



Islamabad POST

Friday, November 26, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

Palestine appreciates Belgium's decision to label settler products

Detailed News On Page-08

Enhanced Asia-Europe links vital: Qureshi

Detailed News On Page-08



Pakistan will continue its role for peace

Detailed News On Page-01



Briefs

Chairman NAB hits back at critics

ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: LAHORE: Chairman National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Justice Javed Iqbal Thursday hit back at critics after questions were raised about the recoveries made by the anti-graft body and where the amount was deposited. Speaking at an event in Lahore, Justice (ret'd) Javed Iqbal said that the "storm in a teacup is created about where billions of rupees of recovery have gone." "Not all recovered amount is in cash that can be deposited in the national treasury," he said.

Media houses must be accountable

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said on Thursday that media accountability should be part of the reform agenda. Journalism in Pakistan was mainly controlled by media tycoons, the minister said in a tweet. Fawad Hussain said that most of the big media houses did not even dare to publish the advertisement data issued by the government yesterday. He said that in the name of freedom of expression, "blackmailing forts" have been built which must be demolished.

Pakistan thrown in debt-trap

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Secretary General Ahsan Iqbal said on Thursday that the Imran's government has thrown the country into a debt trap. Speaking at a press conference, the PML-N stalwart said that the PTI government has taken more foreign loans than the accumulated tenures of the PML-N and PPP government. "PM Imran said that he is formulating a debt commission to assess the foreign loans.

PPDA calls off nationwide petrol strike

Fawad breaks 'good news'; sources privy to the matter said that an increase of Rs0.99 in petroleum dealers margin is expected soon

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association (PPDA) on Thursday agreed to call off the countrywide petrol strike. Sources privy to the matter said that an increase of Rs0.99 in petroleum dealers margin is expected soon. On Wednesday, the PPDA had announced to go on a countrywide strike from today (November 25) to register their protest at what they call "low-profit margins". The association had said they will not hold talks with authorities till their profit margins on the sale of petroleum products are not increased by 6%. Earlier, the ministry of energy and petroleum had sent the approval for an increase in the margins of oil marketing companies (OMCs) to the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC), the spokesperson had said. "The dealers' margin has been increasing by Rs0.20 in the past," he said, adding that this time a request for an increase of Rs0.99 has been made which will "offset all past losses incurred by the dealers." In its summary, the petroleum division has suggested raising the profit margin of the Oil Manufacturing Companies (OMCs) by 71 paisas per litre on petrol and high-speed diesel. It has also been recommended to hike the OMCs' profit margin from Rs2.97 to Rs3.68.

Public suffers as petrol pumps shut down

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The public's miseries multiplied as they could not even buy expensive petrol as filling stations across Pakistan shut down on the call of the petroleum dealers who were demanding more profits. The petrol pumps have been shut almost in all the cities including Karachi, Lahore, Multan, Islamabad, Peshawar, Faisalabad and Gujranwala. A few fuel stations were seen open in Karachi but the common man as usual was at the receiving end as the public transport also ran thin. There were also reports that diesel along with petrol was also not available in Karachi. The petroleum dealers said they would not do business below the six percent margin. If the government wanted to cancel their licences it should go ahead, they added.

Continued on Page 06

Afghan peace means peace in Pakistan: COAS

The Army Chief expressed these remarks in a meeting with top Italian defense official



RAWALPINDI: Lieutenant General Luciano Portolano, Secretary General of Defence & National Armaments Director, Italy calls on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ. - DNA

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Secretary General of Defence & National Armaments Director, Italy, Lieutenant General Luciano Portolano Thursday called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa, at GHQ. According to an Inter-Services Public Relations statement matters of mutual interest, regional security situation including the recent

developments in Afghanistan and with particular reference to enhanced military cooperation in the field of training and counter-terrorism domains were discussed during the meeting. COAS said that Pakistan values Italy's role in global and regional affairs and we look forward to enhancing our bilateral relationship. Chief of Army Staff also emphasized the urgency for swiftly devising an institutional mechanism for channelling humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan in order to avert a looming humanitarian catastrophe. He asserted that "Peace in Afghanistan means peace in Pakistan". The visiting dignitary acknowledged the professionalism of the Pakistan Armed Forces and vowed to enhance cooperation in various fields. He also appreciated Pakistan's role in the Afghan situation, special efforts for border management and role in regional stability.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassadors of European Union photographed on the occasion of International Day of Combating Violence Against Women, at the EU residence. - DNA

Govt faces Opp ire over fuel issue

Maryam says Govt's apathy and incompetency has forced people to wait in long queues; Bilawal terms govt incompetent

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The Opposition lashed out at the government over the ongoing petrol crisis, as thousands of people lined up to get their tanks filled after Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association (PPDA) announced a countrywide strike Thursday. PML-N Vice-President Maryam Nawaz said the government's "apathy and incompetency" had forced people to wait in long queues to get wheat, sugar, and petrol. Terming it "the height of injustice", Maryam said that despite all the chaos, the government has been "inconsiderate" towards the masses. The PML-N leader claimed she had never witnessed Prime Minister Imran Khan "being worried over a common man's problems."

PM all praise for overseas Pakistanis

Khan says nine million overseas Pakistanis are "immensely contributing to the country's economy"



SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday stressed the need to incentivise and provide VIP treatment to overseas Pakistanis as they sent remittances to the country. The premier was addressing the launching ceremony of the Sohni Dharti Remittance Programme (SDRP), which will award points to overseas Pakistanis for sending remittances through the legal channels, media reported. The prime minister said

nine million overseas Pakistanis were "immensely contributing to the country's economy". PM Imran Khan said the government appreciated their role in helping to bridge the gap between exports and imports - as remittances sent by them slightly offset the widening current account deficit. The government is determined to extend all possible facilitation to overseas Pakistanis to encourage them to send their money through banking channels, the prime minister said. Further, the premier said overseas Pakistanis could now buy houses and invest in real estate through the Roshan Digital initiative. He said the government was working on a plan to give them concession in taxes as well. For his part, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance Shaukat Tarin said the programme was

Recovering forest land priority: PM

AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Thursday while calling the retrieval of forest land from land grabbers and encroachers as the government's priority, directed the authorities concerned for urgent steps to multiply country's forest cover through forestation on encroached land. The prime minister, chairing a meeting of the National Coordinating Committee (NCC) on Housing, Construction and Development, said it was essential to curb the unauthorised use of land and restrict horizontal sprawl of housing societies. Such measures would ensure food security and ease the provision of better civic amenities like water and sewerage, he added.

Continued on Page 06

KSA allows direct entry from Pak

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia on Thursday announced that it will allow Pakistani travellers to directly enter the kingdom starting December 1, 2021. According to a report by the Saudi Gazette, aside from Pakistan, the new directives will also be applicable to citizens of several other countries, including Indonesia, Brazil, Vietnam, Egypt, and India starting from next Wednesday, December 1, 2021. - DNA

Estd. 1860

MURREE BREWERY

ISO 9001, 14001, HACCP & OHSAS Certified Company

MAZEY KI DOUBLE DOSE

Trendy drink for trendy people

f murreebrewerycompany www.murreebrewery.com

Inside...

- Czech envoy calls for strengthening trade ties - Page 02
- Police to work hard to live up to expectations - Page 03
- Malaysia interested to foster trade ties with Pakistan - Page 04
- Saudi Arabia's exciting journey into a reimagined future - Page 05
- Real Madrid beat Sheriff Tiraspol to reach last 16 - Page 06
- Poland accuses Belarus of helping migrants to cross border - Page 07
- Over 1,100 tons of relief items sent to Afghanistan - Page 08

Pakistan will continue its role for regional peace: Bilawal

The PPP Chairman was talking to Nigel Casey, a senior diplomat from the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, who called on him



NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Nigel Casey, a senior diplomat from the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office accompanied by Mike Nithavrianakis, Deputy High Commissioner Karachi called on the Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari at Bilawal House on Thursday. The UK envoy exchanged views about the bilateral ties between the two countries and

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Azerbaijan
envoy visits
Punjab
University

LAHORE: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Mr Khazar Farhadov visited Punjab University and called on Vice-Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmad Akhtar at his office. Pro-Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Muhammad Saleem Mazhar, Regional Integration Centre Director Dr Fouzia Hadi Ali, Centre for Global Strategic Studies' representative Maj (r) Perwaiz Bhatti and deans of various faculties were present on the occasion.

Addressing the meeting, PU VC Prof Niaz Ahmad briefed the delegation about PU and said that there was need to promote bilateral relations among higher education institutions of both the countries. He said that there should be exchange of teachers and students among the universities of both the countries. Later, the Ambassador visited PU Department of History and Pakistan Studies and delivered a lecture on "Azerbaijan and Pakistan Relations: A Historical Perspective". Condolences: Punjab University Chief Medical Officer Dr Muhammad Akram's son has passed away. He was suffering from cancer. His funeral prayers were offered at PU ground in which PU Vice-Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmad Akhtar, Pro-VC Prof Saleem Mazhar, Registrar Dr Muhammad Khalid Khan, deans of various faculties, faculty members, employees and relatives participated.

'Ehsaas
Rashan'
a flagship
initiative

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar Thursday termed the Ehsaas Rashan programme a flagship initiative to provide subsidies to poverty-stricken families on essential items including flour, cooking oil and pulses.

He was talking to Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation Dr Sania Nishtar, who called on him here and discussed Ehsaas Rashan programme with him. The CM said Karyana shops would be registered in the province for execution of the programme and ministers, parliamentarians, as well as administrative officials, would be assigned to make it a success.

Usman Buzdar extended full support for the success of the Ehsaas Rashan programme and announced leading it in Punjab. The initiative would provide genuine relief to the impecunious strata, he commented and affirmed that looking after the indigent stratum was a responsibility of the state. Dr Sania Nishtar expressed the desire to open one-window centres in every tehsil and thanked the CM for the assistance provided by the Punjab government. "You have already played important role in the success of the Ehsaas programme," she told the CM.

President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) NBP Arif Usmani, Senior Executive Vice President (EVP) Digital Banking Muhammad Humayun Sajjad, Provincial Social Welfare Minister Syed Yawar Abbas Bukhari, P&D chairman, secretaries of finance, industries and social welfare departments and others were also present. — APP

No disruption
in petrol sale
in Faisalabad

DNA

FAISALABAD: Petrol sale at all petrol pumps continued without any disruption here on Thursday.

A spokesman for the administration said that Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ali Shehzad had already evolved a comprehensive strategy and activated the assistant commissioners across the district to ensure supply of petrol to the public at all petrol pumps.

Petrol pumps of almost all companies remained open in Faisalabad and the strike call by All Pakistan Petroleum Association failed to get response, he added.



LAHORE: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov in a group photo with the officials of the Punjab University, during his recent visit to the University. — DNA

Czech envoy calls for
strengthening trade ties

The SCCI chief called for simplifying the visa issuance process for the business community, promotion of mutual cooperation, bringing the business community closer to both countries to take benefits from each other's experiences, holding of joint trade exhibitions

DNA

PESHAWAR: The Ambassador of the Republic of Czech to Pakistan, Mr Tomas Smetanka Thursday said that his country is keen to strengthen bilateral trade and economic relations with Pakistan.

However, he urged Pakistan investors to take full benefits from Generalized Preferences Scheme-Plus (GPS+) status — granting a duty-free access to Pakistani manufacturing products to the EU market and make investment in potential sectors in Czech Republic that would help further strengthen mutual cooperation in multi-facet sectors as well as economic and trade relationship.

Mr Smetanka was addressing a meeting with the business community here at Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) here. President SCCI, Hasnain Khurshid Ahmad presided over the meeting.

Besides, former presidents Faiz Muhammad Faizi, Zahidullah Shinwari, Sherbaz Bilour, former senior vice president Engineer Manzoor Elahi, ex-vice president Abdul Jalil Jan, Abdullah Yousafzai, executive members Fazal Muqem, Ejaz Khan Afridi, Muhammad Ashfaq, Malik Mo-



hsin Sajjad, Zahoor Khan, Ihsanullah, Fazal e Wadud, Shams Rahim, Fazal e Wahid, Saddam Gul, a large number of members of business community, exporters and importers were in attendance on the occasion. Barrister Asad Saifullah Khan, Honorary Consul General (CG) of Republic of Czech in Peshawar and Deputy Head to Honorary Consul General, Malik Riaz Ahmad Awan, Ifikhar Khan, others also present in the meeting. Hasnain Khurshid while stressing the need of bolstering mutual

trade and economic ties between Pakistan and Republic of Czech said that the mutual trade volume between the two countries would be further enhanced by ripping the benefits of GPS+ status.

The SCCI chief said that there is huge potential to boost up mutual trade and economic relations between Pakistan and the Republic of Czech, which should be exploited effectively and efficiently. He invited investors from the Republic of Czech to make investment in potential sectors of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa like tourism/

hospitality, hydel power generation, oil, gas, mine and mineral, gemstones, honey, pharma etc. He hoped that it can help to further improve the mutual trade and economic relations between the two countries.

The SCCI chief called for simplifying the visa issuance process for the business community, promotion of mutual cooperation, bringing the business community closer to both countries to take benefits from each other's experiences, holding of joint trade exhibitions, Business 2

Business meetings. Tomas Smetanka said that his country is making vigorous efforts to further improve bilateral trade and economic ties with Pakistan. He said Pakistan had granted GPS+ status, through which Pakistanis exporters, mostly textile, leather sector, are taking full benefits from this special scheme.

However, he emphasized that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa businessmen should take advantage of this golden opportunity of GPS+ scheme and make investment in potential sectors of the Republic of Czech.

On the occasion, the diplomat said that sometimes the mutual trade volume between the Republic of Czech and Pakistan improved or sometimes witnessed declining since the outbreak of the global coronavirus pandemic and some other reasons.

However, he was hopeful that the bilateral trade and economic relations between both countries would be further enhanced through mutual cooperation and efforts in future.

Zahidullah Shinwari, Faiz Muhammad Faizi, Sherbaz Bilour and others also spoke on the occasion and proposed number of recommendations to strengthen mutual economic and trade ties between Pakistan and Republic of Czech.

Work with
dedication key to
excel in life: Jhagra

DNA

PESHAWAR: Minister for Finance, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Taimur Khan Jhagra on Thursday called upon youth to work with devotion and dedication if they want to excel in life. He said that individual progress and achievements of youth are in fact achievement of the country paving the way of overall progress and prosperity.

He said this while speaking at the 35th AGM and Conference of the Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE), on "Opportunities to Excel: Now & the Future", hosted by the Pakistan Institute of

Development Economics (PIDE), in collaboration with the Institute of Management Sciences (IM-Sciences). He said that the youth of Pakistan have immense potential to turn hard times into opportunities. "We are living in transition society wherein lot depends on providing opportunities to youth." Jhagra said that youth can excel and achieve greatness through inspiration from their role models and reposed his confidence in capabilities of youth to fight all odds. He said that "Change is inevitable, and we have to open the doors that resist any positive change".

STZs to be established across
KPK: CM Mahmood Khan

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: The Chief Minister of KPK province, Mr. Mahmood Khan, was called on by Mr. Amer Hashmi, the Chairman of the Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) in Peshawar. During the meeting, the Minister for S&T, IT, and Food, Mr. Atif Khan was also present. The meeting took place as a follow-up to the Digital Youth Summit which was recently held in Peshawar. A comprehensive strategy for the development of four Special Technology Zones (STZs) in KPK province was discussed, namely in Peshawar, Mardan, Swat, and Haripur. These STZs



are envisioned to create opportunities for the technology industry, to create jobs for the youth, human capital development, and to create and support the technology

and knowledge ecosystems in the province. To implement this strategic plan, the Government of KPK will form a Joint Working Group (JWG) with the Spe-

cial Technology Zones Authority - STZA. Under the JWG, regular meetings will be conducted, for ongoing cooperation on the development of the STZs in KPK and to explore other areas of cooperation. The Chief Minister of KPK greatly appreciated this initiative and pledged his government's resolute support for the development of the technology industry in the province through the STZs. Chairman Amer Hashmi also appreciated the Government of KPK for their visionary approach towards the establishment of technology clusters and STZs in the province, which he believes will boost socio-economic development in the KPK province.

WCLA, Azeri
team sign
protocol

DNA

LAHORE: The Walled City of Lahore Authority and the administration of State Historical Architectural Reserve Icherisheher, Azerbaijan, on Wednesday signed a protocol of friendship and cooperation.

The agreement has been signed for the promotion of heritage and historic sites at Lahore Fort. The purpose of the protocol is to establish friendly relations between the sides and to identify areas of common activities that generate initiatives to further nurture economic, social and cultural relations.

Under the agreement, both the organisations will work on promotion of close friendly ties and mutual understanding, raising awareness about each other's cultural heritage as well as exchange of expertise and information in the fields of art, culture, tourism and history.

Public
grievances
being
redressed

SARGODHA: Federal Ombudsman Syed Tahir Shahbaz on Thursday said that people can file complaints on their own in the office of Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat without the help of any lawyer and assured that their grievances would be addressed on priority.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat's 15th Regional Office here the Ombudsman said that citizens can easily file their complaints in the form of hard copy or online in any federal department which will be disposed of within 60 days.

Any complaint which remains unresolved with any agency for more than 30 days was automatically transferred to the CMIS —online complaint management information system of Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat, he added.

He said that the office of Wafaqi Mohtasib was trying to provide speedy justice at the doorstep of citizens.

Syed Tahir Shahbaz said that WM Secretariat initiated a number of innovative techniques through traditional and social media tools to increase awareness among the general public about the use of services being offered.

He said that WMS started its services in 1983 with 7812 complaints filed at that time, and in 2020 as many as 134,000 complaints were received. He further said that the institution developed an interface with 178 federal government agencies for better monitoring and expeditious resolution of public grievances. He said that WMS set up a special cell for overseas Pakistanis. "One Window Facilitation Desks were setup at all international airports of Pakistan where representatives of 12 departments were present round the clock". The Federal Ombudsman streamlined the systemic issues of Pakistan Post Offices and National Savings, adding the widows and elderly people would get their profits directly in their bank accounts. — APP

Govt to
complete
housing
scheme for
minorities

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Minority Affairs, Wazirzada on Thursday directed Auqaf Department to complete the feasibility and tender of housing scheme for minorities to complete the project in time.

While chairing a meeting to review progress of ongoing schemes of Auqaf Department he directed concerned department to take steps for training of youth belonging to minority community members and sought the report within seven days.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Secretary Auqaf, Hayam Hassan, Additional Secretary, Abdul Ghafoor and Project Officer, Sajjad Ali.

Wazirzada also directed to short list and scrutinize scholarships and financial assistance cases of minorities within one month. The meeting also discussed to hold celebration of minorities religious festivals to promote interfaith harmony. — APP

Tareen Foundation organizes science festival

In the science festival more than 800 students of 80 schools exhibited their scientific model. Tareen Education Foundation's President Ali Tareen said while talking to the media that it's the seventh festival by Tareen Education Foundation

SAQIB MUSHTAQ

LODHAN: Such initiatives put societies on tract through positive activities. Civil Society Lodhran Social Organization tareen Education Foundation organized a science festival, Ali Tareen inaugurated the biggest of its kind festival in South Punjab.

Festival was held in Lodhran Public School in which Deputy Commissioner Lodhran shoab Ali, DPO Lodhran Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani and Chief Executive Officer Education Lodhran Mian Abdul Razzaq also participated and appreciated the students and also appreciated the efforts of Tareen education foundation on their efforts.

In the science festival more than 800 students of 80 schools exhibited their



scientific model. Tareen Education Foundation's President Ali Tareen said while

talking to the media that it's the seventh festival by Tareen Education Foundation,

he added that all 84 schools of Lodhran whose system is in their hands are participating in this event. Participation in such events boost the confidence of children and give them the opportunity to express their talent.

Ali Tareen said that it is our desire to make Lodhran prosperous bring forward its children because only youth can bring change to Lodhran. He added that it is our first priority to provide opportunities to the children of Lodhran in the field of science so they can not only succeed in educational career but also in practical life.

At this time Tareen Education Foundation's Chief Executive Officer Akbar Khan, political and social personalities Mehar Muhammad Akram Sial, Rana Shahzad Anwar, PRI Counselors Youth Wing and workers of Women wing were also there.

SERVICES



Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	05:21 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
-----------------------	---------



Emergency

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



Enquiry

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



Hospitals

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



Departments

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



Complaints

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

Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Wasa Water Tank

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

Police to work hard to live up to expectations

The interior minister was addressing the passing out parade of Assistant Superintendents of Police held here at National Police Academy

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Sheikh Rashid Ahmad on Thursday said police would have to work hard to come up to the expectations of the people. Addressing the passing out parade of Assistant Superintendents of Police held here at National Police Academy, the Interior Minister emphasized the need for better relations between police and public to improve law and order. He said the police is performing its responsibilities with diligence and never hesitate to render their lives in the line of duty. More than 7,000 policemen embraced martyrdom to protect lives and property of people. However, he said police never received its due recognition and stature from people despite its tireless services.

The Interior Minister said challenges had increased for the police department, adding, our overt and covert enemies miss no opportuni-



ty to carry out sabotage activities in the country. He expressed the confidence that the police would live up to the expectations of peo-

ple and would never refrain from any sacrifice to maintain law and order. The minister said there is no restriction on media in Pakistan

and citizens' journalism was at its peak, adding they report each and every incident immediately with complete details so it was not pos-



ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari Former Vice President ICCI with High Commissioner of Maldives Ms. Farzana Zahir at Maldives embassy. — DNA

ICT police making efforts to curb drug activities

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Qazi Jamil ur Rehman on Thursday said that Islamabad police was making concerted efforts to curb drug-pushing activities and ensure arrest of those involved. While addressing the students of Capital University of Science and Technology (CUST), the IGP said use of drug led towards destruction and collective efforts were direly needed to keep the society free from this menace. The ceremony was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Umar Khan, Assistant Superintendent of Police Ayesha Gull and among oth-

ers including Vice Chancellor CUST University Mian Mansoor Ahmed, Police officials, senior faculty members and a large number of students. The IGP said narcotics destroy students and youngsters, adding, it not only detract youth from their goals but also ruined life of the whole family.

Qazi Jamil ur Rehman urged the students to focus on their studies, keep vigilant eye on their surroundings and inform police in case of observing any suspicious activity. The IGP said the campaign had been started to make Islamabad "drug-free" city and strict action was being ensured against those involved in drugs. He said anti-narcotics unit

had also been established by Islamabad police to get rid of drug menace and ensure effective efforts against drug peddlers. The Islamabad police chief said police had contacted various religious scholars, teachers, members of civil society, traders, other notables and sought their cooperation against the menace. During the ongoing year, he said effective action was taken against drug pushers and cache of narcotics including heroin, hashish, ice and cocaine was recovered from them. He said most of the nabbed persons used to supply drugs at educational institutions while use of narcotics had significantly decline through efforts of Islamabad police.

Holy Prophet (PBUH) dearer than our lives

The message of Pakistan is the largest consensus document after the Constitution of Pakistan

RAWALPINDI: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony, Allama Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi here on Thursday said that no Muslim could compromise on the respect of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) as he was dearer to them than their lives.

Allama Tahir Ashrafi while addressing a function organized at Pir Mehr Ali Shah-Arif Agriculture University, Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) said that Pakistan was created in the name of 'Kalima Tayyaba' and there could never be any threat to honor of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and belief in the end of prophethood.

He said, "We will have to implement 'Nizame-Mustafa' inside our homes." "A group of students asked me whether we should believe in Maulana Tariq Jameel or Khadim Rizvi. I said that both of them agreed on five prayers so start offering prayers from today. Both never said that tell lie and start telling the truth from today. We believe in monotheism, the end of prophethood and the honor of the Holy Prophet. We believe in the greatness and truthfulness of the companions of the Holy Prophet (Sahabah) and the good treatment of people. All schools of thought agree on all of them so we should first move forward on this path," he added.

Talking about other religions, he said, they all agree that whoever would serve his parents, would get honor and dignity, so let's start with that. Everyone agrees



on good behavior with the neighbors, then let's start with this.

No one could give a certificate of love to the Holy Prophet, he said adding, as long as the faith of the people of this country was alive and their conscience was alive, no one could attack on the belief of end of prophethood. Regarding the differences between different schools of thought, Allama Tahir Ashrafi said that it has a very simple formula that do not leave your belief and do not touch the faith of others. The message of Pakistan is the largest consensus document after the Constitution of Pakistan, he added.

Be a person is Sikh or belong to any other minority, he has the right to practice his religion to the fullest extent possible under the constitution and law, he added. — APP

Gold prices decrease by Rs100 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed decrease of Rs 100 and was sold at Rs 124,000 in the local market on Thursday against its sale at Rs124,100 the previous day. The price of 10 gram 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs 86 to Rs 106,310 from 106,396 whereas that of and 10 gram 22 karat went down to Rs 97,451 from Rs97,530. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs1460 and Rs1251.71 respectively. The price of gold in international market increased by \$2 and was traded at \$1790 against its sale at \$1988, the Jewellers Group reported. — APP

Quitting cigarette difficult but possible: Survey

DNA

ISLAMABAD: 86% of Pakistani smokers who wanted to quit cigarettes were unsuccessful despite repeated attempts, reveals an opinion survey conducted in major cities across the country. 95% of these Pakistanis, however, told us that switching to alternatives allowed them to quit the harmful habit of smoking. At a ceremony held in Islamabad, sharing details of the survey with media, Mirza M. Abeer, founder and CEO of ASAP, believes the best option is for smokers to quit, but the majority of smokers who cannot quit should at least move to safer alterna-

tives such as e-cigarettes or heated tobacco products. The survey was commissioned by the Association for Smoking Alternatives Pakistan (ASAP) and conducted by Foresight Research with over 600 smokers and users of alternatives to help understand consumer perceptions about cigarette alternatives in the country. The research was a component of ASAP's anti-smoking campaign launched in early November to get 1 million Pakistanis to quit cigarettes. "This would help a lot in reducing the number of smokers in the country," he remarked. The survey asked the participants about the reasons for quitting and all of them

highlighted that better health is one of the primary reasons for switching away from cigarettes, and 98 percent of the participants believed their health has improved as a result of switching. The survey also covered the government's role, where 82 percent of participants believed the harm caused by cigarette smoking is a public health crisis in Pakistan, and 80 percent believed the use of alternatives to cigarette smoking can help reduce the number of smokers in the country. About 89 percent of the participants were of the view that in order to help quit smoking, alternatives to cigarettes should be readily avail-

able to smokers in Pakistan. The survey also revealed that 86 percent indicated lack of awareness about the benefits of these alternatives as the major cause. Lastly, 89 percent of participants also understood that the government should encourage existing users who do not quit cigarettes to at least switch to safer alternatives. Mirza M. Abeer, a lawyer by profession, has founded the largest online community of smokers turned alternative users in Pakistan. His efforts take inspiration from the UK government's policies that encourage alternatives to cigarettes to reduce the country's smoking rates.

Senate body disappointed over decline of hockey

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The convener Senator Irfan Siddiqui of the Senate Sub-Committee on Inter Provincial Coordination (IPC) has expressed disappointment over the decline in hockey saying the national game used to be our pride and now we cannot even qualify for big events like Olympics. In the meeting which was held here on Thursday, the convener Senator Irfan Siddiqui lamented the role played by Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF). "Hockey is our National Sport, it used to be our pride. Such is the decline of sports in the country that we cannot even qualify for big events like Olympics, World Cup etc. Past excuses will not be tolerated any further," he said. Earlier, PHF treasurer Muhammad Ikhtlaq Usmani briefed the committee on the current state of affairs of the game. "Pakistan last qualified for any mega event back in 2012. There is no full time coach available for Pakistan Hockey Team. Coaches are hired on part time basis who only attend the training camp right before the any tournament.

IIU President inaugurates DDL's online portal

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Online Distance Learning Portal of the Directorate of Distance Learning (DDL) of International Islamic University (IIU) was inaugurated here at the new campus by Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, President of the university on Thursday. With the opening of the portal, the university has allowed enrollment in the 8 weeks online certifications in training design and delivery, Business etiquette and personality development, Urdu short course for foreigners, Academic writing and Arabic language.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, IIU President said ODL portal is a milestone that has been achieved as per aspirations of the President of Pakistan and University Chancellor Dr. Arif Alvi. He said the hard work of the DDL team resulted in success and now the university has been introduced to the virtual world.

Open House for Diplomatic Missions

Murree Brewery Company Limited located in Rawalpindi is an icon reflecting the past and the present history of the subcontinent.

Murree Brewery Company is pleased to invite friends from diplomatic missions to visit us and share the experience of our efforts towards keeping it afloat for over 160 years of operation.

We cordially invite diplomatic missions to visit us on any Saturday from 10 am to 1:30 pm to enjoy our hospitality and our products tasting. However, since, we are located in the Red Zone / Prohibited area and it will be mandatory to obtain No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs well in advance of the intended visit date. We look forward to welcoming you all soon.

For further information please contact the following.

Maj (r) Sabih Ur Rehman
Mobile: 0300 8553342

Briefs

CDA to launch waste segregation

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) in its effort to achieve zero waste city target was going to launch its first-ever waste segregation project to separate non-recyclable and organic household waste from the source point and reuse the dry waste as a by-product.

The CDA in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was initiating the project in Sector E-7, Margalla Retreat, Park Enclave, and I-8 on a pilot basis for three months.

Under the project, UNDP would provide two separate colors shopping bags in all the houses in these sectors for three months to separate dry and other garbage at the source point, a CDA official told APP.

The segregated waste collection would be ensured through six garbage collecting vehicles of the Sanitation Department of the civic agency.

"The Kitchen waste will be segregated and disposed of through decomposition process, while dry waste or inorganic waste will be recycled to make dustbins, park furniture, and other items that CDA will install back in the same sectors," he added.

The project initially covered four pilot sites which would be extended to other sectors of the Capital after promising outcomes of the pilot phase, he told. — APP

NCRC calls for joint efforts to end violence

ISLAMABAD: Social Activist and National Commission on the Rights of Child Chairperson Afshan Tehseen on Thursday called upon all segments of society to join the efforts to end discrimination against women and ensure they are provided adequate protection under the strict implementation of laws.

"Government, media and civil society need to join hands for creating mass awareness and improve the implementation of laws for ending an increasing number of domestic-related violence, she stressed on International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women while talking to PTV news channel. She expressed her deep serious concern over the increasing trend of gender-based violence in society, adding, violence against women is a global phenomenon that needs to be responded to with full force and unity.

She said the increasing trend of gender-based violence in our society is quite alarming and must be dealt with in stern actions as such incidents were increasingly being reported during the time of Covid-19.

"We as a nation need to focus on the real issues and improve the capacity of institutions for the better implementation of laws," she stressed. International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is observed every year on 25 November with a goal to increase awareness of the suffering of women worldwide, she said, adding, this day is marked to prevent as well as respond to violence against women and to apprise people about the basic human rights of women and gender equality. — APP

Theatre Wallay to organize 'Savage Love'

ISLAMABAD: Theatre Wallay would organize 'Savage Love', an evening of plays by renowned American playwrights Tennessee Williams and Sam Shepard on November 27.

The play featuring, 'Savage Love' by Sam Shepard and Joseph Chaikin, 'Talk to Me Like the Rain' and 'Let Me Listen' by Tennessee Williams, 'The Lady of Larkspur Lotion' by Tennessee Williams.

The plays will be followed by an interactive session with cast and crew. The play would be presented at The Farm (Bani Gala). — APP

Malaysia interested to foster trade ties with Pakistan

Deddy Faisal Ahmad Salleh said that Malaysia was providing good incentives to its SMEs and close cooperation between the SMEs of two countries would help in promoting bilateral trade

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Malaysia was a trading nation and it was interested to further enhance trade ties with Pakistan as both countries have good potential to do trade in many items that would help their economies to grow and progress. Malaysia also intends to further expand industrial training in Pakistan including technical & vocational education training, research & development, as well as commercialization and innovation to benefit Pakistan's economy. This was stated by Deddy Faisal Ahmad Salleh, Charge d'Affaires, High Commission of Malaysia during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI). Datuk Nazir, President, Pak-Malaysia Business Council also accompanied him at the occasion.

Deddy Faisal Ahmad Salleh said that Malaysia was providing good incentives to its SMEs and close cooperation between the SMEs of two countries would help in promoting bilateral trade. He said that Malaysia was keen to import security guards from Pakistan for which documentary work was in process.

He said that many Pakistani products were reaching the Malaysian market via third countries at higher cost and stressed promoting direct trade between the two countries. Datuk Nazir, President, Pak-Malaysia Business Council emphasized for developing strong business linkages between the private sectors of both countries to take business and investment relations to the next higher level.

Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that Pakistan preferred to promote trade with Malaysia as it provided easy access to bigger ASEAN market.



He said that Pakistani Halal meat, IT products, fruits & vegetables and many other products have good potential in the Malaysian market and Malaysia should enhance their imports from Pakistan. He identified tourism and infrastructure development as potential areas of mutual cooperation between the two countries.

He stressed for promoting frequency of direct flights between Pakistan and Malaysia to promote business relations.

Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh, Senior Vice President ICCI said that our Chamber was considering holding another business conference in Malaysia and the High Commission of Malaysia should cooperate in the execution of this event. Muhammad Faheem Khan, Vice President ICCI said that both countries should encourage regular exchange of trade delegations

to explore new avenues of mutual collaboration between the two friendly countries. Baser Daud, Sheikh Ejaz, Saeed Khan, Ch. Muhammad Ali, Akhtar Hussain, Khalid Mehmood, Raja Imtiaz, Shahbaz Sheikh, Fahad Farid, Muhammad Naveed, Abbas Hashmi, Khalid Chaudhry and others were also shared useful ideas for promoting bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Malaysia.

ISLAMABAD: The Department of Commerce, Federal Urdu University Islamabad Campus, organized a one-day seminar here Thursday on "Encouraging Students to Enhance Their Abilities to Join Pakistan Forces". Commander of Pakistan Navy Farooq Khan attended the seminar as a special guest and expressed his valuable views.

In his address, the Commander Pakistan Navy guided the students and explained how the youth and especially the students can improve their skills and abilities which are essential for joining the Armed Forces of Pakistan. The University Administration provided all facilities to Malik Mohammad Ishtiaq and Chaudhry Mohammad Waseem for conducting a successful seminar under the supervision of Dr. Ghazala Shaheen, Head of Commerce Department and with the cooperation of all colleagues.

Dr. Ghazala Shaheen, Head of Commerce Department said that she is very grateful to the Commander of Pakistan Navy Farooq Khan who expressed his valuable views and shared all the important suggestions with us. The seminar was very fruitful and we hope that it will be a step towards creating a positive image of our university and enabling students to secure their future and enhance their skills and abilities in career development. — APP

FUU holds seminar for joining Pak forces

ISLAMABAD: The Department of Commerce, Federal Urdu University Islamabad Campus, organized a one-day seminar here Thursday on "Encouraging Students to Enhance Their Abilities to Join Pakistan Forces".

Commander of Pakistan Navy Farooq Khan attended the seminar as a special guest and expressed his valuable views.

In his address, the Commander Pakistan Navy guided the students and explained how the youth and especially the students can improve their skills and abilities which are essential for joining the Armed Forces of Pakistan.

The University Administration provided all facilities to Malik Mohammad Ishtiaq and Chaudhry Mohammad Waseem for conducting a successful seminar under the supervision of Dr. Ghazala Shaheen, Head of Commerce Department and with the cooperation of all colleagues.

Dr. Ghazala Shaheen, Head of Commerce Department said that she is very grateful to the Commander of Pakistan Navy Farooq Khan who expressed his valuable views and shared all the important suggestions with us. The seminar was very fruitful and we hope that it will be a step towards creating a positive image of our university and enabling students to secure their future and enhance their skills and abilities in career development. — APP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's exports of goods and services to United States of America (USA) witnessed a surge of 43.50 percent during the first four months of financial year (2021-22) as compared to the corresponding period last year.

The overall exports to USA were recorded as US \$2096.859 million during July-October (2021-22) against exports of US \$1461.197 million during July-October (2020-21), showing growth of 43.50 percent, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) data revealed. Meanwhile, on year-to-year basis, exports to USA during October 2021 also increased by 28.56 percent, from US \$413.433 million to US \$531.515 million. Similarly on month-on-month basis, exports of USA however witnessed a decrease of 4.03 percent during October 2021 in comparison with exports of US \$553.862 million in September 2021, SBP data said. Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed increase of 32.31 percent in four months, from US \$7.322 billion to US \$9.681 billion.

On the other hand, the imports from USA into the country during the period under review were recorded as US \$867.846 million against US \$594.858 million last year, showing growth of 45.89 percent in four months of this year. — APP

SSP directs to ensure smooth traffic flow

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has been directed to ensure smooth flow of traffic at IJP road, Srinagar Highway, and Islamabad expressway and take strict action against creating inconvenience for the road users.

While reviewing the overall performance report about traffic-related issues here on Thursday, Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Muhammad Omer Khan directed special deployment at Islamabad Expressway, Srinagar (Kashmir) Highway IJP road, and other important boulevards to ensure smooth traffic flow there. He directed to ensure smooth traffic flow in the city and ensure special deployment at busy roads for the convenience of road users.

He said that complaints about any inconvenience to people can be lodged with ITP Helpline 1915 or 051-9261992-93 which would be addressed promptly. Meanwhile, the spokesman said that 8, 54,432 vehicles have been fined during the current year for hampering the smooth flow of traffic and involvement in over-charging, over-loading, and misbehaving with passengers. — APP

Argentine envoy visits NUML

The ambassador appreciated the role of NUML for providing quality education

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Argentine Leopoldo Francisco Sahores visited National University of Modern Languages (NUML) on Thursday and met with Rector NUML Major General Muhammad Jaffar HI (M) (Retd) in his office. The Rector NUML welcomed the honourable guest and briefed him about various curricular and co-curricular activities conducted at the NUML. The issues of mutual interests, bilateral cooperation in education exchange

programs for the faculty and students were discussed. The ambassador appreciated the role of NUML for providing quality education and thanked Rector for his time and hospitality. Later, the honourable ambassador delivered a lecture to the students of Spanish language on the topic of "Spanish Spoken in Argentine". Students recited Spanish poem and sang a Spanish song. At the end he distributed shirts and football among the students. — APP



ISLAMABAD: FF Steel and NUST signed MoU for a joint vision focusing on the industry-academia linkage. MoU was signed in the presence of AVM Pro-rector Dr. Rizwan Riaz by Muhammad Khurram Shehzad, CHRO FF Steel and Arooba Gillani, GM Placements NUST. — DNA

PTA blocks 86,000 mobile devices involved in frauds

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) on Thursday informed the National Assembly Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication that the authority had blocked about 86,000 mobile devices that were found involved in fraudulent activities. The committee meeting was chaired by Ali Khan Jadoon. PTA Chairman Major General (R) Amir Azeem Bajwa informed the committee, "Blocking of SIMs involved in frauds is a less plenty to the elements looting the peoples, so cause them a financial damage, the authority has blocked about 86,000 mobile devices during last one year," he added.

From November 2020 to November 2021, the chairman said about 600 percent decrease had been witnessed in the sale of

fake, illegal SIMs across the country. He further said the PTA during the last three years had also blocked about 526,082 fake SIMs and 360,569 Computerized National Identify Cards used for getting the illegal Sims. He said Cellular Mobile Operators (CMOs) had been directed to install Live Finger Detective (LED) Devices for issuance of SIMs.

At present, he said subscribers' Antecedents Verification Regulations 2015 and SOP by PTA to regulate SIMs sale issue in April 2019 were in place. He said to discourage the business of fake SIMs, directions had been passed to NADRA to do verification based on index fingers instead of thumb impressing under discussion between PTA, NADRA, and CMOs for implementation. — APP

Dengue ratio declined; nine reported in 24 hours

RAWALPINDI: District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control, Dr Sajjad Mehmood, on Thursday said there was a sharp decline in the registered cases of dengue as only nine patients were reported in allied hospitals of the city during last 24 hours.

Earlier, the number was 20 to 25 during the last week, while in September, daily 70 to 80 cases were being reported in the district, an official of district administration said.

The health officer informed that the total tally of confirmed cases had touched 3718, out of which 3680 had been discharged after treatment from the three public sector hospitals.

Dr Sajjad said during the last hours, four patients were received in Holy Family Hospital(HFH), two in Benazir Bhutto Hospital(BBH), and three in District Headquarters Hospital(DHQ). — APP

COMSTECH organizes online certificate course

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH, in collaboration with International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) and Pakistan Biotechnology Information Center (Karachi Chapter) organized online certificate course on "Micropropagation of Quality Banana Plant for Commercial Purpose". Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General, COMSTECH said in this welcome address that this capacity building event is focused on Banana, which is considered as cash crop. Banana is a staple crop in many countries in west Africa and central Africa as well as south America. It is a very important crop which brings lots of revenue to many countries. Banana



is prone to diseases, he mentioned. Prof. Choudhary said that we have seen in many countries that Banana has been wiped out because of various viruses and different kinds of diseases. He said, tissue culture technique is very easy to perform by even farmers with little training. He said that tissue culture technology provides virus free germplasm which helps protecting plants from diseases and enhancing their quality. Prof. Choudhary also in-

formed that COMSTECH has a major agriculture programme and working jointly with Islamic Organization of Food Security on different aspects of food security and agriculture.

The course comprised upon a lecture and an on-line training session covering, overview of plant tissue culture and its applications, equipment and media used, explant selection, sterilization, initiation, multiplication, shooting and rooting.

The course was attended by more than 350 interested scientists and research scholars working in various fields of plant biotechnology.

Dr. Paul Chege of Afri-Center, International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications ISAAA delivered the lecture.

President upholds Banking Mohtasib's decision

On receiving the SMS, she lodged a complaint with the bank, however, she was not provided with any relief. Subsequently, she approached the Banking Mohtasib to get a refund of Rs 800,000 withdrawn from her account fraudulently

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday upheld the decision of the Banking Mohtasib directing a private bank to credit the lost amount of Rs 800,000 to the victim of bank fraud.

Rejecting the representation of the bank against the decision of the Mohtasib, the president observed that the bank was at fault for having incorporated the wrong contact numbers of the account holder in the bank system, which prevented any remedial step on receiving SMS alerts.

Complainant Navera, who maintained an account with Muslim Commercial Bank's Gulshan-e-Ravi Branch, Lahore, suffered the loss after her account was debited by using an ATM Card at four different terminals. She said the transactions were unauthorized as not been made

by her and the ATM Card was throughout in her possession. She also reported that no SMS alerts about the withdrawal of funds were conveyed to her except one received on 24-01-2019 intimating the withdrawal of Rs 200,000 from her account.

On receiving the SMS, she lodged a complaint with the bank, however, she was not provided with any relief. Subsequently, she approached the Banking Mohtasib to get a refund of Rs 800,000 withdrawn from her account fraudulently.

The Banking Mohtasib in its decision observed that additional contact numbers of the complainant had been added in the bank's record without any authorization from the account holder, therefore, SMS regarding cash withdrawal transactions could not



be received by the complainant. Moreover, the bank had changed her PIN Code on 21.01.2019, just three days before the transactions, after receiving a phone call from an imposter as the Phone Banking Officer did not probe the caller. The bank admitted during the

hearing that the voice of the caller was different from the voice of the lady complainant.

Additionally, the legible CCTV footage and snapshots of disputed transactions with date and time were not visible as the bank was found negligent to implement the State Bank of Pakistan's guidelines regarding the installation of cameras in ATM cabins to have secondary evidence and to monitor all activities in the ATM vicinity. The Mohtasib in its decision stated that the bank was under obligation to prove with cogent reasonable evidence that transactions were conducted by the complainant or were conducted by any person under her mandate.

The Ombudsman, therefore, ordered the bank to make good the loss by crediting the account of the complainant with a sum of Rs 800,000.

Later, the bank filed a representation with the President, which he rejected observing that the bank miserably failed to fulfil its statutory liability and rebut the claim of the complainant by failing to provide any justification to set aside the orders of the Banking Ombudsman.

He noted that as per the law, the Banking Mohtasib was required to inquire into the complaints about banking malpractices, maladministration, wrongdoings, fraudulent transactions, the corrupt and mala fide practices by the bank officials and pass appropriate orders on conclusion of the inquiry.

The President rejected the representation of the private bank as no fault could be found with the Banking Mohtasib's approach to the matter. — APP

New phase in UAE-Turkey ties

HERE is a nearly universal consensus that post-coronavirus world will see major changes in not only the global economy but also in international relations. With the ongoing turmoil in most economies in the world leading to tensions between key powers such as the United States and China, it is important to shield our region from such turbulences. The Middle East is a vital region for the global economy and trade routes. However, for decades, it has lacked a stable political equilibrium. Thus, it is imperative for major players in this region to open frank and transparent channels to reach a greater regional consensus on what matters – peace, stability and economic growth. This has always been a fundamental part of the UAE foreign policy. The UAE has always believed that global and regional issues required honest dialogues and cooperation between regional states to strengthen confidence and bridge differences. The visit of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, to Turkey and his meeting with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Wednesday is part of the UAE's approach to reinforcing the regional understanding and talks with other regional states to ensure peace, stability and prosperity. The visit comes few months after the two leaders held important talks in a telephone call last August. It is UAE diplomacy at the highest level to initiate constructive dialogue, reduce tension, find common goals and strengthen economic ties. There is already a strong interest from both countries to promote investment in such sectors as technology, transport, health, energy, and food security. Sheikh Mohamed's visit is the first in nearly a decade. Relations between Turkey and the Arab world were not as smooth as both sides hoped in recent years – due to diverging positions on few regional issues, in particular some of the ongoing conflicts in the region in which Ankara took an aggressive stance. Sheikh Mohamed's landmark visit on Wednesday is thus aimed to open a new phase in the ties, a phase that will see both countries make the most of what brings them together to contribute to regional stability and economic prosperity.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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

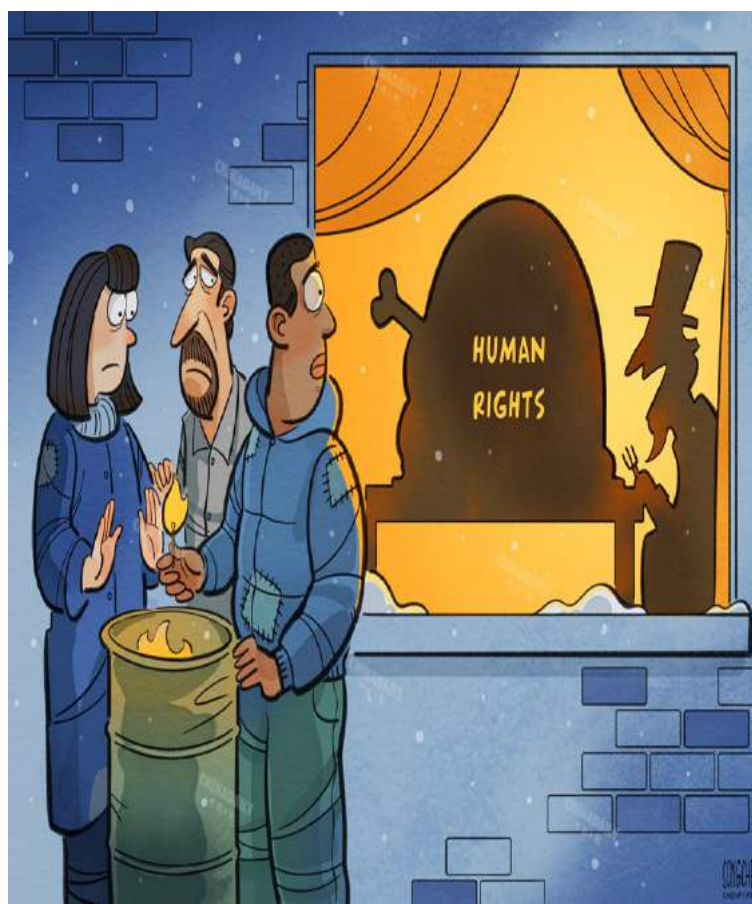
Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 02 Issue: 170

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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



Humanitarian assistance

DESPITE ongoing tensions, Pakistan's Cabinet has 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. Last month, India had announced the assistance for Afghanistan and sought Pakistan's permission to ship the food grain through the Wagah crossing. Being cognisant of the deteriorating economic situation in Afghanistan and behaving as a responsible actor in the region, Islamabad must be lauded for this mature decision. This is a significant development given the state of bilateral ties and the fact that Pakistan also does not allow a two-way trade between Afghanistan and India. While India is yet to respond to the announcement, Pakistan has truly illustrated that politics cannot get in the way of humanitarian issues. It is also encouraging to see that Islamabad has committed to send humanitarian assistance to Kabul worth 5 billion rupees and comprising food commodities, including 50,000 metric tons of wheat, emergency medical supplies, winter shelters and other supplies. As the winter season commences, the suffering of the Afghan population will only worsen and it is imperative that humanitarian aid is more forthcoming from the international community. The combination of conflict, drought and COVID has resulted in millions of Afghans facing hunger or starvation. According to the World Food Programme (WFP), only 5 percent of Afghanistan's population has enough to eat. Given the severity of the crisis, actors such as the US need to get over their political hang ups and focus on the unfolding tragedy at hand. NSA Dr Moeed Yusuf has rightly stated that humanitarian aid is exempt from sanctions. If Pakistan can look beyond political issues with India, perhaps the US can learn a thing or two from Islamabad. As the US is expected to resume talks with the Taliban next week, one can hope that there is some sort of breakthrough which allows for the unimpeded provision of urgent humanitarian aid.

Whither Pakistan?

Askari Raza Malik



Pakistan appears to be a rudderless ship. Every institution is on its own, individual trumpeters blaring without a symphony. Anyone can cross the limits and get away with it. The criminals rule the roost. Corruption rages everywhere. The military and the judiciary are no exceptions. The civil administration and the police take the cake

A YOUNG officer had once asked the horse keeper as to how could he handle each and every horse with the same ease. The old man answered, "Sir, Saice ilm dar-ya ae", (The subject of horse keeping is as vast as a river). The old man had conveyed the message. Respect the expertise or face the buck. All media gurus recognize the truth. For perception building they heavily lean on the professionals. The Peshawar Army Public School tragedy of 2014 hit the nation like a bolt from the blue. The nation mourned. Pakistanis all over the world were in deep shock, an unrelenting grief. Like

many military families the grandsons of a very dear friend were also among the victims, a Shaheed and the other seriously wounded. The army acted promptly, not only in meeting the crisis as within minutes the brigade commander himself was the first senior officer to enter the school while the attack was on its frantic peak. The unit commander responsible for the security, a Lieutenant Colonel and others held directly responsible were immediately sacked and dismissed from service, a harsh punishment accompanied with forfeiture of all the benefits earned. The matter did not end there. A Pakistani leading newspaper said on 11 November 2020 in its 'top story' that, "The Judicial Commission, established by then Chief Justice of Pakistan Saqib Nisar in October 2018, which concluded its findings on 30 June 2020, lauded Pakistan Army both for uprooting terrorism from the country post-APS tragedy and unflinching support to the families. The report further added that all the perpetrators of the attack including the masterminds were killed and six sentenced to death by the military courts; five executed while the sixth had filed a petition with the Supreme Court," (that still hangs fire). The families of the shuhada and wounded students were given Rs 1207.3 and Rs 337.3 million respectively. The bulk, over Rs 700 million came from the Pakistan Army. The Federal, KP, Punjab governments and Peshawar Corps headquarters also made worthwhile contributions. The Supreme Court then wrapped up the APS case in January 2019. And then suddenly on 20 October 2021, the Supreme Court of Pakistan hit the headlines again for taking a suo moto notice of the Peshawar School tragedy, reopening the half-healed wounds. The opening remarks of the honorable court blasted the intelligence agencies, ridiculed the punishment awarded to only a few lowly placed innocents and reminded the military of natural repercussions of anti-terrorists' operations. The court also immediately summoned the PM to establish its supreme writ. The PM promptly obliged. Our top intelligence agency, by comparison poor in resources is considered one of the best in the world. Our military has distinguished itself in its remarkable successes against the terrorists. It is also ranked among the top most in the world. The honorable court's sweeping remarks about these old and established institutions would at best amount a professional as my verdict on Justice Qazi Faez Isa's case would evoke laughter in legal circles. This piece was prompted by the sad reaction of

a father of a Shaheed of Army Public School. His second son had narrowly escaped the carnage. His video, gone viral on social media, was full of pathos, heart-rending and pitiful. An impression that a tragedy of such heinous proportions was being used as an instrument of political score settling was even more distressing. The motives for the second suo moto notice of the epoch court in mere two years' time were otherwise unfathomable. He was exuberant in the praise of the military. Its entire hierarchy including the Chief, General Raheel Sharif had earnestly joined the families in mourning. He pleaded with the honorable court to leave out the victims of this grave national tragedy from inter-institutional prejudices. The judicial outburst whatever the motive was unwarranted. It has caused large scale resentment, among the parents of the APS children, the retired and serving military personnel. The serving suffered quietly; the retirees were provoked beyond limits. Over ten thousand casualties suffered, thousands lamed and incapacitated, coffins reaching far flung areas of Pakistan, the pride of the parents of the young blooming sons sacrificed for the country, all sent down the drain by one casual outpouring of the honorable court. The court apparently gained nothing, not even momentary applause for its impulsive populism. It, however, must have pleased tremendously the hardcore enemies of Pakistan and their slaves among us. In the ongoing hybrid warfare, the honorable court, the most prestigious institution in the country seemed to be unwittingly supporting the enemies' vicious narrative to create a gulf between the people of Pakistan and their beloved military. Arrogance precludes introspection and self-correction. Overinflated ego reigns supreme. The institutions behave holy and infallible. The story of the politicians is too familiar to need recapitulation. The military's record is not unchecked. The judiciary has also nothing to write home about. From chief justice Munir, the first unethical ruler worshipper, to Ifthikhar Chaudhry, the politician-justice, the judiciary has done little to be proud of in supporting democracy and human rights in Pakistan with no intent ever of reforming a system of justice that has been an abject failure. Hundreds of thousands of innocent citizens are running from pillar to post in search of justice that remains illusory. One is at a complete loss, whither Pakistan? – The author of "Pakistan in Search of Messiah" has served Pakistan Army as Major General'

UAE chalks up diplomatic successes with uncertain payoffs

James Dorsey

In a welcome step, the UAE announced hours after Mr. Erdogan met with Prince Mohammed that it would put US\$10 billion into an investment fund that would target energy, food, health and climate change-related sectors of the Turkish economy as well as trade. Emirati investments in Turkish ports are likely...

IT has been a good week for United Arab Emirates Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed. Headline-grabbing, fast-paced moves reinforce the UAE's position as a regional power. They highlight the UAE's willingness to chart a course that increasingly competes with Saudi Arabia, the Gulf's regional behemoth; is at times at odds with US policy; and scoffs at assertions of human rights abuse by activists and Western politicians. Controversial Emirati general Ahmed Naser al-Raisi was elected this week as the next president of Interpol despite calls by the European Parliament for an investigation into allegations that he oversaw physical abuse of detainees. Last month, two British nationals filed court cases against him. The UAE has denied the allegations. "Major General Al-Raisi is a distinguished professional with a 40-year track record in community and national policing. As the President of Interpol, he will remain committed to protecting people, making communities safer and providing global law enforcement the latest tools in the fight against sophisticated criminal networks," the UAE embassy in London said. Mr. Al-Raisi won the election at a gathering of the international policing body in Istanbul weeks before the UAE takes up its seat as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. Turkey has been accused of being a major abuser of the Interpol system. Human rights activists fear that Mr. Al-Raisi will use his new position to legitimize abuse by autocrats of Interpol's red notice arrest warrants to detain abroad and extradite dissidents and political refugees. The UAE designated four exiled dissidents as terrorists days before Mr. Al-Raisi's election. Mr. Al-Raisi was elected a day after Prince Mohammed paid a ground-breaking visit to Ankara to patch up relations with Turkey and throw President Recep Tayyip Erdogan an economic lifeline. Turkey and the UAE have been at odds for a decade over Turkish support for popular revolts in the Middle East and North Africa and political Islam. The rapprochement is part of a broader effort by Middle Eastern rivals, spurred independently by the United States, China, and Russia, to reduce regional tensions and prevent disputes and conflicts from spinning out of control. The UAE and Turkey have been on opposite sides of civil wars in Libya and Syria that erupted in the wake of popular revolts and at odds in the Eastern Mediterranean. The UAE has sought to reverse the achievements of uprisings supported by Turkey that succeeded in toppling an autocratic leader like in Egypt. Turkey has suggested that the UAE funded a failed 2016 military attempt to remove Mr. Erdogan from power. The Emirati moves also include a bid to replace Qatar and Turkey as managers of Kabul's international airport; efforts to return Syria to the international fold despite US policy that aims to isolate the country; and steps to improve relations with Iran. In addition, the UAE this week concluded a so-

lar energy deal with Jordan and Israel that Saudi Arabia sought to thwart. The UAE hopes that reviving Syria's membership in the 22-nation Arab League and reconstruction funding will persuade President Bashar al-Assad to loosen his ties to Iran. Prince Mohammed's visit to Turkey coincided with talks in Dubai with a senior Iranian official in advance of an expected trip to Tehran by the crown prince's brother and national security advisor, Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The jury is out on the degree to which the Emirati moves will successfully persuade one-time detractors like Turkey to alter their policies fundamentally. For example, Turkey is unlikely to shutter its military base in Qatar that it expanded during the 3.5-year UAE-Saudi-led diplomatic and economic boycott of the Gulf state. Closing the base was one of the boycott's demands. Mr. Erdogan desperately needs the investments. He sees Prince Mohammed's economic olive branch as a way to reverse a downturn in his economy that threatens to spiral further downwards. The crisis has already fueled street protests and opposition hopes to defeat him in the next election. In a welcome step, the UAE announced hours after Mr. Erdogan met with Prince Mohammed that it would put US\$10 billion into an investment fund that would target energy, food, health and climate change-related sectors of the Turkish economy as well as trade. Emirati investments in Turkish ports are likely to significantly strengthen Dubai global ports management and logistics company DP World's network in the Eastern Mediterranean. In addition, Iranian officials said the UAE moves had made a transport corridor from the UAE to Turkey via Iran possible. A first ship departing from Sharjah in the UAE en route to Mersin in Turkey docked at the Iranian port of Shahid Rajai a day after Prince Mohammed's visit. Mr. Erdogan expects the Emirati investments to buoy Turkey's floundering economy at a time that its currency is tumbling. The Turkish lira appreciated by about one point as Prince Mohammed arrived in the country. However, Qatar, with US\$22 billion already invested in Turkey, may not stand idly by as the UAE improves relations with Ankara. On the contrary, it could well seek to cement its existing relationship with further investments. It remains unclear how much of a political price, Mr. Erdogan may be paying for UAE support. So far, he has curbed Muslim Brotherhood activity in Istanbul in response to Emirati and Egyptian demands but refused to expel the Brothers or extradite them to Egypt. Similarly, the UAE's bid to displace Qatar and Turkey at Kabul airport may prove to be an uphill battle. It is hard to see why the Taliban would want to create friction with Qatar, representing US interests in Afghanistan as well as offering a home to Western diplomatic missions focused on Afghanistan, and hosting talks between the Islamist group and the United States. In sum, Mr. Erdogan may be down as he rebuilds relations with the UAE, but he's not out. That, in turn, could put a damper on what reconciliation with the UAE will achieve politically. With the Libyan election scheduled for next month, the UAE is betting on one of two horses in the race: rebel commander Khalifa Haftar and Aref al-Nayed. Mr. Al-Nayed is a former UAE ambassador to the Emirates who heads a UAE group that propagates the UAE's moderate but autocratic version of Islam. The group was one of several created to counter Islamist clerics supported by Qatar. Suggesting that rapprochement with the UAE has not reduced Turkish influence in Libya, unconfirmed reports said that Mr. Haftar's son, Saddam Haftar, made separate visits to Turkey and Israel to solicit support. In a move that simultaneously supported UAE diplomacy, Mr. Haftar this week released seven Turkish nationals held captive by his forces for the last two years, "Turkey is in bad shape economically, and Erdogan seems to be crumbling politically. However, it may still be too early to write him off thanks to foreign developments," said Mr. Candar.

Saudi Arabia's exciting journey into a reimagined future

Ishtiaq Ahmed



Vision 2030 has also impacted the daily lives of ordinary Saudis in ways that were unimaginable until recently...

GREAT things can come from sheer imagination, provided a country's leadership is able to understand the public pulse and then rechart its national destiny on the basis of a reimagined future. Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, an outcome of such imagination by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, is steering the Kingdom into a futuristic journey, with one grandiose project after another. Oxagon is the latest addition – a floating hexagonal industrial complex that will, in a decade's time, provide the world's first fully integrated port and supply chain ecosystem for NEOM. NEOM itself is being built as a futuristic city at a price tag of \$500 billion on the Red Sea coast in the northwestern Saudi province of Tabuk. Powered by green hydrogen, it seeks to provide

a postmodern experience in urban living that we can only dream about – with robot maids, airborne taxis, an artificial moon and much more. The Line is NEOM's flagship project. It is a linear city linking the coast of the Red Sea with the region's mountains and upper valleys that is being built along a 170 km line – with no cars, no streets, no carbon emissions and a hyperloop running down the middle, providing a supersonic, friction-free travel service to its 1 million residents. Oxagon represents a fundamental shift in how the world views manufacturing. Its smart factories will offer products in sustainable energy, autonomous mobility, water innovation, sustainable food production, health and well-being, modern methods of construction and technology, and digital manufacturing, including telecoms, space technology and robotics. NEOM and its flagship projects will operate in "digital air," with satellite communications, cloud parks and a hyperdata center. Together with two major tourism and entertainment destinations – the Red Sea Development Project and AMAALA – they are geared toward accomplishing Vision 2030's strategic goal of making Saudi Arabia a hub of international investment, business, travel, tourism and trade. The same goal underpins so many other mega-tourism and entertainment projects that celebrate and promote Saudi Arabia's heritage and natural beauty, such as Qiddiya near Riyadh, AIUla in the northwest and Souqah in the Asir region. There are also ambitious infrastructure ventures, from multi-lane metros to smart housing complexes and business districts across major cities. Being the center of the Islamic world, Saudi Arabia already hosts millions of Muslims for Umrah and Hajj every year. However, its liberal visa policy introduced in 2019 is meant to attract other foreign tourists who yearn to explore and seek pleasure in a new territory. Vision 2030 seeks to attract 100 million tourists annually by the end of the decade, with the National Tourism Strategy announced in October planning to invest \$1 tril-

lion in the tourism sector. Saudi Arabia also has an edge over other Gulf competitors in terms of demography: The bulk of its 33 million population is young, offering an enormous demographic dividend. Vision 2030 seeks to tap this potential by using the Saudi drive to diversify its oil-based economy and become one of the 15 largest economies in the world by 2030 to significantly curtail youth unemployment, especially by promoting small and medium-sized enterprises and raising women's participation in the workforce, which has already increased from 20 percent to more than 33 percent in just two years. Vision 2030 has also impacted the daily lives of ordinary Saudis in ways that were unimaginable until recently, such as opening up an enormous social space in sports and entertainment for the craving youth. The country is now a popular regional venue for music concerts, with international stars set to perform at the Formula One Saudi Arabian Grand Prix in Jeddah in early December. Starting with one cinema in 2018, it now has movie theaters across the country. It was also no surprise that, within two years of the lifting of the ban on women driving, a female driver enjoyed a major race win. Such revolutionary happenings in the hitherto conservative nation with a rentier economy offer a great lesson in leadership for a world in crisis: That the destiny of a nation ultimately rests on the aspirations of its citizens, and that only a ruler with a sense of history and a vision for the future has the will and the ability to assess and meet public aspirations ahead of time. This is a necessary condition that naturally opens up limitless possibilities for national progress and its global expression in the times to come. – Ishtiaq Ahmed is a former journalist, who subsequently served as the vice chancellor of Sargodha University in Pakistan and as the Quaid-e-Azam Fellow at the University of Oxford.

Briefs

Misbah ul Haq takes a dig at critics

LAHORE: Former Pakistan head coach MisbahulHaq has hit back at his critics thinking that the performance of the Men in Green improved after his resignation. Misbah and bowling coach Waqar Yousaf resigned after the West Indies series and Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) had to appoint SaqlainMushtaq as interim head coach while Matthew Hayden and Vernon Philander were named as consultant coaches for the T20 World Cup.

"Well done to those who think that the team has started to perform better after my departure," Misbah told media on the occasion of the annual match of Muslim Gymkhana Club. "I am also happy to see the Pakistan team winning," he added. Misbah appreciated Pakistan for playing the best cricket while clarifying that he has no plans to reapply for the coaching of the national team.

"The team is performing under Babar Azam's captaincy while SaqlainMushtaq is managing the players really well. Our Test side is strong and can beat Bangladesh at their home," he added. On the question of the future of Shoaib Malik and Mohammad Hafeez, the former chief captain opined that he cannot give them any advice. "The cricketers themselves can make a better decision regarding their future. They know better how long they can play for the national team and play their part in victories." Meanwhile, Misbah reiterated that whoever is the coach, everyone wants to see the Pakistan team succeeding across formats. - APP

Public suffers as petrol pumps shut down

FROM PAGE 01

On the other hand, Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) has announced action against those disrupting the petrol supply across the country. There was a panic buying as worried public lined up at the few filling stations still selling petrol in different cities including Karachi.

There were brawls and traffic jams were witnessed at petrol pump stations across Pakistan. Commuters rushed to the petrol pumps to get their fuel tanks filled in long queues, which disrupted the traffic movement on major arteries of Karachi. In Lahore, the strike called by petroleum dealers was partial. However, citizens said that there are disrupted by the closure of the petrol pumps. On city's Peco Road, PSO, Shell and Attock petrol pumps continued to sell petrol which was also available in Model Town.

Pakistan will continue its role for regional...

FROM PAGE 01

discussed matters of mutual interests with the Chairman. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Nigel Casey agreed to continue peace building for stability in the region. PPP Chairman and British Prime Minister's Representative Nigel Casey also agreed to maintain continuity in Pak-UK relations. Pakistan's relations with the international community need to be taken to new heights, said the PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Chairman PPP apprised Nigel Casey of Pakistan's immense sacrifices in the war on terror. "Pakistan will continue to play its full role for peace in the region", Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said.

PM all praise for overseas...

FROM PAGE 01

a "thanksgiving" to overseas Pakistanis. The adviser said earlier banks were rewarded for attracting remittances, but now, for the first time, overseas Pakistanis will benefit from it by scoring points in the app. "The gap between our exports and imports is bridged by our Pakistanis living abroad," the adviser said.

Real Madrid beat Sheriff Tiraspol to reach last 16

The defeat ends Sheriff's hopes of progressing, but a memorable debut Champions League campaign has already secured third place and a spot in the Europa League knockout phase

SPORT DESK

CANBERRA: Karim Benzema scored just hours after being found guilty by a French court in a blackmail case as Real Madrid saw off Sheriff Tiraspol 3-0 on Wednesday to reach the Champions League knockout stage. The France striker notched his team's third goal of a confident display in Transnistria, as Real exacted revenge for their shock 2-1 loss to Sheriff in Madrid earlier this season. The victory sends the Spanish giants back to the top of Group D, two points clear of second-placed Inter Milan, who also qualified for the last 16 after beating Shakhtar Donetsk 2-0. Madrid now only need to avoid defeat in their final group game against Inter at the Santiago Bernabeu to finish first in the group. "We continue along the right path. I like the way we're playing," said Real coach Carlo Ancelotti, whose side beat Inter 1-0 in their first group game in September. "The squad is in good shape, everyone is strong physically. It's important for us to finish top and we'll be looking to end our group campaign the way we've begun it."



The defeat ends Sheriff's hopes of progressing, but a memorable debut Champions League campaign has already secured third place and a spot in the Europa League knockout phase. Benzema, who was given a one-year suspended sentence for complicity in a bid to blackmail his former France team-mate Mathieu Valbuena, had an early

effort ruled out for offside. Madrid were dominant but struggled to find a way through, with Rodrygo shooting tame-ly at home goalkeeper Giorgos Athanasiadis in the 18th minute. But the away side did forge ahead on the half-hour mark through David Alaba. The Austrian defender's free-kick was deflected by the Sheriff wall and

past the helpless Athanasiadis.

The hosts were struggling to get out of their own half and Dani Carvajal almost added a second for Real when he volleyed narrowly over the crossbar. The 13-time European champions did double their advantage in first-half stoppage time, though, as a fantastic move was ended by Toni Kroos' first-time shot which flew in off the crossbar and was awarded by goalline technology. Benzema got his goal in the 55th minute, finding space on the edge of the box and drilling the ball into the bottom corner to score for the 15th time this season. It was also the 76th goal of the striker's Champions League career. "We have not talked about it (the court verdict), he is calm, it is a subject concerning him that we have been talking about for a long time," Ancelotti said. There was a worry for Real as Alaba hobbled off in the 65th minute to be replaced by Nacho, but Ancelotti said it was not a serious injury. "We took Alaba off because he twisted his ankle slightly, but I really don't think it's a bad problem," added the Italian. "We are pretty confident that he'll be ready for the upcoming games."

Thiago ends drought as Liverpool down Porto

LONDON: Jurgen Klopp saluted Liverpool's under-studies after they dented Porto's bid to qualify for the Champions League last 16 as Thiago Alcantara's first goal since May inspired a 2-0 win on Wednesday. Klopp's side had already booked their place in the knockout stages as Group B winners, but they did not rest on their laurels at Anfield. Thiago has endured a difficult time with Liverpool, struggling to recapture the form that made him a Champions League winner at Bayern Munich. The Spanish midfielder gave a glimpse of his talent with a composed display capped by a blistering long-range strike to put Liverpool ahead in the second half. Mohamed Salah sealed Liverpool's fifth successive group victory with his 17th goal this season. Porto are second in the group, one point ahead of Atletico Madrid and AC Milan, leaving Sergio Conceicao's team needing to beat the Spanish champions in their last match on Decem-



ber 7 to advance alongside Liverpool. The Reds do not have an empty midweek left in 2021 and face nine games in all competitions in December. So Klopp rested several stars including Virgil Van Dijk, Andrew Robertson, Fabinho and Trent Alexander-Arnold. "It was good. Some peo-

ple might have thought we would play an easy game but we were not here for that. We won the game with two exceptional goals, especially Thiago's. Wow!" Klopp said. "It was hectic, which is not unusual for a team that has not played together a lot. But so many good things happened, both

individually and as a team. "We had young players playing, players back from injury and the right players got minutes and the right players got some rest." Liverpool's 19-year-old midfielder Tyler Morton made his Champions League debut, with Neco Williams, Ibrahima Konate and Takumi Minamino also coming in. Morton made his first Premier League appearance as a late substitute against Arsenal at the weekend, but he did not look out of place on the big stage. "If you are in our squad you are a good player, it's as simple as that. I would not throw a player into a game if he was not ready," Klopp said.

"With Tyler some might have been surprised before kick-off but he did exceptionally well and I am pleased he put in a performance like this." Porto were inches away from taking the lead when Otavio robbed Kostas Tsimikas and whipped a cross towards Mehdi Taremi, whose header hit Joel Matip and deflected just wide. - Agencies

Pakistan needs to rely on specialised cricketers: Wahab

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani pacer Wahab Riaz believes Pakistan would need to rely on specialised cricketers instead of all-rounders in the next Twenty20 Cricket World Cup to be played in Australia. "In Australia, Pakistan will need specialised batsmen and specialised bowlers. When it comes to all-rounders, you have to be good enough like Jacques Kallis who used to bat at 2-3 position and bowl at 145kph and complete his four overs," cricketpakistan.com.pk quoted Wahab as saying. Recalling Pakistan's run to the semifinals in the 2021 T20 Cricket World Cup, Wahab said Pakistan seemed destined to win the tournament but it was an unfortunate knockout game against Australia.

"Unfortunately, Hasan Ali's catch should have been the match-winning catch but this happens in cricket. I don't think we lost the match because of it. If we had 9-10 runs in the last over, we still would have had a chance," Wahab said. Speaking about the clean sweep by Pakistan against Bangladesh, Wahab praised the Pakistan team. "Bangladesh beat Australia and New Zealand, they are a difficult opposition to face in their conditions and I think Pakistan managed to grind out important results," he said. To a question, he said, "Skipper Babar Azam has been performing extremely well for the last couple of years and this was a blip and something quite unlike him, which is okay and it happens in the game of cricket but he will easily manage," Wahab said. The 35-year-old was still seeking a comeback opportunity to play for Pakistan after also not being selected for the T20 World Cup, where the Pakistan team was primarily led by pacers Hasan Ali, Haris Rauf, Shaheen Afridi.

"I still want to play cricket for Pakistan and I am playing leagues all over the world and performing in them to ensure that my comeback happens soon. When it comes to becoming an analyst or a commentator, it is a conversation to be had 3-5 years down the line," Wahab said. Wahab Riaz, has returned to the cricketing field as he leads Deccan Gladiators in the ongoing T10 league being held in Abu Dhabi. - Agencies

Djokovic won't want to miss Australian Open

MELBOURNE: Nine-time Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic won't want to risk missing out on winning a record 21st Grand Slam title, tournament chief Craig Tiley predicted Thursday as a bumper series of lead-up events was announced. All players heading to Australia for the opening major of the year in January must be vaccinated against Covid, casting doubt on whether the Serbian world number one will play. Djokovic, who is gunning for a record-breaking 21st Slam crown, has refused to reveal if he has been inoculated. "He has not shared his status with anyone," Tiley told sports radio station SEN. "He believes that what you say around your medical position is private and he believes people should have the right to choose." But Tiley added: "Novak has won nine Australian Opens and I'm sure he wants to get to 10. "He's on 20 Grand Slam titles as is Rafa Nadal, who is coming, and Roger Federer, so one of them is going to surpass the other. I don't think Novak will want to leave that feat to someone else. One thing is for sure, if he is playing here in January, then he is vaccinated."

Djokovic said at the weekend that "we'll have to wait and see" when asked whether he will be at Melbourne Park to defend his title. Currently around 85 percent of players have got the jab and Tiley said he expected that to reach between 95 and 100 percent by January. "We take a lot of credit for that because we put a vaccination requirement on it (coming to Australia)," he said. His comments came as the season-opening schedule was released after repeated delays as organisers worked out what could be played where as Australia gradually relaxes state and international borders after long Covid lockdowns. - APP

World honours Maradona on first death anniversary of 'Golden Kid'

LONDON: The world marks the one-year anniversary of the death of Diego Maradona, regarded by some as the best player of all time and a man adored in his home country Argentina despite, or perhaps because of, his human flaws. Argentine club matches will mark on Thursday a minute of silence and players will arrange themselves in a "10" formation on the pitch to honor Maradona's famous jersey number, while special masses will be held - including in the Buenos Aires slum where Maradona grew up, to mark the day he passed away. In Naples, where he spent part of his career, two statues for the striker are set to be unveiled. "We'll miss you for the rest of our lives," said the Argentine Football League in homage on the eve of the anniversary, with a video of the life, goals, and many trophies of the man nicknamed "Pibe de Oro" (Golden Kid). Maradona died of a heart attack last November at the age of 60, weeks after undergoing brain surgery for a blood clot. The former Boca Juniors, Barcelona and Napoli star had battled cocaine and alcohol addictions for years, and was suffering from liver, kidney and cardiovascular disorders when he died. His death shocked fans around the world, and tens of thousands queued to file past his coffin, draped in the Argentine flag, at the presidential palace in Buenos Aires during three days of national

mourning. He may be dead, but in Argentina Maradona is everywhere. From ubiquitous mural frescos that portray him as a deity to television series about his life and even a religion bearing his name. His two goals in the 1986 World Cup quarter-finals, which saw Argentina triumph over England just four years after the Falklands War, made Maradona an instant hero. His rags-to-riches story, stellar sporting achievements, complicated life and dramatic death entrenched his place in the Argentine psyche. In the cities, Maradona's name is memorialized in countless graffiti: "Diego lives," "10 Eternal" and "D10S" - a play of words with the Spanish word for god, "Dios", and Maradona's famous jersey number. Murals in Buenos Aires depict him with angel wings, as a patron saint complete with halo and scepter, or back here on Earth, kissing the World Cup. Maradona is perhaps remembered as much for his "Hand of God" goal - which illegally came off his hand in what he ascribed to supernatural intervention - as for his second in the same match against England which would later become known as the "Goal of the Century". These extremes - "a virtuous goal and a sinful goal" that also reflected Maradona's conflicted life of virtue and vice - help explain people's fascination him, according to Latin American columnist Eduardo Galeano. - DNA

NOVEMBER 2021

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:

www.centrelines.com.pk

www.dnanews.com.pl

www.islamabadpost.com.pk

@PostIslamabad/ @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

Islamabad POST

11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza,
G-8 Markez, Islamabad-Pakistan
Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165

Malaysia denies entry visas to Israeli team

KUALA LAMPUR: Muslim-majority Malaysia has rejected entry visas for Israeli players to participate in a major squash tournament next month. The revelation was made by the World Squash Federation (WSF) on Thursday, pointing out that it had "been made aware that, at present, the Malaysian authorities have not accepted yet to provide visas for the Israel squash team".

The WSF added it is in contact with Malaysia's squash body and hoped that "a fair and practical solution can be achieved". The Squash Racquets Association of Malaysia, the country's squash organisation, declined to comment. The World Team Championship for men is due to take place in Kuala Lumpur from Dec 7-12, with 26 squads participating. The Israel Squash Association said it plans to turn to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Switzerland if the WSF cannot resolve the issue. "It's a shame that they are mixing sports with politics," association chairman Aviv Bushinsky told AFP. The tournament was earlier this year moved to Malaysia from New Zealand because of coronavirus-related travel restrictions. Malaysia, where the Palestinian cause enjoys widespread support, has no diplomatic relations with Israel. About 60 percent of the Malaysian population are ethnic Malay Muslims, and entry into the country on an Israeli passport is forbidden. - APP

Late Milan winner stuns Atletico Madrid

MADRID: Atletico Madrid's chances of reaching the Champions League last 16 were dealt a hammer blow on Wednesday after a 1-0 defeat by AC Milan left them needing to win at Porto in their final game in Group B. A scrappy contest at the Wanda Metropolitano looked set to end goalless until Milan substitute Junior Messias headed home a dramatic winner in the 87th minute to leave Atletico staring down the barrel of an early exit. Messias' goal not only means Atleti will need a victory instead of a draw in Porto on December 7 but it also brings Milan back to life, as they sit just a point behind Porto ahead of their closing match against Liverpool at the San Siro. Atletico Madrid are level on points with Milan but beneath them on goal difference, with qualification even to the Europa League now far from certain. Asked if this is one of the most challenging moments of his tenure at Atletico, Simeone said: "We have always had challenges. I am optimistic, always, I am, and I will never change." "The team will compete very well for sure in the last game. The Champions League is unforgiving, those that get through will deserve it."

All but two of Atleti's previous 11 Champions League group appearances have seen them reach the last 16 while Milan are participating at this stage for the first time since 2014. But Milan deserved their late winner, after showing far more ambition in a game that Atleti contributed very little to in any creative sense. Both teams came in without the assurance of recent victories, with Milan, second in Serie A, losing to Fiorentina last weekend on the back of a draw against Inter. - APP

Embuldeniya stars as Sri Lanka thrash Windies

GALLE (SRI LANKA): Lath Embuldeniya took five wickets in the final innings as hosts Sri Lanka thrashed the West Indies by 187 runs in the first Test in Galle on Thursday to go 1-0 up in the two-match series. Chasing a hefty target of 348, West Indies were bowled out for 160 before tea on the final day, with Nkrumah Bonner the lone warrior with an unbeaten 68 on a turning wicket at the Galle International Stadium. Bonner was one of only three West Indies batsmen to make it into double figures along with Joshua Da Silva, who made 54, and Rakheem Cornwall who managed 13. Sri Lanka secured a 156-run first-innings lead thanks to a masterful 147 by Dimuth Karunaratne and four wick-

ets by Praveen Jayawickrama helping to scuttle the visitors for 230. With rain washing out some play and storm clouds threatening, Karunaratne starred again in Sri Lanka's second innings with 83, aided by Angelo Mathews who made 69, to set the West Indies a mountainous task to win. On day four the hosts' spin trio made quick work of the West Indies top order with a collapse seeing the tourists lose four wickets in 15 balls for just four runs. Reeling on 52 for six at the start of the final day, the West Indies clung on with Bonner and Da Silva putting on 100, the West Indies' highest partnership of the match. Despite the wicket offering plenty of assistance, the

two batsmen tackled the Sri Lankan spin threat well with clever use of footwork. Three chances were also put down by Sri Lanka with Pathum Nissanka the guilty party each time. It was a crucial seventh-wicket partnership for the tourists after they had been reduced to 18 for six on day four. At that point, the West Indies were in danger of being shot out for their lowest score in Test cricket with the game ending inside four days. Their lowest total was 47 all out against England in Jamaica in 2004. SL did dismiss Da Silva 15 minutes before lunch when he was caught at slip by Dhananjaya de Silva to give Embuldeniya his third wicket in the innings. - Agencies

Briefs

Czech president out of hospital

PRAGUE: Czech President Milos Zeman left Prague's Military University Hospital (UVN) for home care on Thursday when he was due to appoint the new prime minister, the facility said. Zeman was hospitalised on October 10, a day after a general election, and treated for liver problems that doctors have suggested could be cirrhosis. The president was taken from the UVN to his Lany chateau residence just west of Prague, the hospital said in a statement.

Zeman was expected to appoint centre-right leader Petr Fiala as prime minister at Lany on Friday. Fiala's Together alliance of three parties narrowly won the vote. "The UVN still recommends care provided in a specialised medical facility under the supervision of a team of medical experts," the hospital said.

"However, considering the remarkable improvement in the president's condition, we fully respect his decision to prefer the fulfillment of his constitutional duties outside the medical facility," it added. The Together alliance comprising Fiala's right-wing Civic Democratic Party, the centrist Christian Democrats and the centre-right TOP 09 party, defeated the populist ANO movement of outgoing billionaire Prime Minister Andrej Babis. — APP

Red Cross names Swiss diplomat as first woman president

GENEVA: The international Red Cross said Thursday that Swiss diplomat and international worker Mirjana Spoljaric Egger would be its next president, and the first woman to lead the organisation. The current assistant Secretary-General at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will replace Peter Maurer as president of the International Committee of the Red Cross when he steps down next September, the organisation said in a statement. Maurer, who will leave after 10 years on the job, hailed the appointment, saying Spoljaric Egger would "bring strategic vision, strong international experience and an extensive diplomatic background to the role." "She is an accomplished leader, and I am confident that she will be a powerful and compassionate advocate for people affected by armed conflict and violence."

Spoljaric Egger, whose age was not given, said it was "a great honour and a great responsibility to be elected president of an organisation which I have long admired for its inspiring and vital global mission."

"I will strive to highlight the needs of the most vulnerable and to do justice to the incredible impact of ICRC's teams in conflict settings worldwide." — APP

Eleven dead in Siberia mine accident

GRAMOTEINO: At least 11 people are dead and dozens still missing underground after an accident at a Russian coal mine in Siberia on Thursday, officials said. There were 285 people inside the Listvyazhnaya mine, in the Kemerovo region near the town of Belovo, when the accident occurred, local governor Sergei Tsivilev said on Telegram. There was no official statement on the cause of the accident at the mine, where a methane blast in 2004 killed 13 people.

At least 11 people died in Thursday's accident and 46 remained underground, Tsivilev said in a statement on the local government's website. He said in a video on Telegram that there was "no communication" with the people underground. "There is no heavy smoke, so we will hope that there is no fire," Tsivilev said, adding that the mine's ventilation systems were working. He said the others inside the mine had been evacuated to the surface and that 43 people were in hospital with injuries, some in critical condition. — APP

Poland accuses Belarus of helping migrants to cross border

So far this year, Poland has clocked more than 35,000 attempted illegal crossings from Belarus. They include 6,000 in November, nearly 17,300 in October, some 7,700 in September and over 3,500 in August, according to border guard data

AGENCIES

WARSAW: Some 230 migrants have forced their way through the border from Belarus with the help of Belarusian border guards but were immediately sent back across. In a statement released on Thursday, Polish border guards said the migrants "throw rocks and sticks at Polish forces" as Belarusian forces used lasers and strobe lighting to try and blind Polish officers. "They destroyed the fence and a group of 232 people made their way several metres into Polish territory," border guard spokesperson Anna Michalska told the Polish news agency PAP. "The officers instructed them to leave Polish territory and escorted them to the border demarcation," she said, adding the incident happened late Wednesday. The border guard spokesperson also said

five migrants were taken to hospital suffering from "exhaustion". The border guards said there were a total of 375 attempted crossings from Belarus on Wednesday. So far this year, Poland has clocked more than 35,000 attempted illegal crossings from Belarus. They include 6,000 in November, nearly 17,300 in October, some 7,700 in September and over 3,500 in August, according to border guard data. Aid groups say at least 11 migrants have died on both sides of the border since the crisis began in the summer and have criticised the Polish government over its policy of pushing migrants back. The EU and US accuse Belarus of manufacturing the crisis by bringing in migrants from the Middle East and then taking them to the border, an accusation that Belarus denies.

Putin opposes EU proposal

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin opposed an EU proposal for new sanctions on Belarus. Putin and President of the EU Council Charles Michel discussed the current migrant crisis at the Belarus-Poland border during a telephone call, the Kremlin said in a statement. The Russian president reiterated that Polish security forces used sound bombs and tear gas at the borders and Putin expressed hope that Michel will work with Polish authorities to avoid actions that can escalate an already tense situation and prevent violent actions against migrants, it said. The statement added that Putin and Michel also addressed developments concerning Ukraine, Afghanistan, Libya and

Upper Karabakh. Since August, European Union countries bordering Belarus – Lithuania, Latvia and Poland – have reported a dramatically growing number of irregular crossings. More than 8,000 people have tried to enter the bloc via the Belarus-EU border in 2021, up sharply from just 150 last year. According to the EU, Belarus reaches out to potential travelers through seemingly official channels, including diplomatic missions and travel agencies, and invites them to Belarus by offering them visas. They are then allegedly guided to the EU border. In the last week, at least 2,000 people, including women and children, have been stuck at the Belarusian-Poland border area in dire conditions. — Agencies

Dubai's top realtors set to enter Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Estate developers from Dubai, attracted by incentives and conducive environment provided for construction industry, are set to enter Pakistan with billions of rupees investment. For Pakistan's real estate sector, a Dubai-based Samana Developers on Thursday inked a key partnership agreement with H&S Real Estate announced at a joint press conference in Dubai, according to a message received here. Under the partnership, a new real estate development company 'Emirates Developers', had been incorporated in Pakistan, which would build mixed-used resort-themed communities in the tourist hotspots. The agreement signing ceremony was witnessed by Consul-General of Pakistan to Dubai Hassan Afzal Khan, along with officials of the Consulate, Samana Developers and H&S Real Estate. Hassan Afzal while appreciating the strategic part-

nership, said "It is a proud moment for all of us and for the Pakistani community in Dubai that we are witnessing a double success story of Samana Developers and H&S Real Estate going to be replicated in Pakistan." He said he believed that the two well reputed real estate companies with their vision were going to create a new milestone in the real estate sector of Pakistan and would attract the much-needed investment to "our homeland." "I, on behalf of my colleagues in Pakistan mission in the UAE, share our best wishes to the success of Samana Developers, H&S Real Estate and the new venture Emirates Developers." Multi-award-winning and ranked amongst Top 50 Real Estate Companies in the Middle East, Samana Developers, is among top 20 real estate developers in the UAE. CEO of Samana Developers Mr. Imran Farooq said "We are coming to Pakistan with high ambitions and bullish mindset.

Channel deaths fuel UK-France tensions over boats

NEWS DESK

LONDON: The deaths of at least 27 people in the English Channel is fueling tensions between the U.K. and France over how to stop migrants from crossing the world's busiest waterway in small boats. Despite a pledge from British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and French President Emmanuel Macron that they would "do everything possible" to stop people smugglers from endangering lives, politicians on both sides of the channel are already sniping at their counterparts for failing to prevent Wednesday's tragedy. U.K. officials criticize France for rejecting their offer of British police and border officers to conduct joint patrols along the channel coast with French police. French authorities say Britain is stoking the crisis because it is too easy for migrants to remain in the country and work if they manage to cross the channel. Amid the finger point-

France calls for European aid

CALAIS: President Emmanuel Macron appealed Thursday to neighboring European countries to do more to stop illegal migration into France after at least 27 people died trying to cross the English Channel. Macron said that when migrants arrive on French shores with hopes of heading to Britain "it is already too late." Speaking a day after the deadliest migration tragedy to date on the dangerous sea lane that separates France and Britain, Macron said France is deploying army drones as part of stepped-up efforts to patrol the northern French coastline and help rescue migrants at sea. But he also said that France is a "transit country" for migrants aiming for Britain and that a greater collective effort is needed. "We need to strengthen cooperation with Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, but also the British and the (European) Commission," he said on a visit to Croatia. "We need stronger European cooperation." — Agencies

ing, British lawmakers on Thursday will debate the soaring number of migrants who are crossing the channel in small boats. Macron is scheduled to discuss the issue with European Union officials. Meanwhile, migrants are continuing to brave frigid weather in small boats and unseaworthy dinghies in hopes of getting to British

shores to seek asylum or better opportunities. More than 25,000 people have made the dangerous Channel crossing so far this year, about triple the total for the whole of 2020. "This tragedy was completely predictable, indeed it was predicted and it was completely preventable," Zoe Gardner, of the Joint Council of Welfare for Imm-

igrants, told the BBC. "This has to be a time for our government to mark a turning point. "We need to offer people alternatives to the smuggling boats." Johnson said Wednesday it was clear that French operations to stop migrant boats from leaving French shores "haven't been enough," despite millions of pounds of support promised by the British government this summer meant to fund more police patrols on French beaches. But Calais lawmaker Pierre-Henri Dumont told the BBC that more patrols "will not change anything because we have 200 to 300 kilometers (125 to 185 miles) of shore to monitor 24/7." "I think it's time for both our governments to stop blaming each other and to try and talk to each other and find real solutions, not a crazy solution such as having more and more people patrolling, sending the British Army to the French shore," Dumont said. "That is not acceptable and will not change anything."



ISLAMABAD: Lieutenant General Luciano Portolano, Secretary General of Defence & National Armaments Director, Italy called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force. — DNA

Five killed in car bombing in Somalia

MOGADISHU: Eight people were killed and over a dozen injured in a car bombing near a school in Somalia's capital Mogadishu on Thursday, police said, in the latest attack claimed by Al-Shabaab terrorists in the troubled country. "Eight civilians were killed and 17 others wounded in the blast," Abdifatah Adan, a spokesman for Somalia's police, said in a brief statement, without giving further details. Security official Mohamed Abdillahi told AFP earlier that the blast was caused by a car bomb that left 11 students injured. "We don't know the target of the attack," he said. Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the bombing, saying it was aimed at "military trainers". Witnesses said a large convoy carrying troops from AMISOM, the African Union force fighting the militants, was passing through the

area when the bomb went off. "I was close to the area when the blast occurred, there was an AMISOM convoy... passing by," Said Ibrahim told AFP. Witnesses said the bomb caused heavy damage to the school and vehicles parked nearby. "The school building was badly damaged and some of their school buses destroyed", Ahmed Bare, a security guard at a nearby building, told AFP. The director of Mogadishu's Aamin ambulance service, Abdikadir Abdirahman, shared photos of the rubble-strewn scene on Twitter, calling the bombing "a tragedy". The Al-Qaeda linked militants regularly carry out attacks in the capital and elsewhere in the country, most recently targeting a prominent Somali journalist who was killed in a bombing on Saturday. — APP

Interpol elects UAE official as president

NEWS DESK

ISTANBUL: Interpol on Thursday elected a contentious official from the United Arab Emirates as its new president during the international law enforcement body's annual General Assembly held in Istanbul. Maj. Gen. Ahmed Naser al-Raisi, inspector general at the United Arab Emirates' interior ministry and a member of Interpol's executive committee, was elected for one four-year term, the global policing body announced. He has been accused by human rights groups of involvement in torture and arbitrary detentions in the UAE. Another contentious candidate, Hu Binchen, an official at China's ministry of public security, was elected to join Interpol's executive committee as a delegate from Asia. Hu was backed by China's government, which is suspected of using the global police body to hunt down exiled dissidents and of disappearing its citizens. Interpol said al-Raisi was elected following three rounds of voting and received 68.9% of the votes cast in the final round. "It's an honor to have been elected to serve as the next president of Interpol," the global police agency quoted al-Raisi as saying. "Interpol is an indispensable organization built on the strength of its partnerships. It is this collaborative spirit, united in mission, that I will continue to foster as we work to make a safer world for people and communities," he said.

Australia deploys peacekeepers at Solomon Islands

HONIARA: Australia rushed police and military peacekeepers to the Solomon Islands Thursday to quell two days of rioting that left the capital ablaze and threatened to topple the Pacific nation's government. Prime Minister Scott Morrison authorised the snap deployment at the request of his Solomon counterpart Manasseh Sogavare, who protesters have demanded step down from office. On Thursday thousands ignored a government lockdown order, torching several buildings around Honiara's Chinatown district including commercial properties and a bank branch. By sunset, flames dotted the Honiara skyline and plumes of thick black smoke billowed high above the city. It followed widespread chaos in Honiara on Wednesday, when demonstrators attempted to storm parliament and depose Sogavare, a pro-Beijing leader who has become the focus of inter-island rivalry. Morrison said the Australian deployment was immediate and expected to last "a matter of weeks", unlike Canberra's last peacekeeping mission to the Solomons, which ran from 2003 to 2017. — APP

Uzbek FM meets with VP of EC

DNA

TASHKENT: Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov met with Vice-President of the European Commission Margaritis Schinas, who arrived in Tashkent on a visit. According to the press service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan, during the conversation, the main directions of cooperation between Uzbekistan and the EU in areas of mutual interest were discussed. The parties welcomed the fruitful results of the 16th meeting of the Cooperation Council "Republic of Uzbekistan - European Union" and the 17th ministerial meeting in the format "European Union - Central Asia", as well as bilateral negotiations held within the framework of these events. An exchange of views took place on the schedule of upcoming contacts. Special attention was paid to issues related to the negotiation process on the draft Agreement on expanded partnership and cooperation between Uzbekistan and the EU.

OIC Commission adopts report on Karabakh

During the session, the reports prepared on the basis of the assessment missions carried out within the mandate of the commission were discussed

AGENCIES

JEDDAH: The report of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) assessment mission on Azerbaijani territories liberated from Armenian occupation [in the 2020 second Karabakh war] was adopted at the 18th session of the Permanent Independent Commission on Human Rights of OIC in Jeddah (Saudi Arabia). Trend reports with reference to the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman) of Azerbaijan. During the session, the reports prepared on the basis of the assessment missions carried out within the mandate of the commission were discussed. On September 22-26, 2021, delegation headed by the Chairman of the Independent Permanent Commission on Human Rights of the OIC Saeed Mohammed Abdullahi Omair Alghfeli visited Azerbaijan's liberated territories of, as well as the territories affected by missile attacks of the Armenian armed forces against civilians

Baku, Moscow mull prospects for humanitarian cooperation

BAKU: Azerbaijan and Russia have discussed prospects for the development of humanitarian cooperation. The issue in question was discussed by the head of the Presidential Administration of Azerbaijan, Samir Nuriyev, and Russian President's Special Representative for International Cultural Cooperation Mikhail Shvydkoy. The two officials emphasized the special role of the Azerbaijani and Russian leaders in the comprehensive development of bilateral cooperation at the level of strategic partnership based on friendship and good neighborliness. They noted the special importance of the humanitarian sphere, which is one of the important areas of bilateral relations, and reiterated their mutual intention to develop cooperation in this area. In addition, interaction in the field of culture, which is a significant component of

humanitarian ties, was discussed, and the sides considered holding joint events in this area. Also, the care and attention paid to the Russian language and Russian culture at the state level in Azerbaijan was highly appreciated. It was noted that Azerbaijan has more than 340 schools, where instruction is provided in Russian. Furthermore, the sides noted with satisfaction the continuation of relations between Azerbaijan and Russia in the humanitarian sphere, despite the difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The parties also discussed other issues of mutual interest also took place. Earlier, Azerbaijani State Committee on Work with Diaspora Chairman Fuad Muradov discussed with Shvydkoy the further development of bilateral Azerbaijani-Russian relations and the expansion of cultural ties. — Agencies

In this document, which was discussed at the 18th session of the OIC Independent Permanent Commission on Human Rights, war crimes in the territories of Azerbaijan subjected to Armenian aggression, gross violation of human rights and freedoms, destruction of national-cultural, architectural, historical and religious monuments, including the destruction, looting and desecration of mosques are re-

Briefs

ECP seeks funds for EVMs' procurement

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has written a letter to the government seeking funds for the procurement of Electronic Voting Machines for the next general elections.

According to the Parliamentary Affairs Ministry, the ECP will buy more than 800,000 EVMs for next the general election. Sources informed the ECP wrote an epistle to the federal government regarding the release of funds for purchasing of more than 0.8 million EVMs that will be used in the next general elections.

The ECP further stated that the commission needs 3 acres piece of land for the storage of the EVMs. As per the contents of the ECP letter, the general elections are expected to be held in Oct 2023 and the commission has to take necessary measures regarding the use of new technology in 23 months.

The commission stated that it needed a warehouse for the storage of the EVMs and suggested a building in the Kohisar Block, Floor 2. According to Parliamentary Affairs Ministry sources, the ECP needs a building for the purpose of data centre, control centre, modern lab, printing and training sessions. The ECP has asked the Parliamentary Affairs Ministry to forward its proposal to the concerned authorities.

France to open Covid booster jabs to all adults

PARIS: French Health Minister Olivier Veran said Thursday that Covid-19 booster shots would be made available to all adults from this weekend to counter a new wave of infections. Until now they have only been available to people over 65, health workers or people with health conditions that make them particularly vulnerable to Covid.

Veran added that from January 15, people aged over 18 would need to show proof of a top-up vaccine dose to maintain a valid Covid pass, which is required to enter restaurants, bars, gyms and other public venues.

He ruled out imposing another lockdown or a curfew at this stage in the fight against a fifth wave of infections, which he described as "stronger and longer" than the previous wave this summer.

"We can get through this wave without using the most restrictive tools" used by some European countries to fight the spread of the virus, Veran said. President Emmanuel Macron's government plans instead to keep up pressure on people to get immunised and to reinforce rules on mask-wearing, which had been relaxed in recent months as vaccination rates soared. - APP

Germany's Covid death toll tops 100,000

FRANKFURT: Germany announced record coronavirus fatalities and infections Thursday as the total death toll passed 100,000, with the nation's most severe virus wave worsening just as a new government prepares to replace Angela Merkel's coalition.

Germany weathered earlier bouts of the pandemic better than many other European countries, but has seen a recent resurgence, with intensive care beds rapidly filling up. Europe's largest economy recorded 351 Covid fatalities in the past 24 hours, bringing the official death toll since the start of the pandemic to 100,119, in what Bild daily called a "grim milestone". The weekly incidence rate also hit an all-time high of 419.7 new infections per 100,000 people, the Robert Koch Institute health agency said. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Chief guest Federal Minister for Food Security Syed Fakhar Imam, Ambassador of Bosnia Brig. General (Rtd) Sakib Foric and others cutting cake on the occasion of National Day and Armed Forces day of Bosnian and Herzegovina. - DNA

Over 1,100 tons of relief items sent to Afghanistan

Consisting of food, medicine and shelters, two consignments were dispatched through Torkham border, two from Ghulam Khan border and one from Chaman border

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has so far dispatched eight consignments containing 1,115 tons of relief items for Afghan people as the process of extending humanitarian aid to the war-torn country continues. Consisting of food, medicine and shelters, two consignments were dispatched through Torkham border, two from Ghulam Khan border and one from Chaman border.

Five consignments were arranged with the collaboration of Turkish Red Crescent Society, Aga Khan Foundation, Rizq, a Lahore-based startup and Kashmir Orphan Relief Trust.

Out of these, three consignments were sent through Torkham, one each from Angoor Adda and Kharlachi.

The said five consignments consisted of 554 tons of food, medicines and shelters. Besides dispatching relief items, Pakistan had also been supporting the Afghan masses by sending medical teams to cope with the medical emergency situation which is feared to deteriorate with the onset of the winter.

Pakistan has established two medical

International community urged to support Afghanistan

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar has urged the international community to generously contribute to help face the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. Answering a question during his weekly news briefing in Islamabad today [Thursday], he said that the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan is quite big, which has been realized by the international community as the United Nations and various countries are coming forward to provide the required assistance to the people of Afghanistan. The Spokesperson said Pakistan is part of that international effort and it will continue to do the maximum extent to facilitate Afghan citizens. He said

camps in which 8,120 patients were examined and 530 patients went through

Pakistan has pledged humanitarian assistance worth five billion rupees.

He said Islamabad has also acceded to Afghan people's request to let the humanitarian assistance offered by India to pass through Wagah border. Answering another question, Asim Iftikhar said Pakistan and many other countries have been saying that unfreezing Afghan assets will be an appropriate way of assisting the Afghan people at this point of time. Replying to a question regarding progress on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the Spokesperson said both countries are committed to a clean and green vision of CPEC, which is being translated into reality through projects like Karot Hydropower, which will improve Pakistan's access to clean, low cost and sustainable energy.

surgical procedures conducted by the Pakistani eye specialists.

The first free eye camp was organised in Khost from November 18-20, 2021 where 2670 patients were treated while 324 surgeries were performed.

The second free eye camp was organized at Muhammad Ali Jinnah Hospital Kabul from November 22-24, 2021 where 5,450 patients including children, women and the elderly were treated and 206 surgeries were performed.

Since the pullout of foreign troops from Afghanistan, Pakistan had been calling the world to assist Afghanistan to avert a humanitarian and economic catastrophe. In their interactions with foreign leaders, Pakistani leadership had been urging the world to stand with Afghans in the time of need irrespective of the geopolitical interests. Pakistan has recently announced to send Rs 5 billion humanitarian aid to Afghanistan which would include 50,000 metric tons of wheat, emergency medical supplies, winter shelters and other critical supplies.

As a humanitarian gesture, Pakistan has also allowed India to transport 50,000 metric tons of wheat through Pakistan to Afghanistan. - APP

AVM Tariq Zia new DGPR PAF

Air Vice Marshal Tariq Zia was commissioned in GD (P) Branch of Pakistan Air Force in June, 1990

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Air Vice Marshal Tariq Zia has been appointed as Director General Public Relations (Air Force). The appointment has been announced in the backdrop of recent re-organization of Pakistan Air Force in view of evolving geo-strategic environment, and dictates of contemporary warfare.

Air Vice Marshal Tariq Zia was commissioned in GD (P) Branch of Pakistan Air Force in June, 1990. During his career, he has commanded a Fighter Squadron, a Flying Wing, Air Power Center of Excellence (ACE), and an Oper-

ational Air Base. He has also served as Air Officer Commanding, Central Air Command, AVM Tariq has also served as Commander Air Force Strategic Command. Presently, he is holding the appointment of Director General Warfare & Strategy at Air Headquarters, Islamabad. He is a graduate of PAF Air War College, Faisal and Royal College of Defence Studies, UK. In recognition of his meritorious services and meticulous professionalism, he has been awarded Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Military).



APNS asks govt to give ads figures of last 20 years

Expresses its profound concern on the statement of Ms. Marium Nawaz in which she admitted to denying some media houses advertising and the subsequent statement of the Federal Information Minister wherein he has shared figures of advertisements released to media during the tenure of the past govt

DNA

KARACHI: The APNS expresses its profound concern on the statement of Ms. Marium Nawaz in which she admitted to denying some media houses advertising and the subsequent statement of the Federal Information Minister wherein he has shared figures of advertisements released to media during the tenure of

the past government. The figures released are not only partial and selective but purposefully do not include the advertisement spend of the present government. The APNS asks the government to release the figures of advertising released to the media in the last 20 years. The APNS is of firm opinion that Government advertising should never be used as a tool to influence editorial

content and curb press freedom.

The APNS is of the considered opinion that through the above statement the Government intends to create divisions within the ranks of the media. The APNS has always strongly condemned and resisted all acts and policies of the past and present governments which were intended to curb freedom of press and expression by using govern-

ment advertising to influence editorial content. APNS believes that the present government should ensure that the taxpayer's money is used for release of advertisements in public interest on merit and not to punish or reward a publication. The APNS expects the present government to encourage transparency and merit in the distribution of advertisements to the media.

FM stresses enhanced Asia-Europe connections

The foreign minister was addressing the 13th Asia-Europe Meeting Summit (ASEM13) being hosted virtually by Cambodia

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Representing Pakistan, Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi addressed the 13th Asia-Europe Meeting Summit (ASEM13) being hosted virtually by Cambodia from 25-26 November 2021. In his statement, Foreign Minister Qureshi underscored the significance of Pakistan in providing a vital link between South Asia and Central and West Asia and onwards to Europe. He highlighted several projects undertaken by Pakistan in co-operating with countries of the region, including China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He urged Asia-Europe Meeting

Summit members to strengthen connections between Asia and Europe in education, science and technology, trade, business, security, culture, infrastructure, and people-to-people contacts. The Foreign Minister underlined that, terrorism and violent extremism are global phenomena. The international community requires coherent, effective response and greater cooperation to address the root causes of conflicts, especially longstanding unresolved disputes such as the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) that keep threatening international peace and security. He noted that Pakistan has always been ready to promote peace in the region on the basis of mutual

respect and sovereign equality. The Foreign Minister apprised the meeting of Pakistan's perspective on important regional and international issues. He underlined Pakistan's commitment to peace, stability and progress in Afghanistan.

In this regard, the Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi highlighted Pakistan's continuing efforts for facilitating humanitarian assistance and economic support to Afghanistan given the twin challenges being faced by the Afghan people. The Foreign Minister hoped that the international community will expeditiously extend financial assistance to Afghanistan enabling the country to meet its dire needs.

"SCO's inclusive approach vital"

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi said all member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) still faced multifaceted challenges of poverty, food security, and climate change, which could be addressed through an inclusive approach. In his virtual address to the leaders at the SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting held in Nur Sultan, Kazakhstan, the foreign minister said SCO's emphasis on cooperation and conflict resolution offered hope to humanity. Prime Minister of host country Kazakhstan Askar Mamin, Secretary General SCO Vladimir Norov and heads of government of SCO member states and observers joined the meeting. Terming SCO a model of shared growth and prosperity, the foreign minister said it provided an attractive platform for inter-state cooperation in diverse fields including economy, security, connectivity and sustainable development. FM Qureshi said regional security was a must for the realization of the collective vision for prosperity and economic growth of the region. - APP

Palestine lauds Belgium's decision

FOREIGN DESK

RAMALLA: The State of Palestine welcomes the Kingdom of Belgium's decision to accurately label products of illegal Israeli settlements. This decision implements European Union guidelines on the issue as well as honors obligations emanating from United Nations Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2334. It is a positive first step that is also consistent with obligations under international law to reject and not recognize Israel's illegal settlement regime.

At a time when the Israeli government is escalating its colonial takeover of Palestine through settlement expansion and construction, home demolitions, and mass displacement of Palestinians, the international community must take measures to hold Israel accountable and reject its de facto annexation of the West Bank. This is especially urgent given the grave escalation of terror attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians and communities, including the attack against a father and son near Ramallah on Wednesday.

In this regard, Palestine recalls and reaffirms that all Israeli settlements in the occupied territory of the State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, are illegal, a grave violation of international law, including international humanitarian law, and constitute a war crime under the Rome Statute. As affirmed by United Nations resolutions and in line with positions adopted by European Union members, including Belgium, they are also the antithesis to peace and derail any sincere efforts to end the occupation and materialize the two-state formula.

EU approves first Covid jab for kids aged 5-11

THE HAGUE: The EU cleared Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine for use in children aged five to 11 on Thursday, the first to be approved in a cohort where the virus is rapidly spreading.

Only a small handful of countries had previously given the nod for coronavirus vaccinations in younger children, including the United States, Israel and Canada. "I'm glad to tell you that Comirnaty from today has received approval for children five to 11 years of age," said Marco Cavaleri, head of vaccine strategy at the European Medicines Agency (EMA), using the vaccine's brand name.

"This is based on a different dose in the one used in adults, essentially it's a much lower dose," he told an online public meeting. The vaccine was already cleared for use in people aged 12 and over in the 27-nation EU. Children aged five to 11 will be given one third of the dose that older people receive, with two injections, three weeks apart, the EMA said in a statement. - Agencies

Successful test flight of Shaheen-1A

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday conducted successful flight test of Shaheen-1A surface to surface ballistic missile.

The test flight was aimed at re-validating certain design and technical parameters of the weapon system, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release.

The flight test was witnessed by Director General Strategic Plans Division, Lieutenant General Nadeem Zaki Manj, Chairman NESCOM, Dr Raza Samar, Commander Army Strategic Forces Command Lieutenant General Muhammad Ali and the scientists and engineers of strategic organizations. Director General Strategic Plans Division congratulated scientists and engineers on successful conduct of flight test. He appreciated the technical prowess, dedication and commitment of scientists and engineers for their excellent contribution. - APP