health facilities and other civic amenities. He said that provincial government was pursuing a policy to make full use of the vast natural resources available for the socio-economic development of our people. – APP



LAHORE: Visitor viewing the displayed artwork during Art & Painting Exhibition by A.F Hussain at Revivers Art Gallery. – APP

Business Community played a proactive role: FCCI chief

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: The Business Community of Faisalabad has played a proactive role in philanthropy from the platform of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) which will continue in future with a renewed vigour, said Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh President FCCI. He was talking to Madam Farrukh Rizwan Regional Director Social Welfare & Bait-ul-Maal who specially visited the FCCI to seek his help for the various projects of her department. Vice President Rana Fayyaz Ahmad and Deputy Director Social Welfare Department Muhammad Nasir were also present during this meeting. President FCCI said that he has been taking part in welfare projects since long from the platform of FCCI and Lions club. He was convinced that the business community was always alive for the mitigation of the problems confronted by

the neglected segments of the society. He directed the chairman FCCI standing committee on social welfare to further expedite its activities in close liaison with the concerned government departments. "It will ensure enhanced facilities to the inmates of Dar-ul-Aman, Old age home, Sanatzer and other organizations working under the umbrella of the social welfare department", he added. Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh requested the Regional Director to share the data of skilled female trainees of "Sanatzer" so that he could arrange jobs for them or arrange "work from home" for them according to their convenience. He assured that he will also visit various organizations of the social welfare department to personally pinpoint their problems and identify missing facilities and take appropriate measures for their immediate redressal. He also stressed the need to make women a productive part of the national economy and in this connection, he has already issued a directive

to the FCCI secretariat that the seats vacated by females must be filled by the females only. He said that the Government was contemplating enhancing the share of women in jobs from 15 to 25%. "However this increase should be in a phased manner", he said and added that Pak economy is not as bad as projected by some elements. "Our exporters are getting maximum orders while new and hi-tech industrial units are being established across the country", he said and added that CPEC has also opened new avenues for the foreign investors while new dams are being constructed in the upper areas. "These dams would be completed by the year 2023-24", he said and added that we would need at least 12000 electrical engineers and we must equip our children right now with appropriate skills to manage the generation and distribution of electricity in the country. He said that he was also focusing on the upgradation of infrastructure of Faisalabad.

OCTOBER 2021

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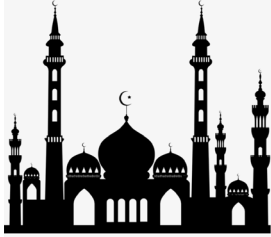
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SERVICES



Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	04:58 am
Zohr.....	11:52 am
Asr.....	03:43 pm
Maghrib.....	05:52 pm
Isha.....	06:45 pm



Hotels & Restaurants

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



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Water Tanker Service	
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G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8.....	9266316
Wapda Islamabad.....	9217579
Wapda Rawalpindi	111-309-309

Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....	0331-5022125
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Alvi stresses to transform 'diversity into unity'

Pakistan's culture was rooted in the notion of co-existence and harmony and emphasized giving a guideline to the nation to exhibit a culture of social acceptance

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday said a cultural narrative of Pakistan defined by the ethos of tolerance and peace was need of the hour to gel the nation and transform its cultural diversity into unity. Addressing a conference themed 'National Integration and Cultural Assimilation' here at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts, the President said Pakistan's culture was a beautiful blend of customs and traditions from all provinces contoured by various ethnicities. The two-day conference organized by

the National Heritage & Culture Division under the Ministry of Education and Professional Training was joined by scholars from across the country to deliberate on the subject of national cultural integration. The President said Pakistan's culture was rooted in the notion of co-existence and harmony and emphasized giving a guideline to the nation to exhibit a culture of social acceptance. He said an interplay of religion and desires could sometimes deviate oneself from the path of tolerance, adding that misery and conflict emerged whenever a certain belief was imposed on others. He said the culture of

Islam could anchor the social fabric of the country that emphasized harmony. However, he urged the nation to be mindful of those promoting terrorism and extremism in the garb of the same religion, thus fanning social conflicts. He also called for promoting the message of Sufi saints that focused on tolerance to connect the hearts. President Alvi said Two-Nation Theory was the ideological basis of Pakistan that focused on the separate religious, cultural, and

traditional identity of a nation. In today's India, he said, the Hindu extremist RSS was taking steps to erase the cultural identity of Muslims and warned that the situation could land the country into a cultural catastrophe. To bring positivity to society, the president urged adopting a responsible approach by shunning the trend of fake news aimed at creating rifts among the nation. Federal Minister for Education Shafiqat Mahmood said Pakistan's cultural ka-

leidoscope comprised of different customs, languages, and traditions with their unique beauty and colors. He stressed the need for a shared narrative on culture, history, and stories deriving from all units of the country to promote national unity and harmony. He pointed out that the heritage of the colonial era led to distortion in the culture of the land, however, said while promoting unity, it was important to also welcome diversity. Vice Chancellor Quaid-i-Azam University Professor Dr Muhammad Ali said the aim of the academic conference was to find ways to develop a national narrative on culture to ensure harmo-

ny among the people of all provinces. He emphasized highlighting the Sufi character of the land and promoting the message of Baba Bulleh Shah, Khawaja Farid, Mian Muhammad Bakhsh, Rehman Baba, Pir Mehr Ali Shah and several other saints to develop a society based on selflessness, patience and harmony. A group of students from Quaid-i-Azam University presented a mélange of songs depicting the colours of all provinces, Gilgit Baltistan and Kashmir. Clad in traditional dresses, a group of performing artists from PNCA presented cultural dances to the tunes of folk songs.

24/7 helpline for women protection

ISLAMABAD: Punjab Commission of the Women Rights (PCSW) has launched a toll-free helpline 1043 available 24/7 under its Women Safety application initiative aimed at ensuring protection of women against harassment and human rights abuses. According to the details, PCSW and Federal Intelligence Agency (FIA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for early redressal of complaints pertaining to Cyber Harassment. Commission of the Women Rights (PCSW) Helpline after taking initial information would refer the matter to the FIA for necessary action. Moreover, one female lawyer and clerk from PCSW would visit FIA Office daily, and jointly conduct follow-up of complaints. The helpline would register complaints pertaining to gender discrimination, property disputes and inheritance rights, domestic violence, hostels, day-care centres and other facilities for working women. Reporting of women issues would help increase women's participation in government decision making bodies, quota for women in public sector jobs, skill development, changes in employment policies, various other socio-economic and legal issues. - APP

The helpline would register complaints pertaining to gender discrimination, property disputes and inheritance rights, domestic violence, hostels, day-care centres and other facilities for working women. Reporting of women issues would help increase women's participation in government decision making bodies, quota for women in public sector jobs, skill development, changes in employment policies, various other socio-economic and legal issues. - APP

Theater Wallay to organize workshop for children

ISLAMABAD: Theater Wallay would organize a creative 'Papier Mache Workshop' for children ages 8 and above under the theme of upcoming Halloween season on October 30. According to details, workshop would be held at The Farm Bani Gala which is a center of creative and performing arts being run by the art group Theater Wallay. The participants would make Halloween themed pinatas to take home and celebrate the spooky season. All materials and candies would be provided by the management. Pre-registration is required for participation while the last date to register is October 28. - APP

HEC grants 99,987 scholarships in last four years

ISLAMABAD: A total of 99,987 scholarships have been granted to Pakistani students by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) in last four years. According to official report, some 657 scholarships have been granted to the students for foreign studies by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) during the period. A total of 17,678 scholarship were granted to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa students, it said. - APP

7 IIUI faculty members among top 02% scientists

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: As many as seven faculty members of International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) have been ranked in the evaluation sheet of the top 02 percent scientists of the world prepared by Stanford University California for year 2021. According to IIUI, a total of 126 Pakistani faculty members were able to make the place in the list, while IIUI faculty members remained in the distinctive position across the country among rest of the universities in the given list. The list has persons from all scientific disciplines from higher education institutions across the globe. The seven IIUI professors including six from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics including Dr Rehmat Elahi (Director QAD), Dr Tariq Javed, Dr Muhammad Sajid, Dr Ahmed Zeeshan, Dr Tahir Mehmood and Dr Nasir Ali. The seventh faculty member is Dr Abdul Rasheed, Director General, IIIE.



ISLAMABAD: Resident representative United Nation Development Program (UNDP) Kunt Otsy pose a group photo along with participants during a consultative workshop on Court annexed mediation as organized by UNDP and EU at local hotel in Federal capital. - DNA

ICT-Agriculture deptt distributes subsidized wheat

KHAYYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The department of agriculture, Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Tuesday distributed subsidized wheat seeds, fertilizers (DAP, Urea) and micro-nutrients (Biozote) among the farmers of federal capital in a ceremony held here at Tariqi. Speaking on the occasion, director agriculture, Waqar Anwar said the initiative was aimed at facilitating the local farmers under the Prime Minister's agriculture emergency programme 'Productivity Enhancement of Wheat'. This year, he said wheat inputs of Rs 3 million had been distributed among more than 200 farmers on 50 per cent subsidy. The subsidy is part of the 5-year project for enhancement of wheat productivity, he said adding being its second year, the project had already resulted in bumper wheat crop last year due to government's effective intervention in terms of enhanced wheat supply price and certified subsidised seed and fertilisers to farmers. Highlighting the government's various measures for overcoming the food security challenges in the country, he said farmers should derive maximum benefit from government's farmer and agriculture friendly policies. ICT deputy director (agriculture) Ghufan Shahzad emphasised upon the farmers to sow maximum wheat this year and that this was right time for sowing crop in the Barani area. He also orientated the farmers about modern techniques of sowing and also that how maximum yield can be obtained and that when fertilisers and water should be used for wheat crop in Barani area of Islamabad. National Coordinator for wheat Productivity Enhancement Project, while speaking on the occasion, ensured the farmers that wheat seed being supplied them is free from maladies and has the potential to give them maximum yield. He also shared that this year's per acre yield target set by government is 35 mounds and that with little bit of attention farmers can easily achieve the target. Two things for better crop yield are of utmost importance: quality certified seed and use of weedicides, he concluded.

IT exports up by 42% in first quarter of 2021-22

ISLAMABAD: The Information Technology (IT) related exports have witnessed a 42 per cent increase during first quarter (July-September) of the current Financial Year. 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 of the last year, which stood at \$445 million, showing an increase of 42 per cent Year on Year growth" said an official of the IT. During fiscal year 2020/21, Pakistan's IT exports increased 47.4 percent, and crossed \$2 billion mark for the first time in the country's history, whereas, in fiscal year 2019/20, the exports were \$1.44 billion. Secretary Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication Dr Sohal Rajput in a tweet said, "We are proud that Pakistan IT industry is delivering high-quality products and services to over 120 countries, earning valuable foreign exchange, creating high-paying jobs, improving nation's productivity and quality of life through innovative technology solutions."

Hurriyat leaders vow to continue resistance

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Hurriyat leaders and organizations have reiterated the Kashmiris' resolve to continue their struggle against India's illegal occupation of their homeland, in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. According to Kashmir Media Service, the incarcerated Chairman of Hurriyat forum, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has asked Kashmiris to observe October

27 as Black Day worldwide. The forum in a statement issued in Srinagar condemned continued house arrest of its Chairman since 5th August 2019. It said that the Indian repression cannot break the will of the people and Kashmiris will continue their struggle for right to Self-determination despite Indian repression. Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Political Movement Chairman, Khawaja Firdous in a statement said that by illegally landing its troops in

Jammu and Kashmir on this day in 1947, India committed an aggression against the Kashmiris. He said that the people of Kashmir did not accept India's invasion and are struggle against New Delhi's illegal occupation since 1947. Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Islamic Political Party (JKIPP), Muhammad Yousuf Naqash in a statement said, ever since India laid its filthy feet on Kashmir, sufferings of innocent Kashmiris have multiplied.



ISLAMABAD: CEO Serena Hotels Aziz Boolani and his wife posing for a picture with the First Lady Samina Alvi at a Fashion Show. - DNA

Food & nutrition insecurity reduces by 6%: Imam

Pakistan has taken the issue of food insecurity as top priority and declared food security as national security issue by putting food security on the top agenda in its national security plan; Fakhar Imam

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Minister of National Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam on Tuesday said that Pakistan had reduced food and nutritional insecurity by 6% and was engaged in further reduction through agricultural and livestock development along with livelihood improvement and economic uplift of the masses. Addressing 8th Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development, Imam said that Pakistan has taken the issue of food insecurity as top priority and declared food security as national security issue by putting food security on the top agenda in its national security plan. The food and nutritional insecurity in country was recorded at 24 percent during 2014-15, which reduced to 18.3 percent in 2019-

20 and it was attributed to the measures taken by the government to strengthen all four pillars of food security, he added. Imam said that the government was striving hard to address food security issues through various initiatives and in this regard Prime Minister's Agriculture Emergency Program worth Rs285 billion had been initiated which primarily focused on productivity enhancement of wheat, rice and sugarcane with cost of approximately Rs34 billion. Besides, an amount of Rs10 billion was earmarked for oil seeds enhancement program, conserving water through lining of watercourses with a cost of Rs180 billion, enhancing command area of small and mini dams in Barani areas with spending of Rs28 billion, he added. For water conservation in Barani areas

of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the government had also allocated Rs13 billion to conserve water, he said adding that Rs0.5 billion was also set a side in order to exploit the potential of shrimp farming, besides allocation of Rs0.7 billion for cage fish culture development. Under the program other initiatives like trout farming in Northern Areas of Pakistan was also started with a cost of more than Rs02 billion and initiating save & fattening of calf program with Rs05 billion, he said adding that backyard poultry program was started to enhance income of rural families. Fakhar said that to resolve the issue of food security, numerous initiatives have been taken to increase household income which include mechanized harvesting of wheat, rice, maize and fruits, silos for grain stor-

age, and development of cold storage facility for horticultural commodities. He further informed that government had also provided incentives for value-added products through provision of harvesting machinery for rice, cob and fruits on 50% subsidy, exemption of 28% import duty and 17% GST on locally manufactured silo and replenish of State Bank of Pakistan's financing facility for storage of agricultural produce and development of small scale/cottage industry under Ihsas and Kamyab Jawan Program. Furthermore, the government has fast tracked access to credit, finance through registration of farmers and FVOs and women through biometric mapping and Issuance of Kissan Cards for subsidy and credit. In addition, import of more than 3 million tons of wheat and 0.3 million tons of sugar in year 2020-21 are the preventive steps taken to ensure food security of the country.

Briefs

Pak stands behind Kashmiris

ABBOTTABAD: PTI MPA Nazeer Abbasi on Tuesday said that Pakistan has launched a week-long massive campaign to highlight longstanding issue of Kashmir and to expose Indian brutalities in occupied valley against unarmed civilians.

Talking to APP, he said that Prime Minister Imran Khan after taking the charge started campaign for the right of self-determination of Kashmiri people according to the United Nations Organization (UNO) resolution and raise the voice on every forum which shows that Pakistan stands with Kashmiri people.

The observance of the black day has highlighted the Kashmir issue in the whole world where the people of Kashmir, Hurriyat Conference and other Kashmiri leaders mark protest against Indian atrocities and state-sponsored terrorism in Kashmir which caused the deaths of hundreds of innocent people while thousands have been injured, Nazeer Abbasi stated.

Nazeer Abbasi said that the world has witnessed that Indian state terrorism, extra-judicial killing of innocent Kashmiris, unprecedented restrictions in freedom of speech, fake encounters, cordon-and-search operations, custodial torture and deaths, enforced disappearances and more over the occupation forces did not allow the people to take part in the funeral prayer and burial of Kashmiri leader Syed Ali Geelani. He stated that despite the barbarisms of Indian occupation forces in Kashmir, India is unable to break the will of the Kashmiri people, we would continue our support with the Kashmiri people till the resolve of the issue, adding the MPA said.

Nazeer Abbasi said that we would organize walks, rallies in connection with the Indian occupation on Kashmir and would also make a human chain on Kohala bridge which is a junction of Hazara, Punjab and Kashmir. — APP

Court awards two-time death sentence

RAWALPINDI: A District and Sessions Court on Tuesday sentenced two times death to two accused in a rape and murder case.

Babar Masih and Muhammad Adnan were found guilty of killing a nine-year-old girl Zainab after forced rape in the civil lines police station area in March 2021. Additional District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Afzal Majoka pronounced the verdict after recording evidence of the witnesses and final arguments from both sides.

The Court imposed a fine of Rs 500,000 on both the convicted.

The Judge also awarded seven years imprisonment and a fine of Rs 100,000 to a co-accused woman Kaweta alias Aniqi found guilty of hiding the crime. — APP

IRSA releases 74900 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) Tuesday released 74900 cusecs water from various rim stations with an inflow of 73297 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1510.99 feet, which was 118.99 feet higher than its dead level of 1392 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded at 32800 and 40000 cusecs respectively.

The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1180.20 feet, which was 931.08 feet higher than its dead level of 1050.00 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water were recorded at 15597 and 10000 cusecs respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, and Sukkur was recorded at 42858, 35847, and 34905 cusecs respectively.

Similarly, from the Kabul River, a total 6000 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 18900 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala. — APP

Begum Alvi calls for full year campaign on breast cancer

It is very important that an awareness campaign about the disease should be launched throughout the year instead of just in October so that maximum women could be made aware of the causes and treatment of breast cancer

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: First Lady Begum Samina Alvi said that one woman in every 13 minutes is diagnosed with breast cancer and about one lakh women are diagnosed with this disease every year in Pakistan, which shows that this disease is spreading dangerously in our country.

Therefore, it is very important that an awareness campaign about the disease should be launched throughout the year instead of just in October so that maximum women could be made aware of the causes and treatment of breast cancer. She said this while addressing as Chief Guest an awareness seminar on breast cancer organized at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which was attended by a large number of women from various walks of life, including businesswomen. Jamshed Akhtar Sheikh, Senior Vice President, Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI, Mian Akram Farid Chairman Founder Group and others were also present on the occasion.

Begum Samina Alvi said the mortality rate from breast cancer in Pakistan is 40-45% and over 90 percent women can recover from this disease by early screening & diagnosis. She said that every woman after getting awareness of this disease should inform 10 more women to spread maximum awareness about this disease. She said that women who recover from



the disease can play an important role in raising awareness among other women.

She said that the President House has written a letter to MNAs to spread awareness about breast cancer in their respective constituencies.

She also asked the women to avail the government's business loan scheme for doing business and if they face any problem, they should call the SBP helpline so that they could be helped. She appreciated the initiative of ICCI for holding the awareness seminar and hoped that the Chamber would continue holding such useful programs in

the future as well.

In his welcome address, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that breast cancer was spreading rapidly in Pakistan due to which 40,000 women die of the disease every year. He urged the government to set up a national cancer registry to collect data at the national level for better prevention of the disease.

"The majority of our population lives in rural areas, and there is a serious lack of awareness among women about the disease," he said. In addition, the basic health units in rural areas

lack staff and facilities for the disease, so he demanded that the government should provide women medical staff and other facilities in rural health units for screening of breast cancer. He further said that the government in collaboration with private hospitals should launch a national screening campaign for the eradication of the disease across the country. He vowed that ICCI would continue to conduct such awareness programs in future to create awareness among more women and save them from the disease.

Dr. Muhammad Farrukh, Oncologist, Shifa International Hospital and Dr. Yasser Rehman, Oncologist, Maroof Hospital, gave detailed presentations on the causes, symptoms, preventive measures and treatment of breast cancer. Sonia Qaiser, Senior Board Member, Pink Ribbon Pakistan, briefed the participants about her organization's efforts to control breast cancer. Former Senior Vice President ICCI Fatima Azeem thanked First Lady Begum Samina Alvi and all the participants for attending the awareness seminar and also highlighted the efforts of the Chamber for the advancement of women.

Govt notifies transfer, posting of officers

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Tuesday issued a notification for the appointment and transfer of top officials.

According to a notification issued by the Establishment Division, Sheryar Arif Khan, a BS-18 officer of Pakistan Administrative Service, who is currently posted under the Punjab Government, has been transferred and his services have been handed over to the Interior Division, for further posting to ICT Administration, with immediate effect and until further orders.

Meanwhile, Babar Sahib Din, a BS-18 officer of the Pakistan Administrative Service, who is currently serving in the Islamabad Capital Territory Administration under the Admissions Division, has been transferred and his services are immediately at the disposal of the Punjab Government, until further orders. — APP

NIFTH to organize 'Lok Mela'

ISLAMABAD: The National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (NIFTH) Lok Virsa to organize a 7-day 'Lok Mela' which will start from November 1 to 7 at Lok Virsa Complex, Garden Avenue, here.

Hundreds of master artisans, folk artists, folk musicians, folk performers and folk dancers from all over the country will participate in the mela. NIFTH is organizing the festival called 'Lok Mela' annually at the Federal Capital Islamabad for the last four decades.

The festival aims at promoting indigenous folk heritage and encouraging traditional practitioners including master artisans, folk artists, folk musicians and rural performers. It also serves to strengthen national harmony and integration among all federating units through their effective participation. The festival will not only provide the craftspeople an important platform to demonstrate their skills and win recognition of their talent at national level but also extend them an opportunity to sell their crafts without any exploitation or involvement of middleman.

Due to prevailing COVID situation, strict observance of all SOPs will be ensured. No entry will be allowed into the festival without face mask. No food stall will be allowed in any provincial pavilion. A separate food corner will be set up within the festival where stalls will be allocated with required SOPs.

To maintain physical distance, no performance podium will be allowed within the pavilions. All provincial artists, musicians and dance groups will perform at a central stage located outside on given schedule with equal time span to all provinces/regions. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Managing Director Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, Malik Zaheer Abbas Khokhar and CEO Serena Hotels Aziz Boolani in a group photo with the officers and staff members of Panahgah Centers after a training session. — APP

NCOC hails provinces over Covid vaccination

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Tuesday appreciated all the federating units including Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit Baltistan (GB) for enhanced vaccination drive under the Obligatory Regime launched from October 15.

The NCOC session chaired by National Coordinator Major General Zafar Iqbal took detailed stock of epidemic curve chart data, vaccination targets and progress on obligatory regime.

SAPM on Health Dr Faisal also attended the meeting,

where the provincial chief secretaries joined the conference through video link.

The Forum was briefed that all districts across the country have below 5 percent positivity ratio or disease prevalence. However, all provincial administrations efficiently managed increased inoculations under the Obligatory Vaccination Regime, the Forum said.

The Forum directed the federating units to ensure strict compliance of denial of services to non-vaccinated individuals in all sectors and ensure vaccination on spot through mobile teams. — APP

CDA starts shifting tube wells to automated system

ISLAMABAD: in order to make water supply system in the city more efficient, the Capital Development Authority has started shifting Tube wells and other water supply installations to automated system.

In this regard, Chairman CDA Amir Ali Ahmed inaugurated tube wells automation system at Poona Faqiran treatment plant in Islamabad. The Poona Faqiran water treatment plant has been shifted to automation on an experimental basis. The modern system installed at Faqiran Water Treatment Plant will control 25 tube wells through an automated system.

Automation of Poona Faqiran Treatment Plant will also ensure uninterrupted supply of water in Sector I-9 and I-10. In addition to improving water supply automated system will help save Rs 30 million annually. All water supply facilities including tube wells are being shifted to modern automation system.

This automated system can also be monitored through a mobile application.

Chairman CDA directed that the system installed at Poona Faqiran Water Treatment Plant should be solarized which would also ensure energy saving. — DNA

RCCI urges for immediate actions to resolve trader's issues

SHAHEEN HANIF

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has urged the government to take stakeholders on board for resolving issues faced by the business community. The country's economy is passing through difficult times due to free fall of Pak rupee, rising inflation and uncertainty due to inconclusive talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

RCCI Nadeem Rauf, while talking to a trade delegation at chamber house, said that the Chamber has always played the role of a bridge between the busi-

ness communities and the Government for resolving their issues.

The leading issues are Point of Sale System (POS), penalties, Income Tax rates, Sales Tax Registration, Professional Tax, property tax and high inflation which has manifold the cost of doing business, he added.

He suggested that FBR should focus on broadening the tax base and recommending that instead of setting targets for tax collection, the FBR should set targets to increase new taxpayers. It has been observed that instead of adding new filers, the FBR had increased burden on the existing taxpayers, he



said. The policy should be adopted in consultation with all stakeholders, he further recommended.

"We demand that facilities and incentives be provided to the existing taxpayers," he said.

On the occasion, Group Leader and former presi-

dent Sohail Altaf said that the traders are worried about the current economic situation. With the rupee depreciating and inflation soaring, the local and foreign investments have stagnated, he said.

He suggested that attractive incentives and packages should be adopted to increase the tax net. Serving tax notices, sealing shops and fines are adding harassment among the business community and such measures are sending negative messages.

Senior Vice President Asim Malik, Vice President Talat Awan, executive members and chamber members were also present on the occasion.

Pakistan stands with Kashmiris in their struggle: Afridi

Kashmir represented a classic case of broken promises and unfulfilled commitments. He was making a historical reference to Nehru's deviation from his promise of abiding by the aspirations of the people of Kashmir

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: "Pakistan stands with the people of Kashmir for their just freedom struggle against Indian occupation," said Sheryar Khan Afridi, Chairman Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir. He was addressing an event organised by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) to mark the illegal Indian occupation of Jammu and Kashmir on October 27, 1947, here on Tuesday.

Afridi stated that unity and commitment with ideology were integral to upholding the Kashmir cause. He further added that Kashmir and the Kashmiris were not alone in their struggle and that Pakistan clearly realised the atrocities that had been inflicted on the people of Kashmir over the years. Commenting on the unwavering resilience of the Kashmiris, Afridi said that the Government of Pakistan had neither forgotten nor forgiven the outrageous abuse of

power by the Indian forces.

Senator Dr Zarka Suharwardi Taimur, who is a member Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir shared her close association with Kashmir and said that while historical references were an important part of understanding the Kashmir issue, it was more important to highlight the future course of action, seventy four years down the line. She added that in the contemporary world, the Pakistani youth needed to realise the significance of social media as a tool that could immensely aid the task of projection and formulation of narratives to set them afloat for the rest of the world.

She further said that similar social media presence could be optimally utilised to call India out on its flagrant abuse of power and war crimes in the valley.

Ambassador Asim Iftikhar, the official spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in a comprehensive note detailed the various nuances of the Kashmir issue



while iterating the significance and relevance of commemorating the horrors of Indian occupation of Kashmir. He said that the entire Pakistani nation stood in close solidarity with the people of Kashmir against the grave and systematic human rights violations unleashed on them by the Indian forces.

He said that Kashmir represented a classic case of broken promises and unfulfilled commitments. He was making a historical reference to Nehru's deviation from his

promise of abiding by the aspirations of the people of Kashmir. Ambassador Iftikhar said that it was a painful reality that Kashmir had come to be known as a nuclear flashpoint instead of being known for its alluring beauty and its wonderful people. While discussing various options for the peaceful settlement of the Kashmir issue, Ambassador Iftikhar noted that the only final solution to the Kashmir issue was ensuring that the people of Kashmir were given their right to self-determination. He further said that although the Government of Pakistan had presented a comprehensive dossier on Indian brutalities as a reality check for the world, much more that needed to be done.

Senator Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif, Secretary International Parliamentarians' Congress, urged the people of the world to take cognisance of the plight of the people of Kashmir. He urged the world community to do the right thing to be remembered by histo-

ry and added that blatant abuse of power had made Kashmir into a living mockery of justice and humanity. He also urged the Government of Pakistan to take a more proactive approach towards the resolution of the Kashmir dispute with India.

Farzana Yaqoob, former Minister of Social Welfare and Women Development AJK, said that the Kashmiris looked up to Pakistan and this reflected evidently in their chants of Pakistan Zindabad under the shadow of Indian guns. She was referring to Pakistan's recent victory against India in the T20 World Cup. She further said that Kashmir was a unique case and could be by no means be compared to Palestine, East Timor, South Sudan, etc. as it was still fighting for its independence. In an emotional comment, Ms Yaqoob iterated that Kashmiris want to become a part of Pakistan and that she was hopeful that Pakistan will never let them become stateless like the Muslims of Bangladesh.

Pharm goods' export increases 7% in 3 months

ISLAMABAD: The export of pharmaceuticals goods from the country has witnessed an increase of 7.36 percent during the first three months of financial year (2021-22) as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

Pakistan exported pharmaceutical products worth US \$73.428 million during July-September (2021-22) as compared to the export of US \$68.393 million during July-September (2020-21), showing a growth of 7.36 percent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

In term of quantity, the pharmaceutical goods export also rose by 63.46 percent from 4,477 metric ton to 7,318 metric ton, the data revealed. Meanwhile, year-on-year basis the pharmaceutical goods export however witnessed decrease of 3.21 percent during the month September 2021 as compared to the same month of last year.

The pharmaceutical exports in September 2021 were recorded at US \$26.488 million against the export of \$27.366 million in September 2020, the PBS data revealed.

On month-on-month basis, the exports of pharmaceutical goods increased by 17.09 percent in September 2021 as compared to the \$22.621 million in August 2021. — APP

New Provincial Govt

THE months' long controversy surrounding the provincial government of Balochistan ended with Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan Alyani's resignation on Sunday. The vote of no confidence scheduled for Monday did not take place as originally planned. A new Cabinet will now be formed, and there is already speculation on who will take over the helm of affairs in the provincial government. Reportedly, Mir Abdul Qudoos Bizenjo is a frontrunner candidate, with Zahoor Buledi as an option and Sardar Yar Mohammad Rind an outside contender. The resignation of the Chief Minister was not unexpected given that the provincial government has been in turmoil for the past two months. The province also has a history of instability in the government; only one Chief Minister, Jam Kamal's father, managed to finish his constitutionally mandated term of five years while in office. This is perfectly acceptable in a democratic setup, but a full term allows for consistency in project planning and delivery. Given that the federal government and its allies will still be the ones forming the new government in Balochistan, it is important to ensure that the last three years are not totally forgotten. Projects must go on as scheduled and development ambitions must not falter. Infrastructural developments related to CPEC and other mega projects must be expedited, but sectors such as health and education must also get significant focus. Only a month ago, the provincial government had announced an interesting project to promote ecotourism; this and the many other plans must continue to hold an important place in the new government's agenda. Chopping and changing a government three years into its term is never ideal, but once it comes to pass, the remainder of the term should not be spent mudslinging against the problems of the outgoing setup. For there to be progress, the new administration will have to roll up its sleeves and quickly get started on countering the plethora of challenges awaiting them.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 02 Issue: 147

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Civilian Deaths In IIOK

ANOTHER civilian killed by the Indian security forces in Indian Illegally Occupied Kashmir (IIOK) has now brought the civilian death count up to 12 in just one month. The Indian security forces are ramping up their illegal marginalisation of indigenous Kashmiris in a bid to clamp down on the ceaseless unrest in the region ever since the Modi government imposed a curfew. The irony that this death of a nineteen-year old apple picker—clearly an innocent bystander—took place as Indian Home Minister, Amit Shah was undertaking his first visit to the region after two years of lockdown should not be missed. In the past two years, the Indian government has marginalised generations of Kashmiris. This has been done systematically, by first depriving the Kashmiris of the inalienable rights to move around freely or express their opinions online. The next step was to deny Kashmiris their voice in government, by scrapping the parliament of the region. The process of changing the demography came right after. With no voice or means to protest or get representation, Kashmiris are now being killed in numbers, with the usual excuse of an insurgency being used by the government. India has made a lot of mistakes in the past 813 days since the lockdown was imposed in IIOK. With each illegal decision, New Delhi has only doubled down on its attempts to forcibly make Kashmir a part of the Indian union; but the fact remains that each move has only taken it further away from its goal as Kashmiris continue to resist. Kashmiris and Pakistanis are playing the role they can. The former are making sure the struggle continues, while we look to highlight the atrocities for the world to see. The international community is the last piece of the puzzle. The UN and major powers need to highlight this long standing issue and find a solution to end this daily tragedy of murders at the hand of a self-professed democratic state.

Violation of Human Rights in Occupied Kashmir

Dr. M Akram Zaheer



The media, academics, legal and political analysts have never touched on indigenous rights, as stated in the UN declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, when Kashmir is being debated

SINCE 1947, Article 370 has given Jammu and Kashmir a semi-autonomous constitutional status. Under its provisions, the region has freedom in all matters except its legislature, constitution, flag and communications, foreign affairs and defense. Ending this status is a fresh attempt to eradicate the Kashmiri people, their rights and the linguistic, social, cultural, economic and political existence of the local people. The legality of the special status solution is being challenged by legal and constitutional experts in India, which has opposed the country's Supreme Court decisions in recent years. With the recent changes in Article 370 and Article 35A, India allows permanent resettlement of non-Kashmiris in Kashmir. The Constitution of Kashmir first defines membership and settlement. Non-Kashmiris are now allowed to buy, keep and settle in Kashmir permanently. Under these changes, for example, Gujar Bakarwal in Kashmir is immediately at greater risk. They migrate seasonally with the animals to look after the animals and the land. Indian laws regarding land as a sole property will not allow them to live on land as they have historically done. These changes will also lead to population rearrangement in Kashmir. Kashmiris have long speculated that India intends to settle military and paramilitary families in Kashmir as well as semi-perma-

nent military colonies in Kashmir. Indigenous peoples from Asia, such as Kashmiris, have long faced threats to their existence and inherited rights, especially "relative" land rights, as colonial relations between indigenous peoples and settler states make land encroachment profitable. Are and consider indigenous lives as strangers. Since August 4, when India canceled all access and communication with Kashmir. The Internet, cell phones and landlines have been cut off, and 14.7 million people cannot access essentials such as food and medical aid as India moves to gain full control of its territory using military force. Apart from the extremely rare media, Kashmiris have not been able to communicate with each other or with the outside world. The entire area of Jammu and Kashmir is basically under siege. Kashmiris are additionally targeted because they are primarily Muslim and culturally and linguistically distinct. Indian Government have gained control over the social media so much that their accounts are suspended on the pretext that if they write anything against Hindutva ideology or Hindu fascism. They cannot write proficiently about how Indian regime use its power to oppress and suppress Kashmiris, and cannot upload the photos of the Kashmiri freedom fighters particularly Burhan Wani. This is how their voices stand suppressed and they are unable to demonstrate their inhuman situation at the wider spectrum across globe. Now the families of those who joined the freedom struggle at their own will are being harassed and intimidated even during nights. Armed Force Special Power Act (AFSPA) gives Indian army full impunity to barge into houses and kill inhabitants when they feel it necessary. This law has been misused in so many times where innocent people were brutally killed and the killers did not face a trial. Coming to the roads, no vehicle including Ambulance and other emergency services are allowed to ply on National highway, which is important lifeline and main thoroughfare for every state, when the army convoy goes on. This thing causes the backing up of local vehicles that may stretch to a few miles. This creates extreme problem to the commuters particularly patients, doctors, office goers etc. They have cut down forest trees and thereby converted them into nude mountains. Many of the wild animals got killed due to their habitat destruction. India has been successful in creating false narrative over last 70 years across mainland India. Thus only handful of Indians has their voices of dissent over Kashmir issue. Rest of the 99.999 percent thinks that Kashmir is their property and whosever from Kashmir differs from their opinion should be treated as terrorist. Another

thing needs to be debunked regarding the purge of Kashmiri pundits. They were evacuated in the wake of militant insurgency in Kashmir since the governor Jagmohan. The regime was hell-bent on targeting Muslims subjects only. Jagmohan with Indian army and the Ikhwanis at his disposal assured pundit to leave Kashmir as soon as possible and see how I commit the genocide of Kashmiris which eventually did not happen at all. Now those pundits are showcased by politicians only to fool the world that what they underwent in Muslim majority Kashmir. Kashmiri Muslims are seen as a threat in all over the India. They have been partially eliminated through military force and economic coercion. Kashmiri youth have been convicted and held in state custody for stone-throwing "reform" programs to protest their grievances and the Indian Army's pardon. This treatment is in violation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Demands for genocide have already been made in Nazi Germany, Rwanda and elsewhere. The UN Convention on Genocide says it should never be allowed again. The convention also states that endangered groups must be protected. There is reluctant to use the term genocide to describe the events that took place in Kashmir over the decades. But the legal definition of genocide is enough. The Kashmiri people have been subjected to population migration on their lands by foreign groups through the establishment of collective permanent settlements by foreigners. The external group is the Hindu nationalist Indian state, led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The media, academics, legal and political analysts have never touched on indigenous rights, as stated in the UN declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, when Kashmir is being debated. But an indigenous rights framework is needed to carefully assess the various rights violations facing Kashmiris. India is violating several international human rights conventions and declarations. It has signed which apply to Kashmir. There has been a terrible silence by the world leadership on the ongoing crimes in Kashmir. Kashmiris have been the guardians, gardeners and custodians of Kashmiris' land, water, each other and inhuman life. Regardless of the colonial boundaries, the most important thing is what Kashmiris want as an independent indigenous people. Under the UN declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, India has a duty to consult with local people, rather than making decisions that affect them unilaterally, and give them the highest priority for self-government and self-determination. — akramzaheer86@yahoo

COP26: Investing in Pakistan's mountains

Munir Ahmed



The GLOF-II is aimed at scaling up the intervention to 10 districts from two districts in the GLOF-I. It is expected to benefit 29 million people or 15 percent of the population of Pak. Two policies have been reviewed and revised to address the emerging GLOF risks. By the end of the project, about 95 percent of the households will be able to receive and respond to the early warnings and take appropriate action

THE UN climate summit COP26 is approaching in a couple of days. I believe the Parties have well prepared to deliberate on the agenda of the summit. The rich countries will be showing empathy to the vulnerable least developed and developing countries that have much lesser contribution to carbon emissions causing the rapid change in the climate. They will be even more sympathetic towards the mountainians – the frontlines of the climate change. Like mountains in other parts of the world, Pakistan's mountains are turning increasingly vulnerable to extreme climatic conditions. Being the frontlines, they are confronting the brunt of globally rising mean temperature and transboundary carbon emissions. Some other obvious reasons and contributing factors are fast increasing population, unchecked urbanization, unsustainable tourism, irrational deforestation and over consumption of natural resources. All have set a worst recipe for mountain disasters and destruction. The final impact is brisk depletion of glaciers. We have witnessed over the years the miseries the mountain communities went through. Situation at the moment is worse. Torrential rains, flash floods, landslides and the outburst of the lakes made of the water coming from the glacial melt have made human life and their livelihood miserable. Much awareness in communities, many capacity building and even some large-scale interventions could not change the situation to the desired level. It's time to rationally review and learn from the past interventions and practices. We have seen many comprehensive climate policies and vigorous action plans coming out from the federal government inclusive provincial participation in the last three years. International forums and watchdogs have already commended Pakistan's Climate Action – the SDG 13. Meanwhile, some international forums have also alarmed South Asian governments to take measures to safeguard life and livelihood of mountain communities and ecosystems to avoid internal migration which is linked to the natural disasters in the mountains. One major 'disaster bomb' is GLOF –

the Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) which is the result of rapid depletion of glaciers for the reasons mentioned earlier. Pakistan is ranked 5th on the global vulnerability index because of climate change. GLOF is one of the core reasons. Pakistan is blessed with more than 7000 glaciers in Pakistan. Many of them are melting at a higher pace that has formed 3044 glacial lakes. Among them 33 are potentially hazardous lakes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Gilgit Baltistan (GB). The outburst of any of the potentially hazardous lakes can cause a disaster sweeping away everything on its route downstream. We have seen it many times in the past years. One GLOF event can release millions of cubic meters of water and debris, which can cause damages to livelihoods, property and infrastructure. A UNDP-GOP report mentions that over 7.1 million people in GB and KP are vulnerable to such GLOF events. We have yet to count the downstream vulnerability from a GLOF disaster. Pakistan is implementing a Green Climate Fund (GCF) project worth US\$35.69 million to "Scaling-up of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods Risk Reduction in Northern Pakistan (GLOF-II)". It was kicked off in March 2017, and the new completion date of the project is December 2023. GLOF-II supported communities to prepare to mitigate disasters through Early Warning Systems (EWS), enhanced infrastructure and community based Disaster Risk Management. In GLOF-II, the Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) and UNDP are aimed at empowering communities to identify and manage risks associated with GLOFs and related impacts of climate change. The project well-handled the widespread debate on the selection of 10 valleys in Gilgit-Baltistan. The technical support of UNDP and Pakistan Meteorological Department played a key role in developing a criteria for the selection of the valleys to start working in. The open merit policy based on the scientific knowledge and technical assessment paved a path for ownership and smooth sailing of the interventions in the selected valleys. Local communities, experts and public institutions had been the backbone of the technical assessment. The GLOF-II is aimed at scaling up the intervention to 10 districts from two districts in the GLOF-I. It is expected to benefit 29 million people or 15 percent of the population of Pakistan. Two policies have been reviewed and revised to address the emerging GLOF risks. By the end of the project, about 95 percent of the households will be able to receive and respond to the early warnings and take appropriate action. At least 250 small-scale engineering structures will be established to reduce the effects of GLOF events on livelihoods. As many as 50 weather monitoring stations and 408 river discharge sensors will be collecting respective data for effective forecasting and planning accordingly to protect life and livelihood. To improve food security and reduce flood risks due to deforestation and inefficient water use, some 65,000 women will be trained in home-gardening; 240 water-efficient farming technologies will be installed and 35,000 hectares of land will be reforested. Four years after the project began, much progress has been done on the defined targets. It should be made public for the consumption of national and international stakeholders, partners, and the for general public in GB and downstream. The story of struggle to protect mountain communities, their livelihood and infrastructures shall not end here. It shall continue in many other districts and valleys. The well protected mountains safeguard life and livelihood, and infrastructures downstream by reducing the impact of disasters. — *The writer is a freelance journalist and broadcaster, and Director Devcom-Pakistan. He can be reached at devcom.pakistan@gmail.com and tweets @EmmayeSyed*

Dr Manzoor ul Haq – An Icon

Farooq Alay



I read this book twice, and thanked God for having my mind cleared because of the importance and sensitivity of the Khatm-e-Nabuwat concept

PROF Dr Manzoor ul Haq, a renowned educationist, academic and author passed away the other day in a Faisalabad hospital after brief illness. He was teacher, a fatherly figure and a source of strength. He will be remembered for his restless services in the education field, deep research on Iqbal and comparative study of religions, and for his major contribution towards spreading the Quranic thought, almost his entire life. He was man of words, man of letters and man of principle. He was so disciplined in his own routine timing that, rain or shine, he never missed doing the important things, daily. This isn't easy, overpowering one's self isn't easy. Each morning, he used to send on WhatsApp his words of wisdom, and this routine never stopped.

I came in contact with Dr Manzoor ul Haq because of my Nana, Mian Muhammad Din, who died though years ago, yet had been in correspondence with Dr Sahib, which we recalled in a Facebook chat. My grandfather was a keen reader of a few magazines and digests including Mah e Tayba being published from Kotli Loharan, Salsabeel from Mohni Road Lahore, Tarjumanul Quran from Mansura, Tulue Islam from Gulberg, Takbeer by Salahuddin from Karachi and Hakayat by Inayatullah from Lahore. It was a time when the debate on Khatm-e-Nabuwat issue was at its peak, and a book "Khatm-e-Nabuwat aur Tehrik-e-Ahmediyat" had become famous among other publications which successfully defended the Lasthood of the Prophet (PBUH). I read this book twice, and thanked God for having my mind cleared because of the importance and sensitivity of the Khatm-e-Nabuwat concept. This incident became the reason that I started taking interest in the stockpile of grandfather's library which comprised of a number of precious books on heterogeneous subjects like theology, fiqh, jurisprudence, Hadith, Tafseer and Tareekh, and also on Urdu, Persian, English, Arabic literature, philosophy, science, geography, astronomy and cosmology, mathematics, music, classical poetry and many more. I got the opportunity of going through most of the books, so I was able to have an excess into his personal hand written letters. His correspondence with Abul Aala, Dr Asrar, G A Parwez and other scholars opened new vistas to me. More powerful and highly motivating message I got was the love of motherland, for which my Nana had devoted whole life and rendered unprecedented services in this course. He helped in settling and rehabilitating the migrating Mohajirs from Indian side to Pakistan, shared his own properties and premises with them and then installed a permanent centre for reaching out to the needy. He voluntarily launched a school for which he dedicated one part

of his own haveli where the villagers got educated, and joined the armed forces and other jobs available which resulted in making the village 'Muhammad Nagar' as an example for others. To cut short, I narrated all this to Dr Manzoor ul Haq, which pleased him so much, and this is how we started. I sent him my books published so far and started a monthly dispatch of magazines being published under my supervision. He also started daily sending me his words of wisdom on WhatsApp and it was surprising to see his work on the root words of Quran. His interpretation of the root words was a marvelous and unprecedented contribution, which certainly has a no match. I must advise readers to not miss reading his words of wisdom, which his daughter now regularly posts and disseminates. We must also use the social media portals for a purpose, not for wasting time. People like Dr Manzoor are not ordinary. He devoted all his life on research in the Quran and sending the Quran's message across. Above all, he implemented it on himself first. He practically demonstrated first before he preached to others. For example, he used to recite Quran bil Tafseer daily, without a pause and nonstop. He used to recite Darood-e-Pak daily, usually after Asr prayers. Surah e Noor was his favorite from the Holy Quran, and from Surah e Noor, the most favorite Verse to him was the Verse of Noor, which means: "God is the Light of the heavens and the earth. The parable of His light is, as it were, that of a niche containing a lamp; the lamp is [enclosed] in glass, the glass (shining) like a radiant star: (a lamp) lit from a blessed tree – an olive-tree that is neither of the east nor of the west the oil whereof (is so bright that) it would well-nigh give light (of itself) even though fire had not touched it: light upon light! — The author is a freelance columnist

Briefs

EU, JPP mark world day against..

FROM PAGE 01
This makes access to justice much more difficult for women. While working towards the complete abolition of the death penalty worldwide for all crimes and genders, it is crucial to sound the alarm on the discrimination women face and the consequences it can have on a death sentence. The components of the 'This Is (Not) A Game' campaign include a digital game, an ongoing interactive street theatre performed in Lahore, Multan, Faisalabad and Karachi with Azad Theatre, an Augmented Reality (AR) Instagram filter, an interactive radio show with Afzal Sahir, and an ongoing two-week internship programme featuring 60 students from 22 universities across Pakistan. "Although Pakistan sentences very few women to death, the justice system disproportionately affects women who have to engage with the system in one way or another, whether it is visiting a police station to file a complaint or to attend court hearings," said Sarah Belal, the founder and executive director of JPP. "We hope that the campaign, 'This Is (Not) A Game', will play an important role in bringing the systemic issues in the criminal justice system to the forefront of people's minds and will remind everyone that justice and the death penalty are not synonymous," she added. Since the de-facto moratorium on the death penalty was lifted in 2014, the country has executed 516 individuals. Pakistan also has almost 4,000 individuals on death row – around 15% of the world's death row population.

PM Imran, Xi discuss CPEC...

FROM PAGE 01
The Prime Minister lauded the successful, timely and high-quality implementation of the CPEC projects, and welcomed Chinese investments in the CPEC Special Economic Zones. He underscored that early start of work on the ML-1 railway project would complement Pakistan's geo-economics vision for national and regional development. The Prime Minister also appreciated China's leading role in combating climate change. He briefed President Xi on Pakistan's wide ranging measures for climate change mitigation and adaptation, including the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami initiative. The two leaders agreed to strengthen Pakistan-China cooperation in the relevant areas and to promote CPEC's green development as a high quality demonstration of the Belt and Road Initiative. The two leaders discussed the situation in Afghanistan. They called on the international community to provide immediate humanitarian and economic assistance to the people of Afghanistan to alleviate their suffering, prevent instability and flight of people, as well as continued engagement for rebuilding of the country. The Prime Minister stressed the need to continue with the momentum of high-level exchanges to further diversify "All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership" between the two countries. Prime Minister Khan renewed his invitation to President Xi to visit Pakistan at his early convenience.

Lt. Gen Nadeem...

FROM PAGE 01
Lt Gen Nadeem Anjum's appointment as the new DG ISI. – PM Office The notification issued for Lt Gen Nadeem Anjum's appointment as the new DG ISI. – PM Office "The Prime Minister has seen and approved the appointment of Lt Gen Nadeem Ahmed Anjum, HI (M) as Director General Inter-Services Intelligence, with effect from 20th November, 2021, from the panel of officers at para 6 of the summary," reads the notification from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). The notification from the Prime Minister's Office had been awaited since nearly three weeks. The PMO confirmed that a meeting held earlier between the prime minister and the army chief had discussed "the timing of change of command in ISI and selection of the new DG ISI."

T20 WC: SA down WI after De Kock refuses to take knee

Cricket SA ordered its players to kneel in Dubai and lend their support to the anti-racism movement but De Kock pulled out of the game due to "personal reasons"

SPORTS DESK

DUBAI: South Africa hammered holders West Indies by eight wickets in a game overshadowed by Proteas star Quinton de Kock's refusal to take the knee prior to the Twenty20 World Cup clash on Tuesday. Aiden Markram smashed 51 to lead South Africa's chase of 144 in an unbeaten 83-run third-wicket stand with Rassie van der Dussen (43) to achieve their target with 10 balls to spare in the Super 12 contest. South Africa bounced back from their opening loss to Australia, while two-time champions West Indies have lost both their matches.

Cricket South Africa ordered its players to kneel in Dubai and lend their support to the anti-racism movement but De Kock pulled out of the game due to "personal reasons". Temba Bavuma's team took the knee after their decision to field first. Opener Evin Lewis hit 56 in West Indies' 143-8 as they suffered another heavy loss, having made just 55 in a crushing defeat by England three days ago. Fast bowler Dwaine Pretorius took three wickets as West Indies again failed to



fire after a painstaking 16 off 35 balls from Lendl Simmons at the top of the order. Skipper Kieron Pollard hit a useful 20-ball 26 before falling to Pretorius, who was on a hat-trick only for Dwayne

bowling. The left-handed Lewis reached his 10th T20 fifty with a six before getting out to Keshav Maharaj. Maharaj struck again with his left-arm spin to send back Nicholas Pooran for 12 and Rabada ended Simmons' struggle the following over. West Indies dropped Chris Gayle from three to four in the batting order but the change in position barely helped as the big-hitter fell for 12. Anrich Nortje bowled the powerful Andre Russell for five and returned economical figures of 1-14 from his four overs of pace. In reply, South Africa lost Bavuma,

run out for two, but Reeza Hendricks and Van der Dussen put the chase back on track with their partnership of 57. Hendricks fell to Akeal Hosen for 39. Van der Dussen was joined by Markram and the two helped South Africa cruise across the line in a game that began with the shocking news of De Kock's pull out. The South African board later said they "await a further report from team management before deciding on the next steps." Markram raised his fifty in 25 balls with a six off Russell and then hit the winning runs.

UK to bid for 2026 Tour de France

"I'm excited at the prospect of bringing more world-class sporting events to the UK" Sunak said



SPORTS DESK

LONDON: The UK is to bid to host the 2026 Tour de France Grand Depart. The government has also confirmed funding for the English Rugby Football Union's bid to host the 2025 World Cup, as the RFU plans to stage the "best-attended women's Rugby World Cup ever". Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak will this week announce £30m funding to back both bids. "I'm excited at the prospect of bringing more world-class sporting events to the UK," Sunak said. The chancellor is expected to announce the bids on Wednesday, in a

move he says is intended to boost British sport and enhance investment across the UK. "That's why I'm backing these bids," he added. "Our bids will include events taking place across the country and I'm hopeful everyone will get a chance to cheer on their sporting heroes." The last Grand Depart in the UK was in Leeds in 2014, followed by stages finishing in Sheffield and London. The UK's first Grand Depart was in London in 2007. The Grand Depart usually alternates between cities in France and cities in other countries, with the first two to four stages taking place in that country before the race moves to France.

France has hosted the last two Grands Depart, with the 2021 start moved to Brittany because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Danish capital Copenhagen will host the 2022 start, with Spanish city Bilbao set for 2023. The aim is for the UK Grand Depart to include stages in England, Scotland and Wales, with 95% of the investment coming outside south-east England. Culture Secretary Nadine Dorries added: "We are backing both ambitious bids with funding because they will give people the chance to see world-class sport on home soil and hosting such prestigious events will boost local economies, jobs and opportunities. "The budget will also provide a further £11m for the UK and Republic of Ireland's bid to host the 2030 World Cup. Despite England receiving a one-match stadium ban following unrest at Wembley during the Euro 2020 final, the government has insisted that the 2030 World Cup bid is "very strong".



TEHRAN: Azerbaijan Ambassador to Iran Ali Alizada paying his credits to President of Iran Sayyid Ebrahim Raisi. – DNA

Sprinter Alex Quinónez shot dead in Ecuador

WEB DESK

QUITO: Sprinter Alex Quinónez has been killed in his home country of Ecuador. The 32-year-old, who finished third in the 200m at the World Athletics Championships in Doha two years ago, was reportedly shot dead outside a shopping centre in the port city of Guayaquil on Friday night, along with another unnamed person. The Ecuadorian sports ministry announced the news in a statement on its Twitter feed, saying: "Today we lost a great

Ecuadorians. It later added: "Thank you for having invited us to dream big and for the infinite joys that you gave us, you leave a great legacy in Ecuadorian athletics." On Sunday, the Folke Anderson football stadium in Esmeraldas will host a burning chapel to receive Quinónez's coffin. Ecuador's president Guillermo Lasso tweeted: "We are very sorry for the painful loss of Alex Quinónez, father, son, a great sprinter who

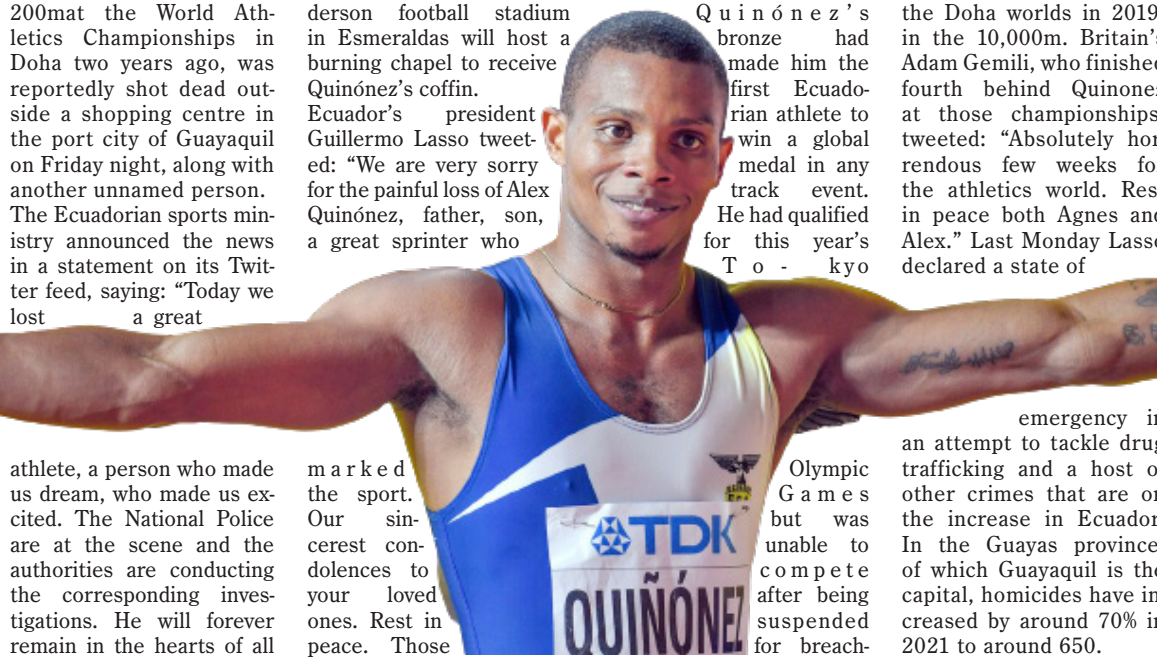
who take the lives of Ecuadorians will not go unpunished. We will act forcefully." The country's Olympic Committee said in a statement that the circumstances surrounding the death had "not yet been clarified". Quinónez's bronze had made him the first Ecuadorian athlete to win a global medal in any track event. He had qualified for this year's Tokyo

emergency in an attempt to tackle drug trafficking and a host of other crimes that are on the increase in Ecuador. In the Guayas province, of which Guayaquil is the capital, homicides have increased by around 70% in 2021 to around 650.

athlete, a person who made us dream, who made us excited. The National Police are at the scene and the authorities are conducting the corresponding investigations. He will forever remain in the hearts of all

marked the sport. Our sincerest condolences to your loved ones. Rest in peace. Those

Olympic Games but was unable to compete after being suspended for breach



Kashmir students booked over cheering Pak's win

NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR: Police in Indian-administered Kashmir have filed criminal cases under a stringent anti-terror law against the students of two medical colleges in the region for celebrating Pakistan's victory against India in the T20 World Cup. Pakistan thrashed archrival India with a 10-wicket victory in the cricket match held in the United Arab Emirates on Sunday night. India's loss triggered attacks against Kashmiri students in western Punjab state and a Muslim member of the Indian team was abused online. Anti-India sentiment runs deep in Kashmir, a Himalayan territory claimed in its entirety by both India and Pakistan who rule over parts of it. A popular rebellion against the Indian rule erupted in Indian-administered Kashmir the 1990s, with the rebels demanding either a merger with Muslim-majority Pakistan or an independent state. In such a scenario, an India-Pakistan cricket match evokes strong reactions mainly in the valley, with residents publicly declaring their support for Pakistan to make a political statement. Following Sunday's match, there were similar celebrations in the disputed region over Pakistan's first-ever win against India in a cricket World Cup. Among those cheering were students from the region's top medical colleges: the Government Medical College and the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, both situated in the main city of Srinagar. Videos of their celebration outside their residential hostels went viral on social media. On Tuesday, a senior police official told Al Jazeera that two cases under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) have been filed against an unknown number of students for causing "insult to the national sentiment during the cricket match".

Indian atrocities in Kashmir..

FROM PAGE 01

India has also introduced steps, including a series of new domicile laws, to change the demographic structure of the disputed territory. These legislations are in contravention of the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions and the Fourth Geneva Convention. The barbarity of Indian atrocities in Kashmir is unprecedented. It is using extra-judicial killings, rape, torture, arbitrary arrests, indiscriminate use of pellet guns and collective punishments as an instrument of state policy. These violations have been repeatedly exposed in the reports of the international media, human rights organizations and parliaments around the world. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has extensively documented India's unabated violations and recommended an Independent Commission of Inquiry in two separate reports, issued in June 2018 and July 2019. The miseries of the people of IIOJ&K have also been amply documented in the International Human Rights Watch Report 2021. Unfortunately, India continues to deny access to the international media, human rights organizations, including the office of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and Special Procedure Mandate Holders. The Vice President of the European Parliament, Dr. Fabio Massimo Castaldo, sent a letter, co-signed by 15 Members of the European Parliament, to the President of the European Commission and the High Representative calling for urgent action to address the alarming human rights situation in IIOJ&K, in July 2021. Vice President Castaldo had also written a similar letter co-signed by 14 Members of the European Parliament in June 2020. In September 2019, the European Parliament held an open debate on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. A large number of MEPs condemned the Indian actions and deteriorating human rights situation and called upon India to lift the military siege.

Civil, military leaders to...

FROM PAGE 01

The sources said that in the meeting, PM Imran and COAS Gen Bajwa discussed the situation in the country. The Director-General of ISI was also present in the meeting and participated in the discussion. Separately, the Prime Minister also presided over a special meeting at Bani Gala in which the issue of banned outfit Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan (TLP) and sit ins announced by the traders were discussed in detail. The sources said that it was decided in the meeting that negotiations with the banned religious organization would continue. During the meeting, Imran Khan was briefed on the talks with the banned organization. The meeting also reviewed demands of the banned outfit and the government's strategy against the protests. The premier was also apprised about the protest call given by the traders. It is pertinent to mention here that the march started by the workers of the banned organization has been stopped under an agreement with the government.

EU notices its diplomatic duty in...

FROM PAGE 01

result, he said, adding that Europe has noticed too late that it has a diplomatic and economic duty in Afghanistan, while countries such as Qatar and Russia have already embarked on creating such relations. Gartner went on to say that according to the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) 50 percent of Afghan people will face severe malnutrition in the coming winter and that 98 percent of the nation are on the brink of poverty, which is a result of the 20-year invasion. Pointing to one billion Euros offered by the European Union to assist Afghan people, he urged the Europeans to deliver the aid package via international and non-governmental organizations as soon as possible.

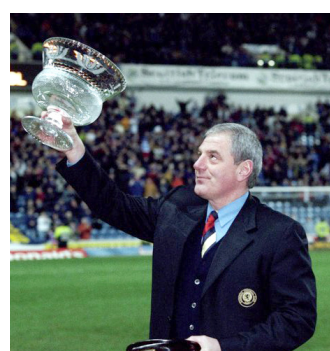
Former Rangers manager Walter Smith dies at 73

"He embodied everything that a Ranger should be. His character and leadership was second to none, and will live long in the memory of everyone he worked with during his two terms as first team manager

WEB DESK

THE legendary Walton Smith dies at the age of 73. Smith achieved legendary status at Ibrox, with 21 trophies in two spells making him the second most successful Rangers boss ever behind Bill Struth. He won the latter seven titles of Rangers' nine-in-a-row run in the 1990s and returned to Ibrox in 2007. Between those stints, he had four years at Everton and two with Scotland before being enticed back to the Glasgow club. His second spell in charge delivered three more titles and a Uefa Cup final appearance, in 2008. His death comes in the same year Rangers clinched their first top-flight title since Smith's final season in charge in 2011. Posted with a picture of him and Smith

on Instagram, Rangers manager Steven Gerrard said: "Thank you for all your wisdom, support and friendship. You meant the world to everyone at Rangers." In a club statement announcing the news, Chairman Douglas Park added: "It is almost impossible to encapsulate what Walter meant to every one of us at Rangers. "He embodied everything that a Ranger should be. His character and leadership was second to none, and will live long in the memory of everyone he worked with during his two terms as first team manager. "I spoke with Walter as recently as last weekend. Even when he was battling illness, he was still able to provide advice and support. For that, I am personally grateful. I know that he continued also to maintain dialogue with senior members of staff, including our manager, Steven Gerrard.



"Walter will be sorely missed by all of us at Rangers. For Rangers supporters, he was much more than just a football manager. Walter was a friend to many, a leader, an ambassador and - most of all - a legend." Ally McCoist, who played in Smith's 1990s Ibrox team and was later his assistant manager with Scotland and Rangers, told media: "He was my boss,

my coach, my second father and then turned into one of my best friends." The loss is absolutely incredible. He was the best husband, father, friend, everything you want from a man. I can't tell you how devastated I am." As a defender, Smith played more than 200 games for Dundee United, where he began his coaching career under Jim McLean at the age of 29 when a pelvic injury forced him to retire early. He also turned out for Dumbarton and was assistant to Sir Alex Ferguson at the 1986 World Cup, but it was as a manager where Smith made his mark. After moving from Tannadice to Rangers in 1986 as Graeme Souness' number two, he took sole charge in 1991 and embarked on a near-decade of dominance - including the domestic treble in 1993 - to equal Celtic's record of nine successive titles. Smith assisted Ferguson

once again in 2004, joining Manchester United's coaching staff. Following the end of his second stint as Rangers manager, Smith had a three-month spell as Ibrox chairman in 2013 but resigned the position after a period of bitter fighting within the boardroom. Rangers confirmed in March that Smith was recovering in hospital following an operation. And his passing comes 10 months after McLean, whom he assisted over a long spell at Dundee United, died at 83. "Walter leaves behind a wife, children and grandchildren, all of whom are in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time," added Park. Rangers, who host Aberdeen on Wednesday, asked for the Smith family's privacy to be respected. And Everton said in a statement: "Everton Football Club is deeply saddened to learn of the passing of the club's former manager, Walter Smith OBE.

Briefs

Haftar, Gaddafi hire Israeli firm for elections

NEWS DESK

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM: Two Libyan rivals have hired an Israeli firm registered in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to run their election campaigns in the war-torn country, according to Israeli media on Tuesday.

Israel Hayom newspaper said warlord Khalifa Haftar and Saif al-Islam Gaddafi, son of former Libyan ruler Muammar Gaddafi, contracted via agents "an Israeli consulting firm to advise both candidates." The newspaper, citing senior Gulf figures, said Haftar's son signed the contract with the consulting firm which run successful campaigns in Israel and the world.

The firm "later got a request from the other candidate, through a female model living in Dubai," the daily said. According to the newspaper, the Israeli firm registered a new company in the UAE to run and administer both election campaigns via the "two separate entities."

"Both contracts are reportedly worth tens of millions of dollars in fees," Israel Hayom said.

There were no comments from both Haftar and Saif al-Islam Gaddafi on the allegations.

Possible planet outside Milky Way discovered

AGENCIES

NEW YORK: Astronomers said that they may have discovered a potential planet outside the Milky Way galaxy. According to a report by media, astronomers may have detected a possible planet by Nasa's Chandra X-Ray Telescope in the spiral galaxy Messier 51 (M51), also known as the Whirlpool Galaxy.

The study was published in the journal Nature Astronomy on Tuesday.

The planet, known as M51-ULS-1b, is believed to be around 28 million light-years away from the Milky Way and the size of Saturn, according to astronomers. The planet could be orbiting a neutron star or black hole at a distance of nearly twice that of Saturn from the Sun. The researchers pointed out that the planet takes roughly 70 years to cross in front of its binary partners (orbit its sun) and the probability of observing this planet from the earth is very low.

"There's something going on, and it could be a planet, but we'd have to be incredibly fortunate to have captured it at just the right time," Jonti Horner, an astronomer and astrophysicist at the University of Southern Queensland, said.

"If you took observations a million times at random over that 70 years, only on four of those times would you see this thing transiting it," Horner added.

Cyberattack closes gas stations across Iran

WEB DESK

TEHRAN: A cyberattack has disrupted the sale of heavily subsidised gasoline in Iran, state media reported, causing long lines at gas stations across the country weeks before the anniversary of 2019 street protests that followed fuel price hikes.

Iran says it is on high alert for online assaults, which it has blamed in the past on the United States and Israel.

The United States and other Western powers meanwhile have accused Iran of trying to disrupt and break into their networks.

"The disruption at the refuelling system of gas stations... in the past few hours, was caused by a cyberattack," state broadcaster IRIB said. "Technical experts are fixing the problem and soon the refuelling process... will return to normal." The oil ministry said only sales with smart cards used for cheaper rationed gasoline were disrupted and clients could still buy fuel at higher rates, the ministry's news agency SHANA reported.

Erdogan, Aliyev inaugurate Fuzuli International Airport

Erdogan is the first head of state to land at Fuzuli International Airport, Azerbaijan's first airport in the area liberated from Armenia

FOREIGN DESK

FUZULI: Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his Azerbaijani counterpart on Tuesday jointly inaugurated a new airport in the area liberated from the Armenian occupation. Erdogan is the first head of state to land at Fuzuli International Airport, Azerbaijan's first airport in the area liberated from Armenia. This is the Turkish president's third official visit to Nagorno-Karabakh since the region's liberation last year.

The Turkish president and his Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliyev cut the ribbon to officially open the new airport, then toured the building and spoke with authorities.

The Turkish leader traveled to Azerbaijan for a one-day working visit at Aliyev's invitation.

Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, National Defense Minister Hulusi Akar, Environment and Urbanization Minister Murat Kurum, Transport and Infrastructure Minister Adil Karaismailoglu, Communications Director Fahrettin Altun, and Presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin are among the top Turkish officials accompanying President Erdogan.

Erdogan also attended the groundbreaking ceremony of a highway in



Fuzuli. As a gesture of goodwill, Erdogan and Aliyev buried a handwritten note at the site.

"The foundation of the Horadiz-Jabrail-Zangilan-Aghband highway (Zangezur corridor) was laid by Aliyev and Erdogan," it said. The Turkish president will also attend the groundbreaking ceremony of the Smart Agriculture Campus, which will be built in Zangilan with Turkey's contributions. During the visit, Turkey-Azerbaijan relations will be reviewed in all aspects, and initiatives to further deepen bilateral cooperation will be discussed. Current regional and international developments, as well as bilateral relations, are also expected to be discussed in the meetings.

On Jan. 12, Aliyev laid the foundation stone for the airport, which has been completed in eight months and met the highest international standards. The first test flight at the airport was performed on August 22.

The airport's runway is 3,000 meters (9,843 feet) long and 60 meters (197 feet) wide. Its terminal can serve 200 passengers per hour. All wide-body aircraft, including large cargo planes, will be able to land and take off easily at the airport. Turkish companies also contributed to the airport's construction, which is equipped with automated systems and a control tower that meets international civil aviation and transportation standards.

Azerbaijan, NATO mull cooperation

BAKU: Deputy Defence Minister Karim Valiyev and NATO Cooperative Security Division of the International Military Staff Director Francesco Diella have discussed cooperation within the Operational Capabilities Concept (OCC), the Defence Ministry reported on October 25. Valiyev appreciated NATO's contribution to the training of the Azerbaijani army units, the report added. He noted the Azerbaijani army's improving combat readiness following its victory in the 44-day war between Armenia and Azerbaijan in late 2020.

Diella highly appreciated Azerbaijan's activities in all areas within the framework of partnership with NATO, including participation in peacekeeping operations.

The two officials also focused on the future development of cooperation with NATO in various fields.

The NATO delegation was received by Defence Minister Zakir Hasanov on October 25. The post-war regional situation was discussed at the meeting between Hasanov and Diella. — DNA

Uzbekistan and NATO discuss prospects for co-op

TASHKENT: Head of the Mission of Uzbekistan to NATO, Ambassador Dilyor Khakimov met with newly appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary General of the North Atlantic Alliance for Politics and Security, Special Representative for Central Asia and the Caucasus Javier Kolomin, Duno news agency reported.

It was noted that Uzbekistan considers the Alliance as an important partner in countering modern security threats and advocates the development of cooperation on the entire spectrum of issues of mutual interest.

It was emphasized that thanks to joint efforts, the dialogue between Uzbekistan and NATO will continue to develop in the inter-

ests of both sides.

The NATO representative was informed about the ongoing reforms to develop the Armed Forces of Uzbekistan, improve professional knowledge and skills, intellectual and psychological training of military personnel.

One of the important directions in this area is the further expansion of military and military-technical cooperation with foreign partners.

The parties discussed the current state and prospects of cooperation between Uzbekistan and NATO within the framework of the Alliance's Partnership for Peace program, as well as contacts for the future. — APP



MINSK: Pakistan ambassador to Belarus Sajjad Haider visited CJSC "BelTechExport" and held meeting with D.G. Mr. Anatoly Okoronko, Dep.D.G. Mr. Oleg Dvigalev and Advisor of the Belarusian State Authority for Military Industry Andrei Romanenko. Mutual cooperation has been discussed. — DNA

Pakistani students shine at Silk Road awards in Beijing

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani and Chinese students won the certificates and monetary awards in Urdu and Chinese Language Essay Writing Competitions at the 4th Silk Road and Young Dream Awards ceremony held here in Beijing.

The competitions were organized by the Embassy of Pakistan and sponsored by Silk Road Cities Alliance to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Pakistan.

The Urdu essay competition was among Chinese students majoring in Urdu in various universities of China while the Chinese essay competition was among Pakistani students studying in Chinese universities.

Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Pakistan, Ahmed Farooq presented the certificates and monetary awards to the winners and certificates to all participants.

Ziyi Ren (Ibtisam) from Guangdong University of Foreign Studies won the first prize in the Urdu

Essay Competition, Boyun Liu (Zeerak) from the same university and Zifu Fang (Gulbahar) from Xi'an International Studies University won the second prizes while Yidi Yang (Raana) from Xi'an International Studies University, Ying Zhang (Areeba) from Yunnan Minzu University and Yue Yang (Musarrat) from Beijing Foreign Studies University won the third prizes.

In the Chinese Essay Competitions, Ayaz Muhammad from Hainan Normal University won the first prize, Syeda Kanwal Nooreen from Wuhan University and Jameel Ahmad from Beijing Normal University won the second prizes while Sumbal Rida from Tianjin Normal University, Motia Zaman from Beijing Language and Cultural University and Muhammad Tariq from Beijing Jiaotong University won the third prizes. Muhammad Humayun Asghar, a student of Beijing Institute of Technology (BIT) won award in photography competition. — APP

UBG Chief invites Canadian businessmen to invest in Pakistan

DNA

TORONTO: Patron in Chief of United Business Group (UBG) and former CEO of Trade Development Authority of Pakistan, S.M. Muneer has invited Canadian business men to not only invest in Pakistan but also to promote bilateral trade so that Pakistan and Canada Businessmen come closer.

The way Pakistan's cricket team has beaten the Indian cricket team in the T20 World Cup and achieved a historic victory will further

promote sports activities in Pakistan, Pakistan and Canada as well.

Also joint events in sports activities can play an important role in organizing joint events.

He made the remarks while addressing a dinner hosted in his honor by Amir Shamsi, Chairman, Universal Group of Companies, Canada. Naseer, Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) Kalidarsheed, Patrick Brown, Naveed Bukhari, SM Imran, Pervez Akhtar, Mirza Imtiaz and others were also present. S.M. Muneer said that it

was possible to increase trade between Pakistan and Canada and if exports were increased as per the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan, bilateral trade between the two countries could be strengthened.

Member of Provincial Parliament Khalid Rashid said that trade relations between Pakistan and Canada especially we will work to expand trade relations between Pakistan and Canada. Just as Amir Shamsi has held trade fairs in Toronto in the past, we want more trade fairs to be held in the future so that the people of

both countries Patrick Brown said that they will visit Pakistan soon.

Consul General of Pakistan Abdul Hameed said that relations between Pakistan and Canada are good and we will fully support the visit of police cricket team from Canada to Pakistan.

Amir Shamsi, CEO of Canada Police Cricket Club and head of Universal Group of Companies of Canada, said that he would come to Pakistan from Canada in February 2022 with a police cricket team. He is coming to Pakistan next November.



TORONTO: At the dinner hosted by Amir Shamsi, Head of Universal Group of Companies of Canada, UBG Patron-in-Chief SM Muneer, Consul General of Pakistan to Toronto Abdul Hameed, Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) Kaleed Rasheed, Patrick Brown, Member of Parliament Paul Cheng, Naveed Bukhari, SM Imran, Pervez Akhtar, Mirza Imtiaz and others. — DNA

Qatar seeks to consolidate Gulf reconciliation

The Qatari ruler said his country completed the formation of an elected legislative institution as stipulated in Qatar's constitution. On Oct. 2, Qatar held its first elections to elect 30 members of the 45-member Shura Council, while the other 15 were appointed by the emir

NEWS DESK

DOHA: Qatar seeks to consolidate its reconciliation with its Gulf neighbors, the country's ruler said on Tuesday.

"The ties of brotherhood, history, and geography compel us to preserve the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)," Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani addressed in the opening session of Qatar's first elected Shura Council. He said Doha was "keen to overcome the dispute in the GCC

through dialogue." Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Egypt severed diplomatic and trade relations with Qatar in 2017, accusing Doha of supporting terrorist groups, an accusation vehemently denied by Qatar. In January 2021, the four countries signed a reconciliation agreement with Qatar during the GCC summit in Saudi Arabia, putting an end to more than three years of the rift.

On the Afghan issue, Tamim said Qatar is "remembered positively in the context of the Afghan crisis" for its commitment to solving the conflict via "dialogue and mediation instead of wars" - in reference to his country's mediation

efforts between the US and the Taliban movement.

The Taliban regained control of Kabul on Aug. 15 after the previous Western-backed administration collapsed and its officials fled the war-torn country. Tamim said Qatar has almost completed all preparations and the needed infrastructure to host the FIFA World Cup 2022.

"Qatar has gone through a rapid modernization phase that also meets Qatar's developmental needs," he noted. The Qatari ruler said his country

completed the formation of an elected legislative institution as stipulated in Qatar's constitution.

On Oct. 2, Qatar held its first elections to elect 30 members of the 45-member Shura Council, while the other 15 were appointed by the emir. Tamim said Qatar achieved successes in several areas, including food security, noting that Qatar "occupies a prominent position among indicators in the Global Competitiveness Report."

"We are continuing our efforts to achieve Qatar Vision 2030," he said.

Japan's Princess Mako loses royal status

AGENCIES

TOKYO: Princess Mako of Japan's imperial family married her "commoner" boyfriend on Tuesday, losing her royal status.

Mako married her university sweetheart Kei Komuro, both 30, and Japan's Imperial Household Agency submitted the legal paperwork in capital Tokyo to register their marriage, Kyodo News reported.

Niece of Emperor Naruhito, Princess Mako now became Mako Komuro under family registry with Komuro who called her marriage a "necessary choice" for her.

Mako is the eldest daughter of Crown Prince Fumihito, the younger brother of Emperor Naruhito. Mako's parents and younger sister saw her off when she left the family's residence in the Akasaka Estate in Tokyo.

The couple first met in 2012 and has been in a relationship since their schooling at the International Christian University in Tokyo. They were unofficially engaged in 2017 but the marriage was postponed due to a financial dispute involving Komuro's mother.

Komuro has said he was "trying to settle a financial dispute involving his mother."

Japan's imperial agency had earlier this month announced a date for their marriage following which Komuro returned from New York where he works for a law firm.

The duo plan to settle down in the US after the former princess receives her passport.

Japan's imperial family does not need travel documents for travel, however, if a female member decides to marry outside, she loses the status and has to formally apply for travel documents. Soon after their restricted marriage ceremony was held, Mako and Komuro opted to only give opening remarks during a news conference and released answers to five selected questions.

Uzbekistan is ready to use Sputnik Light vaccine

WEB DESK

TASHKENT: Uzbekistan is ready to use the Sputnik Light single-component vaccine. This was reported by RIA Novosti citing the head of the service of sanitary and epidemiological welfare and public health (SES) of Uzbekistan, Bakhodir Yusupaliyev.

Bakhodir Yusupaliyev noted that the country is ready to use Sputnik Light as well. "I see no obstacles," he added. According to him, single-dose drugs are very convenient and "ideally, it would be very useful to come to single-dose vaccines." "I think we need to expand the range of vaccines. The pandemic is still here, the more vaccines and access there are, the more effective the vaccination system will work," Yusupaliyev added.

Dozens held in global dark web crackdown

AGENCIES

LONDON: Police around the world have arrested 150 suspects involved in buying or selling illegal goods online.

Announcing the arrests, Europol said on Tuesday that the operation was one of the largest-ever stings targeting the dark web.

Operation DarkHunTOR also recovered millions of euros in cash and bitcoin, as well as drugs and guns.

The bust stems from a German-led police sting earlier this year taking down the "world's largest" darknet marketplace. Dark HunTOR, "was composed of a series of separate but complementary actions in Australia, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States," the Hague-based Europol said. In the United States alone, police arrested 65 people, while 47 were held in Germany, 24 in Britain, and four each in Italy and the Netherlands, among others.

Briefs

Sisi lifts state of emergency

NEWS DESK

CAIRO: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi has announced the lifting of a years-long nationwide state of emergency. The measure had been in place since the April 2017 bombings of two Coptic churches by an affiliate of the ISIL (ISIS) armed group that killed more than 40 people and wounded dozens more. Coptic Christians account for about 10 percent of Egypt's population of some 100 million. "Egypt has become, thanks to its great people and its loyal men, an oasis of security and stability in the region," el-Sisi said on Facebook on Monday evening. "This is why I decided to cancel the renewal of the state of emergency throughout the country," he added. Prominent Egyptian activist Hossam Bahgat welcomed the decision, saying it would stop the use of emergency state security courts, although it would not apply to some high-profile cases already referred to such courts. Egypt's state of emergency allowed the authorities to make arrests and search people's homes without warrants. Constitutional rights such as freedom of speech and assembly were curtailed.

ASEAN summit begins without Myanmar

AGENCIES

JAKARTA: Southeast Asian leaders have begun their annual summit without Myanmar, after its military refused to send a representative to the three-day meeting in protest over the exclusion of its top general. Neither Brunei, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) chair, nor the bloc's secretary-general made a mention of the no-show in opening remarks at Tuesday's virtual meeting. In an unprecedented move, ASEAN on October 15 agreed to bar Myanmar's military chief Min Aung Hlaing, who toppled a civilian government on February 1, over his failure to implement a peace plan he agreed with ASEAN in April towards ending a bloody political crisis triggered by the coup. The move was a rare bold step by a regional grouping known for its non-interference and engagement. ASEAN is made up of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Myanmar joined in 1997 under a previous military government.

Spain discovers two mass graves

FOREIGN DESK

MADRID: Spanish authorities have uncovered two graves containing the bodies of dozens of victims from the Civil War. The graves were found after archaeological excavations at a cemetery in Belchite, in the northern province of Zaragoza. The site was one of the bloodiest battlefields during the Spanish Civil War between 1936 and 1939. Officials say fifteen bodies have been found in one of the graves, and estimate that the remains of around 150 people could be buried there. A total of 400 people from Belchite and the surrounding area were killed in the town during the war following the 1936 coup, led by former dictator Francisco Franco. Excavation work on the graves indicates that the victims suffered "significant violence" before their execution. Most of the skeletal remains found belonged to men and women between the ages of 20 and 40 years old.

Kashmir issue must be resolved as per UN resolution

Ambassador said that people of Azerbaijan love the people of Pakistan and they raised the Pakistani flags after the victory of patriotic war

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Hazar Farhadov on Tuesday said that Azerbaijan support Pakistan on Kashmir issue and it must be resolved according to the United Nations (UN) resolution. While addressing the students of international relations department during his visit to National University of Modern Languages (NUML), he said that Azerbaijan consider Pakistan a close friend and a brotherly country and soon students exchange programs, cultural events and joint research in various fields will be carried out to promote people to people contact. He went on saying that Pakistan supported Azerbaijan on the recent patriotic war of Azerbaijan. Rector NUML Major General Muhammad Jaffar HI (M) (r) Director General NUML Brig Syed Nadir Ali, Pro Rector Acad Prof. Dr. Saifeer Awan, Pro Rector Research



Dr. Zubair Ghauri, Dean Social Sciences Dr. Mustafeez Alvi, HoD IR, faculty members and large number of students also attended the session. Ambassador said that people of Azerbaijan love the people of Pakistan and they raised the Pakistani flags after the victory of patriotic war. He said that Pakistan IT, medicine and agri sectors have very much potential and both the country work together to enhance the bilateral trade relations. Earlier, the ambassador met with Rector NUML in his office and discussed the topics of mutual interest. Both the leaders were agreed to start student exchange programs and between NUML and Azerbaijan university. Rector NUML presented the NUML memento to the honorable guest and thanked him for visiting NUML. Ambassador visited the pictorial exhibition themed on patriotic war of Azerbaijan and delivered a lecture on the said topic to the students.

Centre to support BAP's choice for Balochistan CM post

The chief minister's seat was vacated after former Balochistan CM Jam Kamal Khan stepped down from the post on Sunday

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has announced its support for any candidate the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) names as the new chief minister of Balochistan. The chief minister's seat was vacated after former Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan stepped down from the post on Sunday. Following his announcement, disgruntled members of the BAP and the Opposition, who had gathered at Balochistan Assembly speaker Abdul Qudoos Bizenjo's residence, celebrated their

triumph by flashing a victory sign. Following CM Khan's resignation, Bizenjo had also resigned from his post. Today, Minister for Defence Pervez Khattak at a press conference in Islamabad after a meeting with the Senate chairman, announced the government's decision to support the BAP candidate. "We will support the decision of the majority within the BAP," Khattak said, when asked who the Centre would support as the new Balochistan chief minister. While responding to another question about whether the federal government will support Bizenjo, who

has been nominated by Balochistan Awami Party, Khattak said that it is BAP that has to reach a decision regarding Bizenjo. We will support the decision made by the parliamentary group of BAP, he said. Earlier in the day, PTI Balochistan's parliamentary committee said it has decided to nominate MPA Sardar Yar Muhammad Rind as the candidate for Balochistan chief minister. The decision was made at a meeting chaired by Rind held in Quetta to discuss the current political situation of the province. Balochistan MPAs Mir Naimat Zehri, Umar Khan Jamali, Deputy Speaker

of Balochistan Assembly Babar Moosakhail, Mubin Khilji, and Farida Rind attended the meeting. The meeting mutually agreed upon nominating Rind as the candidate for the chief minister's post and Sardar Babar Moosakhail as the speaker for Balochistan assembly. During the meeting, a two-member committee was also formed to communicate with the allied parties in Balochistan. It was stated during the meeting that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has voted for the allied parties in the past for the appointment of the leader of the House, speaker of the assembly, and in senate elections several times.

SC orders to end commercialization of CAA lands

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Expressing its displeasure over the construction of marriage halls on the lands allotted to the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA), the Supreme Court Monday ordered an end to all commercial activities on the lands across the country. Chief Justice of Pakistan Gulzar Ahmed issued the ruling while hearing a case pertaining to the allotment of CAA's lands to others at the SC's Karachi Registry. The apex court ordered that the lands allotted to CAA must be used for airport purposes only. During today's hearing, the court asked the CAA DG that what did they do with the lands allotted to them earlier? Why did you need more land? questioned the judge. "Marriage halls are being run on the lands of CAA," the court said and asked the DG that if CAA's job is to run marriage halls. Snubbing the DG CAA, the CJP said, "Then you should build marriage halls on the airports as well." The CJP said that 200 acres of lands were allotted to CAA for airports not for running marriage halls. The CAA DG apprised the apex court that they needed the land for a new cargo terminal. The CJP further said that the entire Karachi airport has been ruined.

Islamabad police arrest three TTP 'extortionists'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) of Islamabad police Tuesday arrested three terrorists associated with the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Speaking at a press conference, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) CTD Jamil Zafar Malik said the arrested terrorists used to write letters to businessmen and owners of educational institutions, demanding extortion money. "The terrorists demanded a total of Rs300 million extortion through 10 letters writ-

ten to different people," he said, adding they also wrote to the CTD threatening its officials with attacks if they acted against the suspects. One of the arrested militants Bakht Sherren is a former TTP commander from Swat, he said adding the militants were supported by their accomplices in Afghanistan and used to write letters from there for extortion money. The SSP said one of the letters written claimed the kidnapping of former Prime Minister Yousaf Reza Gilani's son. Following directions of IGP Islamabad Qazi Jameel-ur-Rehman, he said had constituted teams to ensure arrest of the accused.



ISLAMABAD: Qatari ambassador to Pakistan Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani calls on minister aviation Ghulam Sarwar Khan. During the meeting, bilateral relations and ways of developing them in addition to other matters of common interest were discussed. - DNA

China, Pak working together for regional peace

China is playing an important role in supporting developing countries especially in the times of pandemic: Mushahid Hussain

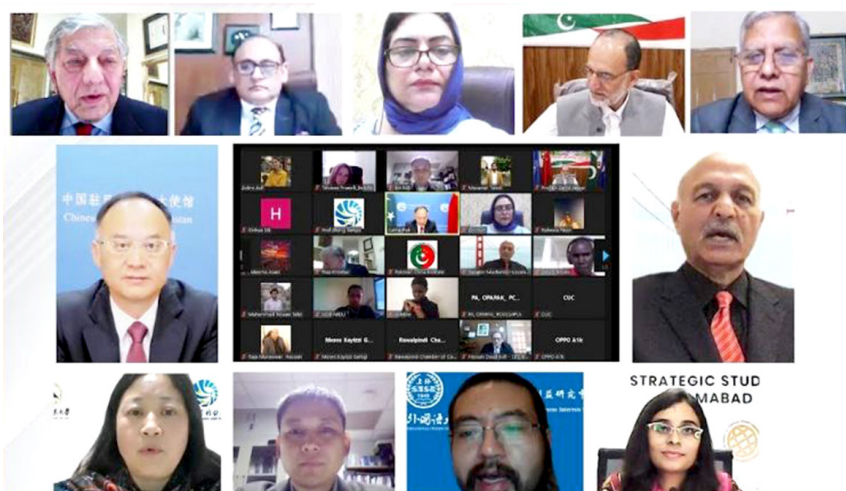
STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Online Conference on "50th Anniversary of the Restoration of the Lawful Seat of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations" Jointly organized by Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad & Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Islamabad. H.E Nong Rong, Ambassador of People's Republic of China to Pakistan in his opening remarks stated that he is grateful to the Center to Center for Global and Strategic Studies (CGSS), for its efforts and to all panelists and participants for joining. He discussed China's history and its participation in international affairs. He praised Pakistan's and China's friendship and stated that it is of great importance to our country and its leadership. H.E NongRong stated that China is always committed to the well-being of developing countries and it is always standing with them. Also, China-Pakistan are standing together and working together in enhancing its bilateral ties over the past 70 years. He mentioned that China and Pakistan are cognitive partners and are promoting peace and development together. He concluded by stating that Pakistan has always been a priority of China's diplomacy and it will con-

tinue to support Pakistan on International platforms and diplomatic grounds. The bilateral relations between our countries will play an important role on regional and international levels. Senator Mushahid Hussain, Chairman, Senate Defense Committee & Former Minister of Information and Broadcasting of Pakistan shared his views on China: Engine of The World's Economic Growth. He mentioned that Pakistan is looking closely to work with China for Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs) 2030. He highlighted China's importance in the international arena that China is playing an important role in supporting developing countries especially in the times of pandemic. He stated that China is at peaceful rise that is unique in global history. We have seen China's rise in fields of technology, artificial intelligence, academia, medical sciences, agriculture, research and many others. He mentioned few reasons behind the rise of China that include its peaceful foreign policy, quality leadership,

willingness to learn from others, and mainly the fact that it has not involved itself in any war since last 40 years. Ambassador Riaz Khokhar, Former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan discussed Global China: President Xi Jinping's Foreign Policy, he stated that China is a great country and its rise is unstoppable. Also, China is country with great civilization, culture, history and values. He highlighted the reasons behind the success and rise of China that it has only focused on peaceful development. He praised the policies of President Xi Jinping that he supports multilateralism and peace. While praising China, he mentioned that China is the 2nd largest contributor of United Nations budget and has always supported peace building. He also shared that China has greatly contributed in solving the key issues being faced by global community including Climate change, pandemics, development etc. Prof. Zhang Yanqiu, Deputy Dean, Institute of a Community with Shared Future, Communication University of China, Beijing discussed China's Success in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals of United Nations. She stated that development is mankind's eternal pursuit. Therefore, leaving no one behind is China's shared responsibility. Also, China has always been willing to help all nations realize the UN goals for sustainability.



Govt asks IMF to relax Covid spending ceiling by \$2b

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has borrowed \$3.1 billion in the past three months, including money for vaccine procurements, amid its requests to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to relax the spending ceiling by around \$2 billion for expenditures on mitigation of coronavirus disease. The request for upward adjustment of the budget limit ceiling by around Rs352 billion or \$2 billion is part of the fiscal adjusters that the government sought during recently held negotiations against the primary budget deficit target for the fiscal year 2021-22. The government sought the relaxation for both the procurements of vaccines and other coronavirus-related mitigation measures, said the sources. They said that the IMF was seeking disclosure of terms of the vaccine procurements. The discussions also held on the government's request to also allow non-vaccine procurement expenditure outside the new primary deficit target, said the sources. It was not clear whether the IMF also agreed to book the non-vaccine procurement expenditure over and above the primary budget deficit target.

No one can override Islamic inheritance law: Faez Isa

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday said that the Islamic Law of Inheritance regarding the distribution of property cannot be altered by the judiciary or jirgas as the matter was settled about 1,400 years ago. The remarks were made during a hearing of a plea filed against a decision of the Peshawar High Court (PHC) pertaining to the distribution of the property among the heirs of the deceased named Habibullah. The heirs hailing from Swat had approached the court for equal distribution of their property after a jirga decided to distribute property among the heirs. A two members bench comprising Justice Qazi Faez Isa and Justice Yahya Afridi heard the case over a property dispute in Swat. During the hearing, Justice Isa said the law given by Islam for inheritance was final and no one, including courts, could change that. He said the decision of jirga in the said case was not "greater than the divine religion".

US NSA meets Myanmar's shadow govt

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: A top US official has held a virtual meeting with two representatives of Myanmar's National Unity Government (NUG), an administration set up by opponents of the February 1 military coup that plunged the country into chaos. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan met Duwa Lashi La and Zin Mar Aung from the NUG in a virtual meeting on Monday, the White House said in a statement. Sullivan stressed "continued US support for the pro-democracy movement" in Myanmar and discussed ongoing efforts to restore democracy in the wake of the military's power grab. He also expressed concern "over the oppression's brutal violence" and said the US would "continue to promote accountability for the coup". More than 1,000 people have been killed since the armed forces under Senior General Min Aung Hlaing seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy party nine months ago.