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Palestine keen to enhance ties with Pakistan: Envoy

Detailed News On Page-08

Gaddafi's son runs for Egypt President

Detailed News On Page-08



Mbappe fires France into World Cup

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Electoral reforms national agenda

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry on Sunday said that the electoral reforms were a part of the national agenda and not of a particular individual or party. The minister took to his official Twitter handle to state that electoral reforms were not "the agenda of Imran Khan or Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf [PTI]," but were a national agenda. Fawad maintained that all political parties should move forward towards electoral reforms. "It will be a great success for our political system if an electoral system is set up under which all the leaders are able to trust election results," he said.

Saudi Arabia to continue Iran talks

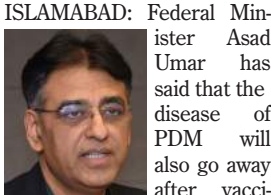
WEB DESK



RIYADH: Saudi Arabia will continue to hold talks with Iran and an additional round of negotiations between the regional rivals was expected soon, top Saudi diplomat said. Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud told France 24 television that four previous rounds of talks were merely "exploratory" rather than substantial, but said both sides were committed to engagement. But he expressed strong reservations about Iran's nuclear negotiations which are set to resume in a few weeks.

PDM disease will go away after vaccine

IBRAR KHAN

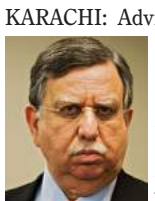


ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Asad Umar has said that the disease of PDM will also go away after vaccination on Sunday. Speaking to the journalists at the conclusion of KP Digital Youth Summit in Peshawar, Asad said that Imran Khan is present in the government and is working day and night for the betterment of the people.

'Good news soon' about IMF: Tarin

The adviser thanked Saudi Arabia; hinted that petrol will become more expensive

DNA



KARACHI: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue Shaukat Tarin on Sunday said that uncertainty surrounding the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) loan facility for Pakistan will be over soon, saying a "good news" was on the cards. Tarin had earlier this month announced that the government's agreement with the IMF over the revival of the \$6 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) had been reached and a formal accord would be signed in a week. However, an announcement in this regard is still awaited. Addressing a gathering, Tarin said the IMF's expected announcement of the EFF resumption would also help arrest the rupee's devaluation. "Once the settlement with the IMF is reached, it will also rein in speculators causing devaluation of rupee," the PM's adviser said. Shaukat Tareen also hinted that petrol will become more expensive as the Pakistani rupee continues to depreciate against the US dollar. While talking to media in Karachi, Shaukat Tareen predicting that petrol would become more expensive, said that if global prices go up, then petrol will also become more expensive in Pakistan. Tarin said speculative elements had caused eight to nine

Tackle inflation or go home, Bilawal tells PM



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has asked the prime minister to take solid steps to tackle inflation or go home. In a statement released in Islamabad on Sunday, Bilawal Bhutto said "Imran Khan must take steps to check the crisis amid declining incomes and soaring inflation or go home." He said Imran Khan takes notice of every crisis then his 'what should I do' mantra gives birth to more crises. "Today common man is worried about the inflation in the country and it is because of Imran Khan's incompetence," he added. Bilawal said "Imran got power by talking big and now he has no vision and no plan." The nation is paying a heavy price in the name of 'change' that many future governments would have to manage, the PPP chairman maintained. - DNA

rupees' worth of devaluation to the rupee, also adding that an additional demand for dollar by Afghan citizens was also adding to the pressure on the Pakistani currency.

Australia beat New Zealand to win T20 WC

Having restricted NZ to 172-4, Australia reached the target with 7 balls to spare

SPORTS DESK

DUBAI: Australia defeated New Zealand by eight wickets to win their maiden Twenty20 World Cup title on Sunday. Having restricted New Zealand to 172-4, Australia reached their target with seven balls to spare after a brilliant batting display. Opening batter David Warner scored 53 off 38 balls while Mitchell Marsh remained unbeaten on 77 from 50 deliveries to see Australia throughhand spark wild celebrations among his team mates. New Zealand captain Kane Williamson earlier led by example with a whirlwind 85 off 48 balls to power his team to 172-4 at the Dubai



International Stadium. Put in to bat, New Zealand struggled to get going and were 57-1 at the halfway stage of their innings before Williamson accelerated the scoring. The right-hander, dropped on 21 near the boundary by Josh Hazlewood, hit three sixes and 10 fours in his knock. Fast bowler Hazlewood was the most successful with the ball for Australia and picked up three for 16 in his four overs.



KARACHI: Ambassador of Thailand in Pakistan, Chakkrid Krachaiwong cutting a cake during a ceremony to mark 70 years of diplomatic and trade relationship between the two countries. - DNA

Thai diplomat expects bilateral trade at \$1.6 billion in FY22

On the eve of 70 years diplomatic and trade relationship between two countries

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Ambassador of Thailand in Pakistan, Chakkrid Krachaiwong said due to Covid pandemic the bilateral trade between Pakistan and Thailand had reduced, however the volumes are anticipated to cross \$1.6 billion this fiscal year. Speaking at the ceremony to mark 70 years of diplomatic and trade relationship between the two countries, Thai Ambassador said bilateral trade volumes exceeded \$800 million in the past six months.

"The talks on the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Thailand and Pakistan and progressing, which would enhance the trade volumes," Chakkrid Krachaiwong said. The diplomat also expressed interest in tourism development. Later, talking to newsmen Thai diplomat said Pakistan manufactured the best footballs in the world. "With the cooperation of Pakistan, Thailand is using Thai rubber in footballs, which improved the product quality. Praising Pakistani cuisines, Chakkrid Krachaiwong said he liked Biryani and chicken tikka, while his daughter was fond of malai boti. The foreign diplomat also

Continued on Page 06

Mediating between Pak, TTP; no agreement yet

The acting foreign minister said he was hopeful that the process would not come across any difficulties

NEWS DESK



ISLAMABAD: Acting Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi has confirmed that they were mediating between Pakistan and the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), though no agreement was reached yet. Muttaqi, who was visiting here mainly to attend Troika Plus meeting, told BBC Urdu in an interview published Sunday that the Taliban government was mediating on the desire of both the parties in Pakistan. He said the parties had not yet reached an agreement; the beginning was a good one with the announcement

of a month-long ceasefire. The acting foreign minister said he was hopeful that the process would not come across any difficulties in the future and that the closeness between the TTP and Pakistan would increase. In what the BBC said was his first interview with a female journalist, Muttaqi said that Daesh was a threat

in Afghanistan; however, the Taliban government had eliminated it from a major part of the country. Acting Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi also called on Prime Minister Imran Khan along with his high level delegation. "Isolated incidents can take place anywhere. Earlier, 70% of Afghanistan was under the control of the Islamic Emirates. Now, Daesh has been purged from all these areas. They existed only in the areas which were ruled by the former Kabul government," he said. He said after the Taliban takeover, Daesh started

Continued on Page 06

Opposition responds to NA speaker's letter

The joint opposition proposed the formation of a parliamentary committee

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The joint opposition in the National Assembly on Sunday proposed the formation of a Parliamentary Committee comprising members from both houses to consider and approve with consensus a complete package of electoral reforms including the Elections (Amendment)

Bills 2021 passed by the lower house. The decision was made in a meeting of the Steering Committee of the joint opposition, held at the Parliament House in Islamabad. The joint opposition maintained that any future legislation would be in consonance with parliamentary practice and precedence to achieve the required consensus on issues of national

importance. In their response to the letter of National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser, who sought opposition parties' support in parliament over bills related to electoral reforms and accountability laws, PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif wrote that matters of wider national interest, especially legislation

Continued on Page 06

PTI govt and allies on a collision course

Establishment wanted to have the new man on the job immediately while the notification issued by the PM office allowed the incumbent DG to stay in the office till November 20

SITUATIONER

ANSAR M BHATTI



It has been my consistent view that the Prime Minister may not complete his five year term because we do not have any such precedent, albeit I personally think if people have voted someone to power for five years, he or she should be allowed to complete the term. Even if the prime minister is not delivering, it should be left to the voters to decide about his fate. Unlike the PM, the PTI government may be allowed to limp on till the end of its legal term, which will end in 2023. The Capital is

abuzz with a plethora of rumors these days. Govt defeat in the National Assembly last week when it failed to get its bills passed, in fact gave further rise to these rumors. Then happened the drama of joint sitting of the parliament. The session had to be called off at the eleventh hour for the allied parties of the PTI refused to lend their support for the passage of certain bills including the one relating to use of the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in the next general elections. The allies complain of being ignored and discarded by the PTI top leadership. PML Q and the MQM, even in the past had raised their voice against what they called injustices meted out to them by the PTI leadership. Even this time, they did not name anybody but obviously their complaints are directed towards the prime minister, and thus want him to be replaced. Certain names are also being heard who may replace the prime minister in case of any in-house change. Interestingly, name of the defence minister is also there who has recently been given a clean chit in a corruption reference. A couple of other contenders from Multan and Islamabad regions have also



girded up their loins in case the top office is bestowed upon them. The opposition on the contrary has demanded for early elections though none of them has done homework for this. But since they want to get Imran Khan out of power come what may, they won't mind fresh elections knowing the fact that they are not going to win majority seats. I have written time and again, PPP always chooses to play safe and smart. It become part of PDM only when it intends to exert pressure on the "aliens" and after getting some concessions it spares no time in divorcing the alliance. Rumors are ripe that PPP once again wants to be part of the PDM and the



PDM once again likely to fall in the same booby trap. PPP's sudden inclination towards the PDM; resurgence of the TLP and abrupt strange behavior of the allied parties of the PTI may not be a mere coincidence. It seems to be a calculated and very well knitted move facilitated and supported by powers that be. To me, allied parties disenchantment with the PTI leadership has nothing to do with what the PML Q and MQM claim. The actual problem lies somewhere else. During the TLP standoff, the prime minister, at a point, wanted to handle the issue by force but as reports suggest the establishment did not seem eye to eye

with this idea. We have to keep in mind that the issue of appointment of the DG ISI had already strained relations between the establishment and the prime minister. Establishment wanted to have the new man on the job immediately while the notification issued by the PM office allowed the incumbent DG to stay in the office till November 20. There are also reports that the PM wants to recall Pakistan's ambassador to Saudi Arabia Lt. Gen Bilal Akbar (retd) and replace him with Pakistan's high commissioner to Canada. All said and done, the PTI govt itself is responsible for all its woes. It has miserably failed in keeping up its promises made to people before the elections. Corruption has increased manifold. Economic situation has gone from bad to worse and state of governance is just pathetic. The opposition on the other hand is only interested in grinding its own axe. Plight of people is not all a source of worry for it. If the snap polls are held or for that matter the Opposition parties take to streets against the government and they get a rousing welcome, it would only be because of the poor performance of the PTI govt.

Inside...

KP govt trains 1 lac youth in IT sector: Asad Umar - Page 02

HEC briefs Senate body about varsities' QECs performance - Page 03

Serena Hotel's annual hike draws adventure enthusiasts - Page 04

State's another blunder - Page 05

Thousands rally in Tunisia against Saied's seizure of power - Page 06

US military hide 'war crime' in Syria: Report - Page 07

Palestine keen to enhance ties with Pakistan: Envoy - Page 08

FDA to review Faisalabad master plan: Dr. Faisal

The FDA Director General reiterated that the quality of FDA services would be raised by following the reform agenda and development activities would be carried forward

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: The revised draft of proposed Twenty year Faisalabad Master Plan would be reviewed by Faisalabad Development Authority (FDA) in which proposals/suggestions of stakeholders have been incorporated to make it more comprehensive, transparent and in line with the future requirements. This was started by Director General Faisalabad Development Authority Dr Faisal Azim while taking to correspondent of "The Islamabad Post" Ashfaq Mughal. Giving details, the FDA Director General informed the prepara-

tion of Faisalabad Master Plan was stated in 2017 by City District Government, however this task was entrusted to FDA afterwards. The Usmani & Company was selected as consultant through open bids, he maintained. The Director General told that the experts of consultant company conducted detailed survey and study to collect necessary information and requirements of Socio-economic development Faisalabad. He added that data had been compiled with the coordination of district and divisional administrations, Metropolitan Municipal Corporation, Housing, Revenue, environment protection, Urban Units Punjab and other con-

cerned departments for the preparation of master plan draft. He told that the draft of master plan made open for general public and all stakeholders to seek proposals/suggestions and reservations. He said that all proposals and suggestions received in this regard sent to consultants for consideration and they made revised draft of proposed Twenty year Faisalabad Master Plan. He informed that the revised draft would be reviewed in presence of all stakeholders. He claimed that the Faisalabad Master Plan would be mile stone for organised and advanced development of different sectors.

He gave details and said the traffic management, environment protection, waste management, public transport, public parks, requirements of universities, colleges, hospitals, ring roads and other infrastructure would be part of master plan. He said new filth depots would be identified besides revamping of existent filth depots for better disposal of solid waste as per scientific manner. The FDA Director General reiterated that the quality of FDA services would be raised by following the reform agenda and development activities would be carried forward for the prosperity of City and better public relief.



KARACHI: a group photograph with Begum Samina Alvi in the Seminar on breast cancer awareness organized by Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KCCI). – DNA

36,200 bags of hoarded fertilizers recovered

LAHORE: A meeting was informed on Sunday that during the ongoing crackdown on hoarders, 36,200 bags of fertilizers were recovered in different cities.

A report, presented to Punjab Chief Secretary Kamran Ali Afzal at Civil Secretariat, said that 17,000 bags were seized in Bahawalpur and 19,200 bags in Faisalabad division.

The meeting also reviewed the prices and availability of essential commodities and the ongoing crackdown on hoarding. The chief secretary directed the deputy commissioners to prepare a strategy for the sale of confiscated stocks in the market at the fixed price. He said that urea fertilizer was in abundance, but dealers were creating artificial shortage by storing it in warehouses. He said that increase in the supply of fertilizer in the market would automatically reduce the price. He asked the deputy commissioners to keep a close watch on the prices of essential commodities as well as their supply and demand.

Secretaries of relevant departments including agriculture, industries and food, additional IG Special Branch, cane commissioner Punjab, commissioner, deputy commissioner Lahore and officials concerned attended the meeting. – APP

Women's rights are in women's hands

DPO said that women who are coming to the Anti Women Harassment and Violence cell are being treated with respect and honor, and provided with best possible legal aid so that rule of law can be ensured

STAFF REPORT

LODHARAN: Women are taking the way of Anti-Women Harassment and Violence Cell in District Lodhran for the protection of their rights. In the month of October 50 complaints were received from which 48 were resolved immediately. DPO Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani told while talking to the media that in Southern Punjab women are not aware of their rights due to low literacy

rate and basic awareness of their rights but Lodhran Police has made women independent and Female Staff has been deployed in Police Stations to facilitate the complaints of women complainants so that they can explain their complaints properly. DPO Abdul Rauf said that women who are coming to the Anti Women Harassment and Violence cell are being treated with respect and honor, and provided with best possible legal aid so that rule of law can be ensured.

In the month of October complaints of 10 husband wife disputes, 8 of street quarrel, 5 of other household disputes, 25 of quarrels with in laws were received. He said that Anti-Women Harassment and violence cell is playing an effective role in provision of justice to the women, he added that no society can reach its desired goal without empowering their women. Anti-Women Harassment and Violence cell is giving women courage to provide them relief from oppression.



Performance of DSP lauded

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: SSP Patrolling Region Faisalabad Mirza Anjum Kamal held a Farewell Party in the honour of DSP PHP District Jhang Maqbool Sardar on his superannuation. DPO Distt Jhang Hassan Asad Alvi, DSP PHP Faisalabad Malik Muhammad Amin, DSP Mahr Saeed, DSP Mazhar Farooq Sadhana, Saifullah Bhatti, Incharge Mobile Education Unit Muhammad Rizwan Bhatti, Head of Branches and dignitaries graced the auspicious occasion. The speakers lauded the professional integrity and commitment of DSP Sardar Maqbool and prayed for his future endeavours. The guests were entertained with lavish lunch. The souvenirs were presented to him as mementos to cherish the august moment. SSP Patrolling Mirza Anjum Kamal lauded the performance of outgoing DSP and thanked him for his invaluable services rendered for humanity and uplift the image of police.

Women chambers moot today

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FWCCI) will organize First All Pakistan Women Chambers Presidents Conference on 15th Nov, 2021 at Faisalabad. Eighteen Chambers Presidents are invited to participate in addition to arrival of various important dignitaries, said Mrs. Nighat Shahid, President FWCCI. She was addressing to the Emergent meeting of FWCCI Executive Committee held on 12th Nov, 2021. She said that necessary arrangements have been made for this historic Conference in Faisalabad that will be scheduled in Circle Club Faisalabad. She said that Dinner will be hosted in honour of Presidents of All Women Chambers Presidents. However, the Conference will be organized on 15th Nov, 2021 from 09 PM to 5.00 PM. She told that Mrs. Nilo Bakhtiar, former Federal Minister for Tourism will be the Chief Guest. She said that necessary Committees have been constituted for this event.

KP govt trains 1 lac youth in IT sector: Asad Umar

“Pakistan is the 5th largest community in the world in the individual youth community, which is a clear indication of

PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, Reforms and Special Initiatives Asad Umar said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government were trained 100,000 youth in IT sector which would further uplift IT industry in country. He said this while talking to media men during his visit to the concluding session of the two-day Digital Youth Summit held here at local hotel on Sunday. Accompanied by KP Minister for Science and Information Technology Atif Khan, Federal Minister, Asad Umar said that in the last two years the export in the IT sector has been three times increased due to investors' friendly policies introduced by the government. "Pakistan is the 5th largest community in the world in the individual youth community, which is a clear indication of progress of Pakistan in the IT sector," Asad Umar said. The trust of the foreign investors have been further cemented and billions of dollars investment coming to Pakistan in the IT sector, he said while answering a question. Answering another question, he said, 2.3 million jobs increased in 2018. "There are a lot of development opportunities in agriculture in Pakistan and the government has given



due attention that is why the crops of wheat, rice, sugarcane have come up in record," Federal Minister Asad Umar said. The government, he said, was focusing on the sectors which have opportunities for development like agriculture, IT and tourism sectors. He said record harvest of wheat, rice and sugarcane means the government is working on an appropriate line in the agriculture sector in the rural areas and the farmers were getting benefit from such progress. "However, in urban areas, there are opportunities in the construction sector and that is why a new boom is witnessed in the construction sector and all those areas related to construction industries," said Federal

Minister Asad Umar. The construction industry, he said, has grown exponentially due to the interest of the Prime Minister, who himself is looking and monitoring the construction industries. Federal Minister Asad Umar has the largest foreign exchange reserves in the history of Pakistan, meaning the country is on the path of development. "The Corona threat still exists and urged upon the people to get vaccinations to avert the threat. "If the people do not get vaccinations, there will be danger of corona coming back," Asad Umar said. "PDM is like a seasonal disease, it will end as soon as the cold ends," Asad Umar said this while answering a question in a laughing mood. – APP

PDM lost its senses after consecutive failures

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries, Mohibullah Khan on Sunday said the graph of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was being increased with each passing day while Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and opposition leaders have lost their senses after their consecutive failures. He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony, wherein five former Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leaders announced to join PTI along with their family members and supporters, held at Khan Tangay Sagram – an area of Kuza Bandai union council of district Swat. He said PTI leadership in line with the directives of Prime Minister Imran Khan has taken record uplift projects that would usher the new era of prosperity and development. He said that the joining of PTI by other parties leaders was proof of its popularity among the masses. Mohib said the people have rejected the agenda of PDM and opposition parties who still wanted to hamper the country's development and prosperity. – APP

Crackdown launched on hoarders of fertilizers

FAISALABAD: The district administration has launched a crackdown on hoarders of fertilizers and profiteers in the district. Special raiding teams comprising officials from special branch, police and agriculture department have been constituted to control the prices of fertilizers. A spokesperson for the district administration said here Sunday the teams headed by Assistant Commissioners recovered 53,192 bags of different fertilizers including DAP and Urea in a day-long activity. The teams also imposed a fine of Rs 200,000 on hoarders and registered cases against two hoarders. Giving breakdown, the spokesperson said that 26,200 bags of urea and DAP fertilizers were seized in tehsil Tandianwala and cases were registered against two hoarders besides imposing fine on others. As many as 24,000 bags of fertilizer were seized from

four warehouses in tehsil Jaranwala. The teams sealed 4 warehouses and registered cases against their owners. As many as 500 bags were recovered from a godown in tehsil Samundri which had been sealed. A total of 402 bags of urea fertilizer were seized in tehsil city and a total fine of Rs 60,000 imposed on many others. As many as 2,090 bags of different fertilizer were recovered from stores and a fine of Rs 130,000 was imposed in tehsil Samundri. DC Ali Shehzad maintained that no one would be allowed to exploit farmers. He said the dealers who were minting money by creating an artificial shortage of fertilizers would be dealt with an iron hand. He said the government was determined to protect the interest of farmers in any case. At present, he said that urea fertilizer was available in abundance but dealers were creating artificial shortage by hoarding it in warehouses. – APP

Three shopkeepers booked over profiteering

DNA

FAISALABAD: The district price control magistrates Sunday sealed four shops, registered cases against three owners and imposed Rs 99,000 fine over the charges of profiteering. According to the district administration spokesperson, the price control teams held inspections in various markets and bazaars and took action against violators of the government price lists under the Price Control Act. **2 brick-kilns, factory boiler sealed** The district environment department, during a crackdown, sealed two brickkilns, and a boiler of a factory, and imposed Rs 150,000 fine on various others for polluting the environment, here on Sunday. A team, supervised by Deputy Director Environment Wasim Ahsan Cheema, sealed Makki Madni and Talha Manj brick-kilns on Sargodha Road and handed over two persons to police. The team also imposed Rs 50,000 fine each on Malika bricks in Chak No 253-RB, Al-Fareed bricks in Chak No 433-GB, Sabir bricks in Chak No 212-GB.

Cinema organizer held

PESHAWAR: District administration Sunday arrested the organizer of Aina cinema over the violation of corona SOPs and staging a show without taking the administration permission. On the directives of Deputy Commissioner Khalid Mahmood, Assistant Commissioner City Dr Ahtisham-ul-Haq visited Aina visited the cinema and arrested the organizer. DC Khalid Mahmood said that action would be taken against those who violate the government rules and regulation. – APP

Inflation, governance real challenges: Sarwar

The governor said that money was needed to build hospitals, schools, colleges and other institutions, but no money was needed to improve the good governance

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar said on Sunday that not the opposition but governance and inflation were the real challenges for the government. He was addressing the 14th founding day function of the Insaaf Students Federation (ISF) and later on talking to the media at Governor's House Lahore. Minister of State for Information Farrukh Habib, Hafiz Farhat Abbas, ISF Punjab Convener Haider Majeed, Mohsin Gujjar, Waqas Iftikhar Butt, Zubair Awan, Malik Waqar, Umair Shaukat and others were also present. The participants also cut a cake to celebrate the ISF founding day. The governor said, "We have to improve governance and introduce a system of reward and retribution at all levels. Whoever commits corruption, he must be punished to

set a precedent. "If we gain the trust of people, then no power will be able to defeat us in the next election. The government is performing well under the leadership of Imran Khan. The opposition is blaming us for all faults as if we have been ruling the country for the last 70 years," added the governor. Ch Mohammad Sarwar said that there were other issues also besides inflation, but it is also a fact that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government was taking practical steps to rid the nation of these problems. There are dozens of government programmes including Ehsas Program, Kamyab Jawan Program, Insaaf Health Card, Ehsas Scholarship Program, through which efforts were being made to eradicate poverty and unemploy-

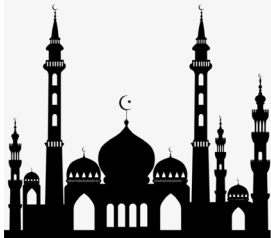


ment and the people were also getting relief. Ch Sarwar said "today's ISF event reminded me of enthusiasm and fervor in the youth which was found in them in the days when we were in the opposition." It is because of the hard work of the youth of Pakistan that Tehreek-e-Insaf came to power and Imran

Khan became the prime minister, and even today the youth of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf is our greatest strength, he added. The governor said that money was needed to build hospitals, schools, colleges and other institutions, but no money was needed to improve the good governance. "Therefore, time has arrived when we must focus on improving governance and strengthen the local bodies in Punjab," the governor said adding "The PTI in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa solved people's problems at their doorsteps through better local government system. "That is why, people have elected us with two-thirds majority there. We also need to bring reforms in police system," said the minister. Minister of State for Information Farrukh Habib said that the Insaaf

Students Federation (ISF) was founded on the basis of the party ideology. The government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan, was providing all opportunities to the youth of Pakistan to move forward. "There is no doubt that the present government has provided employment opportunities to the youth of Pakistan through the Kamyab Jawan Programme and today the youth is moving forward successfully and there is no other example like this in the past," said the minister. Farrukh Habib said that the mission of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was to serve people and In-sha-Allah it would solve all problems of the country including inflation and unemployment and it would be made truly strong and prosperous. – APP

SERVICES



Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	05:11 am
Zohr.....	11:52 am
Asr.....	03:29 pm
Maghrib.....	05:07 pm
Isha.....	06:32 pm



Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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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.....	561116
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
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HEC briefs Senate body about varsities' QECs performance

The QECs are annually assessed by HEC's Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) for their performance against the defined parameters. The Yearly Progress Reports of QECs for Financial Year 2018-19 were finalized that were provisionally assessed

MUHAMMAD JABRAAN

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has clarified a news item published in a section of the press regarding HEC's briefing to a Senate body about performance of several universities. The Senate Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training was briefed on the performance of Quality Enhancement Cells (QECs) of the Universities that were assessed during 2019-20, and not the overall performance of the universities. The measurement standards/criteria for QECs and Institutional Performance are different. The yearly progress of QECs is measured on six quantifiable standards whereas the performance of universities is reviewed against 11 defined standards. The news regarding perfor-

mance of the universities has been misinterpreted by some newspapers. The QECs are annually assessed by HEC's Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) for their performance against the defined parameters. The Yearly Progress Reports of QECs for Financial Year 2018-19 were finalized that were provisionally assessed during 2019-20. Every university provides Yearly Progress Report against the given criteria and targets, which are (i) Conducting self-review of Institutional Performance Evaluation, (ii) Self-Assessment of Programmes, (iii) Accreditation of Programmes by the Accreditation Councils, (iv) Conduct Self Review MS/MPHil & PhD Programme Review from HEC, Self-Review, NOCs of MS/MPHil & PhD programmes, (v) Strengthening of QECs Secretariat, Memberships of Statutory Bodies & International



QA bodies, Conducting of Awareness Seminars/ workshops, and (vi) Implementation of HEC's Quality Assurance guidelines and policies. The QECs play a key role in sensitizing the university administration and faculty towards the Quality Assurance issues of the university education and create awareness about the need for Self-Assessment by the programme managers in the universities. As COVID-19 pandemic hit Pakistan in February

2020, the degree awarding institutions were forced to close their on-campus activities, resultantly the planned activities of QECs were also halted including finalization of assessment of Yearly Progress Reports of 2018-19, conducting Progress Review Meetings and Capacity Building workshops for QECs. The overall performance of a Higher Education Institution (HEI) is reviewed periodically after every five years against 11 defined standards of Institutional Performance Evalu-

ation (IPE). The standards are namely, Mission Statement and Goals, Planning and Evaluation, Organization and Governance, Integrity, Faculty, Students, Institutional Resources, Academic Programmes and Curricula, Public Disclosure and Transparency, Assessment & Quality Assurance and Student Support Service. Review visits are planned, data is collected from the focused HEIs in the form of University Portfolio Report (UPR). A panel is nominated by QAA, which conducts review visit, evaluates the HEI against the defined standards and the report is shared with the University/ HEI for submitting Compliance Implementation Plan (CIP) to QAA. QAA follow-up with the respective university for implementation of the recommendations made in the review report of the university. The impact of quality as-

surance can be seen in terms of taking responsibility. Universities are building quality culture on the basic principle where excellence is everyone's responsibility. QAA has endeavored to set the tone to create a quality culture and quality consciousness among the faculty members and administrative staff. Over the years, documentation and record-keeping for academic matters have improved. Universities are implementing the concept of course files which is necessary for building good practices. Universities are trying to consistently hold statutory meetings as per their statutory requirement. Infrastructure and facilities have been improved. Universities are taking responsibility for conducting IPE with a consistent effort to institutionalize self-assessment and improvement process within HEIs.

Demand for National Action Plan for Treatment of Diabetes

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Health experts have called for a national action plan to prevent and treat all non-communicable diseases including diabetes and said that Provincial governments and all other stakeholders need to be bound by the plan. The prices of diabetes medicines should be reduced by 25% and a free supply of these medicines should be ensured in all the district headquarters hospitals. These programs were arranged by Pakistan Islamic Medical Association (PIMA) for the general public at over 100 places. People from different walks of life participated in these programs in large numbers. Experts urged the people to have effective control of diabetes through a balanced diet, regular exercise and medication. They added that diabetes is not only fatal in terms of consequences but also causes many other diseases like heart, kidney and eye diseases.

TV Anchor's son among 4 held over harassment

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Four people, including a son of a renowned journalist/TV anchor, were arrested on the charges of harassing and threatening the staff and students of a college in the capital on Saturday, police said. The Shalimar police registered the case under section 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation), 355 (assault or criminal force with intent to dishonour person otherwise than on grave provocation), 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty) and 542 (punishment for wrongful confinement) of Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) in response to a complaint lodged by Dr Asad Faiz, the principal of Islamabad Model College for Boys F-11/3. The police produced the four persons in court from where they were sent on judicial remand. When contacted, Superintendent of Police (SP) Saddar Zone Nosherwan Ali told Dawn that a caller informed the police helpline on Saturday morning that riders of a Vigo were harassing a girl at F-11 Markaz.

Measures being taken to deal with Dengue at Panahgahs

ISLAMABAD: A daily uptick in dengue cases in twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad has moved the Panahgahs' management to take needful measures to prevent outbreak of the communicable disease at the pro-poor facilities crowded with an advent of harsh winter season. "Half a dozen shelter homes (Panahgahs) are being fumigated regularly in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad in order to deal with Dengue mosquitoes in an effective way," Prime Minister's Focal Person on Shelter Homes Naseem ur Rehman told the media after his visit to a facility at G-9 Sector, Peshawar Morr, Islamabad on Sunday. The Focal Person said he



had held face-to-face interactive session with service providers and dwellers at all the facilities of both the cities to apprise them about the preventive measures required to protect those places from becoming breeding places of mosquitoes. He said clear instruction have been issued to ensure removal of stagnant water from the facilities, in addition to make them neat, clean and hygienic places. "Our mission is not only to provide good shelter and food to the poor workers staying at the Panahgahs, but also protect them from epidemics and pandemics and seasonal diseases," he said while mentioning the campaign 'Promoting Healthy Lives' launched since the emergence of coronavirus pandemic.

He said the campaign was carried out every month with every week was dedicated to a particular theme including cleanliness, healthy life, health screening and anti-tobacco. Under the first week, Naseem said a massive campaign was launched to clean all the facilities. Sensitization of dwellers and service providers about cleanliness was also made sure with active participation of community, civil society and officials of health department. During the second week, he said dwellers were told about important principles of healthy life including hand-washing, maximum use of water, hygienic food and others. — APP

NCOC defers vaccination for teenagers

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Sunday announced to defer Covid-19 vaccination for children between 12 to 15 years of age amid national measles and rubella campaign launched across the country for 13 days. The nerve center of the country in its fight against the deadly contagious disease, on its official Twitter handle announced the decision to halt the children's vaccination. — APP



ISLAMABAD: IG Islamabad police Qazi Jameel ur Rehman paying tribute to families of martyrs at family gala organized by ITP at F-9 park. — DNA

NCOC to relax curbs in cities with excellent vaccination

Pakistan's COVID-19 positivity rate dropped below 1% for the 2nd consecutive day for the first time since March last year, when the govt started recording data on the pandemic

SUJUAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Sunday announced that it would relax the COVID-19 protocols in cities with "excellent vaccination progress."

According to a notification issued in this regard, the decision was taken during the NCOC's session on November 12, 2021. The meeting reviewed the disease situation in the country and the full vaccination status of different cities.

To encourage and incentivise cities with excellent vaccination progress, the forum decided that it would allow relaxations in the non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) so that life could return to normal, the statement said. Accordingly, the basis of NPIs for cities have been decided as per the following vaccination progress: Excellent vaccination progress: 50 % and above. According to this criterion, cities — where the COVID-19 protocols will be relaxed — include Narowal, Jehlum, Mandi Bahaudin, Peshawar, Bhimber, Bagh, Mirpur, Skardu,

Gilgit, Ghizer and Islamabad.

Good Vaccination Progress: 40-50% Cities that fall into this category include Rawalpindi, Sargodha, Sialkot, Mianwali, Kallar Kahar, Hafizabad, Rahim Yar Khan, Karachi, Chitral, Charsadda, Balakot, Jehlum Valley, Rawalakot, Muzaffarabad, Neelum, Hunza and Kharmang Valley.

Low Vaccination Progress: Less than 40%. All other cities of the country fall into this category. Per the NCOC, the NPIs will remain effective from November 16 to November 30, while a review will be carried out by the forum NCOC on November 29. Meanwhile, Pakistan's COVID-19 positivity rate dropped Sunday below 1% for the second consecutive day for the first time since March last year, when the government started recording data on the pandemic. In the last month, Pakistan has consistently reported a coronavirus positivity rate of less than 2% and less than 1,000 daily infections. Hospitalizations and the daily death count have also dropped, indicating an overall improvement in the COVID-19 situation in Pakistan. On Sunday, the National

Command and Operation Centre's (NCOC) data showed that 263 people tested positive for the virus after 33,767 tests were taken. This makes it the second consecutive day the country reported less than 300 cases of infection in a single day.

Eleven people, meanwhile, lost their lives to the virus, pushing the death tally to 28,606. The total number of cases so far since the pandemic started stands at 1,279,636, while the active case count is 22,855.

COVID-19 infections are decreasing in Pakistan, with 447 new infections reported on average each day. That's 8% of the peak — the highest daily average reported on June 17.

Pakistan has administered at least 118,333,360 doses of COVID vaccines so far. Assuming every person needs 2 doses, that's enough to have vaccinated about 27.3% of the country's population. Per last week's report, Pakistan averaged about 1,053,302 doses administered each day. At that rate, it will take a further 42 days to administer enough doses for another 10% of the population.



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Mobile: 0300 8553342

Briefs

All set for
Anti-Measles,
Rubella drive

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) District Health Authority Dr Faiza Kanwal has said that as many as 2,328,972 children between 9 months to 15 years of age would get anti-Measles and Rubella vaccine in the entire district under a 13 day-long drive, starting from November 15 to 27.

Under the drive, she told APP, that 328 medical officers, 1812 skilled persons besides 1812 team assistants and 3368 social mobilizers would visit 210 Union Councils of the district, including 46 Union Councils (UC) of Metropolitan Corporation Rawalpindi (MCR), 36 tehsil Rawalpindi, 28 Rawalpindi Cantt, 33 Gujar Khan, 14 Kahutta, 11 Kalar Syeda, 10 Kotli Sattian, 15 Murree and 17 Union councils of tehsil Taxila.

Giving details of the number of children targeted during the drive, she informed that some 454,793 would administer the doses in the MCR area, 503,107 in tehsil Rawalpindi 419,016 in Rawalpindi Cantt. Similarly, in Gujar Khan, the number of children who would receive the vaccine was 293,328. In Kahutta, 95,036, 93,610 in Kalar Syeda and 51,408 in Kotli Sattian. In contrast, 292,081 children would receive the doses in tehsil Taxila while Murree the number was 100,593. The CEO further said Medical superintendents and Principals of government hospitals and educational institutions had provided lists of vaccinators and students enrolled in government and private schools to make the campaign successful, she added.

18 held for
over illegal
weapons,
drugs

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police in their crackdown against illegal weapons, drugs rounded up 18 persons from different areas and recovered over three kg charas, 20 litres of liquor, seven pistols, ammunition and other items from their possession.

According to a police spokesman, Chontra police held Abdul Basit for having 1260 grams charras. While, R.A.Bazar, Wah Cantt, Saddar Wah, Saddar Baroni, New Town, Kahuta and Pirwadhai police arrested Muhammad Shayan, Ashmal Ahmed, Waqas Bhatti, Zaigham Abbas, Muhammad Imran, Usman Babar, Muhammad Toqeer, Shah Zaib and Shahid Iqbal for possessing 1910 grams charras, 20 liters liquor and a liquor bottle.

As many as six other accused namely Muhammad Rizwan, Amjad Sultan, Saqib Khan, Mudassar Ali, Rizwan Baig and Amir Shahzad were sent behind the bars for having 30 pistols and ammunition. Meanwhile, Race Course police held an accused namely Abdul Rehman, allegedly involved in display of weapon and aerial firing. Separate cases have been registered against all the accused while further investigations are underway. Division Superintendents of Police appreciated police teams and directed to continue operations against lawbreakers.

Farrukh
condoles
death of actor
Sohail Asghar

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib expressed grief and sorrow over the demise of veteran actor Sohail Asghar who breathed his last on Saturday after prolonged illness at Lahore.

In his condolence message, the Minister said Asghar had performed on stage and television for a long time. His services to the showbiz industry would always be remembered.

He prayed to bless his soul with eternal peace and grant high ranks in Jannah.

Serena Hotel's annual hike
draws adventure enthusiasts

Members of the Diplomatic Community, Govt, Armed Forces, Corporate Sector and civil society participated in the hike in pristine autumn conditions. The embassies and missions of Austria, Czech Republic, Spain, Switzerland, Netherlands, Yemen, and Maldives were represented



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Serena hosted its annual Adventure Hike on the Margalla Hills on Saturday morning featuring a large number of adventure and trekking enthusiasts from the city. The activity was organized by

Serena Hotels under the banner of Adventure Diplomacy community initiative that aims to encourage human engagement with nature in ways that test physical prowess, endurance and commitment. Beginning at Trail 4, the trekkers traversed the Dhok Jeevan Trail of the Margalla Hills National

Park and were treated at the culmination to with a sumptuous breakfast at a scenic picnic spot overlooking the Talhar Valley. Members of the Diplomatic Community, Government, Armed Forces, Corporate Sector and civil society of Serena participated in the hike in pristine autumn conditions. The em-



bassies and missions of Austria, Czech Republic, Spain, Switzerland, Netherlands, Yemen, and Maldives were represented.

The chief guest was travel and adventure enthusiast, broadcast journalist, filmmaker and writer Wajahat S Malik, who appreciated the mission of Serena Hotels to provide opportunities for

nature lovers to come together for vigorous exercise and share experiences with like-minded individuals.

Under the Adventure Diplomacy banner, Serena Hotels regularly sponsors a number of adventure sports including high altitude marathons, jeep rallies, skiing and mountaineering activities.

Car lifter,
bike stolen
gangs busted

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district police have busted two dacoit gangs and arrested their seven members besides recovering a vehicle, motorbikes, cash, weapons and other items.

According to a police spokesman, the Saddar Baroni Police team, under the supervision of SHO, made hectic efforts and managed to net three dacoits, namely Muhammad Imran alias Mani, Faizan and Ejaz who were allegedly involved in more than two dozens of dacoities and other crimes. The Police recovered one Suzuki Mehran car, three pistols and a looted Rs 424,500 from their custody. They confessed to having committed dacoities and other crimes in different areas. Meanwhile, the Wah Cantt Police arrested four bike lifter members and recovered six stolen bikes from their custody. The accused Arslan, Danish, Rizwan and Hassan were already absconders in various cases and allegedly involved in several cases registered in different police stations. The bikes would be handed over to owners after completing the legal procedure, he added. – APP

RCB
conducts 275
encroachment
operations

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) on the special directives of Executive Officer Cantonment Board, Rawalpindi Muhammad Umar Farooq Ali Malik conducted 275 anti-encroachment operation during first four months of the current fiscal year. According to a RCB Spokesman, Qaiser Mehmood, the Board had accelerated its ongoing anti-encroachment drive and confiscated 178 truckloads of goods from different markets during the period besides imposing fines amounting to over Rs 1.5 million on the rules violators. He informed that 42 rules violators were also issued notices.

Anti-encroachment teams confiscated the encroachment material from Tench Bhatta, Kamalabad, Peoples Colony, Dhoke Saydian, Misrial Road, Saddar, Bakra Mandi, Chor and other areas, adding that operation was being conducted on daily basis while permanent and temporary encroachments were being removed. He advised the citizens not to violate the rules otherwise stern action would be taken against the violators and no relaxation would be given to anyone. – APP

COVID
positivity rate
drops to 0.3%

DNA

RAWALPINDI: As many as five more were tested positive of deadly coronavirus, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 39,112 in the district, while the positivity rate was recorded at 0.34 per cent during the last 24 hours in the district. As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority here Sunday, the total infected cases included 36,116 from Rawalpindi and 2996 from other districts. Among the new cases, the report said two belonged to Potohar town, while each case arrived from Rawal town, Taxila and Gujar Khan. "Presently 16 confirmed patients were admitted to four city facilities, counting seven in Institute of Urology, five in Benazir Bhutto Hospital, three in Fauji Foundation and one in Bilal hospital," the report said.

Fawad
condoles
demise of
Sohail Asghar

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad on Saturday condoled the death of artist Sohail Asghar, who, passed away in Lahore on Saturday after protracted illness. The death news of Sohail Asghar has saddened the entire nation, said Fawad in his condolence message. He said Sohail displayed memorable acting skills as stage and television actor.

Over one million
registered on ERR
Program web portal

DNA

ATTOCK: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection, Dr. Sania Nishtar Sunday said that more than one million people have registered successfully for Ehsaas Roshan Riayat Program so far. As many as 40 million people have submitted their data in the portal since the start of the registration process, she said while talking to the media during her visit to the Sheikh General Store in Hassan Abdal Attock.

Giving details of the program, Dr. Sania explained that an individual of the household can be regis-

tered under this program. A monthly subsidy of Rs.1000 / – will be given to each family.

Dr. Sania said that massive awareness is being raised among shopkeepers on using the Ehsaas Roshan Riayat Program web portal. She said that relief will be provided to 20 million families under this initiative as per directives of the Prime Minister Imran Khan through providing subsidy on flour, pulses and cooking oil or ghee. The subsidy of Rs. 22 will be given on flour, Rs. 105 on ghee and Rs. 55 on pulses, she said. She said that the present government is prioritizing providing relief to the masses and resolving their issues.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of traders from Rawalpindi called on President ICCI Shakil Munir, in his office on Sunday. – DNA

DEC urges citizens
to co-op with teams
to verify voters

RAWALPINDI: District Election Commissioner (DEC), Rawalpindi Shaheen Ghazal has urged the citizens to cooperate with the teams visiting door-to-door to verify voters. She said, the Election Commissioner of Pakistan (ECP) like other parts of the country had started door-to-door voters' verification and authentication campaign across Rawalpindi district.

Shaheen Ghazal informed that the first phase of the verification campaign would continue till 6th of next month while the second phase of electoral rolls' verification would commence from Jan 26, next year.

The DEC urged the citizens to co-operate with the election commission and take part in the verification process.

She said that the citizens should include their votes, if it is not on the list, or if they want to get their votes transferred. She said the verified lists would help in the accomplishment of national duty transparently. The teams would hand over form-13 to a voter if the vote is not registered or its transfer is sought, she said add-

ing that the citizen will have to return the form to the teams after filling it while the government employees will use form-14.

The authorities concerned were assigned the task to oversee all stages of the revision of electoral rolls in their respective areas.

The preliminary draft of the electoral rolls would be displayed in designated display centers for public review.

The public can also register their complaints for corrections in the list, transfer of their votes to a permanent or temporary address written in their Computerized National Identity Cards.

The citizens can also add their names to the list and remove the names of the deceased voters.

The ECP has asked the voters to check their registration status on voters' lists by sending SMS with their Computerized National Identity Card number to its service 8300.

According to the election commission officials, 52 assistant registration officers, 585 supervisors and 1,882 verification officers have been appointed for the door-to-door verification. – APP

Supply of wheat to flour mills
in Rawalpindi region stopped

Cost of delivery of 100 kg wheat from S. Punjab to Rawalpindi region Rs.400 and flour mills were being pressured to pay for it which is not acceptable as it will leave all the flour mills bankrupt

NEWS DESK

RAWALPINDI: Flour shortage has arisen in the twin cities after the Food Department suspended the supply of subsidized wheat to the flour mills in Rawalpindi region comprising Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Jhelum, Attock, Chakwal. The Punjab Flour Mills Association Rawalpindi Region has stopped supply of wheat flour to the market and will go on a full-scale strike in the twin cities from Monday, after which a complete strike will be called across the province if issues remain unresolved.

Addressing a hurriedly-called meeting, Group Leader Asim Raza, Patron-in-Chief General Rawalpindi Region Tariq Sadiq, Regional Chairman Riazullah Khan, Vice Chairman Atif Nadeem Mirza and other leaders said that the Food Department has refused to issue wheat to the flour

mills resulting in a crisis. They said that flour mills are being forced to buy wheat from South Punjab which is unworkable as it will increase the price of a 20 kg bag of flour by Rs85. The move will trigger inflation and burden troubled masses, he said, adding that 20 kg bag of flour could not be sold at the previous price of Rs1075.

Asim Raza said that the cost of delivery of 100 kg wheat from South Punjab to Rawalpindi region Rs.400 and flour mills were being pressured to pay for it which is not acceptable as it will leave all the flour mills bankrupt. He said that due to inefficiency and mismanagement of the food department, the price of a 20

kg bag of flour would increase by Rs85 burdening the masses reeling under inflation.

He demanded of the Prime Minister and Chief Minister Punjab to take notice of the situation and take action against those responsible for mismanagement and incompetence which may result in a severe food security issue.



Citizens warned of fake SMS, calls in EP

Prime Minister Imran Khan was taking concrete steps to elevate the living standard of less privileged people through improving their economic condition: Sania Nishtar

STAFF REPORT

ATTOCK: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation, Dr. Sania Nishtar Sunday warned the citizens to beware of the fake SMS and calls in the name of Ehsaas. "People should beware of fake SMS and calls in the name of Ehsaas programme and only follow the instructions received from 8171," Dr. Sania said while visiting grocery stores at Hassan Abdal and Kamra for educating the grocery merchants about the newly launched Ehsaas Roshan Programme.

President Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Distt. Attock Qazi Ahmad Akbar, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Hazro Zohaib Ahmad Anjum, AC Hassan Abdal, Zunaira Jaleel and others were also present.

Dr. Sania interacted with the grocery merchants and educated them about the procedure of registering with the Ehsaas Roshan Riayat Programme.

Talking to the media persons, Dr. Sania Nishtar said that the Prime Minister Imran Khan was taking concrete steps to elevate the living standard of less privileged people through improving their economic condition.

For this purpose, Ehsaas Roshan



Programme has been launched for facilitating the common people with low income. The individuals having mobile phones registered with their Computerized National

Identity Cards (CNICs) could register through <http://ehsaasrashan.pass.gov.pk>. They will get an SMS from 8171 regarding eligibility after registration and may visit any grocery store to buy essential commodities.

Grocery merchants, having bank accounts will also be registered with the same web portal, however, those who do not have their own bank account can open an account in National Bank of Pakistan.

It is mandatory that mobile numbers for registration should be registered on the same CNIC number. Dr. Sania said that 40 million people have applied for Ehsaas Roshan programme out of

which one million have been registered. She said that the National Socio Economic Registry Survey of Ehsaas has been completed while those people who were not registered might visit the special registration desks set up across the country.

She said that people should not believe in fake calls and SMS and should only follow the instructions received from 8171.

She further stated that the COVID-19 has gravely damaged the economical condition of the entire world. "The Prime Minister of Pakistan is working hard to lessen the economic burden of a common man."

Bilateral contact

PAKISTAN'S relations with the USA in the last few months, for perhaps the first time ever, appeared to be at a standstill. Relations could not be called warm, but they were not hostile either. It seemed as if the Biden administration could not decide what kind of relationship to keep with Pakistan; as if the decision on whether to keep alliances or abandon them was being delayed. However, with the situation in Afghanistan being as it is, Pakistan cannot be ignored—by any major power of the world. It seems that after months and months of passive-aggressive silence on part of the US, the US is starting to reach out again.

This week, United States Chargé d' Affaires William Steuer toured the USS Pearl Harbour, a visiting US Navy ship, and observed a joint exercise between the US and Pakistani navies during a visit to Karachi. The visit was to express support for US-Pakistan military cooperation for a combined military force—referring particularly to the Pakistan Navy's participation in the Combined Maritime Taskforce (CMF). This includes Pakistan's effort in protecting sea lanes of communication and freedom of navigation in the North Arabian Sea as part of Combined Task Force 150 (CTF 150) and Combined Task Force 151 (CTF 151).

This kind of military cooperation is not something majorly impactful for Pakistan. Pakistan assumed the command of multinational combined task force CTF-151 for the ninth time in December 2020.

The CTF's mission is to suppress piracy in the Horn of Africa, the Gulf of Aden, and adjoining ocean space under CMF. While it is a good global effort aimed at opening lines of communication through the sea, it is not a crucial platform for diplomacy for Pakistan. However, amidst the silence, these exchanges between the US and Pakistan are a good way to rebuild bilateral contact.

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Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

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Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



Cars price hike

FOR four months, the auto industry welcomed much celebration from the country when it announced a decrease in auto prices in July. Assemblers slashed prices by Rs62,000-400,000 on various locally-assembled cars and SUVs. However, as with most things to do with the economy, and following the streak of bad luck the market has been on, the bubble of low prices didn't last. Since November, assemblers have hiked up prices sharply. One of the major assemblers, Lucky Motor Corporation Limited (LMCL), increased prices ranging from Rs228,000-500,000 on locally-assembled and imported vehicles. Prices of Toyota vehicles were increased by Rs140,000-580,000 on the same day.

This is just the start—all the carmakers are predicted to follow this price hike. Regal Automobile Industries Limited (RAIL) looks geared to increase the prices of their products from Rs200,000 to 400,000. It is likely that all the other companies will follow suit.

From the looks of it, this appears to be a global trend. Globally, the transaction price of the average new vehicle has been over \$40,000 all this year and reached \$45,031 in September, amounting to an increase of \$4,872 or 12.1 percent in the past year. The rise in the price of energy, all forms of energy, has led to a global wave of inflation, and the auto industry, a stakeholder in any change in the energy industry, is no exception. However, the global rise in inflation cannot be constantly used as an excuse for the government's inaction. It is unclear whether the actions of the auto industry have been approved by the government or not. Considering the government has been making efforts in keeping local gas prices low, it cannot allow automakers to get away with this excuse of global inflation. The subsequent increase in prices of all automakers, one by one, is also worrying. Automakers still have to be brought in line, and continuing to facilitate competition is the way to go.

State's another blunder

Munir Ahmed



The TLP violent protests ended up with 21 dead bodies of the policemen and civilians, hundreds of wounded, and another agreement with the government that has not unfolded yet to the public stakeholders

THE recent series of happenings on the issue of Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) have once again endorsed differences between the military establishment and government. The shout outs of the government, and the actions taken lately have proved it. The political pundits have been hinting for some time that the parties are slipping out of the page. It was necessary to stand up jointly against the irrational demands of the far-right hardliners. Political and diplomatic challenges are met ac-

ording to the international procedures and processes, not the way the hardliners demanded. After the Rangers (semi-armed force) refused to use power to disperse the TLP recent violent protests, the establishment has endorsed their stance on the TLP once again. By this, what message the establishment has conveyed to the public at home and the international community. What it has endorsed after paving a path for the TLP agreement on their terms with the government instead of snubbing them. Another stain on the uniform, one of the many in recent years.

The TLP violent protests ended up with 21 dead bodies of the policemen and civilians, hundreds of wounded, and another agreement with the government that has not unfolded yet to the public stakeholders. However, its implementation is seen as more than 2000 TLP activists and arrested leadership were released. Briskly, the Punjab government's cabinet approved a summary to remove TLP from the list of proscribed outfits and sent it to the Prime Minister. The summary was approved on November 5.

Very strange country where the public and state institutions are not on the same page. And, the hardliners are used to topple the elected government. The bad precedents that have ended up the nation with obvious results – anarchy and lawlessness in the country, FATF observations, no direct foreign investment, CPEC on the backburner, and you keep counting. We are infamously proving the sarcasm to a fact that Pakistan Army has a country while other countries have armies. Insanely, we are losing our prestige among the comity of nations. Strangely, we don't care about it.

Several times international media has sarcastically mentioned that Pakistan creates their enemies within their own country and on their borders, and seeks international support to eliminate them. Alarming image. The recent TLP-government agreement will further damage Pakistan's reputation. It is worrisome to see a couple of group photos on the social media where the present Army Chief is seen with some notorious businessmen and the Karachi-based TLP leadership. Where we are heading to if these photos are not fake. The establishment shall ponder on the policies and practices that are being continued from the days of General Zia ul Haq's regime. How

long will we keep on nurturing Mujahideen and Taliban for borders and political and religious hardliners within the borders to control the political and elected governments.

After lifting of the ban, the TLP would be free to take part in all sorts of political activities. This decision would have far reaching consequences for the political stability too, and undo all the efforts that previous governments in collaboration with the establishment have done to curb the extremism in Pakistan. All other proscribed outfits and banned parties and groups have started voicing to free them all for their political, religious and charitable activities. A bad precedent is set for the present government, and the future governments too that would be vulnerable to extremists groups and their bullying.

The emerging ultimate result from this decision would be enhanced political chaos, unrest and anarchy that would lead to further economic deterioration and void among different segments of society. The reemergence of the hardliners in Pakistan would dent all the efforts the country has done to satisfy the FATF observations. Slipping out of the page with the government on whatever reasons shall not damage the national interest.

Remember, the TLP was declared as a proscribed organization in April this year after violent protests by the group to force the government to expel the French ambassador over the issue of blasphemous cartoons published in France. Established in 2015, the TLP has held at least six protests over the years, mostly against the alleged desecration of the Prophet (peace be upon Him). But all their protests ended up with some political gains and the pleasure of success against the democratically elected governments. All their agreements with the governments were facilitated by the men in uniform. The viral videos showed them distributing money among the protesters. The inconvenient truths of building up states within the state – the deliberate blunders the establishment has been doing. Now it should end for a better and cohesive future for the people of Pakistan.

The writer is a freelance journalist and broadcaster, and Director Devcom-Pakistan. He can be reached at devcom.pakistan@gmail.com and tweets @EmmayeSyed

Pulling back from the brink

James M. Dorsey

Citing a litany of crises and tensions in Central and Eastern Europe, Balkan scholar Damir Marusic warns that “the whole edifice feels rickety

THE family of nations is balancing on the edge of an abyss as mushrooming religious and ethnic intolerance becomes the norm.

Western as well as non-Western societies have helped paved the road towards the abyss: the West by abandoning the post-World War Two principle of 'Never Again' and the non-Western world by never embracing it and failing to adopt the principle of 'forgive but don't forget.'

Exasperating matters is the fact that the United States and Europe look at individual crises rather than a threatening pattern of developments. In doing so, they fail to recognise the structural problems that challenge Western values of democracy, tolerance, and pluralism.

Citing a litany of crises and tensions in Central and Eastern Europe, Balkan scholar Damir Marusic warns that “the whole edifice feels rickety. It feels like the order we have all taken for granted since the end of the Cold War is badly decaying, and has gotten so fragile that it might well shatter soon... We notice individual problems, but we don't see how it adds up, nor how we got here... We are still, in some strange way, operating as if things are more or less fine—yes, adjustments must be made, but our world is durable and sound.”

Mr. Marusic argues that the rot in the system has been exasperated by the troubled US wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in the wake of the 9/11 Al-Qaeda attacks on New York and Washington. “As the final collapse of the Afghanistan project earlier this year proved, the whole optimistic premise of nation- and order-building upon which the EU project is ultimately premised was also undermined by America's failures,” Mr. Marusic said.

Geopolitical battles are being fought on the backs of innocent and desperate people. They fuel tensions and threaten stability in Central and Eastern Europe and spark humanitarian catastrophe in Yemen and Afghanistan. An ethnic and religious divide characterises the tens of thousands of Middle Eastern migrants ferried by Belarus with Russian support to the Polish border. Ten British soldiers have been dispatched to the border to help Poland with fencing.

The exploitation of deep-seated religious and ethnic hostility drove Bosnian Serb leader Milorad Dodik to threaten to withdraw Serb troops from the army of Bosnia Herzegovina and create a separate Serb force. Bosnia Herzegovina was created as a federation at the end of the Bosnian war in the 1990s with Muslim, Serb and Croatian entities that enjoyed autonomy. The federation retained control of the military, top echelons of the judiciary, and tax collection. Mr. Dodik has said that the Bosnian Serb parliament would also, in what would amount to de facto secession, establish a separate Serb judiciary, and tax administration.

The writing is on the wall across the globe from the United States and Europe to Afghanistan and China. Islamophobia and anti-Semitism have become mainstream. Hindu-Muslims tensions spill across South Asian borders. Sunni Muslims persecute their Shiite brethren in Afghanistan, risking clashes between the Taliban and Iran. The Christian minority in the cradle of Abraham-ic faiths has been decimated.

Men like former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Republican Jews in the United States have joined thinly veiled anti-Semitic attacks on liberal philanthropist and Holocaust survivor George Soros rather than insulate their political and ideological differences with the billionaire from assaults laced with undertones of religious prejudice and racism.

Similarly, French presidential contender Eric Zemmour questions the innocence of Alfred Dreyfus, the Jewish army officer whose false conviction for treason sparked bitter controversy in the walk-up to World War One. Mr. Zemmour also rejects the notion that French collaborationist wartime leader Philippe Petain assisted in the deportation of Jews to Nazi death camps, asserting instead that Mr. Petain had saved Jews.

Finally, China has launched a frontal assault on Turkic ethnic and religious identity in the north-western province of Xinjiang that has gone largely unchallenged in the Muslim world.

At the core of the problem lie not social media that function as megaphones, aggregators and creators of echo chambers and silos rather than instigators but political, religious, ethnic, and cultural leaders who play on base instincts in pursuit of popularity and power.

Lebanon, Iraq and potentially Afghanistan are fallout of the institutionalisation and instrumentalisation of religious and ethnic prejudice and intolerance at the expense of notions of mutual respect, adherence to human dignity and coexistence.

Sectarian warlords loot the Lebanese and Iraqi states and weaken their institutions. Recent violence in Beirut suggests that protagonists, including former Christian warlords and Shiite allies of Iran, are willing to risk a second round of civil war to secure their vested interests, sending a middle-income country spiralling into widespread poverty.

Long-term, the solution is education systems that stress the importance of humanitarian and moral values as well as religious and ethnic tolerance as the guardrails of governance and politics and ensure that ethnic and religious prejudice and racism are socially taboo attitudes.

The short-term tackling of the problem will have to involve dialogue and negotiation. A recent study showed that John F. Kennedy's decision to seek an arms control treaty rather than escalate a debilitating and risky arms race after the Soviet Union detonated the world's most powerful nuclear weapon in 1962 succeeded where accelerated conflict may not have.

Applied to religious and ethnic intolerance, lessons learnt from Mr. Kennedy's approach require that governments and religious and ethnic groups that pay lip service to inter-faith and other forms of dialogue or assert that they promote democratic and humanitarian values are held to account rather than be allowed to rest on their laurels with hollow promises and declarations.

This year's chairmanship by Indonesia of the Group of 20 (G20) that brings together the world's largest economies has an opportunity to stress humanitarian and democratic values and promote a framework for dialogue. The chairmanship puts Nahdlatul Ulama, the world's largest Muslim civil society organisation that emphasises those values, on global public display given that it is poised to play a role in the G20's inter-faith tack.

Jon Grinspan, a curator of political history at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, argued in a New York Times op-ed entitled 'The Last Time America Broke,' that the United States, despite deep-seated polarisation that has brought religious and ethnic intolerance to the forefront, had not passed the point of no return. He noted that civil society had repeatedly brought America back from the brink.

“We're not just helplessly hurtling toward inevitable civil war; we can be actors in this story. The first step is acknowledging the dangers inherent in democracy. To move forward, we should look backwards and see that we're struggling not with a collapse but with a relapse,” Mr. Grinspan wrote.

It's a message that is as true for the rest of the world as it is for the United States.

What COP26 achieved — and what it didn't

Andrew Hammond

In the US, part of the reason Trump was able to unravel Barack Obama's Paris ratification so easily is that it was politically impossible to have the treaty approved by Congress

DESPITE two years of international diplomacy and two weeks of intensive negotiation, Glasgow's COP26 summit was unlikely to be a decisive moment in the 25-year journey of UN-led climate change negotiations. Sure, positive steps have been made, and the negotiations didn't collapse, a real threat at some previous COPs, such as Copenhagen in 2009. The mood in Glasgow was also lifted by a surprise US-China cooperation agreement which, while short of specifics and lacking the ambition of Washington and Beijing's pre-Paris agreement in 2015, created more political space for a Glasgow deal.

Nevertheless, even optimists must acknowledge that the event lacked the ambition needed to fulfil the promise of Paris six years ago, which set a cap on global warming of 1.5C above pre-industrial levels. Several key bodies, including the

International Energy Agency, have said that if all the commitments announced were implemented in full – a huge “if” – global temperatures could be limited to just under 2C.

However, Selwin Hart, the UN assistant secretary-general for climate change, has challenged such forecasts and asserted that the world is still on a “catastrophic” course to well over 2C. He highlighted a gloomy UN assessment of the 2030 picture, which indicates global emissions are on track to rise by 13.7 percent, a huge gap to bridge between today's policies and action and long-term ambitions, and warned: “We cannot celebrate before we've done the job.”

This confusing picture is one key reason why it is likely that there will be divergent views of COP26's achievements. The only certainty is that there is no room for complacency, and the best that can perhaps be said is the event brought greater definition to the roadmap needed to keep 1.5C alive as the COP presidency baton is handed to Egypt in 2022 and the UAE in 2023.

A fundamental question now is what needs to change to get even more traction, with the clock ticking toward what scientists warn are dangerous levels of climate change. After all, Egypt will not be able to mobilise the same diplomatic resources for COP27 as the UK did, despite the uneven commitment of Boris Johnson's government.

The answer is complex, but an increasing number in the international community perceive that there may now be a three-year window of opportunity, while President Joe Biden remains in office, to act in what he has called a decisive decade. After January 2025, when Biden's term ends, the election of a Republican climate-skeptic president – possibly even Donald Trump – cannot be ruled out.

Post-Glasgow, there is much needed to build irresistible momentum in future talks. This includes high levels of business engagement, which was one of the key themes of Glasgow. On Friday, for instance, the Investor Group on Climate Change

– 733 major institutional investors worth more than \$52 trillion dollars, more than half of all the assets under management globally – called on countries to go further with negotiating texts, including ending fossil fuel subsidies.

This underlines that, ultimately, the world's success in tackling climate change rests on deep, collaborative partnerships across the public and private sectors, with each challenging the other to deliver greater ambition. To enable this, greater clarity is needed on the post-Glasgow roadmap so that action can be taken, decisively and immediately, right across society.

This highlights the critical importance – now, not decades later – of implementation after what is sometimes seen as a half dozen lost years of delivery after Paris. One of the key lessons of that period is that implementation of climate deals is best achieved through national laws as country emission commitments are most credible and durable if they are backed up by legislation.

In the US, part of the reason Trump was able to unravel Barack Obama's Paris ratification so easily is that it was politically impossible to have the treaty approved by Congress. Obama therefore embedded the agreement through executive order, which Trump rescinded, before Biden reinstated it.

Compared to executive orders and other regulatory devices, legislation is more difficult to roll back. This is especially so when it is supported by well informed, cross-party politicians who can put in place a credible set of policies and measures to ensure effective implementation.

While we are not yet close to meeting 1.5C, these domestic legal frameworks are potentially crucial building blocks to measure, report, verify and manage emissions. The ambition must now be that they are replicated in even more countries, and progressively ratcheted up, creating a global sustainability framework for billions across the world.

—Courtesy Arab News

Briefs

Queen Elizabeth suffers 'sprained back'

LONDON: Queen Elizabeth II has a "sprained back", Buckingham Palace said, and had to miss Sunday's Remembrance service in London - her first planned public appearance since resting on medical advice. The ceremony honouring fallen troops is close to the monarch's heart and her absence will deepen concerns over her health after she stepped back on medical advice at the end of last month and spent a night in hospital undergoing unspecified tests.

She then resumed "light duties", but pulled out of a scheduled attendance at the UN climate change summit in Glasgow after being advised to rest.

"The Queen, having sprained her back, has decided this morning with great regret that she will not be able to attend today's Remembrance Sunday Service at the Cenotaph," a palace statement said.

"Her Majesty is disappointed that she will miss the service."

Her son Prince Charles placed a wreath on her behalf, as in previous years.

It is only the seventh time she has missed the service in almost 70 years on the throne, with the previous six due to either pregnancy or foreign visits.

A two-day trip to Northern Ireland was also shelved as was her appearance Tuesday at the General Synod, the national assembly of the Church of England which she heads. - APP

Waqar Younis slams Langer's statement

LAHORE: Former Pakistan captain Waqar Younis has slammed Australia coach Justin Langer for praising David Warner and his 'presence of mind' to hit a double-bouncer six off Mohammad Hafeez in the T20 World Cup semi-final against Pakistan.

Although Warner's decision to dispatch the ball for a six received mixed reactions with many bringing the "spirit of the game" debate, Waqar believes that the Aussie opener was well within his rights and he did absolutely nothing wrong. However, Waqar added that this should also not be promoted.

"To promote such a thing is absolutely ridiculous. You play how you want to but don't promote this kind of unsportsmanlike behaviour for the kids who are playing and watching," said Waqar on A Sports.

"Oh my gosh, it's one of the best things I've ever seen in the game of cricket," Langer had said while talking about Warner's six. "I can't believe anyone would have the instincts to do that - it was unbelievable. In fact, most people probably would've been not sure what to do ... it was a no-ball, and to have the talent and ability to hit it for six - unbelievable," he added.

Recalling an incident from the past, Waqar said it was not a surprise seeing Langer speak highly of it. During a Test match between Pakistan and Australia in Hobart in 1999, Waqar revealed how Langer did not walk despite edging the ball but instead, a few days later admitted to having nicked it. - APP

Thai diplomat expects...

FROM PAGE 01 appreciated the hospitality and generous nature of the local people. Thai-Pak Business Advisor Arif Suleman informed Thailand was taking keen interest in Pakistan's tourism sector. He informed that demand of Pakistani fruits was increasing in Thailand which would increase exports going forward. Arif Suleman also acknowledged the efforts of Chakrid Krachaiwong in promoting bilateral relations between the two countries. On this occasion a walk was also organized and a cake was sliced to commemorate the day.



ISLAMABAD: Diplomats from various embassies posing for a picture on the occasion of unveling of the Diplomatic Football League Cup. - DNA

Thousands rally in Tunisia against Saied's seizure of power

"Shut down Kais Saied" and "Freedom! Freedom! End the police state!" protesters chanted as they pulled down barriers obstructing the roads leading to the parliament building at the capital's Bardo palace, leading to clashes

AGENCIES

TUNIS: Tunisian police have clashed with protesters near the chamber of the suspended parliament as demonstrators marched against President Kais Saied's seizure of political power four months ago. Hundreds of police had blocked off the area where thousands of protesters were gathering on Sunday to demand that Saied restore the parliament and normal democratic rule. Increasingly vocal opposition, along with a looming crisis in public finances, may pose a new test of how Saied and the new government he has appointed will tackle threats to their authority.

"Shut down Kais Saied" and "Freedom! Freedom! End the police state!" protesters chanted as they pulled down barriers

obstructing the roads leading to the parliament building at the capital's Bardo palace, leading to clashes.

"We are under one-man rule since July 25 ... we will stay here until they open the roads and end the siege," Jawher Ben Mbarek, a protest leader, told Media.

Saied seized nearly all powers in July, suspending the parliament and dismissing the government in a move his critics called a coup, before installing a new prime minister and announcing he could rule by decree.

The president said his actions were needed to end governmental paralysis after years of political squabbling and economic stagnation, and has promised to uphold rights and freedoms won in the 2011 revolution that brought democracy.

His moves appeared to have widespread

popularity and thousands of his supporters gathered for a rally to back him last month. However, several prominent politicians have been arrested and hundreds have faced travel bans, while a former president living outside Tunisia, Moncef Marzouki, faces prosecution for his verbal attacks on Saied.

Journalist Elizia Volkmann, reporting from the protests near parliament, said the police have "completely blocked" the area around the building and have established checkpoints but that there is still a "slow and steady stream" of people seeking to join the demonstrations.

"A lot of protesters have large printed placards or pictures of journalists and members of parliament, lawyers, who have been arrested or imprisoned since July 25," Volkmann said.

"They want to return to normal functioning of parliament," she added. "They want to return to the 2014 constitution, they want Kais Saied to step down and they would like to see new ... [presidential and legislative] elections held."

While demonstrators who attend anti-government protests are usually identified as supporters of the Ennahdha party, which was the biggest party in the now-suspended parliament, Volkmann said the crowd in Sunday's rally was "very diverse".

Ben Mbarek, a member of an initiative called Citizens against the Coup, which called for the protests on Sunday, said at a news conference that Tunisian authorities are "restricting travel" and limiting "modes of transport" in Tunis in a bid to prevent people from attending the rally - a move he said violated freedom of expression.



KARACHI: A view of 3rd and last One Day International (ODI) women's cricket match between Pakistan and West Indies at National Stadium. - APP

Carlos Alcaraz wins Next Gen ATP Finals in Milan

SPORTS DESK

MILAN: Just as he had done all week, Carlos Alcaraz dominated in Milan to beat Sebastian Korda of the United States and win the Next Gen ATP Finals on Saturday, capping a brilliant season for the Spanish teenager. The top-seeded Alcaraz seemed to take a while to find his proper rhythm and had to save a number of

break points in his first two service games. But once the 18-year-old was in his stride there was no turning back as he saw off Korda 4-3 (5), 4-2, 4-2 in 82 minutes.

Alcaraz immediately ran over to hug his coach, former top-ranked Juan Carlos Ferrero. "He is everything for me. I owe him everything," Alcaraz said when asked about his coach in an on-court interview.

Alcaraz had seen two championship points saved by

Korda in the fifth game of the third set but that only delayed the inevitable as he won on his third, with a smash at the net.

"It is amazing," Alcaraz said. "To be able to win this tournament means a lot to me. I am so excited right now and emotional. I was very, very nervous at the start. I had to be calm to save the break points. I know Korda is serving very well, so I had to play my best in those moments."



Paula beats Sakkari, Sabalenka survives Swiatek test

SPORTS DESK

GUADALAJARA: Spain's Paula Badosa ground out a 7-6(4) 6-4 victory over Maria Sakkari at the WTA Finals in Guadalajara, Mexico on Saturday and advanced to the semi-finals with two wins from two matches in Group Chichen Itza after Aryna Sabalenka beat Iga Swiatek.

Facing one of the WTA Tour's great battlers, the seventh-seeded Badosa showed she can also play with grit during a two-hour, four-minute slugfest in the Mexican heat, stretching her winning streak to eight matches.

Badosa blasted 10 aces past her Greek opponent and kept her under pres-



sure, converting three of 12 break points. Sakkari could not consistently find the mark, committing 49 unforced errors compared to just 22 from Badosa.

Sabalenka pushed by Swiatek

Badosa's victory did not guarantee a semi-final spot but she advanced as the group winner after top seed Sabalenka fought back a set down to beat Swiatek 2-6 6-2 7-5 later on Saturday. Swiatek, the 2020 French Open champion, started well and broke twice in the opening set as the Belarusian struggled with her first serve. But Sabalenka stormed back into the contest in the second set and was spurred on by a raucous crowd as she found her range on serve and won five straight games, saving three break points in the final game to take it to a decider.



Mbappe fires France to World Cup finals

SPORTS DESK

PARIS: World champions France booked their place at next year's World Cup in Qatar in style as Kylian Mbappe fired in four goals in an 8-0 thrashing of Kazakhstan at the Parc des Princes on Saturday.

Karim Benzema scored twice and there were further goals for Adrien Rabiot and Antoine Griezmann whose penalty marked his 42nd goal for France, taking him ahead of Michel Platini. Only Thierry Henry (51) and Olivier Giroud (46) have scored more for France. The French will be joined at the finals by neighbours Belgium as the world's top-ranked team saw off Estonia 3-1 in Brussels to ensure top spot in Group E ahead of Gareth Bale's Wales who beat Belarus 5-1 in Cardiff.

The Netherlands, who missed out on the 2018 World Cup, looked on course to join them as they led Montenegro 2-0 going into the last 10 minutes of their encounter in Podgorica. However, the Dutch conceded two goals in the last 10 minutes to draw 2-2. They still top Group G but are just two points ahead of Turkey and Norway.

On the sixth anniversary of the 2015 attacks in Paris which claimed the lives of 130 people, France put on a spectacular

show for their supporters. Mbappe set the ball rolling when he put the world champions ahead after just six minutes.

The Paris Saint-Germain star, playing on his home ground, added a second six minutes later and completed his first hat-trick

for France with a thundering header just after the half-hour.

Leading 3-0 at the break, France turned up the heat even more in the second half as Benzema struck twice before Rabiot and Griezmann had their moments in the spotlight.



It was fitting that Mbappe had the final say, stroking home his fourth to complete the rout three minutes from time. France top Group D, leaving Finland and Ukraine to scrap over second place.

"A World Cup is a dream, an aim, it's everything and it's a unique chance to play in a team that can win it. We're going over there to win it," Mbappe said.

The Finns have a two-point advantage going into the final round of matches after seeing off Bosnia-Herzegovina 3-1. The Finns had Jukka Raitala sent off before half-time but goals from Brentford forward Marcus Forss, Robin Lod and Daniel O'Shaughnessy sealed the win.

Belgium had dropped just a single point in qualifying up to this point and knew that victory over Estonia would guarantee them top spot in Group E. Manager Roberto Martinez, however, was without first-choice strikers Romelu Lukaku, Mitchy Batshuayi and Touri Tielemans who were all injured.

That meant a call-up for Christian Benteke and the Crystal Palace forward did not disappoint, taking his chance to press his claims by netting the opener after just 11 minutes.

"I know I'm only the third choice in the hierarchy of the forwards but I'm not giving up," said Benteke.

Mediating between Pak, TTP...

FROM PAGE 01

surfacing but their government took effective measures and confined the terrorist group to certain areas. "The isolated (terrorist) incidents at some places like mosques, can take place anywhere in the world," he commented.

To a question about the Taliban government's ties with India, he said Afghanistan did not desire any confrontation with any country including India.

About any reaction from China on closer ties with India, Amir Khan Muttaqi referred to the Moscow summit where the representatives from Pakistan, India, and other countries were present. "We had a positive conversation there and hopefully, we will not oppose any country," he added. The Special Representatives attending Troika Plus meeting in Islamabad also called on Acting Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi. The acting foreign minister rubbished the notions of exclusion of women from different fields.

"Women have 100% inclusion in the health sector. They are also teaching in the education sector. We brought improvement on the matter. They are serving in every sector where they are needed. We have no such policy to deny women of their rights in any field," he remarked.

However, Amir Khan Muttaqi admitted that the educational institutions were yet closed in some areas due to the COVID pandemic. "Educational institutes are closed in no province. Educational institutes are open across the country. We have divided educational institutes into three categories. All of the boys' schools are open throughout the country. The girls' schools up to class 6 are also open in all provinces," the acting foreign minister said.

He said higher education institutes are also open in some provinces, but not everywhere. So far, 75% of schools have been opened. "But we have not stopped at this point rather working and making progress day by day."

To a question about the permission for women serving in government or other offices to resume their work, Muttaqi said the Taliban government had not sacked any woman serving during the previous government. No reduction was made in their salaries, and opportunities for their education and employment, he added. Acting Afghan Foreign Minister in an interview with BBC Urdu journalist Farhat Javed during his visit to Pakistan. The acting foreign minister said their government fulfilled the international demand of an inclusive government in Afghanistan which represented all stakeholders.

To a question about their future course of action in case the international community did not recognize their government and restore their financial assistance, he said they were advancing ahead in their relations with the world and hope that those ties would strengthen in the future.

Opposition responds...

FROM PAGE 01

with far-reaching implications for the people, should be resolved through consensus oriented consultation. The opposition parties told the speaker that a proper procedure should be followed during the joint sitting of the parliament, implying this will allow an "objective consideration" of the bills referred by the government.

The letter pointed out that the NA speaker formed the Committee on Legislative Business on June 23, 2021 to consider the 21 bills passed by the National Assembly on 10th June this year "without allowing the required legislative procedure".

As per the letter the committee in its three meetings could not even finalise the terms of reference for its procedural jurisdiction due to lack of support by the government members. During this period, all the bills which were to be considered by this committee either lapsed or were rejected by the Senate and were referred to the joint sitting of parliament, "thus completely negating the purpose for which the Committee on Legislative Business was formed".

Briefs

Ecuador
prison clash
kills 68

WEB DESK

BOGOTA: At least 68 prisoners were killed and 12 others injured in prison violence in Ecuador on Saturday. According to local media, riots and clashes broke out at the Litoral Penitentiary in the city of Guayaquil. Gunshots and explosions continue to be heard from the prison.

A large number of soldiers and police were assigned to control the incidents in the prison. The authorities will reportedly hold a news conference regarding the events during the day. Local media said the conflict emerged due to leadership struggle between gangs and prison conditions.

Speaking at a news conference on Sept. 31, President Guillermo Lasso declared a state of emergency in all prisons in the country for 60 days.

Prison violence in Ecuador Incidents between gangs sometimes result in riots in Ecuador's prisons, where there are nearly 38,000 detainees. Some 80 prisoners died in the riots that erupted simultaneously in three cities in the country on Feb. 24.

Armenia fires
at Azerbaijani
positions

DNA

BAKU: The Azerbaijan army positions came under Armenian fire near the liberated Kalbajar region, the Defense Ministry has reported.

"Starting from the evening of November 13 to the morning of November 14, the Armenian armed forces units from the positions in the Yukhari Shorja, Zarkand, Azizli, and Jermuk settlements of the Basarkechar region using sniper rifles, grenade launchers, and various caliber weapons periodically and unreasonably subjected to intensive fire the Azerbaijan Army positions in the Zeylik, Yellija and Istisu settlements of the Kalbajar region," the statement reads.

The ministry noted that at the same time, illegal Armenian armed detachments in the territory of Azerbaijan, where Russian peacekeepers are temporarily deployed, from the Mukhtarkend settlement using various caliber weapons periodically and unreasonably subjected to intensive fire the positions of the Azerbaijan Army Units. It is emphasized that the Azerbaijan Army Units have taken adequate measures to suppress provocations of the opposing side, as well as engineering works carried out by them to strengthen combat positions.

Azerbaijan,
UK mull
bilateral
cooperation

FOREIGN DESK

BAKU: Azerbaijan and the United Kingdom have discussed the mutual strategic relations between the two countries in the energy field, along with other areas. The discussion took place during the meeting between Azerbaijan's Energy Minister Parviz Shahbazov with a delegation led by the head of the UK-Azerbaijan inter-parliamentary friendship group, member of the UK House of Commons Bob Blackman.

Speaking about BP's activities in Azerbaijan as a long-term strategic partner in the oil and gas sector, the parties noted that the completion of the Southern Gas Corridor project is the result of joint efforts and cooperation in this direction will continue successfully. The sides also discussed the opportunities created as a result of cooperation with the company in the direction of decarbonisation of energy and transport systems in Azerbaijan for the implementation of renewable energy projects. Moreover, recover and reconstruction of liberated territories, measures taken to attract foreign investment and joint cooperation with BP in these areas in the field of renewable energy were discussed.

US military hide 'war
crime' in Syria: Report

The two back-to-back airstrikes near the town of Baghuz were ordered by a classified American special operations unit tasked with ground operations in Syria, according to the report

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: The U.S. military covered up 2019 airstrikes in Syria that killed up to 64 women and children, a possible war crime, during the battle against Islamic State, the New York Times reported on Saturday. The two back-to-back airstrikes near the town of Baghuz were ordered by a classified American special operations unit tasked with ground operations in Syria, according to the report.

The newspaper said that U.S.

Central Command, which oversaw U.S. air operations in Syria, acknowledged the strikes for the first time this week and said they were justified.

In a statement on Saturday, Central Command reiterated the account it gave the newspaper that 80 people were killed in the strikes including 16 Islamic State fighters and four civilians. The military said it was unclear if the other 60 people were civilians, partly because women and children could have been combatants.

In Saturday's statement, the

military said the strikes were "legitimate self-defense," proportional and that "appropriate steps were taken to rule out the presence of civilians."

"We abhor the loss of innocent life and take all possible measures to prevent them. In this case, we self-reported and investigated the strike according to our own evidence and take full responsibility for the unintended loss of life," Central Command said.

The number of civilians among the 60 fatalities could not be determined because "multiple

armed women and at least one armed child were observed" in video of the events, it said, adding that the majority of the 60 were likely combatants.

Central Command said the strikes took place while Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) were under heavy fire and in danger of being overrun and the SDF had reported the area clear of civilians.

The Defense Department's inspector general launched an inquiry into the March 18, 2019, incident, but its report was ultimately "stripped" of any mention of the bombing and a

thorough, independent probe never took place, according to the Times. The newspaper said its report was based on confidential documents and descriptions of classified reports, as well as interviews with personnel directly involved.

An Air Force lawyer present in the operations center at the time believed the strikes were possible war crimes and later alerted the Defense Department's inspector general and the Senate Armed Services Committee when no action was taken, the Times said.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Spain Manuel Duran presented with a shirt with his on the occasion of unveiling of the Diplomatic Football League Cup. – DNA

UAE aviation authority
issues warning to PIA,
other airlines

DNA

KARACHI: After the detection of COVID-19 in passengers from Pakistan, the Abu Dhabi airport officials issued a warning to the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and other airlines.

The Emirati civil aviation authority issued new instructions for Pakistan, stating that the concerned airline will face a ban on flights for two days after the detection of coronavirus among seven of its passengers.

The ban will be extended to one week if the airport authorities detected seven or more coronavirus cases twice a week. Following the ban, the airline's flights will be restricted to making landings at the UAE airports. It further stated to conduct mandatory coronavirus tests and PCR reports of all passengers at the flights. Earlier in September, Pakistan had issued new guidelines for the Pakistani passengers as they will be administered COVID-19 booster shots.

Pakistani passengers will be given booster shots of the COVID-19 vaccine while the travellers will have to pay additional charges for getting vaccinated with vaccines from different companies.

The booster shots will be administered to the passengers who are holding education, business and tourism visas.

The travellers aged between 12 and 17 will be administered single-dose vaccines, whereas, those aged 18 or above will be given booster shots of vaccines from three companies. The new guidelines had also provided details regarding the payments and travel documents as the outbound passengers will have to submit a challan worth Rs1,270. The health authorities had established vaccination centres for administering booster shots. Three centres were established in Karachi, one each in Hyderabad and Sukkur, one each in Azad Jammu and Kashmir's Mirpur, Muzaffarabad, Gilgit, Islamabad, two in Lahore, one each in Faisalabad, Multan, Sialkot, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Mingora, Dera Ismail Khan, Abbottabad and Quetta.

COP26 outcome not
enough: UN chief

He welcomed the agreement between the United States and China in Glasgow that pledges to accelerate action to reduce emissions in the 2020s

AGENCIES

NEW YORK: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Saturday that the outcome of the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Scotland, or COP26, is not enough.

"The approved texts are a compromise. They reflect the interests, the conditions, the contradictions and the state of political will in the world today. They take important steps. But unfortunately, the collective political will was not enough to overcome some deep contradictions," he said in a statement on the conclusion of COP26.

"Science tells us that the absolute priority must be rapid, deep and sustained emissions reductions in this decade, specifically, a 45-percent cut by 2030 compared to 2010 levels. But the present set of Nationally Determined Contributions, even if fully implemented, will still increase emissions this decade on a pathway that will clearly lead us to well above 2 degrees by the end of the century

compared to pre-industrial levels," he said. He welcomed the agreement between the United States and China in Glasgow that pledges to accelerate action to reduce emissions in the 2020s.

To help lower emissions in many other emerging economies, there is a need to build coalitions of support including developed countries, financial institutions, those with the technical know-how. This is crucial to help each of those emerging countries speed the transition from coal and accelerate the greening of their economies, he said.

"I want to make a particular appeal for our future work in relation to adaptation and the issue of loss and damage," said Guterres. "Adaptation isn't a technocratic issue, it is life or death. Protecting countries from climate disaster is not charity. It is solidarity and enlightened self-interest."

"We have another climate crisis today. A climate of mistrust is enveloping our globe. Climate action can help rebuild trust and restore credibility. That means finally delivering on the 100-bil-



lion-dollar climate finance commitment to developing countries. No more IOUs. It means measuring progress, updating climate plans every year and raising ambition ... And it means, beyond the mechanisms already set out in the Paris Agreement, establishing clear standards to measure and analyze net-zero commitments from non-state actors."

He said COP26 created some building blocks for progress: commitments to end deforestation, to drastically reduce methane emissions, to mobilize private finance around net-zero emissions.

And the texts today reaffirm resolve toward the 1.5-degree goal, boost climate finance

for adaptation, recognize the need to strengthen support for vulnerable countries suffering from irreparable climate damage. And for the first time they encourage international financial institutions to consider climate vulnerabilities in concessional financial and other forms of support, including Special Drawing Rights. And finally, they close the Paris rule book with agreement on carbon markets and transparency, he noted. The UN chief remained cautiously optimistic about the future.

"Success or failure is not an act of nature. It's in our hands. The path of progress is not always a straight line. Sometimes there are detours. Sometimes there are ditches. As the great Scottish writer Robert Louis Stevenson said: 'Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds that you plant.' We have many more seeds to plant along the path. We won't reach our destination in one day or one conference. But I know we can get there. We are in the fight of our lives," he said. "COP27 starts now."

SAARC CCI thanks Pakistan for abolishing tax

Iftikhar Ali Malik said the international community especially West and US must realise that this indifference may result in chaos, leading to internal strike and civil war, the consequences of which would be disastrous for the whole world beyond Afghanistan

DNA

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sunday expressed its gratitude to Pakistan for abolishing tax on all imports of war torn Afghanistan and providing sufficient amount of food besides setting up fund to provide solace to grief stricken Afghans.

It was stated by President SAARC Chamber Iftikhar Ali Malik while talking to visiting delegation of Pak origin philanthropists of UK led by Muhammad Azam Khan who called on him today. He said food will help save its people from starvation in winter. He said it's good omen that Pakistan is taking immediate measures to ease out export from Afghanistan.

He lamented that due to the freezing of Afghanistan's assets, a humanitarian catastrophe was brewing there and if they didn't

receive any foreign aid their entire economy will be ruined in the days to come.

He called for urgent action to protect millions of Afghans from starvation and warned that over 22.8 millions Afghans, who constitute nearly half of the total population, are facing food insecurity while 3.2 million children under the age of five year can suffer from acute malnutrition. Iftikhar Ali Malik said the international community especially West and US must realise that this indifference may result in chaos, leading to internal strike and civil war, the consequences of which would be disastrous for the whole world beyond Afghanistan.

He said it's race against time and countries must step in to shoulder their responsibility and to address Afghanistan's latest disaster. He said this is a country where only 5 percent of the people have access to enough food to survive and Afghanistan is now among the



world's worst humanitarian crisis as this country is on a countdown to catastrophe.

Iftikhar Ali Malik said most disconcerting are reports that impoverished parents are selling off their babies to buy food and such is the level of desperation in the impoverished country. He lamented hunger forcing Afghans to sell young daughters into marriage.

Muhammad Azam Khan said at a donors' conference in September last, the world community

pledged \$1 billion in humanitarian assistance, a third of which was to go the WFP but the sum of money pledged to provide food to hungry, amounted to a "a drop in the ocean".

He said WFP needed as much as \$22 millions per month to help stave off death due to hunger.

He said tragically however, the world seems largely indifferent and aid is too little and too slow as the world powers continue to debate whether or not to recognise the Afghan Taliban. He observed the response from the international community had thus been lukewarm, even downright cold, despite the unfolding human tragedy in a country that has known nothing but wars for the last four decades.

He called for devising a long term road map for Afghanistan in order to advance the agenda of political engagement, economic integration and regional connectivity. He said "our collective efforts can halt

economic meltdown. An economic collapse will yield instability, conflict and a refugee influx into neighbouring countries and onward to other regions, he added.

Deputy leader of delegation Muhammad Umer Khan pointed out that the following the Taliban takeover of Kabul, major donors had stopped funding the Afghan government, stressing that earlier the donors used to cater for roughly 70 percent of Afghanistan's budget. He said sudden withdrawal of foreign assistance had created a huge gap and warned that 90 percent of the Afghan population could fall below the abject poverty line next year. He appreciated the Prime Minister Pakistan Imran Khan for trying its best to help stem the down slide and continued to provide urgently needed food stuff and medicines to Afghanistan besides offering lucrative incentives to Afghan traders and businessmen he added.

New platform
to boost
Pak-China
online trade

NEWS DESK

BEIJING: Pakistan, China are working to develop a new platform to boost online trade, China Economic Net reported on Sunday. "In March this year, China Pakistan Trade Online (CPTO), a platform for Pak-China online trade, was launched.

However, many merchants have not yet put their products on the website, because there are too many products. Now our chamber of commerce is busy helping put the introductions of member companies and information of their products on the website," said Cheng Kai, the person in charge of CPTO as well as the director of the Science and Technology Innovation Committee of the Sichuan Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan. "After three years of exploration, our chamber of commerce noticed some problems in current Sino-Pakistani trade. There is a deficiency of mutual trust between Chinese and Pakistani enterprises. Sometimes the goods received in cross-border trade are not the same as what was originally discussed," Cheng Kai said.

CPEC will
flourish
Pakistan's
development

BEIJING: China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a crucial component of Belt and Road Initiative and a symbol of China-Pakistan friendship, would flourish Pakistan's development and prosperity, said Muhammad Main Soomro, Federal Minister for Privatisation while addressing the forum titled "2021 China Pakistan Economic and Business Forum".

"We're getting even closer and more active in our business relationship through CPEC, and this could help build up infrastructure energy projects, railways, and basically enhance closer cooperation," he added according to Gwadar Pro. Main Soomro further said China Agriculture University with the cooperation of local government would set up an echo park near Thatta and Badeen, Sindh, Pakistan, adding that CPEC has provided an opportunity to create a win-win situation. Member of Standing Committee on Planning Development and Special Initiatives and MNA Dr. Seemi Bukhari said that after the signing of Free Trade Agreement, trade activities have increased tremendously. Pakistan is an agriculture based country and the goods related to that have increased their exports to China.

5 killed as
thousands
rally in Sudan

NEWS DESK

KHARTOUM: The death toll during the protests against the military ruling in Sudan's nationwide demonstrations increased to five, while 20 people have been injured, according to the Central Committee of the Sudanese Doctors (CCSD) on Saturday. Nationwide demonstrations rocked the capital Khartoum and other cities against the coup and in support of the dissolved civilian government.

"As the death toll of today's protests increased to 5 and dozens injured in different parts of Khartoum and other cities, we are calling on the human rights organization in order to follow up and monitor the violence used against the protesters," the CCSD said in a statement.

Thousands of Sudanese protesters took to the streets on Saturday against the head of Sudan's ruling military council, Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan. Eyewitnesses in different neighborhoods told Anadolu Agency that the police and security organs have used tear gas and live bullets against the protesters. Saturday's rallies were called by the Sudanese Professionals Association, which is leading the protests, to demand civilian rule. The activist movement was key in organizing protests that led to the ouster of long-serving President Omar Al-Bashir in 2019.

Briefs

Kuwait emir
accepts govt
resignation

FOREIGN DESK

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmed al-Sabah accepted on Sunday the resignation of the government, state news agency KUNA reported, as the oil-rich country's rulers seek to end a feud with lawmakers that has hindered fiscal reforms.

Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah al-Khalid al-Sabah submitted on Nov. 8 the resignation of his cabinet, formed in March.

An Emiri decree asked the outgoing government to remain in a caretaker capacity until a new cabinet is formed, KUNA said.

The disagreement centres on the prime minister having been granted temporary immunity by parliament protecting him against questioning from MPs on issues including handling the COVID-19 pandemic and corruption until the end of 2022. It has hindered efforts to boost state finances - hit hard last year by low oil prices and the pandemic - and enact a debt law needed to tap global markets.

At least
one dead as
twin quakes
hit Iran

TEHRAN: Two strong earthquakes struck southern Iran within 90 seconds Sunday, killing at least one person and sparking scenes of panic, official sources said.

The 6.4 and 6.3 magnitude earthquakes hit at a depth of 15 kilometres (9.3 miles) in Hormozgan province, the Iranian seismological centre said. A 22-year-old man was killed by a falling electricity pole, Iranian Red Crescent chief Mehdi Valipour told state television. He said several teams have been deployed to assess the damage.

The public broadcaster aired live footage from the area showing trucks stopped on the road, having been shaken by the tremor. In a video broadcast on state television purportedly of an aftershock, a man is heard saying: "Look what the quake did to the mountains... another earthquake, it's shaking the trucks and flattening the mountains." Walls of buildings cracked in the southern port city Bandar Abbas, the capital of Hormozgan province, local governor Azizollah Konari told journalists. "The earthquakes lasted a long time and frightened people," state television said.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) measured the tremors at magnitudes of 6 and 6.3. - APP

Russia starts
supplying
S-400 missile
to India

AGENCIES

MOSCOW: Russia has started supplying India with S-400 air defence missile systems, Russian news agencies reported on Sunday citing Dmitry Shugayev, the head of the Russian military cooperation agency.

The supplies put India at risk of sanctions from the United States under a 2017 US law aimed at deterring countries from buying Russian military hardware.

"The first supplies have already been started," Interfax cited Shugayev as saying on Sunday at an aerospace trade show in Dubai.

He said that the first unit of an S-400 systems will arrive in India by the end of this year. The \$5.5 billion deal for five long-range surface-to-air missile systems, which India says it needs to counter a threat from China, was signed in 2018.

India faces a range of financial sanctions from the United States under Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA), which names Russia an adversary alongside North Korea and Iran for its actions against Ukraine, interference in the US 2016 elections and help to Syria.

Palestine keen to enhance
ties with Pakistan: Envoy

"Most of the early educationists in KSA and Kuwait were Palestinians that were highly educated and intellectually rich people in the entire region. We had the first school of the region in Palestine in 1921," he underscored

ISLAMABAD: Palestinian Ambassador Ahmed Rabei on Sunday expressed his country's resolve to enhance existing bilateral ties with Pakistan in multi-sectors and take them to the optimum level for the benefit of the people of both countries.

"We are working on an extensive plan to enhance trade, tourism, cultural and educational exchanges for optimum bilateral relationships between brotherly country," said the Palestinian envoy to Pakistan in an exclusive interview with APP.

Ambassador Rabei said that the Palestinian government was working out traders and chamber of commerce level collaboration with Pakistan whereas a separate economic desk was also established at the Foreign Ministry of Pakistan.

Palestine, he said has huge religious and heritage tourism potential with over 22,000 heritage sites registered in the UNESCO. Moreover, the Al-Aqsa Mosque is the first qibla (point of direction to offer prayer) as the Muslims go to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) to perform Hajj should also visit their first Qibla.

In a contrast, he mentioned that almost four million Christians visited Bethlehem and Nasra for religious tourism whereas only half a million Muslims visited Al-Aqsa Mosque.

"Palestine is the conduit of Asia, Europe and Africa which historically has imprints of various nations interactions, culture and traditions due to their invasions on their land," Ambassador Rabei said. The Palestinians possessed a culturally diverse background and were flexible and easily adaptable to intricate and challenging environments.

The entire Middle East and surrounding region's first ever airport was established in Palestine whereas the region's first Radio station was also established here which was headed by a Palestinian woman that indicated the level of women liberty and empowerment back in the early twentieth century era before British and Zionist Occupation.

"Most of the early educationists in KSA and Kuwait were Palestinians that were highly educated and intellectually rich people in the entire region. We had the first school of the region in Palestine in 1921," he underscored.

Ambassador Rabei said, "We have the Palestinian diaspora spread over 110 countries of the world whereas four Presidents of the South and Latin American states are Palestinians by origin."

He proudly mentioned that the President of Uruguay has resisted the Israeli move to shift its embassy from



Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

"There are some one million Palestinians residing in Europe with a half million in Americas whereas we have a great diaspora in Brazil owning millions of dollars resources and assets in that country," the Ambassador proudly mentioned.

He told that the Chinese government had certified two Palestinians as the only professional coffee grower and olive farmer in China that again testified Palestinian skill in agriculture.

"There are almost 321 parliamentarians globally who are Palestinians and two of them are in the US Congress including a female.

Moreover, four ministers in the European Parliament are also Palestinians," he said.

To a query, he replied that under occupation of Zionist Israel, Palestine has exported goods of worth US\$8 billion dollars and imported some US\$14 billion goods and it was testament to the Palestinian rich economic potential that could benefit its brotherly and friendly countries.

Replying to another query, he said, "We are not isolating ourselves from the world rather connecting through culture and trade."

He informed that Palestine was part of 500 global organizations including Interpol, UN agencies and other international bodies.

When asked about Pakistan's bilateral cooperation and support the Ambassador said over tens of thousands of Palestinian students were graduated from Pakistan including most of the ministers in every government of Palestine had graduated from Pakistan. Interestingly, he said more than 22 serving ambassadors of Palestine graduated from Pakistan.

He thanked the government of Pakistan and the national leadership for their unwavering support to the Palestine Cause. The Ambassador remarked that Prime Minister Imran Khan, President Dr Arif Alvi, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood

Qureshi's speeches and support for Palestine was unprecedented and especially the Prime Minister Khan's speech at UN general assembly was highly commendable.

"All political parties and Parliamentarians chiefs including Senators came to the Embassy of Palestine to express solidarity with Palestinians that gave us enormous support and confidence that we do not consider ourselves alone in our just fight for freedom from Zionist Israel's Occupation," he said.

After reading Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal and Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's views and Pakistani government's response including the Senate of Pakistan's declaration to mark 22nd May as Palestine Solidarity Day made us feel that Palestinians are not alone," he added.

On the query pertaining to defence cooperation by Pakistan, he said over thousands of soldiers had graduated from Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) Kakul alongwith hundreds of fighter pilots graduated and trained in Pakistan.

Ahmed Rabei appreciated Pakistan's unflinching stance on Palestine cause and assistance to the oppressed Palestinian brethren facing Zionist Israeli occupation and oppression. - APP

Pakistan
releases
20 Indian
fishermen

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan as a gesture of goodwill has freed 20 Indian fishermen from Karachi's Landhi Jail and will hand them over to the Indian authorities at Wagah border.

Landhi Jail Superintendent Arshad Shah said on Sunday that the Indian fishermen were in jail for four years as they were arrested for violating Pakistan's maritime boundaries.

Arshad Shah further informed that the Indian authorities had confirmed that these fishermen were their nationals.

There were 588 Indian prisoners in Landhi Jail and legal requirements for the release of these 20 fishermen had been completed before their release.

Edhi Welfare Foundation bore all the travel expenses for the freed Indians, who will be transported to the Wagah border on Sunday to be handed over to the Indian authorities so that they can return home.

The 20 fishermen, who hailed from the Indian state of Gujarat, had completed their jail terms.

The fishermen were arrested by the Pakistan Maritime Security Force (PMSF) and handed over to the dock police for illegally fishing in Pakistani waters.

Austria
approves
lockdown for
unvaccinated

NEWS DESK

VIENNA: Austrian Chancellor Alexander Schallenberg announced on Sunday that a lockdown for unvaccinated people will begin on Monday.

"We must raise the vaccination rate. It is shamefully low," Schallenberg told a news conference announcing the new measure.

People who have not been fully vaccinated against COVID will only be allowed to leave their homes for specific purposes, like going to a doctor, getting groceries, going to work - or getting vaccinated.

There will be random checks to ensure compliance, according to the decision from a meeting of Schallenberg and the heads of the country's state governments.

Gaddafi's son
runs for president

WEB DESK

TRIPOLI: Saif al-Islam al-Gaddafi, son of Libya's former leader Muammar al-Gaddafi, registered on Sunday as a presidential candidate for the Dec. 24 election, an official from the electoral commission said.

Gaddafi is one of the most prominent figures expected to run for president - a list that also includes eastern military commander Khalifa Haftar, Prime Minister Abdulhamid al-Dbeibah and parliament speaker Aguila Saleh.

Photographs distributed on social media showed Gaddafi in traditional brown robe and turban, and with a grey beard and glasses, signing documents at the registration centre in the southern town of Sebha.

Despite the public backing of most Libyan factions

and foreign powers for elections on Dec. 24, the vote is still in doubt as rival entities squabble over the rules and schedule.

A major conference in Paris on Friday agreed to sanction any who disrupt or prevent the vote, but there is still no agreement on rules to govern who should be able to run.

While Gaddafi is likely to play on nostalgia for the era before the 2011 NATO-backed uprising that swept his father from power and ushered in a decade of chaos and violence, analysts say he may not prove to be a front runner.

The Gaddafi era is still remembered by many Libyans as one of harsh autocracy, while Saif al-Islam and other former regime figures have been out of power for so long they may find it difficult to mobilise as much support as major rivals.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Denmark Lis Rosenholm, Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri and others participating in a diabetes awareness walk. - DNA

Palestinians celebrate Declaration
of Independence Day

DNA

RAMALLAH: On the fifteenth of November of each year, Palestinians celebrate the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The day is celebrated in all Palestinian cities, in refugee camps and in the diaspora.

On this day, Palestinians honor the souls of the martyrs who lit the path of freedom, dignity and victory. Palestinians renew their oath and covenant to travel the same path to victory.

On this day, President Yasser Arafat's declared in Algeria, in front of the Palestinian National Council in 1988: "The National Council announces, in the name of God, and in the name of the Palestinian Arab people, the establishment of the State of Palestine over our Palestinian land, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. This is based on the natural, historical, and legal right of the Palestinian Arab people to their homeland, Palestine, based on all the sac-

rifices of the successive generations in defense of their homeland's freedom and independence, based on the decisions of the Arab summits, and the strength of international legitimacy adopted by United Nations resolutions since 1947.

The Palestinian Arab people exercise their right to self-determination, political independence, and sovereignty over their land." A state that declares its commitment to the principles and objectives of the United Nations and the Universal



Declaration of Human Rights, as well as to the principles and policy of non-discrimination. A peace-loving state committed to the principles of peaceful coexistence, working with all countries and peoples to achieve a long-lasting peace based on justice and respect for rights, in which every person can live hopeful for a more prosperous tomorrow.

A country where justice and fairness will be practiced. Palestinians believe that Palestine will be a catalyst of peaceful settlement of international and regional problems in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and its resolutions, and rejects the threat of force, violence, or terrorism, or its use against its territorial integrity and political independence, or the territorial integrity of any other state. In this day, Palestinians call upon the United Nations, and calls upon the peoples of the world and all peace-loving countries to support efforts to end the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories.

COP 26 ends with global pledge to
speed up action on climate change

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: The 26th global United Nations climate summit came to a successful conclusion in the UK with a global agreement to accelerate action on climate change this decade.

Nearly 200 countries agreed the "Glasgow Climate Pact" to keep 1.5C alive, but it will only be delivered with a huge global effort.

Agreements made at COP26 include 130 countries across the globe, including Pakistan, committing to end and reverse deforestation, along with cutting methane emissions by 30% by the year 2030. Around 30 big Pakistani businesses signed

up to the UK in Pakistan's 26for26 campaign pledging to halve their carbon emissions by 2030 and to achieve net zero by 2050.

Last week, the UK announced more than £55 million to help Pakistan build its resilience to the impacts of climate change, manage water more sustainably and unlock climate investment. Pakistan is ranked as the 8th most vulnerable country to climate change with rising temperatures threatening to melt 36% of glaciers and the Hindu Kush and Himalayan range by 2100.

Pakistan has said it aims to produce 60% of its energy from renewable sources by 2030 and has committed to not importing any new coal.

To speed up the phasing out of coal fired power stations, Pakistan signed up to the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Energy Transition Mechanism. The ADB will help show how early coal plant closure might be achieved.

When the UK took on the COP26 leadership role nearly two years ago, only 30% of the world was covered by net zero targets. This figure is now at around 90%. Over the same period, 154 Parties have submitted new national targets, representing 80% of global emissions.

The UK Presidency has also been focused on driving action to deliver emissions reductions. We have seen a huge shift in coal, with

many more countries committing to phase out unabated coal power and ending international coal financing. While on the world's roads, the transition to zero emissions vehicles is gathering pace, with some of the largest car manufacturers working together to make all new car sales zero emission by 2040 and by 2035 in leading markets. Countries and cities are following suit with ambitious petrol and diesel car phase out dates.

COP26 was the largest international event of its kind ever held in the UK with more than 25,000 delegates convening in the city of Glasgow, including world leaders, opinion formers and top businesses.