



Islamabad POST

Thursday, November 25, 2021

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Grateful to Pakistan for support during Afghan evacuations

Detailed News On Page-01

Anderrson: First Swedish woman PM

Detailed News On Page-08



Benzema gets fine, one year suspended term

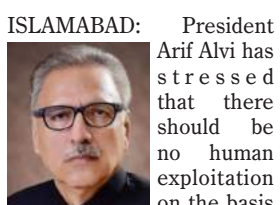
Detailed News On Page-07



Briefs

Islam teaches love of humanity

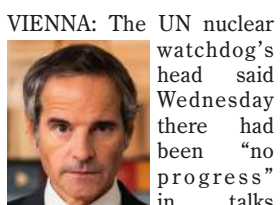
DNA



ISLAMABAD: President Arif Alvi has stressed that there should be no human exploitation on the basis of religion, race and colour. Addressing an international Interfaith Peace Conference in Islamabad, he regretted that the history of Muslims is being distorted in India. Exploitative laws are also being introduced by the Indian government in order to alienate the Muslims. The President said the opening of Kartarpur corridor on the part of Pakistan was an effort for peace and promote interfaith harmony. Arif Alvi said the process of wars and exploitative world order should come to an end.

'No progress' in talks with Iran

WEB DESK



VIENNA: The UN nuclear watchdog's head said Wednesday there had been "no progress" in talks with Iran to resolve disputes over the monitoring of the country's atomic programme, a day after returning from Tehran. Rafael Grossi, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), told a quarterly meeting of the agency's board that his talks in Tehran were "inconclusive", despite being "constructive".

Vaughan dropped from BBC panel

SPORTS DESK



LONDON: Michael Vaughan has been left out of the BBC commentary team for the upcoming Ashes series in Australia to avoid a "conflict of interest" amid an ongoing racism row. English cricket has been rocked by revelations of racism from Pakistan-born former Yorkshire player Azeem Rafiq. These have included an allegation that former England captain Vaughan told the now 30-year-old Rafiq.

CJP, a convict in same event 'unfortunate'

Prime Minister referred to the alleged audio clip of former CJP Mian Saqib Nisar as a "drama"

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Wednesday it was unfortunate that the Chief Justice of Pakistan and a "convict" were being invited to speak at the same event. The premier made this remark at the Kamyab Jawan Convention 2021 in Islamabad, days after a controversy was created after PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif's address via a video link was disrupted when the live stream was abruptly stopped at the Asma Jahangir Conference in Lahore. "There is a function in Lahore where the chief justice and Supreme Court judges are invited and who addresses that event? A man who has been convicted by the Supreme Court and who has absconded from the country," the prime minister said. "It is unfortunate." He continued that a nation was destroyed when it stopped considering looting money a bad thing. "When a nation's morals die, that nation dies." In this regard, he also gave the example of the state of Madinah, the foundation for which, he said, was laid on the basis of differentiating between right and wrong and denouncing the bad. "No one can wipe out a nation if its morality is intact," he remarked. Referring to the recent alleged audio clip of former chief justice of Pakistan Mian Saqib Nisar as a "drama", the premier said that it was necessary to understand where this started from. "A country where the head, prime minister and ministers start stealing and taking public funds abroad [...] country's are not poor because of a lack of resources, they become poor when government officials start stealing from the people."

"PML-N can't face independent judiciary"

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib on Wednesday charge sheeted the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) for corrupting the system in past to cover up their corrupt practices. "PML-N cannot afford independent judiciary, nor tolerate independent working of institutions as they are the people who had corrupted the whole system," he said while talking to media. Flanked by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Political Communication Shahbaz Gill and Parliamentary Secretary Planning Development and Special Initiatives Kanwal Shauzab, the minister said, PML-N had a history of influencing and intimidating the institutions including judiciary for achieving their ulterior motives. However, the Sharif family had to submit money trail in the court to justify the flats they had bought in London by laundering the public money abroad, he added. He said the PML-N had a history of attacking the court, getting decision in their favour, doing politics of 'briefcases' and appointing people of their own choice on important official positions.

Political parties' consent vital to adapt to e-voting

Chairman NADRA says that it was the right time for to implement the law granting voting rights to overseas Pakistanis

ALI FURQAN

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan's National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) Tariq Malik has expressed the confidence of developing e-voting system for overseas Pakistanis, but that would only be done after the political parties show consensus over it. In an exclusive interview with Voice of America's Ali Furqan he said that it was the right time for to implement the law granting voting rights to overseas Pakistanis. "We are waiting for two things, one is the grant of responsibility by the Election Commission to us and secondly consensus of all political parties that this e-voting system was acceptable to them," he added. Pakistan's government re-



cently approved a legislation allowing the overseas Pakistanis to exercise the right to vote amid strong protest by the mainstream opposition parties in the Parliament. Talik Malik said that NADRA has the data of expatriates and according to that 6.5 million people would be eligible to cast their votes out of 8.6 million overseas Pakistanis. He also spoke about the reforms and initiatives

taken by Nadra related to digitalization of the government departments, while the data base authority has recently developed a system Digital Power of Attorney (DPOA) which would provide a Power of Attorney certificate to a person through video conferencing. He added that around 10,000 fake ID cards were identified in the Nadra system and 107 employees involved in this malpractice have been terminated from service. Talik Malik said that smart identity cards have been issued to 1.7 million registered Afghan refugees in the country and it has facilitated them to get their children admitted in schools, open bank accounts etc. Regarding, those Afghans

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan awarding a shield to President NBP during the launching ceremony of new initiatives under Kamyab Jawan Programme. - DNA

COAS stresses efforts to avoid Afghan crisis

The Army Chief discussed various matters in his meetings with Qatari Naval Chief and UK PM's special representative

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Director to Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan Nigel Casey, and Qatar Emiri Naval Forces Commander Major General Abdullah Bin Hassan al Sulaiti called on the Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa on separate occasions at the General Headquarters on Wednesday. Inter-Services Public Relations said in a statement. The military's media wing said that the matters of mutual interest, regional security situation, and the recent developments in Afghanistan were discussed during the meetings. In the meetings, General Bajwa said that Pakistan values the role of the United Kingdom and Qatar in glob-

al and regional affairs and looks forward to strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries. He said Pakistan Army also hopes for enhancing defence and security cooperation with Qatari armed forces. The COAS reiterated the need for global con-

British PM's special representative in Pakistan

SAIFULLAH ANSAR / DNA

ISLAMABAD: The UK Prime Minister's Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Nigel Casey, is in Pakistan for a three-day visit to Islamabad and Karachi. Nigel Casey held meetings with the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), National Security Adviser Moeed Yusuf, Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood, and Pakistan's Special Representative for Afghanistan, Muhammad Sadiq to cover matters related to Afghanistan. He discussed the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, for which the UK has already pledged £50m of funding for 2.5m Afghans, most of them women and girls, drawn from the UK's £286 million aid commitment to Afghanistan this year. Nigel also discussed

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Taliban say Doha talks to open 'new chapter' with US

The US said the proposed two weeks of negotiations will address several issues

NEWS DESK

KABUL: Next week's talks between the United States and the Taliban in Doha - the second such meeting since the group seized power - will open a "new chapter" in political ties, the group said Wednesday. Washington said Tuesday it would continue to hold talks with the Taliban following a meeting between the two sides in the Qatari



capital on October 9-10. "A new phase of negotiations will begin next week

between Afghanistan and America in Qatar," the Taliban said on their official Arabic Twitter account. "At this stage, talks will address opening a new chapter in political relations between the two countries, resolving economic issues, and the implementation of the terms in the previous Doha agreement." The US State Department said the proposed two weeks of negotiations will address several issues.

Israeli air raid kills 2 in Syria

7 persons were also injured during the latest Israeli aggression

DAMASCUS: Israeli air assaults on Syria's central area killed two civilians and injured seven on Wednesday. Syrian air defences attempted to stop the airstrikes from reaching Homs (a city in western Syria). According to official reports, two people were killed and another was seriously injured in the strike, which also injured six Syrian military soldiers. - APP

Russia, Ukraine stage combat drills

MOSCOW: Russia has staged military drills in the Black Sea, south of Ukraine, and said it needed to sharpen the combat-readiness of its conventional and nuclear forces because of heightened NATO activity near its borders. Ukraine, which with its ally the United States has said it believes Russia may be preparing an invasion, staged exercises of its own near the border with Belarus. The increase of military activity on both sides follows weeks of rising tension that have raised the risk of war between the two neighbours, even though Russia denies aggressive intent and Western intelligence sources have told the Reuters news agency they do not see any invasion as imminent. - Agencies

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'Tell who pressured you,' Maryam asks ex-CJP

Maryam said that the people are waiting and that they demand to know "when it was that he showed such bravery during his tenure, when he admitted to doing such a thing"

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz on Wednesday demanded answers from former chief justice of Pakistan Saqib Nisar, asking him to come forth and tell the nation who "pressured" him and whom it was that he "could not refuse" regarding her conviction and that of her father, former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, in the Avenfield apartments reference. Maryam held a detailed press conference regarding a recently surfaced audio clip al-



legedly containing the voice of Nisar, who has denied influencing the judicial proceedings in the case. The PML-N leader said that when Nisar was asked what he plans on doing about the allegations against him, he said he is "not mad to pursue the matter in court". Maryam, addressing the former CJP, said: "Whether today, or tomorrow, you will have to tell the nation the truth. There is still time. Come forth, tell the nation who pressured you to sentence Nawaz Sharif if it was unwarranted? Who pressured you to sen-

tence Maryam Nawaz, if it was without merit. And who told you that Imran Khan needs to be brought to power?" "Who was it that you could not refuse, despite being the chief justice of Pakistan at the time?" she continued. "Why were you forced to take an illegal, unconstitutional step?" she asked. "You will have to answer all this." Referring to the media coverage regarding the leak, she said that she will not name the outlet, but one media outlet "assumed the responsibility" for analysing the clip themselves.

Govt to probe Maryam's media cell 'confession'

MAHNOOR ANSAR / NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Responding to PML-N leader Maryam Nawaz's "confession" of controlling the advertisements of news channels, Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry on Wednesday said that the government has decided to initiate a "serious inquiry" into the operations of the party's media cell, being run by the former. Addressing a presser in Islamabad flanked by Minister for Energy Hammad Azhar, he said Maryam doled out Rs18 billion from national kitty to reward "blue-eyed journalists and media channels" at federal and Punjab levels during PML-N's last tenure. Initially, Fawad said 15 members were made part of the media cell and later, Rs20 million were allocated for additional recruitment and the cell was mandated to run targeted media campaigns, he added. "Handling of public funds by a private person is a crime under the jurisdiction of the FIA, but also liable of disqualification," he said.



Briefs

SCCI seeks participation of business community in training

PESHAWAR: President, Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), Hasnain Khurshid Ahmad has demanded of the National Productivity Organization (NPO) for participation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa business community in international training and programmes.

He also called for capacity building training programmes for businesspersons of different trades to enhance their business skills and technical know-how to enable them to market their products in a benefitting manner.

Husnain Khurshid made these demands during a meeting with Chief Executive Officer, National Productivity Organization (NPO) Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry here in Chamber House on Wednesday.

Imran Khan Mohmand, the chamber senior vice president, executive members Muhammad Aurangzeb, Fazal Muqem, S Minhajuddin, Haji Ghulam Hussain, Ejaz Khan Afridi, senior officer NPO KP region, Aftab Khan, incharge regional office Wasilullah and others were present during the meeting.

Both sides have agreed to initiate joint ventures and training programs to enhance skills and capacity of businesspeople in the province. The SCCI chief while speaking on the occasion urged the National Productivity Organisation (NPO) to ensure participation of the business community in international training programs, seminars, workshops and business meetings. Similarly, he asked that the NPO should take initiatives to enhance capacity building of businesspeople in different trades so that would help them to promote their manufacturing products in a better way.

The SCCI chief also stressed the need for establishment of close liaison between Sarhad chamber, business and NPO office at regional level. He suggested that the NPO should organize a special Chinese language course for members of the business community to remove language barriers and facilitate easy interaction with Chinese investors, while keeping in view initiating a number of projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. — APP

Active corona cases drop to 78 in Faisalabad

FAISALABAD: The number of active cases of coronavirus dropped to 78 after the recovery of two more patients in the district during the last 24 hours. According to spokespersons for the health department, a total of 25,850 coronavirus patients had so far recovered in the district. He said presently 37 patients were under-treatment at the Allied Hospital, 8 at DHQ Hospital and four at General Hospital.

He said that 16 confirmed patients were isolated at their homes in the district. He said that 200 beds were allocated at the Allied Hospital, 52 at the DHQ Hospital and 150 at Government General Hospital Ghulam Muhammad Abad for COVID-19 patients. — APP

Over 4.42m people get Covid jabs

FAISALABAD: Over 4.42 million (4,428,873) people have so far been vaccinated against COVID-19 in the district.

District Health Officer Dr Ataul Munim said on Wednesday that 2,966,844 citizens were injected first dose while 1,399,846 were administered the second dose of vaccine. He further said that 38,378 health workers were given first dose while 23,805 received the second dose of vaccine. He said that sufficient stock of coronavirus vaccine was available in the district. As of now 188,876 first doses and 125,918 second doses were in the stock.

He said that 37 vaccination centers and 20 mobile vaccination camps were operational in Faisalabad where registered people were being vaccinated. — APP

Ministry of Law launches the Women in Law Award

The event marks a key milestone of a collaboration between the MoL&J, Group Development Pakistan and the Women in Law Initiative Pakista, with support from the Australian High Commission and the British High Commission

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Ministry of Law and Justice launched the Women in Law Award and held the first ever symposium on Diversity and Inclusion in Islamabad today. The event marks a key milestone of a collaboration between the MoL&J, Group Development Pakistan and the Women in Law Initiative Pakistan for increasing women's representation in law, with support from the Australian High Commission and the British High Commission.

His Excellency, the Australian High Commissioner Dr. Geoffrey Shaw and the British High Commission Political Counsellor Ms. Iona Thomas graced the event. The event began with a symposium on diversity and inclusion in the morning which featured a panel talk on fair representation. The speakers included Hon'ble Justice (r) Naisra Iqbal, Barrister Taimur Malik, Barrister Aneesa Agha and ASP Ayesha Gul. The panel highlighted the need for institutional responsibility and reforms for fair representation in the justice sector through constitutional and legal amendments but also softer measures for undertaking gap analysis studies, gender audit of laws and policies and setting up of diversity and inclusion commit-



tees to ensure fair representation in all spheres of the justice sector, including in the process and conversations towards these reforms. The event also featured the launch of 'Pakistan Journal of Diversity and Inclusion' - Pakistan's premier international publication featuring original academic legal scholarship on thematic areas designed to promote debate and discourse around diversity, inclusion and reforms. It was followed by paper presentations by individual authors whose papers had been shortlisted and selected for publication in the Pakistan Journal of

Diversity and Inclusion. The Parliamentary Secretary, Federal Ministry of Law and Justice, Barrister Maleeka Bukhari said, that she was particularly proud to showcase the talent of Pakistani women lawyers and hoped that such endeavor would contribute to addressing the gender gap in the justice sector. Hon'ble Justice (r) Sheikh Azmat Saeed, who was a patron of the event, delivered the special address and introduced the jury members of the Women in Law Awards. Her excellency, Baroness Helena

Kennedy, a senior jury member, congratulated the ministry on such an unprecedented effort in Pakistan and highlighted how inspiring those young women lawyers were.

Twenty-six candidates emerged as winners out of seventy-two nominees in eighteen categories. Asma Hamid was declared winner in the category 'Advocate of the Year' while Maliha Zia Lari won the award for 'Outstanding Comeback of the Year' and as Gender and Diversity Champion (Sindh). The awards also honored law students, rising stars and gender and diversity champions from KP (Rubina

Naz), Punjab (Maria Farooq) and Balochistan (Sabira Islam).

While appreciating the role and support of the Ministry, Nida Usman, founder of Women in Law Initiative Pakistan said, "To see female lawyers being given their due recognition and visibility at a national level has truly been a dream for which we at Women in Law have worked for all these years. This would never have been possible without the leading support of Hon'ble Federal Law Minister Dr. Muhammad Farogh Nasim and Parliamentary Secretary, Federal Ministry of Law and Justice, Barrister Maleeka Bukhari.

OGRA takes notice of disruption in oil supply

ARIJ GHAZNAVI

ISLAMABAD: Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has taken serious notice of people/entities who are trying to disrupt oil supplies on the pretext of increase in dealer margin. Spokesperson of Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority has this to say, all Oil Marketing Companies have been advising to ensure uninterrupted oil supplies at the retail outlets and OGRA enforcement teams are in field to ensure the same. Anyone involved in oil disruptions causing public inconvenience shall be dealt strictly in accordance with OGRA laws.

KMU, FAU Germany sign MoU with SHPI

PESHAWAR: Khyber Medical University (KMU), Peshawar and Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg (FAU), Germany entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Social Health Protection Initiative (SHPI) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to enable the conduct of a research study. This study will inform the implementation of the pilot project to extend the SHPI of the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to OPD services in four pilot districts of the province. The Heidelberg Institute for Global Health, University of Heidelberg (HIGH) and I.C.U. Healthcare are also a part of the academic consortium.

According to the MoU, Dr. Zohaib Khan, Director ORIC-KMU, Dr. Saeda Bibi, Deputy Director SHPI program KP and Prof. Dr. Landmann will be the liaison persons for the MoU, which was signed by Prof. Zia UI Haq, Mr. Axel Klön, and Dr. Riaz Tanoli on behalf of KMU, FAU and SHPI-KP respectively. Speaking on the occasion, the chief guest Dr. Farooq Jamil, Special Secretary Health to the Government of KP, said "The provincial government, in line with the Prime Minister's vision of universal health coverage, is committed to the provision of high-quality healthcare to the people of the province."

He appreciated the proposed scope of work by the research consortium and highlighted that the presence of the local partner KMU would help develop local capacity and ensure smooth conduct of field activities. — APP



KARACHI: Seyed Qassem Navid Qamar, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of Sindh in the investment and public-private partnership (PPP) has held meeting with H.E Hassan Nourian, the Consul General of Iran in Karachi aimed to encouragement of the investors and traders work on the economic cooperations between two countries. — DNA

Govt committed to promote sports activities: SACM

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: The foundation stone of tehsil sports complex dijkot has been laid at 9 Acre govt land. Adviser to CM Punjab for Sports Malik Umar Farooq was chief guest. District Sports Officer Sajida latif, party workers of PTI and sportsman were also present in a large number.

Adviser thanked the Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar for gifting the people of Dijkot with a huge sports complex and said that would provide multi purpose sporta facilities to the players and sportsman would love to play here and the dream of sports complex would come true.

He further said that dijkot sammundri bypass and rescue 1122 building are under process which would comelewd soon and the inauguration of Govt College would

be soon.

1.2 million fine was imposed
As many as 1.2 million fine was imposed to violators from teams of district administration in one day for emitted smoke and caused for smog. The teams alak registered three cases and sealed boiler of industrial unit and

brick klin each.

The spokesman of district administration informed that Assistant Commissioners and officers of Agriculture, Transport and industries departments remained present in the field whole day and fined was imposed to 20 vehicles, 8 brick klin, 11 industrial units and 11 persons involved in stub-

ble burning. He further informed that two brick klin, two industrial units and one person for burning were registered FIR.

He informed that 0.5 million fine was imposed for stubble burning, 150000 to owners of brick klin, 400000 rupees to industries and 10900 to vehicles for emitting smoke.



FAISALABAD: Adviser to CM Punjab for Sports Malik Umar Farooq Qaid foundation stone of Tehsil Sports Complex Dijkot. — DNA

Faisalabad to have TDC branch

Majority of low income groups are suffering from this disease but late diagnosis damages their eyesight, kidney, heart and other vital parts of the body

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: A branch of The Diabetes Centre (TDC) Islamabad will be established in Faisalabad to provide state-of-the-art facilities to the diabetic patients from diagnosis to its ultimate treatment.

Imran Mehmood Sheikh Senior Vice President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) had a meeting with a delegation of TDC Islamabad and discussed the opportunities to provide best possible facilities to the diabetic patients of Faisalabad. He assured that a delegation of FCCI headed by its President Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh will visit Islamabad to review the operation of TDC Islamabad in addition to discuss its ex-

pansion and outreach programs. He said that the majority of low income groups are suffering from this disease but late diagnosis damages their eyesight, kidney, heart and other vital parts of the body. He said that TDC must establish its fully equipped branch in Faisalabad on the pattern of Lahore to offer latest facilities to the diabetic patients.

Mr. Imran Mehmood particularly mentioned the philanthropic work of the local business community and said that they are always contributing a major role in the social welfare projects.

He was optimistic that FCCI members would also take part in the early construction of diabetic centre in Faisalabad. He said the delegation to remain in touch with Dr. Habib Aslam Gabba to finalize the arrangements for

the proposed awareness session and free medical camp for the diabetic patient in FCCI.

Earlier Dr. Khizar Parvaiz administrator TDC Islamabad explained in detail the performance, services and future expansion program of TDC as diabetes was increasing at a much faster rate.

He termed it as deadlier diseases as compared to covid-19 and said that lukewarm attitudes towards this disease at an early stage create serious complications. He said that early detection of this disease is imperative to save patients from serious complications.

He said that currently 64% patients are treated free of cost from Zakat, however they intend to increase these numbers to 70%.

NAB holds essay competition on corruption

PESHAWAR: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Wednesday held Essay Writing Competition on the topic of "Merit Defeats Corruption" among the district level toppers students to create awareness among students against corruption.

In the light of Chairman NAB's vision "Our Faith-Corruption Free Pakistan" and under the able guidance of Director General NAB KP, numbers of anti-corruption awareness activities were being carried out throughout the province.

NAB KP's annual anti-corruption awareness campaign 2021 to propagate the moral norms of merit and transparency among the upcoming young generation, provincial level essay writing competition on the topic of "Merit Defeats Corruption" both in Urdu and in English among the district level toppers throughout KP was held at NAB Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,

said the Spokesperson.

Number of students participated in both categories and wrote thought provoking essays on the subject. Deputy Prosecutor General Accountability, NAB KP and Director NAB KP were chief guests on the occasion.

The competition was judged by the panel of Judges duly nominated by Higher Education Department KP. Top three position holder students in each category were awarded cash prizes along with gift hampers and certificates.

The chief guest appreciated the efforts of NAB KP in organizing the literal competitions in collaboration and partnership with Higher Education Department KP and concerned District Authorities who organized the competitions at district and provincial level in a highly conducive and holistic manner, in the ongoing campaign of awareness against corruption. — APP

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Landscape Division
Directorate of Parks (East), Environment Wing

TENDER NOTICE

Scaled tenders are hereby invited on percentage basis from contractor having valid license by PEC in relevant category for the under mentioned works on the date and time mentioned below:-

S.No.	Name of Work	NTT Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Date & Time of Receiving Tender	Date & Time of Opening Tender
1	Construction of Jogging track from Luqman Hakim Road I/B (SR-WEST) G-7/1&2 to ZTBL along Faisal Avenue green belt, Islamabad.	Rs.-5,451,234/-	Rs.-163,537/-	13.12.2021 11.30 A.M	13.12.2021 12.00 Noon
2	Construction of Jogging track opposite PIMS & 15 SR-EAST along Faisal Avenue green belt, Islamabad.	Rs.-5,812,138/-	Rs.-174,364/-	13.12.2021 11.30 A.M	13.12.2021 12.00 Noon
3	Construction of Jogging track at green belt in between SR-NORTH at G-6/2, Faisal-e-Haq road, Islamabad.	Rs.-4,176,993/-	Rs.-125,310/-	13.12.2021 11.30 A.M	13.12.2021 12.00 Noon
4	Construction of Jogging track at green belt in between SR-NORTH at G-6/3, Faisal-e-Haq road, Islamabad.	Rs.-4,267,773/-	Rs.-128,033/-	13.12.2021 11.30 A.M	13.12.2021 12.00 Noon
5	Construction of Jogging track at Parbat road Park F-7/4, Islamabad.	Rs.-1,254,314/-	Rs.-37,629/-	13.12.2021 11.30 A.M	13.12.2021 12.00 Noon
6	Construction of Jogging track at Punjab House Sector F-5, Islamabad.	Rs.-1,044,170/-	Rs.-31,325/-	13.12.2021 11.30 A.M	13.12.2021 12.00 Noon

Conditions:

- Detail of Tender Notice can be seen on CDA website www.cda.gov.pk and PPRa website www.ppra.gov.pk
- Tender application should accompany with earnest money in shape of deposit at call in favor of Dy. Director Landscape Division, CDA issued from any scheduled local bank against firm's account. Name of firm should be clearly mentioned on instrument (Deposit at call). Tender documents shall not be issued without earnest money.
- In case of total bid amount is less than 10% below the NTT amount, the bidder shall submit additional call deposit as performance security equal to the difference between NTT amount and total quoted amount less 10% of NTT amount. The additional performance guarantee (Call Deposit) shall be submitted along with bid. Bids having rates below 10% of NTT without additional call deposit will be rejected. The performance security of the successful bidder shall be released after completion of project.
- Tender documents can be obtained from the office of Dy. Director Landscape Division, Environment Wing CDA located at Mehran Gate No.01, Fatima Jinnah Park, Directorate of Parks (East), CDA, Islamabad on cash payment of Sr#01 to 02 Rs.5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand) and Sr#3 to 6 Rs.3,000/- (Rupees Three Thousand) Per Each Set (Non-Refundably) during working hours on any working day before date of opening against written request which should be on letter head having Name, Address, Telephone (Land line) Numbers and signature of the contractor along with attested copies of NTN Certificate, valid Professional Tax Certificate, Sole proprietorship/partnership deed, Valid PEC license in relevant category, Moreover General/Special Power of attorney may be attested through respective court, The attorney holder may not be the employee of any Government, semi Government institute/That Only legitimate attorney holder may be allowed to get tender documents. No tender will be sold on the date of opening of the tender. **Tenders will be sold upto 12:00 Noon on last working day before date of opening.**
- The bid security of all bidders would be deposited in the CDA Bank account and same may be returned after the acceptance of the contract with the successful bidder. The eligibility criteria of the firm with the relevant experience i.e. at least three number of works in last two financial years may be observed/fulfilled before issuance of tender documents.
- The intending bidder will have to provide telephone no of the relevant office / formation issuing work orders for verification purpose.
- No tender will be issued without showing the required documents in "ORIGINAL".
- Tender bids will be received and opened on above date and time in the office of Director Parks (East), Environment Wing, CDA located at Mehran Gate No.01, Fatima Jinnah Park, Islamabad.
- Tender rate on percentage basis should be filled in figures as well as in words.
- The tender documents must be accompanied with non-relationship certificate, NTN Certificate, Non-Judicial Stamp Paper worth of Rs.50/- or above and. No tender will be entertained without these documents.
- CDA reserves the right to accept or reject any/all tenders as per PPRa Rules. No conditional tender will be entertained.

Dy. Director Landscape
Directorate of Parks (East)

PID (I) No. 3398/21

Oman Celebrates 51st National Day of the Renaissance

03

Oman celebrates 51st National Day of the Renaissance



THE Sultanate of Oman marked the 51st National Day of the Renaissance, the 18th of November Anniversary. The event comes around at a time when Omanis ponder about the achievements made so far and brace for further accomplishments, with firm resolve, under the astute leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik who pledged to hold high the banner of Renewed Renaissance, since he assumed power in the country on 11 January 2020. The Renewed Renaissance kicked off on a high



note when His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik called upon the people of Oman to do their best to enrich domestic development and foster progress in all fields. This is considered one of the major principles of Renewed Renaissance in its quest to attain the supreme national objective of "making Oman the central point in all that we strive to achieve"—an objective whose salient features already materialized in terms of updated laws and refurbished programmes of action across all sectors.

In the beginning of this year, a Royal Decree No. 6/2021, promulgated the (updated) Basic Law of the State to serve as a basic pillar of continuous efforts to shape a better future for Oman and its citizens and to build a solid ground for their Renewed Renaissance.

The Basic Law of the State comprises 98 articles "enhancing the institutions of the State, safeguarding its territorial unity and its social texture, protecting its cultural foundations and consolidating public rights, liberties and duties". The Basic Law of the State lays down a stable mechanism of transfer of rule, which reflects positively on political and economic aspects and affirms the principle of sovereignty and independence of the judiciary. It also serves as a basis of rule in the State. It makes education compulsory till the end of the Basic Education stage. It establishes a scholarly method for thought, development of talents and encouragement of innovation—which all conform with Oman Vision 2040. Articles (5) to (11) of the Basic Law of the State organize the mechanism of entitlement or succession to the throne in the Sultanate of Oman and makes it more clear and straightforward. Article (5) states that "The system of rule is sultani and hereditary within the male descendants of Sultan Turki bin Said bin Sultan, in accordance with the following terms: Rule is handed down from the Sultan to his eldest son, then to the eldest son of the son, and henceforth, layer by layer. If the eldest son dies before assuming power, the rule shall pass down to his eldest son. If the deceased has brothers and in case the one entitled to the throne has no sons, the power shall be transferred to his eldest brother. If he (the deceased) has no brothers, the power to rule shall be transferred to the eldest son of his eldest brother. If the latter has no sons, then the rule shall be transferred to the eldest nephew of his other brothers, in accordance with age of the brothers. If the one entitled to the throne has no brothers or nephews, the rule shall be transferred to the uncles and then to their sons in accordance with the sequence indicated in the Second Clause of this Article. It is a condition that the Crown Prince to assume power shall be a Muslim and the legitimate son of the Omani Muslim parents".

Article (6) regulates the establishment of a Guardianship Council in case the power to rule is transferred to an heir aged below 21 years. The Guardianship Council exercises the powers of the Sultan provided the Sultan appoints prior to his death. If the Sultan does not appoint a Guardianship Council before he dies, then the Ruling Family's Council appoints a Guardianship Council comprising one of the brothers of the Sultan and two of (his cousins) sons of his uncles".

Article (7) provides for the appointment of a

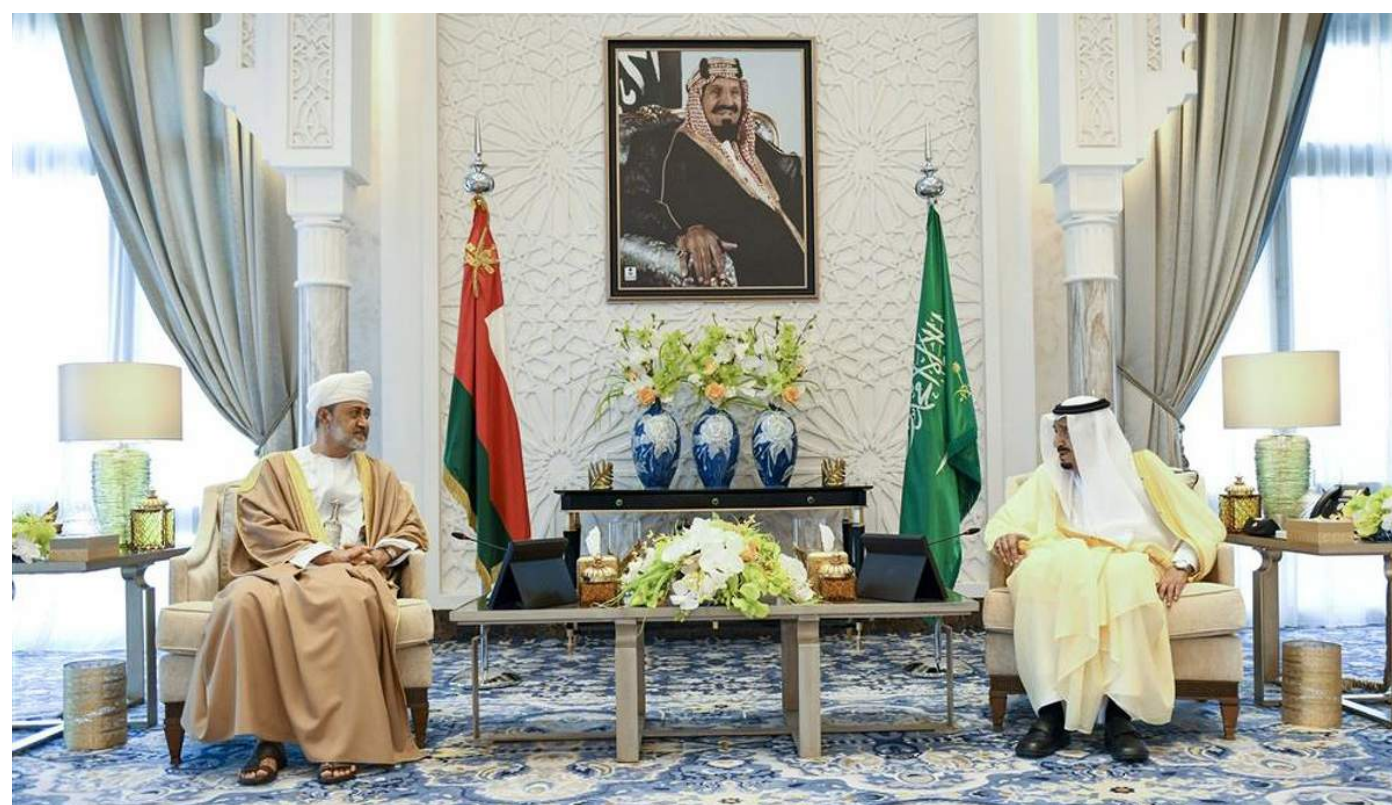


Crown Prince under a Royal order in accordance with stipulation of Article (5) of the Basic Law of the State. The Royal order defines the powers and prerogatives of the Crown Prince, as well as the tasks delegated to him. It states that the Crown Prince shall be sworn in before the Sultan before undertaking the powers and tasks delegated to him. The oath shall be taken in accordance with Article (10) of the Basic Law of the State".

The Sultanate of Oman stands out for its exclusive practice of Shura-based democracy, set up on solid grounds emanating from Omani life realities. Shura practice evolved through various stages till it developed into present-day "Council of Oman", with its bicameral chambers—the "State Council" and "Shura Council". Each stage saw the addition of systems and laws that reinforce the tradition of Shura and respond to the expectations of citizens. To this effect, His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik issued Royal Decree No. 7/2021 promulgating Council of Oman Law, which comprises 78 articles.

To contain coronavirus (Covid-19) that wreaked havoc in countries of the world, the Sultanate of Oman formed a Supreme Committee tasked with tackling developments resulting from coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. The Supreme Committee has been taking 'moderate' decisions and precautionary measures that ensure the safety of citizens and residents, while at the same time catering to social and economic implications on this benign land.

The Supreme Committee is responsible for co-



operation with the departments concerned and regulating social response. It worked for the procurement of internationally approved vaccines and oversaw the implementation of a national immunization campaign. This was commended by His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik when he chaired the Supreme Committee's meeting on 18 August 2021 at Al Maamoura Palace in Salalah. His Majesty said that, "This improvement could not have happened had it not been for the appropriate decisions taken and the efforts exerted by the departments concerned in the Sultanate of Oman, albeit the health sector." His Majesty the Sultan lauded the "high sense of responsibility shouldered by all members of society through abidance with the decisions and the measures set by the authorities concerned to safeguard public health—individuals and society at large".

The decisions resulted in the improvement of Covid-19 indicators in the Sultanate of Oman, which, the reports said, registered great decline in mortality, infection and hospitalization rates, while recovery from the disease reached 98.5%. Meanwhile, the government accorded special attention to the ensuing economic impacts of Covid-19. The decisions, which took into account the fallouts of the pandemic on establishments and companies, included exemption from

finances of some services. Special exemptions were sanctioned to small and medium enterprises and holders of Riyada Card for Entrepreneurs. This is in addition to a package of incentives for borrowers, individuals, banking institutions, financing and leasing firms.

The designation of a Youth Day in Oman (26 October) reflects the attention accorded to the young generation by His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik. It asserts the leadership's deep conviction in the potential of youth in promoting the country's development. Speaking at a meeting of the Council of Ministers he chaired in October 2021, His Majesty the Sultan underscored the significance of devising a mechanism and for opening channels of communication with youth to explain all the requirements of the development process in all sectors. He gave directives to listen to youth and study their needs and aspirations. He also instructed governors and the authorities concerned to hold regular meetings with youth for this purpose. He advised the officials to raise issues of interest or concern to youth, listen to their opinions and help them perform the role expected of them in contributing to the comprehensive nation-building march.

Meanwhile, HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, who presided over the Youth Day celebration last October, said that the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth launched a smart portal supplied with the latest techniques that make it a prime website for talented youth, artists and innovators.

The attention accorded by His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik to Youth is also reflected in the Royal support to employment initiatives, a



set of which came around in May 2021, when coronavirus pandemic had its greatest toll on local and global economic conditions, leading to the shrinkage of the labour markets. The Royal attention resulted in the launch of an executive plan to provide more than 32,000 jobs.

His Majesty the Sultan also chaired a meeting of the Supervisory Committee of the Nation-

al Employment Programme (NEP) on 5 July 2021. This placed employment in the realm of national priorities. His Majesty the Sultan reiterated the importance of the NEP when he presided over a Council of Ministers on 15 June 2021, during which he gave directives for "devising suitable solutions to provide jobs in all departments of the State (the public sector) and private sector firms, provide analysis of jobseekers' data and follow them up until they join the labour market".

Omani women's affairs take centre stage in the Renewed Renaissance thought of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, who has been keen that women enjoy their rights guaranteed by law and operate alongside men in different fields of national service. Attention to women is one of the "national fundamentals" of the country.

On the occasion of the International Women's Day, celebrated last March, Her Highness The Honourable Lady Assayida Ahd Abdullah Hamed Al Busaidi, Spouse of the Sultan of Oman, commended the great efforts exerted by women in Oman and the rest of the world while building their nations, supporting their families and societies and contributing effectively to the management of human and global issues." HH The Honourable Lady addressed women on Omani Women's Day this year. She said, "On the occasion of Omani Women's Day, the 17th of October, we would like to express thanks and appreciation for every woman who advocates good deeds and elevates the values of tolerance, amity and benevolence. Our greetings go to every woman who contributes to building this dear country from her position as an active participant delivering her social, national and humanitarian duties in all fields."

To mark the same occasion, HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth issued a ministerial decision announcing the establishment of Omani Women's Sports and Cultural Innovation Club. The move comes in implementation of the basic principles espoused by the Sultanate of Oman in the field of women's empowerment. It is a symbolic gesture to promote women's contribution to domestic development and to promote their role in sports

Message of His Excellency the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Pakistan

Al Sheikh Mohammed bin Omar Al Marhoon

His Excellency the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Pakistan, Al Sheikh Mohammed bin Omar Al Marhoon, said, on this precious occasion, that Oman and Pakistan have deep brotherly relations which are progressing successfully and strengthening with each passing day. He added that the government of the Sultanate of Oman appreciates the Pakistanis playing their effective part in Sultanate's economic development.



and cultural fields.

Oman has been endowed with many bounties and a loyal people bound by bonds of love, collaboration and solidarity. This became crystal clear through public support to the efforts exerted by the government of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik in the aftermath of the recent tropical cyclone /Shaheen/ that made landfall in Oman on 3 October 2021. His Majesty the Sultan's response was prompt. He gave orders to form a ministerial committee for the assessment of the damage incurred to citizens' homes and properties in the governorates that took the brunt of the cyclone. The aim was to provide quick relief to the families and alleviate the impacts of the tropical condition.

Speaking on this occasion last October, His Majesty the Sultan affirmed that "the restoration of normalcy to public life and the supply of basic life needs to citizens tops our priorities" and he reiterated that "the ministerial committee comes under our direct supervision" and he pledged that he would follow up the tasks and achievements of the committee to ensure that the panel provides assistance as soon as possible.

This Royal response reflected positively through the persistent action undertaken by the ministerial committee in cooperation with sec-

ment of the business and investment climate, incentives for small and medium enterprises, incentives for the labour market and recruitment, banking incentives aimed to rally efforts for the alleviation of Covid-19 impacts on the national economy and other incentives to



promote economic recovery, back up economic activities and attract foreign investments. These financial procedures, topped by the medium-term Fiscal Balance Plan, showed positive results, as Oman registered growth in total revenues by 22.6% and a 58% decline in deficit by the end of September 2021.

The political and regional changes that happened during the Renewed Renaissance period proved that the Sultanate of Oman's foreign policy stands on firm grounds. Oman advocates principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, positive contribution to safeguarding international security, promoting common public interest through dialogue and understanding among countries and nations.

Oman's persistent strive to serve global peace stem from its support for many initiatives and issues, like its backing to the positive developments emanating from Al Ula Summit in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Oman hailed the success of the efforts of reconciliation led by the State of Kuwait. In international podiums, Oman continued to reiterate the legitimacy of the Palestinian cause and the demands of Palestinian people. It also supported the settlement of the Yemeni issue through comprehensive political settlement, working in line with initiatives of Saudi Arabia and the UN and US envoys. This is besides Oman's stand for peaceful handling of the Iranian nuclear file and Oman's continuous condemnation of all types of terrorism.

His Majesty the Sultan's visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in July 2021 and his meeting with King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud is a strong evidence about the deep-rooted relations between the two countries. This first visit of its kind culminated in the establishment of the Omani-Saudi Coordination Council and opened wide vistas of cooperation among the two countries in different fields, particularly economic areas.

The Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) and other security and military departments earned the attention of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander. The development of the SAF covered all aspects due to their tangible role in defending this nation, protecting its territories and safeguarding its gains. This Royal attention was symbolically demonstrated by the visits of His Majesty the Sultan to the 11th Infantry Brigade's command, Thumrait Airbase, the Royal Navy of Oman and the Sultan's Special Force. The SAF saw major growth in all its military and technical sectors "so that these sectors could continue to be the strong bastions that defend and protect all territories of the country from end to end."

National days of countries constitute symbols of pride and dignity. In Oman, they are moments of contemplation in the past and the future of the country, a time to remember the Founder of Modern Oman and its Blessed Renaissance, the late Sultan Qaboos Bin Said Bin Taimour. His memory pulsates in the heart of every Omani, man and woman, who incessantly pray for him in gratitude for his good deeds for the nation and its loyal people over 50 years.

The achievements made by the late Sultan Qaboos are stark and manifest in every sphere of life. He sowed and cultivated true faith in the people. From our past experiences, we have to derive new, strong will and firm resolve to work in full cooperation and collaboration—rallying our resources and energies and exhibiting self-denial in performing our duty in a manner that facilitates all difficulties and overcomes all challenges as we embark on accomplishing our national missions for the good of Oman and its noble people.



Briefs

COVID-19
claims 09
more lives

ISLAMABAD: The national tally on Wednesday of total active COVID-19 cases was recorded 14,188 with 350 more people tested positive for the deadly virus while 09 more people died from the disease during the last 24 hours. All 09 corona patients died in the hospital during past 24 hours, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). During the last 24 hours most of the deaths had occurred in Punjab followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Out of the total 09 deaths occurred during last 24 hours, 03 of the deceased had died on ventilators during their treatment. The maximum ventilators were occupied in four major areas including Multan 24 percent, Peshawar 19 percent, Islamabad 18 percent and Lahore 11 percent. The maximum Oxygen beds (alternate oxygen providing facility other than ventilator administered as per medical requirement of COVID patient) were also occupied in four major areas including Multan 35 percent, Swabi 24 percent, Sargodha 17 percent and Lahore 15 percent. Around 124 ventilators were occupied elsewhere in the country while no COVID affected person was on ventilator in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), Balochistan and AJK. Some 380,38 tests were conducted across the country on Tuesday, including 10004 in Sindh, 15,121 in Punjab, 8,194 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), 3,835 in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), 439 in Balochistan, 303 in GB, and 142 in AJK. - APP

Imported tea
consumption
goes down

ISLAMABAD: The consumption of imported tea witnessed slight decrease of 0.55 during the first four months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year. The tea imports during July-October (2021-22) stood at \$188.307 million against the imports of \$189.339 million during July-October (2020-21), according to data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). In terms of quantity, the tea imports decreased by 2.77 percent during the period under review as these shrunk from 86,999 metric tons to 84,590 metric tons, the data revealed. The overall food imports increased by 36.99 percent from \$2282.457 million last year to \$3126.842 million during the current fiscal year. Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the tea imports decreased by 21.54 percent during the month of October 2021 as compared to the same month of last year. The tea imports during October 2021 were recorded at \$37.171 million against the imports of \$47.377 million in October 2020. On month-on-month basis, the tea imports declined by 22.59 percent in October 2021 as compared to the imports of \$48.019 million in September 2021, the data revealed. It is pertinent to mention here that the country's total merchandise exports surged by 24.94 during the first four month of the current fiscal year compared to the corresponding period of last year. - APP

Police arrests
three drug
pushers

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested three drug pushers and recovered more than 3 kg drugs from their possession, informed police spokesman. Saddar Barooni Police recovered 1 kg 420 grams of hashish from Saleem Khan. Similarly, Rawat police recovered 1 kg 12 grams of hashish from Muhammad Asif while Bani police recovered 1 kg 70 grams of hashish from Talha Masood. Police have registered separate cases against all of them under narcotics act the accused. City Police Officer CPO Athar Ismail appreciated the performance of police team adding that strict action must be taken against anti social elements. Protecting young generation from drug menace is one of top priorities of police, he added. - APP

PSX GEM Board to facilitate listed SMEs in expansion

Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, ICCI appreciated PSX for incorporating GEM Board to provide an alternative source of financing to listed SMEs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry in collaboration with Pakistan Stock Exchange Regional Office Islamabad organized an awareness session for the business community on the benefits of listing SMEs on Growth Enterprise Market (GEM) Board of PSX for generating funds and achieving better business growth. Speaking at the occasion, Asghar Abbas Naqvi, Regional Incharge (North) PSX said that there was lack of awareness in the business community and SMEs about the importance of listing on PSX GEM Board for achieving sustainable growth. He said that the GEM Board helps the listed enterprises in expanding, diversifying and raising capital besides contributing towards the development of the Capital Market of the country which was important for increasing trade, commerce and indus-



try. He said that it was difficult for SMEs to list on PSX as the pre-requisites were tough and the post-listing requirements were not easy to follow for them. He said that the SECP has approved listing regulations of the GEM Board to enable and facilitate the SMEs, green-field projects, tech start-ups and other companies to conveniently get listed on the

PSX and get easy access to capital. He was hopeful that this platform will encourage investors to invest in strong, growing and successful enterprises and companies would also be able to generate required capital for growth and expansion. Thus it would be a win-win platform for investors and SMEs. In his welcome address,

Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry appreciated PSX for incorporating GEM Board to provide an alternative source of financing to listed SMEs. He said this platform would help SMEs to raise long term low cost capital, get better visibility, enhance public profile of business, improve relations with bank-

ers & suppliers and raise value of business enterprise. He said that capital was necessary for all companies and hoped that ICCI member companies would get listed on GEM Board to raise required funds in order to carry out growth & expansion, diversify products, enhance current capacity, increase operational capabilities, invest in new projects,

add value to their products, increase exports and meet working capital requirements with ease. Mazhar Arshad, Consultant, PSX North gave a detailed presentation to the business community about the procedures and processes for listing of SMEs on GEM Board. He explained the eligibility criteria, minimum capital requirement, initial listing fee and other requirements for listing on GEM Board. Jamsaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President and Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI thanked PSX Regional Office Islamabad for organizing awareness session at ICCI and hoped that member companies of ICCI would be benefited by listing on GEM Board of PSX for growth and expansion. Question and answer session was held at the occasion in which the members of the business community asked many questions and got satisfactory answers.

2,000 kites
confiscated
during raid

RAWALPINDI: An operation and confiscated 2,000 kites following arrest of kite seller here on Wednesday. According to police spokesman, Taxila police raided and held kite seller named Muhammad Mushtaq and confiscated 2,000 kites, strings rolls and material from his possession. Police have registered a case against under kite flying act and started investigation. City Police Officer CPO Athar Ismail said strict action would be taken against the kite flying and said that no one would be allowed to violate rule of law. He said that Station House Officer would be responsible of kite flying in their beats. He directed the policemen to launch action against the violators without any discrimination. - APP

Reference
against Dar
adjourned

ISLAMABAD: An Accountability Court (AC) on Wednesday adjourned hearing till December 1, in graft reference against ex-finance minister Ishaq Dar pertaining holding assets beyond sources of income. ACI Judge Muhammad Bashir heard the reference filed by National Accountability Bureau (NAB). NAB Prosecutor Afzal Qureshi and co-accused's lawyers appeared before the court. At the outset of hearing, defence lawyer Qazi Misbah pleaded that this reference was non maintainable after the NAB amendment Ordinance. He said the acquittal plea were filed after the prosecution completed its evidence. The prosecution, he said, had not produced any evidence against his clients and prayed the court to hold the decision until deciding the merit under new ordinance. The investigation in the case was also pending, he argued. The court adjourned further hearing till December 1. - APP

British PM's
special...

FROM PAGE 01

areas of mutual concern, including inclusive politics, women's rights, and the security situation. In addition to his discussions on Afghanistan, the Special Representative will meet business leaders in Karachi to discuss trade opportunities between the UK and Pakistan. The UK and Pakistan share strong business and people-to-people ties which are bolstered by the 1.6 million Pakistani diaspora in the UK. Nigel Casey said: "I am grateful to Pakistan for support to our efforts to evacuate at-risk Afghans affiliated to the UK from Afghanistan. "The UK is committed to doing everything it can to ensure stability in Afghanistan, and our policy is one of pragmatic engagement. We will continue to work together with Pakistan on matters of shared concern, including providing humanitarian support to the people of Afghanistan and to prevent Afghanistan from becoming a place where terrorism flourishes."

Political
parties'
consent...

FROM PAGE 01

national who wanted to come to Pakistan a relaxed visa regime has been implemented allowing them to get an online visa within 24 hours. Chairman Nadra added that like the Afghan refugees, separate ID cards were being issued to members of Bihari and Bengali communities under the National Alien Registration law. "This will bring these people who have been living in Pakistan for decades in the mainstream circles," he added. "At the same time it has been noted that the work alien was not appropriate so we are consulting with the Law ministry, NGOs and other stakeholders to replace it from their ID cards." Mr Malik informed that Nadra was working to provide the national ID card as an important building block for a fully digital Pakistan, and they were planning to start issuing digital ID cards by the start of next year which would help to resolve the fake ID cards issue at all.

CDA, UNDP to
launch project to
segregate garbage

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority in collaboration with UNDP is launching a project under which the garbage will be divided into two parts from the source point. Segregated dry waste will be utilized after recycling. As per detail, the initiative will be launched in Sector E-7, Margalla Retreat, Park Enclave and I-8 as pilot projects initially for three months. Under this project UNDP will provide two colours separate shopping bags in all the houses in these sectors for three months to separate dry and other garbage at source point. For this purpose 6 vehicles of Sanitation Department will be used. Kitchen waste will be segregated and disposed of, while dry waste will be recycled by UNDP to make dustbins, park furniture and other items that CDA will install back in the same sectors. The project initially covers the areas of Sector E-7, Margalla Retreat, Park Enclave and Sector I-8. After experimental success, this project will be extended to other sectors of the city.



ISLAMABAD: Group Photo of United Business Group nominee for Vice President (Association Class) for FPCCI Election 2022 Dr. Sajjad Arshad and former Vice President Zahid Iqbal Chaudhry at the office of UBG Islamabad meeting with Central Secretary General United Business Group Mr. Zafar Bakhtawari. Shahid Raza, Dr Masood Sadiq Chaudhry and Dr Farhan Farooq are also present. - DNA

Capital to get another
rehabilitation center

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Narcotics Control Syed Ijaz Shah Wednesday said that the government would open one more center in the federal capital for the rehabilitation of drug addicts. Addressing a drug-burning ceremony organized by the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) here, he said "We are fighting to eliminate the drug menace from the country effectively but there are only three drug rehabilitation centers which are extremely insufficient for treatment of the patients." Among others, the ceremony was attended by the diplomatic staff, students of universities, schools, and colleges besides renowned actors. Drugs worth billions of dollars were burned at the end of the event. The minister asked the private sector people, having enough resources, to come forward and play their role in establishing such facilities in the country so that timely treatment and rehabilitation of the treatment could be carried out efficiently. The federal government alone could not deal with the problem as there were six million drug addicts in the country as per the year 2012-report, he said adding the federal and provincial departments, and masses would have to make joint efforts to purge the menace of drugs from the society. He asked the masses especially the youth to join hands with the government to eliminate drugs from society and ensure the safety of future generations. The minister also stressed cutting the supply line besides taking measures for the drug reduction demand, with special focusing on the awareness-raising and rehabilitation of drug addicts in the society. "We are not the drug-producing state, but a victim of drugs." The minister appealed to the young generation to wage a holy war against the drug and work together to make Pakistan a drug-free state. "We have to fight on a war-footing against the menace by joining hands with each other," he added. He said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government had devised the first-ever Anti Drug Narcotics Policy at federal, provincial, and district levels to fight against the menace with collective efforts. Pointing out the shortage of ANF staff, the minister said that 4,000 staff was not enough to fight this hazard. He also congratulated ANF Director General Major General Ghulam Shaheer Narejo for arranging the drug-burning ceremony. On the occasion, the DG ANF said that a drug burning ceremony was an annual event in which drugs that recovered by the law enforcement agencies by putting their lives in danger to secure the future of the country's next generation. - APP

AIUO final
exams from
Dec. 16

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIUO) is commencing final examinations of programs offered in spring 2021 semester including MA, MSc, M Com, MBA, MLIS, M Ed and PGDs from December 2, 2021. It is pertinent to mention here that these examinations were previously scheduled to be held from December 2, 2021 which were postponed due to some unavoidable circumstances. According to AIUO, revised date sheet and roll number slips will be uploaded on the university website (www.aiuo.edu.pk) soon and same are being dispatched to the students as well. Roll number slips, downloaded from the university website, would be acceptable in the examination halls. Examination centres have been established in the nearby vicinities of the students and at the union council level to facilitate them upon the special directives of the Vice Chancellor, AIUO. Moreover, examinations schedule for MSc (face to face) programs is being finalized and it would be uploaded on the university website soon. - APP

Pak response to Covid: A
commendable framework

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Of all the countries confronted with the pandemic, Pakistan has made some seriously commendable efforts to deal with COVID, mainly through the creation of the National Command Operation Centre (NCOC); an institute which adopted a phased approach to effectively attend to the health emergency, said Professor Gloria Taliani, Expert on infectious diseases at Sapienza University of Rome, Italy. She was addressing a gathering at the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), Islamabad. Sharing a timeline of the spread and control of Covid-19 in Italy, she emphasized the importance of awareness, management, and vaccination in controlling the pandemic. Reflecting on her experience(s) from Italy, Professor Taliani commented that a significant part of dealing with the pandemic was to ensure successful administration of the vaccine. In that, she said that as of 17 November 2021, a total of 7,370,902,499 vaccine doses had been administered world over. Discussing the Italian instance, Professor Taliani said that while Italy had some lessons to learn, it was doing substantially well in the face of a pandemic which seems to only evolve further into more sophisticated variants. She added that Italy was currently confronting the fourth wave of Coronavirus

and that the mortality rate had substantially decreased too. Expressing her concern over some of the countries where people had not even received their first shot of the vaccine, Professor Taliani said that governments needed to realise the onus upon them in ensuring healthy livelihoods. In Europe, she said, the Covid-19 positivity rate was on the rise. In Italy the fourth wave was however, less powerful than in other European countries thanks to the shield of the high number of vaccinations (76.7% of the total immunized population, compared to 65% on average in the International Organization for Cooperation and Development (OCED)). In response to a question on the seeming end to this post-Covid phase during the Q/A session, Professor Taliani said that the virus is here to stay and will only keep evolving unless the world comes up with a permanent solution for it. Meanwhile, she said, that the children born during this time will be immune to battling Covid since birth, normalising it as much as seasonal cough and flu. However, this did not mean that world was free to let go off all precautionary measures. She added that the idea of getting both shots of the vaccine and becoming immune to Covid was clearly a misperception among people which must be corrected and that precautionary measures had to be accepted as the new normal now.

Int'l conference on Iqbal starts at NUML

Iqbal recognized the problems of Muslim world and through his poetry he tried to convey message of self-respect. He said that Iqbal was a big fan of Iran and Persian language and most of his kalam is in Persian

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Two-day International Commemorative Conference on Allama Iqbal on the topic of "Relevance of Iqbal's Thoughts in Modern Times" started at National University of Modern Languages (NUML) on Wednesday. The conference was organized by the Persian Studies department of NUML in collaboration with Cultural Consulate of Islamic Republic of Iran and MUSLIM Institute. Syed Mohammad Ali Hosseini, ambassador Islamic

Republic of Iran was the chief guest of the inaugural session, while Prof. Dr. Fateh Muhammad Malik, former rector International Islamic University and Dr. Yusuf Khushk, Chairman Pakistan Academy of Letters were the guests of honour. Rector NUML Major General Muhammad Jaffar HI (M) (Retd), Director General NUML Brig Syed Nadir Ali, Pro Rector Acad Prof. Dr. Safer-Awan, Deans, Directors, heads of departments, faculty members and a large number of students also attended the event.



Speaking on the occasion chief guest H.E Mr. Syed Mohammad Ali Hosseini, ambassador Islamic Republic of Iran said that Allama Iqbal was a biggest intellectual, reformer and philosopher who taught Muslim Ummah the importance of unity and self-sufficiency. Iqbal recognized the problems of Muslim world and through his poetry he tried to convey the message of self-respect. He said that Iqbal was a big fan of Iran and the Persian language and most of his kalam is in Persian. Ambassador felicitated the NUML to

organize such a successful conference on a very important issue. Rector NUML Major General Muhammad Jaffar in his address said that it is very important issue and department of Persian must be appreciated to organize such conference. He thanked Honourable chief guest and guests for sparing time to attend the conference. Scholars from Iran, Afghanistan, Turkey, India, and Germany are participating in the conference and will present various research articles on Iqbal in different sessions of the conference.

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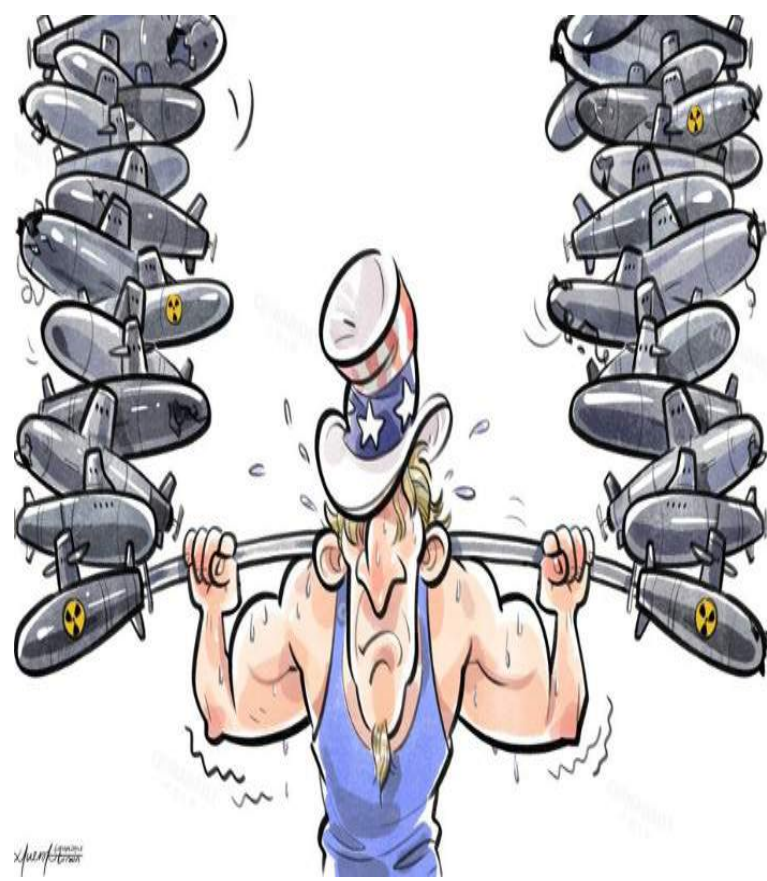
Violence in the courtroom

A disturbing video making the rounds on social media depicts the harrowing reality of the extent of vandalism and hooliganism that exists in certain legal circles, and of the ugly picture of sexism in public spaces. The video shows a group of lawyers beating up a woman complainant inside the Malir Court.

The violence seems to have reportedly started over a personal conflict—the alleged victim had lodged against her ex-husband, Advocate Hasnain, a case about a dishonoured cheque. Yet, whatever the reason, the video, which shows hoards of men appearing to be lawyers, beating and manhandling the woman and her brother, is absolutely unacceptable. This is not a simple matter of a personal dispute getting out of hand, as the Malir district bar association is trying to portray it. Firstly it exemplifies how unsafe the courts and public spaces have been made for women by male lawyers themselves. This is not the first incident of violence against a woman in a court—there have been many female lawyers and other women who dared to lodge a complaint against a male lawyer subjected to harassment and verbal abuse.

Secondly, it exposes how disorderly and ungovernable some groups of lawyers have become. Loyalty with the community is a regular feature of any career but taking it too far to defend crimes seriously breaches the credibility of the legal profession. We have seen time and time again some of the lawyer community pose an exaggerated and aggressive overreaction upon any case against one of their own.

Knowledge of the law does not mean one can flout it as a community. The Bar Councils, as well as the parliament, through amending the Legal Practitioners Act, needs to take the growing excesses of the legal community seriously and put in place a stricter accountability process. We are still to see action on the 2019 lawyers attack on a hospital in Lahore which led to the death of patients and destruction of property. We cannot have mobs of lawyers running around doing what they want without any action.



Partial closure

IN light of the worsening Air Quality Index (AQI) ratings in Punjab, the provincial government has issued directives to shorten the working week by closing down businesses and schools every Saturday, Sunday and Monday. This routine is to be followed until January 15, 2022, after which a reassessment will be carried out. While we may not have imagined matters to get this dire two or three years ago, now it seems as though even these measures are not enough—or rather appropriate—to curtail smog in the province. A more detailed strategy is needed that tackles the root cause of the problem.

For the past few months, the AQI of the country has been fluctuating constantly and never for the better. Even on a good day, the average rating reads 250 in Lahore which is severely toxic and requires people to either stay indoors or wear oxygen masks to protect themselves. In fact, Lahore was declared the most polluted city in the world after the numbers went up even further a few weeks ago. The consequences of this are being borne by the people who are suffering from ailments after having gone through an already strenuous life-altering pandemic.

The government took initiatives like introducing anti-smog squads and has now instructed all institutions to remain closed for three days of the week. While we can understand the protective sentiment behind this order, it is rather confusing because the citizens will be at the same kind of risk every day of the week. Shutting down for a few days will not cut down emissions drastically, especially when problems like unfiltered industrial waste and improper disposal, crop burning activities and unlimited carbon emission producing cars flooding the street still remain.

Without passing laws that prevent this or offer better alternatives like solar energy or environmentally-friendly cars, we can only achieve marginal improvement. More informed decisions must be made by the government instead of those driven out of a state of urgency and panic.

Tackling migration crises: Fighting corruption may help

James Dorsey

“Addressing population challenges, the youth bulge, and refugee and migration pressure from natural or man-made crises will require measures to promote sustainable economic growth and enhanced educational and healthy capacities”

TWENTY-three-year-old Mohamed Rashid was at a loss after returning to Iraq from a grueling failed attempt to cross the Belarus-Polish border. “There’s no life for us here. There are no jobs; there is no future,” he told a Washington Post reporter.

Another man, who had just disembarked from a repatriation flight from the Belarus capital of Minsk to Erbil in Iraqi Kurdistan, frowned and obscured his face with a scarf, according to the reporter, as he responded to a question about why he had left.

“Those words cannot leave my mouth. Who dares to tell the truth here?” the man said.

The two men were returning to a country whose population has largely been excluded from sharing in the benefits of its oil wealth. Youth unemployment hovers at about 25 per cent. Public good and services are poor at best. Security forces and militias crackdown on and fire live ammunition at protesters demanding wholesale change.

Mohammed and his fellow returnee could have been from Lebanon, a middle-income country in which three-quarters of the population lives under the poverty line thanks to a corrupt elite unwilling to surrender vested interests irrespective of the cost to others.

In fact, they could have been from any number of countries in the Middle East, North Africa, and their African and Asian peripheries.

Almost half of the youth from non-Gulf countries in the Middle East and North Africa want nothing more than to leave in the absence of opportunities and prospects. They are exasperated with corrupt, self-serving elites.

This is a part of the world where devastating wars have wracked Syria, Yemen, and Libya. More recently, these countries were joined by Ethiopia while others in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel reel from jihadist violence that feeds on social and economic grievances.

To primarily hold responsible for the migrant crisis, human traffickers and cynical authoritarian leaders like Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko, who are willing to play power games and turn a profit on the back of innocent men, women, and children is swatting at symptoms of a problem that goes to the root of instability in the Middle East and North Africa.

To be sure, Mr. Lukashenko and the traffickers are part of the problem. Moreover, many Middle Easterners on the Belarus-Polish border appear to be economic, not political refugees with a legal right to asylum.

One could argue that the European Union’s refusal to take in the refugees on humanitarian grounds led to their repatriation to Iraq and Iraqi Kurdistan, which may have shortened their ordeal. Many risked being ultimately rejected, even if they had been granted entry to the EU because they were not political refugees.

The jury is out on whether the refusal will serve as a warning to the many in the Middle East and North Africa contemplating ways to get to Europe by hook or by crook.

All of this describes the immediate aspects of a dramatic crisis. The danger is that the focus on the immediate will obstruct badly needed thinking of ways to prevent or reduce the risk of future such crises and human suffering, aggravated by the willingness of governments to fight their battles on the backs of the least protected.

The framing of the crisis as a security rather than a political, economic, and social problem further takes away from the development of policies and tools to tackle the root causes of repeated migrant crises – economic mismanagement; political, economic, and financial corruption; nepotism; and loss of confidence in political systems and leadership.

“Addressing population challenges, the youth bulge, and refugee and migration pressure from natural or man-made crises will require measures to promote sustainable economic growth and enhanced educational and healthy capacities,” said George M. Feisterstein, senior vice president of the Washington-based Middle East Institute and a former State Department official with multiple postings in the Middle East and North Africa.

Acknowledging that a broader US policy focus is likely to prove more challenging than one narrowly concentrated on security, Mr. Feisterstein argued that the United States could “bring assets to the table that could potentially enhance its role in the region and strengthen its position as the preeminent outside power.” The former diplomat was referring to big power rivalry with China and Russia in the Middle East and North Africa.

Adopting Mr. Feisterstein’s policy prescription would involve greater emphasis on regional approaches to global challenges, including climate change and public health; conflict management and resolution efforts to safeguard populations and minimize internal displacement and migration; and institutional capacity and resilience building; all backed by greater US private sector engagement.

Kyrgyzstan has potentially emerged in what could provide evidence that a de-emphasis of the security aspects of the migration crisis would not automatically surrender real estate and/or leverage and influence to China and Russia.

Part of a Central Asian world sandwiched between Russia and China on which the United States has seemingly turned its back with its withdrawal from Afghanistan in August, Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov is using his election pledges to fight corruption and offer financial rewards to whistleblowers to lure the US back.

Mr. Japarov’s proposition, designed to rescue Kyrgyzstan from the clutches of Russia and China, is the central theme of a document that he has sent to the US State Department. The document outlines proposals to revive a broad political, economic, and civic engagement with the US bolstered by anti-corruption measures and affirmation of democratic freedoms.

S. Frederick Starr, founding chairman of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute, suggested that Mr. Japarov is providing a template for US reengagement with Central Asia and Afghanistan. In fact, the Kyrgyz president is offering a formula equally relevant to the Middle East and North Africa.

If adopted by the Biden administration, Kyrgyzstan “would become ‘The Mouse that Roared’ to cite the title of the droll 1959 British film. This time, however, the lesser power will have advanced its cause not by threatening military action...but with a sensible proposal by which a great power—the United States—...can once more become a serious presence in a major part of Asia that lies on China’s and Russia’s doorstep,” Mr. Starr said.

In contrast to Central Asia, the United States remains the dominant power in the Middle East and North Africa. But it’s a power seeking to redefine the role it wishes to play going forward in a region struggling to come to grips with an uncertain but changing US approach. Kyrgyzstan could be showing the way for both United States and the Middle East. However, to make it work and reduce, if not stop, migration flows, the United States and its Western partners would have to prioritise confronting corrupt elites who will stop at nothing, including displacing populations, to preserve their illicitly gained privileges.

Dr. James M. Dorsey is an award-winning journalist and scholar and a Senior Fellow at the National University of Singapore’s Middle East Institute.

The ‘net zero’ myth

Khaled Diab

In the closing plenary, minister after minister urged consensus and collective action for the sake of their children or grandchildren and the future of humanity

EARLIER this month, the world’s leaders got together to small talk about the weather and to big talk about the climate at the 26th edition of the UN’s climate change conference (COP26) in Glasgow. On the sidelines, activists (myself included) campaigned to persuade governments to replace platitudes with attitude, inaction with action. Nevertheless, the hot air and greenwashing were plentiful, with delegates with ties to fossil fuel companies outnumbering even the largest country delegation. In the pavilion section, greenwashing came from the nuclear industry, representatives of which in banana suits claimed that living near nuclear power stations was as safe as eating a banana, as well as from major coal producers like Australia, and major oil producers such as the Gulf states, each of whom had a gigantic stand.

In the closing plenary, minister after minister urged consensus and collective action for the sake of their children or grandchildren and the future of humanity. However, despite the platitudes, rich countries, from the United States to EU states, showed little appetite to downscale their lifestyles and emerging economic powerhouses, such as China and India, exhibited little willingness to clean up their reliance on coal and other dirty fossil fuels.

This left low-income countries and island states feeling a profound sense of betrayal. This was eloquently expressed by Shauna Aminath, the environment minister of the low-lying Maldives, which could become uninhabitable by 2050 and possibly vanish from the map by the turn of the century, while its vital coral reef is dying off at an alarming rate.

“[This is] yet another conversation where we put our homes on the line, while those who have other options decide how quickly they want to act,” she told her fellow ministers in the final session of the conference. “The difference between 1.5 and 2C is a death sentence for us.” Beyond kicking the hot potato of meaningful climate action down the road to mid-century for future generations to deal with, another favoured tactic of countries and corporations is to make vague net-zero emission pledges. More than 140 countries have promised to be net zero mostly by 2050, with some countries aiming for sooner and others for later. China has set 2060 as its target date and India is aiming for 2070.

Businesses, from giant multinationals to local steakhouses in Glasgow, have also been falling over themselves to announce net-zero pledges. At least a fifth of the world’s 2,000 largest corporations had already made such promises before COP26.

This is great news, right? Well, not really. There are indeed a few countries and companies that have seriously committed to lowering their carbon (and ecological) footprint through an ambitious strategy to reduce their emissions and pursue sustainable production and consumption models.

But, for many, climate strategies amount to little more than a PR exercise. Possibly the most ludicrous net-zero claims are the ones being made about fossil fuel products. One flagrant example of this was Shell’s “Drive Carbon Neutral” campaign in the Netherlands, which claimed that consumers could offset their petrol emissions by paying just one euro cent (\$0.012) extra per litre at the pump.

To my mind, this is akin to a modern reincarnation of the indulgences sold by the medieval church. But, here, instead of “sinners”, polluters pay a token amount to absolve themselves of guilt but without making any meaningful change to their destructive behaviour.

Although these indulgences may help Shell executives sleep better at night and motorists feel less guilty about their gas-guzzling vehicles, this stunt does next to nothing for the climate. For that reason, the Dutch advertising standards agency asked Shell to remove the ad after nine law students filed a complaint accusing the oil giant of greenwashing. Unfortunately, Shell is not alone in making these preposterous claims. There is a troubling new trend among fossil fuel companies of marketing gas and oil which they claim is carbon neutral. A recent investigation we conducted at Carbon Market Watch found that such claims currently being made by oil and gas companies amount to brazen greenwashing.

To the untrained ear, net zero (also known as carbon neutrality) sounds deceptively like zero – and therein lies the marketing genius behind this term and its rapidly gaining popularity. It gives the impression that emissions will be (largely) eliminated. However, while one factor in this equation relates to cutting down the level of greenhouse gas emissions, the other involves so-called offsetting, i.e. balancing emissions in one place against reductions in another. Offsetting can be achieved through natural solutions that enhance nature’s carbon absorption capacity (such as afforestation or restoring wetlands), investing in renewable energy elsewhere, by buying someone else’s emissions reductions, or by using largely unproven technologies in the future to capture carbon from industrial processes or the air. If we were to attempt to offset all our emissions by planting trees, this would require at least 1.6 billion hectares (4 billion acres) of new forests, Oxfam estimates. This afforested land would cover five Indias or more than all the farmland on the planet. This would not only lead to mass hunger, it is impractical and impossible. We would need a Planet B to offset this Planet A.

The “net-zero” mantra can distort reality and present as equal yet wildly different realities. For instance, a serious country or company may have a carbon-neutrality plan which relies on slashing emissions by 90 percent and neutralising the remaining 10 percent through offsets. A company or country looking for easy solutions or to greenwash its image could aim for the inverse: 10 percent reductions and 90 percent offsets.

Even though these two hypothetical cases are both theoretically “net zero” or “carbon neutral”, they are not equivalent nor equal. The first is about taking meaningful action to clean up the atmosphere, while the second is about atmospherics and cleaning up one’s image.

The cover provided by the fig leaf of net zero allows the unscrupulous to dress up inaction as determined action. This helps explain why emissions on paper can appear to be falling while in the air, where it really matters, they continue to rise. After the temporary blip due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the world is on course to return to pre-pandemic emissions levels and, without radical action, emissions will continue to rise steadily in the coming years. In the vital near term, when we need to massively roll back emissions this decade if we are to keep global heating below or near the critical 1.5C threshold, ambition is severely wanting. When totted up, the combined commitments of world governments will shave a measly 7.5 percent off global emissions by 2030 compared with 2010 levels, according to a UN assessment of national plans, rather than the 65 percent scientific research says is imperative.

To make matters even direr, governments appear to have been underreporting their countries’ emissions, partly thanks to creative “net” accounting that unrealistically exploits natural carbon sinks. The gap between actual and reported global emissions could be as high as 13.3bn tonnes a year, the equivalent of the exhaust of nearly 3 billion cars, a new Washington Post investigation estimates.

What all this reveals is that reporting net emissions and aiming for “net zero” is befogging the road ahead and leading to dangerous levels of procrastination and complacency on the part of governments and corporations. To properly illuminate the challenges on the horizon, we must abandon talk of “net zero” and speak about emissions and offsets separately. While offsetting can be used to compensate for essential and unavoidable economic activities, climate action must be overwhelmingly focused on reining in real emissions by 65 percent this decade. What we desperately need are climate heroes, not greenwashing zeroes.

—Courtesy Al Jazeera

Money laundering and economic policies

Dimah Talal Al-Sharif



Spring or allocating space for incorrect data is reasonable and safe when designing economic policy research responses

ANY economic policy requires a specific plan to be implemented during a particular period. The significance of that policy can be summarized as ensuring knowledge of the reality of the economic situation to develop it to a better position and status that contribute to the renaissance of the state and society in general. Undoubtedly, money laundering operations negatively affect the mechanisms used in formulating the country’s economic policies.

As a crime, money laundering operations, in particular, take place on a large scale and are difficult to measure due to their secretive and discrete nature, which leads to a distortion of the economic data necessary for the formation of these policies, as mentioned above.

Due to the inaccuracy of the data and information needed to prepare these policies, they result in incorrect calculations that will not lead to achieving the objectives of these desired policies, such as overestimating inflation rates, tax, and unemployment.

Many countries, especially those with free-flowing exchange rate economies, faced numerous obstacles due to the influx of large amounts of laundered money resulting in the high exchange rate or the expansion of the monetary base. In response, economic policymakers have wrongly responded to the data by adjusting fiscal or

monetary policies, eroding the effectiveness of both financial and fiscal policies.

Moreover, work is currently under progress at the international level to develop the best mechanisms to counter the harmful impact of money laundering crimes on financial systems and the real economy. Perhaps modern financial technologies used in economic transactions will make the innovators and developers of these technologies face a more significant challenge and policymakers. But what is the most appropriate way at present to deal with the impact of money laundering on policymaking?

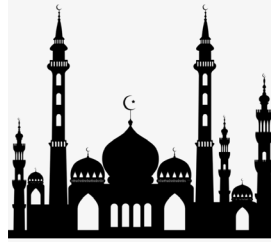
Sparing or allocating space for incorrect data is reasonable and safe when designing economic policy research responses.

These policy measures consider essential topics such as the role of prudential supervision of the financial systems in each state and regional and international cooperation between states and institutions.

In addition to forgoing greater diligence in setting, developing the legal framework, and determining the institutional obligations to implement the measures and procedures that would contribute to countering money laundering and combatting its implications, it would ensure that the risks associated with this crime are reduced as well.

—Courtesy Arab News

SERVICES



Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	05:20 am
Zohr.....	11:54 am
Asr.....	03:23 pm
Maghrib.....	05:01 pm
Isha.....	06:28 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
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Emergency Ambulance.....	1122 & Rescue Services.4451122
Motorway Police.....	9266044
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Rawalpindi.....	9270601-20



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CAA.....	9281092



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



Departments

CDA.....	9221334-43
CDA.....	9208301-04
Met Office.....	9250360-6
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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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German embassy holds short-film contest on Climate Change

The event was meant to create awareness of climate change and a sense of responsibility among the general public, especially school children and youth for collective climate action

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Islamabad organized an eco-film festival in the Fatima Jinnah (F-9) Park of Islamabad.

The event was meant to create awareness of climate change and a sense of responsibility among the general public, especially school children and youth for collective climate action.

An overwhelming number of children, parents and teachers from different schools attended the event. An animated film, "The Adventure Planet", was also projected in an open-air mode; and the participants remained engaged with the movie with enthusiasm and great interest.

H.E. Mr Philipp Deichmann, Deputy Head of German Mission in Islamabad accompanied by the first secretary Ms Dorota Berezicki, inaugurated the event by planting a tree, followed by his speech. Mr Philipp highlighted the 60 years of



Germany-Pakistan friendship under which Germany has provided financial and technical assistance to Pakistan. Under a recently signed "Germany-Pakistan climate and energy initiative", Germany will provide multimillion Euros over the com-

ing 3-4 years to enhance the capacity of Pakistani institutions to adapt to climate change and accelerate the country's efforts for significant change in society's attitude towards climate change and transition to a low-carbon future, said the diplomat.

He stressed the need to collaborate at the state level for devising a valuable strategy to mitigate the impacts of climate change and reduce the vulnerabilities. The embassy organized different environment games to educate the children on how climate

change affected our lives, foods, lifestyles, and our responsibilities to look after our planet. As per the theme of the event, only food stalls selling eco-friendly food items were allowed to serve the food on the event site, which was very much liked and appreciated by the guests and children. Parallel with this, a farmer's market was established to sell organic foods and health care products. Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) of Islamabad, Mr Shehryar Khan, thanked the German Embassy for organizing an informative and fabulous event for families and children.

The ADC was excited to see the farmer's market and desired to expand the market size for catering the organic food for a higher number of people, and he assured his support to scale up the organic food business. Moreover, the solid waste management company showed demonstrations to teach the children and families to segregate the solid waste at the source.

USC to hold E-Kachehry on Nov 25

The E-Kachehry will be held from 15:00 hours to 17:00 hours

ISLAMABAD: At the direction of Prime Minister Imran Khan, Managing Director (MD) of Utility Store Corporation (USC), Syed Taha Aziz Magrabi will hold an 'E-Kachehry' on Thursday, November 25.

A press release issued by the USC here states that this will be the second consecutive E-Kachehry to hear the concerns of the people and resolve their issues on the spot. The E-Kachehry will be held from 15:00 hours to 17:00 hours, the press release added.

The USC management has requested the masses to contact 051-111 123 570 for registering their issues and complaints. — APP

CDA to retrofit sodium street lights

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) is going to retrofit the traditional sodium street lights already installed in Islamabad to European standard LEDs lights.

According to the details, the CDA administration will sign an agreement with the Government organization (NICOP) to install these new LED lights at 40 percent of the cost. Under the agreement, conventional sodium street lights that run at 250 watts will run at 150 watts, while LED lights will have a 1,000-hour warranty.

In addition, these LED streetlights can be switched on and off automatically. The agreement will save billions of rupees in the installation of street lights in addition to significant energy savings.

In addition the retrofit lights will meet modern requirements and will also be very easy to repair and can be manufactured at low cost. It is to be noted that the government organization NICOP has expertise and experience in the field of retrofitting, therefore it has been decided to take benefit from these expertise. The agreement is being finalized. — APP

COMSTECH, LRBT training in Niger begins

ISLAMABAD: An advanced team of Pakistani doctors reached Niamey, Niger today early morning on a week visit to conduct Eye surgeries and training of local doctors in Niamey, capital of Niger, a west African least developed Muslim country. The objective is to deliver high quality cataract services to improve vision related quality of life and reduce blindness related poverty. The visit has been arranged by COMSTECH with the collaboration of Islamic Development Bank under its Alliances to Fight Avoidable Blindness (AFAB) programme. LRBT Pakistan is partner of COMSTECH in this campaign. It has been planned to conduct more than 400 cataract

eye surgeries and training workshops for learning cataract surgery with phacoemulsification under this campaign. Apart from clinics, the Pakistani team will also launch public awareness campaign about eye health. COMSTECH is an OIC organization based in Pakistan with the mandate to improve the scientific and technological capabilities of the OIC member states. LRBT-Pakistan is the largest NGO of Pakistan fighting blindness and transforming lives. LRBT provides state of the art comprehensive free eye-care in all 4 provinces of Pakistan with a network of 19 fully-equipped hospitals, 54 primary-eye-care-clinics and 4 outreach clinics. — APP

IGP directs for smooth traffic flow in peak hours

The IGP visited various roads of the city along with SSP (Traffic) Muhammad Omer Khan and asked to ensure safe road environment in the city through strict implementation on traffic rules

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Qazi Jameel ur Rehman has directed Islamabad traffic police to ensure smooth flow of traffic in the city during peak hours and take strict action against those involved in violation of rules.

The IGP visited various roads of the city along with SSP (Traffic) Muhammad Omer Khan and asked to ensure safe road environment in the city through strict implementation on traffic rules. Later, he visited ITP headquarters and was briefed about efforts of the force to control traffic mess and campaigns to check use

of fancy number plates and tinted glasses.

The IGP said that ITP would have to strictly follow its operational codes and achieve its objectives including equal application of law and coming upto the expectations of the public through hard work and commitment of its personnel.

The IGP said that he has great expectations from the force and it is duty of everyone in the force to accomplish the responsibilities in a dedicated manner. It is the hard work of traffic cops which brought great successes for ITP force, the IGP said and hoped for continuation of professional and honest attitude to bring more laurels for the force. He said that ITP has got im-

age of disciplined and corruption free force and further efforts should be made to inculcate friendly police ecology in the city besides enhancing liaison with citizens to bring improvement in traffic system.

Acknowledging the service of ITP, he said it has become model of excellence through its service-oriented policies and further endeavors must continue to come up to the expectations of the general public by ensuring traffic discipline in the city.

Islamabad police chief said that discipline plays crucial role in the success of any organization and helps in improving professionalism. He said that ITP is service oriented force and provi-

sion of prompt help to the distressed road users is the hallmark of the department.

The well-mannered conduct with commuters, courtesy and indiscriminate enforcement of law must be ensured to enhance the image of ITP, he added.

He also directed the police officials to ensure decent interaction with people and resolve public grievances through prompt action. He said that ITP is pursuing decent policing measures and its official perform duties in tough weather conditions to ensure convenience to citizens.

The purpose of the IGP's visit was to boost the morale of the force and provide them guideline to improve performance.

IGP Punjab visits Chakwal

RAWALPINDI: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab, Rao Sardar Ali Khan on Wednesday visited Chakwal district and inaugurated the newly constructed building of Neela Police Station. Addressing the participants, the IGP said, "The work of the police officers is in the field and I am also visiting the police stations of all the districts." He directed the Regional Police Officers (RPOs) and District Police Officers (DPOs) to improve the affairs of police stations under their command with effective supervision. He instructed the officers to increase the number of police personnel and keep the beat system active. The IGP ordered the officers concerned to eliminate slip system, nepotism and tout culture from police stations. Zero tolerance should be adopted against those responsible for corruption and abuse of power, Rao Sardar Ali Khan. — APP

Islam spread in subcontinent through Sufism

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Husain said on Wednesday the impression that Islam spread in the subcontinent by the power of sword was incorrect as it spread through the Sufi saints' message of love for humanity. Addressing the International Interfaith Peace Conference here, he said that teachings of the Sufi saints had two points one was oneness of Allah Almighty and the other was love for humanity. He said that Sufi saints including Data Ganj Baksh, Baba Farid, Bahauddin Zakria and saints from Multan played central role in conversation of non-Muslims to Islam in the region.

He said that Hazrat Muhammad (SAW) is called Rehmatul Lil Aalmeen, not Muslimeen only. He said that it was unfortunate that politics in the name of Islam has distorted its image in the eye of the world. He said that the word Islam means submission to the will of Allah, how could a true

Muslim indulge in extremist activities which was against the teachings of Islam. He said it was the duty of all Muslims to reject extremism in the name of religion. Fawad said that the Holy Prophet (SAW) was embodiment of mercy for entire humanity but some elements were trying to get personal benefits in the name of religion. There could be no greater injustice than using the name of the Holy Prophet for petty personal interests, he remarked. The minister said that Prime Minister Imran Khan was the true lover of the Holy Prophet (SAW) and raised the issue of Islamophobia at the United Nations and many other international forums. He said Islam taught peace and interfaith harmony to its followers which was essential for peaceful coexistence for the people of various faiths in the world. He said that religious scholars should play a proactive role in this regard, it was the responsibility of the government to take up external factors. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister for Climate Change, Malik Amin Aslam addressing to media persons during the signing ceremony for the launch of "Engro Forest Restoration & Carbon Offset Program" at Ministry of Climate Change. — APP



GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

No. CEMD-1/AB/2128

Dated:- 23.11.2021

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders on percentage rate basis are hereby invited from approved Firms/E/M Contractors having valid renewed license of PEC with relevant code for the year 2021-22 for the following work on 13/12/2021 which should reach in the office of the undersigned up to 11.00 A.M and will be opened on same day at 11.30 AM in the presence of participants or their authorized representatives. The tender documents can be purchased up to 10/12/2021 from the office of the undersigned on any working day during office hours on payment of tender cost (non-refundable) given Below:-

Tender should accompany earnest money in the shape of deposit at call equal mentioned below in the table Bid price from any schedule bank at Rawalpindi/ Islamabad in favour of Executive Engineer, Central E/M Division No. 1 PAK PWD Islamabad necessary documents v.z affidavit showing non litigation, Black Listing, sole Proprietorship / Partnership deed power of attorney, valid electrical license issued by Electrical Inspector and, copy of CNIC shall be produced at the time of purchase of Tender.

Other terms and conditions can be seen in the office of the undersigned during working Hours.

S.#	NAME OF WORK	NIT Amount	Earnest Money Amount	Tender Cost	Time
1	Establishment of Islamabad Model College for Boys G-15 Islamabad . (SH. Boring Work).	4,402,120	110,000	1000	15 Days

1. Tender documents shall not be sold by Post/Telegraphically, telex or email and will not be issued on the date of opening of tenders.
2. The tender received by post/ telegraphically or without valid call deposit or received after due date and time will not be entertained.
3. The bidder must visit the site of work before quoting their rates in the schedule of prices.
4. The call deposit will not be refunded till finalization of tender.

PID (J) No. 3389/21

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EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
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Say No to drugs



Briefs

Health
Corridor vital for
China and
Pakistan

BEIJING: Health Corridor is vital for the prosperity and healthy cooperation for China and Pakistan, said Abdul Rehman Khan from the School of Medicine at Zhejiang University in an interview with China Economic Net.

Rehman mentioned China Pakistan Medical Association (CPMA), which was inspired by the concept of China Pakistan Health Corridor and it established to strengthen the medical cooperation between the two countries. I'm always be ready to do something for it," Rehman showed his determination. "At present, the exchange of scholars between the two countries for further training is a crucial step. "With the best medical conditions, China always give a helping hand to Pakistan. I hope to learn advanced medical technology in China, serving my motherland in the future," said Abdul Rehman Recently, Abdul Rehman Khan published an academic paper on the title of Portal Vein Tumor Thrombosis and Hepatocellular Carcinoma- The Changing Tides in the well-known academic journal Hepatocellular Carcinoma as the first author, under the guidance of his supervisor Professor Xu Xiao, the Associate Dean of School of Medicine, the President of Affiliated Hangzhou First People's Hospital, Zhejiang University School of Medicine.

As a country with a high incidence of liver cancer, the global cancer report indicates that the number of liver cancer cases in China accounts for 46.7% of the global cases. Since there are no obvious symptoms of early liver cancer, most patients are already in the middle and late stage when they are first diagnosed, so that lost the opportunity for surgical resection. Liver cancer is the malignant tumor with the highest mortality rate among adult men under 60 in China.- APP

Kyrgyzstan
reports 43
Covid cases

BISHKEK: Kyrgyzstan on Wednesday reported 43 new COVID-19 cases, bringing its total caseload to 182,996, according to data from the country's Republican Headquarters for Combating COVID-19. The death toll from the virus rose by three to 2,732. Altogether 94 people recovered in the last 24 hours, bringing the total number of recoveries to 177,693, the data showed. The Central Asian country launched a nationwide vaccination campaign on March 29 after the arrival of China-donated Sinopharm vaccines. It is also inoculating its population with the Sputnik-V, AstraZeneca and Pfizer vaccines. To date, 1,081,986 people have been inoculated in the country, 864,456 of whom have received both shots. - APP

Ethiopia
PM's vow to
join war front

ADDIS ABABA: Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's vow this week to head for the front lines of his country's brutal year-long war has boosted recruitment for the beleaguered armed forces. At least one prominent distance runner - marathoner and Olympic silver medalist Feyisa Lelisa - has joined thousands of ordinary Ethiopians keen to follow Abiy's lead. World powers have voiced alarm about a military escalation that could scuttle efforts to broker a ceasefire, as rebels claim they are advancing towards the capital Addis Ababa and foreign governments tell their citizens to leave. On Wednesday hundreds of new army recruits took part in a ceremony held in their honour in the Kolfe district of Addis Ababa.

As officials corralled sheep and oxen into trucks bound for the north, the recruits broke into patriotic songs and chants. "I was amazed when I heard" Abiy planned to join soldiers in the field, one of the recruits, 42-year-old driver Tesfaye Sherefa, told AFP. "When a leader leaves his chair... and his throne it is to rescue his country. His focus is not to live, but to rescue this country, and I sobbed when he said 'follow me' and went to the front line." - APP

Pakistan, Belarus vow to
enhance agri cooperation

Ambassador Sajjad particularly mentioned about the strong intention of the Pakistan side to start export of fish products from Pakistan for which one of the top exporters of Pakistan was in the process of securing registration and import permit

DNA

MINSK: Ambassador's Meeting with the Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Belarus Ambassador Sajjad Haider Khan accompanied by the Deputy Head of Mission Muhammad Abdullah Amin, held a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food of Belarus, Mr. Ivan Smilgin who is also the Chief State Veterinarian of Belarus. Mr. Valery Bogdanovsky, Head of the International Cooperation Department, and Ms. Hanna Linkevich, Consultant of the International Cooperation Department also attended the meeting. Appreciating the ongoing cooperation, meetings of the Joint Working Group on Agriculture in July 2020 and participation in the trade exhibitions, the parties discussed the future development of beneficial cooperation between Pakistan and Belarus in the field of Agriculture. The Ambassador noted the positive increase in export from Belarus to Pakistan and highlighted



the importance of establishing a win win situation through balancing the trade, which currently is in favour of Belarus. In this regard, the Ambassadors particularly mentioned about the

strong intention of the Pakistan side to start export of fish products from Pakistan for which one of the top exporters of Pakistan was in the process of securing registration and import permit. The

Belarusian side showed its interests in export of meat and dairy products. Moreover, the Ambassador also expressed interest of Pakistani companies in participating in the

Belagro exhibition scheduled in June 2022 in Minsk. Belarus exports to Pakistan tractors and spare parts for them, trucks, potash fertilizers, synthetic yarns and synthetic fibers, tires, machine tools, polycarboxylic acids (phthalic anhydride), newsprint, baby food (dry mixes). Pakistan exports to Belarus rice, vegetables, fruits and other food products, products from leather, fabrics, textiles, sports equipment, surgical instruments and manicure sets. Source: According to the results in January-August 2021, trade with Pakistan amounted to \$ 53.2 million. The export of Belarusian goods amounted to \$ 44.3 million, imports - \$ 8.9 million. The bilateral trade balance is positive for Belarus (\$ 35.3 million). The cooperation between the business circles of Belarus and Pakistan is structured within the framework of the Joint Belarus-Pakistani Business Council established by the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Federation of Pakistani Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Amb. Hamid Asghar meets
Rabat's first female Mayor

RABAT: Ambassador of Pakistan to Morocco Hamid Asghar Khan met with the newly elected Mayor of Rabat Asma Rhlalou who is the first lady to be elected to this prestigious post. With a background in journalism and a previous stint as member of Parliament, she brings drive and enthusiasm to the task of further developing this city as the clean, green capital of Morocco.- DNA

Beijing mode
may boost
organic
peach

BEIJING: Beijing mode may boost organic peach growing in Pakistan, says a report published by China Economic Net (CEN) on Wednesday. The report says, peaches are known as the "Queen" of fruits in Pakistan. It is a remarkable fruit, having a delicious taste and a good looking color. Pakistan's peach season usually starts in May and continues till the first week of September. According to a report by the Crop Reporting Service of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a total of 6,330 hectares are dedicated to growing the fruit in the province. Swat produced 5,280 tonnes of peaches in 2018-2019, whereas Peshawar produced 1,066 tonnes. Nasir Khan, an orchard owner from Swat told China Economic Net that peach is becoming the main source of income for the farmers of Swat. "If we have advanced cultivating and processing technology, we can add value to our peaches and export to other countries," he said. In Beijing's Pinggu district, this common fruit has become a business opportunity for local peach growers. In 2017, Pinggu government launched an "Ecological Bridge" project, which is a sustainable ecological cycle model of "resources-agricultural products-waste-renewable resources". - Agencies

France records
30,000 new
virus cases

PARIS: France recorded more than 30,000 new coronavirus cases Tuesday, raising concerns about the unprecedented increase in the nation's fifth wave. A total of 30,454 new infections were recorded in the last 24 hours, according to the latest health data. The last time that figure was recorded was Aug. 11, with 30,920 cases. Health Minister Olivier Veran told lawmakers in the national assembly that the new cases marked "a very significant increase which attests that we are, unfortunately, in a fifth epidemic wave." He said 6 million adults remain unvaccinated and "that's too much."

Bangladesh
resumes
moving
Rohingya

COX'S BAZAR: Bangladesh has resumed moving Rohingya refugees to a remote and flood-prone island, authorities said Wednesday, despite criticism from aid groups and claims some are being relocated against their will. Nearly 20,000 members of the stateless minority, who fled neighbouring Myanmar in 2017 after a brutal military crackdown, have already been sent to Bhashan Char island. Bangladesh eventually wants to rehouse 100,000 of its approximately one million Rohingya refugees to the island, moving them from cramped relief camps on the mainland. But hundreds already sent there have since been arrested in coastal towns after fleeing the island, and dozens died in August after a fishing boat carrying escapees capsized. Another 2,000 Rohingya will nonetheless be transferred this week, the country's deputy refugee commissioner Moazzem Hossain told AFP, more than six months after the last group was sent there. "Navy ships will bring them to the island on Thursday," he added. The UN refugee agency signed a deal with Bangladesh authorities to provide help and protection to refugees on the island last month. Hossain told AFP that all relocations were completely voluntary, but several refugees said they were being forced to move there. "We don't want to go to Bhashan Char," a Rohingya woman told AFP by phone, speaking on the condition of anonymity. She said a Rohingya community leader in the camps had added her name to a list of people seeking to relocate without her consent. "If I go to Bhashan Char, I will not be able to go back to Myanmar. I will not go," she added. One Rohingya community leader, who also asked to remain anonymous, said Bangladesh authorities had told him and his peers to each provide lists of at least five families to be relocated. - APP

Switzerland on edge ahead
of Covid-19 pass vote

GENEVA: The Swiss will vote on Sunday on the country's Covid-19 laws, after a campaign characterised by unprecedented levels of hostility in the wealthy Alpine nation, including even death threats. Like in much of Europe, Switzerland has seen growing anger over restrictions and vaccine pressure aimed at reigning in the pandemic. But in a country renowned for its culture of compromise, and where referendums take place every few months in a climate of civility and measured debate, the soaring tensions around the upcoming vote have come

as a shock. Police have upheld security around a number of politicians, Health Minister Alain Berset included, who have faced a flood of insults and death threats. "We have seen an increase in threats since the start of the pandemic, with unprecedented virulence," the federal police told AFP. Fences have also been erected around the government and parliament buildings in Bern to protect them during anti-vax demonstrations. Such protests, with their chants of "Freedom! Freedom!", have taken place with increasing frequency across the country.

They are often led by the so-called "Freiheitstrychler", or "Freedom ringers" - men dressed in white shirts embroidered with edelweiss flowers and with two large cowbells suspended from a yoke resting on their shoulders. The crowds that follow them are fairly diverse, sociologists say, although young men further to the right of the political spectrum are over-represented. Some of the demonstrations have led to violent clashes with police, who have used rubber bullets and tear gas to rein in the crowds. - APP

Benzema gets one
year suspended term

VERSAILLES: A French court on Wednesday gave Real Madrid striker Karim Benzema a one-year suspended sentence for complicity in a bid to blackmail his former France teammate Mathieu Valbuena with a sex tape. The sentence was tougher than that sought by prosecutors against the 33-year-old player over the 2015 extortion attempt, which led Benzema to be cast out of the France team for five-and-a-half years. Benzema was not in court in the Paris suburb of Versailles for the verdict, which comes hours before Real Madrid take on Sheriff Tiraspol in a Champions League game in Moldova. His defence team immediately announced plans for an appeal. Speaking to reporters at the courthouse, one of his lawyers, Sylvain Cormier, said he was "quite stunned by the ruling". The prosecution had called for Benzema, who was one of five people charged over an affair that rocked the French national team, to be given a 10-month suspended sentence. - Agencies

Rizwan moves up to
fourth in T20I rankings

SPORTS DESK

DUBAI: New Zealand opener Martin Gupthill has returned to the top 10 of the ICC Men's T20I Rankings for batters after registering scores of 70, 31 and 51 in the recently concluded three-match T20I series against India. He has gained three spots as he sits at No.10 on the batters' chart. KL Rahul, who made a match-winning 49-ball 65 in the second T20I versus the Black Caps, moved up one spot to No.5. Meanwhile, India skipper Rohit Sharma, who was consistent with the bat throughout the series, also progressed two spots to No.13. After missing the New Zealand T20I series, India star Virat Kohli dropped out of the top 10 for batters, falling three places to No.11 Mitchell Santner made significant gains in the bowlers' list, soaring 10 spots to No.13 while India pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar has moved up to No.19 after gaining five spots. India spinners R Ashwin (up 129 spots to No.92) and Axar Patel are also among the top gainers. Deepak Chahar has made notable gains in both bowlers and all-rounders charts - climbed up 19 spots to No.40 and 83 spots to 163 - respectively. In the three-match T20I series in Bangladesh, Mohammad Rizwan gained one spot, moving up to No.4 after accounting for 39 and 40 in the final two T20Is while young batter Haider Ali, who made a note-worthy 38-ball 45 in the final T20I, gained 53 spots to 184.



RIYADH: Ambassador of Pakistan to Saudi Arabia Bilal Akbar called on Ajan bin Abdul Aziz Al-Ajlan, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Riyadh Chamber of Commerce. During the meeting several matters of mutual interest were discussed. - DNA

Briefs

PM approves ERRA's merger with NDMA

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday gave in-principle approval to the merger of Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) into National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

The decision was taken at the 14th meeting of the ERRA Council chaired by the prime minister and attended by Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Mahmood Khan, Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister Khalid Khurshid, Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi, National Assembly members Saleh Muhammad, Abdullah Khan and Chairman ERRA Lt Gen Akhtar Nawaz.

The prime minister issued directives to hand over 2,200 completed projects of ERRA to the concerned provincial governments and departments and for early completion of 230 under-progress projects by the year's end. He stressed considering proper guidelines of construction in areas on geological fault lines to sustain earthquakes.

He also urged promotion of tourism in areas particularly northern areas, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan.

EU health agency calls for 'urgent' measures

STOCKHOLM: The European Union health agency on Wednesday called on member states to "urgently" introduce measures to reduce the potentially "very high burden" from Covid-19 in December and January.

The director of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), Andrea Ammon, recommended Covid booster shots for all adults over the age of 18, "with a priority for people above 40 years old".

The agency also urged countries to increase their overall vaccination rates, especially those with low uptake. Under 70 percent of the overall population in the EU and the European Economic Area (Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland) have been fully vaccinated.

"This leaves a large vaccination gap that cannot be bridged rapidly and gives ample room for the virus to spread," the ECDC said. "We need to urgently focus on closing this immunity gap, offer booster doses to all adults, and reintroduce non-pharmaceutical measures," Ammon said in video remarks. — Agencies

Morocco, Israel sign first-ever defence deal

WEB DESK

RABAT: Israel and Morocco have signed a landmark agreement that lays the foundation for security cooperation, intelligence sharing, and future arms sales.

The memorandum of understanding between Israeli Defence Minister Benny Gantz and his Moroccan counterpart Abdellatif Loudiyi was signed on Wednesday in Rabat, as part of the first official visit by an Israeli defence minister to one of the Arab states that normalised ties last year. Morocco, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Sudan signed agreements to normalise relations with Israel in 2020 as part of the Abraham Accords, which were brokered by the Trump administration.

In a statement, Gantz said that the agreement was "very significant and will allow us to exchange ideas, enter joint projects and enable Israeli military exports here."

Gantz also met with the Moroccan military chief of staff and was greeted by a colour guard of soldiers clad in red tunics, blue slacks and gleaming gold epaulettes.



COLOMBO: President RCCI Ch Nadeem A. Rauf along with Group Leader RCCI Mr. Sohail Altaf, Vice President Talat Awan and Chairman Awards Ceremony Usman Shaukat presenting souvenir to the chief guest of awards ceremony Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. — DNA

Inter-civilizational dialogue vital to curb hunger, poverty

Addressing at the International Interfaith Peace Conference, the foreign minister said promotion of inter-faith harmony had assumed unparalleled significance in today's polarized world characterized by extremism, supremacist ideologies, conflicts, and festering disputes

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Wednesday emphasized the need for a genuine inter-civilizational dialogue and interfaith harmony to save billions of people from conflict, poverty, disease, and hunger. Addressing at the International Interfaith Peace Conference, the foreign minister said promotion of inter-faith harmony had assumed unparalleled significance in today's polarized world characterized by extremism, supremacist ideologies, conflicts, and festering disputes.

The foreign minister said Pakistan was committed to sparing no effort to promote harmony and understanding between different religions, cultures, and civilizations. He said the global Covid-19 pandemic was a wake-up call for all

that had led to the realization that shunning conflicts and intolerance and promoting understanding and cooperation hold the key to the survival of mankind.

He mentioned that Pakistan was at the forefront of efforts to promote understanding of the deep veneration held by Muslims for their Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him).

He stressed that the West must not encourage or tolerate the abuse of freedom of expression to injure the sentiments of nearly two billion Muslims. He said Islam firmly rejects notions of racial superiority and discrimination on the basis of caste and creed.

Despite malicious propaganda, he said, there was a growing realization in the world that Islam is a religion of peace that does not condone, encourage or promote terrorism or violent extremism.



The foreign minister referred to the Last Sermon of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) as the "most definitive and unequivocal rejection of racism" and a timeless beacon of hope for humanity. He said Pakistan had a rich tradition of tolerance, understanding, and respect for the cultural values of minorities. The spirit of interfaith harmony is reflected in the green and white of our national

flag and is codified in our constitution, he said.

Qureshi mentioned that the country's founding father Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's speech before the Constituent Assembly on 11 August 1947 was a forceful enunciation of religious tolerance.

He said Pakistan is the land of Sufi saints whose message of respect for diversity, humanism and compassion resonates across the country. Being on the crossroads of civilizations, he said, Pakistan is a rich mosaic characterized by a confluence of cultures and amalgamation of ideas and wisdom.

He mentioned that guided by Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision of promoting tolerance and interfaith harmony, Pakistan had opened up Kartarpur Corridor for the Sikh brethren. Similarly, efforts are underway to protect religious sites and promote festivals

of other religions.

Qureshi pointed out that the Government of Pakistan's vision and efforts stood in stark contrast with the policies and actions of India's Bharatiya Janta Party government which was driven by racism and intolerance.

The plight of minorities in general, and Kashmiris in particular flies in the face of India's claims of being a secular and democratic country, he said.

He urged upon the world to make the Indian government realize that sacrificing Muslims and other minorities at the altar of populism poses a grave threat to humanist ideals as well as regional peace and security. He expressed confidence that Ulema and Mashaikh would strengthen the government's hand in promoting interfaith harmony within Pakistan and with the rest of the world.

HIVE wins Mandela-Graça Machel Innovation Award

HIVE is the only Pakistani organization that has won the award for its innovative campaigning against extremism

KARACHI: Named after human rights icon Nelson Mandela and former First Lady of South Africa and Mozambique, Graça Machel, the awards are led by global civil society alliance, CIVICUS and seek to celebrate, promote, and defend a worldwide community of informed and inspired citizens engaged in confronting the challenges facing humanity.

The 2021 Innovation Awards recognise groups that stand out for their innovative work building people power in support of human rights and social justice for everyone. Through a public

open call, submissions were accepted and the winners were selected from a pool of inspiring applicants from over 70 countries. An external committee of civil society leaders and activists with thematic expertise reviewed and selected seven winners. Each winner will receive US\$5000 in recognition of their work in promoting people power, human rights and social justice.

The winner in the category of "creating positive narratives for people power" was HIVE Pakistan. HIVE Pakistan is a social impact organization based

in Islamabad working to address issues of extremism and marginalization through innovative campaigning, youth-focused mentorship and upstream mobilization. HIVE Pakistan's campaign that won the award is called AIK - Better Together which uses life-size hologram of the founder of Pakistan, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, to advocate for an equal and inclusive Pakistan. Quaid-e-Azam's own statements on interfaith harmony, inclusive development, women empowerment and pluralism are re-created using 3D holographic technology and screened in public places

for mass engagement. HIVE has carried out the campaign in six cities so far engaging more than 50,000 people on the ground and reached out to millions of youths online.

Syed Ali Abbas Zaidi, Executive Director of HIVE Pakistan upon receiving the award said, "It is therefore incumbent upon us to disrupt hate, divisiveness and reclaim technology as a tool for social good. This would require sustained efforts to challenge extremism, promote local solutions and invest in technologies that have the potential of driving impact. — APP

Sweden's Andersson elected as nation's first woman PM

STOCKHOLM: Sweden's parliament on Wednesday elected Social Democratic party leader and current Finance Minister Magdalena Andersson as the country's first woman prime minister, after she clinched a last-minute deal securing key support.

Andersson will succeed outgoing Prime Minister Stefan Löfven after a total of 117 members of parliament voted for her, while 57 abstained, 174 voted against and one was absent. Under Sweden's system, a prime ministerial candidate does not need the support of a majority in parliament, they just need to not have a majority - or 175 votes - against them. The 54-year-old, who took over as leader of the Social Democrats earlier this month, reached a deal with the Left Party late on Tuesday to raise pensions in exchange for its backing in Wednesday's vote. She had previously received the support of the Social Democrats' coalition partner the Greens, as well as the Centre Party. However, Andersson faced her first setback even before her election on Wednesday.

The Centre Party announced that while it would not oppose Andersson in the vote for prime minister, it would withdraw its support for the government's budget to be voted on later Wednesday, due to the concessions made to the Left. — APP



Sanctions on Afghanistan hamper relief efforts

United Nations WFP in its report said that 23mn Afghans would acutely go short of food this winter which was now starting, adding, "70 percent are already apportioning food, 60 percent are borrowing from others and on top of that more than 30 percent are reporting shortage of medicines"

ISLAMABAD: National Security Adviser (NSA) Dr Moeed Yusuf on Wednesday said the world community has to focus its efforts to ensure relief and assistance to over 35 million Afghan nationals at the brink of human catastrophe as financial sanctions were hampering international donor agencies' aid endeavors in the war torn country.

In his interview to CNN's anchorperson Becky Anderson's programme Connect the World, the NSA said, "It is necessary for the audience and the anchorperson to understand what kind of human disaster we are going to face in Afghanistan."

Dr Moeed said the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in its report said that 23 million Afghans would acutely go short of food this winter which was now starting, adding, "70 percent are already apportioning food, 60 percent are borrowing from others and on top of that more than 30 percent are reporting shortage of medicines."

The NSA said the Western outlets were also reporting that Afghan women were selling

Pakistan allows Indian aid transit to Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD: The government of Pakistan on Tuesday granted permission to India to use its land route to ship wheat aid to neighbouring Afghanistan, where millions of people face hunger as a harsh winter sets in. Islamabad will also send aid, the prime minister's office said in a statement, including 50,000 metric tons of wheat, matching the level sent by India. "As a goodwill gesture towards the brotherly Afghan people, the government of Pakistan has decided to allow the transportation of 50,000 Metric Tonnes of wheat and

their children to buy household commodities. "Imagine what reaction we would get when it was happening somewhere closer to the shores where you are sitting now," he pointed out to the anchorperson. "This has to be beyond politics and any question of Taliban, right now the world

life-saving medicines from India to Afghanistan via Wagah Border on an exceptional basis for humanitarian purposes," the Foreign Office said in a statement.

The FO said the decision of the government of Pakistan was formally conveyed to the Charge d' Affaires of India, here at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today. "We have approved to give passage to this 50,000 tons of wheat that India wants to send to Afghanistan," Information Minister Fawad told a news conference following a federal cabinet meeting with PM Imran in the chair. — APP

has to focus on getting assistance for the sake of 35-40 million afghans who are going to suffer its really about them at this point, so Pakistan is doing what it can," the NSA mentioned. He said Pakistan was not a rich country and donated some \$30million and there were

also private donations being given to Afghanistan. "The real issue is that why is not international humanitarian organizations being allowed to get money into Afghanistan to provide in kind assistance to pay salaries to health staff," he questioned.

"Humanitarian assistance has been pledged, a lot of it, by the western countries and others in the world," he said and added that the reason that the money was not getting across was the banking channels. "Its just one thing that are some sanctions that have made the banks very cautious and so that we are not allowing even the UN, WFP, ICRC to run their own bank accounts to get their money into Afghanistan, purchase things and give it to afghans who are going to potentially die this winter," he warned. He underlined that it should be made clear that humanitarian assistance was already exempted from any sanctions or the government of Taliban it has nothing to do with them. "This money is going to go to international organizations who are directly going to feed and support the average Afghan woman and man who we all profess wanting to protect," he said. — APP

16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In honor of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence (GBV), the U.S. government, through the Public Affairs section of U.S. Embassy Islamabad, awarded a grant to women's rights activist and social media influencer Kanwal Ahmed to produce two documentary short films on gender-based violence issues facing women in Pakistan.

The 16 Days of Activism campaign will run from November 25 to December 10, and Ms. Ahmed's documentary films will premiere on U.S. Embassy Islamabad social media platforms on November 25 and December 6. Ms. Ahmed's documentary films depict GBV victims as well as women who have dedicated their lives to assisting victims of GBV. GBV continues to be an issue of serious concern in Pakistan and worldwide.

Preventing and responding to all forms of GBV is a cornerstone of the U.S. government's commitment to promoting democracy, advancing human rights, and furthering gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, in all their diversity.

Filmmaker Kanwal Ahmed is the founder of Soul Sisters Pakistan, a women-only online space with membership from across Pakistan and South Asia, and a YouTube series "Conversations with Kanwal." To see Ms. Ahmed's short films and follow our social media campaign for the 16 Days of Activism against GBV, please follow our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages below.

Rupee weakens against dollar

ISLAMABAD: The exchange rate of the Pakistan rupee weakened by 74 paisas against the US dollar in the interbank trading on Wednesday and closed at Rs175.04 as compared to the previous day's closing of Rs174.30.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollars in the open market were recorded at Rs175.75 and Rs177.25 respectively. Similarly, the price of the euro was appreciated by 79 paisas and closed at Rs196.93 against the last day's trading of Rs196.14, the State Bank of Pakistan reported.

The Japanese Yen gained one paisa to close at Rs1.52, whereas an increase of 81 paisas was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs234.16 as compared to its last closing of Rs233.35.

The exchange rates of Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal increased by 20 paisas each to close at Rs47.65 and Rs46.66 respectively. — APP

Russia to boost military

MOSCOW: Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said on Wednesday that the country needed to further develop its armed forces in the face of "increased NATO activity" on its borders.

"The difficult military and political situation in the world and the increased activity of NATO countries near the Russian borders require further quality development of the armed forces," Shoigu told officials in televised remarks. Among the Russian armed forces' priorities are "increasing their effectiveness, maintaining the combat readiness of nuclear forces and strengthening the potential of non-nuclear deterrent forces," the defence minister added.

Western countries have this month raised the alarm over reported Russian military activity near Ukraine, with the US saying it has "real concerns" over a new troop build-up on the border. Moscow has dismissed mounting Western claims that Russia may be preparing to invade Ukraine and says any military build-up is a response to growing NATO activity near its borders. — APP