

Mana

Friday, October 29, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

Dr Nouman taken off air after on-screen spat ruined national with Shoaib Akhtar

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

Detailed News On Page-06

Govt writ to

be established

PPP, PML-N institutions

Detailed News On Page-01



Amb. Mansoor Khan receives Afghan students

Detailed News On Page-08

INDONESIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY



Briefs

Khursheed slams govt amid protest

News Desk

SUKKUR: Senior Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Khursheed Shah has said that

the govern ment failed to control the ongoing protest of the proscribed Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) as the "rulers do not live up to their words." Speaking to the media on Thursday, Shah said the centre and the Punjab government were helpless to take the country out of the prevailing crisis in the country. "What is happening in the country is a failure of Islamabad and the Punjab government," he claimed.

Bizenjo becomes CM Balochistan

DNA

QUETTA: The Balochistan Awami Party's (BAP) leader Mir Abdul Qaddos Bizenjo

been has elected as the chief minister of Balochistan unopposed. The development comes a day after PTI Parliamentary Leader Sardar Yar Mohammad Rind announced that he was pulling out of the race and backing Bizenjo for the chief minister's slot, bringing an end to the political void in the province. Besides Rind, no other candidate in the provincial assembly filed nomination papers to contest against Bizenjo.

Khaqan Abbasi ridicules accountability process

SHAHEEN HANIF



prime minister and senior PML-N leader Shahid Khaqan

Abbasi on Thursday ridiculed the ongoing accountability process, saying he has to appear thrice in court during the current week. Talking to reporters outside an accountability court in Islamabad, Khaqan Abbasi said the new accountability law has been introduced which is beyond the comprehension of any person.

Inside..

Petroleum dealers call for raise in

profit margin

WMS complaint system constantly

monitored: Tahir

China-Pak to make Gwadar better

port for business

Imran's talks with

the Pakistan Taliban

won't bring peace

David Warner

stars as Australia

beat Sri Lanka

Romania plays vital

role in Azerbaijan-NATO cooperation

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come what may Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid asks TLP when the French ambassador is not present in the country, then why are you marching to Islamabad? TLP march

Gujranwala GUJRANWALA: Some 4,000 TLP workers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister guarded the procession from all sides. The Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed on Thursday said rally was expected to bypass Gujranwala that Pakistan is an atomic power, which is city and continue its journey towards Iswhy internal powers are trying to weaken the lamabad after crossing the Qila Chand bycountry. Speaking during a TV show" about pass. However, the procession continued the protests launched by the proscribed on a straight path and has now reached Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) and the Sheranwala Bagh in Gujranwala's Old government's strategy to deal with the situ- Town. The marchers are next expected to ation, Rasheed said: "You are our brothers, reach General Bus Stand via City Flyover.

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Continued on Page 06

reaches

STAFF REPORT

travelled on the Grand Truck Road in large

trucks and buses along with their supplies.

as stick-wielding activists of the group

Pak, Germany sign debt suspension initiative

After the initiative, Pakistan economic woes are likely to be lessened albeit not at a large scale

Ansar M Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Germany, through KfW (the German Development Bank) and the Government of Pakistan, represented by the Ministry of Economic Affairs signed an agreement for the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI Phase-II) for Euro 26.213 million. The signing of this agreement coincides with the forthcoming

Continued on Page 06



Top military huddle reviews security environment

RAWALPINDI: To discuss

Services Chiefs expressed

Continued on Page 06

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugio and Ambassadors and High Commissioners of the Netherlands, Vietnam, Australian, Czech Republic, Jordan and Morocco cutting cake to celebrate Indonesian independence day. - DNA **PM Imran** Pakistan needs to **summons NSC** meeting tell its narrative Top civil and military leadership

Security Adviser (NSA) Moeed Yusuf on Thursday said that Pakistan needed to "unapologetically" share its narrative with the world.

in Islamabad on national Continued on Page 06

Pakistan (TLP). In a tweet, the minister said that the meeting had been summoned in light of the situation arising out of the "illegal activities" by the banned group. "Other issues related to national security will also be discussed in the meeting," he said. Chaudhry's statement comes as thousands of TLP workers left Kamoke neared Gujranwala city on Thursday morning,

to mull TLP

handling

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for

Information and Broadcasting

Fawad Chaudhry on Thurs-

day said that Prime Minister

Imran Khan had summoned

Security Committee (NSC)

for tomorrow (Friday) due to

the continuing protests by the

proscribed Tehreek-i-Labbaik

US spying operations against China

continuing with their long march to Islamabad.

WEB DESK

NEW YORK: The US has carried out at least 2,000 spying operations against China this year, so far, a Chinese military expert has claimed. "The targets of these missions include Chinese-controlled islands and reefs in the South China Sea, as well as the coastal area of the Chinese mainland," said Cao Yanzhong, a researcher with the People's Liberation Army Academy of Military Science.

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: National

Munir Akram vows to standby Kashmiris

DNA

NEW YORK: Pakistan's Consulate in New York Wednesday organized a special event to observe Kashmir Black Day, with Ambassador Munir Akram urging a youthful audience to get involved in building public opinion in support Kashmiri people's struggle for their right to self-determination. Almost half of the gathering at the event, which marks

Continued on Page 06

'PPP. PML-N ruined national institutions'

Govt was unable to give subsidy on daily use items

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain on Thursday said that the PPP and PML-N, during their tenures, ruined the national institutions.



Chaudhry Fawad Hussain addressing a ceremony said that the government was unable to give subsidy on daily use items especially edibles and petroleum products due to repayment of the foreign loans taken by

Continued on Page 06

DNA

Defence and Security environment, a meeting of the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) and all Service Chiefs was held at Joint Staff Headquarters (JSHQ) today. General Nadeem Raza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee presided over the meeting, which was attended by General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi, Chief of Naval Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmad Babar Sidhu, Chief of Air Staff.

The participants discussed a range of security related issues, including fast-paced developments in the realm of strategic and conventional policies, the importance of peace in Afghanistan for sustainable development in the region, the shared challenges faced, work plan of the Tri-Services and operational preparedcomplete satisfaction and full confidence in readiness of the Defence Forces. The participants also reaffirmed the resolve of the Armed Forces to respond to the entire spectrum of threat in the most befitting manner in line with a comprehensive security strategy. They also lauded the sacrifices of security forces in the fight against terrorism.



DROP COLOR

YOUR HAIR COLORING CREAM







US general confirms Chinese hypersonic weapons test

China's foreign ministry denied a weapons test. It said it had carried out a routine test in July, but added: "It was not a missile, it was a space vehicle"

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: The top US military officer, General Mark Milley, has provided the first official US confirmation of a Chinese hypersonic weapons test that military experts say appears to show Beijing's pursuit of an Earth-orbiting system designed to evade American missile defences.

The Pentagon has been at Sudan ruling pains to avoid direct confirmilitary sacks mation of the Chinese test its six envoys - Page 08 this summer, first reported by the Financial Times,

even as President Joe Biden and other officials have expressed general concerns about Chinese hypersonic weapons development.

But Milley explicitly confirmed a test and said that it was "very close" to a Sputnik moment - referring Russia's 1957 launch of



the first man-made satellite, which put Moscow ahead in the Cold War-era space race. "What we saw was a very significant event of a test of a hypersonic weapon system. And it is very concerning," Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. told television, in an interview aired on Wednesday. Nuclear arms experts say China's weapons test appeared to be designed to evade US defences in two ways. First, hypersonics move at speeds of more

Continued on Page 06



FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Ali Shahzad chairs a meeting regarding Reach Every Door Corona Campaign. - DNA

Corona vaccination at doorstep in full swing, says DC

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: On the orders of Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Bazdar, a special campaign to vaccinate the citizens against Corona is in full swing and teams of health department are in fields to achieve the targets of Reach Every Door(RED) campaign.

Deputy Commissioner Ali Shehzad reviewed the performance of vaccination teams with reference to Corona Vaccine Reach Every Door (RED) campaign. Additional Deputy Commis-

FESCO

serves

notices on

11 defaulters

sioner Headquarters Muhammad Khalid, Assistant Commissioner City Sahibzada Muhammad Yousuf, District Health Officer Dr. Bilal Ahmad and other officers were also present.

The Deputy Commissioner said that the Punjab Government has launched a massive Corona Vaccine Reach Every Door (RED) campaign to protect the lives of the citizens which will continue till November 12. He asked the District Health Authority officials to achieve the daily target of the campaign in this regard, all means should be used for

public awareness. He said that full monitoring of the campaign is underway in which there is no room for negligence.He also reviewed the progress of Corona Vaccine Reach

Assistant Commissioners to ensure the success of the campaign.

Every Door (RED) cam-

paign at tehsil level during

the meeting and urged the

He said that to protect the lives of people from an epidemic like corona, vaccination is necessary so people must get vaccinated so that the dear homeland can be made free from Corona.

Habitat survey

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) on Thursday served final notices on 11 default government departments for recovery of pending electricity bills worth of Rs 530 million.

FESCO According to spokesperson,the departments should pay their due bills within a week or face disconnection. He said several notices were already issued to the defaulter de-

partments but in vein. He highlighted that Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) was the biggest defaulter with an amount of Rs 470 million and University of Agriculture on second with default amount of Rs

24.3 million. Sui Northern Gas owed Rs 10 million, Pakistan Railways Rs 1.42 million, Punjab Police Rs 5.93 million, District Health Authority 4.75 million, Revenue District Government Rs 1.05 million, TMA Lyallpur Town Rs 4.68 million, TMA Madina Town Rs 2.09 million, TMA Iqbal Town Rs 4.08 million, National Highways Authority Rs 4.06 million.

DPO Khyber suspends 15 personnel

PESHAWAR: District Police Officer (DPO), Khyber has ordered the suspension of 15 police personnel with immediate effect due to the alleged corrupt practices and extorting money from Transit Trade Vehicles.

The payment of salaries to those personnel has been stopped and directed to report to police lines, said an order issued here on Thursday. The suspended personnel were performing duties at various points of Torkham, Landi Kotal, Police Station Jamrud and Highway Traffic Police. - APP

PTI govt believes in inclusive development

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek e-Insaf (PTI) leader Mehdi Bhatti and MNA Shaukat Bhatti MNA met Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar on Thursday to discuss Hafizabad development package and constituency related problems.

CM said that the present government was committed to develop every area as it believed in inclusive devel

opment. He further said that most of the areas including Hafizabad, were badly ignored in the past. - APP

of biodiversity completed

PESHAWAR: Team of Wildlife Department D I Khan division has successfully completed first-ever wildlife and habitat survey in South Waziristan district.

"The five-day survey was conducted jointly with support and cooperation of different departments including Pakistan Forest Institute (PFI), WWF-Pakistan, Zoological Survey of Pakistan (ZSP) and Pakistan Museum of Natural History (PMNH)," DFO Wild-

life Khan Malook said. Talking to APP here on Thursday, Khan Malook said on the basis of survey conducted in South Waziristan. measures would be taken for protection of wild species and their habitats in biodiversity rich areas including Koh-e-Suleman, Ladha, Makeen

and Shwal. The survey was planned under the flagship Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Wildlife Programme and was completed in five consecutive days, Malook told APP.

All the survey team members worked with zeal and full dedication during the whole process and completed the task according to schedule. On the first day of the sur-

vey, starting from D I Khan to Drazinda and FR-Sherani area, the survey team members witnessed a number of birds, animals, plant, reptiles and amphibians, Khan Malook added.

The team also inspected various flora and fauna in Kohe-Suleman and its adjacent areas, he said.

The whole area was found very productive from biodiversity point of view and the survey will prove very fruitful, he hoped.

During visit to Gomal Zam Dam site, a meeting was also held with unit in-charge of Frontier Crops, Maj Rizwan Ullah Cheema and discussed with him the protection of wildlife in general and migratory birds to site in particular. Khan Malook said that during visit to Toi Khulla, Gull Katch and Zarmilana area a number of species including See-see, Chakor, Partridges, Steppe eagles, ducks and various other birds were seen on the way. – APP

Capt(r) Usman inaugurates vaccination vans

DNA

LAHORE: Commissioner Lahore Capt R Usman Younas has inaugurated Mobile Vaccination vans by Oil Marketing Association of Pakistan (OMAP) here on Thursday. Chairman OMAP Tariq Wazir Ali, Senior Vice President Tarig Mahmood and other officials were present on occasion.

While addressing on occasion, Commissioner Lahore Usman Younus said that government wants to vaccinate every citizen and this initiative will help government in acheiving its goal. He said that OMAP paractically took a step for corona free noble cause which is commendable. Commissioner went on to say that Lahore will be made Pakistan's first corona free city very soon. He announced that families will also be vaccinated at the petrol pumps through this initiative while health department has provided all the supporting staff and equipments.Chairman OMAP Tariq Wazir Ali said that OMAP has started this initiative of free covid vaccinatioan van to support PM Imran's vision of corona free Pakistan.

16 'criminals' held, drugs, weapons seized

FAISALABAD: Police Thursday arrested 16 alleged criminals and recovered drugs and illegal weapons from them.

According to police, raiding teams nabbed five drug-pushers and recovered 2.07-kg hashish and 42 litres of liquor from them. The police also held four

gamblers and recovered Rs

14,320 from them. In a crackdown on illegal weapons, police arrested seven persons and recovered five pistols, one rifle, one Kalashnikov and a number of bullets from them. - APP

LODHRAN: A number of members of the Pakistan petroleum dealers Association Lodhran, on Tuesday took to the street for acceptance increase in their margin of profit (commission). The protest rally which began from Press Club Lodhran paraded the main roads up to the Faisal Mas-

The demonstrators carried banners and placards inscribed with their demand of the increase of their commission.

jid Chowk.

SAQIB MUSHTAQ

Speaking to the protesters, President Khawaja Sajad Ahmed & Ali Sheeraz General Sectery Petroleum Dealers Associatio Lodhran, said that due to high price of essential commodities, their expenditure had increased manifold due to which which the running of fuel

pumps had become very difficult.

They said one hundred percent increase in power Terrif, increase in the salaries of theirs employees and hundred percent increase in oil Expenditure power generation due to price hike in oil had made things difficult for them. They claimed that due

to increase in all sorts of strained to demonstrate

Petroleum dealers

call for raise in

profit margin

They claimed that due to increase in all sorts of operation cost, it was now very difficult to run the fuel pumps

> operation cost, it was now very difficult to run the fuel pumps. They contended that the government according to its commitment with pump dealers during the previous years had not increased their margin of profit in accordance with the consumer price index

They said they were con-

for the just demand. They demanded that the government immediately increase their rate of commission otherwise they would not be in a sound financial position to purchase bulk supply of oil to further sell it to the consumers and motorist. This may lead automatically to the closure of petrol pumps and fuel stations.



KP CM inaugurates several uplift projects

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan on Thursday inaugurated multiple development projects in district Torghar and also addressed a public gathering. The chief minister laid the foundation stone of Rescue 1122 building to be completed at a cost of Rs 60 million. He also performed groundbreaking of 9 km long Goryard to Danda Japeet road and 11 km long Shagai to Kalish road which would be completed at a cost of Rs.185 million.

Similarly, he inaugurated a project to supply electricity to the Mada Khel area of district TOR Ghar. The project has been completed at a cost of Rs 120 million. The chief minister also visited the martyr's monument in Police Line Jadba and laid a wreath at the monument. During his visit, the chief minister also condoled with the bereaved families of the Jatka incident in which 12 precious lives were lost. Later, addressing the public gathering at Torghar, Mahmood Khan announced

projects for the district. He announced a special developmental package worth Rs 300 million for the construction of approach roads, water supply schemes and other development projects

a number of development



in the area.

He assured for immediate operationalization of NAD-RA and passport offices at Torghar and directed the deputy commissioner to present details of all the crucial issues of the district so that they could be resolved as soon as possible. He said that all the problems of district Torghar would be resolved on priority. "Incumbent provincial government believes in the uniform development in the province," he said and added that a District Development Plan worth Rs.62 billion had been introduced for the sustainable development of backward districts. The chief minister said that

each and every penny was being spent on the welfare of the public adding that merit and transparency was the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan and manifesto of the party as well which

would be implemented at all cost. He said that no compromise

would be made on the quality of development projects across the province. He added that due to misplanning of development sectors in the past, the country was facing a difficult situation and huge economic problems; however he said that PM Imran Khan was striving hard to bring the country out of this difficult situation and to give maximum relief to vulnerable

segments of the society. He said that the incumbent government had launched Ehsas Program for the purpose under which multiple initiatives have been taken like Ehsas Panagah, Ehsas Lunger Khana, Ehsas Amadan, Ehsas Cash Emergency and other people friendly programs.

In order to provide free treatment facilities to people, the provincial government had launched the Sehat Card Plus scheme which was undoubtedly a flagship project of the provincial government.

Similarly, Kissan Card had been launched to provide financial assistance to the farmers of the province under which manures, pesticides and other essential items were available on concessional rates.

Dist admin making efforts for public grievances

PESHAWAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Mardan, Habibullah Arif has said that district administration is making all-out efforts to address the grievances of the general public.

He said that they are public servants and will resolve their problems on priority basis.

He expressed these views while addressing an Open Kachehri in Tehsil Municipal Administration (TMA) office Mardan on Thursday. Besides, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) (Finance). Nek Mohammad Commissioner Assistant (AC) Saman Abbas and Town Municipal Officer (TMO), Shiraz Khan, the concerned officers of other departments and a large number of the general public also attended the cere-

On this occasion, people highlight complaints relating to illegal auto-rickshaws. traffic systems, faulty traffic signals and drinking water problems. .

DC termed open kachehri a highly useful platform wherein the general public present their grievances before the government authorities that take immediate steps for their redressal and restore the confidence of the people on departments.

He assured that a time frame has been given for the resolution of the problems highlighted during the open kachehri, saying the concerned departments would be asked to furnish progress reports on them. – **APP**

539 new dengue cases reported in Punjab

LAHORE: Dengue claimed two lives while 539 new confirmed cases have been reported during the last 24 hours across the province. This was stated by Primary

and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) Secretary Imran Sikandar Baloch here on Thursday. According to a statement issued,423 cases of dengue fever were reported from Lahore,32 from Rawalpindi, 9 from Faisalabad, 7 from Kasur, 6 from Gujranwala, Okara and Shiekhupura, 5 from Sargodha and Sialkot, 4 from Bahawalnagar, 3 from Hafizabad and Khushab. So far this year, 12,224 confirmed cases of dengue have been reported across the province, while 8,203 confirmed cases of dengue have been reported from Lahore, he added.

A total of 2,321 patients were admitted across Punjab out of which 1,367 patients were admitted in hospitals of Lahore, while 954 patients were admitted in hospitals of other cities of Punjab. - APP

Govt striving to promote peace in province: Augustine

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Human Rights and Minorities Affairs Ejaz Alam Augustine Thursday said that religious harmony and societal tolerance were essential for peace while the government was striving to promote love and peace in

He expressed these views while addressing the interfaith harmony conference here at a local hotel. Eminent scholars and political and religious personalities attended the huddle.

Provincial Minister Ejaz Alam said every person has to play its role along with the government to promote peace in society, adding that the government's numerous measures and leg islation, for protecting the rights of religious minorities, have achieved far-reaching results.

He said that Pakistan has always conveyed the message of harmony, love and unity to the world as the beloved homeland has an ideal identity in terms of interfaith harmony.

The minister emphasized

that religious minorities have conveyed the message of respect for humanity and peace to the world community. Other speakers also expressed their views and appreciated steps taken by the government for promoting religious harmony at the grassroots. - APP



Collective efforts needed for progress of country

Ch Sarwar paid tribute to the services of the late Dr Ajmal Niazi in the field of journalism

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar said on Thursday that collective efforts were required for progress and prosperity in the country. He was addressing a condolence reference, held in the memory of

Alhamra Hall. Ch Sarwar paid tribute to the services of the late Dr Ajmal Niazi in the field of journalism.

senior columnist Dr Ajmal Niazi at

"Ajmal Niazi always wrote in the interest of the nation and highlighted the problems of common man and his services in the field of journalism would always be remembered," he added.

He said that when people from all walks of life including politics and journalism would do their job honestly, no power in the world would be able to stop Pakistan from moving forward. Later, talking to the media, the

governor said that federal and provincial governments were not afraid of the opposition. He said it was not the first time that the opposition parties had announced staging protest against the government, adding that the opposi-



tion parties, including Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman, had staged a long

march and protest in the past, but they failed to achieve their goals. To a question, he said that coalition parties were with the govern-

Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar said that unfortunately the opposition parties give priority to their personal interests over national interest therefore, the opposition parties were also obstructing the electoral reforms.

Electoral reforms were necessary for fair and transparent elections, and the opposition should play its role in this regard, he added.

The governor said that crimes against Indian Muslims had risen, since Narendra Modi had come to power. He said that Indian government, police and all organisations were fully supporting the terrorist organisation RSS, that was targeting Muslims, adding that the terrorism being committed by the India in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir was in front of everyone.

He urged the international human rights bodies including the United Nations to take stern notice in this regard. - APP

SERVICES



Namaz Timings

Fajr	04:59 am
Zohr	11:52 pm
Asr	03:42 pm
Maghrib	.05:20 pm
Isha	06:44 pm



Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines

Turkish Airlines......8494949



Emergency

Rescue (1 once)		
Bomb Disposal15		
Fire Services Rawalpindi,		
Islamabad1122 & 16		
Emergency Ambulance1122		
& Rescue Services.4451122		
Motorway Police9266044		
Motorway Police9270601-20		
Women Police Stations		
Islamabad9222596		
Rawalpindi9270601-20		



Edhi Ambulance	115
PIAFlightInfo	114
PIA Cargo	.9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange9	270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	.9281092



Hospitals

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



Departments

_ op a	
CDA9221334-43	3
CDA9208301-04	4
Met Office9250360-6	6
RDA5555864	1
TMA5770886	6
Cantonment Board 9270151-3	3



Complaints

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

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
RawalTown	5773343

Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....0331-5022125

WMS complaint system constantly monitored: Tahir

Each case is decided in 60 days and by using the modern media tools; ratio of online complaints has been increased

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Ombudsman Syed Tahir Shahbaz on Thursday said that WMS complaint integrated system permanently monitors the complaint system of every department and after failure to resolve a complaint within 30 days, it automatically shifted on Wafaqi Mohtasib Complaint Management System.

He said that every case is decided in 60 days and by using the modern media

Around

1093 cases

received on

ZARA app

ISLAMABAD: The Zainab

Alert app has been launched

on Citizen's Portal at rele-

vant regional and district

levels for combating emer-

gency effectively and recov-

ery of missing or abducted

According to Ministry of

Human Rights, around 1093

cases in which 655 open

cases, ,439 closed cases

and 466 cases had been re-

ceived on ZARA app during

The basic purpose of this

App was to initiate a quick

response as soon as a com-

It has connected the DPOs to the system and the com-

plaint directly reaches to

The App keeps a track of

the missing child case and all the process taking place from preliminary examination to verification, regis-

tration of FIR and investiga-

one year.

plaint is lodged.

the concerned.

tools, ratio of online complaints has been increased. He said that investigation process is started soon after filing of a complaint. The Ombudsman informed them that to resolve the is-

sues of Overseas Pakistan-

is, a Focal Person has been

designated in every Embas-

sy of Pakistan abroad. He said that with the efforts of this secretariat, a proper formal/technical education system has been started in all jails of Pakistan. He was talking to the members of Youth Parliament which



visited WMS in the leadership of their chairman Mr.

Rizwan Jafar. The Ombudsman said that ture of nation. They are progressive and have the potential to bring revolution. With their vigor and talent, they can build up society

and inspire others to do the

same with their talent and

positive attitude. The Ombudsman invited the members of Youth Parliament to be the ambassadors of this Institution for giving awareness on the role of Wafaqi Mohtasib

among people. Before that the members of

the youth is the strength of society and face of the fugiven detailed briefing on the role of Wafaqi Mohtasib. They were informed that no money is expensed by the complainant for filing a complaint against any federal agency and every case is decided within a period of 60 days. Upon from written notices, the complainant was informed through SMS at every step of the complaint. The complainant has been given the opportunity to appear in the hearing proceedings through WhatsApp or Skype, they informed.

OGRA suggests large storage facilities to absorb abrupt price hike

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has suggested developing 'large scale' storage facilities to absorb the abrupt price hike in international market and avoid its negative impact on consumers in the country.

"Industry cargo size be enhanced up to 60,000 to 80,000 Metric Tons to save freight, premiums etc and necessary facilities be developed to cope with interlink challenges at ports,' the authority gave these suggestions to the Senate's Standing Committee Cabinet Secretariat held the other day.

OGRA said at present, the prices of petroleum products in Pakistan were determined as per "pricing of petroleum products policy" of Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division), keeping in view other components like levies, taxes and duties imposed by the government. "However, revision of rates levies taxes and duties is the discretion of the Federal Govern-

Under the policy, the rates of petrol (Motor Spirit) and Diesel (High Speed Diesel) were linked with the average of "Daily Arab Gulf Prices," Pakistan State Oil's premium and its incidental costs of cargoes imported during previous fortnight period, besides "Dollar-Rupee" parity.

ANF recovers 38.400kg opium

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) North Region and ANF Intelligence in a joint operation conducted on Kohat Road recovered 38.400kg

According to an ANF Headquarters Spokesman, ANF North Region and ANF Intelligence conducted a raid on Kohat Road near Attock Petrol Pump and recovered 32 packets of opium weighting 38.400kg from a Suzuki Mehran car.

During the operation, an accused namely Khalid Mahmood, resident of Rawalpindi was arrested on the spot.

A case has been registered against the accused under the Anti-Narcotics Act and further investigation has been started.

National Throwball C'ship from Nov 21

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Inter-Provincial National Throwball Men and Women Championship would be played from November 21 to 24, at Ayub Stadium, Quetta.

According to Secretary, Pakistan Throwball Federation, Maqbool Arian a total of six teams from all over the country would feature in the championship including Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Islamabad and Gilgit Baltistan. The men and women events would be played separately.

The draws of the championship would be opened in the managers meeting to be held on November 21. The finals of the event would be held on November 24.

Pakistan President, Federation Throwball (Women Wing) Faiza Amir appreciated the efforts of President, Balochistan Throwball Association, Madam Akhtar Khan and General Secretary Manzoor Ahmed Sarprah for holding the Champion-

The Championship would be played under the supervision of Pakistan Throwball Federation and Balochistan Throwball Association in collaboration with Balochistan Sports

tion. - APP countries are photographed with members of women's chamber and business personalities. - DNA **AVLC** recovers 15 vehicles; arrests five accused

The police teams while using scientific methods arrested the accused including two car-lifters and three car-receivers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Anti-Vehicle Lifting Cell (AVLC) of Islamabad Police has arrested 05 accused and recovered 15 vehicles, a police spokesman said.

Following directions of IGP Qazi Jamil ur Rehman and DIG (Operations) Afzaal Ahmed Kausar, capital police had renewed efforts against those involved in car lifting incidents.

SSP (Investigation) Atta Ur-Rehman had formed different police teams under supervision of ASP AVLC Hina Naik Bakht headed by Incharge AVLC Malik Liaqat Ali including Sub-Inspectors Muhammad Ashraf, Muhammad Sharif, ASIs Abrar Shah, Liaqat Ali, Manzoor Elahi

and Waheed Ahmed. The police teams while using scientific methods arrested the accused including two car-lifters and three car-receivers. The car-lifters are identified as Amjad Riaz, Kashif Ali-

as Kashi and car receiver Murtaza Hassan, Muhammad Ibrahim and Ahmed Nawaz. 15 vehicles worth millions of rupees were also recovered from their possession. The vehicles recovered

from these gangsters have been found stolen from various areas of Islamabad and Karachi and their detail is as follows: Suzuki Mehran Car (LE-1628), Toyota Corolla Car (LRF-4528), Toyota Corolla Car (B-2896), Suzuki Mehran Car. Tovota Corolla Car(LEC-9021), Toyota Corolla Car (ACD-724), Toy-

ota Corolla Car (U-8438) Margalla Car (WG-590) Toyota Corolla Car(IDH-5271) Suzuki Mehran Car (BEF-260) Suzuki Mehran Car (AQS-703) Suzuki Alto Car (VJ-198) Suzuki Mehran Car LEH-2377) Suzuki Cultus GAV-68) and Suzuki Mehran Car AND-149.

The modus operandi of the car receivers were to recieve the vehicles stolen from Karachi areas and were being used in rent-acar purposes. IGP Islamabad and DIG (Operations) appreciated this overall performance and announced cash prizes and commendation certificates for team members.

The DIG Operations said, the AVLC is working efficiently due to which car lifting incident in the city are

PTA launches App for telecom complaints

ISLAMABAD: Secretary General UBG Zafar Bakhtawri hosted ASEAN Forum. In the picture Ambassadors of ASEAN

News desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication (PTA) has Authority launched a user-friendly Management Complaint System (CMS) mobile application to facilitate consumers for lodging complaints pertaining to telecom services.

The App is available on Android (Google Play) and iOS (Apple App store), said a news release issued by the PTA on Thursday.

Consumers can register their complaints related to telecom services, mobile registration/ Device Identification Registration and Blocking System (DIRBS), web content reporting, and stolen handset blocking, etc.

The App also allows user to track their complaints and provide feedback on complaint resolution. It also includes FAQs on different issues for consumer awareness and better understanding.

CDA to merge capitol's emergency services

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As per the directions of the Minister for Interior, a meeting was held at the CDA headquarters under the chairmanship of Engineer Farkhand Iqbal Chairman CDA. The meeting was attended by CDA Member Admin, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Director DM A and other administrative officers.

It was decided in the meeting that a new emergency service would be introduced by combining Rescue 1122 Fire Brigade and all other emergency services so that any emergency situation in the city could be dealt well in time and improved emergency services could be provided to the citizens. In this connection not only new machinery and ambulances will be procured but trained human resource would bin which new machinery and new vehicles will be added while the trained manpower will also be also added. The meeting was informed that ten off road ambulances

would be repaired and will



ISLAMABAD be made road worthy shortly

CAPITAL

DEVELOPMENT

AUTHORITY

which would further reduce the response time. The meeting was further in

formed that PC-1 for procure ment of 26 new ambulances and enhancement of manpower has been prepared which will be submitted for approval this week. The meeting was further informed that 3 more emergency stations are being set up, one at Rawat, and another at Chungi No. 26 and a third at IJP Road.

The provision of trained staff and modern equipment at all these emergency stations will be ensured so that any untoward incident can be dealt immediately.

The meeting was further informed that a new uniform will also be introduced for this emergency service while Training programs for existing staff will also be arranged to train them as per the modern

on the Metro Bus Service to New

Islamabad International Airport has

been executed by the National High-

way Authority. However certain

essential items/equipment such

as Ticketing System, Security Surveillance System, ITS, Command

& Control Centre, Bus Depot with

ancillaries etc have not been under-

taken by NHA but is required to op-

Metro airport route to be operational by March 2022

CDA has also planned to construct a bus depot worth Rs800 million at Peshawar Mor where buses the CDA plans to run on different routes in future would be parked

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) has engaged Consultants to design the missing facilities for Metro Bus Service to New Islamabad International Airport which will be made operational by CDA in the first quarter of 2022. The procurement of buses and

construction of Command and Control Centre will be ensured in the next four months and the Metro Bus service will be made operational by CDA in the first quarter of 2022, the official source told APP on Thursday.

He said that CDA has also planned to construct a bus depot worth Rs800 million at Peshawar Mor where buses the CDA plans to run on different routes in future would be parked. The idea to use one depot for all buses is aimed at avoiding investing again and again



on different depots, he added. Besides establishing a traffic control room, a smart traffic management system will be introduced to check violations of traffic rules and even overloading by local transports. Directions have been

also issued to procure pre-engineered structures and steel frames so that the depot and control center are completed in next four months. He said a few months ago, the National Highway Authority (NHSA) had handed over the

Peshawar Mor for the metro bus project to the civic agency. After the approval of PC-1, the source said that the process has been started to procure 45 buses

which will be run on the route. He said that infrastructure works

erationalize the system. For the purpose, a separate PC-1 was prepared by CDA and has been approved by the Government. Moreover certain works (included in the NHA Scope) is yet

other utility connections.

to be completed by the Authority; such as road Safety works including signboards, fixing of cat-eyes, lane marking, missing light fittings and fixtures, lane separation, (N-5 to Airport Turning), walkthrough gates and luggage scanners, bathroom fitting and fixtures, park and ride facility, lighting, data cabin, horticulture works, IESCO and

Friday, October 29, 2021

Briefs

PAL organizes online "Aalmi Naatia Mushaira"

ISLAMABAD: Academy of Letters (PAL) on Thursday organized an online International "Naatia Mushaira". The Presidium members were Syed Tabish Alwari (Bahawalpur), Jalil Ali (Islamabad), Hamid Amrohi (USA) and Sadiq Jamil (Lahore).

Ayub Khawar (Lahore), Naseem Sehar (Rawalpindi), Nasir Ali Syed (Peshawar), Dr. Akhtar Shumar (Lahore) and Ejaz Kanwar Raja (Lahore) were the chief guests on the occasion, said a press release issued here. Dr. Anbareen Haseeb Anbar (Karachi), Dr. Farhat Abbas (Rawalpindi), Noureen Talat Aruba (USA), Iqbal Naveed (Birmingham), Sabir Raza (Manchester), Dr. Anbar Abid (India), Syedidullah Haider (Karachi), Rakhshanda Naveed (Lahore) and Ehsan Shah (Gilgit-Baltistan) were the guests of honor. Shehzad Baig was the moderator. The 'mushaira' was organized in collaboration with the literary organization Akaai

Chairman PAL Dr. Yousuf Khushk said that 'Naat' was an important genre of Urdu poetry. The tradition of 'Naat' in Urdu is older and brighter.

He said that our 'Naat' poets had expressed their love and devotion to the Holy Prophet (PBUH) through beautiful words, similes and metaphors and had created beautiful Naats through diversity of language, expression and style.

In his presidential address, Syed Tabish Alwari said that today's online Naatiya Mushaira was held in reference to pay homage Sarwar-e-Konain, who changed the course of time by bringing about a historic, religious economic and social revolution in the world. - APP

NCA announces admissions

ISLAMABAD: National College of Arts (NCA) Thursfor under graduate programmes of academic session 2022.

According to NCA, applications for admission in NCA Lahore and Rawalpindi were invited on separate prescribed online forms against reserved seats, open merit, self finance / self support scheme (All Pakistan Basis) for the province of Punjab, Gilgit Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa/Erstwhile FATA and Balochistan.

Last date for submission of application is November 10, 2021. NCA offers a number of professional undergraduate and graduate degree courses. - APP

Murree Road closed for traffic amid TLP protest

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi on Thursday completely closed the Murree Road for traffic due to Tehreek-e-Labiak

(TLP) protest. In a recent update on road situation, the CTP informed that Murree Road from Faizabad was completely closed, however, the citizens would be able to enter Rawalpindi by using alternative routes of

Expressway and IJP Road. The CTP has also created a complete diversion from the Ninth Avenue signal to Stadium Road, and the citizens were advised to use Expressway and IJP Road

from Faizabad Road. It added that due to the diversion placed at Punjab House, traffic was being di verted to Jhanda Bazaar.

Moreover, due to diversion from Haider Road turn to Murree Road, the traffic was being diverted to Saddar.

The commuters were urged to use Peshawar Road and Old Airport Road to enter Islamabad from Rawalpindi as an alternative route. "Jhelum Road and Old Air-

port Road can be used to reach Rawalpindi from Rawat," the CTP updated.

In order to ensure smooth flow of traffic, additional traffic police personnel and patrolling officers were also deployed on all alternative roads. Additional car lifting vehicles would also be on patrol to prevent no parking and ensure smooth traffic flow, it said. -APP

China-Pak to make Gwadar better port for business

It is of great significance for the sustainable development of regional economy to carry out the research and promotion of Tropical Arid Non-wood Forest

ISLAMABAD: The unveiling ceremony of Belt and Road Engineering Research Center for Tropical Arid Non-wood Forest and The First science and technology exchange event of China-Pakistan Tropical Arid Non-wood Forest were held online and offline in Gwadar and Changsha China, simultaneously.

According to Gwadar Pro, this exchange event aims to cultivate economic plants, which combine ecological, economic and social benefits, so as to improve the business environment and people's wellbeing. This meeting is sponsored by the Chinese Society of Forestry (CSF), and co-organized by Central South University of Forestry and Technology (CSUFT), China, China Overseas Ports Holding Company (COPHC) and Yulin Holding, China.

This meeting attracted participants from the two nations' government departments,



industrial societies, universities and research institutes and enterprises, including the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Karachi, University of Karachi, Indus University and Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University, China. Chen Xingliang, vice chairman of CSF, Yan Wende, vice-chancellor of CSUFT, Guo Chunshui, Economic and Commercial Counsellor, Chinese Consulate in Karachi,

Dostain Jamali, the Secretary of Ministry of Forest and Wildlife of Baluchistan Government, and Hu Huamin, chairman of Yulin agreed on enhancing agriculture and forestry building is an important part of the high-quality development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

It is of great significance for the sustainable development of regional economy to carry out the research and promotion of Tropical Arid Non-wood Forest. Zhang Baozhong, chairman of COPHC, delivered a speech on the impact of ecological and Non-wood forest construction on the business environment of Gwadar Port. Zhang analyzed the necessity and feasibility of promoting tropical arid non-wood forest in Gwadar.

He also introduced the development of Gwadar Free Zone's ecological construction and the favor policies, service and support for ecological construction.

COPHC launched a large-scale tree-planting program in 2018, aiming to enhance Gwadar's afforestation and improve the local's living environment.

The Belt and Road Engineering Research Center for Tropical Arid Non-wood Forest was jointly set up by Central South University of Forestry and Technology, COPHC and Yulin Holding in January 2021, which aims to boost the economic forest (with both ecological and economic value) and

Ehsaas relief cash week: Sania

ISLAMABAD: Special Assis tant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection, Senator Dr Sania Nishtar Thursday said that all necessary preparations have been completed to disburse Ehsaas Relief Cash in Harnai district of Bato media persons here, Dr Sania said that "Ehsaas is all set to disburse Rs12,000 cash subsistence to all families of earthquake hit Harnai, as an immediate relief". The one-off payments will be made to families through biometrically enabled Ehsaas payment system. Special payment sites are also being set up across the district for cash

ecological construction of CPEC. disbursement

in Harnai next

lochistan next week. Talking

ISLAMABAD: Defence Attaches of various countries posting for a picture during a reception in Islamabad. - DNA Independence Day of Indonesia commemorated

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan Mr. Adam M. Tugio commemorated the 76th anniversary of Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia and the 54th ASEAN Day at his home.

The ceremony was held with limited participants, which adhere to strict health protocols regarding the Covid-19. With all the challenges and limitations posed by the pandemic, the spirit of independence stays on with the people of In-

donesia around the world in these tough times. The ceremony was led by Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan Mr. Adam M. Tugio, and supported by the business community of the twin cities. The programme was attended by all the government officials, members of the Indonesian Embassy, Palm oil importers, members and President of ICCI, as well as representatives of the

Indonesian diaspora in Islamabad. In addition to the Independence Day celebration of the Republic of Indonesia, the embassy also hosted several other programmes. Speaking at the occasion, Ambassador Adam M. Tugio said that Indonesia and Pakistan have historical relations deeply rooted in mutual re-

spect and support at the regional and global levels. We established diplomatic relations in 1950 and both countries celebrated 70 years of establishment of diplomatic relations in 2020. Indonesia attaches great importance to its relations with Pakistan and there is complete harmony and close cooperation between the two countries in matters of global and regional matters. Leading Palm oil importer and former Chairman Pakistan Vanaspati Manufacturers Association (PVMA) Atif Ikran Sheikh said that on behalf of the business community of Pakistan, I wish all the happiness, warmest

wishes to you and the people of Indonesia. He said that Pakistan greatly values Indonesia's democratic leadership in the Indo Pacific. The close partnership between Pakistan and Indonesia is more important now than ever. We look forward to working together to deepen our economic and people-to-people ties, fight the pandemic and drive early recovery and move towards a shared goal of peace and prosperity. We will promote trade, peace and stability through our sincere efforts as Indonesia is among the top ten trading partners of Pakistan. The trade relations between the two countries have come a long way with Indonesia becoming the 8th largest trading partner of Pakistan in 2018.

COMSTECH organizes webinar on academic career

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH organized a webinar on "How to build a successful academic career" which was delivered by Prof. Dr. Mohamed Ali Farag. Professor and Program Director, American University in Cairo, Egypt on-

line on Thursday. Prof. Farag said that there is a difference between what we think and what is the reality. He termed the academic career as 'Academic Metabolism', as it involves many factors like

the academic activities and talked on, how to research, write a scientific paper and present it. He suggested that the job of an academician is to break the bottlenecks and free the students by solving the problems faced by them. He said the life of an academic revolves around studving, researching and paper writing. Prof. Farag suggested the researchers to have good networking skill, it is key to success in academics. He said, that there is

no big or small research, all

asking questions. Prof. Farag urged the re-

searchers to learn out of the box. Learn things that you are not supposed to learn. Always attend seminars even if they are not related to your field of study. He emphasized his point by saying, that if you are a biologist, learn computer programming and if you're an engineer learn biology. He emphasized the researchers to practice science communication. Sim-

plify it and communicate it

research is important and to the common masses for couraged scientists to share ideas openly with others. Education is not learning facts, it is training minds to think, he quoted Einstein.

Dr. Sved Khurshid Hasanain, Advisor COMSTECH. introduced the speaker and said that the research paper publication has key role in the career development and promotion of academics.

The webinar was attended by over 70 students, researchers, scientists, and academicians from the OIC member states.



Pakistan, Indonesia huge markets for businesses: ICCI

Pakistan and Indonesia had signed a Preferential Trade Agreement, but there was a general lack of awareness about it in the private sectors of both countries

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Indonesia were huge markets with a combined population of over 493 million and they have great potential to cooperate with each other in many fields for enhancing bilateral trade. This was said by Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry while addressing a Reception hosted by H.E. Mr. Adam M. Tugio. Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia for business community to commemorate the 76th Anniversary of the Independence of Indonesia. Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice Presi-

dent, Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI, Atif Ikram Sheikh, Zafar Bakhtawari, Karim Aziz Malik, Faad Waheed, foreign diplomats and others were present at the occasion.

Muhammad Shakeel Munir said that the bilateral trade between Pakistan and Indonesia in 2020 was around USD 2.5 billion, which was not up to the desired level given the capabilities and market size of both coun-

He emphasized that private sectors of both countries should be facilitated to improve two-way trade volume. He said that Pakistan mostly imported palm oil. certain commodities, mineral fuels & oils, vehicles,

paper & rubber products from Indonesia and exported agriculture products including food items such as rice, textile products, raw hides & skins, fish, paper, iron etc. to Indonesia, which showed that both

countries were doing trade in limited items. He urged that both countries should do trade in more items for improving trade volume. He said that Pakistan could export many products to Indonesia including pharma-



ceuticals, marble & granite, surgical instruments, sports goods, IT products, engineering goods, fruits & vegetables etc. and desired that Indonesia should consider importing these products from Pakistan that would be more cost effective for its consumers.

ICCI President said that Pakistan and Indonesia had signed a Preferential Trade Agreement, but there was a general lack of awareness about it in the private sectors of both countries.

He said that connectivity was another problem for trade promotion and stressed that both governments should take measures to address these issues. He further said that

Pakistan and Indonesia should encourage frequent exchange of trade delegations to explore new areas of mutual cooperation.

He emphasized that both countries should facilitate participation of private sectors in each other's trade fairs and exhibitions to introduce their products and enhance business cooperation.

Muhammad Shakeel Munir appreciated the initiative of H.E. Mr. Adam M. Tugio for organizing a Reception in honor of the Pakistani business community and friends congratulated the Embassy and the people of Indonesia for celebrating 76th Anniversary of their Independence this year.

ICT admin to distribute Rs 22mln among livestock farmers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration will distribute an amount of Rs 22 million among the livestock farmers to enhance beef production in the capital

As many as 850 livestock farmers would receive Cheque for registering over 8500 calves with the ICT Livestock & Dairy Development Department, under the PM initiative projects namely, 'Save the Calf' and Calf Feedlot Fattening'.

Director Agriculture, Waqar Ahmed told APP that the initiative was aimed at increasing quality beef and mutton production in the country, besides capacity building of livestock farmers on calf rearing and feedlot business to reduce the mortality in baby calves.

The other objective of the project, he said was to strengthen backyard poultry to address protein deficiency and malnutrition throughout the country which also reflects the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

NDMA organizes lawmakers Caucus

ISLAMABAD: National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) organized parliamentarian caucus in collaboration with the Ministry of National Food Security, Research and Ministry of Climate Change on disaster risk management.

Participants from across the party lines including senators, members of national and provincial assemblies, officials from international agencies, humanitarian networks and Director Generals of Provincial Disaster Management Authorities participated in the caucus.

The aim of the caucus was to highlight the role of parmanagement. It also aimed to develop understanding and promoting dialogue on various aspects of disaster risk management, international frameworks, gender equality and child protection. It further emphasized at capacity building of the Parliamentarians in supporting, promoting and implementing national agenda to build resilience.

Chairman NDMA Lt Gen Akhtar Nawaz Satti welcomed the participants and in his opening remarks underscored the role of parliamentarians for disaster risk management. - APP

Covid claims one life with 13 cases in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI: As many as 13 more COVID-19 positive cases were reported during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 38,973 in the district while one lost his battle of life against the deadly virus.

As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority here Thursday, the total infected cases included 35,987 from Rawalpindi and 2986 from other districts. Among the new cases, the

report said four belonged to

Rawalpindi Cantt and Guiar Khan, three from Kalar Syeda and two from Potohar town. "Presently 21 confirmed patients were admitted to various city facilities, counting 12 in Institue of Urology, five in Benazir Bhutto Hospital and four in Fauji Foundation Hospital," the report said. District Health Authority updated that 37,626 patients have been discharged after recovery, 34,649 with Rawalpindi and 2977 from other districts. The report informed that

278 were quarantined, including 149 at home and 129 in isolation centres. District Health Authority updated that 3,168,509 people, including 43,860 health workers and 3.124.649 senior citizens, have jabbed themselves against the lethal coronavirus (COV-ID-19) across the district since the vaccination administering drive launched on March 10. - APP

Financial Assistance

S a source of relief on the economic front, on Wednesday it was announced that Saudi Arabia has agreed to revive its financial support to Pakistan, including about \$3 billion in safe deposits and \$1.2 billion to \$1.5 billion worth of oil supplies on deferred payments. According to reports, this agreement was reached during PM Imran Khan's visit to the Kingdom this week. This development comes at a crucial juncture where talks between the current government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have been facing a delay, resulting in holding up the release of the next loan tranche amounting to \$1 billion.

There is no doubt that this act of generosity will ease the pressure on our trade and forex accounts due to the surge in prices of global commodities. In fact, following the announcement of this news, the currency market bounced back to gain Rs2.27 against the US dollar in intra-day trading in the inter-bank market.

While it is encouraging that this development will bolster our external accounts, it is important to be wary of how we have been down this path before several times. Reaching out to external sources of help in times of crisis is not a sustainable economic policy. This is now the second financial assistance package that the kingdom has extended to Pakistan in the past three years. This trend also illustrates how we are unable to weather through such crises independently and have been unable to develop the capacity to absorb such shocks in the past three years. Another downfall of such assistance agreements is that they are extremely vulnerable to vicissitudes of bilateral relations. As relations deteriorated with Saudi Arabia in 2018, Islamabad had to return \$2 billion of the \$3 billion deposits. Lifelines will eventually run out and we cannot continue to bank on such stop-gap measures. It is time to reflect on why we have been unable to move on from this approach and must recalibrate our economic policymaking accordingly.

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Negotiations With TLP

T has now been six days since the Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) have disrupted the daily functioning of the country by taking to the streets. Since the first day that it announced its protest, including a long march from Lahore to Islamabad, negotiations do not seem to have come too far, and the government has not come close to a breakthrough. This is not to say that the government has not tried—Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed has said that the government is ready to accept all demands of the TLP except the expulsion of the French ambassador from the country and the shutting of their embassy. Yet the TLP, with perhaps the experience of the government previously promising discussion of the demand of expulsion of the French ambassador, refused to budge.

The government too seems to have learned from what appears to have become a yearly spectacle. Remembering all too well how previously the TLP have held the country hostage, the district administrations of Rawalpindi and Islamabad blocked the Faizabad intersection on Tuesday night while the law enforcement agencies began sealing areas and roads with containers.

The steps taken by the government pre-emptively to counter the TLP are appreciated—the country cannot bear blocking the entrance to the federal capital. However, the government needs to work on a better political strategy to counter this undemocratic show of protest by the TLP. The government needs to look past short-term solutions, such as postponement of TLP's demands, or promises we know we cannot fulfil and focus on long-term ramifications of the clear touting of the law by the TLP.

It should be remembered that the government tried to resolve the last TLP protest by signing an agreement with the group promising that the issue of the French ambassador will be tabled in the parliament for debate. While that may have subsided the conflict for the time, clearly this fails as a long-term strategy, evidenced by the TLP debacle again this year. This can no longer be taken lightly—these protests have led to violence and killings of police officers. The government cannot allow its negotiating powers to be weakened in such high stakes.

Imran's talks with the Pakistan Taliban won't bring peace

Ahsan I Butt



Khan was the avatar for a deeply sympathetic position towards the Taliban. Not for nothing did he earn the moniker "Taliban Khan"

N an interview with Turkish media aired on October 1, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan revealed that his government is in talks with the Pakistan Taliban (Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan or TTP). Following a period of relative dormancy, the TTP has been significantly more active this year. Khan admitted that Islamabad is offering the group a number of rewards – from political amnesty to prisoner releases – in return for laying down arms.

Such a deal does not serve Pakistan's national interests and it will not work because the TTP, like before, is unlikely to abide by its terms. Aside from their implications for war and peace, the prime minister's comments were deeply uncomfortable for those who have not forgotten his role in the bad old days of 2007-2014, when the

Taliban brought the state to its knees. 'Taliban Khan': The historical context

In politics, memories can be short. Today, it is worth remembering what role Khan played during the peak of the Taliban insurgency in Pakistan. If all he had done was maintain a rigorous silence during the conflict, Pakistan would have been substantially better off.

Khan was the avatar for a deeply sympathetic position towards the Taliban. Not for nothing did he earn the moniker "Taliban Khan". By what in hindsight can only be termed an accident of history, the national government between 2008 and 2013 was led by three parties all more or less ideologically opposed to the TTP – the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), and the Awami National Party (ANP). Perhaps not coincidentally, all three today are shadows of their former selves.

From the perspective of pursuing a war against violent extremists, this government make-up was relatively fortuitous. It meant that at the political level at least, if not the public writ large, the country correctly identified the Taliban as a deathly enemy, one that could only be defeated by force. But Khan stymied any thrust towards aggressive action against the Taliban. Rather than playing a constructive role and preparing the public for a difficult and costly war, Khan did the opposite: he railed against the government and defended the insurgent group.

His rhetoric was not without cost. Given his background as a popular cricketer and a well-known philanthropist, alongside his blunt and uncompromising rhetoric against the ruling elite of Pakistan, Khan was perhaps the most popular figure in Pakistan at the time. He was also remarkably free of responsibility. His party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), had boycotted the 2008 elections, which meant that it had no presence in parliament. Khan's cosy relationship with the military, meanwhile, would only come five years later.

In a sense, then, the war was someone else's problem. Khan had as much formal power as an internet troll – and often played the part. The ratings-hungry media eagerly granted the country's most telegenic personality hours of coverage, and his diatribes did not disappoint.

More than anyone else, he shaped the contours

of the Taliban debate in Pakistan, which revolved around three questions. First, why was the TTP attacking Pakistanis? Second, was the state's national interest served by negotiating or fighting the TTP? Third, was the US alliance a help or hindrance in defeating the TTP? Only the last of these was genuinely difficult to answer, but as it happened, each assumed a controversial and polarising colour.

While the elected government and even the military favoured a more assertive approach, realising the mortal threat the TTP posed to Pakistan, Khan hemmed and hawed. He made excuses for the Taliban; they were only incensed by foreign occupation, he claimed and had no ideological agenda. The real problem, he thundered, was not the Taliban but the government itself. He accused it and its predecessors of fighting "America's war" and claimed military operations against the group were only motivated by an avaricious thirst for dollars. In so doing, he ensured that espousing such a position was political poison, even if it was the correct one.

All the while, every week brought news of another Taliban attack. The TTP's murder of Pakistanis was merciless and unrelenting. They bombed and shot them. They struck mosques and markets. They were daring enough to take on hard targets, such as army bases and airports, and shameless enough to take on soft ones, such as schools and shrines. They killed important people as well as the pitifully anonymous. They decapitated Pakistani police officers and soldiers and then uploaded videos of them to social media for the world to see.

Over a decade, the Taliban saw fit to end the lives of more than 50,000 Pakistanis. Eventually, the weight and sheer brutality of this sustained assault became too much to bear. By the middle of the 2010s, the state began to conduct a series of security operations against the group – no thanks to Khan, of course. Between a more aggressive military posture, improved efficacy of US drones, and the "fortunate" happenstance of an internationalised civil war in Syria, which pulled the centre of gravity for jihadists to west Asia, away from central and south Asia, Pakistan managed to turn the tide on Taliban terrorism.

ısm. **– Courtesy: Al-Jazeera**

Countering FATF's 'Lawfare': Lessons from Pakistan

Hassan Aslam Shad



Turkish
policymakers also
need to understand
the evolution of
FATF and the
factors that have
transformed it into a
potent international
institution with
intrusive powers

EOPOLITICS has overshadowed the Financial Action Task Force's purpose of fighting money laundering. But Ankara must still use the language of the law to fight it out.

The October 22 decision by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to place Turkey on its so-called "grey list" would have come as a surprise to many in Turkey. But those with a keen eye for geopolitical developments knew that Turkey ending up on the FATF hot seat was a foregone conclusion.

As the inevitable has happened, Turkey needs to prepare for the consequences of being placed on the FATF grey list. Turkish policymakers also need to understand the evolution of FATF and the factors that have transformed it into a potent international institution with intrusive powers.

FATF, a seemingly innocuous international institution, has been transformed into an effective international weapon that is being used to bludgeon "non-compliant" states into submission. Everything is done under the rubric of "law" and by the sanction of the international community to lend a veneer of credibility to FATF.

But behind the facade of law lies the real FATF: an institution that has taken seed at the intersection of law and politics and whose underpinning legal framework has been corroded by geopolitics.
FATF was set up in 1989 as an initiative of

the G7 group of advanced economies that include the US, UK and France to combat money laundering. FATF currently has 39 members (37 countries and two regional organisations).

Over the years, the FATF's mandate and powers expanded through two United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions: 1267 (1999) and 1373 (2001). These resolutions – especially UNSC Resolution 1373 (2001) passed in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks – gave teeth to the organisation. The combined effect of these two UNSC

resolutions was to bring terrorism and terrorist financing within FATF's purview. Unfortunately, however, the international community's noble goal of fighting terrorism and terrorist financing is now being used to selectively target some countries.

For example, while FATF has been used to

target countries like Iran, Pakistan and now Turkey, FATF has conveniently turned a blind eye towards money laundering safe havens like the BVI, Cayman Islands and prominent global financial hubs where the corrupt are known to have parked their ill-gotten wealth worth billions of dollars.

Pakistan's experience with FATF confirms

backing, a constellation of subjective requirements has been foisted upon Pakistan by FATF and APG (an associate member of the FATF), the cumulative effect of which has been to require Pakistan to single-handedly discharge the onus of showing its 'clean hands.' For instance, not only is Pakistan required to enact relevant legislation to investigate and prosecute terrorist financing and undertake capacity building of prosecutors and regulators, it is also required to provide evidence (deemed satisfactory to the FATF) that it has actively sought to enhance the impact of sanctions beyond its jurisdiction. As FATF plays judge, jury and the executive of the part of the part of the sanction of the part of the p

this. Over the years, with the US and India's

As FATF plays judge, jury and the executioner, Pakistan finds itself caught in a sinister web of never ending requirements. Why Pakistan remains entangled in the FATF net cannot be viewed in isolation to Islamabad's foreign policy.

In recent months, Prime Minister Imran Khan refused to allow US airbases in Pakistan to carry out military strikes in neighbouring Afghanistan. The fall of the US-backed Afghan government has been unfairly blamed on Pakistan. And India and the US are forging ties to counter China, which is Pakistan's most important ally.

The game is being played with a sleight of hand: every time Pakistan's progress is up for review at FATF, a new wish list is handed over to the Pakistani delegation.

The idea being to defang Pakistan, present it with a shifting goal post each time and, in the process, leave it in a maze to befuddle its strategic direction. Not surprisingly, the biggest casualty of the FATF lawfare against Pakistan has been its economy.

There are glaring parallels between Turkey and Pakistan. Turkey has been pursuing an independent foreign policy in line with its strategic goals. It shouldn't therefore come as a surprise that a "price" is being exacted from Turkey. Lately, Turkey's relations with the US have soured. Turkey has also been in the European Union's crosshairs, which Ankara says has been interfering in its domestic affairs. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's recent call to declare ambassadors of ten countries as "persona non grata" for domestic interference in Turkey's affairs has irked the US and EU.

The ultimate objective of the 'grey list' designation, as has been the case with Pakistan, is to coerce Turkey into accepting the West's diktat. If Pakistan's experience with FATF is an indication about what Turkey can expect, then Turkey should also avoid making some of the mistakes that Pakistan made when it was first placed on the grey list.

In all fairness, Pakistan was caught napping by FATF when it was first placed on the grey list in 2018 - a result of years of mismanagement and neglect by successive governments. Back then, Pakistan did not have in place adequate domestic legislation to counter money laundering and terrorism financing and policymakers had minimal knowledge of the FATF. As a result, the FATF came all guns blazing at Pakistan and the government had to make a last ditch scramble to get off the hook. Another area where Pakistan faltered was in its failure to establish a central authority to oversee implementation of FATF requirements. Turkey could consider establishing a designated group of external eminent financial, technical, and legal experts tasked with FATF matters specifically to work alongside MASAK, which has overarching authority to coordinate between public and private sector entities. This would streamline FATF compliance more efficiently and effectively and give Turkey a "headstart" and enable its policy makers to understand the nuances and technicalities of FATF requirements. Since the decision

Turkey should reach out to individual members to explain its position and allay their concerns, if any – all with a view to securing a pledge from them to support Ankara's quest to

to place and remove countries from the grey

list is taken by FATF member states through

voting in FATF plenaries, Turkey's Ministry of

Foreign Affairs should get down to mapping

out the positions taken by countries at FATF

regarding Turkey.

ecure an exit from the grey list.

- Courtesy: TRT World

Israeli human rights violations likely to worsen

Ray Hanania



The Gantz directive allows Israel to close the offices of all six organizations, seize their assets and arrest their staff, imprisoning them without trial or formal public proceedings

HE only time any government declares a human rights organization to be a terrorist group is when that organization is shining a bright light on its human rights Last week, Israel's apartheid government didn't just declare one human rights organization to be a terrorist group, it identified six of them as being allegedly affiliated with terrorist organizations. This tells you that Israel must be very concerned about how its policies are being presented to the world.

The six organizations have a history of defending the human rights of Palestinians not only in the Occupied Territories, but inside Israel too. Israel's vicious political attack, which was announced by Defense Minister Benny Gantz on Friday, strikes at the essence of human rights — a clear deflection from Israel's policies, which violate the human rights of non-Jews.

Among the organizations targeted is Al-Haq, an independent human rights organization that was founded in 1979. Its mandate is to defend the rule of law in the Occupied Territories governed militarily by Israel.

Another target is Addameer (Arabic for "con-

science"), which focuses mainly on the rights of civilians who are arrested, detained and imprisoned for political reasons. Israel currently holds 4,650 Palestinians in its prisons, many of whom have been imprisoned without trial or formal charges. Israel still uses the old British Mandate system of administrative detention, which skirts the rule of law. Both Al-Haq and Addameer have not only documented Israeli government abuses, but also abuses by the Palestinian Authority, which often coordinates on "security" raids and detentions by Israel's Shin Bet secret police.

The Gantz directive allows Israel to close the offices of all six organizations, seize their assets and arrest their staff, imprisoning them without trial or formal public proceedings.

Leading global human rights organizations Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have condemned the declaration. Israel has also attacked both of those organizations in the past. In fact, Israel has attacked every organization

that has condemned its human rights violations. Spokesperson Ned Price told reporters the US State Department was unaware of Israel's decision until it was announced. He also declined to directly criticize the move, instead saying: "We believe respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and a strong civil society are critically important to responsible and responsive governance."

What Price and the State Department did not do was condemn Israel's declaration. President Joe Biden also made no comment about the policy, which equates human rights with terrorism.

The issue at hand is not human rights, of course, because Israel has never addressed its human rights abuses and has used PR spin to deflect the public's attention, instead accusing its critics of anti-Semitism. The elevation to the charge of terrorism takes the battle between Israel's government and those who condemn its human rights abuses to a new level.

Clearly, Israel believes it is in a strong position to snuff out the Palestinian cause and has stepped up its activism to silence the critics who showcase its apartheid policies.

The declaration by Gantz is more alarming because it suggests a new strategy to silence Palestinians who are demanding that they be treated equally, not just inside Israel but also in the West Bank, where Israel continues to confiscate Palestinian-owned land and build illegal Jewish-only settlements.

The strategy may be to do so much at the same time that the world, already hesitant to confront Israel, will be overwhelmed by the number of controversies. The mainstream news media barely covers Israel's everyday abuses of Palestinians and stepping up the violations might actually make it easier to minimize the criticism. Ultimately, the declaration means that worse things are yet to come from Israel, especially as it sees there are no real consequences for its actions.

– Courtesy: Arab News

Pakistan,

Germany sign debt...

FROM PAGE 01 celebrations for the 60 years of Pakistan-Germany

development cooperation. KfW maintains an active

portfolio of more than Euro

600 million Financial Coop-

eration with Pakistan in the

fields of energy and climate,

governance, and training and jobs creation for sus-

tainable economic growth.

Following the original re-

Friday, October 29, 2021

Briefs

Govt writ to be established come...

From Page 01 so we don't want to fight with you." "When the French ambassador is not present in the country, and the government has submitted a resolution in the National Assembly regarding blasphemy laws, then why are you marching towards Islamabad?" he asked the proscribed organisation. "If you continue to march [towards Islambad] despite the government trying to hold talks, then you will be stopped," the minister told the TLP. "The state will not allow anyone to challenge its writ, therefore, I would request this proscribed organisation to return home," he said. He said that despite the government's attempts to negotiate with the TLP, there has so far been no progress "Talks would be held again with the leadership of the proscribed organisation on Friday and Saturday," the minister said, adding that he also had a word with the leader of TLP leader, Saad Rizvi, who is currently in jail. Answering a question regarding entering into an agreement with the proscribed organisation, Rasheed said that he took the step after seeking the approval of the prime minister.

TLP march reaches Gujranwala

From Page 01
The TLP demonstrators have blocked the GT Road in Gujranwala district from both sides since Wednesday, causing hardships to the area residents in their commutes. From Kamoke tehsil to Jhelum, cellular services have been suspended for 24 hours. Educational institutions along GT Road have also been closed because of the uncertain situation.

Meanwhile, Rangers and police personnel took positions near the Chenab river and Wazirabad border. Security officials plan to stop the TLP activists near the Wazirabad-Chenab river area instead of Gujranwala city, police sources earlier said. In Wazirabad, local authorities have dug up trenches near the Chenab bridge which were further deepened to block the TLP march. At a high-level meeting held to review the security situation, Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar directed officials to "take every step possible" to establish peace in the province, according

to a statement. He said nobody could be allowed to disturb people's daily lives, stressing that "the protection of people's lives and properties is the state's foremost responsibility." In view of the situation caused by the TLP rally, the Pakistan Railways announced that three trains between Lahore and Rawalpindi -Subak Kharam, Islamabad Express and Rawal Express - would remain suspended today for both inbound and outbound services. The Peshawar-Quetta Jaffar Express will also be suspended for the Peshawar-Lahore leg today, while the Green Line will remain suspended between Lahore and Rawalpindi. All other trains will function according to their schedule and route, a PR spokesperson said.

'PPP, PML-N ruined...

From Page 01 the previous governments. He said from 1947 to 2008, Pakistan took loans amounting to Rs 6,000 billion to execute mega projects and build institutions while Rs 23,000 billion was borrowed during the past two tenures of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) (2008-18). Last year, he said the country had to return \$ 10 billion loan, whereas this year, the amount stood at \$ 12 billion. In such a situation, it was not possible for the government to pass on maximum relief to the consumers, he added.

He said prices of commodities were increased globally after the outbreak of coronavirus, adding 'Pakistan is no exception'. Fawad said prices of petroleum products in the international market had witnessed a sharp rise and Pakistan had to import oil products.

David Warner stars as Australia beat Sri Lanka

Warner and Aaron Finch, who made 37, took apart the Sri Lankan bowlers with an opening stand of 70. Leg-spinner Adam Zampa returned impressive figures of 2-12 to help restrict SL to 154-6 despite Bhanuka Rajapaksa's unbeaten 33 off 26 balls

Chopa Drov

DUBAI: Opener David Warner struck form with an attacking 65 to help Australia to their second successive victory in the Twenty20 World Cup with a seven-wicket thrashing of Sri Lanka on Thursday. Warner, who was dropped from his IPL team Sunrisers Hyderabad last month after two bad games, smashed 10 fours in his 42-ball knock as Australia achieved their target of 155 with 18 balls to spare in Dubai.

Warner and skipper Aaron Finch, who made 37, took apart the Sri Lankan bowlers with an opening stand of 70. Leg-spinner Adam Zampa returned impressive figures of 2-12 to help restrict Sri Lanka to 154-6 despite Bhanuka Rajapaksa's unbeaten 33 off 26 balls. In reply the left-right batting pair of Warner and Finch punished the opposition pace bowlers with regular boundaries while successfully thwarting mystery spinner Maheesh Theekshana. Leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga got Finch against the run of play as the batsman chopped a googly onto his stumps. He hit 37 off 23 deliveries.



Glenn Maxwell's promotion to number three did not bear results as he fell in Hasaranga's next over for five, but there was no stopping Warner. The left-handed batsman, who survived a reprieve on 18 when wicket-keeper Kusal Perera dropped an easy catch off Dushmantha Chameera, reached his fifty in 31 balls. Warner finally fell to Dasun

Shanaka before Steve Smith, who made 28, and Marcus Stoinis, who made 16, carried the team home. Earlier Zampa checked Sri Lanka's brisk start after Charith Asalanka and Kusal Perera - both scoring 35 - put on 63 for the second wicket.

Pat Cummins struck first with the wicket of Pathum Nissanka in the third over of the

innings, but new man Asalanka soon hit bat back with three straight boundaries off the fast bowler. The left-handed Asalanka kept up the charge and took on Maxwell's spin as Sri Lanka managed 64 runs off the first six overs of powerplay.

Zampa broke through with his leg spin googly to get Asalanka caught at backward square leg. Mitchell Starc bowled Perera, a left-handed wicketkeeper-batsman, with a scorching yorker in the next over with Australia making inroads into the opposition middle order. Zampa took down Avishka Fernando and Starc sent back Wanindu Hasaranga for four as Sri Lanka slipped to 94-5 in the 13th over. Rajapaksa stood firm to see off Zampa's fourth over before launching an attack as he smashed Marcus Stoinis for two fours and a six in a 17-run over.

The left-handed Rajapaksa and Shanaka put together 40 runs off 32 balls before the captain walked back for 12 off Cummins. Rajapaksa hit four fours and one six in his 26-ball knock but the innings wasn't enough for Sri Lanka, who went down to their first loss in the second stage. They had beaten Bangladesh in their opener.

Bayern Munich suffer historic 5-0 thrashing

AGENCIES

BERLIN:Shell-shocked Bayern Munich suffered their heaviest defeat in the German Cup when their star-studded team was thrashed 5-0 at Borussia-Moenchengladbach. Fullstrength Bayern conceded the first goal after just 71 seconds and were 3-0 down with 21 minutes played. It was the first time for 27 years Bayern have conceded so many goals so early in any competition. It is Bayern's heaviest German Cup defeat, eclipsing a 5-1 quarter-final defeat at Cologne in 1972. French midfielder KouadioKone grabbed his first goal for Gladbach with barely a minute gone, then Algerian defender RamyBensebaini and Swiss striker BreelEmbolo both scored twice in the rout.

This is the second time in consecutive seasons Bayern have been dumped out of the cup in the second round having lost at Holstein Kiel last January after a penalty shoot-out. There were plenty of off-field distractions for Bayern in the build up. Hours before kick-off, France defender Lucas Hernandez heard he will escape being jailed in Spain for violating a restraining order in 2017 after a Madrid court accepted his appeal. Midfielder Joshua Kimmich has also been the centre of fierce debate in Germany after revealing he opted against being vaccinated for Covid-19.

quest of the Government of Pakistan for a time-bound suspension of debt service in order to mitigate the health, economic and social impact of the COVID19-crisis, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Treatment of the Debt Service was signed on 9 June 2020 in Paris. Signing of the DSSI will contribute to the much-needed relief to the Government of Pakistan to strengthen its

Pakistan to strengthen its economy in view of the challenging financial conditions faced under the Covid-19 situation. In September 2020 the Government of Germany, through KfW, had already provided a debt suspension facility to the Government of Pakistan through the DSSI Phase-I, amounting to Euro 52.766 million. The Government of Germany is also in the process of providing another debt suspension facility (DSSI Phase-3) to the Government of Pakistan for which matters are currently under discussion. It may be mentioned here that a few other European countries are ready to help Pakistan under the DSSI and agreements to effect are likely to be signed soon.

Top military huddle reviews...

From Page 01

JSHQ is functioning with a national perspective that seeks to preserve, protect and promote Pakistan's Defence and National security, CJCSC said . Chairman JCSC also applauded the jointness of the Pakistan Armed Forces in meeting all Defence and Security challenges faced by Pakistan.

US general confirms Chinese...

From Page 01

than five times the speed of sound, or about 6,200 kph (3,853 mph), making them harder to detect and intercept. Last month, Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall alluded to his concerns about such a system, telling reporters about a weapon that would go into an orbit and then descend on a target. "If you use that kind of an approach, you don't have to use a traditional ICBM

"If you use that kind of an approach, you don't have to use a traditional ICBM trajectory - which is directly from the point of launch to the point of impact," he said."It's a way to avoid defences and missile warning systems." Fractional Orbital Bombardment would also be a way for China to avoid US missile defences in Alaska, which are designed to combat a limited number of weapons from a country like North Korea.Jeffrey Lewis at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies summed up fractional orbital bombardment this way: "The simplest way to think about China's orbital bombardment system is to imagine a space shuttle, put a nuclear weapon into the cargo bay, and forget about the landing gear."

Munir Akram vows to standby..

From Page 01 the anniversary of India's massive invasion and occupation of Kashmir on 27 October 1947, were Pakistani-American students from colleges in New York. Addressing himself to the young people, Ambassador Akram, Pakistan's permanent representative to the UN, asked them to help create awareness among people here about the Kashmir issue, highlighting the gross human rights abuses in the disputed territory.

"This is a democratic country and its leaders are responsive the pressures from their constituents." On the diplomatic front, he said, Pakistan was doing all it can to enable Kashmiri people to exercise their right of self-determination through a UN-supervised plebiscite in accordance with the UN security Council resolutions.

British sensation reaches quarters at Transylvania Open

SPORTS DESK

CLUJ-NAPOCA: Emma
Raducanu made it two
wins from as many matches at the Transylvania
Open in Cluj, keeping her
on course for a potential
showdown with top seed
SimonaHalep later in the
tournament. The 18-yearold, who has risen from
343 at the end of 2020 to
world No 23 heading into
the WTA 250 tournament,
followed up her maiden



victory with another, but in more comfortable fashion this time, against Ana Bogdan. In just her fourth Tour-level tournament, Raducanu was stress-free as she powered to a 6-3 6-4 victory behind closed doors on Thursday.

"I think that it's definitely take me some time to find my feet still. I'm taking some learnings from every match that I play and I don't think that I'm the finished product yet" said Raducanu during her on-court interview. "I'm still learning from every match, taking the experience and loving my time here in this tournament so far." Raducanu, already a Grand Slam champion after her stunning success at the US Open, saved three break points in her opening service game, but then showed her class by surging into a 3-0 lead before the world No 106 held to get on the board. The teenager from Bromley in Kent continued with her high-intensity approach to come through a deuce game for 4-1, but Bogan staved in touch.

After holding for 5-2, Raducanu threatened to seal the set on Bogan's serve, but the 28-year-old Romanian held on. The third seed eventually served it out in accomplished fashion with her first hold to love to take control of the contest. Currently without a coach after parting ways with Andrew Richardson, Raducanu claimed an immediate break at the start of the second set and appeared to be heading for a straightforward win. A loss of concentration from the British No 1 handed Bogan a route back into the match, however, as the Romanian hit back and dug deep for a 3-2 lead.

Pakistan needs to tell its narrative

ISLAMABAD: Former Fast bowler Shoib Akhtar meets Ali Muhammad Khan,

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs. - DNA

FROM PAGE 01
narratives, Yusuf outlined three words that encapsulated his approach to narratives: proactive, unapologetic and pragmatic. "Virtually every time we communicate, these three principles can get us anywhere we want to go. There is no reason for Pakistan to be shy because we have nothing to hide. "The fact of the matter is that we have absorbed Western narratives of Paki-

Western narratives of Pakistan to the point that even internally, there is a debate on whether Pakistan's narrative is the correct one," he said.

Yusuf said this was "mindboggling" for him since according to him, Pakistan

had a "real story" to tell

based on what the country was doing and stood for. "There is absolutely no reason to be apologetic about it," he added. The NSA outlined his experience when he came into government and elaborated on what he had found to be different, saying that for the first time he "realised that Pakistan

tell the world".

"We actually have a story that is compelling, logical [and] true, which we must put out to the world for them to understand who we are and what we stand for."

has a real positive story to

Pak have 'mindset of T20 champions', says coach Saqlain

News Desk

DUBAI: Pakistan's interim head coach SaqlainMushtaq declared that his team have "the mindset of champions" as they play Afghanistan in the Twenty20 World Cup in Dubai on Friday.

The 2009 champions thumped arch-rivals India by 10 wickets in their opening match followed by a nervy five-wicket win over New Zealand, making them well placed for the semi-finals. "We are playing with the

whe are playing with the mindset of world champions,"Saqlain said on Thursday. "The two wins have given us the confidence and belief to achieve that goal." Saqlain replaced Misbahul-Haq, who resigned last month, and is bringing his experience as a spin-bowling consultant for England, Bangladesh and New Zea-

land in the past.
Saqlain said his team needed to be wary of a dangerous Afghanistan. "We know Afghanistan is a very good team but our plans are well-placed and we need to execute those plans as we have done in the first two games," he added.



gie Rashid Khan 4-9. Himself a great off-spinner who played 49 Tests and 169 one-day internationals for Pakistan, Saqlain called Afghanistan's spinners "world class". "Rashid and Mujeeb are quality spinners and have been doing well for their team as well as in the private leagues around the world, but we have plans against them," said Saglain. He praised the unity of his players, saying it has helped them achieve good results. "Our theme is 'together we

achieve' and it's not 'I did

d quali30 runs it's 'we did well' sort and 2 game that has helped us gel well."
Saqlain pointed out that Paand legkistan have played most of their cricket in recent years in the United Arab Emirates. "These conditions of the UAE are very familiar for my players and we have pinners been playing home international matches and Pakistan Super League games here and that has, and will, help

our players." Pakistan will play Namibia on November 2 and Scotland five days later in the Super 12 stage.

But looking farther ahead, Saqlain hopes to meet India again at the World Cup this time in the final.

Niaz, Akhtar taken off air after on-screen spat

"A lot of apologies guys, a lot of apologies. I am resigning from PTV. The way I have been treated on national TV, I don't think I should be sitting here right now. So, I am resigning. Thank you very much," said Akhtar before leaving the set

SPORT DESK

KARACHI: Pakistan Television (PTV) has decided to take sports show host Dr Nauman Niaz and bowling legend Shoaib Akhtar off-air after their on-screen spat made headlines across the country. Former Pakistan speedster Akhtar quit live on air after facing "rude and obnoxious" behaviour during a show on PTV Sports. In a post-match show, after Pakistan's win over New Zealand, Akhtar and the show's host, Niaz,

were involved in a verbal

spat while discussing the impact of Lahore Qalandars' Player Development Program (PDP) on pacers Shaheen Afridi and Haris Rauf's performance.

"You're being a little rude and I don't want to say this: but if you're being over smart, you can go. I am saying this on air," Niaz told Akhtar before switching to a commercial break.

Shoaib and Niaz remained on air after the break but the former eventually decided to leave the show after apologising to the other guests, which included cricket greats like Sir Viv Richards and David Gower.



"A lot of apologies guys, a lot of apologies. I am resigning from PTV. The way I have been treated on national TV, I don't think I should be sitting here right now. So, I am resigning. Thank you very



much," said Akhtar before leaving the set. Later, Akhtar explained the incident on his official Twitter account through a brief video and couple of tweets. "Multiple clips are circu-

lating on social media so I

Noman was obnoxious and rude when he asked me to leave the show. It was embarrassing especially when you have legends like Sir Vivian

pecially when you have legends like Sir Vivian Richards and David Gower sitting on the set with some of my contemporaries," read one of his tweet. "I tried to save everyone from embarrassment by saying I was pulling Dr Noman's leg with this mutual understanding that Dr Noman will also politely apologise and we will move on with the show, which he refused to do. Then I had no other choice."

In response to the incident, the PTV administration published a response that they've formed a committee to investigate the incident. However, the investigation will take time and due to the increasing pressure by social media to remove Niaz from PTV Sports show, the PTV administration published another notice that him and Akhtar will stay off the air until the investigation in complete.

tion in complete.

Many former cricketers and other celebrities from different fields tweeted in favour of Akhtar, saying a national star show shouldn't have been treated like this.



Friday, October 29, 2021

SA gears

up for local elections

FOREIGN DESK IOHANNESBURG: Voters

in South Africa will head to the polls on Monday to elect

local representatives, with the ruling African National

Congress (ANC) facing its

stiffest test since the end of

South Africa's constitution-

al court in September or-

dered the municipal govern-

ment election be held this

year, rejecting a request by

the Independent Electoral

Commission (IEC) which

sought a postponement

fearing that the COVID-19

pandemic would make it dif-

ficult to organise a free and

"The ballot will go ahead

as per the court judgement

notwithstanding the chal-

lenges we face in delivering

this election," Glen Mashin-

ini, chairperson of the IEC,

The shortened campaign

period of eight weeks has

left political parties scram-

bling to convince a sceptical

electorate to back them in

an election that will decide

political infighting, has

promised to reform itself

and renew its offering to the

apartheid.

fair election.

told Al Jazeera.

Briefs

Rise in prices of POL products challenged

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pasban Democratic Party (PDP) Chairman Altaf Shakoor has challenged recent rise in the prices of petroleum products in Sindh High Court and prayed to declare the hike null and void. As per details, Altaf Shakoor through his lawyer Irfan Aziz filed a constitutional petition 107/2020 in the SHC making Federation of Pakistan through secretary ministry of law justice and parliamentary affairs, federal secretary ministry of finance, federal secretary ministry of petroleum, and chairman Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) respondents, invited the attention of the honourable court towards steep hike

in oil prices. The petitioner in this regard filed a statement, submitting that the international rate of the Petrol is about Rs.64/per liter. Explaining further the statement said that one barrel is equal to 159 liters. The cost of per barrel is \$41. Digging charges are \$2.16 per barrel. L.C charges \$ 4.1 per barrel. Insurance charges \$2.01 per barrel. Wharf-age charge \$1.25 per barrel. Oil Company margin \$1.10 per barrel. Refining charges \$1.2 per barrel. Total cost thus is \$48.82 per barrel. The statement further said 159 liter ÷ \$48.82 = \$0.30 per liter. One US dollar is equal to Rs.167, thus \$.30 cost per liter x Rs.167 = Rs.50.10. Sales Tax 17%. Excise Tax 3.15%. Addl. Tax 6% = Total Tax 26.15%. Rs.50.10 ÷ Rs.100.00 X 26.15 Tax = Rs.13.10 Tax charged bythe government. Rs.50.10 + Rs. 13.10 Tax = Rs.63.20 per liter, which is the actual price of the Petrol to be charged from the consumer, but the respondents are charging exorbitant amount from the consumers per liter.

France seizes British trawler

WEB DESK

PARIS: France has seized one British trawler for operating in its territorial waters without a licence and fined another as a bitter dispute with the United Kingdom over post-Brexit access to fishing grounds escalates. The French maritime ministry said the ships were cautioned

during checks by maritime police on fishing vessels off the northern port of Le Havre overnight on Wednesday, hours after Paris warned it needed to "speak the language of strength" with London amid the smouldering row and warned of impending sanctions. The seized trawler, now under the control of French iudicial authorities, did not have proof it was allowed to fish in French waters, the

maritime ministry said. It was subsequently rerouted to Le Havre and was tied up at the port's quayside. The boat's captain could now face criminal charges and its catch may be confiscated. The other boat was fined for initially resisting a check by the maritime police.

China submits new climate plan

PARIS: China, the world's largest polluter, on Thursday renewed its emissions cutting plan with a promise to peak its carbon pollution before 2030, according to a submission published on the UN's climate change website.

Beijing's new submission to the United Nations, just days before the COP26 climate summit, also confirmed its goal to achieve carbon neutrality before 2060 and slash its emissions intensity by more than 65 percent.

China, which is responsible for more than a quarter of man-made emissions, announced last year that it would reach net zero emissions by around 2060.

Under the 2015 Paris Agreement, nations are required to submit renewed emissions cutting pledges - known as Nationally Determined Contributions, or NDCs - every five years.

China had been a major holdout in renewing its plans to curb emissions, and its submission could help build momentum ahead of the COP26 summit in Glasgow, which begins on Sunday. - APP

Romania plays vital role in Azerbaijan-NATO cooperation

Aliyev made remarks while receiving the credentials of newly-appointed Romanian envoy

said.

BAKU: President Ilham Aliyev has said that Romania plays important role in the Azerbaijan-NATO cooperation plan.

He made the remarks while receiving the credentials of newly-appointed Romanian ambassador Vasile Soare on October

"Of course, Romania plays a very important role in the Azerbaijan-NATO cooperation plan. For many years, Romania has played one of the most active roles in the strengthening of this cooperation," he

Noting that Azerbaijan-Romania relations cover both the bilateral format and the format of cooperation within international organizations, Aliyev under-



lined that there are ample opportunities for cooperation in the economic, trade, energy, and transport fields. He emphasized that Azerbaijan is making great ef-

forts to turn the country

tical center of Eurasia. "And great work has been done in this direction. But a lot depends on bilateral relations. Therefore, the existing and planned infrastructure will create alternative opportunities for shippers," the president

into a transport and logis-

The president also expressed his hopes that the prospects for cooperation will be as good both in bilateral relations and within the framework of Azerbaijan-EU cooperation. "Therefore, the existing and planned infrastrucwill create alternaopportunities for shippers. Thus, we have always been open to cooperation with your country in all other areas. I think we will continue to do so

on the basis of mutual in-

terest." Alivey added.

FM meets OIC Youth Forum president

BAKU: Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has received a delegation led by OIC Youth Forum President Taha Ayhan, Report informs, quoting the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry.

Minister Jeyhun Bayramov congratulated the OIC Youth Forum on the successful holding of the Azerbaijan Investment and Culture Summit in Baku, organized by the Small and Medium Business Development Agency (SMBD) under the Ministry of Economy with the support of the Ministries of Economy and Culture. The minister stressed the importance of bringing to the forefront of the event, which was attended by many foreign participants, investment and cultural issues, which are two important topics, in addition to the ongoing restoration and construction work carried out by Azerbaijan in the liberated territories.

The minister underlined the importance of the visit of the participants in the event to the liberated lands, including Shusha, to get acquainted with the illegal activities and destruction committed by Armenia for decades, as well as the construction work carried out by Azerbaijan. The minister also congratulated the OIC Youth Forum on the recent meeting of the General Assembly and the adoption of a new Charter. It was noted that Azerbaijan will continue to fully support the activities of the OIC Youth Forum. - DNA

who will be tasked with the European delivery of basic services states urge such as water and electricity. The ANC, which has won every general election since the end of white minority expansion rule in 1994 but is mired in corruption scandals and

other 11 European countries, urged Israel on Thursday to reverse its decision to advance plans to construct around 3,000 settlement units in the

foreign ministries of Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain and Sweden, the countries said they opposed settlement expansion across the occupied Palestinian Territories. "We call on both parties to build on steps taken in recent months to improve cooperation and reduce tensions," the countries said. Israel moved forward on Wednesday with plans to build some 3,000 homes for Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank, defying the strongest criticism to date of such projects from the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden. - Agencies



Urdu is a language of poetry

BEIJING: Urdu is a language of poetry, says Chinese students, according to Gwadar Pro.

'The artistic talent of the Pakistani people goes hand in hand with the wonderful Urdu language. Many excellent Pakistani films and music have brought Urdu to the world cultural stage.

Since learning Urdu, we all recognize it as a language of poetry," said Yang Yue (Musarrat), a Urdu major student of Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU) who won the prize of Chinese & Urdu Essay Writing Competitions.

Introduced by Muhammad Suleman Mahsud, Education Attache of the Pakistani embassy in China, 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 award ceremony to honour the winners was held this

Monday (Oct 25th). 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.

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

US GDP growth slows sharply in Q3

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: The United States economy grew at a slower pace in the three months ending September, as a wave of COVID-19 cases, supply chain bottlenecks, surging inflation and ebbing federal financial lifelines downshifted the pace of the nation's economic recovery. US gross domestic product (GDP) which measures the value of goods and services produced by the economy, grew 2 percent in the third quarter from the same period a year ago, the US Bureau of Economic Analysis said on Thursday. That initial reading marked

a sharp slowdown from the second quarter when GDP adjusted for inflation grew 6.7 percent. The third-quarter headline number also fell short of many analysts already curbed expectations. "A resurgence of COVID-19 cases resulted in new restrictions and delays in the reopening of establishments in some parts of the country," said the BEA in its press release on Thursday. "Government assistance payments in the form of forgivable loans to businesses, grants to state and local governments, and social benefits to households all decreased."



TEHRAN: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi visits Pakistan School in Theran during his recent visit to Iran. - DNA

Seminar on Kashmir Black Day in Belarus

Indian ongoing repressions against the Kashmiris, rising threat of RSS, Hindutva ideology & their impact on the #SAARC region in general and IIOJK in particular



DNA

MINSK: The Embassy organised a Seminar on Kashmir Black Day on 28 October 2021. The programme included a video documentary on Kashmir dispute, messages of the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan and photographic exhi-

Addressing the participants, Ambassador of Pakistan to Belarus Sajjad Haider Khan gave the genesis of the dispute, International Law and UNSC Resolutions on the dispute. He further highlighted Indian ongoing repressions against the Kashmiris, rising threat of RSS, Hindutva ideology & their impact on the #SAARC region in general and Illegally Occupied J & K in particular. It was underscored that for peace, stability and economic development in the region, it was crucial to resolve the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UNSC resolutions.

E-certificate Uzbekistan, Russia to facilitate Pak-China free trade

BEIJING: The Certificate of Origin of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (FTA) will be applied for online via branches of China Council for Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) from 10 November, 2021, according to China Economic Net (CEN).

"The EDI on-line application system of CCPIT is open to enterprises for free. Applicants can register their exports and apply for the issuance of CO within just one working day, the same of which took them at least three days before," said Zou Ruirui, director of the legal department of CCPIT Nanjing.

CO of FTA, known as the "economic passport", is also an important document for a Pakistani importer to be granted zero-tariff treatment or tariff concession when importing goods from China.

Zou said, "The information exchange mechanism designed in China-Pakistan FTA will also facilitate the customs clearance and reduce any possible fraud which may otherwise occur due to the inefficiency of information sharing between two parties." - APP

to launch Agro express project **DNA**

TASHKENT: Uzbekistan and Russia expect to launch the Agroexpress project on an ongoing basis from December. The project can allow to increase the supply of 1 million tons of products by 2030. This was stated by the Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation Maxim Reshetnikov at a meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation.

Maxim Reshetnikov noted that the trade turnover between Uzbekistan and Russia is growing steadily. According to him, in 2020, trade increased by more than 15.6%, despite the pandemic.

At the same time, following the results of 8 months of this year, the growth of mutual trade amounted to 6.6%, said the head of the Ministry of Economic Development.

Reshetnikov noted that the Agroexpress project for the accelerated delivery of agricultural products from Moscow to Tashkent and back in a refrigerator train has become one of the drivers of cooperation between Uzbekistan and Russia.

"The project will help increase mutual supplies, ensure the speed and quality of products," said Maxim Reshetnikov. According to him the initiative is being implemented within the framework of the instruction of the President of the Russian Federation to increase the import of agricultural products into the country from the CIS member states.

"It is very important that in the near future the first trial Agroexpress leaves for Uzbekistan and comes back with the products," the minister said. "Our common goal is that by 2030, 1 million tons of products should be delivered to our countries by rail. This is an ambitious task that can be achieved," the minister said.

Deputy Prime Minister for Investments and Foreign Economic Relations - Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan Sardor Umurzakov expressed hope that from December Agroexpress will start operating on a permanent basis.

EU inches towards big tech clampdown BRUSSELS: The European in the European Parliament

push to curb the power of big tech and radically transform the way Facebook, Apple or Google do business is gaining traction though efforts could still be derailed

The European Union is currently negotiating landmark laws that once agreed could set a new standard worldwide on how US tech giants can

The effort has picked up momentum after the revelations of Facebook whistleblower Frances Haugen, who will visit Brussels next month, of the company's systemic failure to fix the harmful effects of its products, driven instead by boosting traffic and profit. The tech giants are spending millions of euros on lobby-

ing to influence lawmakers

and across the 27 member states, eager to protect their powerful profit centres such as targeted ads or big fees on app stores. The EU has split its regulatory revolution into two laws, the Digital Markets Act (DMA) and the Digital Services Act.

Slovenia, which currently holds the EU's rotating presidency, is working hard for the bloc's 27 member states to clinch a common position on both laws at a meeting on November 25, a spokesperson said on Thursday.

"Things are on a good way, but there are still some open questions," another diplomat said of the DMA, which could potentially give the EU the power to split up big tech companies. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Switzerland Bénédict de Cerjat in a photo with Naveed Chaudhary of Sika Pakistan. The ambassador lauded his contribution as President of SBC during the period 2020. – DNA



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Briefs

Court defers Asif Zardari's indictment

ISLAMABAD: An Accountability Court (AC) Thurspostday poned the indictment

former president Asif Ali Zardar till November 18, in a graft reference pertaining to a suspect transaction worth Rs 8 billions.

The court had set this day to frame charges against the accused but it deferred the process due to the stay order issued by Islamabad High Court (IHC) last day. AC-III Judge Syed Asghar Ali heard the reference filed by National Accountability Bureau (NAB). Zardari's lawyer Farooq H. Naek and NAB prosecutor Waseem Javed appeared before the court.

At the outset of hearing, the defence lawyer produced the written order of IHC halting the accountability court from framing charges on ex-president and other accused.

The hearing of the case then adjourned till next date. It may be mentioned here that the court had already declared Asif Ali Zardari's aide Mushtaq Ahmed as absconder due to non appearance. - APP

PNS ALAMGIR participates naval drills

ISLAMABAD: Navy Ship (PNS) ALAMGIR Thursday visited Berenice Port of Egypt and participated in passage exercises with the Egyptian and Japanese Navy ships.

Upon arrival, the ship was received by Berenice Base Commander along with Defence Attache of Pakistan to Egypt, said a Pakistan Navy media release here received.

During the stay at port, Pakistan Navy Mission Commander Commodore Azhar Mahmood and Commanding Officer of the Ship Captain Bilal Ahmed Sana called on Berenice Base Commander Brigadier General Waleed Attiya, where matters of mutual interest were discussed

The host dignitary acknowledged PN contributions for regional peace and maritime security.

during the interactions.

On the occasion, the Mission Commander conveyed well wishes of Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi, for the people of Egypt in general and Egyptian Navy in particular. As return call, Berenice Naval Base Commander along with Egyptian Navy Southern Fleet officials also visited PNS ALAMGIR at the port. – APP

Court convicts man spying for Russia

AGENCIES

BERLIN: A German man was convicted in Berlin Thursday of passing a CD ROM with 385 files of floor plans of properties used by the German parliament to the Russian embassy's defense attache in 2017.

The 56-year-old Jens F. was employed by a security firm contracted by Germany's lower legislative house, the Bundestag, at the time.

While the floor plans were not classified, they were also not intended for the public or foreign intelligence agencies.

The First Criminal Senate of the Court of Appeal, responsible for national security cases, handed Jens F. a two-year suspended sentence. Prosecutors had requested a sentence of two years and nine months.

He was also ordered to pay 15,000 (\$17,400) to the state treasury within two months of the sentence becoming final.

It was alleged that Jens F. had stashed the disc with the blueprints for properties used by the Bundestag into the mail with a note marking it of "special impor-

It was addressed to the Russian defense attache, with no return address.

Sudan ruling military sacks its six envoys

The decision, announced on state media, included Sudan's ambassadors to the United States, the European Union, China, Qatar, France and the head of the country's mission to the Swiss city of Geneva

AGENCIES

KHARTOUM: Sudan's ruling military has sacked six ambassadors and security forces have tightened their crackdown on pro-democracy protesters, even as international pressure against this week's coup grows. The decision, announced on state media, included Sudan's ambassadors to the United States, the European Union, China, Qatar, France and the head of the country's mission to the Swiss city of Geneva, apparently over their rejection of the military takeover.It came as demands are mounting for the army to walk back Monday's coup that derailed Sudan's fragile transition towards democracy following the removal of longtime ruler Omar al-Bashir in April 2019 in a popular uprising. Several Western embassies in Khartoum also said they will keep recognising deposed Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok and his cabinet as "the constitutional leaders of the transitional government" of Sudan.

On Wednesday, the African Union announced its decision to suspend Sudan from the bloc's activities until the restoration of the country's civilian-led transitional government, while the United States paused \$700m in emergency assistance and the Word Bank froze aid.

The World Bank's move is a major blow for a country that had just begun re-emerging from three decades of financial isolation. During al-Bashir's rule, Sudan had been placed on a US list of state sponsors of terrorism which made it ineligible for much-needed debt relief and funding from global institutions and also limited potential

UN calls on to restore civilian-led government

News Desk

NEW YORK: The UN Security Council called Thursday on Sudan's new military rulers to restore the civilian-led government that they toppled this week.

The council passed unanimously a statement that expressed "serious concern" about the coup Monday in the poverty-stricken African nation which has enjoyed only rare periods of democracy since gaining independence in 1956.

The council called for the immediate release of all those detained by the military authorities and urged "all stakeholders to engage in dialogue without pre-conditions." The British-drafted statement is the product of days of laborious talks

foreign investment.

The country was removed from the list in December 2020, and in June the World Bank said it would commit about \$2bn in grants to support the government's economic efforts over the next year.

Meanwhile, protests denouncing the army's power grab continued in the capital, Khartoum, and elsewhere, with many businesses shut in response to calls for strikes as part of a civil disobedience campaign that has also seen demonstrators blocking roads.

among council members and was watered down under pressure from Russia. The council met in an urgent session Tuesday after the putsch.

The statement expresses concern over the "suspension of some transitional institutions, the declaration of a state of emergency" and the detention of Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok. He was taken Monday by the military and is now under guard at his home, where he was moved after an international outcry. Other ministers remain under full military arrest,

One diplomat said that, at the insistence of China, the text notes explicitly that Hamdok did return home on Tuesday evening. But the UN maintains that it considers him as being denied freedom of movement.

In a statement posted on Facebook overnight, ministries and agencies of Sudan's most populous state, Khartoum, which includes the capital and twin city Omdurman, said they would not step aside or hand over their duties. They declared a general strike, although they would continue to supply flour, cooking gas, and emergency medical

Reports said hundreds of protesters threw rocks at security forces dismantling street barricades in Khartoum's eastern district of

Burri, while in the capital's north, security personnel fired tear gas and rubber bullets at dozens of demonstrators.

"Neighbourhoods and streets have been blockaded by armoured vehicles and men carrying rifles," the information ministry, still loyal to Hamdok, said in a statement, also alleging that "women were dragged" to the ground. "All security on the streets now look like the Bashir-era forces," one protester lamented to the AFP news agency.

Neighbourhood committees have announced plans for further protests, leading to what they said would be a "march of millions" on Saturday.

General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan on Monday dissolved the transitional government and the Sovereign Council, the country's top ruling body, as soldiers arrested several senior officials, including Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok.

Despite the declaration of a state of emergency, tens of thousands of pro-democracy protesters poured into the streets of Khartoum and its twin city Omdurman. The demonstrations were met with gunfire by the security forces, with at least seven people killed and dozens more wounded, according to health sources.

Speaking at his first news conference since announcing the takeover, al-Burhan said on Tuesday the army had no choice but to sideline politicians who were inciting people against the armed forces.

'The dangers we witnessed last week could have led the country into civil war," said al-Burhan, who also pledged to hold elections in July 2023 and to appoint a technocratic government in the meantime.

of Marib.

last 24 hours.

in recent weeks.

95 Houthis

killed in air

strikes

RIYADH: The Arab coalition

said on Thursday that 95

Houthis were killed during

air strikes on two districts

near the central Yemeni city

The coalition added that 11

military vehicles had also

been destroyed in the 22

strikes carried out on Juba

and Al-Kasarah during the

Juba is some 50 km south of

Marib, whilst Al-Kasarah is

30 km northwest of the city.

The coalition has reported

heavy strikes around Marib

Earlier on Thursday, the

Arab coalition intercepted

and destroyed five Houthi

ballistic missiles fired to-

ward the southwestern Sau-

medium- and long-range mis-

sile systems with and with-

out nuclear warheads since

the 1990s amid increasing

strategic competition with

China in a major boost to

the country's defence ca-

pabilities. Tension between

them flared last year over

a long-disputed section of

their border in the moun-

India is also increasingly sus-

picious of Beijing's efforts to

heighten its influence in the

Talks between Indian and

Chinese army commanders

to disengage troops from

key areas along their border

ended in a deadlock earlier

this month, failing to ease

a 17-month standoff that

has sometimes led to dead-

ly clashes. India and China

fought a bloody war in 1962.

tainous Ladakh area.

Indian Ocean.

di city of Jazan. - APP

sumer Affairs Department (CAD) to handle general public grievances and provide

redressal on merit. The Complaints and Appeals departments have been merged and placed under the umbrella of CAD to synchronize the data of complaints and provide complainants the option of appeal at one forum for timely redressal of their grievances under CRPR, 2003.

Consumers

concerns being

addressed

Arij Ghaznavi ISLAMABAD: The Oil and

Gas Regulatory Authority

has recently established Con-

OGRA has also established its regional offices at Karachi, Lahore, Quetta and Peshawar to facilitate the consumers at their doorstep and posted designated officers to record. hear, analyze and decide the complaints as per rules and alone in F.Y. 2020-21 OGRA designated officers decided 8272 complaints, provided 1341 gas connections and allowed a relief of Rs.118 Million to the consumers with provision of the opportunity of appeal to aggrieved party being competent appellate forum in oil and gas sector.

The consumers can register their complaints by hand, post, email, or they can directly submit their complaints on OGRA website. The complaint redressal mechanism is available free of cost and complaints are decided within a limited/ short time period, resolving consumers' grievances against sui companies, Oil Marketing Companies, CNG stations, LPG and LNG Companies etc. that is the reason OGRA has established the Consumer Affairs Department to provide quick and speedy relief to the consumer.

Considering boycott of LB polls: Fazal

The election commission has admitted that there is something wrong in voter lists

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Demanding fresh general elections in the country, JUI-F chief and Paki-

Demstan ocratic Movement (PDM) President Maulana Fazlur Rehman Wednesday said that they were considering to boycott the upcoming local government elections in

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Addressing a press conference in the federal capital, Fazlur Rehman said, "Local governments elected under a government which came to power through rigged elections are not acceptable."Raising questions over the intentions of the PTI-led federal government, the JUI-F chief asked that why the local body polls were going to be held when the Election Commission of Pakistan was saying that it was verifying voter lists.

"It means the election commission has admitted that there is something wrong in voter lists," he said.

He stated that the JUI-F was consulting legal and constitutional experts on the issue to finalise the future course of action in this regard, adding that they will also discuss it with other PDM parties before announcing the decision.

Iran Consulate resumes tourist visas

DNA

KARACHI :Iran resumes issuance of Tourist Visa for fully vaccinated applicants. Those who have received two doses of antiCovid vaccines and who can present negative PCR test conducted within 96 hours are eligible to obtain e-visa through a web-based application form: evisa.mfa.gov.ir

Iran and Iraq have eliminated visa requirements for visitors traveling between the two countries via air.



Dr. Moeed Yusuf in Federal Capital. - APP

Envoy welcomes Afghan students

Pakistan annually grants 1,000 scholarships to Afghan students under Allama Iqbal Scholarship scheme

STAFF REPORT

KABUL: Mansoor Ahmad Khan Ambassador of Pakistan to Afghanistan Thursday welcomed the Afghan students enrolled for computer and English courses at the Vocational Training Institute of the embassy.

Addressing the students, the ambassador highlighted Pakistan's abiding commitment to education of Afghan brethren.

He shared that presently more than 50,000 Afghan alumni of Pakistan academic institutions were working in public sector organizations of Afghanistan and were playing their role for the betterment of Afghan society.

After COVID-19 pandemic, educational activity at the Institute resumed on October 17, 2021 in purpose-built classrooms in a recently built consular building of the embassy.

Pakistan annually grants 1,000 scholarships to Afghan students under Allama Muhammad Igbal Scholarship scheme. Tests for next year's scholarship will take place before the end of this

India tests ballistic missile amid tensions with China

News Desk

NEW DELHI: India has testfired a nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missile with a range of 5,000km (3,125 miles) from an island off its east coast amid rising border tensions with China. The successful launch on Wednesday was in line with "India's policy to have credible minimum deterrence that underpins the commitment to no first use", said a government statement.

The Agni-5 missile splashed down in the Bay of Bengal with "a very high degree of accuracy", said the statement issued on Wednesday

Beijing's powerful missile arsenal has driven New Delhi to improve its weapons systems in recent years, with

Pakistan voices serious concerns

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has voiced serious concerns over India's jingoistic pursuit of lethal weapons. Responding to the queries of media persons regarding test firing of nuclear capable intercontinental ballistic missile by India, at his weekly news briefing in Islamabad today, Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar

said New Delhi's hostile posturing toward its neighbours further imperils peace and stability in South Asia. The spokesperson said it must be alarming for the international community that at a time when the region is already facing the growing and real threat of extremist Hindutva Ideology which espouses territorial expansion, the BJP-RSS government is seeking an arms race. The spokesperson said the recent missile test by India will further vitiate the political and security environment in the region. - DNA

the Agni-5 believed to be able to strike nearly all of China.

India is already able to strike anywhere inside neighbouring Pakistan, its archrival against whom it has fought

27,000 cases in Pakistan

three wars since gaining independence from British colonialists in 1947. **Dengue virus soars, crosses**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Dengue virus infections are continuing to climb in Pakistan, as the case count crossed 27,000 this year to date, according to the official tally.

From January 1 to October 27, 27,672 people have tested positive for the mosquito-borne disease in the country, while it has claimed the lives of 67 people, as per the data of the ministry of federal health. Of the total caseload, the highest patients have to date been reported in Punjab with 11,655 cases, followed by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with 5,337, Islamabad with 3,697 cases, Sindh with 3,564 cases, Balochistan with 1,916 cases and Azad Jammu and

Punjab, which recorded 34 deaths, followed by Sindh with 15 deaths, Islamabad with

The most number of people have died in

Kashmir with 1,503 cases.

11 and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with seven this year.

In comparison, only 6,016 cases of the dengue virus were reported last year across the country. But a whopping 53,498 patients were recorded in 2019, with 95 deaths. Dengue is a mosquito-borne viral infection

that is common in warm, tropical climates and often peaks during rainy seasons, states the World Health Organisation

Once bitten by a dengue infected mosqui to, the virus takes four-10 days to affect the body. Its symptoms can be mild, similar to a common flu, or severe such as fe ver, headaches, pain behind the eyes and

As per the World Health Organisation, the best way to prevent the virus is to wear clothing that covers the body well, especially the legs and feet, and apply insect repellents.



KABUL: Mansoor Ahmad Khan Ambassador of Pakistan to Afghanistan addressing the Afghan students. - DNA