



# Islamabad POST

Saturday, October 30, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

**Fawad Chaudhry says Pakistan, Turkey relations exemplary**

Detailed News On Page-01

**Expanding trainings for Pakistan: envoy**

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**Carlos Alcaraz reaches Vienna semi-final**

Detailed News On Page-06



**Briefs**

**PM Imran Khan to address nation**

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed said on Friday that Prime Minister Imran Khan will address the nation tomorrow or the day after to shed light on the government's stance on violent protests by the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TLP). Briefing the media about the decisions taken in today's meeting of the National Security Committee (NSC), the minister said the top national security body decided to establish the writ of the state at any cost and not to shut the door on talks with the outfit. He said the meeting that lasted two hours pondered the overall security situation in the country as well as talks with the TLP. The Rangers called in Punjab under Article 147 has been handed over the province's security with the police working under the paramilitary force, he added. The meeting was attended by ministers, the national security adviser and the services and intelligence chiefs.

**Bizenjo takes oath as CM Balochistan**

DNA

QUETTA: Mir Abdul Qudoos Bizenjo took oath as chief minister (CM) of Balochistan on Friday at the Governor House. According to details, a swearing-in ceremony was held at Balochistan Governor's House in which Governor Syed Zohor Ahmed Agha administered oath to newly-elected CM Mir Abdul Qaddos Bizenjo. Punjab Governor Chaudhry Sarwar and National Assembly Deputy Speaker Qasim Khan Suri attended the swearing in ceremony. Members of national and provincial assemblies and senators also attended the oath ceremony.

**Holiday Notice**

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

## 'No further breach of law to be tolerated'

NSC resolved to deal with TLP strictly; PM vows not to bow to any pressure



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan chairing NSC meeting. - DNA

SHUJAAT HAMZA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: The 35th meeting of the National Security Committee (NSC) was convened under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday, 29th October, 2021 at Prime Minister House. The meeting was attended by relevant Federal Cabinet members, National Security Adviser, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, all three Services Chiefs, DGs of ISI, IB and FIA, and senior civil and military officers.

Continued on Page 06

## Fawad asks TLP men to go home

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The National Security Committee (NSC) on Friday commended the police for their professionalism and restraint despite being targeted directly by protestors belonging to the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), while Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry issued a stark warning to miscreants to return home. Punjab Police have suffered multiple casualties - including four martyrs and over four hundred injured - and on Friday the government issued a stark warning that it has had enough. "The state's restraint should not be seen as a sign of weakness," a press release issued by the NSC read. "I am telling the protestors to return home. I am telling their families: call your people home."

Continued on Page 06

## Taliban appoint new envoy to Pakistan

As Pakistan does not officially recognise the new Taliban govt, Shokaib will not have the formal title of ambassador but will be in charge of the embassy

STAFF REPORT

PESHAWAR/KABUL: The Taliban government has sent an envoy to run the Afghan embassy in the Pakistani capital, senior Taliban sources said, as the new administration starts to take over Afghanistan's network of foreign delegations. Mohammad Shokaib was appointed first secretary or charge d'affaires at the embassy, which has not had an ambassador in place since the previous Western-backed government withdrew its envoy in July over the alleged kidnapping of his daughter. As Pakistan does not officially recognise

## Taliban govt calls for unfreezing Afghan assets abroad

DNA

KABUL: Afghanistan's Taliban government is pressing for the release of billions of dollars of central bank reserves as the drought-stricken nation faces a cash crunch, mass starvation and a new migration crisis. Afghanistan parked billions of dollars in

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Switzerland Mr. Bénédicte de Cerjat in a photo with newly elected President of the Swiss Business Council, Mohsin Ali Nathani, President and CEO of Habib Metro Bank. - DNA

## NATIONAL DAY OF TURKEY



ISLAMABAD: Federal Information Minister Fawad Ch, Ambassador of Turkey Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul, Federal Minister of Aviation Ghulam Sarwar, Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov and others cutting cake on the occasion of national day of Turkey. - DNA

## Turkish national day celebrated in style

Information Minister Fawad Ch. says ties between two countries exemplary

ANSAR M BHAITI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry has said that Pakistan and Turkey enjoy excellent relations adding this relationship has grown even stronger as Prime Minister Imran Khan and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's relationship has turned into brotherhood. The Information Minister was speaking on the occasion of National Day reception hosted by Ambassador of Turkey Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul. A large number of diplomats, members of the civil society, academicians; think-tank attended the reception. It was a full-fledge well attended gathering after the govt had decided to allow such events. People gathered there were all praise for the Turkish embassy for providing them with an opportunity of meeting one another after a gap of almost two years. Fawad Chaudhry further said Pakistan despite Pakistan, Afghanistan cricket match huge presence of people shows Pakistani people's love for Turkey and Turkish people. Turkish Ambassador Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul in his speech welcomed the guests adding Turkey and Pakistan are brotherly countries. He also read out the message of the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

## Pakistan thoroughly thrash Afghanistan

Defeat Afghans by 5 wickets; Asif Ali plays winning knock; thanks fans for tremendous support

SPORTS DESK

DUBAI: Asif Ali once again rose to the occasion, walking out in the middle of a high-pressure situation and hitting four sixes to ensure Pakistan won their T20I clash against Afghanistan Friday. Pakistan were struggling to find their feet after wicketkeeper batsman and opener Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad Hafeez and Fakhar Zaman were dismissed by Afghanistan spinners Rashid Khan, Mujeeb and Nabi. Pakistan



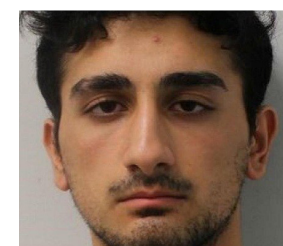
needed 148 runs to win their third T20 World Cup clash against Afghanistan and qualify for the semi-finals. Skipper Babar Azam and Fakhar Zaman had formed a solid partnership before Nabi dismissed the left-handed batsman, trapping him lbw. Babar Azam scored another half-century to ease some pressure off Afghanistan. However, the Pakistani skipper was once dropped off a Rashid Khan delivery. However, Rashid Khan received him for the second time in the same over, this time bowling him out. He was not Rashid Khan's first wicket, though.

Continued on Page 06

## UK teen gets 35 years of imprisonment

NEWS DESK

LONDON: A British teenager was sentenced to a minimum of 35 years of imprisonment for murdering two sisters in a London park under a pact he believed he had signed with the demonic forces to kill women every six months for an eventual lottery win. Danyal Hussein, now 19, stabbed to death Bibaa Henry, 46, and Nicole Smallman, 27, in a savage attack in a country park in northwest London in June last year after they had celebrated Henry's birthday with friends. Hussein had carried out the murders to fulfil his side of a "contract" with the demon "Mighty King Lucifuge Rofocale", which he signed using his own blood, promising to "perform a minimum of six sacrifices every six months for as long as I am free and physically capable". The close sisters had gone to Wembley's Fryent Park to celebrate with friends but stayed alone into the early hours. They took 150 photos, with the last "haunting" picture showing them looking sideways at what police believe was the arrival of Hussein.



## Govt should avoid violence: Pervez Elahi

NEWS DESK

LAHORE: Punjab Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Pervez Elahi has said that the government should avoid violence and solve the problems through dialogue instead of ego. In a statement, the Punjab Assembly speaker said that the rulers should end ego and solve the problem through dialogue. "If there can be talks with the enemy country, why not with the people of their own country," he added. "The governments have no ego and they should not become responsible for bloodshed. Whether martyred policemen or the people who were killed by the police less than any other Muslim: ask their widows and children, what are they feeling," Chaudhry Pervez Elahi said. He said that hundreds of policemen were injured and in the whole situation only the country was being harmed. He also maintained that the rulers had no choice but to restore peace.

## Joe Biden meets with Macron



ROME: US President Joe Biden began a meeting with his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron on Friday ahead of a G20 summit, marking the first meeting of the leaders since a diplomatic spat over a submarine deal. "We have no better ally than France," Biden said at the start of a meeting at the French embassy to the Holy See in Rome. - APP

**Inside...**

Nigeria expresses desire to enhance bilateral ties - Page 02

The Indonesian embassy holds "Appreciation Night" - Page 03

Malaysia expanding industrial trainings for Pakistan: envoy - Page 04

Why the Hazara people fear genocide in Afghanistan - Page 05

West Indies down Bangladesh in must-win T20 WC game - Page 06

Pakistan embassy Vienna holds webinar on Kashmir Black Day - Page 07

US to deepen ties with Taiwan amid China tensions: Top envoy - Page 08

## 76th UN Day event held at the Foreign Office

Foreign Secretary reaffirmed Pakistan's abiding commitment to multilateralism, with the UN playing a central role for promoting peace, security, development and human rights for all

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator, organized an event today to celebrate the 76th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood was the Chief Guest. A video message of the UN Secretary General was featured at the event. Speaking on the occasion, the Foreign Secretary reaffirmed Pakistan's abiding commitment to multilateralism, with the UN playing a central role for promoting peace, security, development and human rights for all. He stated that multilateralism was, and will remain a central feature of Pakistan's foreign policy. The Foreign Secretary noted Pakistan's constructive contributions to the work of the UN in promoting the fundamental principles of the UN Charter, including in the areas of peacekeeping, refugee protection, humanitarian action, climate change, and international cooperation for sustainable development.



Noting the various accomplishments of the UN over the last 76 years, the Foreign Secretary underscored that the UN's mission of decolonization was not yet complete as the people of Jammu and Kashmir still awaited the exercise of their inalienable right to self-determination as promised to them by the resolutions of the UN Security Council. He commended the UN for taking the lead in rallying international support for addressing the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and preventing its economic collapse, adding that

Pakistan was playing its due role in support of that goal. The Foreign Secretary thanked all UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes working in the country for their partnership with Pakistan for advancing its socio-economic development objectives. The UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Julien Harneis, highlighted the multifaceted UN activities in Pakistan and appreciated the assistance by Government of Pakistan in evacuation of UN staff members from Afghanistan and facilitating the provision of much needed humanitarian relief to the country. A youth representative also shared her views on the expectations from the United Nations for meeting contemporary challenges. The event was attended by the Heads of Diplomatic Missions and UN agencies based in Islamabad, as well as senior government officials and members of the UN staff. The event also showcased the cooperation between UN Agencies and Government of Pakistan in the areas of health, food security, environmental protection, capacity-building and socio-economic development.

# Nigeria expresses desire to enhance bilateral trade ties

Pakistan and Nigeria are enjoying excellent diplomatic relations but it could not be translated into economic terms according to their potential

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Pak-Nigeria bilateral trade must be enhanced to one billion dollars in view of robust diplomatic relations between the two countries and in this connection the private sectors of two countries should play their proactive role, said his Excellency Mohammad Bello Abioye, High Commissioner of Nigeria.

Addressing the business community in Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) here today, he said that Pakistan and Nigeria are enjoying excellent diplomatic relations but it could not be translated into economic terms according to their potential. He said that now we must focus on increasing economic relations by involving private sectors of the two countries. He appreciated the well-developed textile sector of Faisalabad and said that Pakistan could enhance its textile and Information Technology (IT) export to Nigeria. He also welcomed the partic-

ipation of the businessmen of Faisalabad in Lagos Expo scheduled to be held next month.

He assured fool proof security to the participants and hoped that it will open new avenues of trade between the two countries. Responding to a question about IT export, he said that a workable plan should be shared so that practical steps could be taken. He also assured to provide a comprehensive list of Nigerian exporters of commodities and importers of food flavours. Earlier Mr. Imran Mahmood Sheikh Senior Vice President FCCI welcomed the Nigerian High Commissioner and introduced Faisalabad and FCCI. He said that the corona had crippled the global economy but in Pakistan the economy made tremendous progress due to the innovative smart lockdown policy of the present Government. He said that textile is the iconic identity of Faisalabad but other sectors including chemicals, soap, detergent and pharmaceutical etc are also growing at much faster pace. Quoting sta-

tistics of bilateral trade, he said that the total volume of trade is very low as compared to the potential of Pakistan and Nigeria. He said that at present trade balance is in favour of Nigeria. He further said that Faisalabad is a global player in the textile sector but our textile export to Nigeria is not up to the mark.

He said that both countries should make serious efforts to enhance bilateral trade and, in this connection, he recommended regular meetings, organization of Catalogue exhibitions and signing of MOUs between leading chambers of the two countries for sustainable economic relations.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Chaudhry, Engineer Ahmad Hassan, Engineer Asim Munir, Mr. Muhammad Fazil, Mr. Khurram, Mr. Muhammad Tahir Yaqub and others took part in the question-answer session. Later, Engineer Ahmad Hassan along with Mr. Imran Mahmood Sheikh SVP presented FCCI shield to his Excellency Mohammad Bello Abioye.



FAISALABAD: Former vice president Engineer Ahmad Hassan along with Mr. Imran Mahmood Sheikh SVP presenting FCCI shield to His Excellency Mohammad Bello Abioye, High Commissioner of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. – DNA

## PRCS organizes Blood Camp in GIKI

Abrar ul Haq says the demand for blood donation is all-time high due to platelets transfusion which is correlated to manage the severity of dengue

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) Regional Blood Donor Centre (RBDC) organized a blood camp at Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology (GIKI), Swabi. The students enthusiastically participated in the blood drive where a record number of 286 blood units were collected in a single day. From these 286 blood units, 650 platelets, plasma, and RBCs units will be derived. In his statement on the occasion, Chairman PRCS, Abrar ul Haq, praised the efforts of arranging a blood donation camp in GIKI. He appreciated and stressed the need for blood donation and the utter importance of maintaining an adequate supply of blood.

Abrar ul Haq said that overall blood collection has significantly reduced due to the pandemic situation. Closure of educational institutions due to COVID-19 and the partial lockdown affected scheduled blood camps and blood donation drives. "Blood collection

has decreased from 5000 per month to just a few dozen per month amid COVID", he added. He said as the COVID situation has improved, PRCS aims to arrange such drives diligently and actively. Moreover, a significant increase in demand is seen due to the increasing number of dengue cases, all across Pakistan. The demand for platelets is all-time high due to platelets transfusion which is correlated to manage the severity

of dengue. Chairman PRCS encouraged and inspired youth to step forward to participate in blood donation drives and save lives. He appealed to the masses to donate blood and asked them to come forward to contribute to this great cause, adding that blood donation is a life-saving act that saves innumerable lives and one unit of blood can save up to three lives. He hailed the cooperation of Red Cross Red Crescent

Movement partners, ICRC, IFRC and ECHO particularly, in PRCS Blood Drives. He said that as the educational institutions are opened, similar blood camps will be arranged in different universities to suffice the acute shortage of blood. "Youth participation is significant to bring a ray of hope for people whose lives are completely dependent upon this precious and irreplaceable gift", Abrar ul Haq concluded.



ISLAMABAD: Students of Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology (GIKI), donating blood in camp organized by PRCS, National Headquarters. – DNA

## Ministers inaugurate school vaccination center



LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmeen Rashid cutting the ribbon to inaugurate Pak-Turk Pictorial Exhibition to mark Turkish Democracy Day in connection with 1000 years of history at University of Education. – APP

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Dr. Yasmin Rashid and Minister for School Education Murad Raas inaugurated student vaccination center at Pilot School Wahdat Road here on Friday. Present on the occasion were Secretary Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department Imran Sikander Baloch, Special Secretary Saleha Saeed and officials of the Health department.

Both the ministers reviewed the vaccination process at the center. The health minister also monitored fumigation process in Wahdat Colony. On the occasion, the health minister said "We have to make the Reach Every Door Campaign a success". The target for this campaign was vaccination of 20 million people, she added.

During this campaign, 70,000 staff of Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department and 4,000 people of School Education Depart-

ment were rendering services, she informed. Dr Yasmin said that in the first four days, more than 2.5 million people had been vaccinated adding "We will vaccinate around 5 million students in the RED campaign."

The fifth wave of the coronavirus pandemic with Epsilon variant has hit the world, she said and added that people must try to get themselves vaccinated during the RED campaign. Minister for School Education Murad Raas said that 99 percent school teachers were vaccinated in Punjab, adding that the department was trying to vaccinate maximum students in the 12 to 18 age group. "I appeal parents to get their children vaccinated and all of us will have to work together to make the campaign a success" he added.

Responding to questions from journalists, Dr. Yasmin Rashid said that by vaccination of maximum number of people Pakistan can overcome the coronavirus pandemic. She appealed media

to support the government in spreading awareness about vaccination. She also said all out efforts were being made to overcome dengue epidemic. She said dengue situation was being constantly monitored as 17 cabinet meetings had taken place since January. To another question about dengue link with weather, she said cases might decrease as winter sets in. Dr. Yasmin Rashid said that beds had been increased in all hospitals of Punjab and another 250 beds might be added if cases continued to increase.

She said timely action had been taken in certain areas which was very helpful in reducing the number of cases. She said Punjab's EPI (Expanded Programme on Immunisation) programme had progressed a great deal and routine immunization coverage had crossed 90 percent in Punjab. She also said all environmental samples of polio were negative this year and Pakistan was now moving towards polio free future.

## Renovation work in Shahi Bagh to be completed by March

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has accelerated renovation and rehabilitation work in the Mughal era Shahi Bagh gardens that would be completed by March next year. Talking to APP, Engineer Muhammad Riaz of the local government and rural development department, who is supervising the uplift and renovation work on Shahi Bagh said work on the mega project including construction of ladies park has been expedited and hopefully would be opened for general public and tourists by March next year.

Established by Mughals and later developed by Durrani rulers, Shahi Bagh located on backside of Firdus bazaar at Fiqarabad area on Peshawar-Charsadda Road is currently undergoing through massive development, restoration and face uplift works launched by the incumbent government in October last year to restore its grandeur and make it again a centre of attraction for domestic and foreign tourists besides providing better recreational facilities to Peshawarites.

He said in the first phase, all encroachments were removed from the historical garden and 121.75 kanal encroached lands of Shahi Bagh was reclaimed. The reclaimed lands includes 24 kanals of the Pardah Bagh and a wedding hall, 34.75 kanal land of the Funland and 63 kanal used by Traffic Police for parking of impounded vehicles, he said, adding the total area of Shahi Bagh has now increased to 205 kanals.

Out of 121.7 kanal of reclaimed land, he said, 39.75 kanal was included in Shahi Bagh and 83 kanal allocated for developing a state-of-the-art Ladies Park. – APP

## Pakistan, Italy vow to further strengthen bilateral relations

DNA

KARACHI: The Consul General of Italy in Karachi, Danilo Giurandella was hosted by Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA for tea talks at the IBA Main Campus. The topic of the discussion was 'Pak-Italy Relations through Diplomatic Lens'. Mr. Giurandella spoke about the strong bilateral relations shared between Italy and Pakistan in the fields of trade, culture, archaeology and health sector.

The cooperation in the Education sector is still largely untapped. Ninety percent of Italian Universities belong to public sector and offer competitive degree



programs. Students from Pakistan are now exploring higher education opportunities in Italy. This year, the Consulate received 1300 applications from Sindh and Baluchistan only while the Embassy in Islamabad received a few thousand ap-

plications. However, there is great potential to develop university linkages between the two countries.

Dr. Zaidi encouraged faculty and students to explore higher education options in Italy which has extraordinary institutions.

## Production come to a halt

KARACHI: President SITE Association of Industry, Abdul Rasheed has expressed grave concern over stoppage of gas supply to SITE industries and has appealed the Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan and Energy Minister Hammad Azhar to provide gas to industries with required pressure to save the industries from disaster and workers from going jobless. Expressing apprehensions over the current situation, SAI president said that if the gas supply is not restored, there will remain no option but to close down industries and the PM's dream to stabilize the economy and promote industrialization will not come true.

"COVID-19 pandemic has already hit the industries and industrial production to a great extent due to which, industries have suffered huge losses and are now struggling for their survival and export promotion but the industrialists are at present, in trouble due to steps being taken by the government which are not industry-friendly as well as due to non-availability of ease of doing business measure", he said. – APP

## Teachers asked to play role against drug abuse

PESHAWAR: Speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, Ministers and IGP Friday urged teachers, Ulemas, parents and civil society to play their imperative role against drug abuse especially in educational institutions. In a messages in connection with Red Ribbon Week being observed across KP, they said that government, security forces and other law enforcing agencies were conducting crackdown against the drug peddlers and dealers but the society could not be made drug-free without cooperation of every individual. – APP



PESHAWAR: Speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Assembly Mushtaq Ahmad Ghani inaugurates the exhibition. – DNA

## Smart Expo Property show kicks off

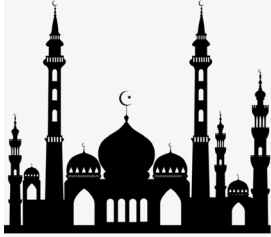
The opening ceremony was attended by a large number of KP business community

DNA

PESHAWAR: The three-day Smart Expo Property Exhibition organized by Future Development Holding and Pak World Trade and Expo Center was inaugurated by Speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Provincial Assembly Mushtaq Ahmad Ghani at PC Hotel Peshawar. He Appreciating the efforts of Pak World Trade and Expo Center & Future Development Holdings, he said that such property exhibitions play an important role in further stabilizing the economy of the country. The opening ceremony was attended by a large

number of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa business community. Talking to media, Aslam Malik, Chief Operating Officer, Future Development Holding, said that Smart Expo Property Exhibition is a great opportunity for the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to invest. Inviting the people of Pakhtunkhwa to participate in the exhibition, the exhibition will run for three days - Chairman Pak World Trade and Expo Center Khurshid Barlas said that the Smart Property Expo will play an important role in terms of investment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Will further boost the economy of the province.

## SERVICES



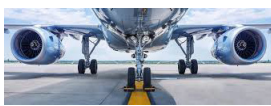
## Namaz Timings

|              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| Fajr.....    | 05:00 am |
| Zohr.....    | 11:51 am |
| Asr.....     | 03:40 pm |
| Maghrib..... | 05:18 pm |
| Isha.....    | 06:42 pm |



## Hotels &amp; Restaurants

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



## Airlines

|                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Turkish Airlines..... | 8494949 |
|-----------------------|---------|



## Emergency

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Rescue (Police).....                     | 15         |
| Bomb Disposal.....                       | 15         |
| Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad..... | 1122 & 16  |
| Emergency Ambulance..                    | 1122       |
| & Rescue Services..                      | 4451122    |
| Motorway Police.....                     | 9266044    |
| Motorway Police..                        | 9270601-20 |
| Women Police Stations Islamabad.....     | 9222596    |
| Rawalpindi.....                          | 9270601-20 |



## Enquiry

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Edhi Ambulance.....  | 115       |
| PIA Flight Info..... | 114       |
| PIA Cargo.....       | 9280979   |
| Railway Inquiry..... | 117       |
| Railway Exchange..   | 9270831-5 |
| WASA Rawalpindi..    | 5555489   |
| CAA.....             | 9281092   |



## Hospitals

|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| CMH.....              | 5611111    |
| MH.....               | 5611116    |
| Cantt Hospital.....   | 9270907-11 |
| DHQ.....              | 5556311-4  |
| RGH.....              | 9290301-7  |
| Holy Family.....      | 9290322-7  |
| PIMS.....             | 9261170-79 |
| Polyclinic.....       | 9218300-09 |
| Shifa International.. | 4603666    |



## Departments

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| CDA.....         | 9221334-43 |
| CDA.....         | 9208301-04 |
| Met Office.....  | 9250360-6  |
| RDA.....         | 5555864    |
| TMA.....         | 5770886    |
| Cantonment Board | 9270151-3  |



## Complaints

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

## Islamabad Metropolitan

|                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| Corporation.....  | 9209224 |
| Potohar Town..... | 9209224 |
| Rawal Town.....   | 5773343 |

## Wasa Water Tank

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Rawalpindi..... | 0331-5022125 |
|-----------------|--------------|

## The Indonesian embassy holds "Appreciation Night"

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Indonesian Embassy in Islamabad held an "Appreciation Night" to pay tribute to the business community and friends of Indonesia and ASEAN in recognition of their meritorious contribution and collaboration with the Indonesian Embassy in enhancing bilateral cooperation, especially in the domain of trade and investment. The event was yet another activity being organized by the Embassy in commemoration of the 76th Indonesian Independence Day and the 54th Anniversary of the ASEAN.

Federal Secretary of Commerce Muhammad Suleh A. Farauqi was the chief guest on the occasion. Heads of ASEAN Missions in Islamabad, Diplomats, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), Nadeem A. Rauf and President of Pakistan-ASEAN Business Forum, Zafar Bahtawari and the business community and "friends of Indonesia" from the twin cities attended the reception in high number. The reception which was organized at the luxury farm house of Khalid Farooq Qazi, a Pakistani businessman, be-



gan with the playing of the national anthems of Indonesia and Pakistan and the ASEAN Hymn which was followed by the cake cutting ceremony performed by the Indonesian Ambassador Adam Tugio while joined by the Chief guest, Heads of ASEAN Missions and other guests of honor. The event also featured the promotion of Indonesian culture by presenting performances of Nandak Ganjen Dance, Topeng Ireng Dance and pencak silat

attractions as well as promoting culinary delights and videos about Indonesia and ASEAN. In his remarks, the Ambassador Adam M. Tugio expressed his sincere gratitude and appreciation to the distinguished guests for their contribution and role in improving investment and trade relations between Indonesia-Pakistan and ASEAN-Pakistan. He observed with great pleasure that amid COVID-19 driven global economic recession the economic and trade relations

between Indonesia and Pakistan have continued to show a positive trend. The Ambassador said that the development of a beneficial and comprehensive ASEAN-Pakistan cooperation has special importance considering the emergence of geo-economic and geo-strategic regional alliances. ASEAN countries, he continued, wanted a partnership with Pakistan through joint ventures and increased interaction in the fields of scientific research,

education, information technology and agriculture in order to strengthen ASEAN-Pakistan cooperation in the future. He also shared several strategies to strengthen cooperation with ASEAN countries, including trade and investment cooperation. He noted that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project offered great opportunities for trade and investment as it could potentially develop Pakistan for the ASEAN member countries to make

Pakistan as an economic hub for the Central Asia, Middle East and the Western China. Like other countries, Indonesia also has an interest in exploring potential cooperation within the framework of CPEC through strengthening trade cooperation at the bilateral level along with ASEAN member countries through engagements with the stakeholders and business actors including the Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Various efforts had been made by the Indonesian Embassy to improve economic and trade relations between the two countries including increasing and diversifying Indonesian products to Pakistani market. One of the breakthroughs was made when Embassy collaborated with the E-Commerce company Pakistan Gateway to hold a series of Indonesia-Pakistan Virtual Trade Expo 2021. The success of the exhibition was reflected by the enthusiasm of Indonesian exporter companies, which are mostly SMEs. It is worth noting despite COVID-19 pandemic the level of business interactions between Indonesian-Pakistan was successfully maintained. The trade volume actually appreciated and registered an increase of 8% compared to 2019, reaching USD 2.5 billion with a surplus for Indonesia of USD 2.1 billion.

## Rwp Covid positivity rate drops to 0.33%

NEWS DESK

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district's coronavirus positivity ratio was recorded at 0.33 per cent on Friday, the lowest level noted since the pandemic's start. According to new data released by the District Health Authority, five new infections were reported during the last 24 hours, including four belonging to Potohar town and one from Rawal town. "Presently, 21 confirmed patients were admitted to various city facilities, including five in Benazir Bhutto Hospital, 12 in Institute of Urology and four in Fauji Foundation Hospital", he added. He said that 37,637 people had been discharged after recovery, out of which 34,660 belonged to Rawalpindi and 2977 from other districts. The report added that a total of 38,978 confirmed cases have arrived in district health facilities so far, out of which 35,992 of Rawalpindi and 2986 from other districts. District Health Authority updated that one patient was on a ventilator in critical condition, ten stable while ten were on oxygen support. As many as 3,191,028 people have jabbed themselves so far, including 43,862 health workers and 3,147,166 other adults and senior citizens.

## Sweet Home upbringing orphans as responsible citizen: IGP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Qazi Jamil-ur-Rehman Friday visited Pakistan sweet home and appreciated its contribution towards serving the orphans in dignified manner. The IGP Islamabad met with the children residing there and getting education. He mingled with them and distributed gifts among them on behalf of Capital police. The children expressed their happiness after meeting with the Islamabad police chief and thanked him over his visit. Patron in Chief Pakistan Sweet Home, Zamur Khan was also present on the occasion who later briefed IGP about functioning and programs of sweet home. He informed the diplomat that four to six years old children were brought up in healthy home atmosphere, where all facilities, including educational and food were provided to them up to 14 year of age. Zamur Khan said that the program was first of its nature in the country and facilitating thousands of children. The IGP Islamabad Qazi Jamil ur Rehman said that Pakistan Sweet Homes program is building up self-confidence in orphans to make them progressive citizens of the society.

Police recover 6 motorbikes, arrest two accused

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) of Islamabad Police has busted four accused of motorbike lifter gang and two drug smugglers, a police spokesman said on Friday. According to details, a CIA police team consisting of ASI Zulfiqar Ali along with other officials successfully nabbed four accused of Sheri gang involved in stealing motorbikes. The modus operandi of the gang was to lift the motorbikes parked in parking areas with master key. The gangsters have been identified as Sher Ali Alias Sheri, Muhammad Nadeem, Muhammad Shahzad and Hashim Ali. Police team also recovered six stolen motorbikes and weapons from their possession. During the preliminary investigation, the accused have confessed their involvement in incidents of lifting motorbikes from various areas of city. Separate cases have been registered against them in I-Area, Karachi Company and Ramna police stations. Further investigation is underway.



ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on commerce & investment, Abdul Razak Dawood in a meeting with Andrei Metelitsa, ambassador of Belarus in Islamabad. - DNA

## NUMS' Breast Awareness campaign



RAWALPINDI: National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS) joined the nation and the world here Friday in creating awareness about breast cancer which some reports say, affects 90,000 women in Pakistan every year and kills 40,000 of them, which can be prevented through early diagnosis. "It is tragic that so many women die from a disease that is treatable - especially if detected early - simply because they were embarrassed to discuss it with doctors or any of their family member or friends," said Dr. Rida Fatima Saeed and Dr. Shaista Aslam, Assistant Professors, Department of Biological Sciences (DBS) NUMS, who have been spearheading an awareness campaign during the month by holding a webinar, awareness walk and informal group discussion at the university. October has been declared as "Breast Cancer Awareness Month," across the globe

to highlight the disease and encourage women to consult doctors if they sense any abnormality in their breasts. WHO put the world-wide death toll of cancer to 685,000 in last year while 2.3 million women were diagnosed with it, Dr Aslam said. Early detection of breast cancer is vital as it may increase available treatment options, chances of survival, and improve quality of life. According to the latest figures, one in nine women in Pakistan either has breast cancer or is at risk of developing it, said Dr. Rida. She added that Pakistan has the highest number of cancer patients in Asia and while the average worldwide age of breast cancer patients is 55 years, the median age in Pakistan is 35 years, which is a truly alarming statistic NUMS organized a Breast Cancer Awareness webinar and a special walk here at its PWD Campus on Thursday to discuss various aspects of the disease and to create awareness about screening option to help diagnose cancer at an early stage while it is curable. Dr. Ayesha Isani Majeed, Head of the Radiology Department at PIMS apprised the audience of the free screening services available for women at the Federal Breast Cancer Screening Center at PIMS. - APP

## IESCO notifies 2-day power suspension

KHAYYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Friday notified 2-day power suspension programme for Saturday and Sunday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work. According to IESCO Spokesman, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period on Saturday from 08:00 AM to 01:00 PM Domeli, Bhagwal, Bakrala, NCI, Ahmedabad, Laila Town Feeders from 08:30 AM to 02:00 PM, Golra, Kariyala, Jund Awan, Sagri, Dhok Awan, Major Hanif, Kallar, Fazal Ahmad Shaheed, New Chawah, Ghazan Khan, Khanna East, Millat Chowk Feeders and surroundings.

## No increase in Tobacco tariff since 3 years: Ghumman

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: General Secretary and Director Operations of Pakistan National Heart Association (PANA), Sana Ullah Ghumman Friday said that "No increase on tariff has been made in the past three years whereas the tobacco prices, which is hazardous remained stagnant." Tobacco remained an alarming issue for the country and a leading cause for non-communicable diseases, said the PANA General Secretary in a media release. "About 170,000 people die in Pakistan every year due to tobacco related diseases," Ghumman said. He stated that according to World Health Organisation about 10% increase in taxes

in tobacco could help reduce consumption to about 8% in lower-income countries like Pakistan. He said that various studies published in September 2020 with the help of the World Health Organization (WHO) have shown that tobacco use causes heart disease, coronary heart disease (CHD) was as complex as most non-communicable chronic diseases. "One of the main causes of which is the use of tobacco and smoking, obesity with heart disease and the risk of developing diabetes also increases. Globally, heart disease is the leading cause of death and disability, heart disease causes the loss of lives of 9.4 million people, and 203 million people become disabled," he added.

## ICCI calls for rationalizing utility tariffs

Repeated hikes have been made in the power tariffs & petroleum prices during the last 3 years due to which the cost of doing business in Pakistan has increased

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) said that the repeated hikes have been made in the power tariffs & petroleum prices during the last 3 years due to which the cost of doing business in Pakistan has increased manifold and the business community was finding it very difficult to promote business activities due to high business cost. He called upon the government to rationalize the utility tariffs, petroleum prices and high taxes in order to reduce the high cost of doing business that would help in

reviving the business activities. ICCI President said that the electricity prices in Pakistan have increased by over 40 percent during the last 3 years. He said that the price of petrol has increased by over 48 percent and that of diesel by over 26 percent from October 2018 to October 2021 while gas tariffs have also been increased significantly. He further said that the PKR has reportedly devalued by almost Rs.49 since 2018 showing a devaluation of 40 percent making the import of industrial raw material costlier. Due to these factors, the cost of doing business in Pakistan has



gone up many times and it has become very difficult for the business community to compete with regional competitors for exports. He urged that the government should focus on rationalizing tariffs and duties and promote ease of doing business to help revive the business and economic activities in the country. Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh, Senior Vice President ICCI said that according to the World Bank's latest Pakistan Development Update, the share of exports in Pakistan's GDP has declined from 16 percent in 1999 to 10 percent in 2020. He said that the rising produc-

tion cost could be one of the important factors for decline in exports. He stressed that the government should take measures to reduce production cost in order to make our exports more competitive in the national market. Muhammad Faheem Khan, Vice President ICCI said that the frequent increase in utility tariffs and POL prices has pushed up inflation and reduced the purchasing power of consumers, which was also causing slowdown in business activities. He emphasized that the government should take strong measures to bring down production costs in order to facilitate the growth of business activities.

## Briefs

## ITP issues traffic alert to guide citizens

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) on Friday issued 'traffic alert' for citizens to avoid inconvenience ahead of the banned outfit's planned long march to the city.

According to the police spokesperson, roads and avenues completely open from both sides of traffic including Islamabad Expressway, Lehtar road, Peshawar road, Sirinagar Highway, Jinnah Avenue, Margallah road, Constitution Avenue, Attaturk Avenue, 7th avenue, Faisal avenue, 9th avenue and Faqeer Api road. However, few roads are partially closed in Capital.

IJP road is closed towards Stadium road and towards Faizabad at 9th avenue signal. Alternatively, traffic is diverted to 9th avenue and IJP road. Murree road is closed for both sides from Faiz ul Islam Stop till Rawal Dam Chowk.

Traffic from Rawal Dam Chowk is diverted to Sirinagar Highway which can be further used to reach Rawalpindi via 9th avenue and IJP road.

Similarly, Lehtar road can be used to reach Islamabad Expressway.

Meanwhile, police said that security is also on high alert in the city and additional deployment has been ensured at important points. — APP

## PAL to organize online Int'l Symposium

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) in collaboration with Istanbul University, Faculty of Urdu would organize online International Symposium on "tradition of mutual translation in Urdu and Turkish" on November 2.

Renowned scholars from Turkey and Pakistan will present their research papers at the symposium. Chairman PAL Dr. Yousaf Khushk will also participate in the symposium and will present his introductory remarks.

The symposium aimed to further strengthen literary relations between two brotherly countries Pakistan and Turkey. — APP

## Telecom sector attracts \$202.34mln

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The country's telecom sector has attracted Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of \$202.34 million during the Fiscal Year 2020-21, which showed investors' confidence in the policies introduced by the incumbent government for promotion of this industry.

"The telecom sector has contributed over Rs 218.8 billion to the national exchequer during the last financial year" said an official of Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA).

He said that teledensity (landline telephone connections per 100 people in a specified geographic area) till July was recorded at 87.5 percent while the number of active cellular mobile subscribers reached 185 million till July, 2021.

The number of broadband subscribers reached 104.43 million in July while the broadband penetration was recorded at 47.68 percent during the same period, he added.

He said that data usage reached to 6855 PB [PetaByte] in 2020-21. He further said that Complaint Management System of PTA, launched in 2021 and upgraded in 2020, was used for facilitation of telecom consumers for lodging complaints, processing and redressal of consumers' grievances. From November 2018 to September 2021, a total of 480,865 complaints were received and 238,656 resolved promptly, he added.

## Malaysia expanding industrial trainings for Pakistan: envoy

Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, Prime Minister of Malaysia in his keynote address during the Asean Business Investment Summit 2021, said that there is an urgent need in increasing digital-ready MSMEs among the Asean community

## STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Dedy Faisal Ahmad Salleh Chargé D'affaires Of Malaysia while speaking the Asean - Pakistan Business Forum has said Malaysia is consistently expanding industrial trainings, which include Technical and Vocational Education Training, Research and Development, as well as Commercialization and Innovation. He further said, Malaysia, like

many other countries, has not been spared from the Covid-19 pandemic. Learning to recover from its effects has certainly been difficult. It has made us re-think and re-evaluate the way we manage our daily life.

A defining feature of the COVID-19 pandemic is digital transformation. Of which, has filled every aspect of our lives besides altering economic, social and structural domains.

This pandemic has led to the rise



of digital technologies, by which have supported governments and businesses in adopting agile and adaptive responses.

He added, the Right Honourable Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, Prime Minister of Malaysia in his keynote address during the Asean Business Investment Summit 2021, said that there is an urgent need in increasing digital-ready micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) among the Asean community. Micro, small and

medium enterprises (MSMEs) that are lacking in access to technologies are facing the greatest risk of being left behind in this post-pandemic era.

All of those efforts are meant to develop a more digitally-ready talent among Malaysians.

Through this whole-of-society approach, we firmly believed that more people will be able to equip and upgrade themselves with the necessary skills for inclusive growth.

## Govt allocates Rs 353 mln for ANF academy

ISLAMABAD: The government has allocated funds amounting to Rs 353.119 million to acquire two plots for construction of ANF Academy in H-11/1 sector of the federal capital. The federal has earmarked Rs 489.393 million in the Public Sector Development Programme or the projects being executed by the Narcotics Control Division. Out of total, the government has far released Rs 244.697 mln funds.

As per the official document, the government has also allocated Rs 4.5 million for the acquisition of land for the construction of ANF Police Station at Hub, Balochistan. While, Rs 131.774 mln would be spent for construction of Model Addiction Treatment and Rehabilitation Center at Islamabad. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Traditional Indonesia performances during the Independence Day celebrations organised by the Indonesia embassy. — DNA

## US AWE funding enables graduates to grow businesses

Maryam Iqbal won first prize for her business "Global Nomad," which promotes the crafts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Over 30 participants competed for seed funding for their businesses at the first U.S. Mission Pakistan Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) program on October 28. A panel of judges selected the top three proposals after reviewing their business plans and hearing their pitches. Each winner will receive \$5,000, \$4,000, and \$3,000, respectively, to grow or launch their businesses in Pakistan.

Maryam Iqbal won first prize for her business "Global Nomad," which promotes the crafts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Abira Younus won second prize for her business "Baby Steps," a daycare and early childhood education center. In third place, Madeeha Malik won for "Dhaaga Clothing," which pro-

vides flexible clothing designs while offering screening services for eating disorders.

With mentoring and guidance from established Pakistani entrepreneurs, 61 female entrepreneurs graduated from the AWE program in early October. After completing the AWE training,



participants competed for seed funding to implement what they learned during the course. Chargé d'affaires Angela P. Aggeler congratulated the graduates during the October 28 closing ceremony, stating: "Your success is Pakistan's success, and we are proud to support you to become Pakistan's dynamic entrepre-

neurs, business leaders, and economic influencers."

AWE is centered around a three-month, rigorous online course called DreamBuilder, developed by Arizona State University's Thunderbird School of Global Management and U.S. natural resource company Freeport McMoran. AWE is designed to cultivate entrepreneurial know-how, help women entrepreneurs connect with funding opportunities, enhance opportunities for business expansion, and increase the likelihood of entrepreneurial success.

Four of the U.S. Mission Pakistan's Lincoln Corners - public event spaces that connect Pakistanis and Americans - in Lahore, Rawalpindi, Larkana, and Peshawar led the AWE Pakistan program with support from the Pakistan American Cultural Center and the DOVE Foundation.

## Subsidy on essential food commodities at USC continues

ISLAMABAD: Managing Director, Utility Stores Corporation (USC), Syed Taha Aziz Magrabi on Friday said that subsidy on essential food items at Utility Stores has been continued uninterrupted since January 2020 to provide maximum relief to the masses.

He said that the several brands have recently increased the prices of tea, milk and porridge but utility stores are committed to provide basic and branded items to the public at lower prices than the open market, said a press release.

Taha Aziz said that at USC new prices of these items will be lower than the printed retail market price. It is worth mentioning here that the prices of these items have not increased

form last six months but in open market prices have been increased.

The increase is being made in utility stores to improve supply and demand, he added.

He said that other daily use items were also available in abundance at cheaper rates as compared to open market including vegetable ghee was cheaper by Rs 55-70 per kg, sugar Rs 25-35 per kg and 20 kg bag of flour Rs 430 across the USC country wide network.

Similarly, he said that the prices of other commodities including white gram was less by Rs. 20-40 per kg, gram pulses Rs. 15-20 per kg, lentil pulses Rs. 30 to 40 per kg and rice Rs. 20-30 per kg. — APP

## PIA CEO expresses grief over demise of Captain Fazal

ISLAMABAD: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) Air Marshal Arshad Malik on Friday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the demise of eminent Captain Fazal Ghani Mian, who passed away after prolonged illness. In a condolence message, he said the deceased was one of the most respected and eminent Captains of the PIA. In 1987, he said, the PIA

had given Captain Ghani the responsibility of setting up the flight operations of Emirates Airlines. After achieving the task, the CEO said, the deceased joined the national flag-carrier refusing the offer of UAE citizenship due to his affection with the motherland. "He [deceased] was a very patriotic and dutiful person," Arshad Malik said while paying tribute to late Fazal Ghani. — APP

## 50 pc of total services' export in Pakistan remains unchecked

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank has said the Pakistan's services sector's relevance in exports is likely to be underestimated in the available data as approximately US \$1.5 billion of exports (roughly 50% of total services exports) are not reported. "This is because some of the exporters are small freelancers who register their receipts as remittances for taxation reasons," the World Bank's recent

report "Pakistan Development Update: Reviving Exports" said.

It said the export quality upgrading was notable in the Pakistan's services sector. During the past decade, services exports have been stagnant in the vicinity of \$6 billion.

However, within services, knowledge-intensive sectors such as computer and professional business services have grown relatively fast, at rates above 10 per-

cent annually.

A composition of export growth of the different sub-sectors within services shows knowledge-intensive services accounting for almost all the growth, compensating for the contraction of transport and other services exports, the report said adding that the global trend of internationalization of business services facilitated this transformation, as Pakistani freelancers and Small

and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) embraced it.

The trend has been amplified by an increase in remote working, fueled by the COVID-19 pandemic. The share of knowledge-intensive services exports in total services exports grew from 10 percent in 2010 to 50 percent in 2020.

The sector's current exports receipts are almost equal those of Pakistan's vegetable sectors combined. — APP

## President Alvi upholds Wafaqi Mohtasib's decision

The President rejected the representation filed by LESCO against the decision of the Wafaqi Mohtasib and expressed dismay over the fact that the widows of pensioners had been deprived of allowances and adjustments that had been made by the Government over a period of time, the President Office said

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday upheld the decision of Wafaqi Mohtasib ordering the Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) to restore the commuted portion of pension to the widow of a deceased employee along with increment on the restored portion of pension from the date of his retirement/death. The President rejected the representation filed by LESCO against the decision of the Wafaqi Mohtasib and expressed dismay over the fact that the widows of pensioners had been deprived of allowances and adjustments that had been made by the Government over a period of time, the President Office said.

He regretted that it should not have happened, saying that Pakistan should be a compassionate country. According to the details of the case, the complainant's (Mukhtar Begum) late husband, an employee of LES-

CO, retired in April 2005 on attaining the age of superannuation and died in December 2013.

After the death of her husband, the complainant was granted family pension regularly but on lesser rates. The complainant stated that she was drawing monthly pension of Rs 21,928 whereas it should have almost doubled after 15 years, having incorporated all increments made from time to time by the Government.

Feeling aggrieved, the complainant approached the Wafaqi Mohtasib for redressal of her complaint. The Wafaqi Mohtasib in its order, dated 09.03.2021, stated that it was unjust that WAPDA Pension Directorate had not fully followed the government policy and the widow had not been allowed back increases on restoration, whereas Director (Pension) WAPDA had circulated in-



structions to all DISCOS/GENCOS/NTDC, under SOP-2002, to allow back increases to all pensioners on the restored portion of pension. Moreover, the widows of the deceased pensioners have not been specifically barred from this facility,

therefore, maladministration on the part of LESCO is established.

The Wafaqi Mohtasib in its decision further stated that as per policy of the government of Pakistan, restoration on commuted portion is granted to retired/deceased employees after allowing increase on the restored portion of pension from the date of retirement.

Similarly, the Accountant General of Pakistan Revenue, Lahore, and AGPR, Islamabad, had adopted this policy in light of the judgement of the Federal Services Tribunal, dated 05.01.2012, which was upheld by the Supreme Court of Pakistan vide its judgement, dated 24.04.2012, that the families of the pensioners were also entitled for the increases made from time to time on the restored portion of pension.

The Agency, therefore, was bound to follow the rules and regulations

pertaining to pensionary cases as issued by the Finance Division from time to time. In view of these facts, maladministration was established on part of LESCO as defined in Article 2(2) of President's Order No. 1 of 1983 in the instant case.

The President rejected the representation of LESCO on the grounds that the impugned order of the Mohtasib was forwarded to the Agency in March 2021, which filed a representation in July 2021 i.e., after the passage of 04 months whereas representation should have been filed within 30 days of the decision.

The President in his decision wrote that the extant law does not empower the condonation of delay to entertain a representation which is time-barred and the law also empowers to decide a representation without personal hearing of the parties, on the basis of available record. — APP

## OGDCL announces financial results

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Board of Directors of Oil & Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) in its meeting held on 28TH October, 2021 at OGDCL Head Office, Islamabad announced the financial results for the first quarter ended 30th September, 2021 of fiscal year 2021-22. Net sales revenue clocked at Rs. 71.530 billion translating to Profit after tax of Rs. 33.630 billion and earnings per share of Rs. 7.82.

The Board of Directors announced first interim cash dividend to its shareholders @ Rs. 1.75 per share. The dividend will be paid to the shareholders whose names will appear in the Register of Members on November 09, 2021.

During the period under review, the Company paid Rs. 18.640 billion on account of Taxation. On the exploration and development side company recorded significant enhancement in seismic efforts and drilling activities. The Board of Directors appreciated the efforts of the management for taking effective steps for the implementation of company's aggressive exploration program.

## LNG reference adjourned till November 2

ISLAMABAD: An Accountability Court (AC) on Friday adjourned hearing till November 2, on LNG reference against former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, ex-finance advisor Miftah Ismail and others.

Co-accused Aamer Naseem's lawyer Imran Shafiq Advocate pleaded that the decisions of cabinet and ECC had been protected under NAB amendment Ordinance 2021. The reference couldn't be heard now after introduction of new law, he said.

The lawyer also produced the documents pertaining to the decisions of cabinet and ECC. He said the cabinet had endorsed the decisions of ECC regarding the LNG agreement.

He said the court had no authority to hear the case under new law. The lawyer concluded his arguments against the reference and then court adjourned the case till next date. AC-II Judge Muhammad Azam Khan heard the case.

Former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and others appeared before the court. — APP

## Space enthusiasts can participate in contest

ISLAMABAD: Space enthusiasts can participate in the CubeSat Creative Design Contest under the Belt and Road Teenager Space Maker Camp being arranged by collaborative efforts of Pakistan and China with special focus on exploring the paradigm of CubeSat technology and applications for the socio-economic development.

The camp is being arranged by China Association of Science and Technology (CAST) and Ministry of Science and Technology, China, in collaboration with Ministry of Science and Technology, Pakistan, National Center of GIS and Space Applications (NGSA), Institute of Space Technology, Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) and ECO Science Foundation.

According to an official of PSF, the contestants are required to devise a CubeSat model with both appropriate functions and appealing look, centering around the resolution of environmental issues, social issues and economic development issues that are of major concern to the international community.

The contestants aged between 12-18 years can sign up as an individual or as a team. Each team shall have no more than three members, and there must be at least one instructor who shall be an adult over 18 years old.

The space enthusiasts can register through [ncgsa.org.pk/space\\_maker\\_camp/](http://ncgsa.org.pk/space_maker_camp/) which is open. — APP

## Dialogue In Afghanistan

THE need for world cooperation to safeguard the lives of Afghan people is vital, and it is staggering that apart from Pakistan, only a few countries have raised this call. Afghanistan has just come out of the midst of a twenty-year-old war, which occurred when the ashes of another previous twenty-year-old war had barely settled. While the current government is absolutely not ideal, the only way the rights of the Afghan people can be secured, and peace of the region can be achieved, is through cooperation and negotiation—not isolation and more conflict. This is something Pakistan understands and is an issue we have raised on the world stage.

The recent meeting held in Iran shows that our efforts are not going to waste. The meeting hosted by Iranian Foreign Minister Dr Abdullahian, which was attended by the foreign ministers of China, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, inspires hope for the region, as the countries agreed that Afghanistan was in need of a greater global backing to return to normalcy.

The meeting holds a lot of promise for several reasons. Firstly, it was attended by countries with which a joint alliance now looks inevitable in the future. The changes in the diplomatic policies of India and the US have shifted the geopolitics of the region and pushed closer relations between Central Asia, Pakistan, Iran and China, which realise the enormous economic potential that could be utilised with more cooperative efforts.

Secondly, this meeting holds utmost importance for the reason it was convened—regional security. All countries in the meeting, through their geographical proximity to Afghanistan, have a huge stake in maintaining peace, and will be impacted by any disruption or rise of terrorist outfits in Afghanistan. The presence of Moscow is also powerful, considering it played a part in the negotiations between the Taliban, the previous Afghan government and the US.

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## Displacing Palestinians

THE dispossession and displacement of Palestinians on their own land continues unabated as it was reported this week that Israel is advancing plans for building more than 3,000 illegal Jewish settler homes in the occupied West Bank. Reports reveal that the Civil Administration's high planning committee gave the final green light to 1,800 homes and initial approval for another 1,344 in the Palestinian territories. International law clearly has no significance in this context as the settler colonial machinery is now unequivocally unapologetic about the oppression it is carrying out. The Housing Minister Zeev Elkin responded to the development by stating that "strengthening Jewish presence (in the West Bank) was essential to the Zionist vision."

This announcement came a day after the US criticised Israel for its policy of building settlements and expressed concern about the new housing units. However, this performative rebuke stopped short of anything substantial as the State Department spokesman stated that the Biden administration would raise this issue directly with senior Israeli officials during private sessions. We have witnessed this very dynamic play out multiple times in the past, where international actors offer mild criticism while Israel continues to get its way without facing any actual consequences.

For years, the US has officially condemned these settlements but has always shied away from applying any pressure on Tel Aviv to change its behaviour. Many have argued that the US aid to Israel should be made conditional, however politicians in the US come under immense criticism for even tabling this idea. The Biden administration can pretend all it wants about how its policy is different from its predecessor, but the fact remains that it is the chief enabler of this settler colonial project.

This announcement also makes clear that the current ideologically diverse coalition—which ousted Benjamin Netanyahu's pro-settlement government in June—is not really a "government of change". The policy of de-facto annexation is in full swing, and the world cannot afford to continue looking the other way anymore.

## Why the Hazara people fear genocide in Afghanistan

Sajjad Askary /  
Sitarah Mohammadi

In the late 19th century, Pashtun ruler Abdur Rahman Khan sought to bring the Hazara people in their homeland of Hazarajat under his rule. He waged a brutal war against the community

IN the aftermath of the withdrawal of international troops from Afghanistan, violence against the Hazara population has escalated. With a long history of persecution, including by the Taliban, the Hazaras are right to fear a genocide. While the Taliban and other armed groups are targeting and committing human rights violations against the people of Afghanistan, the Hazara ethnic and religious population is especially at high risk. The international community must pressure the Taliban to guarantee the protection of the rights of the Hazara people, to ensure a genocide against them does not take place. As one of the largest ethnic groups in Afghanistan, the Hazara people have endured various forms of oppression from Pashtun rulers and governments, including slavery, systematic expulsion from ancestral homes and lands, and massacres. These experiences have led some to consider Hazaras to be one of the "most persecuted people in the world".

In the late 19th century, Pashtun ruler Abdur Rahman Khan sought to bring the Hazara people in their homeland of Hazarajat under his rule. He waged a brutal war against the community, which resulted in bloody "massacres, looting and pillaging of homes, enslavement" and the transfer of Hazara land to Pashtun tribes. It is estimated that Hazarajat lost some 60 percent of its population to ethnic cleansing, which has led some scholars to term the carnage a genocide. Over the following decades, Hazaras continued to face repression, discrimination and socio-economic marginalisation. Many were forced to "conceal their identities" to obtain state identification. Until the 1970s, a large percentage of the Hazara population could not access higher education, enrol in the army or secure higher-level government jobs.

After the withdrawal of Soviet troops in 1989, Afghanistan descended into civil war between various armed groups. In 1993, President Burhanuddin Rabbani, worried by the positions that Hazara armed groups had taken in Kabul's Shia-majority areas, decided to launch an offensive against them. Intense shelling, arbitrary killings of civilians and targeting of Hazara men resulted in hundreds killed and forcibly disappeared. After the Pashtun-centric, ultra-conservative Sunni Taliban group took over Kabul in 1996,

atrocities against the Hazaras did not stop. "Tajiks to Tajikistan, Uzbeks to Uzbekistan, and Hazaras to goristan [graveyard]," was the mantra of the Taliban at the time. And its fighters made good on such threats.

In 1998, as the armed group was attempting to establish full control over Afghanistan, it laid a siege on Hazarajat, blocking supply routes and starving the civilian population. In August of the same year, Taliban fighters captured Mazar-e Sharif, a city in northern Afghanistan, going on a rampage targeting Tajiks, Uzbeks and particularly, Hazaras. Human Rights Watch estimated that at least 2,000 people of different ethnic communities, including Hazaras, were killed and according to estimates by Hazara groups, the death toll may be as high as 15,000.

The US-led invasion of Afghanistan, which toppled the Taliban regime, brought new hopes for the Hazara people. Although discrimination in the country continued, the community was able to participate in public life much more freely. Hazara youth were quick to embrace all forms of education and emerged at the forefront of social change initiatives, while Hazara women pushed for women's emancipation.

These gains in education and social standing have encouraged the community to mobilise and demand an end to discrimination and a greater political space. When the post-Taliban governance of Afghanistan was being set up at the Bonn Conference of 2001, Hazaras were estimated to make up 19 percent of the country's population. Yet in the following years, the political space they were given in the country did not reflect the proportion of the population they constituted.

After 2001, the Hazaras also continued to suffer targeted violence at the hands of the Taliban and other armed groups. Since 2015, the emergence of the even more extreme Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP) unleashed an even deadlier wave of attacks on the Hazara population, with suicide bombers targeting schools, mosques and even hospitals in Hazara neighbourhoods.

The return of the Taliban to power in Kabul has meant not only a rollback of the limited social gains the Hazaras had achieved, but also new atrocities against the community.

In August, Amnesty International reported that at least nine Hazara men were massacred by the Taliban when its fighters took over Ghazni province in July. Then earlier this month, the organisation released evidence of another massacre in which 13 Hazaras, including a 17-year-old girl, were killed in late August in Daykundi province. In late September and early October, reports in Western media emerged of mass "evictions" of Hazara people from their ancestral homes and lands in Daykundi province. Taliban fighters forced over 4,000 Hazaras from their homes, claiming they had no ownership over their land, leaving them stranded without food or shelter as harsh winter approaches. In Mazar-e-Sharif, a local Taliban court decided to expel some 2,000 families, again based on false claims that they do not own their homes.

By now there is a clear pattern of Taliban atrocities

being committed across Afghanistan, which could mean that the Hazaras may be facing imminent ethnic cleansing.

The Taliban leadership may have moderated its rhetoric to please the international community, claiming that it will protect all ethnic groups, but it has done nothing to stem the growing number of crimes being committed by its fighters. What is more, the group has also clearly declared that it will only accept Hanafi jurisprudence, which would effectively preclude any accommodation of the Shia Islamic law and values followed by Hazaras. Expectedly, no Hazara representative was included in the Taliban government announced in September.

It is also not surprising that, despite the insistence by the Taliban that it can provide security and peace in Afghanistan, ISKP has continued its deadly attacks against the Hazaras. In October, the bombing of a Hazara mosque in Kunduz resulted in the death of more than 100 people. Another bombing of a Hazara mosque in Kandahar killed at least 47 people and wounded scores of others.

Despite ample rhetoric on the need to protect religious minorities, regional players have also not stepped in to help the Hazara people. While it is presumed that Iran may come to the protection of Shia minorities, it did not come to the aid of Hazaras during the massacres of 1998 and has not taken any serious action since the Taliban took over Kabul in mid-August.

Tehran supported the Taliban in its fight against the US and even hosted some of its leaders; its policies towards Afghanistan are built on its perceived national interest. Therefore, it is unlikely that it would take any significant steps to protect the Shia of Afghanistan. The only hope for the Hazara people is that the international community will stay true to its own commitments to human rights and pressure the Taliban into concessions. To secure guarantees of Hazara rights and protection, it can leverage the aid the Taliban has requested. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have already stopped payments to Kabul, while the US has frozen the country's assets held on US territory. These funds can be used in negotiations with the Taliban.

All Afghans face precarious and dangerous circumstances in their country, but the situation is particularly desperate for the Hazaras, who have been historically marginalised, dispossessed and massacred. The risk of ethnic cleansing and even genocide that they face should be a matter of international concern and international human rights bodies need to take action.

The newly appointed United Nations special rapporteur on Afghanistan must immediately investigate the systematic attacks and forced displacement of Hazaras to ensure those responsible are identified and held to account. The international community has a legal, moral and political obligation to protect the Hazara people. It must honour the commitment of "never again" in the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

— Al Jazeera

## Govts must restore trust on climate change

Wernor Hoyer



The upcoming UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow will serve as a major test of the credibility of governments' commitment to effective action. The whole world will be watching. For its part, the EU is leading the way...

THE world must change how it tackles the climate crisis. The current approach is too slow and risks falling short of our own targets for limiting global warming and mitigating its impact. And, no longer satisfied with political pronouncements, people are demanding action. This popular unease is borne out by the European Investment Bank's annual climate survey. Some 75 percent of EU citizens, 69 percent of Britons and 59 percent of Americans say they are more concerned about the climate emergency than their governments are. And roughly half of those surveyed say the difficulty in solving the climate crisis is primarily due to government inactivity. For those of us steering public organizations, these findings should be seen as a dire warning. If citizens stop trusting their governments to do something about climate change, many might conclude that there is no hope and give up. Governments would then face an even tougher task gaining public support for the policies and programs that are vital to our future.

We cannot allow that to happen. The remedy for a lack of public confidence is to invest massively in concrete climate projects and innovations, starting immediately. Climate action represents a tremendous business opportunity and policymakers must be savvy enough to embrace it. The upcoming UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow will serve as a major test of the credibility of governments' commitment to effective action. The whole world will be watching. For its part, the EU is leading the way with major commitments, including a pledge to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 55 percent, relative to 1990 levels, by 2030. And as the EU's climate bank, the EIB is at the forefront of this effort, with commitments to support 1 trillion (\$1.16 trillion) of investment in climate action and environmental sustainability by 2030. We are in the critical decade for addressing climate change and biodiversity loss. In all the countries surveyed, large majorities (93 percent in China, 81 percent in the EU, 74 percent in the UK and 59 percent in the US) consider climate change the biggest challenge of this century. Yet there is a lack of public faith in our chances of meeting current goals. In the EU, 58 percent of citizens believe their country will fail to cut carbon emissions drastically by 2050, compared to 55 percent in the UK and 49 percent in the US. Does this mean our citizens are resigned to environmental disaster?

Not yet. A small majority of EU and British citizens believe a radical change in habits is the best way to counter climate change. But technological innovation will be needed to enable those adjustments, which aligns with the views of survey respondents in the US and China about the best way forward. In any case, investment trumps behavioral change. In 2020, unprecedented pandemic-induced restrictions on mobility and economic activity caused a 5.8 percent drop in global greenhouse gas emissions. That might look like good news, but it's really a measure of just how challenging it will be to achieve similar reductions every year from now on.

We need a technological revolution and, when it comes, we must be prepared to finance it. Decades of investment in renewable energy have paid off. Wind and solar power are now highly competitive and widespread. If every driver in the EU switched to an electric vehicle tomorrow, EIB mobility experts estimate that existing wind turbines would be able to provide 85 percent of the electricity needed to power them.

Now, we must scale up game-changing technologies like green hydrogen and advanced energy storage solutions. With 75 percent more patents in green digital technologies than the US (and four times as many as China), the EU is a world leader in this field. It also has expertise to share in areas such as renewable energy, climate adaptation, flood control, advanced weather forecasting tools, and resilient infrastructure. Moreover, a third of the 2 trillion contained in the Next Generation EU recovery plan and the EU's next long-term budget has already been committed to the European Green Deal. But, to rise to the challenge, we need a Global Green Deal that can mobilize the private sector's full innovative potential and financial firepower. By exporting its cutting-edge clean technologies, the EU can be the link between those organizing climate action, those pursuing innovation, and those managing economic development. These are the pillars upon which a sustainable global economy will rest.

To be sure, there are potential downsides to the green transition and addressing them requires immediate action. Those hit hardest by the move away from polluting industries will need to be supported through compensatory investment. As we pursue technological breakthroughs, we must not neglect the need for continuing massive investment in mature climate technology such as wind farms. Similarly, efficiency-boosting investments could make a major dent in the 35 percent of greenhouse gas emissions that comes from buildings — the single biggest energy consumers. And energy system integration (through a single market for energy) would go a long way toward achieving the EU's carbon-neutrality target.

For policymakers, the imperative is to eliminate barriers to investment, such as regulatory uncertainty and fragmented markets, particularly now that COVID-19 has created additional obstacles like high private-sector debt. According to the EIB's latest investment report, 45 percent of EU firms plan to cut or delay their investment plans because of the pandemic. The message from this year's climate survey is clear. Governments must act now if they are to retain the good will of their citizens. That means making immediate climate investment on a massive scale, with a major emphasis on innovation and the opportunities associated with building a new, reinvigorated economy. Europe, with its ingenuity and financial muscle, must be at the center of this global transformation.

— Arab News

## Uniting the world to tackle climate change

Syed Waqar Ali Shah

Pakistan has been found globally in the top ten countries most affected by climate change in the past 20 years owing to its geographical location

THE term 'COP' stands for 'Conference of the Parties' which have signed the UN Framework Convention of Climate Change (UNFCCC). In the climate change circle, for almost three decades, world governments have met every year to counterfeit worldwide reaction to the climate crisis. The COP is hosted by a different country per annum and the first such conference 'COP1' occurred in Berlin, Germany in 1995. The conferences are attended by world leaders, ministers, and negotiators but also by legislatures from civil society, business, international organizations, and the media.

### PARIS AGREEMENT:

The Paris Agreement is an international treaty signed by almost all countries in the world at COP21 in Paris in 2015. The Paris Agreement's central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The Paris Agreement requires (although doesn't legally bind) all Parties to put forward their best efforts through "nationally determined contributions" (NDCs) and to strengthen these efforts in the years ahead. The United Kingdom will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow on 31 October – 12 November 2021. COP26 is a critical conference for global climate action.

### CLIMATE CRISIS VS PAKISTAN:

Pakistan has been found globally in the top ten countries most affected by climate change in the past 20 years owing to its geographical location. In Pakistan rapidly arising climatic changes are perhaps the greatest threats to human existence. Considering that, The Government of Pakistan being aware of the circumstances and taking actions thus, The Pakistan

delegation at COP-25 secured 06 positions for various committees under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) showing trust on Pakistan's commitment to climate negotiations. The NDC Partnership is supporting Pakistan in mapping out its climate-resilient development trajectory. Furthermore, Ministry of Climate Change is also in the process of revision of NDCs. There is an opportunity to collaborate on Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) and GHG emission inventory strengthening components for the revision of NDCs under the UNFCCC reporting. Plus, in order to mitigate the carbon emission impacts of vehicles on the environment and its associated costs, the Government of Pakistan has approved its National Electric Vehicle Policy targeting a 30 percent shift to electric by 2030. In addition, the world's first "zero emissions" metro line project has been launched in the city of Karachi. Pakistan has also decided to get out of its plastic addiction by banning the single use plastic. Apparently, with these initiatives Pakistan is moving into countries that are increasingly working to counter issues such as climate change and global warming. Now it is expected that the coming conference Cop26 will be represented by the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

— Syedwaqar.inbox@gmail.com

## Briefs

## 'No further breach of law to be tolerated'

FROM PAGE 01

The NSC received a detailed briefing on the country's internal security situation and the ongoing agitation by the Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan (TLP). The Prime Minister stressed that no group or entity will be allowed to cause public disruption or use violence to pressure the government. Taking serious note of the unprovoked violent attacks committed by TLP members, the Committee resolved not to tolerate any further breach of law by this proscribed group.

The Committee praised the police for their professionalism and restraint despite being directly targeted and suffering casualties, including four martyrs and over four hundred injured, but warned that the state's restraint should not be seen as a sign of weakness.

While emphasizing that the government recognized the right of peaceful protest of all Pakistanis, Committee members were unanimous that TLP was deliberately employing violence against public property, state officials, and ordinary citizens to create instability in the country and that this shall not be tolerated. All organs of the state stood ready to act as per the law to protect the life and property of citizens.

The Prime Minister and Committee members expressed condolences at the loss of life of policemen and committed to compensating and looking after their families. Commending the exceptional performance of the law enforcement agencies, the Prime Minister assured that the government will firmly stand behind them as they act to enforce the law and protect the public.

The Committee took notice that no previous government or Prime Minister had taken such an unequivocal, public international stance on the issue of Namoo-e-Risalat and Islamophobia. Under the current government, Pakistan has successfully brought these issues to the fore of international diplomatic discourse in the United Nations, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and European Union, among other fora. One key objective of establishing the Rehmatul-lil-Alameen Authority is also to intellectually counter international propaganda against Islam and sanctity of the Prophet (PBUH).

Participants decried TLP's misuse of religion and the issue of Namoo-e-Risalat for political gains, which was misleading the common man and creating internal discord within society. TLP's violence had ended up furthering the agenda of sectarian elements and external enemies of the state. It was pointed out that despite the overwhelming majority of the over 1.5 billion Muslims globally holding utmost love and respect for our Prophet (PBUH), no such violent agitation had taken place in any other Muslim country.

Participants recalled that TLP had adopted the ploy of violent street agitation on numerous occasions since 2017 and made unrealistic demands each time, solely as a tool to gain political strength. In the process, TLP's actions have caused public disorder, serious economic losses to the country, besides boosting the morale of other terrorist outfits seeking to challenge the state's writ. The Committee unanimously resolved to guard its sovereignty from all internal and external threats and to not allow TLP to challenge the writ of the state in any way. Participants endorsed the government's decision to negotiate with the group only within the bounds of law, without offering leniency for any crimes committed by TLP operatives.

## Fawad asks TLP men to go home

FROM PAGE 01

The state will not stop at anything to assert itself," Chaudhry warned in a press talk shortly after. Chaudhry warned that "No mob can stand up to the state," as he warned that the government would be taking all possible measures to quell any further mischief.

## West Indies down Bangladesh in must-win T20 WC game

Skipper Kieron Pollard went off the field with an injury concern which brought Andre Russell to the crease, who was run-out without facing a single delivery

SPORTS DESK

SHARJAH: West Indies have beaten Bangladesh by three runs as both teams were searching for a win in the make-or-break T20 World Cup clash at Sharjah Cricket Stadium. Both teams fielded a side with two changes as they looked to keep their hopes alive in the T20 World Cup after suffering two back-to-back defeats. In a nail-biting finish, Andre Russell defended 13 runs and guided his team to victory despite Liton-Das' hard-fought 40-run innings.

Bangladesh won the toss and opted to field first with Chris Gayle opening the innings and replacing Lindl Simmons for West Indies. However, the shuffle did not work as Bangladesh made early breakthroughs. Nicholas Pooran smashed 40 off 22 balls to lift the team holders' score to 142-7 after 20 overs. Chris Gayle (4) and Evin Lewis (6) both departed inside the Powerplay as Shimron Hetmyer failed to



make an impact on the game either. Skipper Kieron Pollard went off the field with an injury concern which brought Andre Russell to the crease, who was run-out without facing a single delivery. Debutant Roston Chase kept his nerves

calm and scored a crucial 39 and put on a 57-run fifth-wicket partnership with Pooran. Former captain Jason Holder hit two sixes in the 20th over and added a five-ball 15 on his return to the team whereas Pollard (14) returned to sign

off the innings with a six. Mahedi Hasan, Shoriful Islam, and Mustafizur Rahman took two wickets each.

In return, Bangladesh started their innings steadily while chasing 143, with Shakib Al Hasan opening the innings with Mohammad Naim. Shakib felt a little uncomfortable with the ball, as reports confirmed that he was struggling with his hamstring. The Bangladesh management perhaps wanted him to go out, hit a few big hits even if that meant losing his wicket.

As fate would have it, Shakib was the first one to depart while trying to hit Andre Russell out of the park for nine. His partner, Mohammad Naim, did not survive long either as Jason Holder forced him to chop one back onto his stumps in the sixth over. He returned after scoring 17 off 19 balls.

Liton Das held one end as Soumya Sarkar and Mushfiqur Rahim both departed from the other end for 17 and eight respectively. The breakthroughs were provided by Akeal-Hosein and veteran pacer Ravi Rampaul.

## Turkey commemorates 98th anniversary of Republic Day



FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: Celebrations in Turkey marking the 98th anniversary of the founding of its republic started Friday with state officials' visit to Anitkabir, the mausoleum of the country's founder Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, in the capital Ankara. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who visited Anitkabir to mark the Republic Day, stressed determination to achieve the 2023 goals, when the republic is due to celebrate its centenary.

"As members of a heroic nation with

a glorious past full of victories, we are determined to meet the republic with its 2023 goals," Erdogan wrote in the Anitkabir memorial book. The president also accepted greetings at the presidential complex. The Republic Day is being celebrated across Turkey, its representations abroad, and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. The government ceremony in Ankara will be accompanied by various events including concerts, marches and fireworks across the country. On Oct. 29, 1923, Ataturk officially declared the name of the nation and proclaimed the country's status as a republic.

A vote then took place in the Grand National Assembly, and Ataturk, a revolutionary statesman, was elected the first president of the Republic of Turkey by unanimous vote. Since then, Turkey celebrates the Republic Day on Oct. 29 annually. Also marking the Republic Day, Turkish Vice President Fuat Oktay said on Friday that the nation protects its independence today as it did in the past, and the country walks resolutely on the road to a powerful Turkey. Foreign ministers, diplomats and international organizations congratulated Turkey on Republic Day.

## Spanish teen Alcaraz reaches Vienna semi-final

VIENNA: Spanish teenager Carlos Alcaraz held his nerve in the final-set tie-break to beat Matteo Berrettini 6-1 6-7 (2/7), 7-6 (7/5) in the quarter-finals of the ATP event in Vienna on Friday. The 18-year-old easily took the first set, lost the second on a tie-break before sealing victory over the Wimbledon finalist on his third match point in the third-set tie-break. Alcaraz broke the Italian's first two service games of the match and cruised to the first set in 29 minutes.

The second set went with serve, although Berrettini saved two break points in the fifth game before taking the tie-break comfortably. Alcaraz broke the Italian in the fourth game of the final set and led 4-1 but Berrettini broke back to love in the seventh game. After Alcaraz raced to a 6-3 lead in the tie break, Berrettini held his serve on the first two before the Spaniard sealed victory on his own serve to reach his first ATP 500 semi-final. He will face the winner of Friday's duel between the 12th-ranked Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime and German Alexander Zverev, who is number four in the world.

Alcaraz is the fifth-youngest semi-finalist in an ATP 500 event. The record is held by Zverev, who aged 17 reached the last four in Hamburg in 2014. The Spaniard reached 38 in the world in September after progressing to the last eight at the US Open - the youngest men's quarter-finalist in that Grand Slam tournament in 58 years. At 18 years and four months - a thigh injury forced him to retire from his US Open quarter-final with Auger-Aliassime - he was the youngest player to be ranked so high since compatriot Rafael Nadal, who was 17 when he reached No. 37 in April 2004. - APP



BUENOS AIRES: Muhammad Khalid Ejaz meet the Foreign Minister/Chancellor of Argentina Santiago Cafiero. Both side agreed to enhance cooperation in diverse fields. Ambassador also presented a memento marking 70 years of Pakistan Argentina diplomatic relations. - DNA

## EU will not recognize new Israel's settlements

"The EU will continue to play its part supporting steps towards sustainable peace between Israelis and Palestinians," it added

BRUSSELS: The EU reiterated its call for Israel to halt its plans to expand settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories on Friday, warning that any new changes to the pre-1967 borders that are not agreed upon by the parties will be rejected by the bloc. "Settlements are illegal under international law and constitute a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-state solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace between the parties," according to a statement from the office of EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell. Underlining that the EU strongly rejects the expansion of settlements, the statement said the union will not recognize any changes to the pre-1967 borders, including those pertaining to Jerusalem, that are not agreed upon by the parties. The statement urged the Israeli government to revoke the recent steps, which are totally incompatible with ongoing ef-

orts to reduce tensions, and instead focus on furthering meaningful re-engagement between the conflicting parties. "The EU will continue to play its part supporting steps towards sustainable peace between Israelis and Palestinians," it added. On Sunday, Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayeh called the plans "a blatant aggression on our lands."

However, despite Shtayeh's condemnation, Israel's Higher Planning Council approved the construction of 3,144 settlement units in the West Bank on Wednesday. There were 13 illegal Jewish settlements in occupied East Jerusalem and 253 others in the West Bank. More than 660,000 Jewish settlers live in these settlements, making life even harder for Palestinians living under occupation. Under international law, the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, is regarded as "occupied territory," making all Jewish settlements there illegal. - Agencies

## Russia considers it illegal



MOSCOW: Russia's Foreign Ministry said Thursday that it considers Israeli settlement activities in the occupied territories of the West Bank and East Jerusalem illegal, noting they undermine chances for establishing a viable, geographically contiguous Palestinian state. Speaking at a video briefing in Moscow, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova warned Israel that its plans to double the number of Israeli citizens living in the Jordan Valley by 2026 can be regarded as the de facto annexation of most of the occupied Palestinian territories. Russia also sees such a move as undermining the effectiveness of efforts by the international community to create conditions for the early resumption of Palestinian-Israeli political dialogue, Zakharova said. She also called on both Israelis and Palestinians to refrain from steps fraught with escalation in the region and forestalling an outcome of direct Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on a set of final status issues. On Oct. 24, the Israeli government announced construction tenders for 1,355 housing units in the West Bank and 83 housing units in East Jerusalem. - Agencies

## Taliban appoint new envoy...

FROM PAGE 01

the new Taliban government, Shokab will not have the formal title of ambassador but will be in charge of the embassy to help supervise visa issuance and other functions, the sources said. In addition, two officials were appointed to run the consulates in the Pakistani cities of Quetta and Peshawar, close to the two major border crossings with Afghanistan. "We understand that Pakistan has not yet recognised us as a legitimate government but we made these arrangements for public facilitation," a senior Taliban leader told Reuters on condition of anonymity. No comment was immediately available from the foreign ministry in Islamabad or from Taliban spokesmen in Kabul.

## Taliban govt calls for...

FROM PAGE 01

assets overseas with the US Federal Reserve and other central banks in Europe, but that money has been frozen since the Taliban ousted the Western-backed government in August. A spokesperson for the finance ministry said the government would respect human rights, including the education of women, as he sought fresh funds on top of humanitarian aid that he said offered only "small relief".

Under Taliban rule from 1996-2001, women were largely shut out of paid employment and education and normally had to cover their faces and be accompanied by a male relative when they left home. "The money belongs to the Afghan nation. Just give us our own money," ministry spokesperson Ahmad Wali Haqmal told Reuters. "Freezing this money is unethical and is against all international laws and values."

One of the top central bank officials called on European countries including Germany to release their share of the reserves to avoid an economic collapse that could trigger mass migration towards Europe.

"The situation is desperate and the amount of cash is dwindling," Shah Mehrabi, a board member of the Afghan Central Bank, told Reuters. "There is enough right now ... to keep Afghanistan going until the end of the year. Europe is going to be affected most severely, if Afghanistan does not get access to this money," said Mehrabi. "You will have a double whammy of not being able to find bread and not being able to afford it. People will be desperate. They are going to go to Europe," he said. The call for assistance comes as Afghanistan faces a collapse of its fragile economy. The departure of US-led forces and many international donors left the country without grants that financed three quarters of public spending.

## Pakistan thoroughly thrash...

FROM PAGE 01

Mohammad Hafeez never looked settled on the crease and an economical over by Rashid Khan put him further under pressure. The Afghan spinner dismissed Hafeez as he attempted to hit him out of the park, caught instead by Gulbadin. Earlier after struggling against Pakistan's bowling attack, Afghanistan managed to recover courtesy of an impressive partnership between Gulbadin and Nabi, who steered their country to 147 runs at the end of 20 overs. Earlier, with three wickets down, Afghanistan were already in trouble when Hassan Ali took a wicket from his very first ball, dismissing Rahmanullah Gurbaz, caught by skipper Babar Azam.

Afghanistan kept on ticking the scoreboard with sixes and fours, however, the Pakistani bowlers also did not refrain from tacking wickets. Karim Janat tried to hit Imad Wasim for a six but the ball ended up in Fakhar Zaman's hands, with Afghanistan losing their fifth wicket. Earlier, Afghanistan won the toss and elected to bat first against Pakistan.

Skipper Babar Azam and the rest of the Pakistan squad have played good cricket till now in the ICC T20 World Cup. However, the Men in Green will have their hands full today (Friday) when they try to tackle Afghanistan's spin bowlers.

## Briefs

## Facebook changes company name to Meta

WEB DESK

SAN FRANCISCO: Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced that the company changed its corporate name to Meta. "To reflect who we are and the future we hope to build, I'm proud to share that our company is now Meta," he said.

Meta's focus will be to bring the metaverse to life and help people connect, find communities and grow businesses, the company said in an announcement.

"The metaverse will feel like a hybrid of today's online social experiences, sometimes expanded into three dimensions or projected into the physical world. It will let you share immersive experiences with other people even when you can't be together - and do things together you couldn't do in the physical world," it said.

According to the announcement, it's the next evolution in a long line of social technologies, ushering in a new chapter for the company.

"The next platform will be even more immersive - an embodied internet where you're in the experience, not just looking at it. We call this the metaverse, and it will touch every product we build," Zuckerberg wrote in a founder's letter.

"From now on, we will be metaverse-first, not Facebook-first. That means that over time you won't need a Facebook account to use our other services," he added. According to Zuckerberg, the world is at the beginning of the next chapter for the internet, and it's also the next chapter for the company.

## Uzbekistan, Spain new horizons of cooperation

NEWS DESK

TASHKENT: Uzcharmsanoat Association held a meeting with Alejandro Pastrana Molero, General Director of the Spanish Promotion and Consulting Company GEDEPSA, in order to establish cooperation. The main topic of the negotiations was the promotion of leather and footwear products from Uzbekistan in the markets of Europe, including Spain.

At the beginning of the meeting, the leadership of the Association informed Mr. Alejandro Pastrana Molero about the conditions and opportunities created in our country for foreign investors, as well as about the investment and export potential of Uzbekistan.

The head of the GEDEPSA stated that he is interested in establishing cooperation with Uzbekistan in the implementation of a joint project for the export of finished leather to Spain and further sewing footwear from it, which will compete with products from other countries.

GEDEPSA has representative offices in Hungary, Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Georgia. It implements joint projects with the involvement of large specialized Spanish companies operating in the water-ecological, agricultural and educational fields.

## Pakistan embassy Vienna holds webinar on Kashmir Black Day

He paid homage to the sacrifices rendered by the valiant people of IIOJK and said that the leadership and people of Pakistan remained steadfast in extending moral, political and diplomatic support to them in their just struggle for the right to self determination

DNA

VIENNA: The Embassy of Pakistan in Vienna organized a webinar today to mark the Kashmir Black Day. It was attended by members of Pakistani and Kashmir diaspora in Austria and Slovakia, as well as representatives of media and local think tanks.

Five distinguished speakers from Pakistan participated in the webinar as panelists. These included Syed Faiz Naqshbandi, attorney at Law and Convener of All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Islamabad, Dr Saif ur Rehman Malik, Director at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad, Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmad, former Vice Chancellor of Sargodha University, Dr. Anna Mahmood, professor and the Dean of Social Sciences at the International Islamic University, Islamabad, and Ms. Mushaal Hussein Mullick, prominent Kashmiri activist and the wife of Mr. Mohammad Yasin Malik, Chairman of the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front.

In their remarks, these speakers brought out the various dimensions of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute. Syed Faiz Naqshbandi



highlighted the mass human rights violations and draconian laws which are being used to crush the Kashmiris' struggle for the right to self determination. Dr Saif ur Rehman Malik focused on the illegal and unilateral action taken by India on August 2019 which had further exacerbated the plight of the people of the Indian Illegally

Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmad said that India had never engaged in good faith efforts aimed at resolving the Jammu & Kashmir dispute in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people. Dr. Anna Mahmood pointed out that reign of terror inflicted on the people of IIOJK had exposed

India's hollow claims of being the largest democracy in the world. Ms. Mushaal Hussein Mullick said that despite their immense suffering, the courage and will of the women of Kashmir remained unbroken and that they were the champions of Kashmiris' struggle for self-determination. She said that the BJP regime in In-

dia was trying to render the people of IIOJK leaderless by targeting their leadership and was also taking measures to alter the demographic structure of the region. Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher also spoke at the webinar and read out the Kashmir Black Day messages of the President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Pakistan.

He paid homage to the sacrifices rendered by the valiant people of IIOJK and said that the leadership and people of Pakistan remained steadfast in extending moral, political and diplomatic support to them in their just struggle for the right to self determination. He thanked the speakers and participants of the webinar the purpose of which was to condemn Indian actions of 27th October 1947 and continued state terrorism in IIOJK as well as to urge the international community to raise its voice in support of the long-suffering people of IIOJK and play its due role in enabling them to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination, as guaranteed to them in the UN Security Council resolutions.

## Berlin presses UK, France to resolve fishing row

FOREIGN DESK

BERLIN: The German government on Friday called on Britain and France to work to resolve an increasingly bitter row over fishing rights in the wake of Brexit.

A foreign ministry spokeswoman in Berlin told reporters that Germany was following the dispute closely and backed European Commission efforts to "clarify specific issues related to this case".

"From our point of view, what's important now is for both sides to return to the negotiations of the past weeks and months," she said. London and Paris are at loggerheads over licensing rules for EU boats wanting to operate in waters around Britain and

the Channel Islands.

France has been incensed by the rejection of some of its vessels by Britain and the self-governing islands of Jersey and Guernsey, which depend on London for defence and foreign affairs.

French fishermen say Brexit is being used as an excuse to keep many from securing licences for British waters they say they have plied for years.

The spat intensified Thursday when Britain summoned the French ambassador to explain "threats" made over the fishing rights, hours after France's Prime Minister Jean Castex offered to open talks to resolve the disagreement.

An EU spokesman said talks would be held with the UK and France to try to settle the dispute.

## Pakistan services limited holds corporate briefing

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Services Limited (PSL) conducted second corporate briefing session at Islamabad Marriott Hotel in compliance with the directives of Pakistan Stock Exchange on Wednesday.

Senior Management of the company including the Vice Chairman-Hashoo Group and Director of the Company, Mr. Mohammad Akhtar Bawary; Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Tahir Mahmood; Company Secretary, Mr. Mansoor Khan and Board Members, Mr. Shakir Abu Bakar, Syed Haseeb Amjad Gardezi, Ms. Ayesha Khan, Mr. M. Ghazali Marghoob, Mr. Rohail Ajmal and Mr. Shahid Hussain were present at the event. The event was also attended by the Chartered Accountants, Corporate Law Professionals, lawyers, and Members of the



Company. Mr. Mansoor opened the programme by presenting a brief profile of PSL and said that PSL was incorporated in December, 1958 and became a part of Hashoo Group in 1985. The company is principally engaged in the hospitality business and owns and operates the five-star chain of Pearl-Continental Hotels across Pakistan. Currently, PSL owns six five-star hotels in all major cities of Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kash-

mir. Each of these hotels are enjoying a prominent standing in the market. Meanwhile, PSL is expanding its portfolio in key destinations across Pakistan. The company is in the process of constructing two five-star hotels in Mirpur and Multan. The Company has introduced its another brand "PC-Legacy" to cater the demands of four-star segment of the business.

Besides the hospitality business, PSL also has interests in the travel and tourism busi-

ness running the prestigious banner of Destinations of The World (DOTW). This venture is licensed under a master franchise agreement signed with DOTW Dubai. PSL is also engaged in the business of car rental services through its wholly owned subsidiary Pearl Tours & Travels (Pvt) Limited. Moreover, it plans to enter the real estate business through its two wholly owned subsidiaries in this sector. So, this was a brief introduction of the Company.

## Chinese scholar gives plan to promote China-Pak agri co-op

DNA

BEIJING: Chinese scholar Cheng Xizhong put forth four proposals to promote Sino-Pak cooperation in agriculture sector, says a report published by Gwadar Pro. Cheng Xizhong who is visiting Professor at Southwest University of Political Science and Law noted that at present, China-Pakistan cooperation in various fields continues to deepen, but agricultural cooperation is still at its initial stage.

Therefore, there is a great space and potential for cooperation between China and Pakistan in agricultural science and technology, agricultural product processing, agricultural product trading and agricultural infrastructure construction in the future. Agriculture is the lifeline of Pakistan's economy. Pakistan is rich in land resources. The cultivated land accounts for about 40% of the total land

area. The per capita cultivated land area is twice as much as China.

The proportion of young and middle-aged people is large, and the demographic dividend is very prominent. Therefore, Pakistan has many favorable conditions for developing modern agriculture.

However, the yield per unit area of wheat, rice, soybeans and other crops in Pakistan is only about 50% of that in China. The application of improved varieties and the popularization of advanced agricultural technology need to be further developed.

The production of major crops needs to develop in the direction of scale, intensification, modernization and information technology. Addressing the launching ceremony of "Kisan Portal" for the farmers under Pakistan Citizen's Portal in Islamabad, Prime Minister Imran Khan said that Pakistani farmers

have to learn new techniques to boost productivity like China. In recent years, China-Pakistan cooperation in cultivating rice, corn, soybean, sugarcane and other crops has yielded fruitful results. The demonstration of Chinese modern agricultural technology in Pakistan has enabled the Pakistani people to see the great power of technology to promote agricultural development.

With regard to China-Pakistan agricultural cooperation, I think we can make further efforts from the following aspects:

First, the two sides should fully realize that agricultural cooperation is now the top priority of the second phase of CPEC, which is the largest livelihood project.

Second, both sides should make full use of their excellent germplasm resources to strengthen cooperative research on the cultivation of new varieties such as wheat, rice, oilseeds and sugarcane.



KARACHI: Mrs. Maryam Al-Azizi Director of the UAE Visa Centre in Karachi, offered condolences to Kim Haksung Head of the Mission at Office of the Republic of Korea on the demise of South Korea's former president Mr. Roh Tae-woo. - DNA

## Azerbaijan, EU mull partnership, post-war region

DNA

BRUSSELS: The head of Azerbaijan's mission to the European Union (EU), Vagif Sadigov, and European Council President Charles Michel have discussed partnership and the regional situation after last year's war with Armenia.

On 25 October 2021, ambassador Vagif Sadigov as a new head of Azerbaijan's mission to the EU presented his credentials to Michel and the sides had a bilateral meeting following the ceremony, the mission said on October 28.

Sadigov expressed hope about the soonest resumption of negotiations on a new Azerbaijan-EU agreement, reiterating Azerbaijan's strong

willingness to make an outstanding deal based on mutual compromises.

He underlined that the Southern Gas Corridor will contribute to the mutual cooperation with the EU by delivering natural gas volumes from Azerbaijan to wider European geography. The officials also discussed the priorities of the Eastern

Partnership beyond 2020 and the implementation of the Economic and Investment Plan.

Sadigov expressed Azerbaijan's expectations on the upcoming Eastern Partnership Summit, describing the EU as a trusted partner of the country. He also hailed the EU's willingness to support the regional peace-building

efforts. Furthermore, he briefed Michel about the post-war situation in the region, including the large-scale reconstruction projects carried out by Azerbaijan on its liberated territories.

Sadigov highlighted the importance of Michel's visit to Azerbaijan in July 2021 in terms of bolstering bilateral relations and strengthening dialogue on regional issues. In turn, Michel asked the ambassador to convey his warm greetings, best wishes, and appreciation to President Aliyev, expressing his hope to see the latter in the upcoming Eastern Partnership Summit. Michel congratulated Sadigov on his appointment and wished him success in strengthening further Azerbaijan-EU relations.



## Myanmar junta jails NLD patron for 20 Years

FOREIGN DESK

YANGON: A junta-controlled court on Friday sentenced U Win Htein, the detained patron of the National League for Democracy, to 20 years in prison for high treason over a press conference where he condemned the Feb. 1 coup. "He was sentenced to 20 years under Article 124A of the Penal Code by the Dkkh-inathiri special court in a Nay-pitaw detention cell," said U Myint Thwin, the lawyer representing the NLD patron.

The Penal Code's high treason article defines the crime as attempting to "excite disaffection" towards the government or defense services personnel and carries up to 20 years imprisonment.

The lawyer said U Win Htein denied the charges, saying it was his "responsibility as a party leader to inform the public".

The police were preparing to transfer the 80-year-old to an unspecified prison, said the lawyer. It is the first most lengthy sentence for an NLD member.

The former military captain was arrested on Feb. 4 at his home in Yangon when he returned from Nay-pitaw and taken back to Oketarthiri police station in the capital.

His daughter Chit Su Win Htein said the sentence "is as we expected. It's not a surprise but it's sad and outrageous to hear about the ridiculous sentence."

She urged Myanmar's people to "hold on" and said the "perpetrators of this injustice will be held accountable".

The lawyer said the charges relate to a short press briefing where he issued a letter to the public and criticized the coup. He called it a result of Senior General Min Aung Hlaing's lust for power.

The overthrow of the democratically elected government meant the commander-in-chief had no intention of returning power, U Win Htein told the press in Nay-pitaw on Feb. 1.

## Iraq holds Babylon Int'l Festival

BAGHDAD: The Babylon International Festival kicked off Thursday after not being held in Iraq since the US invasion of the country in 2003.

The opening ceremony of the five-day festival was held in Babylon, which was once the capital of Babylonia, a state in ancient Mesopotamia. It included a speech by Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi, the festival's official sponsor, followed by a speech by the governor of Babylon delivered by the festival's president.

The festival will feature many activities and events, including music, dancing, folk arts and singing.

In a statement, the Iraqi Culture Ministry said representatives of 54 countries including Russia, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Egypt, Syria and Kuwait will take part in the festival. Babylon, whose ruins are in modern Iraq, has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The ancient city, whose history dates back to about 4,000 years, is famous for the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, considered one of the Seven Wonders of the World, as well as the Hammurabi Obelisk and the Lion of Babylon.

The Babylon International Festival, which was first held in 1985, was stopped after 2003 due to the US invasion of Iraq and the deterioration of the security situation in the ensuing years. - APP

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**Briefs**

**Kashmiris to stage protests in Rome, UK**

NEWS DESK

LONDON: Tehreek-e-Kashmir (TeK) UK chapter President Fahim Kayani has said that Kashmiris, Pakistanis and other communities will hold protests in Rome and Glasgow on October 31 and November 2, respectively to expose Modi-led government's brutalities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Indian Premier Narendra Modi arrived in the Italian capital on Friday to attend the G20 Summit – intergovernmental forum comprising world's major economies. Fahim Kayani said TeK has arranged more protests in UK and Europe to mark 74 years of Indian occupation of IIOJK. In London, Kayani said TeK has also arranged a digital van campaign along with a protest outside the Indian High Commission London. Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Barrister Sultan Mehmood will attend the protest demonstration in London as the chief guest. TeK will also stage protests outside Indian embassies in Norway, Germany and Denmark to expose the atrocities of Indian occupation forces that are violating basic human rights in the occupied valley, said Kayani.

**Banks must not fund climate 'destruction'**

WEB DESK

LONDON: Greta Thunberg has called on banks to "stop funding our destruction", ahead of the UN COP26 climate summit. The teenage Swedish climate activist is in London to take part in protests demanding the financial system stops funding fossil fuel projects. She told the BBC's Andrew Marr that "change is possible" at the summit, if pressure on politicians is maintained. But she added she has not been "officially" invited to speak at the event in Glasgow. The demonstrations against investment in fossil fuel projects come as world leaders gather in the Scottish city ahead of COP26's opening on Sunday. The protest in London is part of a series taking place on Friday at financial centres around the world, including New York, San Francisco and Nairobi. Campaigners are calling on banks not to lend money to companies and projects that use fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas. The COP26 conference will see more than 200 countries asked to set out their plans to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. European Parliament sues Commission BRUSSELS: The European Parliament on Friday launched a lawsuit against the European Commission over what it perceives to be a lackluster attitude in applying a mechanism linking EU funds to rule of law breaches among member states. "As requested in parliamentary resolutions, our legal service has brought an action against the European Commission for failure to apply the Conditionality Regulation to the Court of Justice today (Friday)," parliamentary speaker David Sassoli said in a statement. "We expect the European Commission to act in a consistent manner," Sassoli said. "Words have to be turned into deeds." The discord relates to a mechanism in force since the beginning of the year that can be implemented which withholds EU funds from the shared budget among the bloc's 27 members. – APP

**US to deepen ties with Taiwan amid China tensions: Top envoy**

"We are committed to deepening our ties with Taiwan," she said, adding US support for Taiwan is "rock solid"

FOREIGN DESK

WASHINGTON: The United States wants to deepen its relationship with Taiwan and will work to counter China's "malign" influence, a top US diplomat to the island has said, as tensions between Beijing and Taipei remain at their highest in decades. Sandra Oudkirk, the new director of the American Institute in Taiwan, the de facto US embassy, said on Friday that Washington remains deeply committed to Taiwan and is actively working on new areas of cooperation such as in cybersecurity and supply chains. "We are committed to deepening our ties with Taiwan," she said, adding US support for Taiwan is "rock solid". The comments come after US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Tuesday called for United Nations member states to support Taiwan's participation at the organisation and its affiliated international bodies, something Taipei has sought since losing the seat representing China in 1971. China, which considers self-ruled Taiwan a renegade province, quickly reiterated its opposition to such a move. Observers say the rising tensions increase the risk of confrontation between the China and US, which maintains an unofficial relationship with Taiwan, including supporting the island's ability to defend itself.

**US in talks to continue using Pakistan airspace for Afghanistan**

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: US Under-Secretary of Defense for Policy Colin Kohl that the US is in talks with Pakistan "to keep the air line of communication open" for Afghanistan. Kohl said this during a briefing of the Senate's Armed Services Committee on security in Afghanistan and in South and Central Asia. This development comes days after Pakistan's Foreign Office rejected a CNN report that claimed that the President Joe Biden's administration has told US lawmakers that the US was nearing a formal agreement to use Pakistan's airspace to

carry out military operations in Afghanistan. The foreign office had said that "no such understanding was in place. Pakistan and the US have longstanding cooperation on regional security and counter-terrorism and the two sides remain engaged in regular consultations". Senator Deb Fischer, who was also present at the briefing, asked if the US had been able to secure any basing rights agreements with any of the countries bordering Afghanistan since the option of conducting over-the-horizon counter-terrorism operation (which means ability to strike targets without putting American boots on the ground) because of the landlocked status of Afghanistan.

Last week, US President Joe Biden appeared to break from that longstanding US policy towards Taiwan, mandated in a 1979 law, of "strategic ambiguity". When asked if the US would defend the island in light of a Chinese incursion, Biden responded: "Yes". The White House and US military officials quickly sought to walk back the response. Meanwhile, in recent weeks, China has

flown a record number of fighter jets towards Taiwan in a show of military force. Beijing has not ruled out using force to reunify with Taiwan, which split from the mainland during the civil war in 1949. For her part, Taiwan's President Tsai Ingwen told media network CNN on Thursday she has "faith" the US would defend Taiwan against a Chinese attack. On Friday, Oudkirk declined to comment on

any security initiatives or give any details about the presence of US troops on the island. "We are going to continue to advance global and regional goals of the Biden administration, including countering malign PRC (People's Republic of China) influence, recovering from the devastating impacts of the pandemic and addressing the threat of climate change," Oudkirk said. A key new focus of the US-Taiwan relationship is on supply chains amid a global crunch on computer chips known as semiconductors. Taiwan is home to TSMC or Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Inc, which is the biggest contract manufacturer of processor chips in the world. Those chips are used in everything from smartphones, medical equipment, to gaming computers. In recent weeks, local media reported that Taiwanese companies are concerned about a request for information from the US Department of Commerce to chipmakers on potentially sensitive information such as their inventory, production and their top customers. TSMC, for example, serves clients in China as well as across the world. "I have stressed that the Department of Commerce's recent request for information is just that, it is a request," Oudkirk said in response to those concerns, saying it is voluntary.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of China Nong Rong met with the President of the National Defence University (NDU). He also delivered a talk on the theme "China's Vision of BRI and CPEC: Implication for the Region and Beyond". – DNA

**Poland summons Belgian envoy**

FOREIGN DESK

WARSAW: Poland has summoned the Belgian ambassador after expressing "disapproval and indignation" at comments by Prime Minister Alexander De Croo. De Croo had responded to remarks by Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki over the rule of law dispute within the European Union. Morawiecki had accused the European Commission of blackmailing his country by demanding changes in the judicial system set up by Warsaw. "What will happen if the European Commission starts a third world war?" the Polish PM said in an interview with the Financial Times. But De Croo retaliated on Wednesday, warning Warsaw "not to play with fire". "You cannot pocket all the money but refuse the val-

ues," the Belgian PM said at the opening of the College of Bruges. A spokesperson for the Polish foreign ministry confirmed the Belgian ambassador, Luc Jacobs, had been summoned "in connection with" the speech. "Minister SzymonSzyonkowski conveyed words of disapproval and indignation over Prime Minister De Croo's remarks relating to Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki's statements on the polemic between Poland and the European Commission on the rule of law," a statement read. "He stressed that such public comments do not contribute to a good climate in Polish-Belgian relations." The war of words follows an EU summit, where Poland failed to convince the bloc that fundamental judicial changes the country made would not undermine EU values.

**CTD Bannu kills 2 terrorists in Mir Ali**

The CTD said two SMG guns, a hand-grenade, 3 magazines and other banned material were recovered from the house

PESHAWAR: In a late night operation, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), Bannu Region and law enforcing agencies killed two terrorists after exchange of fire in Mir Ali area of FR Bannu district. A Police spokesman said that during the intelligence based operation in Mir Ali area; police cordoned off a house and asked the terrorists to surrender. However, instead of laying down their arms, the terrorists started firing on police which was effectively retaliated. Police said two terrorists were killed in exchange of fire while the others es-

**Russia's daily corona death toll hits new all-time high**

MOSCOW: Russia's daily coronavirus death toll reached a new high on Friday as 1,163 people died over the past day, pushing the overall count to 236,220. A total of 39,849 people contracted the virus in the last 24 hours, bringing the nationwide tally to 8.43 million, according to a daily report by Russia's coronavirus emergency task force. The recoveries rose to 7.3 million as 30,462 more people got over the illness. Russia's collective immunity currently stands at 46.8%, which is three-fourths of the figure needed to stop the virus' transmission. According to the authorities, over 50.9 million people have been fully vaccinated in Russia as of Friday and more than 56.78 million got their first doses. Since December 2019, the pandemic has claimed more than 4.98 million lives in 192 countries. – Agencies

**Govt establishes 'red line' on Jhelum bridge to stop TLP**

The proscribed outfit plans to reach the federal capital and stage a sit-in for the expulsion of the French envoy

DNA

LAHORE: Authorities have erected barricades on the bridge over river Jhelum and a "red line" has been established by the Punjab Rangers in a bid to stop thousands of supporters of the banned Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) from reaching the federal capital. The proscribed outfit plans to reach the federal capital and stage a sit-in for the expulsion of the French envoy. Thousands of TLP workers and supporters resumed their march after Friday prayers. "Beyond this line, the re-

sponsibility for law and order lies with Pakistan Rangers (Punjab), who have been given the authority to open fire at the miscreants. All the people are strictly warned to return to their homes," read a banner put up by the paramilitary force on the Jhelum bridge. The government also placed containers on the far end of the bridge to stop the protesters from crossing the river as it wanted to contain TLP supporters at Jhelum. A contingent of Punjab Rangers has been deployed on the Chenab and Jhelum crossings and RPO Rawalpindi Imran Ahmar is monitoring the situation in Jhelum along with a heavy contingent of police. Moreover, the National Highway, GT Road, Chenab Toll Plaza to Mor Bhai Khan, Sohawa are closed for traffic at multiple points. Aujla Canal, Wazirabad, Chenab Toll Plaza, Gujrat, Canal Bridge and Jhelum Toll Plaza, Jhelum Cantt, Pakistan Tobacco Company, ChakwalMor, Bhai Khan Bridge, Sohawa, are also closed for traffic. The thousands-strong march of the banned TLP has shown no signs of relenting. The marchers also have heavy machinery, including three to four heavy cranes and excavators, to remove the obstructions on the road to Islamabad.

**Jl decides to postpone Islamabad march on Oct 31**

NEWS DESK

LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) has decided to postpone its Islamabad march that was scheduled on October 31 owing to the current situation. Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) had announced to hold a protest rally at Islamabad's D-Chowk against unemployment on October 31 which will be addressed by the JI Ameer Senator SirajulHaq. The decision was taken in a session of the central leadership chaired by Senator SirajulHaq. In view of the current situation of the country, Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) decided to postpone the Islamabad march. Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) had invited unemployed youth across the country to the Islamabad march. Earlier on October 17, Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Senator SirajulHaq, while addressing the Central Youth Board in Islamabad, rejected the recent hike in petrol and electricity prices and demanded the federal government to make public the agreement signed with International Monetary Fund (IMF). SirajulHaq had announced that that protest demonstrations would be held in all major and small cities.

**Pope urges 'radical' climate response**

NEWS DESK

VATICAN CITY: In a message, Pope Francis has called on world leaders meeting next week at the UN Climate conference in Glasgow to provide "effective responses" to the environment emergency and offer "concrete hope" to future generations. Speaking from the Vatican for BBC Radio 4's Thought for the Day, the Pope talked of crises including the Covid-19 pandemic, climate change and economic difficulties, and urged the world to respond to them with vision and radical decisions, so as not to "waste opportunities" that the current challenges present. "We can confront these crises by retreating into isolationism, protectionism and exploitation," the pontiff said, "or we can see in them a real chance for change." He evoked the need for "a renewed sense of shared responsibility for our world", adding that "each of us - whoever and wherever we may be - can play our own part in changing our collective response to the unprecedented threat of climate change and the degradation of our common home."

**Rupee gains against dollar**

DNA

KARACHI: The rupee gained for the third straight day against the US dollar on Friday as the currency closed the week at Rs171.65, recording an increase of 0.36% during the day. Cumulatively, the currency gained around Rs2.35 during the ongoing week owing to \$3 billion deposits from Saudi Fund for Development. On Tuesday, the currency had dropped to an all-time low of Rs175.25 against the US dollar. According to the data released by the central bank on Thursday, the foreign exchange reserves held by SBP fell 2% on a weekly basis. On October 22, the foreign currency reserves held by the SBP were recorded at \$17,146.7 million, down \$346 million compared with \$17,492.2 million on October 15. Meanwhile, overall liquid foreign currency reserves held by the country, including net reserves held by banks other than the SBP, stood at \$23,933.8 million. Net reserves held by banks amounted to \$6,787.1 million.

**Indonesia calls for vaccine equity after Covid toll**

"In this time of crisis, advanced countries need to do more in helping poor countries get vaccines, so that we can overcome this pandemic together"

DNA

JAKARTA: Indonesia's President Joko Widodo has urged richer countries to share their vaccines with poorer ones, in an exclusive interview with the British media. MrWidodo said it "shouldn't be just a few countries that get all the vaccines, and some other countries get only a little". He was speaking ahead of a visit to the G20 and COP26 meetings, where he will be meeting other world leaders. Indonesia was one of the coun-

tries hardest hit by the Covid pandemic. President Jokowi - as he is popularly known - also made the case for why there should be more vaccine equity so that developing and poorer countries aren't left behind in this pandemic. "Everyone has helped, but in my opinion it's not enough," he said, in a virtual interview from the Indonesian presidential palace in Jakarta. "In this time of crisis, advanced countries need to do more in helping poor countries get vaccines, so that we can overcome this pan-



demic together." MrWidodo's comments come

as Indonesia attempts to recover from the ravages of the pandemic. At its peak, the country officially recorded more than 50,000 cases a day, but the real numbers may have been higher. Nearly 150,000 people have died, according to government data. People died in their homes, gasping for breath as oxygen supplies ran out across the archipelago. The sick were turned away from overflowing hospitals and funeral grounds ran out of space for the dead. The International Federation of

Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said that the country was "teetering on the edge of a Covid-19 catastrophe". But MrWidodo's administration initially downplayed the disease. His former health minister TerawanAgusPutranto famously said the country would be spared from the virus, because of "all the prayers." In the interview, he acknowledged the mistakes his administration made in managing the pandemic, saying that it was down to the lack of healthcare infrastructure in the country.