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PM Imran Khan to announce mega relief package today

Detailed News On Page-01

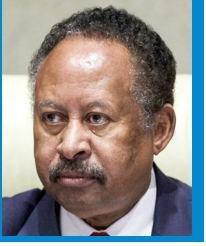
Pakistan will not participate in Indian moot

Detailed News On Page-01



Sudan PM demands govt reinstatement

Detailed News On Page-07



Briefs

PM to address nation on TLP issue

MAHNOOR ANSAR
 ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan is expected to take the nation into confidence tomorrow (Wednesday) on the secretive deal that the government had struck with the proscribed Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), sources told Geo News Tuesday. The prime minister is expected to speak to the nation about the current economic, security, and political situation in the country, sources said.

Iran's FM tests positive for Covid

DNA
 TEHRAN: Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian has tested positive for COVID-19, the foreign ministry's spokesman said, in advance of the nuclear talks slated to be held later this month. "His general condition is good and he continues working from quarantine," Saeed Khatibzadeh told state media late on Monday, adding that the minister's agenda of visits had changed. Earlier on Monday, the foreign ministry reported that Amirabdollahian was going to India by the end of November to attend a meeting at the Indo-Iranian Joint Economic Commission. No further indications were made by Khatibzadeh on whether the foreign minister would be able to go to New Delhi this month.

Jeff Bezos pledges \$2bn for nature

NEWS DESK
 GLASGOW: Amazon founder Jeff Bezos has said his Bezos Earth Fund will spend \$2bn (£1.5bn) restoring landscapes and transforming food systems. He told the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow that he had grasped nature's fragility when he travelled into space. Entrepreneurs including Mr Bezos have been criticised for spending money on trips into space instead of solving problems on Earth.

Dozens killed in Afghanistan hospital attack

The explosions took place at the entrance of the 400-bed Sardar Mohammad Daud Khan hospital

AGENCIES
 KABUL: At least 25 people were killed and more than 50 wounded in an attack on Afghanistan's biggest military hospital on Tuesday which saw two heavy blasts followed up by gunmen assaulting the site in central Kabul, officials said. The explosions took place at the entrance of the 400-bed Sardar Mohammad Daud Khan hospital and were followed immediately with an assault by a group of gunmen, Taliban spokesman Bilal Karimi said. Four of the attackers were killed by Taliban security forces and a fifth was captured, he said. The blasts add to a growing list of attacks and killings since the Taliban completed their victory over the Western-backed government in August, undermining their claim to have restored security to Afghanistan after decades of war. There was no immediate claim of responsibility but the operation was typical of the complex attacks mounted by Islamic State. It follows a string of bombings by the group which has emerged as the biggest threat to Taliban control of Afghanistan. A Taliban security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said at least 25 people had been killed and more than 50 wounded in the assault but there was no officially confirmed casualty toll. Photographs shared by residents showed a plume of smoke over the area of the blasts near the former diplomatic zone in the Wazir Akbar Khan area of the city

Pak condemns Kabul attacks

SAIFULLAH
 ISLAMABAD: Pakistan strongly condemns terrorist attacks near the Sardar Mohammad Daud Khan hospital in Kabul on Tuesday, which resulted in loss of so many innocent lives and injuries to many others. A statement from foreign office said, "We share the pain and suffering of the families who lost their loved ones in these mindless terrorist acts. We also convey our sympathies and support for those injured and pray for their early recovery". Pakistan reiterates its strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, it added. At least 25 people were killed and more than 50 wounded in an attack on Afghanistan's biggest military hospital on Tuesday which saw two heavy blasts followed up by gunmen assaulting the site in central Kabul, officials said. and witnesses said at least two helicopters flew over the area as the assault went on. A health worker at the hospital, who managed to escape, said he heard a large explosion

Hundreds of TLP workers released

Police said that the supporters who were booked in cases will be released by the courts after completing legal formalities

BUREAU REPORT
 LAHORE: The Punjab Police on Tuesday released at least 1,000 workers of the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) who were detained under the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) during the violent protests by the religious outfit. The release of the workers came two days after the government signed an agreement with the TLP after over a week of violent protests. Police said that the supporters who were booked in cases will be released by the courts after completing legal formalities. During the protests, the government had detained at least 2,000 TLP supporters, out of which 1,000 have been released while the directives for the release of the remaining 1,000 workers have

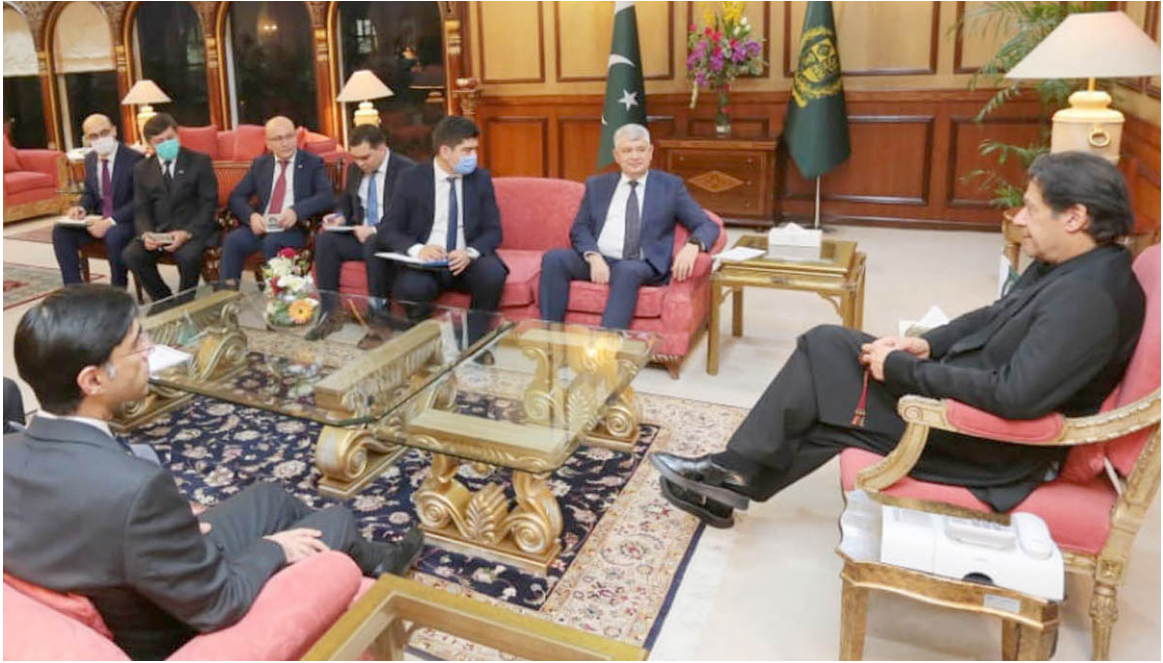
Govt to withdraw appeal against Saad Rizvi's release

ABID RAZA
 LAHORE: The government has started to implement a secretive agreement signed with the proscribed Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), with reports suggesting that it has released more than 800 supporters of the party arrested across Punjab under the deal. The government had signed an accord with the proscribed outfit last Sunday, under which workers of the organisation who are not facing any formal criminal charges were to be released. The amnesty will also extend to the party's top leader, Saad Rizvi. Implementation of the agreement started after a Monday meeting of the steering committee formed by Prime Minister Imran Khan to work out how the deal would be executed. Federal Minister Ali Mohammad Khan chaired the meeting. It was attended by Punjab's Minister for Law Raja Basharat, secretaries of the federal interior ministry, additional chief secretary of the Punjab Home Department, other officials, as well as some members of the TLP.

Govt partners in favour of reforms: Fawad

Prime Minister Imran Khan will announce a "historic" mega relief package today amid rising inflation and food prices in the country

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
 ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain on Tuesday said, the government's coalition partners graciously supporting the electoral reforms of Prime Minister Imran Khan, assured him of taking forward the agenda in future. "We have put forth our idea of electoral reforms which is comprised on 49-points before our coalition partners including PML-Q and MQM who will be further briefed on this in near future," he said while addressing the media in a post-cabinet briefing. He said PM Imran Khan met the coalition partners after chairing the Federal Cabinet meeting and took them into confidence on the government's stance on Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in



ISLAMABAD: Secretary of the Security Council of Uzbekistan, Lieutenant General Victor Makhmudov calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan. - DNA

PM stresses enhanced Pak, Uzbek relationship

PM, Uzbek Secretary Security Council meet

STAFF REPORT
 ISLAMABAD: Secretary of the Security Council (National Security Advisor) of Uzbekistan Lt. Gen. Victor Makhmudov called on Prime Minister Imran Khan here on Tuesday and discussed bilateral issues. National Security Advisor Dr. Moeed Yousaf and senior officials were present during the meeting. While recalling telephonic conversation with the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Prime Minister Imran Khan underlined the importance of enhanced trade and economic linkages, and reiterated Pakistan's support to regional connectivity. The prime minister emphasized high-level interaction to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in all areas including economic, trade, investment, energy,

Pak, Uzbekistan sign security protocol

Secretary of the Security Council of Uzbekistan Lt. Gen. Victor Makhmudov and Pakistan's NSA Dr. Moeed Yusuf led the respective delegations

DNA
 ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Uzbekistan have signed a protocol on establishment of Joint Security Commission to enhance bilateral cooperation in security related matters. The signing ceremony, held in Islamabad on Tuesday, was followed by the inaugural session of the Commission formed under the protocol. Secretary of the Security Council of Uzbekistan Lt. Gen. Victor Makhmudov and Pakistan's National Security Advisor Dr. Moeed Yusuf led the respective delegations. The protocol covers wide-ranging security related matters of mutual

Qureshi meets with Uzbek delegation

STAFF REPORT
 ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi met with Lt. Gen Makhmudov Victor, Secretary of the Security Council of Uzbekistan, in the Foreign Office today. The two sides discussed Pakistan-Uzbekistan bilateral relations, in particular cooperation on matters related to trade and economic cooperation, regional security and defence. The Foreign Minister emphasized the importance of enhanced political and economic linkages and operationalization of the Pakistan-Uzbekistan Transit Trade Agreement (UPTTA) recently signed between the two countries. Highlighting the importance of regional connectivity in Pakistan's "Vision Central Asia" policy, he reiterated Pakistan's continued support to the Trans-Afghan railway project and reaffirmed commitment for its early completion. He said that peace and stability in Afghanistan was vital to reap the benefits of regional connectivity projects for the entire region.

T20 WC: Pakistan through to semis

DUBAI: Pakistan handed Namibia a one-sided defeat in the Super 12 encounter of the 2021 ICC T20 World Cup on Tuesday. They successfully defended 189 to win their fourth successive game in the ongoing tournament. Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan starred with the bat, having shared a century stand. Pakistan will face Scotland in their final Super 12 game. Babar (70) and Rizwan (79*) added 113 runs for the opening wicket after Pakistan elected bat. Mohammad Hafeez further tormented the Namibia bowling attack. His unbeaten 32 off 16 balls powered Pakistan to 189/2. Namibia were impressive in the first 10 overs. However, the Pakistani pacers restricted their flow of runs.

Afghan issue a threat, says Russian FM

NEWS DESK
 KABUL: Russia's foreign minister Sergey Lavrov has said that his country is trying to prevent the spillover of terrorism from Afghanistan into other countries. Lavrov told Russia's state-owned channel, Rossiya 24, that the main task of the Russian Federation is to prevent its Central Asian allies from becoming destabilised after the Taliban took power in Afghanistan in August. Lavrov emphasised that the stability of Central Asian countries is a priority for Russia. "The main thing for us is their stability, since we do not have borders with our Central Asian allies, there is a visa-free regime with almost everyone," Lavrov said.

Chaman-Spin Boldak border reopens

STAFF REPORT
 QUETTA: The Chaman-Spin Boldak border crossing point between Pakistan and Afghanistan was reopened on Tuesday, nearly a month after the Taliban closed it claiming that traders, patients and passengers were "facing difficulties". The reopening follows an agreement reached between Pakistani and Afghan authorities a day earlier. Jami-Ul-Ulema-Islam-Fazl leader Qari Mohammad Aslam, who participated in the meeting, said that citizens of Qila Abdullah and Chaman in Pakistan and Kandahar in Afghanistan would be able to cross the border on the basis of their identity cards.

- Inside...**
- Govt must consider linking Faisalabad with ML-1: FCCI - Page 02
- Equipping youth with skills vital for development: Alvi - Page 03
- Lack of warmth towards Pak in US is regrettable: Fatemi - Page 04
- What does the rise of Daesh-K mean for Afghan-Pak co-op? - Page 05
- SA register emphatic win over Bangladesh - Page 06
- Sheikh Jarrah residents reject SC's compromise on evictions - Page 07
- US, EU announce global pledge to slash methane - Page 08



KARACHI: Deputy Speaker National Assembly Qasim Khan Suri addressing in the inaugural ceremony of "02-day National Conference on Strengthening Parliamentary Oversight for Building Peace & Sustainable Development in Pakistan". - DNA

A better society cannot be built without justice

STAFF REPORT

KARACHI: Highlighting the significance of the justice, Deputy Speaker of National Assembly, Qasim Khan Suri said that a better society cannot be built without peace and justice, and when there is justice, there will be peace in the society. He expressed such views while addressing the "two-day National Conference on Strengthening Parliamentary Oversight for Building Peace & Sustainable Development and Strengthening SDGs Task Force for Building Peace in Pakistan" held here on Tuesday. The conference was organized by Sustainable Social Development Organization (SSDO). We have to unite to make society better; he said adding that it is our responsibility to provide the facilities to the areas from where we have been elected. On Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Deputy Speaker told that the role of the provinces was im-

portant for this purpose and however, federal government was doing its best to fulfill the SDGs task. Talking on the issue of environment, he asserted that the Prime Minister launched a project to plant ten billion trees and the world was appreciating it. The uniform curriculum has been introduced by the government to ensure quality education in the country and a curriculum will be taught in public and private schools, he informed. Moreover, the health card is being given to the people and in addition, the subsidy is being provided to support the vulnerable class of the society, he claimed. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah said that despite having majority in the house, the coalition government was formed in the Sindh province as we could work together to bring the peace here. Until 2013-14, Karachi was considered one of the most dangerous cities in the world but we all worked together with the institutions to bring

the peace, Chief Minister claimed, adding that after the peace, the development work has been started. Besides, we have passed many laws especially to support vulnerable groups including minorities in the province. On the occasion, Former Federal Minister and MNA Ahsan Iqbal mentioned that as we entered the new century, the entire world leadership had given the Millennium Development Goals program and various countries worked but some missed its targets. In 2014, we woke up and started thinking about sustainable goals, he claimed, recounting that long-term goal could be achieved by strengthening institutions and involving the private sector. Providing basic necessities to our people should be a national agenda, he told. If no one talks, how they will understand each other, he asked, suggesting that our parliamentarians have to keep political and mutual differences aside. Legislation is the first job of parliamentarians.

PHP Faisalabad held 357 criminals to safeguard roads

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Punjab Highway Patrol is an effective instrument to curb crime on highways. The slogan of Safe Highways-Safe Punjab truly represents the significance of Patrolling police. Prevention of crime is cardinal objective of Punjab highway Patrol; it is said by SSP Mirza Anjum Kamal while talking to media. The performance report of PHP region Faisalabad shows that total 367 cases were registered under different sections and 357 criminals were arrested. As per detail as many as 1 Kalashnikov, 4 pistols 30 bore and 2 Pistol 9MM with 94 bullets were recovered. Furthermore, total 7 liter liquor, 110 Gram Cannabis and stolen Motorcycle was

recovered and 1 proclaimed offenders were also arrested. As many as 203 cases were registered against reckless drivers U/S 279 PPC and 203 violators were apprehended. Moreover, 3 lost children were found and reunited with their relatives. Help rendering were extended to 1357 commuters. As many as 3 temporary encroachments were removed for free flow of traffic. Motorcycle is widely used during robbery/Dacoity, in order to prevent road robbery, total 29 Motorcycles, 1 Hi Ace and 1 tractor were impounded U/S 134 PO, 115 MVO and 550 Cr.P.C. However, talking about the patrolling mechanism to curb the crime, PRO Patrolling Muhammad Rizwan Bhatti said that hotspots policy is being followed to reduce the crime.

The time and place of occurrence of crime is most crucial to identify the crime nature and pattern in that particular area. Moreover, the lists of stolen/snatched vehicles, proclaimed offenders and bad elements of the area are kept in the official vehicles. Furthermore, the patrolling officers are continuously in contact with control room. In case of any emergency and accidents, official vehicle rushes towards the spot and responds as per SOP. Further, he said that the help line of PHP is 1124. The signboards and information regarding Helpline 1124 is displayed in all beat areas. The road commuters should know about the helpline and call in case of any emergency and happening of mishap, he added.

PHC opposes non-party local body elections

DNA

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) here Tuesday declared holding of village and neighborhood councils election under the Local Government (amendment) Act 2019 on non-party basis in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was unconstitutional. A larger bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) headed by Justice Rohul Amin Khan, Justice Ejaz Anwar Khan and Justice Arshad Ali partially allowed the writ petitions filed by Akram Khan Durrani, Mushtaq Ahmed Khan and Himayatullah Mayar who had challenged holding of village and neighborhood councils election on non party basis under KP Local Government Act 2019 and prayed the court to declare it illegal and unconstitutional. The court ordered ECP for holding of village and neighborhood councils election on party basis in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The bench also directed KP Government and Election Commission of Pakistan to issue necessary direction to the returning officers to accept nomination papers from aspirants candidates for village and neighborhood councils on party basis with effect from November 4 as per schedule notified through a notification on October 25 by ECP.

Govt must consider linking Faisalabad with ML-1: FCCI

"Currently it has a single railway track to link it with Khanewal and Shahdara and to have access to the main railway line"

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Government must take up the issue to link Faisalabad with ML1 for the safe and speedy transportation of import and export consignments to seaports and to upcountry borders for its onward dispatch to the various export destinations, said Imran Mahmood Sheikh Senior Vice President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI). Addressing the FCCI Standing Committee on Railway, he said that Faisalabad has emerged as a major industrial, commercial, business and export hub of Pakistan. "Currently it has a single railway track to link it with Khanewal and Shahdara and to have access to the main railway line", he said and added that FCCI will consult the Government and chairman CPEC in particular to include Faisalabad in the proposed mega CPEC project of ML1. Mirza Hidayat Ullah chairman standing committee said that ML1, ML2 and ML3 railway lines have been proposed



under CPEC to link Peshawar with Karachi via Multan. He said that under this mega project 720 railway level crossings on existing railway tracks would be eliminated and replaced with 2445 small and big overhead bridges. "In some places under passes would also be constructed while its surroundings areas would be fully fenced to discourage the movement of people on railway track", he added. He

expressed concern that Faisalabad has been totally ignored in this project despite the fact that a large number of industrial units are being established in Faisalabad by Chinese individually or as joint ventures and they need direct link with ML1 for the movement of their import and export consignments. Mirza Hidayat Ullah also pointed out that a railway level crossing near Chenab Mills has been closed permanently which is causing problems for the industrialists as well as for the general public. He demanded immediate opening of this crossing in the best public interest.

He also narrated problems faced by passengers at Faisalabad railway station and said that members of this standing committee would visit to personally discuss these problems with the Assistant Operating Officer. Later, Vice Chairman Rana Naveed offered vote of thanks while the meeting was also attended by Mr. Farooq Ahmed, Mirza Zahid Iqbal, Shahid Nazir, Javed Akhtar, Shakeel Rehman, Malik Azam and Mr. Junaid Mahmood Baig.



LAHORE: Lieutenant General Syed Muhammad Adnan interacting with international army teams during the inauguration ceremony of 3rd International PACES competition. Some 101 international players from Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, Sri Lanka, UAE and Uzbekistan were participating in the competition, whereas, observers from Egypt, Indonesia, Japan and Myanmar were also part of the event. - DNA

SSP Kamal appreciates mobile education

Awareness pamphlets were also distributed to 14,101 people on important issues

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: On the directions of Faisalabad Region Mirza Anjum Kamal, Mobile Education Unit released Performance Report for October, 2021 in which the team of Mobile Education Unit conducted awareness campaign in 33 educational institutions, 35 public places, 38 taxi, rickshaw, bus and truck stands, 33 commercial markets, 13 different villages, 15 hospitals and rural health centers, 22 petrol pumps, 35 goods transport, 11 union councils and 20 banks

as well as conducted 38 road shows, road safety camps and 05 workshops and seminars on various highways of Faisalabad. Awareness pamphlets were also distributed to 14,101 people on important issues such as road safety, traffic rules, smog, coronavirus, drug prevention and positive use of social media. For the promotion of Patrolling Police Helpline 1124 through cable operators while awareness was provided to the public on various highways of Faisalabad region through billboards, sign boards and pamphlets. Re-

New corona vaccination centre set up at LGH

LAHORE: Post-graduate Medical Institute (PGMI) Principal Prof Dr Sardar Muhammad Al-Fareed Zafar Monday inaugurated a coronavirus vaccination counter for women at Gynecology outdoor department of the Lahore General Hospital (LGH). He said that in the light of the health vision of Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar and Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid, better medical facilities were being provided to patients and the government had allocated ample funds in that regard. He said around 300 women come to LGH every day for treatment at gynecology outdoors for which separate vaccination arrangements had been made now. "The vaccination counters at General Hospital are open 24/7, while the special counter for women at Gyne OPD will remain open till 4:30pm," he added.

Dr Riaz Hafeez, Dr Asif Javed, Dr Samina Tawfeeq, Dr Abdul Aziz, Dr Shabnam, Nursing Superintendent Ruqqaiya Bano, Arifa Rehman and others were also present. - APP

Rs 77,000 fine imposed on profiteers

FAISALABAD: The district price control magistrates imposed a fine of Rs 77,000 on shopkeepers over selling essential items at exorbitant rates on Tuesday. According to official sources, the magistrates held 761 inspections in various markets and bazaars and caught several retailers over profiteering and over charging. They also registered cases against three shopkeepers under price control act and issued warnings to several others. - APP

PIAF opposes digital payments decision

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: The Pakistan Industrial & Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has urged the FBR to withdraw its decision of the mandatory digital mode of payments because it was impossible for the trade and industry to adopt this new mechanism as the only mode of payment, calling this move a huge blow to the ease of doing business.

The decision will further hurt the already struggling businesses in the country," said PIAF senior vice chairman Nasir Hameed and vice chairman Javed Siddiqi in a joint statement. The FBR has made it mandatory for businesses to make payments exceeding Rs250,000 only through digital mode, restricting transactions through traditional banking channels with few exceptions such as paying utility bills, freight charges, and taxes, which would continue to be paid in cash or through traditional banking instruments such as cheques. The first question is whether our digital banking could support a high level of payments, he said and added that secondly, the industry is not ready for this. People would start dealing more in cash. PIAF SVC Nasir Hameed said that post-dated cheques are given as surety to sellers. This is how things are done in Pakistan.

DC imposes ban on begging in Peshawar

PESHAWAR: The district administration on Tuesday imposed ban on begging within the territorial jurisdiction of Peshawar for the period of 30 days. The action was taken in the light of directives of Commissioner Peshawar Division stating that a number of professional beggars especially those hailing from outside the district had flocked on the streets of Peshawar city causing pub-

lic nuisance and reportedly in certain cases involved in illegal activities. A notification issued by the Deputy Commissioner office said Deputy Commissioner, Captain (Retd) Kahlid Mahmood in exercise of power conferred under section 144 of the criminal procedure 1898, imposed a ban on beggary with in territorial jurisdiction of district Peshawar. - APP

End impunity for crimes against journalists

Wouter Plomp, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Pakistan, said journalists should be able to report without fear, adding the Netherlands continues to strive for improving the conditions in which journalists work, both at the national as well as at the international level

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: UNESCO in collaboration with the Parliamentarians Commission for Human Rights, the European Union Delegation to Pakistan, the Embassy of Sweden, the Embassy of the Netherlands, High Commission of Canada, and British High Commission Islamabad, marked the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists (IDEI). In the context of increasing and emerging threats to journalists, this year's IDEI focused on the institutional gaps and response to the safety of journalists. In addition, harassment of women journalists, and misinformation were also discussed as factors impeding their safety. Media workers, journalists, civil society, and human rights activists have constantly been highlighting the need to strengthen mechanisms ensuring safety of journalists. Being organized as part of UNESCO's multi-donor program on free-



dom of expression and safety of journalists, the event was attended by around 50 participants. In 2013, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution to commem-

orate IDEI every year to raise awareness on journalists' safety. Ms. Patricia McPhillips, Country Representative and Director of UNESCO, welcomed the partici-

pants and stressed that the threats and violence against journalists not only indicate a shrinking space for democratic discourse but also highlight the weakening of impor-

tant institutions such as the rule of law and the judicial system. In his opening remarks, H.E. Mr. Wouter Plomp, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Pakistan, said journalists should be able to report without fear, adding the Netherlands continues to strive for improving the conditions in which journalists work, both at the national as well as at the international level. During the event, Ghazira Farooqi, a journalist, said the safety of media workers should be ensured to work independently. Saqib Sultan, Director National Police Bureau, stressed the need for developing and strengthening mechanisms that report and monitor crimes against journalists. Human rights expert, Chaudhry Shafique, highlighted gaps in existing avenues for legal aid and institutional support for safety of journalists. Secretary Information and Broadcasting Manzoor Mehmood elaborated on efforts on par the government to ensure safety of Journalists.

Briefs

Dozens killed in Afghanistan hospital...

FROM PAGE 01 followed by a couple of minutes of gunfire. About ten minutes later, there was a second, larger explosion, he said. He said it was unclear whether the blasts and the gunfire were inside the sprawling hospital complex. Islamic State, which has carried out a series of attacks on mosques and other targets since the Taliban's seizure of Kabul in August, mounted a complex attack on the hospital in 2017, killing more than 30 people.

Hundreds of TLP workers...

FROM PAGE 01 been sent to the respective deputy commissioners. They will be released today as well, it was reported. It has also been decided to withdraw a review appeal filed by the Punjab government in the Lahore High Court (LHC) against its order for the release of TLP chief Saad Rizvi. The district administration of Islamabad has also issued orders to release the detained activists of the TLP. All the arrested workers will be released after a formal notification is issued in this regard. The government on Sunday successfully reached an agreement with the outlawed Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan party, putting an end to a 10-day protest. The pact came after around two weeks of clashes that left at least eight policemen dead and scores injured on both sides.

Pakistan, Uzbekistan sign...

FROM PAGE 01 interest and establishes coordination mechanism between Pakistan's National Security Division and the Security Council of Uzbekistan under their respective heads. During the inaugural session, both sides discussed various aspects of the newly formed joint commission and the way forward for making the commission effective and mutually beneficial. The evolving situation in Afghanistan and the need to remain constructively engaged was also discussed. The second session of the Joint Security Commission will be held in Uzbekistan next year.

Qureshi meets with Uzbek...

FROM PAGE 01 The Foreign Minister appreciated signing of the Protocol between the two sides on establishment of Joint Security Commission (JSC) earlier in the day. He said that the newly created Commission will promote cooperation in security and defence areas. In the regional context, the Foreign Minister stressed the need to remain positively engaged with Afghanistan through continued relief and humanitarian assistance and efforts to build economic sustainability. The Secretary of the National Security Council of Uzbekistan appreciated Pakistan's role in regional peace and stability including positive contribution to a peaceful and stable Afghanistan, and assured to remain in touch on the issue.

PM stresses enhanced Pak, Uzbek..

FROM PAGE 01 security and education sectors. In the regional context, Prime Minister Imran Khan underscored the importance of a peaceful and stable Afghanistan and timely completion of regional infrastructure projects. The prime minister reiterated his invitation to the Uzbek President to visit Pakistan at his earliest convenience.

SA register emphatic win over Bangladesh

Proteas bowled out Bangladesh for just 84 and chased down the total for the loss of six wickets. They are placed at second on Group 1's points table and will play England on Sharjah on November 6 in Sharjah

SPORTS DESK

ABU DHABI: South Africa have registered an emphatic six-wicket win over Bangladesh at the Sheikh Zayed International Stadium in Abu Dhabi. Proteas bowled out Bangladesh for just 84 and chased down the total for the loss of six wickets. They are placed at second on Group 1's points table and will play England on Sharjah on November 6 in Sharjah. Bangladesh have now lost four straight matches in the competition. South African pacers rattled Bangladesh's top-order after skipper Temba Bavuma opted to bowl first. Kagiso Rabada struck thrice inside the powerplay. He bagged wickets of Mohammad Naim (9) and Soumya Sarkar (0) on two consecutive balls while Mushfiqur Rahim (0) departed in the sixth over. Anrich Nortje and Dwaine Pretorius joined the act, dismissing Mahmudullah (3) and Atif Hossain (0) respectively. Bangladesh didn't



recover from early blows and lost wickets in regular intervals. Only opener Liton Das (24) and Mahedi Hasan (27) entered the double-figures. Rabada and Nortje picked three wickets each while Tabraiz Shamsi bagged two. In return, Proteas

lost Reza Hendricks in the first over as pacer Taskin Ahmed trapped him in front (4). Wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock fell to spinner Mahedi Hasan as he tried to take advantage of the powerplay. He scored 16 off 15 balls, powered by three fours. Taskin returned to bowl his third over and removed in-form Aiden Markram for a duck. South Africa managed to score 33/3 in the powerplay. Skipper Bavuma paired with Rassie van der Dussen in the middle and the duo steered the majority part of the chase. Van der Dussen walked back courtesy of a brilliant catch by Shoriful Islam. The right-hander made 22 in 27 balls which included two fours. Meanwhile, David Miller hit a four off Mahedi Hasan and finished the chase in the 14th over. Bavuma remained unbeaten on 31 off 28 balls. Taskin Ahmed impressed with his pace and finished with figures of 2/18 for Bangladesh. Kagiso Rabada was awarded Player of the Match for his brilliant spell of 3/20.

Tottenham appoints Conte as new manager

LONDON: Tottenham have appointed former Chelsea and Inter Milan boss Antonio Conte as their new manager until summer 2023. The Premier League club sacked Nuno Espirito Santo on Monday after just 17 games, with Spurs eighth in the table. Tottenham says there is "an option to extend" 52-year-old Conte's deal with them.

"I am extremely happy to return to coaching, and to do so at a Premier League club that has the ambition to be a protagonist again," said Conte. The Italian returns to London after winning the Premier League in his first season at Chelsea (2016-17) and the FA Cup in his second before being sacked in 2018. He then led Inter Milan to their first Serie A title in 11 years before leaving the club in May.

Conte had been in charge for two years and Inter said it was a mutual decision to end his contract with one year remaining. The former Juventus and Italy coach was then in talks with Tottenham in the summer about becoming Jose Mourinho's successor. But negotiations were halted before Spurs appointed ex-Wolves boss Nuno at the end of June, with the Portuguese boss, 47, lasting just four months. "I can't wait to start working to convey to the team and the fans the passion, mentality and determination that have always distinguished me, as a player and as a coach," said Conte. "Last summer our union did not happen because the end of my relationship with Inter was still too recent and emotionally too involved with the end of the season, so I felt that it wasn't yet the right time to return to coaching. - APP



KARACHI: Vice Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami, Commander Pakistan Fleet along with Jahangir Khan opens 15th CNS International Squash Championship 2021. - DNA

15TH CNS Int'l squash c'ship starts

KARACHI: 15th Chief of the Naval Staff International Squash Championship commenced at Roshan Khan Jahangir Khan Squash Complex, Karachi. Foreign players from four different countries besides Pakistan are participating in the International event. Commander Pakistan Fleet Vice Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami graced the occasion as Chief Guest and declared the championship open.

During Chief of the Naval Staff International Squash Championship, 24 players will prove mettle of their skills, which include 15 international players from Egypt, Hong Kong, Kuwait, USA and 9 players from Pakistan. Earlier, Tournament Director, Commodore Kamran Ahmed in his opening remarks apprised the audience that Pakistan Navy is conducting Chief of the Naval Staff Open Squash Championship for last two decades. - APP

Serena holds reception in honor of mountaineer Sirbaz

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels hosted a high-profile reception to honor Pakistani Mountaineer Sirbaz Khan, who has become the first Pakistani in history to summit 9 of the world's highest 14 peaks measuring over 8000 m. The mountaineering supernova has on a prolific climbing streak this year, having summited four peaks namely Mt. Dhaulagiri (8196 m), Mt. Everest (8,848 m), Gasherbrum II (8,035 m) and Mt. Annapurna (8,091 m) in quick succession. He has also summited Mt. Lhotse, Manaslu, Nanga Parbat, K-2 and Broad Peak in the past. Sirbaz is on a Mission14, a quest to become the first Pakistani mountaineer to summit all 14 highest peaks of the world. The reception included Government and corporate heads, diplomats and media officials. "Making an international name in mountaineering will help uplift and bring development to the remote parts of the Northern Areas. I dedicate my success to the support of the whole team including the high and low altitude porters, cooks, helpers and everyone from mountaineering community," said Sirbaz, as he thanked Serena Hotels for its support.

Serena Hotels has been supporting Sirbaz's expeditions under its Adventure Diplomacy initiative, that aims to foster adventure sports in the country and provide a supportive environment for the nation's talented sportspeople to flourish.

"Pakistan has tremendous talent, and Serena Hotels believes in giving this talented people a platform for recognition and support so they may unlock the potential," said Mr. Aziz Boolani in his remarks on the occasion. Mr. Boolani drew attention to the fact that the Northern Areas of Pakistan are blessed with some of the highest mountains of the world as well as beautiful Alpine terrain, that draws hundreds of mountaineers around the world, yet it is lamentable that Pakistan doesn't have any training institute for mountain careers. "Professional Sherpas and Mountain guides have to be flown in from neighbouring Nepal which triples the cost for the mountaineers while bringing no benefit to our locals," he said. He said Pakistan needs to set up a mountain careers training institutes that are affiliated with international bodies. "Serena Hotels would like to explore the possibility of creating an Adventure Diplomacy Group, with Sirbaz at the forefront, to help Pakistan train internationally certified Mountaineering Guides with the support of stakeholders," he said. - DNA



IAEA chief lauds Pak for pursuing clean energy goals

Malik Amin Aslam is in Glasgow and is leading Pak delegation at the UN climate summit amid intense diplomatic negotiations over the next two weeks by almost 200 countries reaching a consensus over approaches to slow intensifying global warming and adapting to the climate damage already underway

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Director General of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Mariano Grossi called on Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Climate Change, Malik Amin Aslam in Glasgow city. The two sides discussed various areas of cooperation for promotion of nuclear energy as clean energy in Pakistan, according to press release issued here on Tuesday by the climate change ministry. The meeting was held at the Pakistan Pavilion on the sidelines of the two-week UN climate summit that began on Sunday. Malik Amin Aslam is in Glasgow and is leading Pakistan's delegation at the crucial U.N. climate summit amid intense diplomatic negotiations over the next two weeks by almost 200 countries reaching a consensus over approaches to slow intensifying global warming and adapting to the climate damage already underway. During the meeting the PM's aide underscored that nuclear power, as a zero-carbon source of energy, had an indispensable role to play in support of global efforts to combat and mitigate the effects of climate change. He also briefed the IAEA's director general on Pakistan's ambition to attain the goal 60 percent of the clean green energy share in the coun-

try's mix by 2030. Malik Amin added that Pakistan's efforts to mitigate Green House Gases (GHGs) emissions included the use of nuclear energy for power generation. Malik Amin also informed the IAEA director general that the country's revised National-

ly Determined Contributions (NDC), a carbon reduction framework, under the Paris climate pact 2015 envisaged avoidance of around 50 million tons of CO2 equivalent on annual basis by 2030, mostly by replacing coal-fired power plants with renewable,

clean energy projects.

The SAPM also welcomed IAEA's engagement in the global discourse and efforts to combat the climate crisis in line with its primary mandate to promote peaceful uses of nuclear technology worldwide. The Director General IAEA praised the Prime Minister Imran Khan's Eco-System Restoration Initiative, which included a programme to plant 10 billion trees across the country. He acknowledged Pakistan's accomplishments in the peaceful uses of nuclear technologies for coping with the adverse impacts of the global warming-caused climate breakdown. During the meeting, the IAEA official lauded Pakistan's successful development of a high-yield climate resilient cotton plant by dint of the use of nuclear techniques. Recalling IAEA's long-standing relationship with Pakistan, Grossi also stated that he was looking forward to visit Pakistan in the near future. "Pakistan is among countries which are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and at the same time an energy deficient country. Our efforts to expand the share of nuclear power in the national energy mix will help the country address this twin challenge," the IAEA director-general remarked. He acknowledged that the operational nuclear power plants in Pakistan were, in fact, contributing to global efforts for the reduction of GHG emissions.



Will not attend Indian...

FROM PAGE 01

Uzbekistan on the formation of a multifaceted Joint Security Commission (JSC). "I will not go! I am not going ... a spoiler cannot be a peacemaker," Moeed Yusuf said when asked whether he planned to go to India on the invitation of Ajit Doval to participate in a conference on Afghanistan.

India plans to host a national security advisor-level meeting on Afghanistan in New Delhi in the second week of November. The format of the meeting will be similar to the regional security conference held in Iran in 2019 and will be the first of its kind to be hosted by New Delhi, reports in the Indian media said.

Besides the host India, other proposed invitees are Pakistan, China, Russia, Iran, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Indian NSA Ajit Doval will chair the meeting to be organised by the National Security Council Secretariat. Pakistan has repeatedly spoken of the role of India in Afghanistan as a spoiler and even issued a dossier of working of the Indian intelligence with the Afghan National Directorate of Security in carrying out terrorist activity in Pakistan and providing a safe haven for the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Islamic State, Baloch Liberation Army and several other similar organisations. Dr Moeed also regretted the silence of the international community over India's massive human rights violations and state-sponsored terrorism in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and expansionist plans.

Yahoo withdraws from China

CALIFORNIA: Yahoo Inc. has pulled out of China, citing an "increasingly challenging business and legal environment." "In recognition of the increasingly challenging business and legal environment in China, Yahoo's suite of services will no longer be accessible from mainland China as of November 1," the company said in a statement on Tuesday. Visitors to Yahoo's website in China are now redirected to a brief statement announcing the closure. The company said it "remains committed to the rights of our users and a free and open internet." Foreign tech companies have long walked a tightrope in China, forced to comply with strict local laws and government censorship of content. Chinese authorities maintain a firm grip on internet censorship in the country and require companies to censor content and keywords deemed politically sensitive or inappropriate. The company's withdrawal coincided with the implementation of China's Personal Information Protection Law, which limits what information companies can gather and sets standards for how it must be stored. Chinese laws also stipulate that companies operating in the country must hand over data if requested by authorities, making it difficult for Western firms to operate in China as they may also face pressure back home over giving in to China's demands. Yahoo was lambasted by lawmakers in the US in 2007 after it handed over data on two Chinese dissidents to Beijing, eventually leading to their imprisonment. - Agencies

Netflix launches mobile games

SAN FRANCISCO: Netflix on Tuesday released a set of mobile games playable for free by subscribers of the global streaming service as it strives to be the go-to venue for entertainment. Two of the games are based on the hit Netflix horror series "Stranger Things" and the remaining three are basic card or skill games, according to the Silicon Valley based company. "We're excited to take our first step in launching Netflix games on mobile to the world," the company said in a release. "We want to begin to build a library of games that offers something for everyone." The games that went global on Tuesday had already been available in Italy, Poland, and Spain. All of the titles are tailored for play on Android-powered smartphones or tablets and are accessible through Netflix accounts. - APP

Briefs

Kazakhstan
claims
deal with
Facebook

ALMATY: Kazakhstan said it had reached a deal with Facebook that would give it access to an internal system for reporting content, weeks after its parliament debated a law to block some social media.

In what it said was a joint statement with Facebook, Kazakhstan's information ministry said late on Monday that the social media giant had given it "direct" access to a channel for reporting "harmful content" to the company, "with a focus on child protection".

"Kazakhstan is the first country in Central Asia to have access to the system," the ministry said, claiming it would "increase the efficiency and overall effectiveness of the work carried out to counter the spread of illegal content" on Facebook and Instagram.

Authorities in Kazakhstan have been accused of using children's safety as a pretext to restrict criticism on social media in the ex-Soviet state. Facebook's parent company Meta disputed that a joint statement was issued and said Kazakhstan was granted the same access to its "Content Reporting System" as other countries.

"We have a dedicated online channel for governments around the world to report content to us that they believe violates local law," Ben McConaghy, a spokesman for Meta, told AFP in an email. — APP

Occupation
of Crimea
has created
'eco-bomb'

NEWS DESK

KYIV: Russia's occupation of Crimea and part of Donbas has created "eco-bombs" in the center of Europe, Ukraine's president said Monday.

Volodymyr Zelensky was speaking at the 26th edition of the United Nations Climate Change Conference, or COP26, in Glasgow, Scotland. Noting that Ukraine was one of the first countries in Europe to sign the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change, he said his country's goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 65% by 2030. Zelensky stressed that to overcome global warming, a "global warming" is required in international relations, where confidence decreases a little more every year, noting that agreements become meaningless for some if they consist of only words.

Recalling that the country received unfulfilled security guarantees in 1994, Zelensky said "two ecological bombs fell on the center of Europe — Donbas and occupied Crimea." Zelensky noted that Crimea, with its unique flora, has turned into a Russian naval base and some areas of conflict-ridden Donbas have become strewn with mines, which pose a threat to the whole world.

Ex-US
envoy meets
Myanmar
junta chief

YANGON: Former United States diplomat and hostage negotiator Bill Richardson met Myanmar's junta chief on Tuesday, the military said, as the country passed nine months under a regime that has detained a US journalist. Myanmar has been in turmoil since the February coup ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi. Security forces have launched a bloody crackdown on dissent that has killed more than 1,200 people, according to a local monitoring group. Junta chief Min Aung Hlaing received former UN ambassador Richardson in the capital Naypyidaw, where they "exchanged views and discussed... COVID-19 vaccine assistance from the US to Myanmar", a military-run news website said.

Richardson is in Myanmar on a "private humanitarian mission", his organization the Richardson Center said in a statement announcing his departure.

The military website made no mention of American journalist Danny Fenster, who was detained in May and has since been charged with encouraging dissent against the military and unlawful association. — APP

Sheikh Jarrah residents reject
SC's compromise on evictions

Palestinians who lost homes, properties and lands in the same conflict do not have the right to recover them. Israel captured East Jerusalem along with the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the 1967 war

DNA

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM: Palestinian families in a tense Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of East Jerusalem have rejected an offer that would have delayed their eviction by Jewish settlers. The families' plight helped ignite protests and clashes earlier this year that eventually led to the 11-day Gaza war. In a statement on Tuesday, the four families said their decision springs from "our belief in the justice of our cause and our right to our homes and our homeland."

The proposal floated by Israel's Supreme Court earlier this month would have made them "protected tenants" blocking any eviction and demolition order for at least the next 15 years, according to Ir Amim, an Israeli rights group that closely follows developments in the city. But it would have forced them to acknowledge the settlers' ownership of the properties, which could weaken the families' case going forward.

The four families are among dozens in East Jerusalem who are threatened with forced eviction by Jewish settler organizations in several cases that are at various legal stages. The settlers are making use of an Israeli law that allows them to claim properties that were owned by Jews prior to the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation.



Palestinians who lost homes, properties and lands in the same conflict do not have the right to recover them. Israel captured East Jerusalem along with the West Bank and

the Gaza Strip in the 1967 war. The Palestinians want all three territories to form their future state and consider East Jerusalem their capital. Israel annexed East Jerusalem

shortly after the 1967 war and considers the entire city to be its capital, a claim not recognized by most of the international community. "The people of Sheikh Jarrah re-

jected the settlement proposal," the family member and social media activist Mohammed al-Kurd tweeted, referring to the East Jerusalem neighborhood where the homes are located.



ISLAMABAD: Saudi ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf Bin Said Al-Maliki calls on Federal Minister for Aviation, Ghulam Sarwar Khan. — DNA

Ukraine denies
Russian military
build-up on border

KIEV: Ukraine has denied reports of a Russian military build-up near its eastern border that raised fears of a new escalation in fighting with pro-Moscow separatists. Social media videos in recent days showed Russian military trains and truck convoys moving tanks and missiles in the country's southwest near the Ukrainian border.

Pentagon spokesman John Kirby told reporters Monday that Washington was monitoring the situation and The Washington Post quoted US officials saying they were concerned. But Ukraine's defence ministry said in a statement late

Monday that "no additional deployment" of Russian forces had been observed near the border.

It said the published videos could be an "element of special informational and psychological actions" and showed a planned movement of troops after a Russian military exercise.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Tuesday he had discussed the conflict with US President Joe Biden on the sidelines of the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow.

"The US continues to support territorial integrity and reforms in Ukraine," Zelensky wrote on Twitter. — APP

Azerbaijan to normalize ties
with Armenia based on int'l law

DNA

BAKU: Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov said that Azerbaijan can normalize relations with Armenia on the basis of respect for the principles of international law, in particular sovereignty, territorial integrity, and inviolability of borders.

He made the remarks at a meeting with the delegation led by Estonian-Azerbaijani InterParliamentary Group Chairman Sven Sester on November 1.

Sester underlined Estonia's unequivocal position on respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. He emphasized the importance to provide mine-

field maps for the rapid development of the liberated lands. The chairman added that they will visit the liberated territories to familiarize themselves with the situation and the reconstruction carried out by Azerbaijan.

Bayramov thanked Estonia for supporting Azerbaijan's

territorial integrity within its international borders. He briefed on the problems stemming from the trilateral statements of November 10, 2020, and January 11, 2021, as well as the threat of landmines in the region.

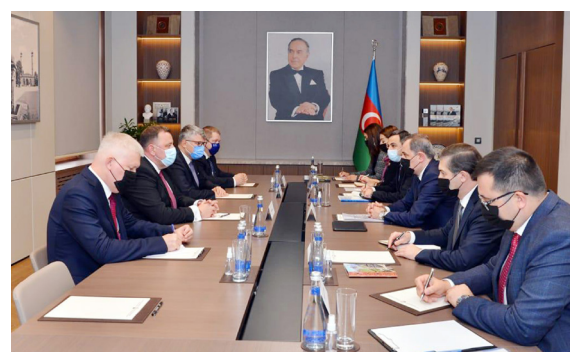
The parties discussed the demining activities, the re-

construction in Karabakh, infrastructure projects, and other issues that are currently underway in Azerbaijan's liberated lands.

Bayramov noted the high-level cooperation between the countries.

He stressed that next year will mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The minister underlined the importance of expanding trade and economic cooperation between Azerbaijan and Estonia.

In turn, Sester noted the importance of expanding bilateral relations within international organizations, as well as the development of bilateral relations between the two countries.



Enhancing Pak-China ties through cuisine

The event was arranged to showcase the culture of Pakistan through its delicious cuisine, colorful handicrafts, folk music, and warm hospitality, and music from Pakistani artists played in the background

DNA

BEIJING: A Food and Cultural Festival was held here at the Pakistan House to strengthen cultural ties between Pakistan and China through Pakistani cuisine.

According to report published by China Economic Net, Pakistani cuisine is considered as one of the tastiest cuisines in the world based on a long historic tradition and cooking excellence. Therefore, to strengthen cultural ties between Pakistan and China through Pakistani cuisine, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque told China Economic Net that this is a very special day as everyone is celebrating the beautiful color of autumn in Beijing and "we are celebrating the art of Pakistan and the friendship of China and Pakistan."

"Pakistani Seekh kababs and Bar B Q are famous not only in Pakistan but also in China. Pakistani Biryani is the most-liked food by Chinese friends here. We also have very famous Lassi (yogurt) and here you can see a long queue of Chinese and foreign friends at Golegappa stall."

Asif Jallil, the owner of Little Lahore - a very

famous Pakistani cuisine in Beijing - said that traditional desi dishes including Chicken Biryani, Samosas, and Golegappa. All these Pakistani food are very famous in China now and the Chinese people are developing Pakistani food taste. "One could discover the flavors of Pakistan with Pakistan's food and culture promotion here," he mentioned.

The event was arranged to showcase the culture of Pakistan through its delicious cuisine,



colorful handicrafts, folk music, and warm hospitality, and music from Pakistani artists played in the background. In addition, books were presented to highlight the notable achievements of Pakistanis through history ran during the event.

Shahid Afriz Khan, a Pakistani citizen based in Beijing told China Economic Net that Pakistani food is unique in its taste and it's one of the representations of Pakistani culture; that's

why Chinese people are taking so much interest in Pakistani cuisine.

"Participants of today's food festival took lots of interest in Biryani, chicken Haleem, Naan along with various other Pakistani tasty foods. The Pakistani embassy took a great initiative to introduce a delicious and full variety of Pakistani food to Chinese and other foreign guests. It seems that in the future, the culture of Pakistani food will become more popular across China", he added.

Zhang Shixuan known to Pakistanis as Intakhab Alam, a famous Urdu Chinese poet told China Economic Net that he visited Pakistan for many times and tasted Pakistani food which is his favorite. He said, "where there is Pakistani food, I will be there." He appreciated Pakistani chefs for making famous Pakistani recipes for this food festival.

The event coincided with the 70 years of establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. It was aimed at promoting people-to-people contacts and cultural understanding between both countries.

The event was attended by a large gathering of Chinese guests from different walks of life, diplomats, members of the Pakistani community, and media representatives.

Gunmen
abduct six
in Nigerian
capital

ABUJA: Gunmen abducted six people early Tuesday from a university near the international airport serving Nigeria's capital Abuja, police said.

The dawn attack at the staff quarters of University of Abuja in Giri raised fears of safety around the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, some 20 kilometres (12 miles) away.

"Six persons were allegedly abducted into the forest by the criminals on sighting the security operatives," police spokeswoman Josephine Adeb said in a statement, adding that the gunmen have not been identified.

Armed men known locally as bandits have increasingly targeted schools and universities in recent months in Africa's most populous nation of some 210 million inhabitants. The university said on its Facebook page that four staff and their children were abducted.

A senior lecturer who requested anonymity said the bandits "came at about 2 am (0100 GMT) in large numbers, operated for about two hours before the police arrived."

He told AFP that staff had expressed worries about a lack of adequate security around the university, saying it was a "porous environment... surrounded by mountains." — APP

NASA
announces
SpaceX
launch delay

WASHINGTON: NASA has announced a rare, health-related delay in its SpaceX rocket launch of four astronauts to the International Space Station, the second postponement of the mission in a week, citing an unspecified medical issue with one of the crew.

NASA said on Monday the issue was "not a medical emergency and not related to COVID-19," but the space agency declined to elaborate on the nature of the problem or say which astronaut was involved.

The launch, originally set for Sunday but then postponed until this Wednesday because of unsuitable weather conditions, has now been rescheduled for Saturday night, NASA said.

The last time NASA delayed a scheduled launch over a medical issue involving the crew was for a Space Shuttle Atlantis flight in 1990 when mission commander John Creighton fell ill. The countdown was halted for three days until he was cleared to fly, according to NASA.

That delay was followed by two additional weather-related postponements.

The SpaceX-built vehicle set to fly this weekend, consisting of a Crew Dragon capsule perched atop a two-stage Falcon 9 rocket, is now set for liftoff at 11:36pm on Saturday (03:36 GMT on Sunday) from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida. — APP

Iconic Syrian
singer Sabah
Fakhri dies in
Damascus

DAMASCUS: Syrian singer Sabah Fakhri, considered one of the most famous in the Arab world, died in Damascus on Tuesday at the age of 88, his son told AFP.

"He died a natural death in Damascus. His heart stopped beating," said Anas Fakhri, lamenting his father's passing as a "huge loss for Syrian art."

Born in the northern province of Aleppo and hailed as one of Syria's greats, Fakhri was known for his masterful delivery of traditional Syrian songs that combined Arabic poetry with music.

The short stout man modified and popularised the Qudud Halabiya - a traditional form of Aleppine music that combines lyrics based on the poetry of Al-Andalus with old religious melodies collected mostly by musicians from the northern Syrian city.

"He was a living legend and legends do not die," his son said. "He will continue to be the legend of Syria and Aleppo." A symbol of the golden age of Arabic song, Fakhri was able to keep his audience in suspense for hours by tirelessly repeating the verses of classical or contemporary Arabic poems. — APP

Briefs

Leaked SMS sharpens Aus-France subs row

DNA

PARIS: France on Tuesday accused Australia of using "very inelegant methods" after a text message sent by President Emmanuel Macron to Australian leader Scott Morrison was leaked in an apparent bid to imply that he knew about the collapse of a major submarine deal earlier than he maintains. Media in Australia and Europe reported on the SMS which the French leader sent to Morrison two days before Australia announced that it had torn up a decade-old multi-billion-dollar contract with France to build a new fleet of submarines. France, which reacted furiously to the cancellation, has always said it had been blindsided by the announcement, and Macron added to the furore at the weekend by accusing Morrison of lying to him. But the revelation of the text message Tuesday can be seen as suggesting Macron was less surprised by the cancellation than he has admitted. "Should I expect good or bad news for our joint submarine ambitions?", reads the SMS sent to Morrison 48 hours before the official contract cancellation announcement which was made at a news conference.

CIA head meets Russian security chief

MOSCOW: US Central Intelligence Agency director William Burns met the head of Russia's powerful Security Council for talks in Moscow on Tuesday, the council's press service said. Burns and Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev discussed "Russian-American relations", it said in a terse statement. Burns' visit to Moscow was not previously announced and the Security Council released no further details. There was no immediate comment from the US embassy in Moscow or officials in Washington. The meeting comes with Russia's ties with the West at their lowest levels in years, strained by a wide range of disagreements. Western nations have imposed a series of sanctions on Russia over its 2014 annexation of Crimea, alleged election interference, cyberattacks and the poisoning of Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny. - APP

India a dangerous country for minorities

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar on Tuesday termed the series of seventeen attacks on mosques in the Indian state of Tripura as a gross violation of religious freedom and said that India had become a dangerous country in the world for minorities. The shameful silence of the United Nations and other international Human Rights organizations was condemnable. Pakistan will continue to raise its voice against the oppression of Indian Muslims, he added. The Punjab Governor shared a video of the attacks on mosques in a tweet, and said that there had been a surge in attacks by the RSS terrorists on mosques and Muslims in India. He said the terrorism against Indian Muslims was state-sponsored, adding that Muslims were no longer safe in India. The oppression on Indian Muslims was utterly condemnable, he said. Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar said that Muslims as well as other minorities were not safe in India. He said that minorities were being killed with impunity, their places of worship were attacked and they do not have the freedom to practice their religion. - DNA

US, EU announce global pledge to slash methane

More than 80 countries have signed up to the initiative, first proposed by the US and the EU in September

NEWS DESK

GLASGOW: The US and the EU have announced a global partnership to cut emissions of the greenhouse gas methane by 2030. EU Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen and US President Joe Biden made the announcement at the COP26 summit on Tuesday. The Global Methane Pledge aims to limit methane emissions by 30% compared with 2020 levels. It is one of the most potent greenhouse gases and responsible for a third of current warming from human activities. More than 80 countries have signed up to the initiative, first proposed by the US and the EU in September. The main focus of efforts to curb global warming is carbon dioxide (CO2), which

is emitted as a result of human activities such as generating power and clearing forests. But there has been a growing focus on methane as a way of buying extra time to tackle climate change. Although there's more CO2 in the atmosphere and it sticks around for longer, individual methane molecules have a more powerful warming effect on the atmosphere than single CO2 molecules. And while one of the key goals of COP26 is to get countries to commit to achieving net zero by 2050 - meaning not adding to the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere - both leaders stressed that they needed to act now. "We cannot wait for 2050," EU Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen told the summit. "We have to cut emissions fast." She said cutting methane was "one of the

most effective things we can do to reduce near-term global warming", calling it "the lowest hanging fruit". US President Joe Biden echoed her words, calling methane "one of the most potent greenhouse gases there is". The pledge covers countries which emit nearly half of all methane, and make up 70% of global GDP, the US president said. The speed with which the world has moved to tackle methane emissions gives real hope that the world is finally waking up to the massive threat posed by warming gases. Just last August the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported that methane was responsible for a significant proportion of the 1C of warming the world has already experienced. In September, the EU and the US brought

the global pledge into being, and have persuaded some significant emitters to join the club. The thrust is to cut emissions by 30% by 2030. The main focus in the short-term will be the fossil fuel industry. Most of the curbs can be achieved at little or no cost. The potential benefits are huge - scientists believe it could help the world avoid 0.3C of warming by 2040. At a time where every fraction of a degree matters, that is a major saving that could help keep the 1.5C threshold in play. But there are some significant clouds on the horizon. Major emitters like Russia, China and India are not part of the pledge. All the commitments are voluntary - there is no big stick. Despite this, most observers see the pledge as a good step for the world and a boost for the conference.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary of the Security Council of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Lt General Victor Makhmudov called on Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi at Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan Furqat Sidikov is also present. - DNA

SC orders provision of breast cancer facilities at hospitals

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court has ordered the provision of breast cancer diagnostic tests and treatment facilities in all government hospitals of the country, media reported Tuesday. The increasing cases of breast cancer were brought to the apex court's attention on Tuesday during the hearing of a suo motu notice taken for the provision of the carotid stenting facility for heart patients. The court remarked that only well-to-do patients can get treated for the disease as the majority cannot afford the treatment for breast cancer at private hospitals. None of the public hospitals have mammography - medical examination for early detection of breast cancer - and breast cancer treatment facilities, the court observed. The court directed both the federal and provincial governments to ensure the availability of breast cancer diagnostic tests and treatment in government hospitals. - APP

Turkey arrests 43 in major FETO terror probe

AGENCIES

ANKARA: At least 43 people have been arrested after prosecutors in Turkey issued warrants for 100 people suspected of having links to the Fetullah Terrorist Organization (FETO), judicial authorities said on Tuesday. The suspects are believed to be senior FETO operatives who were part of the terror group's efforts to infiltrate Turkey's Gendarmerie General Command, according to a statement by the Ankara public prosecutor's office. The individuals were identified through joint operations by the Turkish police and National Intelligence Organization (MIT). Raids in 40 different provinces and the capital Ankara have led to the arrests of 43

PIA airlifts 15mn doses of Sinovac vaccines

STAFF REPORT

BEIJING: As many as five special flights of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) have transported 15 million doses of Sinovac vaccines from China to Pakistan during the last five days. The special flights - PAK-6857, PAK-6858, PK-6856, PK-6852 and PK-6853 took off from Capital International Airport, Beijing to Islamabad between October 29 to November 2 with around 15 million doses of Sinovac vaccine to fight the Covid-19 pandemic, PIA Country Manager, Qadir Bux Sangi told APP here on Tuesday. He informed that the national flag carrier had so far airlifted over 100 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines. In a tweet, Pakistan Ambassador to China said that China had played a vital role in Pakistan's vaccination campaign against the novel coronavirus and had so far provided the latter with 110 million doses of vaccines, making the backbone of Pakistan's inoculation drive. Pakistan was the first country in the world, which received a coronavirus vaccine from China as a donation. The first donation of Sinopharm vaccine was delivered to Pakistan in February 2021. Following the first batch, Pakistan has received millions of coronavirus vaccines from China. Pakistan has so far received 130 million doses of corona vaccine. Of these doses, 100 million were purchased while five million were donated by China. Pakistan has received 25 million doses of the vaccine from Covax.

UNODC hands over digitalized records of PMIS to Sindh govt

DNA

HYDERABAD: The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United States Mission to Pakistan jointly handed over the formal control and implementation of the Prison Management Information System (PMIS) to the Prison Department, Government of Sindh, through a special ceremony hosted in Hyderabad on 2nd November 2021. The PMIS has been intuitively designed to replace the redundant manual file system with a Central Data Centre to drive functionality and interoperability across all prisons in Sindh. In addition, the ceremony was accompanied by the inauguration of the Prisons Staff Training Academy in Hyderabad, which is constructed with the generous

support of the U.S. Government. The Training Academy would go a long way in developing a cadre of professionally trained staff for prisons. The ceremony was graced by Syed Murad Ali Shah, the Chief Minister, Sindh, who praised the automation of prison records as a breakthrough innovation to enhance the efficiency of prison administration in Sindh. He underscored the commitment of the Government of Sindh through the allocation of 10 M PKR for the establishment of a Virtual Private Network, which will help to sustain the PMIS across prisons in Sindh. He also appreciated the support from the U.S. Government and UNODC that went beyond the provision of funds and equipment to offering hands-on training to a cadre of 173

master trainers from a cross-section of staff, including security, health, jail management, and Inspectorate General of Prisons in Sindh. This would ensure adaptability and transfer of technology for an efficient administration of the PMIS. The ceremony was also attended by a delegation from the US Mission to Pakistan including U.S. Consul General Karachi, Mark Stroh, and Mark Tervakoski, the Director of the U.S. Embassy's International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Section, who appreciated the functionality of the PMIS and the intended benefits of Prison Staff Training Academy, which will go a long way in supporting prison reforms and broader agenda of enhancing the performance of the Criminal Justice System in Sindh.



At least 13 injured in blast in Balochistan's Kharan

QUETTA: At least 13 people were injured, including four critically, in a blast in Balochistan's Kharan district on Tuesday, Station House Officer (SHO) Mohammad Qasim said. The four critically injured patients were shifted to Quetta while nine others were taken to the District Headquarters Hospital, he said. Qasim said the explosion occurred shortly after a vehicle of security forces passed through the area. The bomb was fitted in a motorbike, he added. Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudoos Bizenjo condemned the attack and expressed grief for those injured. In a statement, he said that anti-state elements wanted to disturb the province's peace. "Our courage will not be dampened by the cowardly activities of terrorists. The people of the province are standing with security forces to end the chaos caused by terrorism," he added. He instructed that the best treatment be provided to the injured. - APP

India deploying 5000 troops in IIOJK

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Modi-led fascist Indian government has ordered the deployment of an additional 5,000 troops of the Indian paramilitary forces to strangle voice for freedom in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. According to Kashmir Media Service, Indian media reported that the decision to deploy an additional 50 companies in the occupied territory was taken in the wake of volatile situation in the Kashmir Valley. An Indian Home Ministry official while confirming the deployment said, "The security situation in the wake of the latest civilian killings in Kashmir is very challenging. An additional 50 companies of the paramilitary forces are being deployed to help J&K police maintain law and order." Of the 50 companies, 30 are being deployed in Srinagar alone, the official added. It is worth mentioning here that Indian military establishment has already set up hundreds of camps and concrete bunkers in all streets and lanes of Srinagar city and other towns and villages of the valley to harass and terrorize people to weaken Kashmiris economically and force them into vacating their hometowns.

Opposition not taking interest in prosperity

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farukh Habib on Tuesday said that the Opposition was not taking any interest for the development and prosperity of the country but they were working for their vested interests. The government was ready to discuss every issue with opposition including ordinance of National Accountability Bureau (NAB), and reforms of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), he added. Talking to a private news channel, the minister said that head of the state should be impartial from all political affairs. He said that according to the new ordinance of the NAB, the President freely use the discretionary powers to terminate the Chairman NAB at anytime. To a question, the minister said that all the corrupt elements had problems with NAB ordinance to run away from the accountability and safe their illegal assets. The government was focusing to use Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), he said adding giving right of vote to Overseas Pakistanis was top priority of the incumbent regime. - APP

Talks with Taliban govt necessary: Tahir Ashrafi

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and Middle East and Chairman Pakistan Ulama Council, Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi here Tuesday said that keeping in view changing of global perspective, talks with Taliban government is necessary to establish peace in the region. He said this while addressing conference held here in memory of Maulana Sami-ul-Haq, former Ameer Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam and head of Defense of Pakistan. Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi said that stability in the region is essential for establishment of the peace and progress of both countries. He said nefarious designs of anti state elements trying to create chaos by promoting sectarianism in Pakistan would never be fulfilled. Ashrafi paid glowing tribute to the services rendered by Maulana Sami-ul-Haq and said that he proud of 35 years of association with Maulana Sami-ul-Haq. - DNA

Khalistan movement: Sikhs raise voice

The religious persecution of Sikhs still continues under the rule of premier Narendra Modi, where the community faces violation of human rights

ISLAMABAD: From the Golden Temple massacre in 1984 to the present situation of minority rights, the memory of Sikhs in India is etched with a series of tragedies. The Operation Bluestar to target Sikhs at their holiest temple in Amritsar is a gory tale - written by the then India prime minister Indira Gandhi. After 37 years, the religious persecution of Sikhs still continues under the rule of premier Narendra Modi, where the community faces violation of human rights. The Sikh voice against the Indian atrocities and discrimination is getting stronger with each passing

day to save their coming generations from ethnic cleansing. Thousands of Sikhs, who gathered at London's Queen Elizabeth Hall to vote for the Khalistan Referendum on October 31, have vowed to expand the movement for freedom. Dupinderjit Singh, leader of the Sikhs for Justice Movement said the referendum was a strong call for freedom and marked the genocide of Sikhs under the rule of India. He mentioned that in line with the directions of the Referendum Commission, the Sikh community would continue the activity in the rest of the world.

Hindutva troll issues rape threat to Kohli's daughter

NEW DELHI: Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli faced hateful trolling after he recently denounced the abuses hurled against his Muslim teammate Mohammed Shami following India's defeat to Pakistan. Calling the haters 'spineless' people, Kohli said that attacking someone over their religion is 'the most pathetic thing that a human being can do'. Ever since he made the statement denouncing communal abuses, Kohli has been at the receiving end of hateful trolling on Twitter by Hindutva trolls on social media. Some are even issuing rape threats to his 10-month-old daughter, Vanika. On the other hand, some Hindutva groups claimed that the account that has openly threatened Kohli's daughter is of a Pakistani. However, fact-checker and Co-founder of Alt News, Mohammed Zubair confirmed that the Twitter user who goes by username '@Criccrazygirl' is a Hindutva troll from Hyderabad city of India. - DNA