



Islamabad POST

Friday, November 05, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

President Ilham calls for fair distribution of Covid-19 vaccines

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Shahbaz Sharif accuses PM of false promises

Detailed News On Page-08



Taliban leader warns against infiltrators

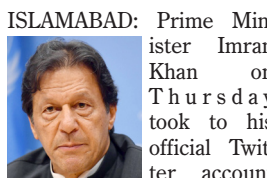
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Briefs

PM Imran felicitates Hindu community

MAHNOOR ANSAR



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday took to his official Twitter account to wish the Hindu community a happy Diwali. "Wishing all our Hindu community a happy Diwali," the premier wrote. Called the festival of lights, Diwali is one of the major festivals celebrated by Hindus across the globe. The festival usually lasts five days and is celebrated during the Hindu lunisolar month Kartika. Almost 4.4 million Hindu Pakistanis will be celebrating the festival across the country this year.

PML-N will attend NSC meeting

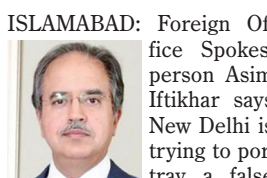
DNA



LAHORE: PML-N did not boycott the National Security Committee (NSC) meeting, PML-N Information Secretary Marriyum Aurangzeb said Thursday, a day after her explosive press conference slamming Prime Minister Imran Khan before he announced a "historic relief package" for Pakistanis amid rising inflation in the country. She reiterated that her party had always participated in NSC meetings in the past. Aurangzeb said that PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif will give PML-N's position in the meeting. The joint opposition will attend the NSC meeting, she confirmed.

India misleading the world

STAFF REPORT



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar says New Delhi is trying to portray a false sense of normalcy in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir to mislead the international community. Responding to a question at his weekly news briefing in Islamabad on Thursday, he said India has deployed over 900,000 troops, turning the IIOJK one of the heavily militarized zones in the world.

Muslim states' envoys laud PM's vision

The prime minister held an interactive session with the resident ambassadors of Muslim countries

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The prime minister interacted with envoys of Muslim countries on the establishment of the Rehmatul-lil-Alameen Authority, a statement from the PM Office said. The prime minister held an interactive session with the resident ambassadors of Muslim countries, outlining the concept and vision underlining the establishment of the authority, said the statement. Stressing that the Holy Prophet (PBUH) was a blessing for all humanity, the prime minister underscored the appeal of Islam's universal message and the bounties of following the fundamental precepts of Riasat-e-Madina. To achieve real social welfare and progress, the prime minister termed it imperative that the life and teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) are fully understood and emulated by Muslims in their daily lives, he said. The prime minister elucidated that the prime objective of establishing

Continued on Page 06

'Shaking hands with Opp. leader will normalise corruption'

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday said him shaking hands with Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Shahbaz Sharif would destigmatise corruption as he reiterated his resolve to rid the country of the menace. "People ask me why I don't shake hands with [Shahbaz] as he is the Opposition leader," the prime minister said as he addressed a ceremony at the Academy of Letters after inaugurating the "Hall of Fame". "Corruption cases worth

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UK pledges £55m to help Pak fight climate change

Dr Christian Turner CMG said: "For Pakistan, the climate change could be catastrophic"

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The UK has announced more than £55m of support to help Pakistan tackle climate change as part of the COP26 global climate change summit this week. As global leaders come together for COP26, this is a critical time for Pakistan. It has



been ranked the 8th most vulnerable country to climate change, and by 2100, rising temperatures mean 36% of glaciers along the

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Italian Ambassador Andreas Ferrarese shares stage with the Italian architect and President ICCI during a conference on the Italian architecture. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan interacts with the envoys of Muslim countries. - DNA

Sugar prices go out of control

Sugar is being sold as high as Rs150 per kg in different cities while petrol is currently being sold at Rs 138.30 per litre

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Despite the government's claims of working to curb the prices of essential items in the country, the price of sugar continues to soar and has now crossed the price of petrol even. Sugar is being sold as high as Rs150 per kg in different cities while petrol is currently being sold at Rs138.30 per litre in the country.

Peshawar
In the wholesale market of Peshawar, the price of sugar has increased by Rs8 per kg. The president of the Sugar Dealers Association said that sugar is being sold at a wholesale rate of Rs140 per kg while the retail price has gone up from Rs145 to Rs150 per kg.

Artificial shortage in Lahore for profiteering
Meanwhile, in Lahore, the price of sugar in the wholesale market was Rs126 per kg yesterday and sources said that sugar dealers have increased the price by creating artificial shortage to make illegal profits. The market sources said that the price of sugar in the wholesale market has increased by Rs9 per kg. The price of sugar in Akbari Mandi has risen to Rs135 per kg.

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Process initiated to lift ban on TLP

Punjab Home Dept approved to exclude names of 90 workers of TLP from the Fourth Schedule

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The government has started the process to remove the banned organization's tag from the yet-proscribed religious party, Tehreek-e-Labbaik as the Punjab Home Department has forwarded a summary to lift the ban on the outfit. Sources said that after the approval of the summary, the request to lift the ban on the TLP would be sent to the Centre. Sources further divulged that the federal cabinet would give approval to lift the embargo on the religious party later tonight.

Rashid rejects Mufti Muneeb's claims

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid on Thursday said that the chief of the proscribed Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), Saad Rizvi, had insisted on the closure of the French embassy in his talks with the interior minister. Addressing a ceremony in Lahore, the interior minister said: "[Contrary to what] one person - who is very respectable and is

a major religious figure from Karachi - [says], when I spoke with Saad Rizvi, he was insistent on [the closure of the] French embassy and he was convinced that this [issue] be brought in the [National] Assembly. "I have made signatures on this [previous agreement] and I am steadfast on this. As for the rest of the problems, two ministers have been appointed and they will answer your queries."

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan grateful for Saudi Arabia's support

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said on Thursday that Saudi Arabia has always supported Pakistan in difficult times. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of Saudi Winter Kit Distribution here he said the project would provide shelter to the poor people especially those hit by the natural calamity in Harnai (Balochistan). The minister said that the welfare work done by Saudi Arabia through King Salman Relief Fund was also



commendable. He said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia enjoyed iconic long-standing multi-faceted relations in various fields. The foundation of Pakistan's relations with Saudi Arabia was laid with the creation of Pakistan, he added.

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Azerbaijan recognizes Pak support during Patriotic War

Deputy Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Elnur Mammadov says Armenian military carried out unlawfully indiscriminate missile strikes on Azerbaijan during the hostilities; praises Russian role during the conflict

ANSAR M BHATTI IN BAKU

BAKU (AZERBAIJAN): Deputy Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Elnur Mammadov has said people and govt of Pakistan supported wholeheartedly Azerbaijan during the 44 day Patriotic War in which Armenian forces were defeated thoroughly and Azerbaijani areas were liberated from the Armenian occupation. The Dy Foreign Minister expressed these views during a talk with the Pakistani media people, who called on him on Thursday. The Minister further said Pakistan was among the first countries to recognize Azerbaijan adding both countries share each other's views on various regional as well international issues including the issue of Kashmir. He said we have invited Pakistan as well to join us in the reconstruction and rebuilding of the newly liberated areas. Pakistan's response towards our proposals has been forthcoming. Mammadov said that during the first Karabakh war in the early 1990s Armenia had been widely using the practice of taking hostages. "The results of the investigations indicate that Azerbaijani prisoners are being tortured and are being held in heavy conditions. Mam-

adov said that Azerbaijan always complies with UN resolutions on prisoners, hostages, and missing persons. He said Azerbaijan from the first day of restoration of its independence faced Armenia's aggression. He noted that as a result of the Armenian aggression, the practice of taking Azerbaijani servicemen prisoners and hostages was widely used by Armenia. "Despite the end of the conflict, 3,890 Azerbaijanis out of thousands of our compatriots taken prisoner and hostage by Armenia during the conflict are still

registered as missing. During its military aggression against Azerbaijan, Armenia grossly violated many norms of international law, including the requirements of international humanitarian law. Despite the rules of war, civilians were captured or, in most cases, killed. He said the Armenian military had placed thousands of mines in the liberated areas and it took us considerable time to clear all those mines. To a question about the status of the Nakhchivan autonomous region, the Minister made it clear that that Nak-

chivan is very much part of Azerbaijan. Regarding Iran's role during the Patriotic War, he said in the beginning Iran did not react however after a while it came in support of Azerbaijan. He also talked about Khojaly massacre saying Armenia committed the Khojaly genocide in February 1992, killing hundreds of civilians, including 106 women and 63 children ... 1,275 Azerbaijanis were taken hostage, 150 of them are still missing." On the night of Feb 25-26, 1992, Armenian forces massacred ethnic Azer-

bajianis in Khojaly, a small town in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. During the two-hour Armenian offensive, 613 Azerbaijanis were killed and 487 others critically injured, according to Azerbaijani record. Eight families were completely wiped out, while 130 children lost one parent and 25 children lost both. Talking about missiles attacks on Ganja, he said, Armenian military forces carried out unlawfully indiscriminate rocket and missile strikes on Azerbaijan during the hostilities from September to November 2020. During on-site investigations in Azerbaijan in November, Armenian forces used ballistic missiles, unguided artillery rockets, and large-caliber artillery projectiles that hit populated areas in apparent indiscriminate attacks. To yet another question as to which countries have been supporting Armenia the Minister said the Armenian Diaspora was the major supporter of the government. There Diaspora are much more aggressive than those living in Armenia. While replying a question about the Russian role during the conflict Mr. Elnur said during the second war the President of Russia repeatedly said that the areas belong to Azerbaijan and we think Russia rightfully chosen to be neutral. They also brokered the ceasefire and so far we are satisfied with the role played by Russian.



Inside...

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ISLAMABAD: A woman experiences Turkish cap at a stall during the Annual Lock Mela 2021 at Lok Virsa. — APP

Women Chambers Conference to be held on Nov 15

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: First all Pakistan women Chambers Presidents Conference will be organized to develop mutual relations with all female chambers across the country and formulate collective women related policies on the core issues, said Nighat Shahd, President Faisalabad Women Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FWCCI). She was talking to a delegation of female entrepreneurs in her office here today. She said that women are almost half of our population but their share in national economy is quite negligible due to the negative mindset and social taboos. She said that FWCCI is already working on a roadmap to encourage educated young females to start their own businesses instead of running after the jobs. She said that twenty one Women Chambers of Commerce are currently working in the country. She said that she has priority one in its Roadmap for Women Empowerment. She said that in this context, first All Pakistan Women Chambers Presidents Conference will be held in Faisalabad on 15th Nov, 2021. Its main objective is to highlight

the issues of female entrepreneurs and develop consensus among all Chambers so that we could pressurize policy makers to inculcate our suggestions in order to exploit the untapped potential of female population. She said that she herself will supervise this event while different committees have been formed to make befitting arrangements of this national level event.



President FWCCI said that another exhibition would also be arranged in FCCI Auditorium on Nov 17, 2021. The female business entrepreneurs will be encouraged to showcase their products in this exhibition, 'she added'. She said that FWCCI is going to arrange awareness sessions in collaboration with different organizations and banks so that educated women could avail from the policies of present govern-

ment and for access to the collateral free finance to start their own businesses. She said that these sessions would help women to start their own businesses with the technical and financial help of SMEDA, State Bank of Pakistan, National Bank, National Productivity Organization etc. In this context, first session has been scheduled on 09th Nov, 2021 wherein SMEDA Officials would highlight on the SMEDA services and awareness on the different Schemes and grants announced by them from time to time for new start up and existing businesses. She said that Standing Committees play a pivotal role in boosting the activities of Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry. She said that various important standing committees have already been constituted in the first meeting of Executive Committee along with appointment of Chairpersons/Vice Chairpersons while further Committees are being formed in due course. She said in the sacred month of Rabi-ul-Awal, Milad Conference and Lecture by Dr. Nighat Hashmi were organized wherein members participated with great reverence and fervor.

Claim your rights drive launched in KP

PESHAWAR: A campaign titled 'Claim Your Rights' was launched in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to create awareness on 'Right to Information (RTI) and 'Right to Services (RTS) among masses.

The project is focusing public in general and women in particular to them about their rights and the mechanism through which they could be facilitated from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Commission and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Right to Public Services Commission. An official of the campaign informed APP that besides the commissions, the project was being supported by GIZ - Support to Local Governance Program and implemented by the Institute of Management Sciences Peshawar.

He said the project's awareness and information campaign was focuses on four dimensions including Awareness and Advocacy Seminars, Digital Media Campaign (social media), Broadcast Media Campaign (radio and television), Print Media Campaign (newspapers and outdoor advertising) and SMS Campaign (mobile phone networks). The project had so far successfully conducted seminars in Nowshera, Kohat, Swat and Abbottabad districts raising awareness and educating more than 650 participants including educationists, lawyers, journalists, students, civil society, opinion leaders and others through seminars about their 'rights' to information and public services. As part of its overall targets for the coming months, he said, the project would directly benefit more than 0.4 million people particularly women and five million people through SMS campaign. — APP

Sindh fixes sugarcane price for 2021-22

KARACHI: The Sindh cabinet on Thursday decided to fix the price of sugar cane at Rs250 per 40 kilograms and premium at Rs 0.50 per 40 kilograms. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah chaired the meeting of the provincial cabinet at CM House here on Thursday and also took several other important decisions such as appointment of 1500 subject specialists and approval of waste-to-energy policy. The meeting was attended by provincial ministers, advisors to CM, Special assistants, chief secretary Mumtaz Shah and other concerned officers. Provincial Advisor on Agriculture Manzoor Wassan told the meeting that the government regulates the supply of sugarcane for use in factories and purchase price. He added that in 2018-19 support price was fixed at Rs 182 per 40 kgs, in 2019-20 at Rs 192 and in 2020-19 at Rs 202. During all the said three seasons the crushing had started on November 30.

The cabinet was told that under the law, the occupier of the sugar mill has to pay quality premium at the end of the crushing season. The cabinet considered different factors, including consultation with the growers and the miller and approved to start crushing season by November 15. Manzoor Wassan told the cabinet that the wheat price for the season 2018-19 and 2019-20 was fixed at Rs 13,000 and Rs 1400 per 40 kgs. The meeting was told that the cost of wheat production per acre for harvesting season, 2021-22 has been estimated at Rs2000 per 40 kgs on average yield of 34 maunds per acre. The recovery from sale of bhoosa was estimated at Rs250 per 40 kgs, therefore net cost of production would be Rs1750 per 40 kgs. The agriculture dept suggested to keep the same support price at Rs2000 per 40 kgs. The chief minister directed the agriculture department to consult other provinces for fixation of wheat prices and then bring the proposal to the cabinet. — APP

Protest continues after two murders by PPP lawmaker's guards

After the funeral of the slain Nazim Jokhio, the family members protested on the National Highway, both tracks of the National Highway were closed

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: National Highway blocked and thousands of vehicles on roads from connecting roads from Thatta and other parts to Karachi city since morning, after the brutal murders of two innocent villagers among a woman by sitting PPP MNAs and MPAs in Kamber-Shahdatkot district and Salar village rural Malir of Karachi jurisdictions here a day before. As per reports, after killings of man Nazim Jokhio in rural part of Malir by MPA Jam Owais and others, while in Khairpur Jooso some 15 kilometers away from Larkana in Kamber-Shahdatkot district, the father of MPA Ganhwar Khan Isran and others opened indiscriminate firing and killed a young woman of Siyal community and injured several others on the spot filmed a video showing.

After the funeral of the slain Nazim Jokhio in Karachi, the family members protested on the National Highway, both tracks of the National Highway were closed and long queues of vehicles formed. On the National Highway, the protesters burned tires and blocked the roads from Karachi to Thatta and chanted slogans against the police and the Sindh government.

Afzal Jokhio, the brother of the deceased Nazim Jokhio has alleged that his brother filmed a video of the foreigner hunters who were the guests

of PPP MPA Jam Owais, on which Jam Owais called Nazim Jokhio to his house, tortured him and killed him. The body of Nazim Jokhio was found near Malir Memon Goth, while a murder case has been registered against MPA Jam Owais, Niaz Salar and others. On the other hand, the Sindh Chief Minister has taken notice of the murder and directed to bring justice to the heirs. Police said that 35-year-old Nazim Jokhio son of Sujawal was killed by sticks and punches during an altercation at Jam House. An autopsy of his body has been conducted at Jinnah Hospital. According to the victim's brother, Sardar Jam Abdul Kareem, a member of the National Assembly, ordered his brother Nazim to be brought to the Jam House. When he went to the Jam House some time later, he was told that his brother had died. According to his family, Nazim Jokhio had viral video of the victim being hunted by influential people. After the

video came to light, Nazim Jokhio was called home by the influential person in Malir. He alleged that Nazim Jokhio was tortured to death during the talks.

It should be noted that Jam Owais is a member of Sindh Assembly from Thatta and his brother Jam Abdul Karim is a member of National Assembly from Malir. Later, the victim had also recorded his own video saying that his life was in danger because certain elements were threatening him. He had asked authorities to put his video on record, his relatives said.

The incident enraged area residents and community members, who blocked the main National Highway and alleged that influential personalities were involved in the murder as the victim had made a video of some foreign hunters in his village. It should be noted that the body of a man was identified from Memon Goth who was identified as Nazim Jokhio. Meanwhile, according to

the journalists Kamran and Sajjad Shah a case was registered against five persons at Memon Goth police station last night against the kidnapping of young Nazim Jokhio for preventing Arab princes from hunting near Goth and making live video of them. The accused were not arrested after burying the deceased. After the incident, the heirs and residents of the area sat on the National Highway from morning till night in which civil society, political and social personalities reached the sit-in and expressed their heartfelt condolences to the heirs. On the occasion, MPA Sajid Jokhio, Raja Razaq, MPA Saleem Kalmati, Salman Murad reached the sit-in and expressed sympathy and full legal help to the heirs. Zain Shah, Marvi Palijo, Nazir Bhutto, Zain Shah, Yaqoob Khaskheli and others who participated in the sit-in on the occasion said that the late Nazim Jokhio was brutally killed. We are with the heirs in this hour of grief.



DPCC re-fixes prices of essential commodities

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Committee meeting was held at DC office in which consultation with wholesalers, retailers, traders and consumer representatives has re-fixed the wholesale and retail prices of various essential commodities. During the meeting, reviewing the current market prices of various essential commodities and fluctuations in their availability rates, the prices of various essential commodities for the general markets were unanimously fixed. According to the detailed the Basin would be sold at Rs 125 per kg in wholesale while the retail price was Rs 130 per kg. Similarly, gram white(mota) Rs 170 per kg

and Rs 175 per kg respectively White gram(break) at Rs 150 and Rs 155 per kg, black gram(mota) at Rs 117 and Rs 123 per kg, black gram(break) at Rs 113 and Rs 118 per kg, pulse gram(moti) at Rs 120 and Rs 125 per kg. Pulse gram break Rs 116 and Rs 120 per kg, Pulse mash washed foreign Rs 230 and Rs 235 per kg, Pulse mash unwashed foreign Rs 205 and Rs 210 per kg, Pulse Masoor will be sold at Rs 160 and Rs 165 per kg, pulse masoor(break) at Rs 178 and 184 per Kg. Rice Super Basmati (New) at Rs 110 and Rs 115 per kg, Super Basmati (Old) at Rs 115 and Rs 120 per kg. Arie rice Rs 60 per kg, milk at Rs 95 per kg, yoghurt at Rs 100 per kg, meat at Rs 950, Beef Rs. 450 per kg, Roti Rs. 7 per kg

weighing 100 grams. The prices of fruits and vegetables will be auctioned in the daily markets while the prices of poultry products will be provided by the Livestock Poultry Association to the Secretary Market Committee at 7 am daily in consultation with the Livestock Poultry Association. Deputy Commissioner Ali Shahzad said that price control magistrates were active in conducting raids in the markets and there would be no concession from illegitimate profiteers. He directed the PCMs to ensure the price list at every shop. He asked the consumers to register complaint regarding over price at Toll free number 080002345 it would resolve quickly.

Lawmakers meet CM Buzdar

LAHORE: MNAs Ahmad Husain, Muhammad Afzal and MPA Ghazanfar Abbas Cheena here on Thursday called on Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar and apprised him about the problems of their constituencies and other issues. The CM issued directions for the resolution of the problems adding that the nation had unwavering trust in the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan. The premier had announced a historic Rs 120 billion package to support 20 million families, he said and added that such a huge package had never been announced, earlier, to provide substantial relief to the masses. He further said that people would be fully benefited from this package and regretted that opposition had limited its democratic role to the extent of criticism. The opposition parties had done nothing in their respective tenures, he added. CM said that the opposition leaders could only issue routine statements as they don't have any public welfare agenda. Usman Buzdar said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) led government would continue its public service agenda and the critics would be left behind. The parliamentarians said that the district development package would ensure balanced development adding that the CM had always given respect to the assembly members. — APP

Over 3.96m people vaccinated against Covid

FAISALABAD: Over 3.96 million (3,967,057) people have so far been vaccinated against COVID-19 in the district. District Health Officer Dr Ataul Mun'im said on Thursday 2,728,346 people were given first dose while 1,180,032 were administered the second dose of the vaccine. He said that 35,358 health workers were also given first dose while 23,321 received the second dose of vaccine. He said that sufficient stock of coronavirus vaccine was available in the district. As of now 198,191 first doses and 132,128 second doses were in the stock in Faisalabad. He said that 37 vaccination centers and 20 mobile vaccination camps were operational in Faisalabad where registered people were being vaccinated. — APP



LAHORE: Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad receiving a shield during 2nd anniversary of Pakistan Rescue teams UN INSARAG Certification at PES Academy. — APP

South Punjab holds school council elections

SAQIB MUSHTAQ

LODHARAN: On directions of Secretary Schools Southern Punjab Barrister Dr. Ehtasham Anwar students school council elections are being held in Middle, High and Higher Secondary Schools throughout the 11 districts of South Punjab, polling will continue till half past 2 in which president, vice president and Secretary will be elected, students from 6th to 10th grade will participate in this political activity. According to CEO Education

Mian Abdul Razaq elections are being held in 280 schools of District Lodhran these student school council elections are non political, students are not aware about what democracy is and this election will prove to be nursery for democracy. Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Lodhran Azoba Azeem visited Govt. Girls High School in regard to checking of Student Council elections. She oversaw the ongoing election activities and inquired students about elections. She showed satisfaction over election arrangements.

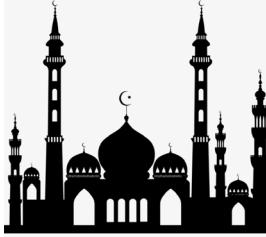


At this time CEO Mian Abdul Razaq told during his briefing that purpose of student council elections is

to nurture their hidden abilities along with their co-curricular activities, this will introduce democratic values to the students so that these students will be able to properly observe their responsibilities in future that is why proper process of elections has been followed. Student council's election are being held in Elementary, High and Higher Secondary (Girls, Boys) Schools in which students from class six to 10th will elect their representatives, Student Council Elections are being held for the seats of President, Vice President and

General Secretary in which students from each class will elect their representative, he added that each candidate have been given the opportunity to fully introduce himself to his/her class so that students can elect their best representatives. Later he told that process of elections of student council in lodhran has been completed and list of successful candidates have been issued, he cited an expectation that these successful students will become Education Department's strength.

SERVICES



Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	05:05 am
Zohr.....	11:51 am
Asr.....	03:35 pm
Maghrib.....	05:13 pm
Isha.....	06:37 pm



Hotels & Restaurants

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



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Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....	0331-5022125
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FOSPAAH orders to sack DG PEMRA over harassment

DG PEMRA is fined with 2 million which would be provided to complainant

MUHAMMAD JABRAAN

ISLAMABAD: Federal Ombudsman Secretariat for Protection against Harassment has decided a long standing prominent harassment case. It was filed by Sidra Karim, a female employee of PEMRA who was on daily wages against DG PEMRA Haji Adam. The case was filed by Sidra Karim at FOSPAAH in 2020. In her online complaint, Sidra Karim highlighted multiple grievances that affected her while working as RTO at PEMRA Islamabad. According to her complaint she was harassed by her Director General Admin & HR. The complainant claimed that accused turned rude and demeaning to her when she denied to give him sexual favors. The case was heard for more than 1.5 years in which DG PEMRA Haji Adam has been found guilty of harassment. The harassment court has ordered PEMRA to terminate him from service. Also a fine of 20 lac rupees has been imposed on Haji Adam which would be paid to the affectee as compensation. FOSPAAH which claims to decide the harassment cases within 90 days has said in



an official statement that case was delayed due to repeated representations of accused in front of Hon'able President of Pakistan Arif Alvi. Moreover the accused also filed multiple writ petitions at Islamabad High Court against the orders of FOSPAAH which became the reason of delayed decision of

this case. This was the most high profile harassment case being heard at FOSPAAH after Meesha Shafi & Ali Zafar harassment case which stole lime light of media. One of Pemra's directors general or DGs should be sacked from service, the Federal Ombudsman for Protection against Har-

assment of Women at Workplace Kashmala Tariq said on Thursday. Kashmala Tariq decided to admit the case in February and he was suspended in the interim on February 4, 2020. The DG went to the President's Secretariat to try to have the ombudsperson's order suspended. However, the secretariat did not entertain his request. He then went to the Islamabad High Court in August 2020. It passed a verdict asking the Ombudsperson to give a proper hearing to both sides before passing a speaking order within 15 days. By August 28, Kashmala Tariq upheld her decision to suspend him to prevent him from influencing the investigation. "Bringing all the relevant pieces of evidence together," said Kashmala Tariq on Thursday while speaking the media. "The accumulated effect is that the complainant has been able to bring home the charge to the accused to [establish] guilt. And has succeeded to prove her allegation that the accused sexually harassed her at the workplace. The harassment case against the accused ... he becomes liable to be proceeded against in terms of Section 4, sub-section 4, sub-clause 2, sub-clause D."

MoHR starts campaign against child labor

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) has started a series of public service video messages against child labor. According to details provided by the ministry, the initiative aimed to identify and expand solutions to serious violation of children rights, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The public service video series would be aired soon on television channels as well as digital media platforms. Its purpose is to discourage and stop child labor in society.

93 outlaws arrested in October

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have apprehended 93 outlaws including 45 accused of 13 dacoit gangs and recovered looted items worth Rs. 22.44 million. The investigation officers of Capital police were using modern technology and human resources to arrest the accused, following directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Qazi Jamil-Ur Rehman, said a news release on Thursday. Deputy Inspector General (Operations) Afzaal Ahmed Kausar said the federal police was conducting operations with better strategy to curb crime in the city. A crackdown was underway to eradicate street crimes. He appealed the citizens to fulfill their national duty and help police to ensure law and order in the city. He directed police officers to expedite actions against proclaimed offenders including those involved in robbery and dacoity incidents. He also directed them to enhance patrolling at various areas to secure public properties. - APP

73 more dengue cases

RAWALPINDI: District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC) Dr Sajjad Mehmood Thursday said that around 73 more people were diagnosed with positive symptoms of dengue fever in the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 2860 at allied hospitals. The DCEPC said informed that among the new cases, 40 cases were registered with the Holy Family Hospital (HFH), nine with District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ), and 24 with Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH) in 24 hours. "Presently, 68 patients were admitted in HFH, out of which 49 were declared positive, 14 positive cases out of 17 in BBH and 34 confirmed out of the total 49 admitted in DHQ," he added. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Andrei Metelista, Ambassador of Belarus to Pakistan called on to M. Shabir Ali Qureshi Minister of State, Ministry of Housing and Works. - DNA

SNGPL, SSGC executing 7 projects to reinforce gas transmission

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The two state-owned companies, Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) and Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) are in process of executing at least seven major projects to reinforce gas transmission and distribution systems in their respective areas. The SNGPL is constructing a 12-kilometer (km) pipeline to supply 30 million cubic feet per day (mmcf) gas to Rashakai Special Economic Zone. "The project is expected to be completed by the end of December, 2021," according to an official document available with APP. Similarly, a 20-km pipeline is being laid to provide 40 mmcf of gas to Allama Iqbal Industrial City Special Economic Zone, which is scheduled to commence in the first quarter of 2021-22. However, in order to supply 5 mmcf of gas to Allama Iqbal Industrial City on a temporary basis, a 2-km main supply line had already been laid and commissioned by extending the existing network of M-3 Industrial City. Whereas, a project is being launched to address the acute low gas pressure issues during winter season in Mardan and Peshawar regions, at an estimated cost of Rs 2,296 million for system augmentation of transmission Charsadda-Khazana-Tangi pipeline. The SNGPL is confident that a 22-km transmission main line from Barki to Sunder and a 10 km from Dial to G.T Road is expected to complete by December, 2021. On the SSGC network, a 3.5-km pipeline would be constructed at a cost of Rs149.41 million for supplying 13 MMCFD gas to Bin Qasim Industrial Park, Karachi. The company also got approval for laying 8.7-km pipeline to supply 10 mmcf of gas to Bostan Special Economic Zone, Balochistan at an estimated cost of Rs 731.447. During the current fiscal year, the two companies would collectively invest Rs17,571 million on transmission projects, Rs91,812 million on distribution projects and Rs 3,156 million on other projects, bringing the total investment of Rs112,539 million. During the first eight months of the last fiscal year, the companies provided the gas facility to around 70 villages and towns, laid 143 km gas transmission network, 2,616 km distribution and 886 km service lines across their operational areas. Pakistan has an extensive gas network of over 13,315 km transmission 149,715 km distribution and 39,612 km services gas pipelines to cater for the requirement of more than 10.3 million consumers across the country. - DNA

Safron seeks HEC to double seats for ex-FATA students

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Standing Committee on States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) on Thursday recommended that Higher Education Commission (HEC) must issue notification for doubling of seats in medical colleges for 8 years so that the issue pending from three years might be resolved once for all. The committee expressed concern on non-compliance of the recommendation passed by the Committee in its meeting held on January 7, 2021 regarding issuance of notification for doubling of seats for students from erstwhile FATA in Medical and Dental colleges. The representative of Khyber Medical University (KMU) informed the committee that "we have no powers to enhance the seats however we can send recommendations to Higher Education Commission (HEC)".

The representative of HEC apprised the committee that 36 additional seats for erstwhile FATA already had been increased and the issue was resolved. He further informed that HEC was only a regulator and we took up the recommendations of provinces. The Committee under the chair of Sajid Khan, expressed its displeasure on not attending the meeting by the Chairman, WAPDA and directed that the Chairman WAPDA must attend the next meeting in person and to brief the committee on the agenda otherwise the committee would move Privilege Motion against him. The meeting was attended by Saleh Muhammad, Shahid Ahmad, Gul Dad Khan, Gul Zafar Khan, Abdul Shakoor Shad, Shaheen Naz Saifullah, Muhammad Afzal Khokhar, Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar, Aysha Rajab Ali, Sajid Hussain Turi and Muhammad Jamal ul Din, MNAs and Officers/Officials of the Ministry of SAFRON and its attached Departments.

The meeting was attended by Saleh Muhammad, Shahid Ahmad, Gul Dad Khan, Gul Zafar Khan, Abdul Shakoor Shad, Shaheen Naz Saifullah, Muhammad Afzal Khokhar, Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar, Aysha Rajab Ali, Sajid Hussain Turi and Muhammad Jamal ul Din, MNAs and Officers/Officials of the Ministry of SAFRON and its attached Departments.

1,634 POLs issued to government employees

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Housing and Works had issued 1,634 Provisional Offer Letters (POLs) of apartments to the government employees for the Kashmir Avenue apartment scheme, G-13, Islamabad. Out of the total, 784 POLs were of the A-Category, while 850 of B-Category, an official of the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) told APP. The official said the provisional allotment of 184 allottees had been cancelled due to non-payment of dues. 69 were of Category-A, while 115 one of the Category-B. He said the transfer of Kashmir Avenue (G-13) apartments for would be opened subject to clearance of outstanding dues not less than 23 percent of the total cost of apartment, allocation of apartment number through balloting and verification of service particulars from respective departments of the allottees. The official said the ground breaking of 56 Kanals land for housing project was held in April, 2019 by Prime Minister Imran Khan. He said the project aimed at providing housing facilities to the Federal Government Employees. It consisted of three towers, each with three basements, ground plus twenty one stories. To a question, he said the province-wise detail of allotment of government accommodations were not maintained with Estate Office. Rather they were maintained on the basis of quarter number and date of allotment. Therefore, he said, it was not possible to indicate the number of allotments made to the employees from different provinces. - APP



AIOU & Anadolu University ink MoU in Turkey

MoU was signed on the occasion of the 2nd Executive Board Committee of COMSTECH-Inter Islamic Networks of Virtual/Open Universities held in Anadolu University Turkey

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) and Anadolu University, Turkey signed an agreement to work on exchange programs for faculty, students and administrative staff assuring mutual benefit to each other in the relevant academic fields. The memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed on the occasion of the second Executive Board Committee of COMSTECH-Inter Islamic Networks of Virtual/Open Universities held in Anadolu University Turkey, said a press release issued here on Thursday. Prof. Dr. Faut Erdal, Rector, Anadolu University and Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum, Vice Chancellor, AIOU signed the

MoU. While speaking on occasion, Prof. Zia hoped that collaboration between the two mega universities would go a long way for promoting education in both countries. He viewed that the panacea for social and economic development of majority of the Islamic countries lied in bringing the quality of education at par with the developed world. It was need of the hour that higher education institutions of the Islamic world should be developed to strengthen academic linkages with one another and get benefited with their experiences, he added.

He also shared the recent developments at AIOU including end-to-end digitization of AIOU system. Prof. Faut showed keen interest in AIOU digitization and asked for the assisting digitalization of Anadolu University. Dr. Zahid Majeed, Director, International Collaboration and Exchange, AIOU and Dr. Kagan, Director International Affairs, Anadolu University shared their universities' profile, strengths and possible areas of collaboration. Prof. Faut agreed that AIOU and Anadolu would work on joint degree programs, exchange of faculty, staff and students.

Both universities would offer short-term trainings for the staff of each other. It was also discussed that both universities could develop combined degree programs for international students of Europe, Africa and Middle East. Prof. Faut thanked Prof. Zia for visiting his university and signing an MoU. Prof. Zia acknowledged the administrative and leadership role to run the mega University of the World. He also officially invited him to visit AIOU to see the potential, capabilities and possible areas of collaboration. In the near future, both universities would start the faculty and administrative staff exchange programs. Dr. Zahid Majeed, Director IC&E, AIOU and Dr. Kagan, Director IA, Anadolu were appointed as focal persons for follow-up and further discussions.

PMAS-AAUR holds orientation for new batch

DNA

RAWALPINDI: An orientation session for the newly admitted postgraduate students was held at the Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR), here on Thursday, to brief them about the university's rules & regulations, facilities available at the campus and the most proficient faculty. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman, while welcoming the new entrants, congratulated them for becoming a part of this prestigious institution and hoped that the 2021-22 education year would bring new hope and less uncertainty. Highlighting the University's efforts for quality education, he said PMAS-AAUR has been striving to provide access to quality literature by facilitating the students with modern technologies and advanced labs. He said that "The University provides an environment that enables its students to develop their academic skills excellently, and this institution endeavors professionalism and demands a sense of responsibility from its students." "Arid Agricultural University is the only university in Pakistan that has attained worth five billion projects during the difficult phase of Corona, which is now in the final stages of completion," he said. The Vice-Chancellor stressed that postgraduate students should work hard and focus on research activities to lead the country towards progress with innovative ideas which can later turn into businesses. On the occasion, Director Quality Enhancement Cell Dr Riaz Anad, Director Advanced Studies Dr Muhammad Azam, and Director Student Affairs Dr Ghulam Hussain Babar also addressed the students. They informed the students about rules and regulations and provided the guidelines. They also covered important academic, administrative rules, scholarships and the introduction of various facilities available at the campus.

Briefs

Traditional cuisines attract masses at Lok Mela

ISLAMABAD: The stalls of various cultural and traditional cuisines are attracting a large number of people at the ongoing 7-day Lok Mela, arranged by the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (NIFTH) offering mouthwatering and savory food dishes.

The annual Lok Mela was held to promote cultural heritage among the new generation to create awareness of the old traditions of the country.

A variety of food dishes from every corner of the provinces of the country including Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, Sindh, Balochistan, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir were provided through various stalls organized to attract people. Talking to APP, Executive Director Lok Virsa Talha Ali said, over the years, Lok Mela has grown in its scale and seen massive improvements in administration, promotion, and exhibition stages. The festival featured exhibitions of artisan work, traditional food cuisines, a beautiful amalgamation of provincial cultures, mesmerizing folk songs by rural musicians, traditional dances and ensembles, historical and cultural evenings, an exotic bazaar containing a wealth of cultural items. — APP

FDE Inter-zonal games kick off

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Shafaqat Mahmood on Thursday said that the organization of sports events was mandatory for the healthy life of students. Addressing as Chief Guest at the opening ceremony of Annual Inter-Zonal Games 2021 being organized under the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE), he said that coronavirus had severely affected the education sector. He asked the students to focus on education besides the sports events.

Underlining the need for education, he said that it was the only way for the socio-economic development of the country. Shafaqat said that Prime Minister Imran Khan was paying special focus on education besides other sectors.

He congratulated the students participating in the inter-zonal games, adding such games would also be organized in the future. "This sports event was a symbol of improvement after declining in Covid-19 cases," he added. He said that Prime Minister fully supports the organization of such events in the country. — APP

ANF seizes 2225 kg drugs valuing US 151 mln

ISLAMABAD: Anti Narcotics Force of Pakistan seized 2225.556 Kg narcotics valuing US \$ 151.396 million internationally and arrested 33 culprits including two women in 38 counter-narcotics strikes throughout the country.

According to the press release, the force had also impounded 17 vehicles during the operation. The seized drugs comprised 64.095 kg Heroin, 1803.555 kg Hashish, 301.67 kg Opium, 1.850 kg Amphetamine, 53.406 kg Methamphetamine (Ice), 600 x Ecstasy Tablets (0.330 Kg) and 0.650 Kg weed. Sharing the details, he said in Balochistan, the force had recovered 653.13 kg drugs in six operations while arrested seven accused and seized three vehicle. The seized drugs comprised 638.1 Kg Hashish, 2 Kg Opium, 13 Kg Methamphetamine (Ice) and 50 x Ecstasy Tablets. In Punjab ANF had recovered 103.336 Kg drugs in eight operations while arrested three accused and seized 1 x vehicle.

The seized drugs comprised 4.63 Kg Heroin, 97.200 Kg Hashish and 1.506 Kg Methamphetamine (Ice). In KPK the force had, recovered 1307.1 kg drugs in 13 operations while arrested 10 accused and seized 8 x vehicles. — APP

Experts urge Pak to seek advisory of ICJ on IOJK

BJP gov't had awarded 3.8 million new domiciles to the Indians who do not hail from the region, which is mockery of existing international human rights laws: Altaf Wani

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The ever-increasing grave human rights violations and Hindutva fascism in Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IOJK), coupled with the recent demographic and cultural onslaught, reflected through measures such as the establishment of a delimitation commission of electoral constituencies to further squeeze the Muslim influence in Kashmir's politics, warrant the need for Pakistan to approach the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for an advisory opinion on the situation in IOJK.

This was a key recommendation at the Institute of Policy Studies' Working Group on Kashmir (IPS-WGK) meeting. The participating experts discussed the situation in IOJK, covering issues including India's intransigence, the future of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) after Syed Ali Geelani, and the



resurgence of the armed struggle. Altaf Wani, chairman, Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR) was the main speaker of the session, which was chaired by Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, whereas Farzana Yaqoob, former AJ&K minister and general secretary of IPS-

WGK moderated it. Ambassador (ret'd) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman, IPS, Iftikhar Gillani, Ankara-based senior Kashmiri journalist, Ambassador (ret'd) Syed Ishtiaq Hussain Andrabi, and Advocate Nasir Qadri, founder, Legal Forum for the Oppressed Voices of Kashmir (LFOVK) were

the main discussants. Altaf Wani ruled that the BJP government had awarded 3.8 million new domiciles to the Indians who do not hail from the region, an act tantamount to a mockery of existing international human rights laws. He also lashed out on the Indian government for introducing a pat-

tern of settler colonialism in the occupied region, as reflected from new draconian laws under which the Indian forces have already grabbed many hectares of land on the premise of improving security. Commenting on the cultural terrorism the people of IOJK were faced with, Altaf was of the view

that the BJP government was making deliberate attempts to change the cultural outlook of the Valley, which is evident from the fact that Urdu was now being replaced with Hindi as the official language. Similarly, muzzling media and press, snatching political space available for the Kashmiris, and carrying out political victimization of Kashmiri political leadership were acts of depriving Kashmiri Muslims of their jobs, homes, land, and freedom, he added. The participants showed concern over India's increasing brutalities in IOJK and the growing political vacuum in the Valley after the death of veteran Kashmiri leader Syed Ali Geelani. Regarding the working of the Delimitation Commission, the speakers termed this attempt an act to further curtail the already squeezed political space available for Kashmiri political leadership to exercise their political rights and raise their voice against India's atrocities.

Pakistan for accountability of violators of UNSC resolutions

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday called for strengthening multilateralism that promotes collective security, and indiscriminate accountability of those violating the UN Security Council's resolutions and international laws.

"We need to strengthen multilateralism that promotes collective security of everyone rather than pushing a zero-sum approach," Minister for Human Rights Shireen Mazari said in her address at 7th Istanbul Security Summit, Turkish Anadolu Agency reported. She said strengthening multilateralism and mutual collaboration without any discrimination would lead to a "just global order."

Mazari said all those who violate international law and UN Security Council resolutions, and carry out human rights violations should be "held accountable without discrimination."

"In order to promote a just global order, same yardstick and benchmark should be promoted across organizations, and in emerging technologies and strategic areas. Carving out exemptions should be avoided," she stated. The minister further said that "strong Muslim states were being destabilized while UN Security Council's role was being undermined by the notion of 'coalitions of the willing'."

"The commitment to democracy has been selective and sporadic. Since 1990, democracies have been responsible for more deaths globally, ironically in promotion of democracy, than any other dispensation."

Calling out "self-proclaimed flag bearers of democracy," the human rights minister said they were "responsible for some of the most extreme violations of basic international laws." — APP

Rabi us Sani moon sighting today

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of Ruet-e-Hilal Committee would be held in Islamabad on Friday evening for sighting the crescent of Rabi-us-Sani 1443 Hijri. Chairman, Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee, Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad would attend the meeting of the Zonal Committee to be held in the office of Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Islamabad. The rest of the zonal/district committees would meet at their respective provincial/district headquarters on the same evening. According to an expert Malik Qadir, the holy month of Rabi-us-Sani would most likely to commence from Sunday. Quoting astronomical considerations, he said there was no chance of sighting the new crescent of Rabi Us Sani 1443 AH on Friday evening. The new crescent of Rabi Us Sani 1443AH would be born on crossing conjunction point at 02:16 pst on (Sunday) November 05.

IRSA releases 99000 cusecs water

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 99000 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 56576 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1505.66 feet, which was 113.66 feet higher than its dead level 1392 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 26300 and 52000 cusecs respectively.

The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1179.10 feet, which was 129.01 feet higher than its dead level of 1050 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 13276 and 30000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 55327, 40470 and 30935 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 4800 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 12200 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala.

ITP fines 526353 motorists within six months

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has issued fine tickets to some 526353 motorists over various traffic violations during the last six months.

The ITP has accelerated crackdown against vehicles having tinted glasses, fancy number plates and wrong parking, a news release on Thursday said. Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Muhammad Sarfraz Virk was supervising the ITP teams deployed at various major avenues to check violations in the federal capital.

The force had conducted several grand operations in various areas including G-8 Markaz, G-9 Markaz, G-11

Markaz, F-10 Markaz, F-11 Markaz, I-8 Markaz, Bahria Town, Blue Area, Jinnah Super, F-6 (Super Market), Aabpara and Bhara Kahu Market. Superintendent of Police (Traffic) has warned the owners of car show rooms to avoid parking on footpaths and roads.

A total of 4100 fine tickets were issued over wrong parking while several vehicles were impounded at various police stations.

Around 24,690 vehicles were fined for having tinted glasses and 29,043 for having fancy number plates. Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Muhammad Sarfraz Virk appealed to avoid using tinted glasses and follow traffic rules to ensure safe road environment in the city.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Shafaqat Mahmood addressing during inauguration ceremony of FDE Annual Inter-Zonal Games 2021 held at Jinnah Stadium Pakistan Sports Complex. — APP

Farewell ceremony held for outgoing IG NH&MP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Murad Saeed Thursday said that his ministry and its attached departments are playing active role for national construction and development. Addressing a farewell ceremony organized in the honor of outgoing Inspector General National Highways and Motorway Police Dr. Kaleem Imam, the minister said Dr. Kaleem Imam rendered remarkable services for maintaining peaceful environment on motorways and national highways, said a press release.

He said that the motorway police has also been the honor for providing quality travelling and civic amenities to the travelers during their journey. "His services will ever be remembered for transforming motorway police into an exemplary force," he added. Federal Secretary Communications Zafar Hasan, Chairman NHA Capt (Rtd)

Muhammad Khurram Agha, incoming Inspector General National Highways and Motorway Police Inam Ghani, Director General Postal Services Capt (Rtd) Khalid Javed, Senior Joint Secretary Ministry of Communications Muhammad Salman and Senior officers of Construction Technology and Training Institute (CTTI) participated. It is to recall that outgoing Inspector General National Highways and Motorway Police is posted as Federal Secretary for Narcotics. Commending the services of ex-Inspector General National Highways and Motorway Police, the Minister for Communications and Postal Services Murad Saeed expressed hope that incoming IG National Highways and Motorway Police Inam Ghani will not only maintain level of quality services but he will also undertake concrete steps to further improve the performance of motorway police in light of his vast experience. — APP

OGDCL injects four wells in production gathering system

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: The Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) has injected four operated wells, producing 69,770 barrels (BBL) crude oil and 184 million cubic feet (MMCF) gas, in its production gathering system during first quarter of the current fiscal year. "In line with its production strategy to boost oil and gas production, the company injected wells including Tando Alam-21, Sial-1, Pasahki12 and Mangrio-2 which cumulatively yielded gross crude oil and gas production of 69,770 barrels and 184 MMcf respectively," according to a report available with APP. Overall, the OGDCL's production during the period under review contributed around 47 per cent, 29 percent and 36 per cent towards the country's total oil, natural gas and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) production respectively. In an effort to arrest natural decline and sustain production from mature wells, the company also carried out 22 work-over jobs comprising three with rig and 19 rig-less. Moreover to induce improvement in the current well flow parameters, the pressure build-up survey jobs were completed



at various wells of producing fields like Mela, Pasahki, Nashpa, Qadirpur and Maru-Reti fields.

Despite natural decline at various mature producing fields, OGDCL witnessed increase in its crude oil and LPG production in comparison to the corresponding period last year.

The Company's average daily net LPG production clocked in at 805 tons portraying an increase of 13 percent largely due to start-up of production from Mela and Nim fields coupled with higher production from

Nashpa and KPD-TAY fields. Likewise, average daily net crude oil production clocked in at 37,347 barrels showing an increase of 3 percent primarily owing to commencement of production from Mangrio and Nim fields combined with increase in production from Pasahki, KPD, Tando Alam, Mela and Kal fields. In last fiscal year [2020-21], the company had injected 12 new wells, producing 584,808 barrels (BBL) crude oil and 12,092 million cubic feet (MMCF) gas, in the production gathering system.

Ufone secures Rs. 21 bln financing for 4G services

"It is a mutual goal that both Pakistan's banking and telecom industries are working to achieve in order to create shared value for the communities we serve"

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani Telecom Company, Ufone has secured Rs 21 billion syndicated financing facility for acquisition and rollout of its 4G services across the country. "Pakistani Telecom Company, Ufone has secured its largest syndicated financing facility jointly led by MCB Bank Limited (MCB) (Agent bank), Allied Bank Limited (ABL), Bank of Punjab (BoP), National Bank of Pakistan (NBP), and United Bank

Limited (UBL) to fund the acquisition and rollout of its 4G services across Pakistan" said a news release. President and Group CEO, PTCL and Ufone, Hatem Bamatraf in this regard has signed the agreement. The event was also attended by President, MCB Bank, Imran Maqbool; Group Head, Corporate Finance & International Banking, MCB Bank, Shoaib Mumtaz; President Allied Bank, Aizid Razzaq Gill; Chief, Corporate and Investment Banking, Allied Bank, Owais Shahid;

Head Investment Banking, Bank of Punjab, Umer Khan, Abid Kitchlew Divisional Head C&IBG, National Bank, and Farooq Ahmed Khan Group Head

the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA). The company's investment in 4G spectrum will go onto enhancing its network capacity and read-

Bamatraf expressed his gratitude to the banking consortium for the timely financial support and said "The financing solution will go a long way in bringing high quality mobile broadband services to the people of Pakistan. It will improve quality of network services and usher in a host of socio-economic opportunities for growth and development for our customers." He said, "It is a mutual goal that both Pakistan's banking and telecom industries are working to achieve in order to create

shared value for the communities we serve." President MCB Bank, Imran Maqbool congratulated Ufone on acquisition of 4G spectrum and emphasized on the need of changing the dynamics of all industries post Covid-19, including enhancing virtual connectivity and reliance on technological innovation for sustainable growth. He expressed hopes that Ufone, with the new 4G capabilities, will further enhance its contributions to the socio-economic growth of the country.

ufone 4G

Corporate and Investment Banking, United Bank Ltd. Ufone has recently been awarded 4G Spectrum License as a result of competitive bidding during the spectrum auction held by

ness besides delivering superior connectivity and user experience to its customers. Speaking at the ceremony President and Group CEO, PTCL and Ufone, Hatem

ISIS-K attack

TRAGIC news continues to pour in from Afghanistan as it was reported on Tuesday that at least 25 people were killed and more than 50 wounded when gunmen attacked Afghanistan's biggest military hospital after two heavy explosions at the site in central Kabul. Reports reveal that the explosions hit the entrance of the 400-bed Sardar Mohammad Daud Khan hospital and were followed with an assault by gunmen of the militant Islamic State (IS) group, all of whom were killed within 15 minutes.

The situation is extremely concerning as this blast adds to a growing list of attacks and killings that have been claimed by ISIS-K since the Taliban took over in August. Last month, a bomb attack on worshippers at a Shia mosque in the Afghan city of Kunduz killed at least 55 people, in the bloodiest assault since US forces left the country.

The Taliban thus far have dismissed claims that ISIS-K poses a serious threat to their government. However, one cannot deny that the group is becoming increasingly bold as the Taliban also lost their senior leader and head of the Kabul military corps, MawlawiHamdullahMukhlis, in the latest attack. The commander of the Badri Brigade, touted as the special forces of the Taliban, was also killed in the attack.

The Taliban will have to take serious measures if they are to bring the situation under control. The Afghan citizens have been suffering at the hands of such violent attacks for a while and now it seems that the Taliban leadership is vulnerable as well. If the new government is unable to convincingly tackle the threat of ISIS-K, it may have to consider working in conjunction with actors such as the US which would potentially include the use of drone strikes—a questionable and controversial tactic. The threat however cannot be undermined as it is not just limited to Afghanistan, but other regional countries are expressing serious concerns given the rising number of incidents. Under no circumstances can Afghanistan be allowed to turn into a haven for militant groups.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 02 Issue: 155

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The TLP deal

GRADUALLY, one by one, the contents of the deal struck between the government and the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), are being divulged to the public. Some of the terms and conditions in the deal, which had initially been kept highly secret and confidential, have now been reported, and include the government freeing more than 2,000 jailed activists of TLP, and allowing TLP's members to contest elections, in exchange for the organisation denouncing violence and withdrawing its longstanding demand to have France's ambassador expelled. Considering that the TLP had made the expulsion of the French ambassador its central demand and single most important mandate, it reads like an achievement that the government has managed to persuade the party to waive it off. However, the success of this deal can only be judged in the days to come, depending on if the TLP actually means to follow through on the deal or if this is just a temporary distraction. The government appears to be hoping that by mainstreaming the TLP, through its participation in the political process, the party's extremist and violent tendencies can be watered down and managed. However, this plan does not consider that the TLP has already become part of the mainstream—it contested elections in September of this year. TLP has consistently performed well in electoral politics. It will take a lot of active diligence and persistence by the government to ensure that TLP sticks with its promise of non-violence, as the party expands its influence. In any case, mainstreaming of the TLP involves changing ECP policies, as well as reviewing the restraints on TLP's financial accounts, which could have an impact on our FATF strategies. This is too impactful a decision to take alone—the government must consult the opposition parties and run the proposed measures through more formal review mechanisms.

A view of China's foreign policy towards Pak-India

Dr. M Akram Zaheer

Pakistan was seeking an active support on the issues of Kashmir and Kargil but Chinese position was unchanged. During the visit of Pakistani Foreign Minister to China in 1999, Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan told that international community has great concerns on South Asian situation...

SINCE the late 20th century, China has shifted her policy from the isolation and separation to the international community and now is on the way of becoming the major economic power of the world. The Chinese leadership has formulated more attractive, pragmatic and flexible policy for the global affairs and issues. With the economic growth, China is widening and deepening its quest for energy resources and expanding its investment, market and political influence. It is also projecting her soft power vigorously and peacefully by promoting culture, sports, education, tourism and other exchanging. Chinese believe on emergence of a peaceful great power as once. Professor of international relations Yan Xuetong has said that China is the second most powerful state of the world. A rapid change in the domestic situations of the countries and in international system has been followed by the change of their, perceptions, priorities, foreign policies and interests. That's why modern dynamics of foreign policies are extending their activities in to many spheres of the international system to increase influence. The quest for the achievement of national interests allows countries to continue work effectively on potential, inherent to make useful policy. In the past, Chinese diplomacy was often employed to pursue goals of unbalanced interests.

Now the world has dramatically changed since the post-Cold war and China is in the position to play a constructive role in the international system. China was allied of USSR and viewed United States as principal enemy during 1950s. On the other hand, Washington sought anti-communist alliance with Pakistan as well as close relations with India. Post Indo-Pak war 1965, United States and Indian relations became weaker due to Washington's limited sale of weapon to India. In 1970s, India went more close to Soviet Union and China become more close to Islamabad because of complicated strategic position of India. Then China wisely inclined towards United States for the quest of export market and counterbalance to Soviet Union.

After the collapse of Soviet Union, a peaceful environment was in the favor of China and a shift came in her policy towards south Asia. Now, Beijing was seeking political and economic bilateral ties with the regional countries particularly positive development in the process of Sino-India rapprochement. This shift was not favoring Pakistan and posed negative consequences on Pak-China traditional relationship. The impact of the foreign policy shift gave the impression during the Pak-India crisis over Kashmir in 1989-90 when Beijing did not support on a resolution on Kashmir in United Nation. It remained neutral and calm, emphasis on both parties to solve the issue by dialogue. Contrary, during cold-war Chinese policy towards Pakistan was supportive against India.

During the 1990s, China has been advising both Pakistan and India to solve their problems through dialogues. In 1996, President Jiang Zemin visited Pakistan and in his speech of 45 minutes to Senate, he urged Pakistan to develop cooperative relations with India and put thorny issues aside. Pakistan should make trade and economic relations to lessen the hostility. At the time of Kargil crisis China-India rapprochement had entered in the mature phase. This time again, China adopted neutral policy and emphasized to hold talk and solve the issue through negotiations. Pakistan was seeking an active support on the issues of Kashmir and Kargil but Chinese position was unchanged. During the visit of Pakistani Foreign Minister to China in 1999, Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan told that international community has great concerns on South Asian situation and Pakistan should remain cool and exercise self-control. It was warning to Pakistan that China would not support it by military, and Pakistan should get out from Kargil and settle the crisis by dialogues. Post-cold war Soviet model was ended and India was looking for economic reforms. Therefore, India remained no longer allied of Moscow and became less danger to China. Now need of Is-

lamabad for Beijing was narrowed to counter-balance Delhi and Moscow but was concerned of Delhi-Washington closeness. China wants to prevent India join United States to counter her and United States looks India to counterbalance China. This situation is very difficult for China as to sustain and maintain balance and demonstrate her ability in the region of nuclear powers.

The incident of 9/11 brought regional and international development and new adjustment in the foreign policy for China. This event led to a diplomatic standoff between Pakistan and India. Almost for a year, military forces of both the sides stood eyeball to eyeball and came close dangerously. Terrorist attack on Indian parliament and Srinagar incident flamed to insecurity and instability in the region. Beijing has concerns about Pak-India tension and it played proactive role at diplomatic level to diffuse tension. China also activated SCO and other forum to deteriorate tension between Islamabad and New Delhi.

Soon after 9/11, United States declared a global war against terrorism and China was uncomfortable and had many internal and external concerns. It warned US that counter terrorism should not be used to practice hegemony. Although the war was against Taliban regime in Afghanistan but China also managed worsened situation of her troubled province Xinjiang and was unsettled by the presence of United States forces near her border. China believed that Washington would create instability in the region and might have new political design. The region particularly Central Asia was more attractive to China due to its energy resources and Washington's political and military involvement in the region might have worries for China.

Washington was increasing pressure on Islamabad to get Pakistani support for war on terror in Afghanistan after 9/11. On the other hand, China had concerns of Delhi-Washington expanding strategic cooperation. India and United States were considering China as a common rival of both the countries and were thinking to limit the rise of China as well. Washington made efforts to diffuse crisis between Pakistan and India by balancing posture during this period. China also maintained balanced position towards Pakistan and India during post 9/11 period. Another worry for China was Indian move towards Japan and Vietnam with whom China relations remained tense. The past cooperation in political, economics, security and diplomatic issues and bilateral ties produced Chinese \$62 billion investment in Pakistan through CPEC. China has provided support to Pakistan in United Nations Security Council regularly. China has assisted Pakistan to improve security and defence capability by joint venture of JF-17 Thunder in 2003.

A neoliberal (il)logic of liberation

Abdulla Moaswes



In a 1985 interview, then-president of the ANC Oliver Tambo suggested disapprovingly that corporate capitalists wanted "to reform the apartheid system in such a way that the end result is a system that secures their business but is minus racial discrimination". It was also during that year that representatives of major SA corporations opened up a dialogue with the ANC to ensure that, as Zack de Beer of the Anglo American Corporation ...

NELSON Mandela famously declared in 1997 that the freedom of South Africans was "incomplete without the freedom of Palestinians". Indeed, for decades, those who have fought for the dismantling of Israeli and South African apartheid have looked towards one another for inspiration and support, and useful comparisons, analogies, and connections drawn between the lived reality of Palestinians and Black South Africans abound aplenty in mutual discourses of liberation. However, without detracting from the unquestionable importance of the Palestinian-South African relationship, two uncomfortable truths remain spoken only in hushed tones: first, that the role of corporate capital in the story of South Africa's overthrow of legal apartheid detracts from the value of its use as a blueprint for Palestinian liberation, and second, that the South African state cannot meaningfully contribute to the liberation of Palestinians from Israeli apartheid without more substantively addressing the matter of economic justice at home.

In a 1985 interview, then-president of the African National Congress (ANC) Oliver Tambo suggested disapprovingly that corporate capitalists wanted "to reform the apartheid system in such a way that the end result is a system that secures their business but is minus racial discrimination". It was also during that year that representatives of major South African corporations opened up a dialogue with the ANC to ensure that, as Zack de Beer of the Anglo American Corporation put a year later, "we dare not allow the baby of free enterprise to be thrown out with the bath water of apartheid". Less than a decade later, the reforms Tambo warned of were realised in a series of concessions the ANC leadership made to "win the support of white South Africans and global capitalist elites". The resultant system – where apartheid in its constitutional and legal forms was abolished while its economic form remained – succeeded in safeguarding the economic interests of a small, but now slightly-more-diverse, economic elite. Dale McKinley, a critic of the ANC, argued that after 1994, "the main

outcome of liberation [became] the 'art' of accessing and deploying state power fundamentally in service to the dominant economic system, the power of capital". This applied not only domestically but also at the international level since, as political economists Leo Panitch and Sam Gindin note, nation states manage their "domestic capitalist order in a way that contributes to the managing of the international capitalist order".

Therefore, as with any other modern nation-state, an analysis of South Africa's foreign policy and diplomatic relations cannot be isolated from its domestic economic policies. One example of this is how South African private security firms and military contractors form an essential component of the global military industrial complex that has entrenched itself in many parts of the world.

To be more explicit, South Africa's domestic economic inequalities – the greatest in the world – are in significant part subject to a clear transnational dimension. Like Black South Africans, Palestinians are also victims of transnational capitalism. After the Cold War, in particular, Israel's increased integration "into the circuits of global capital" further facilitated its settler colonial ambition of eliminating the Palestinian people. In fact, many of Israel's recent diplomatic victories were rhetorically premised on capitalist cooperation and trade as a means of obscuring their most critical aspect: shared security interests. Alongside this, the Palestinian Authority's attempts to follow a neoliberal (il) logic of liberation, akin to the ANC's post-1994 variant, have resulted in a macabre mirroring of only the worst aspects of the South African result: the emergence of a small and exploitative Palestinian economic elite, but here with the persistence of Israeli apartheid in all of its forms rather than its overthrow. Unlike in South Africa in the leadup to 1994, global and regional capitalists do not regard the liberation of Palestinians as a condition for neoliberal accumulation. The arrival of diverse injections of capital into the Occupied Territories has enabled the normalisation of the Palestinian Authority's authoritarian and unaccountable character and its complicity in Israeli settler colonialism.

While South Africa has played an important and unique role in supporting the Palestinian cause since 1994, the virtue of this role remains tainted by the nature of its relationship with Israel.

At one level, "residential and commercial security in South Africa relies heavily on technology developed and sold by Israeli companies." At another, the racialised discourses of threat and security in South Africa and Israel so pivotal to the flourishing of their private security sectors rely on a situation of permanent crisis – in Israel upheld mainly (but not exclusively) by the militarisation of its settler population and in South Africa by the unjust economic climate. While the efficacy of South Africa's support to the Palestinian cause can be debated, for significant merits do exist, what is undeniable is that it is severely undermined by the persistence of economic injustice. The neoliberal manufacturing of disposability and precarity for large segments of a population only consolidates the state's power domestically and contributes to a global system of injustice through networks of world capitalism.

There is no liberation from the practice and logics of apartheid and settler colonialism anywhere without economic justice everywhere. To be more clear: without achieving economic justice and liberation at home, the South African state allows conditions to persist that enable Israeli settler colonialism in Palestine. In this context, public and diplomatic acts of support for the Palestinian cause, while always helpful and welcome, are insufficient.

– Abdulla Moaswes is a Palestinian researcher, educator, and writer. – Courtesy: TRT WORLD

How Egypt and the UAE are exporting coups across the region

Khalil al-Anani



In Egypt, where Sisi aborted the country's first real democratic trial through his 2013 coup, his regime would not have survived as long as it has without the financial, diplomatic and political support of the UAE, KSA

DURING recent protests in Sudan, demonstrators held up pictures of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed and chanted slogans against them, in a clear rejection of their support for General Abdel Fattah el-Burhan's coup in the country. Tunisian demonstrators did the same during their protests against the coup of Tunisian President Kais Saied. Indeed, there is hardly a demonstration calling for freedom and democracy in the Arab world without images of bin Zayed and Sisi on display. The message is clear and explicit: many Arab youth believe that Egypt and the UAE represent the main obstacle to change in the Arab world, as they try to bury any potential uprising or revolution. The two countries seem to have been exporting coups across the region, apparently ready to do anything – including violating human rights – to stop demands for democratic change.

It is thus not surprising that both Sisi and bin Zayed supported the attempted coup of Khalifa Haftar in Libya, Saied's coup in Tunisia, and Burhan's coup in Sudan. Egypt was one of the first countries to welcome Saied's measures to freeze parliament and dissolve the government, and in Sudan, Burhan could not have carried out his coup without a green light from Egypt, one of his most important regional allies. This is why Egypt failed to condemn Burhan's coup last month. At the same time, US and Emirati officials have been in talks about finding a settlement for the Sudan crisis. It is as though the Emiratis are negotiating on Burhan's behalf, reflecting their significant role in supporting his coup against

the civilian government of Prime Minister AbdallaHamdok. Counter-revolutionary axis Bin Zayed has been steering the axis of the counter-revolution, in partnership with Saudi Arabia and Israel, for years. Many consider him to be the primary enemy of democracy in the Arab world, as he has sabotaged countless attempts by Arab youth to demand freedom, democracy and dignity. Bin Zayed provides generous support to dictators and warlords across the Arab region, including in Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Sudan and Syria. He uses his money and media outlets to distort and incite against Arab revolutions, apparently preferring cooperation with military generals over elected civilian elites.

In Egypt, where Sisi aborted the country's first real democratic trial through his 2013 coup, his regime would not have survived as long as it has without the financial, diplomatic and political support of the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Israel. Bin Zayed has helped to build Sisi's dictatorship, which in turn aims to block all attempts at peaceful change in the Arab region. Sisi arrests anyone who opposes him, including politicians, journalists and activists; Egypt's jails are filled with thousands of political prisoners. Yet, Sisi continues to falsely blame the 2011 revolution for all the problems facing his country, including the dispute over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam. Both Egypt and the UAE are waging a war against Islamists locally, regionally and globally, viewing Islamist parties as their chief enemy for coming to power through free and fair elections.

Courtesy: Middle East Eye

Briefs

Muslim states' envoys laud PM's vision

FROM PAGE 01
The Rehmatul-Hil-Alameen Authority was to develop a deeper understanding of the Sunnah through collaborative research and to provide essential tools to the youth to preserve their Islamic identity, values, and culture in the face of diverse social and digital media influences. He said that the Rehmatul-Hil-Alameen Authority was mandated to coordinate with Islamic scholars around the globe to discuss contemporary issues faced by the Muslim youth and to present a coherent and logical intellectual response to modern challenges, in particular Islamophobia. The premier emphasised teaching ethics in schools to help build the character of the Muslim youth in accordance with the principles and the true spirit of Islam. In this regard, the prime minister also highlighted the importance of the role of print, digital, and electronic media and the influence of their content on the lifestyle and personality development of the young generation. During the session, the premier invited constructive ideas from the envoys and hoped for active collaboration among Muslim countries, both at the governmental level, as well as through interaction among scholars and academia.

'Shaking hands with Opp..'

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billions of rupees are filed against him. If I shake hands with him on top of that, then I will give the message that this [corruption] isn't a bad thing," he said. The prime minister, giving the example of England, said that even if a politician is suspected of siphoning public money, neither do anchors call them on TV, and nor do they attend parliamentary sessions till they clear their name.

"Over there, it is unfathomable that a person guilty of corruption worth billions of rupees would go to the parliament and deliver a two-hour-long speech," he said. The prime minister said the standards of such countries are "different from ours". "This is why I have established the Rehmatul-Hil-Alameen Authority," he said, as he called on intellectuals and scholars to provide the best guidance to the youth to cope with the modern challenges arising amid the digital era. We cannot ban social media and the internet, so the only way to protect our younger generations from the negative impact of digital innovation is to familiarise them with the moral and ethical standards set by the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), he said.

UK pledges £55m to help Pak...

FROM PAGE 01
The new funding for climate change in Pakistan is split into three parts: A 5-year climate resilience programme - worth £38 million - will help Pakistan's poorest communities to protect themselves from the changing climate; A 5-year water governance programme - worth £15 million - will make water use in Pakistan more sustainable and water access fairer; An additional £2.5 million to support new ways of attracting much needed climate investment to Pakistan, including on the development of a Nature Performance Bond. On World Environment Day in June alongside Prime Minister Imran Khan the UK committed to this. The British High Commissioner was due to announce the urgently needed new programmes at a high-level reception for climate change stakeholders at the British High Commission in Islamabad. Dr Christian Turner CMG said: "For Pakistan, climate change could be catastrophic. That is why we are working together on trees and finance, and mobilising leading Pakistani businesses. This £55m new funding will ensure Pakistan becomes more resilient to climate impacts, with more sustainable water use and greater access to climate finance, so improving lives and livelihoods."

Australia edge closer to semis after massive win

Bangladesh's below-par T20 World Cup ended without a point from five Super 12 games, its second worst tournament total ever, and the second biggest loss in a T20 World Cup

SPORT DESK

DUBAI: Legspinner Adam Zampa earned Australia's best ever figures of 5-19 in a T20 World Cup as Bangladesh was routed for 73 in an eight-wicket win on Thursday. Zampa missed a rare tournament hat trick when wicketkeeper Matthew Wade dropped a tough catch of Taskin Ahmed. Australia knew it could overtake South Africa on net run rate in the race to the semifinals by achieving the chase target in less than eight overs, and accomplished it in 6.2 as captain Aaron Finch smashed 40 off 20 balls to surge to 78-2. In their last group games, South Africa will take on unbeaten England while Australia meets the defending champion West Indies.

"Really clinical performance," Finch said. "We thought we would take the opportunity to win big if we got the chance, but you can't plan for that." Bangladesh's below-par T20 World Cup ended without a point from five Super 12 games, its second worst tournament total ever, and the second biggest loss in a T20 World Cup. Bangladesh, bowled out for 84 by South African pace in its last



game, again failed to negotiate the fast bowlers Josh Hazlewood (2-8) and Mitchell Starc (2-21) before Zampa ran through the lower order in a brilliant spell of four overs. Bangladesh's top order was brittle for a second straight match without star allrounder Shakib Al Hasan, who was ruled out of the

tournament due to a hamstring injury. After Hazlewood and Starc struck in the powerplay, Shamim Hossain top scored for Bangladesh with 19 before top-edging Zampa to Wade. Mahedi Hasan was trapped before wicket off the next delivery on a misjudged pull shot, then Zampa missed

the hat trick on his first ball of the last over. But Zampa didn't wait long to better countryman James Faulkner's figures of 5-27 against Pakistan in the 2016 T20 World Cup when he had Mustafizur Rahman caught at long off and followed with the last wicket of Shoriful Islam, who was sharply caught by Finch in the lone slip. Bangladesh was dismissed inside 15 overs.

Finch plundered four sixes and two boundaries against Taskin (1-36) and Mustafizur (0-32) before he was clean bowled by Taskin while searching for a big shot on the offside. Warner made 18 before his middle stump was also knocked by Shoriful, and Mitchell Marsh lofted Taskin to midwicket for a massive six to raised the victory in quick time. "When you have these sort of performances, it's hard to say much," Bangladesh skipper Mahmudullah said. "There are a lot of areas we have to look at. In T20 cricket you have to have a good powerplay, especially when we don't have so-called hard hitters." Bangladesh came close to winning only two games. They failed to defend 171 against Sri Lanka and lost to West Indies by three runs. However, against England, South Africa and Australia, the batsmen played poorly.

West Indies confirm Pak tour in December

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board today announced West Indies will play three Twenty20 Internationals and as many ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League matches at the National Stadium in Karachi from 13-22 December. This will be the West Indies' first tour of Pakistan since April 2018 when they played three T20Is. The two-time former 50-over world champions will be playing ODIs in Pakistan for the first time since December 2006. The December ODIs will form part of Pakistan's fourth series in the Super League, which will see the top seven sides and the event host India qualify directly for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 with the remaining two sides progressing from the qualifying event. PCB Chairman Ramiz Raja: "After miss-

ing out on home internationals in September and October, the West Indies tour will formally kick-off of an exciting and entertaining season of men's international cricket in Pakistan with HBL Pakistan Super League 2022 and Australia's first full series to follow. "The West Indies have always remained one of Pakistan cricket fans' favourite sides. I am hopeful that the NCOC will support this series by allowing maximum crowds so that the fans can watch live in action their favourite players and back both the sides."

Schedule:
9 Dec - West Indies arrival in Karachi
13 Dec - 1st T20I, Karachi
14 Dec - 2nd T20I, Karachi
16 Dec - 3rd T20I, Karachi
18 Dec - 1st ODI, Karachi
20 Dec - 2nd ODI, Karachi
22 Dec - 3rd ODI, Karachi
23 Dec - Departure

Defending champions WI out of WC

ABU DHABI: Defending champions West Indies crashed out of the ICC T20 World Cup losing to Sri Lanka by 20 runs in a Super 12 game here on Thursday. Young left-handed batter Charith Asalanka smashed 68 off 41 balls as Sri Lanka put on board a challenging 189 for three. Asalanka and opener Pathum Nissanka (51 off 41 balls) added 91 runs in 10.1 overs. Asalanka hit eight fours and a six in his innings. Andre Russell was the most successful West Indies bowler with figures of 2 for 33.

In reply, West Indies were bowled out for 169 for 8. Wanindu Hasaranga had best figures of 2/19 in 4 overs as Shimron Hetmyer scored unbeaten 81 off 54 balls. - APP

Leipzig frustrate PSG with last gasp equaliser



PARIS: Dominik Szoboszlai converted a penalty in stoppage time as RB Leipzig held Paris Saint-Germain, who were without the injured Lionel Messi, to a 2-2 draw in the Champions League on Wednesday. PSG had been cruising to an away win and were 2-1 up with 90 minutes gone in Leipzig as Georginio Wijnaldum netted twice to cancel out Christopher Nkunku's early goal for the hosts. In the dying seconds, Leipzig were awarded a penalty when PSG defender Presnel Kimpembe leaped onto Nkunku as a cross came in and substitute Szoboszlai made no mistake with the spot kick. "We didn't start well, but Leipzig did and we had to get back in the game," Wijnaldum told DAZN.

"We created second-half chances, but also gave a lot away too. "We have to learn from that and control the game better, because we were 2-1 up and should have put our chances away. There is a lot of room for improvement." With Messi sidelined, the draw cost PSG first place in Group A and left them a point behind new leaders Manchester City, who thrashed Club Brugge 4-1. PSG meet City in Manchester in three weeks' time. "Being second to City doesn't change anything for us," PSG coach Mauricio Pochettino said. "We need to have the desire to go there and win the game to try to be top of the group." Leipzig's faint hopes of reaching the last 16 were ended as they remain bottom of their group despite earning their first point in Europe after three previous defeats. - Agencies

Norrie's ATP Finals bid derailed

PARIS: Cameron Norrie's bid for a spot at the season-ending ATP Finals took a damaging blow at the Paris Masters on Thursday as Taylor Fritz derailed his bid with a stunning performance. Norrie was beaten 6-3 7-6 (7-3) by the American in the last 16 and now the British men's No 1 faces a tough task of qualifying for the event in Turin from 14-21 November. Seventh-placed Casper Ruud is in line to secure his spot with victory over Marcos Giron later on Thursday, while eighth-placed Hubert Hurkacz can stamp his ticket with a win against James Duckworth on Friday. Norrie, who has earned a career-best 50 tour-level victories this season and is 11th in the Race

to Turin, is likely to head to Italy as an alternate. The 26-year-old almost made the ideal start in the opening game, only for Fritz to save the sole break point he faced in the set with a brilliant backhand winner down the line. Two double faults from Norrie in the sixth game then gifted Fritz the decisive break of serve and the American held his nerve to close out the set. Norrie saved two break points in the seventh game of the second set to keep his nose in front and then forged two set points in the 10th but was unable to convert and Fritz powered through the eventual tie-break. "Cam and I have played a lot and it's always a battle when we play - except

last time when he beat me pretty bad," Fritz said in a post-match court-side interview. "He's always so tough to beat and I came out here and I played my best tennis and it feels great. It was a lot of fun." Fritz will next face Novak Djokovic after the world No 1 was handed a walkover when last-16 opponent Gael Monfils was forced to withdraw with a leg injury. Djokovic has won all four of their previous meetings, two coming in 2019 and two this year, and Fritz added: "Obviously (it's) very tough playing Novak. It's going to be my third time this year so hopefully this time will be different." - Agencies

Pakistan Belarus economic ties to be strengthened

MINSK: On first day of his visit to the Mogilev city, Ambassador of Pakistan to a Belarus Sajjad Haider Khan visited the OJSC "Babushkina Krynka" - the managing company of the "Mogilev Dairy Company". The Ambassador was briefed by the First Deputy Director General Mr. Artyom Zubel and the Head of the Department for International Affairs Mr. Dranitsa Alexey. The Staye owned dairy company is the second largest dairy industry in Belarus employing over 3500 staff. It is a leader in terms of the volume of processed raw materials, producing more than 250 types of dairy products with a daily capacity of 420 tons of whole milk products. The Ambassador briefed them on the potential of investment in dairy sector of Pakistan, which is the 4th largest milk producer in the world with untapped potential in the context of growing connectivity in that region. He also invited the company to participate in exhibitions held in Pakistan besides considering to import Pakistani mango pulp for mango yogurt production. - DNA



MINSK: Pakistan ambassador to Belarus Sajjad haider Khan visits OJSC Babushkina Krynki, Mogilev Dairy, 2nd largest dairy industry in Belarus. Ambassador briefed on potential of investment in dairy sector of Pakistan, which is the 4th largest milk producer in the world. - DNA

Man City close to last-16 place after Brugge rout

MANCHESTER: Manchester City got back on track as they thrashed Club Brugge 4-1 on Wednesday to move within touching distance of a place in the Champions League last 16. Pep Guardiola's side recovered from the shock of conceding a John Stones own goal after Phil Foden's early opener at the Etihad Stadium. Riyad Mahrez put City back in front in the second half and Raheem Sterling came off the bench to end his goal drought before Gabriel Jesus capped the rout. City sit top of Group A, one point above Paris Saint Germain, after their third win in four matches in the competition. Last season's Champions League runners-up are five points clear of third-placed Brugge and will reach the knockout stages with one point from their last two games against PSG and Leipzig. "Fully deserved. I liked how we played. After conceding we dropped a little bit, but the second half was really good," Guardiola said. "When you're at Manchester City, you realise nobody will help you. Everything to do, we've done it. "All the titles I won before were because I was at big clubs. Absolutely, the pleasure is higher (to win with City)." After a strong start to the season, City had

suffered their worst period of the campaign. Saturday's shock home defeat against Crystal Palace came hot on the heels of a penalty shoot-out loss at West Ham that ended their four-year reign as League Cup holders. Guardiola responded to those setbacks by defiantly claiming City

were playing at an "incredible" level, labelling their current form among the "best moments" of his time at the club. Having thrashed Brugge 5-1 in Belgium last month, City once again picked on Philippe Clement's team, although the victory wasn't without a few scares.

Guardiola had described Brugge's visit as "much more important" than Saturday's derby at Manchester United and his players got the message. Kevin De Bruyne's inconsistent form of late has been a concern, so it was intriguing to see Guardiola drop the Belgian midfielder. Even without De Bruyne, City had too much attacking quality for Brugge.

Joao Cancelo was a constant menace and the left-back was inches away from scoring with a curling effort that cannoned off the post. City's relentless pressure was rewarded in the 15th minute after Foden's initial cross-shot was blocked by Brugge keeper Simon Mignolet. Mahrez pounced on the loose ball and jinked across the Brugge area before picking out Cancelo, whose cross found Foden narrowly onside to tap-in his fifth goal this season. But despite their dominant start, City were rocked as Brugge equalised in freakish circumstances two minutes later. Hans Vanaken's shot was clawed away by Ederson and when Charles De Ketelaere crossed back into the six-yard box, Bernardo Silva's attempted block deflected the ball off Stones' face and into the net. - Agencies



Process initiated...

FROM PAGE 01

The cabinet wing has sent the summary for cabinet approval through a circulation. Separately, the Lahore High Court has disposed of a petition against the detention of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Chief Saad Rizvi on the basis of taking the petition back. However, the court has allowed petitioner Amir Hussain that he could again submit a petition if a situation arises in future. A two-judge bench headed by LHC Chief Justice Muhammad Amir Bhatti heard a petition of Mr Hussain in Lahore on Thursday. Burhan Muazzam Malik Advocate appeared before the court on behalf of the petitioner and Additional Advocate General Malik Akhtar Javed represented the Punjab government. Earlier, in compliance with the federal government's agreement with the proscribed Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), the Punjab Home Department on Thursday approved to exclude names of 90 workers of the banned religious party from the Fourth Schedule.

Rashid rejects...

FROM PAGE 01

Responding to a question, Rashid said that he had received instructions from Prime Minister Imran Khan during the ceremony and "he said the instruction is this that [it is better] if one minister speaks [on the TLP issue]". The interior minister's comments came after Mufi Muneeb Rehman dispelled the impression on Monday that the TLP had demanded the expulsion of the French ambassador and the closure of the embassy. He was among the clerics who had facilitated talks between the government and the proscribed group, helping both sides reach an agreement after an impasse of three weeks. Speaking a day after the government announced the agreement, the cleric had claimed that "lies were spoken on television about the talks [with the TLP], that they had demanded the expulsion of the French ambassador, the closure of the embassy and to break ties with the European Union." "So how can trust be established when government officials speak lies publicly?" he had questioned.

Pakistan grateful...

FROM PAGE 01

Besides, he said that Pakistan has a relationship of devotion and respect with the kingdom due to two holy places in Makkah and Madina. He said that after earthquake of 2005 and 2008-09 floods the Saudi government generously extended its financial assistance to the people of Pakistan. He said that Relief goods worth millions of dollars have been given under Winter Relief Project and 200,000 poor would benefit from it. He said that poor segments of the society were close to the heart of the PM and the objective of the establishment of Shelter Homes was to help the poorest people and 600,000 benefit daily these homes. King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center [KSRELIF] has launched its Winter Relief Kits Distribution Project 2021 for the distribution of winter relief items among the poor and needy families living in the coldest areas of Balochistan including parts of district Harnai which was badly affected in the recent earthquake.

Sugar prices go out of...

FROM PAGE 01

whereas retail sugar is being sold at Rs140 per kg Ex-mill sugar price in Karachi hits record high In Karachi, the ex-mill price of sugar has now reached the highest level in history at Rs142 per kg, an increase of Rs12 from a day earlier. In two weeks, the ex-mill price of sugar has gone up by Rs44 per kg. With the increase in the ex-mill price, the wholesale price of sugar has gone up to Rs143 per kg, having risen by Rs19 over the course of a mere two days. and at the retail level, the increase in the price will have an impact on all ew sugar purchases. Sugar sees Rs5 increase in Quetta A similar situation is being witnessed in Quetta, where the price of sugar has gone up from Rs124 to Rs129 per kg.

Briefs

Death toll in Nigeria collapse rises to 36

LAGOS: The death toll from the collapse of a high-rise building in an upscale area of Nigeria's commercial capital Lagos has risen to 36, the emergency services said Thursday.

The cause of the incident is unknown but building collapses are tragically common in Africa's most populous country, where millions live in dilapidated properties and construction standards are routinely ignored. The 21-storey building under construction in the Ikoyi district of Lagos crumbled on Monday afternoon, trapping dozens of people working on the site.

"So far, 36 people - 33 males and three female - have been confirmed dead, while there were nine survivors," Femi Oke-Osanjintolu, general manager of Lagos State Emergency Management Agency, told AFP.

Distraught families and friends of people trapped in the rubble have been waiting for days outside the scene as rescue operations unfold. The emergency services said Wednesday that 22 bodies had been recovered, but more were found later in the day.

Ibrahim Farinloye of the National Emergency Management Agency confirmed the new toll on Thursday. He said rescuers "won't give up until we reach ground zero", adding that bigger equipment was brought in Tuesday evening for the operation.

The number of people present on the site at the time of the collapse is still unknown. - APP

Denmark detains its research vessel: Russia

MOSCOW: Danish authorities have detained a Russian research vessel and seized the ship's documents, Russia's embassy in Copenhagen said on Thursday.

Russian RIA news agency reported that 61 people were on board of the vessel, citing the embassy.

The embassy said the vessel, Akademik Ioffe of the Shirshov Institute of Oceanology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, was detained on Nov. 1 while it was refuelling at the port of Skagen.

The arrest of the vessel was carried out as an interim measure in a third party claim related to the previous activities of the Akademik Ioffe vessel, it said.

The vessel was flying the Russian flag, was owned by the Russian Federation, and was used by the Shirshov Institute of Oceanology for scientific purposes, the embassy said in a statement. Denmark's navy and foreign ministry were not immediately available for comment. - APP

World food prices climb to new peak in October

AGENCIES

LONDON: Rising for a third consecutive month, world food prices rose to a new all-time high in October, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said on Thursday. The FAO food price index rose by 3% from a month ago, hitting its highest level for over a decade at 133.2 points in October, the UN body said, citing a surge in prices of vegetable oils and cereals.

The FAO food price index is a trade-weighted index that tracks the international market prices of five major food commodity groups. The cereal price index climbed by 3.2% on a monthly basis with world wheat prices rising by 5% amid tightening global availabilities due to reduced harvests in major exporters.

The FAO vegetable oil price index went up by 9.6% month-on-month in October, hitting an all-time high, driven by firmer price quotations for palm, soy, sunflower, and rapeseed oils. The dairy price index rose by 2.2% from September, stemming from firmer global import demand for butter, skim milk powder, and whole milk powder.

President Ilham calls for fair distribution of Covid vaccines

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said that the Global Baku Forum is an important step in the fight against the consequences of the pandemic, which has been poisoning people's lives for a year and a half

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijan's president on Thursday reiterated his call for "equal and universal access to vaccines" as the world continues to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

"We launched the initiative in the United Nations Human Rights Council with respect to equal and universal access to vaccines and fair distribution of vaccines," said Ilham Aliyev, addressing the 8th Global Baku Forum, titled The World after COVID-19, in the Azerbaijani capital Baku.

"We are one of the countries that openly speaks about issues like vaccine nationalism and unfair distribution of vaccines on a global scale," he added. While some countries have already moved to giving out third booster shots, others still have a very low rate of vaccination, he noted.

"Therefore, we need to address this issue in order to create equal opportunities," he added.

On the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia, Aliyev said that today "the conflict is resolved." "Azerbaijan resolves the conflict itself," he added. "Azerbaijan itself implemented the UN Security Council resolutions adopted in 1993, which demanded the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of Armenian troops from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan."



"Unfortunately, this resolution remained on paper for 27 years, and probably would have remained on paper for another 27 years if Azerbaijan did not itself restore its territorial integrity using chapter 51 of UN Charter which provides the right to self-defense," he added.

Relations between the former Soviet republics have been tense since 1991, when the Armenian military occupied Nagorno-Karabakh, also known as Upper Karabakh, a territory internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan, and seven adjacent regions. New clashes erupted on Sept. 27 last year, with the Armenian army attacking civilians and Azerbaijani forces and violating several humanitarian cease-fire

agreements. During the 44-day conflict, Azerbaijan liberated several cities and some 300 settlements and villages that were occupied by Armenia for almost 30 years.

Prior to this, about 20% of Azerbaijan's territory was under illegal occupation. The fighting ended with a Russian-brokered agreement on Nov. 10, 2020 with the cease-fire seen as a victory for Azerbaijan and a defeat for Armenia.

Two months later, the leaders of Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia signed a pact to develop economic ties and infrastructure to benefit the entire region. It also included the establishment of a trilateral working group on Karabakh.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said

that the Global Baku Forum is an important step in the fight against the consequences of the pandemic, which has been poisoning people's lives for a year and a half.

He made remarks while appealing to the participants of the VIII Global Baku Forum titled "The World after COVID-19" on November 4. It should be noted that the appeal was read by the former Turkish Prime Minister, former Speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TBMM), MP Binalli Yildirim.

Organized by the Nizami Ganjavi International Center under the patronage of President Ilham Aliyev, the next Global Baku Forum under the motto "The world after COVID-19" kicked off in Baku on November 4.

The 8th Global Baku Forum brings together high-level representatives, including former heads of state and government, officials of international and non-governmental organizations from more than 40 countries, as well as other distinguished guests, to discuss issues of global importance.

The Forum will feature panel discussions on such topics as "New world order after COVID-19", "New world economy", "In a new era: peace, security and human rights", "Combating climate change and meeting global energy demand", "Health care and vaccination", "Promoting food security", "Eastern Partnership and its opportunities", including the situation in the EU, the Balkans, and the South Caucasus.

UK to remain Baku's reliable partner

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said that the UK will continue to be a reliable partner of Azerbaijan. He made remarks in his message at the VIII Global Baku Forum - "The World after COVID-19" on November 4. It should be noted that the message of the British prime minister was read by the deputy head of the British diplomatic mission in Baku, Philip Barclay. "Next year we will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our countries. Cooperation between the UK and Azerbaijan is at the highest level," Johnson said. He emphasized that the UK is in favor of establishing security in the Caucasus region. "Azerbaijan is implementing a wide program for de-mining territories [previously liberated from Armenian occupation]. I believe that it is important to implement the Ottawa Convention on antipersonnel mines in the region," the prime minister added.



BAKU: A delegation of Pakistani journalists has arrived in Azerbaijan on a seven-day visit. The delegation will visit the liberated areas (Karabakh Region). On arrival at the Pakistani embassy in Baku, Pakistani ambassador Bilal Hai welcomed the delegation and hosted a luncheon in honor of the delegation. - DNA

Kashmiri activist calls for settling Kashmir dispute

NEW YORK: A Kashmiri youth delegate has urged the U.N. to resolve the Kashmir dispute according to the Security Council resolutions that promised Kashmiris their right of self-determination, and to hold India accountable for human rights abuses in the disputed territory.

"As the voice of Kashmiri youth, I implore the international community to come forward and play its effective role," Muzdalfa Ahmed, the youth delegate, told the UN General Assembly's Third Committee, which deals with social, cultural and humanitarian issues. The committee is holding an informal debate on the UN secretary-general's report "Our Common Agenda"

which is designed to strengthen and accelerate multilateral agreements - particularly the 2030 development Agenda - and make a tangible difference in people's lives. Wednesday's debate was organized to ensure the stronger participation of young generations in decision-making for the future.

Ms Ahmed spoke on how can the Secretary-General's Common Agenda help to deliver more for young people, especially those affected by long and festering conflicts. "As a youth delegate with Kashmiri roots," she said, "I too come from such a background," pointing out that the Kashmir region has been reeling under illegal Indian occupation for decades. - DNA

Iran's Raisi vows no retreat in nuclear talks with major powers

AGENCIES

TEHRAN: Iran will not back down "in any way" in defending its interests, President Ebrahim Raisi said on Thursday, a day after all sides announced the resumption of nuclear talks between Tehran and major powers on Nov 29. Washington said it hoped the talks would see Iran willing to negotiate in good faith on reviving a 2015 nuclear deal, while Iran's top nuclear negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani said the talks would cover the removal of "unlawful and inhumane sanctions". The negotiations that started in April have been on hold since the election of hardline cleric Raisi in June. Raisi, under personal U.S.

sanctions over allegations of human rights abuses in his past as a judge, said Iran seeks the "lifting of all U.S. sanctions and neutralisation of sanctions", sounding an uncompromising tone ahead of the Vienna discussions. "The negotiations we are considering are result-oriented ones. We will not leave the negotiating table ... but we will not retreat from the interests of our nation in any way," Iranian state TV quoted Raisi as saying.

Under the 2015 deal between Iran and six world powers, Tehran curbed its uranium enrichment program, a possible pathway to nuclear arms, in return for the lifting of U.S., U.N. and European Union sanctions. But former U.S. President



Donald Trump quit the deal in 2018 and reimposed harsh sanctions on Iran's oil and financial sectors that have crippled its economy, prompting Tehran to breach limits set by the pact on its nuclear work. In spite of six round of indirect talks, Tehran and Washington still disagree on which steps need to be taken and

when, with key issues being what nuclear limits Tehran will accept and what sanctions Washington will remove. Separately, the chief commander of the elite Revolutionary Guards, Hassan Salami, said U.S. pressure on Iran had failed.

"The Americans have used all means, policies and strategies to surrender the Iranian nation ... but the Islamic Republic has become stronger," Salami said in a televised speech to mark the siege of the U.S. embassy in Tehran after the 1979 Islamic revolution. There have been no U.S.-Iranian diplomatic relations since the takeover of the embassy by radical students, who also took hostage 52 Americans for 444 days.

Europe faces real threat of COVID-19 resurgence

"Last week, with nearly 1.8 million new cases and 24,000 new deaths reported, Europe and Central Asia saw a 6% increase and 12% increase, respectively, as compared to the previous week"

AGENCIES

GENEVA: Every country in Europe and Central Asia faces the threat of a COVID-19 resurgence, the World Health Organization's Europe region head said Thursday, voicing "grave concern" as cases again reach record levels.

"Last week, with nearly 1.8 million new cases and 24,000 new deaths reported, Europe and Central Asia saw a 6% increase and 12% increase, respectively, as compared to the previous week," said Hans Kluge. Over the past four weeks, he observed that Europe has seen a greater than 55% increase in new COVID-19 cases.

"The current pace of transmission across the 53 countries of the European region is of grave concern,"

Kluge said, noting that the more transmissible Delta variant is continuing to dominate transmission. He said that where vaccine uptake is low, hospital admission rates are high in many countries in the Baltics, Central and Eastern Europe, and the Balkans.

The European region, extending from Greenland in the northwest to the Russian Far East, is seeing rising trends across all age groups, he said. The rapid climb in the older population groups is of greatest concern, he said, translating into more people with severe disease and dying. Currently, 75% of fatal cases are in persons 65 years and over, with hospitalization admission rates due to COVID-19 more than doubling in one week, based on WHO Europe's latest data. "Preventive measures, when applied correctly and consist-



ently, allow us to go on with our lives, not the opposite," said Kluge. "Preventive measures do not deprive people of their freedom; they ensure it." He said the best way to avoid lockdowns, an absolute last resort, is to apply preventive measures and keep COVID-19 transmission low. "As we enter the flu season, we face

the prospect of both influenza and COVID-19 circulating. The same preventive measures work against both viruses, and we have effective and safe vaccines for both."

Hospitalization admission rates due to COVID-19 more than doubled over the last week, based on WHO/Europe's latest data.

"According to one reliable projection, if we stay on this trajectory, we could see another half a million COVID-19 deaths in Europe and Central Asia by the first of February next year," said Kluge. He said that 43 countries in the region would face high to extreme stress on hospital beds during the same period.

Last week, Europe and Central Asia accounted for 59% of all cases globally and 48% of reported deaths. There are now more reported cases - 78 million - in the European

Region, than in Southeast Asia, the Eastern Mediterranean, the Western Pacific, and Africa combined. Vaccines continue to save thousands of lives, said Kluge.

"Despite near-record COVID-19 cases, new deaths are at approximately half the peak levels," he said. "This reflects the life-saving effects of vaccines and the herculean task of health authorities, health workforce, and communities to develop, administer and accept vaccines."

One billion doses have now been administered in Europe and Central Asia. On average, only 47% of people have completed an entire vaccination series for European and Central Asia countries.

Eight countries have now exceeded 70% coverage; in two, the rate remains below 10%, said the WHO regional chief.

Germany reports record new corona cases

NEWS DESK

BERLIN: Germany's disease control agency on Thursday reported the highest number of new coronavirus infections since the outbreak of the pandemic.

The Robert Koch Institute, or RKI, said 33,949 new cases had been registered in the last 24 hours, up from 28,037 daily cases a week ago. The previous record was 33,777 new cases on Dec. 18, 2020.

The all-time high comes as the country's federal Health Minister Jens Spahn is set to meet with the 16 state health ministers to discuss how to limit the spread of the virus in the winter as intensive care units in the hospitals are starting to fill up again and infections among children are skyrocketing. On Thursday, the RKI reported 165 deaths, up from 126 a week ago. The overall number of people who have died from a COVID-19 infection in Germany has risen to 96,192.

Senior health officials have repeatedly appealed to German residents who haven't yet been vaccinated at all to get their shots, though Spahn acknowledged Wednesday that many of the holdouts can't be convinced. Official figures show that about two-thirds of Germany's population of 83 million has completed its first round of vaccination. Around 16.2 million people age 12 or above remain unvaccinated - including 3.2 million over-60s.

Indians celebrate Diwali amid Covid fears

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Indians across the country began celebrating Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, on Thursday amid concerns over the coronavirus pandemic and rising air pollution.

Diwali is typically celebrated by socializing and exchanging gifts with family and friends. Many light oil lamps or candles to symbolize a victory of light over darkness, and fireworks are set off as part of the celebrations.

Last year, celebrations in India were upended by a renewed spike in COVID-19 infections, but festivities this year seem to be back. Even though the government has asked people to avoid large gatherings, markets have been buzzing ahead of Diwali, with eager crowds buying flowers, lanterns and candles.

As dusk fell on Wednesday, over 900,000 earthen lamps were lit and kept burning for 45 minutes in the northern city of Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh state, retaining the Guinness World Record it set last year. As part of the Diwali celebrations, the city last year lit 606,569 oil lamps.

The lamps were lit at Ram ki Pauri, at the banks of Saryu River, a stunning spectacle for thousands of visitors who thronged its shores while ignoring coronavirus social distancing norms. A laser and fireworks show followed, illuminating the city's lanes and river banks.

Latvia declares emergency after surge in Covid cases

RIGA: Latvia has declared a three-month state of emergency starting from Monday following a surge in Covid-19 infections to record levels, as its vaccination rate remains one of the lowest in the EU.

The number of daily infections is now well over 1,000 in the Baltic country of 1.9 million people, overtaking the peak infection rate seen during the pandemic earlier this year.

Under the new rules, masks are now obligatory in all buildings accessible by the general public and anyone employed in government must have a vaccine by November 15 at the latest.

Unvaccinated people will only be allowed to shop for food and other essential items in designated stores and only shops considered essential will be allowed to open at weekends. All Latvians are being encouraged to work from home where possible. - APP

Briefs

'China expanding nuclear arsenal'

FOREIGN DESK

WASHINGTON: China is expanding its nuclear arsenal much more quickly than anticipated, the United States has said, but Beijing on Thursday slammed the Pentagon report as overhyping the threat.

The United States has declared China its principal security concern for the future, as Beijing works to build the People's Liberation Army into "world-class forces" by 2049, according to its official plan.

The People's Republic of China could have 700 deliverable nuclear warheads by 2027, and could top 1,000 by 2030 – an arsenal two-and-a-half times the size of what the Pentagon predicted only a year ago, according to the Pentagon report published on Wednesday.

Like the US and Russia, the two leading nuclear powers, China is building a "nuclear triad," with capabilities to deliver nuclear weapons from land-based ballistic missiles, from missiles launched from the air, and from submarines, it said.

Indian police book lawyers probing violence

WEB DESK

NEW DELHI: The Indian police on Wednesday booked two lawyers, who were part of a fact-finding committee to investigate the violence that broke out in the state of Tripura last month, causing damage to mosques and properties owned by Muslims, according to The Wire.

The lawyers – Mukesh and Anwar Indori – had released a report, titled 'Humanity under attack in Tripura; #Muslim lives matter', on Tuesday, revealing at least 12 mosques, nine shops, three houses of Muslims were targeted by radical outfits such as Bajrang Dal, Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Hindu Jagaran Manch during the violence last month.

The advocates were a part of a four-member fact-finding team that had visited the state on Oct 29 in order to document the incidents of violence targeting the Muslim community.

The report compiled by the lawyers highlighted that the latest violence was a "result of the irresponsibility of the administration, extremist organisations and the vested interests of ambitious politicians".

LG polls in KP to be held on party basis

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has decided to hold Local Government Elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on party basis on Wednesday.

Polling for the local body elections in 17 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will be held on December 19, for which the Election Commission has decided to hold the elections on party basis.

The ECP has directed the Returning Officers to write the name of the party on the nomination papers. According to the Commission, candidates can submit their party tickets at the time of allotment of election symbols or to the Returning Officer.

"Political parties can only issue tickets to candidates nominated for each category of council seat," the commission said and added the heads of political parties should appoint an official at the district level for the issuance of party tickets.



ISLAMABAD: Wife of the Turkish ambassador Mrs. Mustafa Yurdakul hosted a reception at her residence. Spouses of diplomats attended the reception in large numbers. – DNA

EU Parliament delegation pays official visit to Pakistan

The purpose of this visit is to provide Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and Members of both Chambers of the Parliament of Pakistan the opportunity to review together the state of relations between the European Union and Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The European Parliament's Delegation for Relations with South Asia, which covers relations with Pakistan, and other 5 countries in the region (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives and Sri Lanka), paid an official visit to Islamabad on 3rd and 4th November 2021, on the occasion of the 12th inter-parliamentary meeting between the European Parliament and the National Assembly of Pakistan. The European delegation was comprised of the Chair Mr Nicola PROCACCINI (Italy, ECR), Ms Heidi HAUTALA (Finland, Greens, Vice-President of the European Parliament), Mr Luis GARCANO (Spain, Renew) and Mr Tomáš ZDECHOVSKÝ (Czechia, EPP). The last official visit (Islamabad and Karachi) took place in November 2018.

The purpose of this visit is to provide Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and Members of both Chambers of the Parliament of Pakistan the opportunity to review together the state of relations between the European Union and Pakistan. The signature of the EU-Pakistan Strategic Engagement Plan in 2019 is a further milestone in relations between the EU and Pakistan, and as bilateral relations grow, it is essential that Parliamentarians on both sides assess progress and provide parliamentary scrutiny and guidance.

This visit takes place after two very difficult years due to the global Covid-19 pandemic,



with an enormous impact on our economies and our societies. While the pandemic is not over yet, it is time to increase our efforts and examine together how our societies and economies can overcome this human tragedy and can recover in a mutually beneficial way. MEPs recalled that the EU had allocated EUR 150 million in 2020 to support Pakistan's strategy in the fight against the covid crisis.

MEPs met with the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Deputy Chairman of the Senate, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister for Law and Justice, the Prime Ministers Advisor on Commerce, the Attorney General of Pakistan, the Governor

of Punjab, with prominent Members of Parliament, with civil society organisations and with representatives of the media.

The meetings focused on issues of common interest, such as the state of EU-Pakistan cooperation in a number of fields, bilateral trade and GSP+, climate change, regional issues, good governance and the rule of law, freedom of religion, freedom of the press and the situation of minorities.

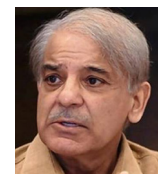
Freedom of the press is a pillar of any democratic system. Censorship and harassment of journalists are not acceptable. MEPs also reiterated their strong opposition to the death penalty in all circumstances and took note of the de facto moratorium that

has been applied over the past three years. The European delegation took note of Pakistan's relevant role as regards developments in Afghanistan. The close historic and cultural ties with Afghanistan and the privileged contacts with the Taliban are an important tool in trying to address the risk of a humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan. While recalling the EU's benchmarks for engagement with Kabul, MEPs expressed their appreciation for the role of Pakistan in helping channel humanitarian aid and in facilitating the relocation of vulnerable Afghans to numerous countries of the international community. MEPs also recognised the efforts Pakistan has made to give shelter to over 3 million registered refugees over decades. Pakistan has benefitted from the European Union's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP+) scheme since 2014. MEPs noted with satisfaction the progress made so far, such as adoption of relevant legislation, but cautioned that there were still some areas of concern, and that GSP+ should not be taken for granted. MEPs underlined that the EU wishes to remain a reliable partner of Pakistan and will continue to support all efforts towards the improvement of human rights, freedom of expression, the rule of law and strengthening democratic institutions. MEPs underlined that the active participation and contribution of civil society organisations is considered vital in that process, and that the space for their activities must be guaranteed.

Shehbaz Sharif accuses PM of making false promises

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President and Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif has rejected Prime Minister Imran Khan's "biggest" relief package that he announced yesterday in a televised address to the nation, terming it a pack of lies. Imran Khan announced



providing a 30 percent discount on ghee, flour and pulses to support 130 million people. As per the package, the beneficiaries would be able to avail of the discount for the next six months. In a statement issued on

Thursday, Shehbaz Sharif maintained "Did the government not say at the time of announcing the budget that it is a tax-free budget? Now, while addressing the nation, it is said that petrol will be expensive in the country soon." He wondered how inflation would be tackled when the prices of gas, electricity and petrol would swell. "To take seriously a government whose budget figures were unreliable is called nothing

but self-deception. Relief for masses and PTI government are two opposite things," he added.

Shehbaz said the country had been trapped under the burden of foreign debts, and the terms of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) also doubled the troubles of the nation. "Sugar price has surpassed Rs130 per kilogram in the wholesale market. The price of sugar increased by Rs5 per kilogram in two days.



Rent Control Bill will be passed in joint session: Asad

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Training and Development Asad Umar has said that next week's joint session Parliament will approve the Law Rent Control Act for Islamabad and a long standing demand of Islamabad businessmen is resolved under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan. He expressed these views while addressing a reception organized by the PTI Traders Wing last night. Asad Umar further said that the parking problem in Islamabad has escalated to a very alarming level and an emergency action plan would be formulated to address it. He said on the demand raised by PTI Traders Wing Islamabad Secretary General Waqar Bakhtawari regarding parking that he would try to resolve the issue by meeting a delegation of traders soon.

Asad Umar assured the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry of his full support for the establishment of an industrial zone around Islamabad and asked the leadership of the chamber to contact him in this regard. Ali Nawaz Awan, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for CDA, said that the present government has been quite

successful in improving the economy in spite of difficult economic conditions. He further said that the problems of traders would be resolved on priority basis. Ch Nadeemuddin, President, PTI Islamabad Traders Wing, in his address on the occasion, specially thanked Asad Umar for his efforts in enforcing the Rent Control Act law. PTI Traders Wing Islamabad Secretary General Waqar Bakhtawari while appreciating the efforts of Asad Umar, Ali Nawaz Awan and Raja Khuram Nawaz to solve the problems of traders of Islamabad said that parking is the biggest problem of Islamabad markets at present. The CDA needs to build a parking plaza and parking area on an emergency basis otherwise the markets in Islamabad may not be available for parking which may create difficulties for traders.

Besides Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Fahim Khan, Vice President, Zahid Qureshi, President, Islamabad Small Chamber of Commerce, Kamran Abbasi, Group Leader, Ajmal Baloch, President, Anjumane-e-Tajiran and Kashif Chaudhry, President Tanzeem-e-Tajiran and The representative of most of the markets attended.

Taliban leader warns against infiltrators

KABUL: The supreme leader of the Taliban warned on Thursday against the danger of turncoats and infiltrators in the movement that has taken charge of Afghanistan.

Reflecting the seriousness of the threat, the reclusive Haibatullah Akhundzada issued a rare written public statement to urge Taliban commanders to purge their ranks. In it he says "all those elders of their groups must look inside their ranks and see if there is any unknown entity working against the will of the government, which must be eradicated as soon as possible. "Whatever wrong happens, the elder will be responsible for the consequences of the actions in this world and in the afterlife," he warned, in a statement tweeted out by multiple Taliban accounts.

The movement seized power in August after overrunning the capital and ousting the collapsing US-backed government, declaring a new Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. – APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov met with Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Convener of Pakistan-Azerbaijan Parliamentary Friendship Group in the National Assembly of Pakistan. – DNA

Public debt GDP ratio to ease in FY22, FY23

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank has projected Pakistan's debt to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio to ease to 90.6% in current fiscal year to and to 89.3% in next fiscal year 2022-23. The World Bank in its recent report "Pakistan Development Update October 2021" said that the total debt to GDP ratio had peaked to 92.7% in the year 2019-20, however it had been declining since then.

The public and publicly guaranteed debt declined to 90.7 percent of GDP in end-June FY21, down from 92.7 percent in end-June FY20. In end-June FY21, external debt accounted for 33.9 percent of the total public debt, whereas short-term debt accounted for 16.2 percent – indicating low rollover risks, the report added.

The public and publicly guaranteed debt included external general government debt, domestic general government debt, guaranteed debt, and public and publicly guaranteed debt. It said the Rupee had already depreciated by 7.7 percent against the U.S. dollar over the first quarter of FY22.

Given that external public debt is a third of the total public debt stock, the depreciation of the currency has implications for public debt, which is already above 90 percent of GDP.

UK becomes first country to approve anti-Covid pill

LONDON: Britain on Thursday became the first country to approve an anti-Covid pill, as it greenlit the use of Merck's antiviral drug to treat patients suffering from mild to moderate coronavirus, regulators said.

"Today is a historic day for our country, as the UK is now the first country in the world to approve an antiviral that can be taken at home for Covid-19," said health minister Sajid Javid.

"This will be a game-changer for the most vulnerable and the immunosuppressed, who will soon be able to receive the ground-breaking treatment," he added.

The antiviral, called molnupiravir, works by decreasing the ability of a virus to replicate, thereby slowing down the disease.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) said its trials had concluded it was "safe and effective at reducing the risk of hospitalisation and death in people with mild to moderate Covid-19 who are at increased risk of developing severe disease". – APP

Covid-19 deaths show slight uptick

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: The national tally of Covid-19 active cases on Thursday was recorded 22,577 with 580 more people testing positive for the deadly virus and 554 people recovered from the disease during the last 24 hours. Nineteen corona patients have died during the last 24 hours, 18 of the deceased were under treatment in different hospitals and one of them perished in their respective quarantines or homes, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC).

Out of the total 19 deceased Covid-19 patients, nine of them expired on ventilators. Most of the deaths occurred in Sindh followed by Punjab. There were 1,247 Covid-19 infected patients under treatment in critical condition in various Covid dedicated healthcare facilities of the country.

The National Covid positivity ratio during the past 24 hours was recorded at 1.32 percent. The maximum ventilators were occupied in four major cities including Sargodha 13 percent, Peshawar 17 percent, Lahore 15 percent, and Multan 29 percent.