



Islamabad POST

Saturday, November 06, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

Peaceful Afghanistan is vital for regional stability, says COAS

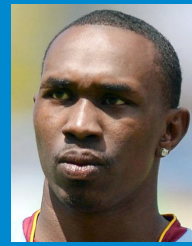
Detailed News On Page-01

People-to-people contacts enhance the friendship

Detailed News On Page-02


Dwayne Bravo to retire after World Cup

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

IT sector to help in progress

DNA

PESHAWAR: President Dr. Arif Alvi says promotion of the Information Technology sector will help in the development of the country. Addressing an event at University of Engineering and Technology in Peshawar on Friday, he said the rapidly growing IT industry has outclassed the world all over. The President said science and engineering technologies were making an advancement with fast pace in world and importance of virtual and online education system increased manifold in the wake of emerging challenges. "If we want to compete with world and regional countries, we need to encourage virtual and online education," he said. Dr Arif Alvi said the developing countries were also making rapid progress because of science and technologies and Pakistan has all the resources to become a developed country by bringing the necessary innovations and advancements in the science and technologies disciplines.

Minorities enjoy equal rights

DNA

MITHI: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi says that minorities in Pakistan have equal rights and freedom to practice their religion and celebrate their religious festivals as envisioned by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and guaranteed by the constitution. Addressing a grand public gathering in Mithi on the occasion of Hindu festival of Diwali, he said Pakistani Muslims celebrate festival of Diwali with their Hindu brothers but on the other side of border in Rajasthan, Muslims are under oppression. The Foreign Minister said that PTI-led federal government has provided health cards indiscriminately to residents of Tharparkar and every family could avoid medical coverage of one million rupees.

Holiday Notice

The offices of daily **Islamabad POST** shall remain closed on Saturday on account of weekly off therefore there will be no newspaper on Sunday.

– Editor

POL prices cheapest in region: PM

Says inflation due to the Covid-19 pandemic; blames closing of sugar mills in Sindh for sugar price hike

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ATTOCK: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday claimed that there was uproar in India as well over high petrol prices and Pakistan still had the cheapest petrol prices in the region. "In India today, there is uproar as well [over petrol prices] and the petrol price per litre is Rs150 while it is Rs200 in Bangladesh. [On the other hand] it is the lowest in Pakistan at Rs146," the premier said, while addressing a public gathering in Attock after laying the foundation stone of a Maternal and Child Hospital. He said that among the oil-importing countries, Pakistan had the lowest prices for petrol and diesel. The prime minister explained this was possible because the government had reduced its taxes and levies. The premier said that inflation had occurred globally due to the Covid-19 pandemic causing various issues such as supply shortages, trade closure, lockdowns, reduced buying and selling. "The biggest [impact] of what happened was that the oil price first decreased and now in the last three months it has doubled [...] when oil becomes expensive then everything becomes expensive." Subsequently, freight costs also increased which caused prices of Pakistan's imports to rise as well such as oil, pulses, ghee (cooking oil) and palm oil, the prime minister said.

Continued on Page 06

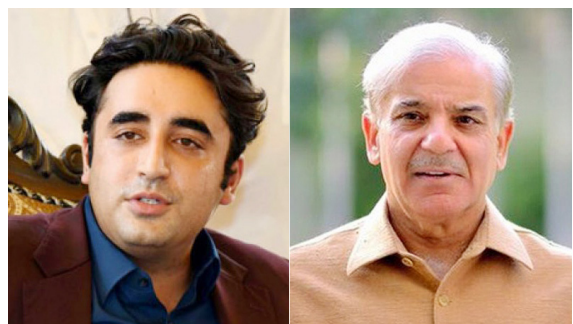
'Difficult time will end soon'

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry on Friday blamed the Sindh government for the increase in sugar and flour prices while also criticising the economic policies of previous governments. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad alongside Minister for National Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam, he began by saying that the PTI government had to pay back the debts incurred by previous governments. He said the country was suffering as a result of the bad "economic policies" implemented by previous governments. "To those who tell us that we always blame previous governments, we can't fix their [mismanagement] in three years," the minister argued. He singled out the "horrible" economic policies of former finance minister Ishaq Dar and noted how former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and PML-N leader Miftah Ismail had also been vocal about their criticism of the same. "But now they are offering justifications."

Continued on Page 06

Opp. agree on strict response to inflation



The agreement was reached after Shahbaz Sharif held telephonic conversation with Bilawal Bhutto

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Opposition leadership on Friday agreed to record strict response inside and outside the parliament over worst inflation and sharp rise in petrol prices in the country. The agreement was reached after Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shahbaz Sharif held telephonic conversation with

Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Balochistan National Party (BNP) chief Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal, Quami Wattan Party (QWP) chief Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao, Aimal Wali Khan, Anas Noorani, Malik Baloch and other national leaders.

Continued on Page 06

Govt allies, Opp. slam petrol price hike

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Opposition parties Friday lashed out at Prime Minister Imran Khan, blaming his government for the rise in prices of petroleum products while the PTT's coalition partners warned of rising inflation. The government announced a hike in the price of petrol by Rs8.03 per litre today, a day after Prime Minister Imran Khan warned the nation that fuel prices would have to undergo an increase. Reacting to the price hike, PML-N President Shahbaz Sharif said that since the incumbent government came to power, it had brought the entire nation to "the ration card".

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RAWALPINDI: Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov meets with General Nadeem Raza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee of Pakistan Armed Forces. – DNA

Govt reaches terms with TTP for temporary truce

MONITORING DESK

PESHAWAR: Pakistani officials have reached a tentative understanding with the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) to seek a broader peace agreement to end nearly two decades of militancy in the country, a private news website reported citing sources. Sources said the "direct, face-to-face" talks between the two sides being held in Afghanistan's south-western Khost province for nearly two weeks had resulted in a tentative understanding to declare a countrywide truce, conditional to the release of some TTP foot soldiers as part of confidence-building measures. It was not immediately clear how many militants in Pakistan's custody would be allowed to go free, but sources said the number was not more than two dozen people. "These

"According to the sources, Afghan Taliban commander Sirajuddin Haqqani is playing a key role in ceasefire talks"

are foot soldiers, not senior or mid-level commanders," the sources said. "We are testing the ground. We are cautious," they added. "The truce will come into effect once the prisoners are released," these sources said, requesting not to be named because they were not authorised to speak to the media. "The tentative month-long truce shall be extendable, depending on how these negotiations go forward," a source said. According to the sources, Afghan Taliban commander Sirajuddin Haqqani is playing a key role in ceasefire talks and is working to make negotiations between the PTI-led government and the banned outfit a success. Per the

sources, chief of the banned TTP Muf-ti Noor Wali is leading the talks from the group's side. The banned outfit has maintained that it would be "too early to" lay down arms and has demanded the government release their members from prison. The government has not reacted to the demands of the banned outfit yet, the Afghan Taliban sources said, adding that negotiations could be successful if strong guarantors are provided and the outfit's conditions are accepted. They added that while some factions of the banned TTP are in favour of holding talks with the Pakistani government, others are still taking a hardline approach.

Pakistan reports 515 new covid cases

Further, the country's tally also added 11 more deaths

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has reported 11 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 1,275, 673. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 28,507 on Friday. According to the latest figures issued by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), 515 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. 471,205 coronavirus cases have been confirmed in Sindh, 440,788 in Punjab, 178,427 in KP, 107,063 in Islamabad.

Afghan peace vital for regional stability: COAS



DNA

RAWALPINDI: Nong Rong, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan and Major General Yang Yang, Incoming Chinese Defence Attache to Pakistan called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ, on Friday. According to an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) press

release, matters of mutual interest, regional security situation, including Afghan Peace Process and measures to further enhance bilateral cooperation were discussed during the meeting. The Chief of Army Staff reiterated the need for convergence of efforts towards a peaceful & prosperous Afghanistan in pursuit of

Continued on Page 06

Germany to offer booster shots

AGENCIES

BERLIN: Germany's COVID-19 situation is entering a very difficult period with rising numbers of intensive care patients, health minister Jens Spahn said, as German state leaders warned the country may need a new lockdown unless it takes urgent action. Spahn said he had agreed with regional health ministers that in future everyone should be offered a booster shot of COVID-19 vaccine six months after receiving their previous injection. "This should become the norm, not the exception," Spahn said at a news conference on Friday. The country has already had to relocate some patients from regions with overburdened hospitals, Spahn added, urging German citizens to get vaccinated and observe social distancing measures.

India stays in SF hunt with a big win

DUBAI: Virat Kohli-led Team India thrashed Scotland by eight wickets in a must-win Twenty20 World Cup contest on Friday. Indian opener Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul's blazing knocks helped Men in Blue to chase down the modest target in 6.3 overs to keep India's hopes of making it to the semi-final of the tournament alive. While chasing the target, India lost two wickets as Rohit departed after scoring 30 runs off 16 balls and KL Rahul lost his wicket after scoring 50 runs off 19 balls. Bradley Wheal got the breakthrough for Scotland as Rohit's wicket but it was too little and too late as the skipper Kohli and Suryakumar Yadav sealed the deal, with SKY hitting the winning runs. – DNA

Inside...

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Palestinian statehood will always be the solution
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NZ boost semi-final prospects with win over Namibia
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Global solidarity with people of Kashmir needed: Mushahid
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Clean up your mess, young activists tell leaders at COP26
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EU keen to develop strong trade ties with Pak

Ambassador Kaminara has also recognised the critical role of Pakistan in bringing peace in Afghanistan and the safe evacuation of its nationals from there

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: European Union (EU) Ambassador to Pakistan Androulla Kaminara has said that the EU has some concerns regarding freedom of expression, forced disappearances and human rights issues in Pakistan. While speaking on Star News Pakistan programme Live With Sehar Kamran hosted by Senator Sehar Kamran, Ambassador of European Union to Pakistan Androulla Kaminara said that bilateral trade is the mandate of the European Union (EU) and not the member states. Member states of the EU cannot draft the bilateral trade agreement. The Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP-Plus) status applies to all EU members and it allows exports to the 27 member states. "The last two-year report (2018-19) was issued in February 2020. Pakistan's performance report (for the years 2020 and 2021) is under compilation these days. Therefore, the further decision for the extension of this status to Pakistan, with effect

from Jan 1, 2024, will be made after reviewing this report," Ambassador Kaminara said. EU envoy further added that the 632 members of the EU parliament requested the EU Commission to look into the details of progress achieved by Pakistan in the implementation of UN Conventions. "If progress was not enough, EU Commission may suspend the GSP+ to Pakistan," she said. "Countries availing the GSP+ are evaluated every 2 years to examine the progress made in the implementation of UN conventions," she further added. She said the EU wanted the implementation of UN conventions, including freedom of expression, by Pakistan. "We are closely watching the freedom of expression situation in Pakistan," Ambassador said

the European Union (EU) was keen on strengthening trade ties with Pakistan and urged upon the businessmen to play a proactive role for the implementation of all the conventions of the Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP-Plus) enabling Pakistan to avail full benefits. EU envoy said the EU had been supporting Pakistan's Small and Media Enterprises (SMEs) sector to facilitate them in increasing their share of exports. "We have recently set up EU Pakistan Business Forum for SMEs to help them interact with their counterparts in Europe," she added. Currently, 75 to 80 per cent of Pakistan's export to EU countries is textiles, then leather and shoes. She said ties with Pakistan were

multifaceted and "we are working on several issues." She said on the international level the EU was working with Islamabad on climate change and promoting relevant decisions at the UN system. Within the country, she said, the EU worked on issues of trade and business among others. Ambassador Kaminara has also recognised the critical role of Pakistan in bringing peace in Afghanistan and the safe evacuation of its nationals from there. She said over the last couple of months, there had been several meetings between representatives of the EU and individual members of EU states with Pakistani authorities mainly on the situation arising out of Afghanistan. "In view of the situation in Afghanistan, there has been a drastic increase in engagement not just with Afghanistan but also with Pakistan because of its strategic position," she added. She appreciated Pakistan's stance that the government in Kabul must be inclusive and women should also be given representation.

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UAF, HBL join hands to bridge gap between academia and industry

The MoU was duly inked by UAF Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan, and HBL Head Development Finance Amer Aziz

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: University of Agriculture Faisalabad and Habib Bank Limited have inked a Memorandum of Understandings to bridge the gap between academia and industry, grooming of students and promote agriculture, education and research cooperation.

According to the agreement, a Financial Innovation Technology Center will be set up at the UAF to strengthen academy-industry relationship, joint efforts to cultivate science-based technological innovations and build the capacity of students.

The MoU was duly inked by UAF Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan, and HBL Head Development Finance Amer Aziz.

According to the agreement, the center will display farmer digital programs- technologies and other, remote sensing technology, agricultural pro-

duction and opportunities, agriculture value chain etc.

The guest speaker webinars will be held to provide the students about the understanding of banking industry, digital banking tools, marketing ethics, SBP regulation, career counseling sessions to enhance student competence. Registrar Tariq Mehmood Gil, Director Human Resources Dr Manzoor Akhtar, Treasurer Umar Saeed Qadri, Director ORIC Dr Zaheer Ahmad Zaheer, Director External Linkages Dr Wasim Akram, Director Financial Assistants Dr Muhammad Ahsan Khan, Assistant Director Waqar Akbar, Nehal Ahmad and others attended the event.

Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan said that more than 90% of the farmers are small farmers. If we increase the average yield of wheat per acre, we will earn self-sufficiency in wheat as well as earn foreign exchange by exporting. He said that strengthened industry-academy relations can provide knowledge based

He said that training of students with practical is the need of the hour to face the challenges of the current era. He said that the development and poverty alleviation was directly linked to agriculture sector for which the two institutions would make every effort in the field of education and research.

He said farmers was suffering due to low productivity, profitability issue, market problems and other factors for which concrete steps will be taken to overcome these problems by promoting academia industry linkages.

Amir Aziz, Head Development Finance, Habib Bank, said that HBL was striving hard for the prosperity of farmers and agricultural development. He said that HBL has taken various steps for farming community to ensure profitable agriculture.

Dr Muhammad Ahsan Khan said all-out efforts being taken to ensure the scholarship to students belonging to deprived area to continue their journey of knowledge.



IG Punjab inaugurates social media monitoring unit at CPO

NEWS DESK

LAHORE : Inspector General of Police Punjab Rao Sardar Ali Khan has said that effective use of social media platforms is essential for prompt delivery of necessary information and immediate solution of problems faced by the citizens. Special attention should be paid to timely addressal of public issues received on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and other sources.

IGP directed the staff of social media to intensify efforts to monitor and address issues of public. He emphasized upon propagation of public welfare projects of Police in every district especially Police Service Centers. He directed to provide modern facilities to PROs in ranges, districts and units and also hold training workshops for their capacity building so that they could expedite public service delivery. He gave these instructions to officers during inauguration of Social Media Monitoring Unit at the Central Police Office. PPJO / DIG Operations, Punjab Sajid Kiyani while briefing IG Punjab about working of Social Media Monitoring Unit said that Punjab Police is paying special attention for resolution of problems of people and quick provision of information to them through social media. In this regard, immediate response is taken from the relevant Range and district on public issues and complaints on Social Media like Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

Four died of corona in KP

NEWS DESK

PESHAWAR: Corona claims four more lives in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as 85 new cases of the virus infection reported from various parts of the province.

According to health officials here Friday, as many as 46 persons recovered from the disease in a single day and 10168 tests were conducted. The number of corona detection tests conducted so far is 3,332,006 and total numbers of recoveries is 171,265. Two fatalities were reported in Peshawar Division while one each died in Mardan and Malakand divisions.

German embassy celebrates “German days in Lahore”

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The German Embassy in Islamabad and the Annemarie-Schimmel-Haus in Lahore celebrate German days in Lahore to mark the 70th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between Germany and Pakistan. The two days event at Al-Hamra Arts Centre in Lahore showcases German engagement in Pakistan across the board. On Friday, the focus is on German companies and business in Pakistan. Over 30 companies and other German organizations will be present with their own stalls ready to interact with visitors.

A Science Film Festival and exhibition will also be part of the event. Saturday is a family day with additional

kids' activities and a German-Pakistani fusion music concert by Ustad Ashraf Sharif Khan & friends.

At the opening of the event, the ambassador of Germany to Pakistan Bernhard Schlagheck said, “With the German Days in Lahore, we want to offer a platform for people in Punjab to meet with us, the German community in Pakistan, and vice versa. I strongly believe that it is the people-to-people relations that offer the strongest links in a friendship between two countries - and this is certainly the case with Germany and Pakistan in their 70th year of strong and successful diplomatic ties.”

The event marks a joyous milestone and commitment from both countries to work together in shaping the next 70 years of German-Pakistani friendship.

DC displeased over price control magistrates

He presided over a meeting and reviewed the individual performance and stressed that daily inspections should be uploaded on the Qeemat app

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD : Deputy Commissioner Ali Shahzad has expressed displeasures over the weak performance of some price control magistrates and directed the Price Control Magistrates of the district to conduct at least 50 inspections daily and 3 thousand fine to profiteers and hold crack

down against profiteers of specially sugar and register cases against shop keepers

who do not sell as per the price list and consumers should get relief from the actions of the price control magistrates.

He presided over a meeting and reviewed the individual performance of the price control magistrates and stressed that daily inspections should be uploaded on the Qeemat Punjab app.

He said that 100 percent implementation of fixed prices of flour, sugar, pulses, potato, onion, tomato and other

food items in the markets and bazaars should be followed.

In this regard, zero tolerance policy should be followed.

The Deputy Commissioner said that daily performance of price control magistrates will be monitored and those who do not show relevant results in implementing price control mechanisms would be answerable.

He also directed to take action against hoarders of essential items.



HYDERABAD: Visitors taking keen interest in painting during an exhibition. – DNA

Railways secretary visits Lahore

NEWS DESK

LAHORE: Pakistan Railways Secretary/ Chairman Habib-ur-Rehman Gilani Friday visited the Lahore division and reviewed its performance.

Railways Lahore Division Superintendent Nasir Khalili briefed the secretary about the development works in the Lahore division, income, field staff monitoring system, e-inspection system, train operation safety and automation projects. Nasir Khalili, while shedding light on the steps taken with regard to the train operations safety, said that seminars had been held on trespassing to create awareness among children and old people about safely crossing the track.

He said that fencing had been carried out on 955 points to check trespassing whereas 114 personnel had been deployed on 78 busy unmanned level crossings. He said that with the help of automation system, the attendance of gangmen working on tracks could be checked online.

Habib-ur-Rehman Gilani lauded the efforts of Lahore division superintendent. He said, “In order to discourage the practice of trespassing, cases should be registered against the violators so that people could be stopped from trespassing and for ensuring smooth train operation.”

Six more tested Covid positive in Faisalabad

NEWS DESK

FAISALABAD: As many as 6 people were tested positive for COVID-19 in the district during the last 24 hours.

According to the Health department spokesperson, 928 coronavirus tests were conducted in public and private sector labs during the same period. He said that total active cases in Faisalabad were recorded 227 while 25,602 patients had so far recovered from the disease. He said that 339 beds were allocated at the Allied Hospital, 133 at the DHQ Hospital and 150 at Government General Hospital Ghulam Muhammad Abad for COVID-19 patients. At present, 39 patients were under treatment at the Allied Hospital, 19 at DHQ Hospital and 7 at General Hospital. He further said that 84 confirmed patients were isolated at their homes in the district.

Augustine discusses minorities' rights with German envoy

LAHORE: German Ambassador to Pakistan Bernhard Schlagheck, along with Dorota Brzezicki, called on Punjab Minister for Human Rights and Minorities Affairs (HR&MA) Ejaz Alam Augustine at his office on Friday.

They discussed matters of mutual interest including GSP plus status, Pakistan-Germany relations, situation of human rights and protection of religious minorities and role of treaty implementation cell.

The minister apprised the ambassador about the measures taken by the Punjab government for the

welfare of religious minorities including allocation of five per cent quota in the government jobs, the role of district committees for the protection of human rights, five per cent mandatory quota and two per cent quota in higher education for the students of religious minorities.

The minister said that the Punjab government was fully aware of its international obligations and the department of Human Rights & Minorities Affairs was closely monitoring various Acts and legislation to ensure protection of rights of minorities. The government

was also promoting inter-faith harmony, brotherhood and peaceful coexistence in society, he added. He mentioned that minorities were enjoying equal rights in Pakistan and a conducive atmosphere was provided to them to grow and excel in different sectors.

The German envoy acknowledged the efforts of the Punjab government for the protection of human rights and the welfare of religious minorities.

He hoped the government would fulfill its commitments with the masses while moving forward positively. – APP



FESCO nabbed 390 power pilferers in October

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) teams caught 390 power pilferers during the second fortnight of October 2021.

A spokesman said on Friday that FESCO teams conducted surprise checking of 147,417 electricity connections and unearthed power pilferage at 390 sites in four circles of the region.

Giving details, he said that 110 power pilferers were nabbed from Faisalabad-I Circle, 85 from Faisalabad-II Circle, 90 from Jhang Circle, 52 from Sargodha Circle and 53 from Mianwali Circle. The FESCO teams also removed electricity supply meters and issued detection bills of 4,802,162 units and imposed a fine of Rs.74.1 million on them.

He said that a fine of Rs.18.2 million was imposed on power pilferers of Faisalabad-I Circle by issuing them detection bills of 991,507 units whereas a fine of Rs.16.7 million was

imposed on electricity stealers of Faisalabad-II Circle by issuing them detection bill of 1,075,635 units.

Similarly, a fine of Rs.22.2 million was imposed on power pilferers of Jhang Circle by issuing them detection bill of 1,576,448 units while a fine of Rs.10.7 million was imposed on electricity stealers of Sargodha Circle by issuing them detecting bills of 757,342 units and a fine of Rs.6.054 million on power pilferers of Mianwali Circle by issuing them detection bills of 401,230 units, he added.

The spokesman further said that electricity theft cases have been got registered against 87 pilferers. Power theft is a crime and to eliminate this mal-trend Ministry of Water and Power has launched a hotline 051-9103888 for receiving complaints regarding electricity pilferage whereas the people can also submit complaints about power theft on FESCO toll free numbers 118 and 0800-66554 for complete eradication of this evil, he added.

PESCO notifies power suspension

PESHAWAR: Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) Friday notified power suspension from different grid stations across the province from November 06 to 28 due to unavoidable maintenance work.

Power supply will remain suspended from 132 KV Jamrud Grid Station on November 6, 13, 20, 27 from 8:30AM to 2:30PM, resultantly consumers of 11 KV Hayatabad 1,2,3,4,5, North west Hospital, Kidney Center, RMI, RMT 1,2, PIC, Mohmand Steel, Nothren Boteling feeders will face inconvenience.

Power supply will remain suspended from 132 KV Peshawar City Grid Station on November 8 from 9AM to 12 November 9PM, resultantly load Management will be carried out on 11 KV Radio Pak, Chamkani, Chughal Pura, Hashnagri, Sikandar Pura, Jagara, Urmar, Lala. During this period, power supply will remain suspended from 132 KV PESCO Colony Grid Station on November 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28 from 8:30AM to 2:30PM, resultantly consumers of 11 KV Warsak 2, Warsak Road Express, Shahi Bagh Express, ICF 2, Shaheen Complex, Mathara 1, Kochian 1,2 feeders will face inconvenience.

Power supply will remain suspended from 132 KV Sakhi Chashma Grid Station on November 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28 from 8:30AM to 2:30PM, resultantly consumers of 11 KV Pir Bala, Nishat1, Nishat, Industrial, Benazir woman University, Pajagail, Kaniza, Chaghar Matti, Opazai feeders will face inconvenience.

Power supply will remain suspended from 132 KV Shahi Bagh Grid Station on November 8, 9, 10, 21 from 8:30AM to 2:30PM, resultantly consumers of 11 KVDaudzai 1,2, EidGah feeders will face inconvenience.

Power supply will remain suspended from 132 KV Peshawar Cantt Grid Station on November 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23 from 8:30AM to 2:30PM, resultantly consumers of 11 KV Warsak Road 1, ICF 1 feeders will face inconvenience. – APP

Samina for role of academia against breast cancer

First Lady said she has visited every province in connection with spreading awareness against the disease and her visit to Peshawar was also part of this campaign

PESHAWAR: First Lady, Samina Arif Alvi here Friday said breast cancer was a fatal ailment and proactive role of educational institutions, religious scholars and media was imperative for spreading mass awareness on regular basis to eradicate the deadly disease. Addressing an impressive function of students and academia here at University of Peshawar in connection with awareness campaign against breast cancer, the First Lady said University of Peshawar was a highly reputable and representative educational institute of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) wherein students from across the province get their education up to PhD and they can help in creating awareness against breast cancer in their respective areas.

She said the struggle against the disease should continue throughout the year instead of limiting it to specific days, adding proactive



role of civil society, politicians, religious academicians, health institutions, WHO and NGOs were equally important in creation of mass awareness and sensitization of people against the fatal disease. She said one woman out of every suspected eight patients become victims of breast cancer and every year around 100,000 new cases

were reported in the country, adding 16 new cases out of 25 suspected patients were detected in October last by Khyber Teaching Hospital.

She urged women to conduct their mammography every month and in case if they find any changes in and around breast areas during self-examination should immedi-

ately contact doctors as delay in treatment may prove fatal.

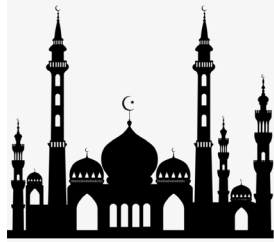
First Lady said survival chance of a breast cancer's patient was over 90 percent if detected at early stage and less than 40 to 45 percent at 3rd and 4th stages.

Despite limited resources, she said KP Government was spending substantial financial resources

on provision of free treatment to cancer patients that was highly appreciable. Samina Arif Alvi said she has visited every province in connection with spreading awareness against the disease and her visit to Peshawar was also part of this campaign. She said an inclusive database of the cancer patients and their recovery would significantly help policymakers in preparation of future strategies and action plans against the ailment. She appreciated University of Peshawar's administration for organizing an impressive mass awareness event and expressed the hope of such more functions with regular intervals for education of students especially girls.

Earlier, Vice Chancellor UoP, Dr Muhammad Idress and Registrar, Saifullah Khan warmly welcomed the distinguished guest on arrival where two students presented flowers bouquet to her. – APP

SERVICES



Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	05:05 am
Zohr.....	11:51 am
Asr.....	03:34 pm
Maghrib.....	05:12 pm
Isha.....	06:37 pm



Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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Emergency

Rescue (Police).....	15
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RGH.....	9290301-7
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PIMS.....	9261170-79
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Shifa International.....	4603666



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RDA.....	5555864
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Complaints

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

Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....	0331-5022125
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IBCC recommends exam reforms for all boards

Boards agreed to gradually move towards higher cognitive level questions with the weightage knowledge 30 percent, Understanding 50 percent and Application 20 percent



ISLAMABAD: On the directives of Federal Minister for Education & Professional Training Mr. Shafqat Mahmood, all the boards of intermediate and secondary education agreed that the examination and assessment pattern will be focused on conceptual learning. This agenda item for the improvement of examination system was placed in 170th Meeting of Inter Board Committee of Chairmen Forum in Islamabad which was attended by 49 members including 30 examination boards.

It was agreed that all the examination boards will prepare Students Learning Outcome based question papers in future. The boards agreed to gradually move towards higher cognitive level questions with the weightage knowledge 30 percent, Understanding 50 percent and Application 20 percent. The Inter Board Committee of Chairmen Forum recommended various examination reforms and advised boards to discuss the implementation strategy at their concerned forums. The major recommendations included introducing automation of examination for improving

efficiency and transparency, conducting curriculum-based examination, capacity building of examination staff & teachers to make assessment more valid & reliable, developing central items bank & rubrics to make assessment authentic, enhancing security system at the examination centers to curb cheating and other malpractices in examination, e-marking to make work smarter & faster, establishing research section in boards for analysis & future improvements. The forum appreciated the initiatives taken by Federal Board and Kohat Board for introducing

various reforms & technology in the examination system to ensure transparency & reliability. Secretary Inter Board Committee of Chairmen Prof. Dr Ghulam Ali Mallah said that it was the vision of Federal Minister for Education & Professional Training Mr. Shafqat Mahmood to change the examination pattern that must be based on the concepts & understanding. He further said that these recommendations will play pivotal role to dent the old conventional system that is based on rote memorization. The reforms will help students to be problem-solvers.

Rise in POL price will open floodgates of inflation: RCCI



DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and industry (RCCI) on Friday has expressed deep concern over the rise in prices of petroleum products and demanded that the government immediately review the prices and reverse the increase. RCCI President Nadeem Rauf, said in a statement that the increase in prices would open the flood gates of inflation and added that the cost of doing business has increased manifold due to rise in POL price and rupee depreciation. The poor are already suffering from inflation and the burden on the business community has increased, he said. Petrol price has gone up by Rs 8 to Rs 146, the highest level in the history. The price of diesel has gone up to Rs 143 and kerosene to around Rs 116 per liter. In

just one month, prices have been increased by up to Rs 30 per liter, he commented. Nadeem Rauf said that we have seen a decline in crude oil prices in global markets. In two weeks, it has dropped from \$86 a barrel to \$79 a barrel. The government should give relief to the people, he demanded. Chamber President Nadeem Rauf said that petrol and diesel prices have a direct impact on transportation costs. The construction sector will be affected. Rising diesel prices increase the cost of construction materials, which will affect the construction sector and reduce commercial activity. Production costs have multiplied. The recent surge will affect the manufacturing sector, he added. He said that the depreciation of the rupee has reduced the purchasing power of the industrialists, which is affecting local investment. We demand the government to reverse the price hike. He suggested that in order to reduce the import bill, it was necessary to promote alternative energy sources such as solar, wind and Electric. Imports could be reduced. He lamented that just yesterday the Prime Minister announced a relief package of Rs. 120 billion. On the other hand, oil prices have increased.

Early child marriage should be avoided



ISLAMABAD: Early child marriage practice should be avoided at every level, as it was putting the lives of mothers in perils, resulting in increased mortalities and socioeconomic pressure over the families. Farkhanda Aurangzeb, Senior Consultant Human Rights Education at the National Commission for Human Rights Pakistan said this while talking to APP. She said that they were concentrating on family planning and reforming education system including revalidation of students and teachers in order to get desired results. She said that every year in November the Ministry of Human Rights was launching a 16-day campaign on women's fundamental rights through a series of short informative videos covering important topics including sexual harassment, rape, marriage contract, filing an FIR and women's right to inheritance. She said films have been made in collaboration with the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) and Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy's films, adding those films were available in Urdu, Sindhi, Pashto, Punjabi and Balochi languages. – APP



ISLAMABAD: Saudi ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf Bin Saeed Al malliki visits the annual Lok Mela 2021 in Islamabad, which highlighted the culture and arts of different provinces of Pakistan. – DNA

Pink October at Pakistan's leading hotels, buildings

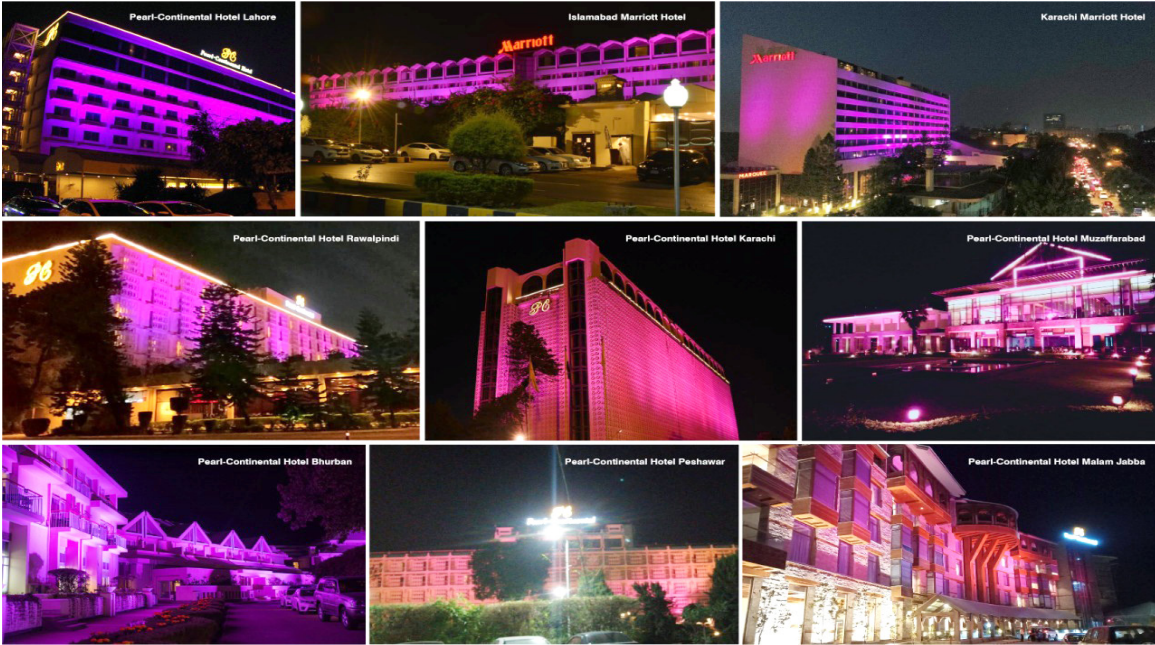
STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Hashoo Group, in collaboration with Shaukat Khanum Memorial Hospital and Cancer Research Centre, actively worked towards spreading awareness on the early detection of breast cancer. Statistics show that one in every nine Pakistani women develop breast cancer at least once during the span of their lives. It is possible to prevent thousands of deaths caused by breast cancer with early detection.

Therefore, calling attention to this awareness remained the topmost corporate social responsibility of Hashoo Group, this October. This October marked the fifth consecutive year, since Hashoo Group, joined hands with Shaukat Khanum Memorial Hospital and Cancer Research Centre for the Breast Cancer Awareness campaign, to help raise awareness. Keeping the tradition alive, once again, this year the teams of Shaukat Khanum Memorial visited all Hashoo Group's hotels across Pakistan, including Pearl-Conti-

mental Hotels, Marriott Hotels and Hotel One. During the visit they educated our staff, guests, and associates on the importance of early detection, self-examination, the signs of breast cancer, as well as the importance of having regular mammograms from age 40. Awareness sessions on the early detection of the cancer were conducted by a qualified oncologist from Shaukat Khanum Memorial Hospital and Cancer Research Centre, for women associates and guests via a video-conferencing link.

There was an increase in engagement and interaction as compared to the previous years, which shows that such campaigns are breaking the cultural taboo which is one of the leading factors of the high mortality rate. The hotel facades were also lit up in pink lights, and a Pink Hi-Tea was arranged in the spirit of breast cancer awareness month, at Pearl-Continental Hotels in Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Bhurban, Muzaffarabad and Malam Jabba, and the Marriott Hotels in Islamabad and Karachi.



FPCCI assures full support to Chinese investors

Mr Li Spoxperson of the said company showed keen interest to invest in Mining & Hydropower Projects

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Haji Qurba Ali Head FPCCI Capital Office Islamabad had meeting with Chairman Sichuan Engineering Complex Company here in FPCCI Capital office Islamabad. He said that Pakistan is a second home for China's Investors and businessmen as well. And it is history of our relationship that Chinese and Pakistan investors work for mutual interest in deferent sectors for long time. Whereas in Gilgit Baltistan, Khyber Pakhtun khwa, Baluchistan, and including Azad Jamu Kashmir different locations of the country have the opportunities to invest in the sectors of Mining, construction, transport, energy and to earn profit for long term. Federal & Provincial Govern-

ments, FPCCI and other relevant departments in the country are doing such great efforts for enhancement of trade and invest-

ment in the region with China, and FPCCI will provide any co-operation required for Sichuan Engineering Complex Company to

invest in any area of country. Haji Qurban Ali added. Mr. Lii China's investor and Mr. Mushtaq Khan from Gilgit Baltistan cham-



ber were also present in the meeting. Chairman Sichuan Engineering Complex Company Mr. Xaho thanked FPCCI Specially Haji Qurban Ali and his team for such coordination and positive gesture towards their visit to FPCCI Capital Office Islamabad. Our company is one the largest company in China, and while working on two projects of Hydro Power in Khyber Pakhtun khwa, we are working on lot's of projects already. We have team of experts with us, and we wish to invest in Mining sector in start. We and our company is totally focused in Pakistan and we have visited 30% of Pakistan areas and the remaining will be surveyed soon. Where as in Hunza we have done agreement for one project as well, we are enthusiastic to work in three different sectors in one year. The Chairman Mr. Xaho Added.

Jammu Martyrs' Day to be observed

ISLAMABAD: Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control and the world over will observe the Jammu Martyrs' Day tomorrow (Saturday) to reaffirm the resolve to continue the martyrs' mission till the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination. According to Kashmir Media Service, hundreds of thousands of Kashmiris were massacred by the forces of Maharaja Hari Singh, the Indian army, and Hindu extremists in different parts of the Jammu region while they were migrating to Pakistan during the first week of November in 1947. Hurriyat leaders and organizations in their statements while paying tributes to the Jammumartyrs said that their blood would not go waste. They said that the martyrs of Jammu had laid down their lives for a great cause and their unprecedented sacrifices will not be forgotten. They said that the heart-breaking genocide of the Muslims of Jammu in 1947 was one of the biggest tragedies in the world in which lakhs of Muslims were killed. They said that the best way to pay tributes to the martyrs was to continue their mission till it reached its logical conclusion. – APP

IRSA releases 98800 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) Friday released 98800 cusecs water from various rim stations with an inflow of 53889 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1504.54 feet, which was 112.54 feet higher than its dead level 1392 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 25100 and 52000 cusecs respectively. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1178.40 feet, which was 128.04 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 11989 and 30000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 52700, 42187, and 30325 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 4600 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 12200 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala. – APP

VU celebrates Eid Milad-un-Nabi at 207 campuses

ISLAMABAD: Virtual University celebrated Eid Milad-un-Nabi with great zeal and fervor at all campuses across Pakistan. Virtual University's 207 campuses were adorned with colorful lights to commemorate the occasion. The main event was held at Virtual University's head office where students and staff of Virtual University participated in Mehfil-e-Darood-o-Salam. It was also graced by eminent personalities from all walks of life. Renowned Naat-Khans captivated the audience with their melodic voices and received great appreciation. A good number of students and staff of Virtual University participated in Naat-Khuani and Qirat of Quran. Dars-e-Quran was also given by eminent scholars to shed light on different aspects of the life of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him). The chief guest of the ceremony Rector, Virtual University Prof. Dr. Arshad Saleem Bhatti emphasized the need for promoting unity based on the teachings of the Prophet (Peace be upon him) who is a beacon of light for us and provides guidance on every aspect of life. – APP

Senate offers Fateha

ISLAMABAD: The Senate on Friday offered Fateha for the departed souls of renowned scientist Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, police, levies and armed forces martyred in various incidents, paramedical staff and doctors who lost their lives in COVID-19 pandemic. Senator Mushtaq Ahmed offered the Fateha on the request of Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani. – APP

Briefs

ICT police
introducing
corruption-
free system

AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad police were introducing a technology-based and corruption-free smart system to facilitate complainers, said Inspector General of Police (IGP) Qazi Jamil ur Rehman on Friday.

He said the department had installed a modern digital system through which interaction of police with common citizens will be strictly monitored. In an interview with a private news channel, IG said that corruption, abuse of power, killing and torture in police custody at any level would not be tolerated and action would be ensured against the officers and personnel involved in such irregularities, adding, through this digital control room all officers would be strictly monitored.

He said with digitalization of monitoring system a special attention would be given to improve the quality of investigation so that the society could be made crime-free by punishing the professional accused involved in serious crimes.

IG said the aim of this modern technology was to ensure effective policing and to check conduct of police officials with citizens, adding, such steps would improve the image of the police force while trust of citizens on police would also increase.

He said a citizen can register his/her complaint through various modes of communication including SMS, online portal, email, telephone, fax, by post and in person. Under the new digital system, every complaint would be entered with a unique and transparent system, he added. Islamabad police was introducing reforms in police stations with the aim to make it more public-friendly and improve public service delivery up to the expectations of the general public, he added.

Police
recover baby
abducted
from hospital

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Police have recovered a newborn boy who was abducted from Holy Family (HF) Hospital four days ago. According to a police spokesman, unidentified persons had allegedly abducted a newborn from the intensive care unit of the Holy Family Hospital.

An abduction case was registered on Oct 31 at the New Town police station and police started investigation. Police utilized all available resources and managed to recover the baby boy with the help of modern tactics and human intelligence.

An accused was also arrested for abducting the child. The police officers shifted the newborn boy to the hospital where the infant was handed over to the parents.

City Police Officer, Rawalpindi Muhammad Ahsan Younas, SSP Operations, SP Rawal, SP Potohar, ASP New Town and police team were present on the occasion. The citizens and staff of the hospital appreciated hectic efforts made by the police and thanked the CPO for taking personal interest to recover the abducted baby. — APP

NUML
hockey team
wins C'ship

ISLAMABAD: Hockey team of the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) won the final of Higher Education Commission (HEC) inter university zonal championship 2021-22. Tournament was held at Naseer Bunda Hockey stadium, sports complex Islamabad. Eleven universities of Islamabad, AJK and GB participated in the tournament. Rector NUML Major General Muhammad Jaffar HI (M) felicitated the team on winning the championship and urged them to prepare wholeheartedly for upcoming All Pakistan Inter-Universities Hockey Championship, to be held in January 2022. — APP

Pakistan-US relations rely
on economic co-op: Experts

Former Senator Javed Jabbar discussed the socio-cultural dimension of Pak-US relations and presented an interesting comparison between the US and Pakistani cultures

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan needs to put its own house in order, gradually reduce dependence on major powers and negotiate more astutely in order to protect its national interests in a changing world order. This was stated by leading diplomats, former senior military officers and eminent intellectuals at the National Seminar on 'The Future of Pak-US Relations: Challenges & Opportunities' organized by the Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS) in Islamabad. Eminent speakers included former Foreign Minister Ambassador Inam-ul-Haq, former Foreign Secretary and Director CASS Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani, former Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Senator Javed Jabbar, Director CASS for Economic Affairs and National Development Dr Usman W. Chohan and Air Vice Marshal Shahzad Aslam Chaudhry (Retd), senior defence and security analyst.

The seminar was chaired by President CASS Air Marshal Farhat Hussain Khan (Retd), while Syed Muhammad Ali, Director Nuclear & Strategic Affairs at the Centre delivered the welcome remarks and moderated the event. Ambassador Inam-ul-Haq, while analyzing the emerging geopolitical dy-



namics & options for Pakistan, stated that Pakistan's options, amidst accelerating Sino-US strategic competition, depend upon its ability to set its own house in order, by building its economy and improving its governance. He warned that Pakistan would come under pressure from both sides. He also advised that Pakistan should avoid advocating Afghan Taliban's case in the world and argued that they have successfully negotiated with the United States in Doha and are capable of doing their diplomacy so Pakistan should let them do it themselves. He further emphasized the need to focus on domestic social issues including population control, education and health.

Former Senator Javed Jabbar discussed the socio-cultural dimension of Pak-US relations and presented an inter-

esting comparison between the US and Pakistani cultures. He stressed the need to significantly increase Pakistan's very limited cultural outreach to help improve its international image.

Dr Usman W. Chohan analyzed the future of Pak-US economic relations during which he highlighted the importance of the US as the biggest export market for Pakistan and emphasized the need to improve ease of doing business and bolstering institutions to achieve sustainable growth. He also recommended expanding Pakistan's exports in order to reduce economic dependence on international financial institutions, which was increasingly becoming strangulating. Air Vice Marshal Shahzad Aslam Chaudhry (Retd), while reviewing the Pak-US security relations said that Pakistan's military has relied on a com-

bination of high and medium tech platforms because of the country's technology dependence on major powers. He further argued that the US' technological leadership is driven by its human resource, research, innovation and entrepreneurship, and suggested that Pakistan should neither close doors for anyone, nor devise blocs or celebrate someone else's victory.

Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani presented the way forward for Pak-US relations and was of the view that Pakistan was caught in the crossfire between the US-China rivalry and there was a growing fear that it may no longer be able to maintain the neutrality that it had so far carefully maintained.

He identified the evolving geopolitical environment, US-India strategic partnership, Indian lobbying and Pakistan's close relations with

China as key factors that were collectively influencing US policies towards Pakistan.

He lauded the growing role and influence of Pakistani diaspora in the United States and cautioned that Indian diaspora was now virtually a part of the US political system.

President CASS Air Marshal Farhat Hussain Khan, while delivering the concluding address stated that Pakistan has offered exceptional and unprecedented cooperation to help the US promote its geopolitical and geostrategic interests within South, Central and West Asia.

This cooperation had helped Pakistan develop its infrastructure, equip its military forces and receive financial assistance but it had also affected Pakistan's internal security, damaged its social fabric, discouraged Foreign Direct Investment and made

the country economically and militarily dependent. He hoped that the future Pak-US relationship would be based on charting a course which respects the values, national interests and aspirations of both nations, facilitates greater trade and economic cooperation and also recognizes Pakistan's security compulsions.

In addition, he stressed the need to improve the understanding of the political systems and processes of world powers, institutionalization of the negotiation process and giving top priority to the national interests in all international engagements.

The National Seminar was well attended by a large number of diplomats, senior military officers, heads of various think tanks, scholars, journalists and students, who actively participated in the question and answer session.



ISLAMABAD: UK High Commissioner Christian Turner with Pakistan's youngest climate change activist Fatima Faraz along with Federal minister of Finance & Revenue Hamad Azhar poses for a photo. — DNA

Islamic calligraphy
art pieces attract
visitors at Lok Mela

ISLAMABAD: A collection of Islamic calligraphy art pieces was put on display here at Punjab Pavilion of week-long Lok Mela by renowned artist Muhammad Azeem Iqbal. The display primarily focussed on the messages of peace and harmony through Quranic verses and letters. Azeem Iqbal uses various mediums like leather, stone, wood, bamboo, gold, bronze, copper, and hand-crafted paper blended with Aabe Zamzam to create beautiful pieces. Azeem Iqbal is a self-taught artist and gets his inspiration from nature with the belief that calligraphy is a field of love and devotion. The display captures the golden period of the Holy Prophet



Muhammad (PBUH) to different eras of Islamic civilizations and the present century. Azeem Iqbal said that Islamic Calligraphy has strong components of communicative vehicles in the shape of its words in all the known languages of the world, which is governed by strict rules. — APP

JKNF terms Jammu massacre
as Muslim holocaust

“Tens of thousands of hapless Muslim families were driven out of their homes, forced to flee and take refuge in newly formed state of Pakistan”

ISLAMABAD: Jammu Kashmir National Front (JKNF) while paying rich tributes to martyrs of Jammu said on Friday that the massacre goes down in Kashmir history as a Muslim holocaust in which hundreds and thousands of men, women and even children were ruthlessly killed and murdered in cold blood.

In a statement received on the eve of Jammu Martyrs' Day, the JKNF spokesman while recalling the dreadful memories of the tragic events that shook the entire

state said, “The massacre marks the beginning of systematic genocide and ethnic cleansing of Muslims”. The entire Muslim population, he said, was wiped out with a mala-fide intent to alter the region's demography.

“Tens of thousands of hapless Muslim families were driven out of their homes, forced to flee and take refuge in newly formed state of Pakistan”, he said adding that it was the time when Muslim majority region was virtually reduced to a minority

after a stage-managed and dreadful massacre carried out by Hindu goons under the supervision of Dogra troops. Referring to India's August 5, 2019 unilateral move, the Front spokesman said that after the abrogation of article 370 and 35 A the India's racist regime was hell bent on to change the demographic complexion of the entire state of Jammu and Kashmir.

“Since 1947 there has been no change in India's Kashmir policy. Though many faces have changed but the

script written decades ago is pursued in letter and spirit by all and it does not matter who is ruling the country, be it the so-called secular party-the Congress, Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) or any other”, he said, adding, they all are chips of the same block. The spokesman further said that it was high time that the global community must take effective notice of India's brutal suppression of Kashmiris and it's belligerent policies that pose existential threat to Kashmiris. — APP

COMSTECH holds
webinar on use of
nanomaterials

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH has started a lecture series program on “Emerging Technologies”. This program is an effort to help upcoming scientists in identifying key areas of scientific research which are contributing immensely in the well-being of the humankind.

The first lecture of this series was given by Dr. Abdulreza Simchi of Sharif University of Technology, Iran, online on the application of nanomaterials in medicine. Dr. Simchi said that there are many applications of nanomaterials along with the application in

the field of medicine.

Dr. Simchi talked about the basics of nanomaterials and their use. He said that today nanomaterials are used for drug delivery, therapy, bio-imaging, regenerative medicine, bio-sensing and bioinformatics. He elaborated each topic in detail and mentioned experiments conducted by his team. Dr. Simchi concluded his talk by saying that there is a plenty of room for development of nanomaterials for biomedical applications.

Dr. Simchi is a distinguished Professor of Engineering Science and Materials Engineering and a fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Bonn, Germany.

Campaign
started
against fake
number
plates

ISLAMABAD: A campaign against irregular number plates and unauthorized police lights was in full swing on National Highways and Motorways. National Highway and Motorway Police (NHMP) has issued directives to the road users (drivers) to use valid number plates as the vehicle without unofficial number plate will not be allowed on Motorways, said a statement.

NH&MP directed road users that no entry would be allowed on motorways without standardized number plates. The NH&MP is committed to facilitate the public through strict enforcement of traffic laws on motorways and national highways and road safety education.

According to NH&MP, about 17 million traffic violations were enforced to ensure supremacy of law on motorways and national highways. The National Highways and Motorway Police working day and night to make road users journey safe on roads. About 1.9 million calls received on the helpline 130 this year. More than seven thousands calls have been attended through Toll Free Help Line 130 on daily basis. — APP

Pakistan Post
rest houses
available to
public

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Post rest houses facility is available at affordable rates for the general public in various major cities of the country. According to Pakistan Post, Category-A, rest houses were available in Karachi City, Multan, Jhelum, Mianwali, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Nathia Gali, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Shadman Lahore, Lahore Cantt, Sialkot GPO, Sialkot Cantt, Faisalabad GPO and Quetta. Category-B, rest houses were available at Attock, Murree GPO, Chitral, Abbottabad, Ayubia, Kohat, D I Khan, Mirpurkhas, Sorab, Amri, Taftan, Qallat, Muzaffarabad, Mirpur, Kotli, Gilgit, Sust, Skardu, Gujrat, Sargodha and Layyah. While category-C rest houses were available Pindi Point Murree, Saidu Sharif, Bannu, Ziarat and Sialkot Cantt. The rent per day Category-A Rs3000, Category-B per day rent Rs22,00 and Category-C per day rent Rs1200. According to Pakistan Post, reservation will be made through official website by filling up application form given on website, adding that reservation is available for maximum 05 days. “Maximum 02 persons are allowed in a room with maximum 02 minor children up to age of 10 years.” — APP

COVID claims
one life &
ten new
infections

RAWALPINDI: Ten more COVID-19 positive cases were reported during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 39,037 in the district while one lost his battle of life against the deadly virus.

As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority here Friday, the total infected cases included 36,048 from Rawalpindi and 2989 from other districts.

Among the new cases, the report said four belonged to Gujar Khan, three from Kahutta, while one each case has arrived from Rawal town, Potohar town and Taxila.

“Presently 19 confirmed patients were admitted to four city facilities, counting ten in Institute of Urology, five in Benazir Bhutto Hospital, three in Fauji Foundation Hospital and one in Bilal hospital,” the report said. District Health Authority updated that 37,728 patients have been discharged after recovery, 34,746 with Rawalpindi and 2982 from other districts. The report informed that 185 were quarantined, including 101 at home and 84 in the isolation centers.

The report further updated that 3,343,727 people, including 43,862 health workers, had jabbed themselves against the lethal coronavirus (COVID-19) across the district since the vaccination administering drive launched on March 10.

The positivity rate was recorded at 0.52 per cent during the last 24 hours in the district, it added. — APP

Social media workshop schools entrepreneurs

The workshop titled “Volunteers’ social media training for effective awareness campaigns” was organized by the Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO)

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: A three-day training workshop was organized in Islamabad on Friday in order to equip youth with skills about how to tap potential of social media platform to promote entrepreneurship. The workshop titled “Volunteers’ social media training for effective awareness campaigns” was organized by the Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO). Core objective of the training workshop was to equip and build the capacity of Pakistani youth with modern social media tools and techniques for digital advocacy on Global Sustainable Development Goals like Education, Social Cohesion, Gender Equality and Climate Change.

“This is the third training of this year, and 11 more similar training workshops are planned for youth in Sindh and Punjab,” said Muhammad Bilal, Project Delivery Officer VSO, during his address to the participants. He further said that the VSO has been work-



ing in Pakistan since 1987, building healthy communities and supporting people to develop sustainable and resilient livelihoods. The organization has also launched a social media awareness campaign named ‘AWAL INSAAN’

to create awareness around social issues on quality education, social cohesion, and gender equality while building stronger, positive image of the country and youth role in development.

As many as 25 participants attended this training workshop from Rawalpindi and Islamabad. In the concluding discussion of the workshop participants were confident to utilize training knowledge and learning in social development of their respective communities and bring constructive change through digital campaigns.

The training workshop was moderated by Skill Gains where Mariam Afzal Ali and Yasir Bajwa were the trainers of the workshop. The trainers emphasized on the importance of digital advocacy particularly during and after the COVID-19 pandemic worldwide. About the significance of social media, the trainers said this platform is cost effective for various enterprises, social projects, and non-profit sector of Pakistan for creating awareness, generating livelihood, and ensuring education.

During the three-day training workshop, interactive sessions, in-person group activities, networking and mock exercises were also carried out to brainstorm modern trends of digital communications.

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Telemetry system

EARLIER this week, it was reported that a parliamentary panel asked the government to immediately install the telemetry system at all water discharge stations and to also appoint independent experts for the measurement of water quantities. During a meeting of the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Water Resources, the panel also directed Indus River System Authority (IRSA) to ensure water distribution among the provinces as per the shares fixed in the 1991 water apportionment accord.

The implementation of the telemetry measurement system has been under discussion for a long time, and it is a little baffling that we are still unable to resolve the longstanding issue of equitable water distribution. A monitoring mechanism has not been developed for decades. As a result, current water accounts are based on the historical data of river flows, compiled and reported by provinces. Currently, the assessment of divisible water resources is made manually, which causes suspicions that readings are being maneuvered by provinces leading to discontent and acrimony.

Having such disputes in this day and age is unacceptable. Throughout the summer there were serious inter-provincial disputes over the provision of water and IRSA has failed to come up with an acceptable resolution to the issue. In developed countries, water supply networks are fully equipped with multi-function telemetry systems for real time monitoring of water quantity, quality, sediment flow, snow and ice melt, weather forecasting and meteorological data for improved decision-making.

It is high time that we implement this technology at the earliest since this issue has a significant bearing on our agriculture sector as well. A proper telemetry system along with independent inspectors would lead to the implementation of the water apportionment accord in letter and spirit and in an environment of trust.

Focus on importance

THINGS seem to be returning to normal, after nearly two years of restrictions. On Friday, even the world's most locked-down city emerged from its latest spate of restrictions designed to combat the spread of Covid-19. After 62 days, or nearly nine months, of restrictions during six separate lockdowns, Melbourne's restaurants, pubs and hair salons opened to frenzied residents, who were jubilant to see an active public sphere again.

Slowly, but surely, as vaccination campaigns are carried out, all countries are easing Covid-19 restrictions. While this is good news for a lot of local industries, this has a particularly large impact on the travel and tourism industry, a lot of which had been almost defunct due to the pandemic. Travel procedures, particularly for international travel, have in most cases remained strict, even as countries went in and out of lockdowns. Easier travel de facto means a return of tourism.

Pakistan must respond to the global return to normalcy, and that means more focus on tourism, which had suffered many setbacks to the pandemic. Tourism had been a priority of this government before the pandemic. PTI government projects had hoped to earn Rs. 1 trillion from tourism by 2025. Pakistan's tourism revenue is estimated at \$19.4 billion, which makes up about 6.9 percent of GDP, and leads to 6.3 percent of total employment. This is a disappointing number, considering countries of far-smaller size, and with fewer tourist spots than Pakistan, earn more from tourism. Considering the current economic downturn, Pakistan needs to utilise any asset to balance our current account, and tourism has great potential. There are some gaping problems that cannot be ignored. Most glaringly are the inadequate travel facilities- Malakand Division (comprising Swat, Dir, etc) is served by a non-functional airport at Saidu Sharif. The small airport at Chitral cannot take larger planes; and the fleet of ATR, operated by PIA, has many limitations, with passengers seeing many flight delays and turbulence. These issues need to be straightened out as soon as possible if Pakistan ever hopes to make tourism a substantial contributor to our balance of payments.

Palestinian statehood will always be the solution

Nadim Shehadi

A peace process gazetteer and biographical dictionary would include so many names and places. Oslo is associated with the PLO-Israel secret agreement; then there were the Washington talks, the Annapolis talks, the Moscow talks, and the Camp David talks of 2000, just before the Second Intifada

SAUDI Arabia, followed by Bahrain, the UAE and Kuwait, cut their ties with Lebanon last week because it had fallen under the control of the resistance axis of Hezbollah and Iran. Thirty years after the Madrid Peace Conference of 1991, the region is still divided along a fault line that is principally defined by the acceptance or rejection of the idea of Arab-Israeli peace.

The division is fueled by the plight of Palestinians, who are either under occupation in the West Bank, under siege in Gaza or stateless in refugee camps. If we had a map of the Middle East color coded according to which camp dominates, then the boycott of Lebanon abandons it to the resistance camp. Only a Palestinian state can be a game-changer between the two camps, pulling the rug from under the feet of the rejectionists. Afif Safieh served as Palestinian ambassador to London, Washington and Moscow, among other capitals, and is known for his wit and humor. He once replied to a diplomat who told him that Oslo, meaning the Oslo Accords, put Palestine on the map by saying: "My friend, it is Palestine that put Norway on the map." The Madrid conference, which concluded on Nov. 1, 1991, also appeared on that map, together with a long list of other cities and people that are now historically associated with the question of Palestine.

Algiers is associated with the Palestinian declaration of independence in November 1988, when Yasser Arafat accepted, for the first time, UN Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967, thereby recognizing the existence of Israel and seeking a two-state solution. In Paris a year later, he was asked if this did not contradict the Palestinian Liberation Organization charter and he replied, in French, that the charter was "caduc." This made everybody scramble for their dictionaries and discover a variant of the Latin word "caducus," meaning fallen or no longer standing. This, together with the aftermath of the first Gulf War, led to Madrid, which was the first time that Arab and Israeli leaders had met face to face in the same room. The Palestinians were there as part of a Jordanian delegation as the Israelis refused to meet with them alone. Hanan Ashrawi made her first dazzling appearance and rumor has it that a member of the Israeli delegation observed her eloquence with concern and said: "We should have insisted that Yasser Arafat was the sole representative of the Palestinians."

A peace process gazetteer and biographical dictionary would include so many names and places. Oslo is associated with the PLO-Israel secret agreement; then there were the Washington talks, the Annapolis talks, the Moscow talks, and the Camp David talks of 2000, just before the Second Intifada. These were followed by the King Abdullah plan, building on the King Fahd plan, which became the Beirut Declaration and was later called the Arab Peace Initiative. There were also the Clinton Parameters, George W. Bush's road map for peace, the Israeli Peace Initiative, the clandestine talks of the Tokyo initiative, which later became the Geneva Initiative, and last on the list before complete deadlock were the Kerry Peace Initiative talks.

Businessmen like Leon Charney from Bayonne, New Jersey, and Ronald Lauder, the Estee Lauder cosmetics brand heir, together with academics like Edward Said of Columbia University, all joined the bandwagon. There have been hundreds of initiatives producing literally tons of reports from bilateral tracks, multilateral tracks, track II meetings, the Middle East Quartet, steering committees, working groups, expert groups, focus groups, secret talks, and research projects.

When donors ran out of ideas for acronyms, such as the AHLIC (Ad Hoc Liaison Committee), they formed a committee that no one knew the name of, so it became literally "the group with no name," coordinated by the Canadians. The Middle East peace process also brought us Henry Kissinger's "step-by-step diplomacy" and

James Baker's "shuttle diplomacy," as well as slogans like "nothing is agreed until everything is agreed."

Another story is that of when King Hussein of Jordan and Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir had their secret rendezvous in 1972. She told him that he must understand that "Israel is a country surrounded by enemies." His reply was, "How should I know; we are only surrounded by friends," barely two years after his country was threatened by an invasion from Syria. The image is very different today: A glance at the map shows Israel to be surrounded by more friends than enemies. A clear majority of Arab states are either at peace with Israel or moving toward it.

Another indication of change is that the Arab Spring protests of 2011 were the first time that such demonstrations were not about burning American and Israeli flags. And there is a whole industry of novels, documentaries and books expressing nostalgia for the Jews of the Arab world, harking back to more cosmopolitan times. On the ground, there are two distinct entities and two separate governments, both of which could do with much more separation. Yet, one essential component remains missing: A Palestinian state. When the Palestinian state was declared in 1988, it was recognized by 78 other nations before the year was out, and that number has since risen to 138. There is almost zero chance that its existence will be formalized by the negotiations between Israel and the PLO. This is mainly because of two conditions: One is that "nothing is agreed until everything is agreed" and the other is that the final status talks will constitute the "end of all claims" for both parties.

Palestinian lawyers reject the idea that the state will be "created" by the negotiations because the state already exists. What is needed is for the state to be "actualized" by a UNSC resolution admitting Palestine as a full-fledged member of the UN. There are no two adjacent states that have no problems – the states of Israel and Palestine will simply have more problems than others and some of these problems will be unresolvable for a long time. The existence of two states would be a total game-changer; it would release all the plans, initiatives and ideas that have been proposed and most of the problems would gradually be resolved. Those that can't be resolved, don't have to be. It would also undermine the agenda of the resistance axis and give a boost to the other side, including in Lebanon and Iraq, where there are active protest movements against the Iranian-led militias.

– Courtesy: Arab News

Climate change is an emergency for everyone

Filippo Grandi

In Afghanistan – one of the most fragile countries in the world suffering from four decades of conflict – the compounding impacts of climate change are having profound consequences for those least able to cope. UNHCR has worked in Afghanistan for more than 40 years. I personally served in the country for several years. The protracted conflict has had an irrevocable effect – forcing people to leave the country but also causing internal displacement. A prolonged drought meant many Afghans were struggling to feed their families even before recent developments left...

IN the run-up to COP26, much of the conversation has dealt with predictions about the future and forthcoming pledges for more decisive action: carbon neutral by 2030, net zero by 2050. But for millions of people around the world, climate change is already a daily reality. Ninety percent of refugees under UNHCR's mandate, and 70 percent of people displaced within their home countries by conflict and violence, come from countries on the front lines of the climate emergency. They are vulnerable not only to extreme weather like floods or cyclones, but also to seeing their livelihoods dry up due to drought and desertification. From Burkina Faso to Bangladesh, and from Afghanistan to Mozambique, climate change is increasing poverty, instability and human movement; it is fuelling tensions and competition over dwindling resources. Outbreaks of violence and extreme weather push people who have already fled once to flee again. But even if peace is restored, displaced people cannot go back if their home areas have been made uninhabitable by drought, floods or rising sea levels.

What we are seeing now is a devastating convergence of conflict and climate change that is both driving displacement and making life even more precarious for those already forced to flee. Some of the most climate-vulnerable countries are mired in conflicts that have lasted for decades and devastated generations.

In Afghanistan – one of the most fragile countries in the world suffering from four decades of conflict – the compounding impacts of climate change are having profound consequences for those least able to cope. UNHCR has worked in Afghanistan for more than 40 years. I personally served in the country for several years. The protracted conflict has had an irrevocable effect – forcing people to leave the country but also

causing internal displacement.

A prolonged drought meant many Afghans were struggling to feed their families even before recent developments left the economy on the verge of collapse. Any further deterioration of the humanitarian situation will almost inevitably lead to yet more displacement in a country where 665,000 people have already been forced from their homes this year. To many readers in wealthier countries, this may seem like a distant problem in distant lands. But the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warned in August that irreversible changes in the Earth's climate are being observed in every region. This year alone, catastrophic flooding killed more than 200 people in Europe, heatwaves caused deaths in Canada, and wildfires have raged in Siberia, across the Mediterranean and along the western coasts of the United States and Canada.

The world is finally waking up to the fact that climate change is an emergency for everyone, everywhere. The stark reality, though, is those who did the least to contribute to it are already suffering the most. If some of the most prosperous and advanced nations have struggled to help their populations recover and adapt to an increasingly unpredictable climate, what does this mean for a country like Mozambique? One of the least developed countries in the world, it is grappling with violent attacks that have displaced more than 730,000 people while struggling to recover from a series of cyclones, including Cyclone Idai in March 2019 – one of the worst storms ever recorded in the southern hemisphere.

The longer we delay global action and support to countries like Mozambique, so they can mitigate the effects of climate change, the worse the consequences will be. Estimates predict that without ambitious climate action, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance due to disasters could increase to 200 million annually by 2050 – twice the current number.

What can we do and what are we doing? UNHCR has operations in more than 130 countries and 70 years of experience protecting the displaced. We are using this expertise and knowledge to help countries with limited means and resources to better anticipate and respond to displacement caused by disasters. In places where people are already displaced, we are helping them prepare for and adapt to climate change.

In Bangladesh, for example, UNHCR and partners have been helping Rohingya refugees reduce the risk of flooding and landslides during monsoon season by planting fast-growing trees to stabilise hillsides, providing alternative energy sources to firewood for cooking, and training refugee volunteers as first responders. We are ready to step up our response, but we need help to do so. Some of the solutions will be financial; some of them technical. But most will need to come from communities on the front lines of the climate emergency. Their voices must be heard at COP and beyond. They have generational knowledge of the land, and therefore, ancestral solutions which can be applied.

The human costs of climate change are here and now. If our collective efforts to drastically reduce emissions and limit global warming fall short, the landscape in which UNHCR operates today risks becoming a universal reality. Younger generations are rightfully fighting for their future human rights. We are now beyond pledges – we need action and accountability.

– Courtesy: Al Jazeera

November 6-1947: Jammu Muslims' Massacre in IIOJK

Muhammad Akhter



In this regard, Udhampur, Reasi, Khatia, Ramsu, Ramnagar, Yanihaur Kotli, towns were bleeding-shed with the blood of Muslims

NOVEMBER 6, 1947 is the blackest day in the history of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). It is also a dark chapter of Muslim genocide in modern history, on this day over Two Lac Muslims were martyred when they were migrating to Pakistan. In addition, the day of November 6, 1947 has a symbolic value in terms of the accession of the State of Jammu to Pakistan. This day is celebrated all over Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan and all over the world in memory of these martyrs. It should be noted, these sacrifices told the

whole world that the people of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) want to live with Pakistan. The planning of genocide was started on the very first day, when the creation of Pakistan was announced. On July 19, the Muslim Conference passed a resolution for the state's accession to Pakistan. Keeping in view of passion and love with Pakistan by the people of the Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), the Hindu and Dogra regime were shaken and they began the implementation of a plan to eliminate Muslims.

In this regard, Udhampur, Reasi, Khatia, Ramsu, Ramnagar, Yanihaur Kotli, towns were bleeding-shed with the blood of Muslims. Thousands of villagers were tricked out of their homes and shot down by extremist Hindus and Sikhs. Keep in mind here, the activists of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) played a vital role in planning and executing the targeted genocide of Muslims in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Moreover, Thousands of innocent girls and women were abducted. The massacre was so well-organized that no one in Jammu and Srinagar was aware of it and even when the massacre took place in Jammu in the early days of November, no one in Srinagar was aware of it. In fact, all this happened at the behest of the Congress government. It is pertinent to mention here, for last 74 year Kashmiris are being subjected to genocide through a comprehensive strategy under the rule of Hindutva ideology. Today, the modus operandi of Indian occupied forces includes; Demographic change, enforced disappearances, Custodial Killings and other tactics.

In my point of view, the solution to the Kashmir issue is possible only when the three parties to the issue, Pakistan, India and the Kashmiri leadership, come together and find a dignified solution. But, India is pursuing the policy of ducking the Kashmir issue. The first Prime Minister of India had promised the international community and the Kashmiris themselves that the Kashmiris would be given the right to self-determination. But, on contrary to that with the passage of time India's position changed, and the promise is not fulfilled yet. Lasting peace in South Asia is possible only if this long-standing dispute between the two nuclear armed countries is resolved. If this is not done, peace, security and stability in the region are not possible.

In case of any debacle in the region, the world community should keep in mind; India is solely responsible for this, who's running away from United Nations' resolutions for plebiscite in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The escalation of tensions between Pakistan and India due to India's aggressive occupation of the occupied valley and its aggressive attitude cannot be ignored. India has also made arrangements to take matters in this direction.

If the Kashmir issue is not resolved, it is not possible to end the tension between the two nuclear powers. If this issue leads to the use of nuclear power, it will have devastating effects on world peace. Therefore, it is imperative that the international community play its role in resolving the Kashmir issue and try to avoid a potentially catastrophic situation.

– The writer is a Freelance Columnist. He can be reached at @MAkhter_ (on Twitter).

Briefs

POL prices
cheapest in
region: PM

FROM PAGE 01

"When there was inflation in the whole world then obviously Pakistan is in this same world and not in the heavens so we also had to be affected. As a result, we fully tried and are still trying to protect our people from this inflation." The prime minister's comments come the same day as the government increased petroleum prices by up to Rs8.14 per litre with immediate effect to ensure the revival of the International Monetary Fund programme. In his address, the prime minister also commented on the hike in the price of sugar, saying it had "suddenly" reached Rs140 per kilogramme because three sugar mills in Sindh had been closed. "When those three mills closed in Sindh, sugar [price] went up to Rs140. I had the reason investigated and it was found out that sugar mills here started hoarding. "It was found out that since July, sugar mills had taken a stay order against [the relevant] law which is why our government couldn't do anything. Then it was found out that the Competition Commission had imposed a fine of Rs40 billion because they (the mills) had colluded to raise prices, but there was a stay order on that too," he said. Noting that the mills had also taken a stay order against the Federal Board of Revenue levy, the premier directed officials to "immediately vacate this stay order", saying it was injustice with the people. "Ask them today to take action on this; it is very easy for sugar mills to stop supply together and then prices increase and they make billions. "When anyone takes steps against them then they take stay orders. So I will request for full proceedings against them," he added. In the beginning, Prime Minister Imran congratulated Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar and Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid over the mother and child hospital project.

'Difficult time will end soon'

FROM PAGE 01

Addressing Abbasi and Ismail, he called on the two PML-N leaders to develop "courage" and to clearly say that Dar's policies had ruined the country's economy. Talking about sugar prices, Chaudhry said that reports of a hike in prices were primarily coming from Karachi. "The cost of essential commodities in Karachi is extremely high," he added. He noted that the price of a bag of wheat flour was Rs380 more in Karachi as compared to Punjab. Similarly, other essentials including sugar are also more expensive in Sindh, he said. "The Sindh government needs to clarify its position. First, they didn't release wheat and now they are delaying cane crushing. What is their agenda, what do they want?" He said the difficulties being faced by the people of urban Sindh were a direct result of the provincial government's policies.

Glasgow 'make or break' for climate

WELLINGTON: Jacinda Ardern has warned the Glasgow climate summit is "make or break" in the fight to curb global warming, saying the world is now paying the price for decades of procrastination. The New Zealand leader called for the UN-brokered talks to result in immediate and meaningful action, adding "we're definitely at a point now where it's moved beyond targets". "Glasgow is critical and I think everyone has recognised this juncture we're at," she told AFP in an interview conducted in partnership with Covering Climate Now, the New Zealand Herald and NBC News. "This is the moment where it will be make or break for those ambitions that we've seen around 1.5 degrees. "We know what falling short of 1.5 degrees means for our selves of the world, for our selves and our region." Ardern said climate change was already fuelling extreme weather in New Zealand and neighbouring Pacific atolls faced inundation as rising waters overran their protective seawalls. - APP

NZ boost semi-final prospects with win over Namibia

Namibia kept NZ in check but Glenn Phillips and James Neeshan smacked all over the ground in the last four overs. They scored 67 and led NZ total to 163/4

SPORTS DESK

SHARJAH: New Zealand have strengthened their semi-final prospects with a 52-run win over Namibia in Group 2's fixture of ICC Men's T20 World Cup at Sharjah International Stadium. Blackcaps posted a 164-run target courtesy of late heroics from Glenn Phillips and James Neeshan. Bowlers restricted Namibia to 111/7 and claimed a convincing win. New Zealand will now play their last group game against Afghanistan in Abu Dhabi on November 7. A win against Afghanistan will see them qualify for the semi-finals. Earlier, Namibia captain Gerhard Erasmus decided to bowl first against New Zealand. Blackcaps' opening duo of Martin Gupthill and Daryl Mitchell looked good but fell after getting starts. Veteran David Wiese removed Gupthill (18) to give Namibia their first breakthrough while Bernard Scholtz removed Mitchell (19) on the second ball of the seventh over. Skipper Kane Williamson and Devon Conway paired up to provide stability but Namibian bowlers kept them quiet in middle-overs. While looking to accelerate, Williamson was clean bowled by his opposite number Gerhard Erasmus. He scored 28 off 25, powered by two fours and six.



Meanwhile, Erasmus executed an impressive piece of fielding in the following over. He ran out Conway while the batters were looking to complete double. Conway made 17 off 18 balls. Namibia kept New Zealand in check but Glenn Phillips and James

Neeshan smacked all over the ground in the last four overs. They scored 67 and led New Zealand's total to 163/4. Phillips scored unbeaten 39 off 21 balls which included three sixes and a four while Neeshan made 23-ball 35m powered by two sixes and a four.

Bravo to retire after World Cup

SPORTS DESK

DUBAI: West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo said he will retire from international cricket after their final Super 12 game at the Twenty20 World Cup against Australia on Saturday. Holders West Indies were eliminated from contention for the semi-finals on Thursday following defeat by Sri Lanka. Bravo, who had come out of retirement to help West Indies defend the title, has won the T20 World Cup twice as well as the 50-overs ICC Champions Trophy in 2004. "I think the time has come, I've had a very good career. To represent the West Indies for 18 years, had some ups and downs," Bravo, 38, said in a post-match interview.

Erasmus was brilliant with his off-spinners as he bowled four overs and conceded only 22 while Scholtz bowled three overs for 1/15. In return, Namibia were cautious in their approach. Michael van Lingen and Stephan Baard scored run in powerplay.

Australia postpones Afghanistan Test

SYDNEY: Australia on Friday postponed a landmark first-ever cricket Test against Afghanistan, amid fears the country's ruling Taliban regime will ban women from playing the sport. Australia's cricketing authorities said that after consultation with "relevant stakeholders" it was decided the men's Test, to be played in Hobart this month, would not go ahead as planned. After ousting the elected government in August, senior Taliban leaders said Afghan women would no longer play cricket, or any other sport. Under the regime's headline reading of Islamic law, women are also barred from going to school and most public roles. Senior Australian cricketers had indicated they would like to see the Test cancelled if the de facto ban on women's cricket remains in place. Afghanistan's men are currently playing in the T20 World Cup but have been warned they face an international ban if the country fails to field a side at the upcoming women's World Cup in New Zealand. In a statement, Cricket Australia said it was "committed to support growing the game for women and men in Afghanistan and around the world". "Given the present uncertainty, (Cricket Australia) felt it necessary to postpone the Test match until a later time when the situation is clearer." - APP



KARACHI: Players from Hong Kong and USA in action during first semifinal of 15th CNS International Squash Championship at PN RK & JK Squash Complex. - DNA

Xavi set to take over as Barca coach



BARCELONA: Xavi Hernandez is free to take over as head coach of Barcelona after the Catalan club paid the release clause in his contract with Al-Sadd, the Qatari team said. Al-Sadd agreed to release Xavi, who is set to take the reins at his former club following the sacking of Ronald Koeman. "Xavi informed us a few days ago of his desire to go to Barcelona at this particular time, because of the critical stage his hometown club is going through, and we understand this and decided not to stand in his way," Al-Sadd CEO Turki al-Ali said in a statement on Friday. "The #AlSadd administration has agreed on Xavi's move to Barcelona after the payment of the release clause stipulated in the contract. We've agreed on cooperation with Barcelona in the future. Xavi is an important part of Al-Sadd's history and we wish him success." Barcelona sent vice president Rafa Yuste and director of football Mateu Alemany to Doha for talks on Wednesday. Xavi is set to replace caretaker coach Sergi Barjuan who was appointed after the club sacked Koeman following a 1-0 league defeat at Rayo Vallecano last month, their fourth loss in six games in all competitions. Barcelona had to let Lionel Messi leave the club before the season began and has admitted it is saddled with huge debts. Former Spain international Xavi joined Al-Sadd as a player in 2015 after 17 trophy-laden years with Barcelona, becoming their head coach after hanging up his boots in 2019. In April, the 41-year-old led his side to the Qatari domestic league title with the team remaining unbeaten. - Agencies

Dr Nauman apologises for on-screen spat with Shoaib

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Television (PTV) Anchorperson DrNaumanNiaz has apologised for his on-screen spat with former speedster Shoaib Akhtar. Akhtar quit live on air after facing "rude and obnoxious" behaviour during a show on PTV Sports, hosted by Niaz, few days back. Soon after, PTV decided to take Niaz and Akhtar off-air and a committee was formed to investigate the incident. "The repercussions of my on-air outburst is totally fair. To err is human, that should not have happened and for that I can apologise not only once but a million times. I know I hurt the sentiments of a lot of people and that in-



cludes Shoaib Akhtar, who has been a rocking star... regardless of the fact that it was his mistake or not," said Niaz on RaufKlasra's YouTube channel. "Shoaib was contracted with us [PTV Sports] on basis of exclusivity. People think that I'm just the host, they forget that I also sign his [Shoaib Akhtar] salary because I'm the head of

the channel," he said. "The problem which I was facing is that we give him retainer throughout the year and these big tournaments are the cash cows in terms of return of investment. So we announced him [as part of the show during the World Cup] but after that Shoaib asked me for increment in his salary or a fixed sum of money apart from his usu-

al retainer. Later, we met the managing director and agreed on a certain figure." "He [Shoaib] was supposed to join us for the World Cup transmission on October 17 but he was absent. Then I was told that he had gone to Dubai, where he appeared [on a TV show] with Harbhajan Singh. That was another issue for me because as state broadcasters there is an embargo, put in place by ministry of commerce in 2019, over business links with India due to our current political stance. I again absorbed that," he said. "When I contacted him, Shoaib said that he will come on Monday but he didn't turn up. We reached the Super 12s but he didn't turn up. Then he said that he isn't feeling well.

Punjab wins U-16 girls, boys U-17 hockey Inter-Provincial Hockey titles

LAHORE: Punjab U-16 girls trounced KP by a huge margin of 9-0 and Punjab U-17 boys outplayed Sindh by 4-2 in the final matches of Inter-Provincial Girls U-16, Boys U-17 Hockey Tournament played under the banner of Sports Board Punjab here at National Hockey Stadium on Friday. Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Fuad Hashim Rabbani, Director General Sports Punjab Javed Chohan and Secretary Live Stock and Dairy Development South Punjab Adnan Arshad Aulakh were guests of honour on this occasion. PHF Secretary Asif Bajwa, Director Sports, SBP Hafeez Bhatti, head coach of national hockey team Olympian Khawaja Junaid, Col (ret'd) Asif Naz Khokhar, Manager Punjab Boys hockey team Rana Nadeem Anjum and a large number of hockey players and enthusiasts were also present in closing ceremony. Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Fuad Hashim Rabbani, Director General Sports Punjab Javed Chohan, Secretary Live Stock and Dairy Development South Punjab Adnan Arshad Aulakh and Director Sports Hafeez Bhatti distributed cash prizes, medals and trophies among Girls U-16, Boys U-17 Hockey. The gold medalist teams were given cash prize of Rs 50,000, silver medalist teams Rs 30,000 and bronze medalist teams were awarded Rs 25,000 among Girls U-16 and Boys U-17 Hockey event. The U-16 Girls hockey event final match proved to be one-sided affair as Punjab girls' hockey team routed Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) by 9-0 quite convincingly. Punjab's Mehak Rasheed showed excellent form and netted three field goals in 8th, 15th and 26th minute. Sharika Sarwar and Saira Younis scored two goals each while the remaining two goals were scored by Sharay Murad and Maleeha Younis. - DNA

US calls on China not to limit journalists' freedom

WASHINGTON: The United States on Thursday urged China not to restrict access and movement for journalists reporting on next year's Winter Olympics in Beijing. The Foreign Correspondents' Club of China this week said it was concerned about a lack of transparency from organizers of the Feb. 4-20 Games. "We urge PRC officials not to limit freedom of movement and access for journalists and to ensure that they remain safe and able to report freely, including at the Olympic and the Paralympic Games," State Department spokesperson Ned Price said at a regular press briefing, referring to the People's Republic of China.

Activists are calling for the United States to impose a boycott or keep its officials from attending the games over China's treatment of Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities in its northwest, which the United States has said constitutes crimes against humanity and genocide. Price said he did not have an update on the U.S. position on participation in the Games. U.S. officials have in the past said they would consult allies on the matter. All participants at the Games will be subject to daily COVID-19 tests. International media will be enveloped in a "closed loop" including three clusters of venues - one in downtown Beijing, one in the outskirts near the Great Wall, and one to the northwest of the city, in Hebei province.

"International journalists' attempts to cover the preparations have been "continuously stymied" in breach of International Olympic Committee rules and China's promises made when it bid to host the Games, the Foreign Correspondents Club of China said in a Twitter thread on Tuesday "

International journalists' attempts to cover the preparations have been "continuously stymied" in breach of International Olympic Committee rules and China's promises made when it bid to host the Games, the Foreign Correspondents Club of China said in a Twitter thread on Tuesday. Organizers have denied or ignored requests for access, said the Beijing-based club, which shared testimony from members who said they were harassed and

abused for trying to provide independent coverage of preparations for the Games. At a regular press briefing on Friday, a foreign ministry spokesperson said that journalists were allowed to cover the Beijing Winter Olympics provided they abided by relevant laws and regulations. China firmly opposed the politicization of sports and was opposed to "fake news" reports that smeared China and the Beijing Winter Olympics, the spokesperson said. - Agencies

Govt allies, Opp. slam petrol price hike

FROM PAGE 01

"Imran Khan lets the axe of inflation fall on the public and then wonders why inflation is surging in the country," he tweeted. "Over the past three years, the price of edible oil has increased by over 130%," he added. The PML-N president said that the price of edible oil going up from Rs160 to Rs369 is unjustified, he said, adding that a "storm of inflation" had followed the prime minister's announcement of a relief package for the masses. "The hike in prices of petroleum products is proof that the government does not care about the poor," he wrote. He said that while the price of petrol had not surged past the Rs145 per litre mark, the government had exceeded the limits of ineptitude, corruption and incompetence. "Increasing the prices of petrol and diesel by Rs8 per litre will also have a direct effect on prices of other items. It has become difficult for the common man to live," he wrote. He said it was in the best interests of the entire nation and the masses that the prime minister "goes home instead of wreaking further havoc", adding that inflation, unemployment and "economic destruction" do not go away merely via allegations of corruption.

Afghan peace vital for regional stability...

FROM PAGE 01

regional stability. Army Chief congratulated the incoming Defence Attache for assuming his new appointment and appreciated efforts of his predecessor. The visiting dignitaries thanked COAS for special measures taken for provision of safe and secure environment to CPCC projects in Pakistan and efforts towards regional stability.

EU keen to develop strong...

FROM PAGE 01

The EU ambassador said the bloc had been following the regional developments very closely after the takeover of Kabul by the Taliban, adding the EU was interested in respect of human rights, an inclusive government in Afghanistan. Androulla Kaminara said the EU had provided 57 million Euros in aid to Afghanistan since the beginning of this year. Besides, the EU had announced to quadruple this amount, and in the last month additional one hundred million Euros were announced for the war-ravaged country. She also acknowledged Pakistan's role in hosting Afghan refugees. Sharing her travel experience in Pakistan, she said, I have been lucky enough to visit some stunning parts of Balochistan, Sindh, KP (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) and Punjab but my travels were stopped over the last five months due to COVID-19.

Opp agree on strict response...

FROM PAGE 01

The opposition leaders also discussed matters pertaining to joint session of the parliament. They also held consultations regarding the NAB Amendment Ordinance and also discussed strategy to challenge the NAB laws inside and outside the parliament. The leaders also agreed that the people were not ready to bear the burden of inflation and this government and want to get rid of the incumbent rulers. "The people and country's economy would not survive if PTI remain in power," they said. Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Friday telephoned Opposition Leader in the National Assembly and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz President Shehbaz Sharif. In a telephonic conversation, both the opposition leaders discussed the country's overall political situation and increasing inflation. Matters related to formulating joint strategy of the opposition benches in the Parliament also came under discussion.

Briefs

ABBA return
after 40-year
hiatus

STOCKHOLM: Swedish pop sensation ABBA made a comeback on Friday with their new album "Voyage", nearly 40 years after they split up, with a digital avatar concert eventually planned in London.

Agnetha, Bjorn, Benny and Anni-Frid – forming the acronym ABBA – have not released any new music since their split in 1982, a year after their last album "The Visitors".

"Voyage" went live at midnight Thursday in various time zones, to the delight of longtime fans worldwide.

"It doesn't sound dated, it doesn't sound 40 years ago," ABBA fan Emilie De Laere said at a listening party in Stockholm for the Swedish band's much-anticipated release.

After years of speculation and several dropped hints, the group finally announced the reunion and new album in September, and released the singles "I still have faith in you" and "Don't shut me down".

The 10-track "Voyage" is not all the group will be releasing. They will also unveil digital avatars – dubbed "ABBAatars" – at a concert in London in May, resembling their 1979 selves.

The holograms are the product of a years-long project, designed in partnership with a special effects company of Star Wars creator George Lucas. – APP

Germany
sees 2nd
straight Covid
case record

AGENCIES

BERLIN: Germany recorded its second consecutive daily record for new coronavirus cases on Friday as infections pick up across Europe, and its disease control center said unvaccinated people now face a "very high" risk of infection.

The country saw 37,120 reported new infections over the past 24 hours, according to the disease control center, the Robert Koch Institute. That compared with Thursday's figure of 33,949 – which in turn topped the previous record of 33,777 set on Dec. 18 last year.

While it's possible that the figures were pushed up by delayed testing and reporting following a regional holiday Monday in some of the worst-affected areas, they underlined a steady rise in infections over recent weeks that has put COVID-19 firmly back in the headlines in Germany. Another 154 deaths brought Germany's total to 96,346 on Friday. The country's infection rate has now exceeded its peak during a spike of cases in the spring, though it's still short of the worst-ever showing in December, according to Friday's figures. There have been 169.9 reported cases per 100,000 residents over the past seven days, up from 139.2 a week ago.

That's still a lower rate than in several other European countries, but it is ringing alarm bells.

US sacks
officers of
crashed
submarine

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: The US Navy has sacked three top crew members aboard a nuclear submarine that crashed into an underwater mountain.

Commander Cameron Aljilani and two others were removed after an investigation into the incident in the disputed South China Sea.

The USS Connecticut struck the object last month, forcing the vessel to come to the surface for a week and sail to the US territory of Guam.

Navy officials say the crew members "could have prevented" the collision. Last week, the navy said the submarine had hit an uncharted "seamount" while patrolling below the surface. A seamount is a mountain that rises from the ocean floor.

Fifteen sailors suffered minor injuries. The submarine is currently being checked for damage at Guam in the Pacific before it returns to Washington for repairs. – APP



KARABAKH: A delegation of Pakistani journalists on a visit to Azerbaijan reached Karabakh. Azerbaijani Ministry of Information welcomes Pakistani journalists at Fuzuli Airport. – DNA

Global solidarity with people
of Kashmir needed: Mushahid

Ambassador Khan informed the audience that PM Imran Khan has reiterated continued moral, political and diplomatic support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir

DNA

WASHINGTON: Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman, Pakistan Senate's Defence Committee and the key-note speaker at the event, organized by the Pakistan Embassy in Washington, DC said that despite political differences, all political parties in Pakistan stand together on issues like Kashmir, Palestine, nuclear programme and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Showing complete unity in the Senate of Pakistan, lawmakers on both sides of the aisle called for moving the relevant courts for war crimes against Indian premier for the genocide of Kashmiris and urged the world community to take notice of the same.

Senator Hussain said that it is very painful to state that on one hand Security Council resolutions call for Kashmir's right to self-determination under United Nations supervised plebiscite, and on the other hand 'The International People's Tribunal on Jammu & Kashmir' have discovered thousands of unnamed and unmarked mass graves in Jammu & Kashmir. He reminded that the demographic changes are taking place in the IIOJK and about 4.1 million new domiciles have been issued to non-Kashmiris brought from the mainland India, which is a violation of the Indian constitution and international law.

Senator Hussain warned that the Indian regime is not providing medical facilities to the jailed freedom-loving Kashmiris, like Yasin Malik, Aasia Andrabi and others. India is also violating the basic rights of freedom of speech and any Kashmiri who writes anything on the digital media, is pushed behind



bars under the notorious 'Unlawful Activity Prevention Act' (UAPA) laws.

The time is ripe to internationalize the Kashmir issue and there should be global expression of solidarity with the oppressed people of Kashmir. Let us send a strong message to the people of Kashmir who are struggling and sacrificing against Indian occupation that Kashmir cause is above any partisan politics and support to the Kashmir cause is unwavering, Senator Hussain underscored. Welcoming the participants to the Kashmir Black Day, Ambassador (Dr.) Asad Majeed Khan said that it is our collective responsibility to sensitize the world powers, including the United States on the plight of Kashmiri people and urged them to play their role in resolving the Kashmir dispute as envisaged in

the UNSC Resolutions and in accordance with wishes of the Kashmir people.

Ambassador Khan said that the abrogation of Article 370 & 35A were in contravention to India's commitments to the United Nations. He added that the illegal and immoral actions taken by Indian army in occupied Kashmir poses a serious peace and security threat in the region of South Asia and called the world powers to urge India to end its human rights violations in IIOJK and rescind illegal and unilateral actions taken on August 5, 2019.

Ambassador Khan informed the audience that Prime Minister Imran Khan has reiterated continued moral, political and diplomatic support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir in their struggle for right to self-determination." Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Secretary General,

World Kashmir Awareness Forum said "The Kashmiris only want to be given the same opportunity to determine their future policy that was accorded to the rest of the people of the undivided India in 1947. The first liberation war was waged that year and had all but succeeded had India not intervened militarily to enslave the people of the former princely state of Jammu & Kashmir. Subsequently, the question of Kashmir's future was taken to the United Nations, by India itself, be it noted, and it was at the world assembly that India promised the free exercise of the right of self-determination to the people of Kashmir. It has never honored that promise."

Dr. Fai explained that since 1990, there has been a mass uprising of freedom from Indian occupation in Kashmir. India's response has been brutal. At least, 100,000 innocent people have been killed by Indian occupation forces, thousand women raped, hundreds of villages burnt or raged to the ground, green fields laid to waste and the most beautiful piece of land on earth turned into a crucible of hate and violence.

Fai asked: How long will the world powers watch in silence as India carries out the genocide of the people of Kashmir? This is a question the Kashmiris are asking too. World powers should persuade India to stop the killing; to end the repression; to revoke Domicile Law which is designed to change the demography of the State of Jammu & Kashmir; and to fulfill its promise so that a new era of good will, peace & prosperity can dawn into Subcontinent. Meanwhile, the United Nations must establish the necessary conditions for the holding of a free and impartial plebiscite in Jammu & Kashmir.

Baghdad on high alert
over election protests

NEWS DESK

BAGHDAD: Iraqi security forces on Friday intensified deployment in areas surrounding Baghdad's high-security Green Zone to deal with protests of the Oct. 10 election results. Anti-riot police closed several roads in the capital Baghdad and imposed security restrictions around the zone, a security source in Baghdad's police told Anadolu Agency. Speaking on condition of anonymity, the source said more security forces were deployed at entrances to the Green Zone.

On Thursday, a committee for rallies opposing the election results threatened to escalate the situation if the results are not changed.

The committee, which called for a peaceful rally to protest the results, did not specify how they would push an escalation. The committee was formed last week by groups that rejected the election results, including the Al-Fatah Coalition and the Hashd al-Shaabi group. The Iraqi election commission said last week it started recounting ballot boxes in 2,000 voting stations based on 1,400 complaints presented to the commission by political parties.

C. Asia already suffering from
climate change effects: Ursula

FOREIGN DESK

BRUSSELS: President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen addressed virtually the participants of the first EU-Central International Economic Forum held in Bishkek. I have a very simple message for you today. Central Asia matters to Europe. And Europe matters to Central Asia. In the thirty years since your independence, Central Asian economies grew almost non-stop – until the pandemic hit all of us. Our cooperation can help restart your economic engine. And at the same

time, it can make Central Asian economies stronger, fairer and more sustainable in the long run.

This is exactly what we are pushing for in Europe, too. We are using the massive investment in our recovery plan to reshape our economy. We are speeding up the transition to clean energy. We are connecting more people and companies with digital infrastructure. And we are promoting the decisive reforms that Europeans have been demanding for years.

Green recovery, digitalisation and a stronger business climate. These are also



the three points on today's agenda. Europe has unparalleled expertise in all of these fields. And we are offering greater cooperation to all countries in Central Asia, in our mutual inter-

est. Valdis Dombrovskis will outline in his address a few proposals to reach this goal. And he will also tell you more about our new connectivity strategy called Global Gateway Europe.

But allow me to run quickly through the three topics on our agenda. First, on the green recovery. Central Asia is already suffering from the consequences of climate change.

This summer's drought has destroyed harvests, killed animals and emptied reservoirs. But Central Asia also has an immense untapped potential for renewable energy.

Mexico beach
shooting
leaves 2 dead

AGENCIES

CANCÚN: A shooting involving rival gangs on a beach near Mexico's Caribbean resort of Cancun left two suspected drug dealers dead on Thursday, prosecutors said, sparking panic among foreign tourists.

"There was a confrontation between members of opposing groups of drug dealers on a beach in Bahia Petem-pich, Puerto Morelos," the Quintana Roo state attorney general's office tweeted.

"Two of them lost their lives," it said, adding that there were no other serious injuries. Tourists staying in hotels next to the beach said people ran for cover after shots were fired.

"Guests are telling me they were playing volleyball on the beach, gunman approached firing gun," tweeted Mike Sington, a tourist from the United States staying at the Hyatt Ziva Riviera Cancun Resort.

"Everyone ran from beach and swimming pools. Staff hustled us into hidden rooms behind the kitchens." Videos posted on social media showed dozens of tourists, some in bathing suits, waiting in the hotel lobby along with staff.

"People are hugging each other and crying," said Sington, who describes himself as a former senior executive at NBC Universal.

Mexico is plagued by cartel-related bloodshed that has seen more than 300,000 people murdered since the government deployed the military in the war on drugs in 2006.

Mexico
detains 25
migrants after
skirmishes

FOREIGN DESK

TUXTLA GUTIÉRREZ: Twenty-five migrants traveling in a caravan through southern Mexico seeking refugee status were detained on Thursday after minor clashes with security forces, a security source said.

A member of the security forces was injured in the incident on a highway in the state of Chiapas, according to the source, who did not want to be named.

Mexican activist Luis Garcia Villagran, one of the leaders of the caravan, said the skirmishes broke out after agents began to detain women and children straggling behind the main group.

"Two or three of the National Guards were thrown to the floor and I helped a severely beaten migrant, but he is afraid to be hospitalized," Garcia Villagran said. There was no immediate comment from the National Guard about the incident, which comes days after its agents killed two Cuban migrants in Chiapas on Sunday. The Guard said its troops had opened fire after the driver of a pick-up truck in which the migrants were traveling ignored an order to stop and tried to ram a patrol vehicle. Leaders of the migrant caravan marching towards Mexico City said the foreigners had been part of their group but decided to break off due to rumors of raids by the authorities.

Safe conditions possible in region now: Hajiyev

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijani presidential aide Hikmat Hajiyev has said that from now on it is possible to create completely safe conditions in the region. He made the remarks in his speech at the conference "44-Day Victory Path" at Baku's ADA University on November 5.

The official underlined that very large-scale post-war reconstruction had not been conducted in any country over the past 25-30 years.

Hajiyev stressed that Azerbaijan has to rebuild more than nine cities from the scratch, as they were completely destroyed by Armenia.

"Azerbaijan's proposals are obvious. President Ilham Aliyev stated that Azerbaijan is ready for peace negotiations. From now on it is possible to create completely safe conditions in the region," he said.

Moreover, he stressed that Azerbaijan is ready to establish peaceful relations with Armenia if both countries recognize the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each other.

"There is no more conflict. Karabakh is a matter of our internal policy. Armenia must come to terms with the situation in the region that has been changed and abandon territorial claims against Azerbaijan," he underlined.

Speaking at the same conference, Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov described Armenia's efforts to hide and not to provide mine maps as a pointless and absolutely wrong approach. He recalled that President Aliyev expressed Azerbaijan's interest in the negotiations, noting the need for a peace agreement.

"Azerbaijan suggests Armenia respect its neighbors, get out of the economic stalemate as a result and, by establishing normal relations, develop. Naturally, Azerbaijan can only express its intention and appeal, the decision will be made by the Armenian leadership. Azerbaijan is determined to form peaceful relations," he said.

The foreign minister also stressed that Azerbaijan complied with international humanitarian law during



the 2020 second Karabakh war.

He said that in the 1990s Armenia put forward unacceptable conditions, and in subsequent years, when Azerbaijan's position strengthened, it resorted to tactics to slow down the negotiation process.

"Armenia openly committed political provocations, which then turned into military provocations," he said. Bayramov emphasized that over the years, Azerbaijan has uncovered facts of illegal settlement and sent piles of letters to international organizations about Armenia's provocative steps. He stated that unfortunately, Azerbaijan's patience was not properly understood, Armenia did not draw any conclusions from it.

Azerbaijan's approves
amnesty declaration

BAKU: Parliament of Azerbaijan discussed and approved a bill on declaring an amnesty in connection with Victory Day. According to the bill, it is proposed to release from the unserved part of the sentence, regardless of its term, the following individuals:

- participants of the Second Karabakh War and other military operations, as well as close relatives of persons who died and disappeared during the war and military operations;
- citizens awarded orders and medals of Azerbaijan in connection with their participation in the Second Karabakh War;
- close relatives of those killed and persons who became disabled, including during the Patriotic War;
- citizens who became disabled during the Khojaly genocide, close relatives of those killed and missing during it;
- persons deported from Armenia as a result of the policy of ethnic cleansing, terrorism, and genocide;
- persons who became internally displaced persons as a result of the occupation of a part of the territory of Azerbaijan by Armenia in 1988-1993;
- persons who became disabled as a result of the tragedy of January 20, 1990, and/or close relatives of martyrs;
- persons performing an international duty, as well as in the USSR Armed Forces and/or participating in the peacekeeping operations of Azerbaijan, including close relatives of those killed or missing in connection with the performance of these duties. – DNA

Briefs

OIC Kashmir
envoy due in
Islamabad
Sunday

ISLAMABAD: The Special Envoy of the OIC Secretary-General for Jammu and Kashmir, Ambassador Yousef M. Al Dobeay, is scheduled to arrive here on a six-day visit from November 7-12, 2021. Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Tariq Bakheet of Sudan will accompany him, besides a six-member delegation. After his arrival on Sunday morning, the envoy is likely to meet the leadership of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC). Ambassador Yousef M. Al Dobeay will also meet the top leadership of Pakistan besides Mushaahid Mullick, the spouse of Kashmiri leader Yasin Malik. The delegation will also travel to Azad Jammu and Kashmir to meet the Kashmiri leadership where they will be apprised of the situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and human rights abuses by Indian occupation forces. The presentation on the legal aspect of Jammu and Kashmir dispute, meeting with Kashmir Affairs Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, parliamentary committee on Kashmir, and interaction with representatives of civil society organizations are on the agenda of the delegation's visit. Before concluding the visit on November 12, the OCI special envoy is also likely to interact with the media for a briefing on his visit. — APP

Punjab
approves
proposals to
lift TLP ban

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab cabinet has approved the summary to lift the ban on Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) after the home department forwarded the recommendations. The Punjab cabinet has approved the recommendations for lifting the ban on Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP). Moreover, a summary was sent to the Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar to request the federal interior ministry. Following the CM's permission, the home department will write a letter to the interior ministry for lifting the ban. Earlier on Thursday, while making progress on an agreement between the government committee and the banned outfit, the Punjab home department had recommended the chief minister to lift the ban on Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP). The Punjab home department commenced the process to lift ban on Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), said sources, adding that the department forwarded a summary to Chief Minister Usman Buzdar. In its summary, the provincial home department recommended the Punjab CM Usman Buzdar to lift the ban on TLP.

Qadri, Iraqi
envoy discuss
visa facilities

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Noor-ul-Haq Qadri and Ambassador to Pakistan Hamid Abbas Lafta held a meeting in Islamabad. During the meeting, consultations were held on the issuance of visas and facilities for visitors on the occasion of Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jilani's annual Urs. Talking to Iraqi Ambassador, Noor-ul-Haq Qadri urged to issue 5,000 visas to Pakistanis for attending annual Urs of Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jilani in Baghdad. The Iraqi Ambassador assured to provide best possible facilities to Pakistani pilgrims and contact Iraqi Interior and foreign ministries for facilitating in visas issuance to them. — DNA

Clean up your mess, young
activists tell leaders at COP26

Those marching held placards and banners with messages that reflected frustration with what Swedish activist Greta Thunberg described as “blah-blah-blah” coming from years of global climate negotiations

FOREIGN DESK

GLASGOW: Thousands of young campaigners marched through the streets of Glasgow on Friday to demand that world leaders at the U.N. climate conference safeguard their future against climate change. Inside the COP26 conference venue in Glasgow, Scotland, civil society leaders were taking over discussions at the end of a week of government speeches and pledges, which included promises to phase out coal, slash emissions of the potent greenhouse gas methane and reduce deforestation. Campaigners and pressure groups have been underwhelmed by the commitments made so far, many of which are voluntary or set deadlines decades away. Those marching held placards and banners with messages that reflected frustration with what Swedish activist Greta



Thunberg described as “blah-blah-blah” coming from years of global climate negotiations.

“You don't care, but I do!” read one sign, carried by a girl sitting on her father's shoulders.

Thunberg galvanised young people around the world to take action in “Fridays for Future” school strikes - which began with her standing every week outside the Swedish parliament. “If you were smarter, I'd be in school” was the message carried by another protester. Many of the marchers took the day off school to take part. The British president of the two-week conference acknowledged that much more needed to be done to secure more ambitious commitments to stop the world's slide into climate catastrophe, urging national negotiators to step up the pace. “It is not possible for a large number of unresolved issues to continue into week 2,” Alok Sharma said in a note published by the United Nations. “The Earth's climate is changing!” read one schoolchild's placard, under a hand-painted picture of a globe on fire. “Why aren't we?”

Pfizer says Covid
pill 89% effective
against deaths

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: Pfizer said Friday that a clinical trial of its pill to treat Covid-19 had shown it is highly effective, hailing it as a big step toward ending the pandemic. A simple pill to treat the coronavirus at home has been sought since the start of the global health crisis. So far all treatments have been either intravenous or vaccine shots. Pfizer's is the second anti-Covid pill after that of Merck, which is actually an influenza medicine rebranded to fight the coronavirus. Pfizer's

has been created specifically to fight Covid. The Pfizer drug called Paxlovid achieved an 89 percent reduction in risk of hospitalization or death among adult patients with Covid who are at high risk of progressing to severe illness, the US company said. The results from the middle-to-late stage clinical trial were so strong that Pfizer will stop recruiting new people for the trial, it said. Pfizer will submit the data to the Food and Drug Administration as soon as possible as part of its “rolling submission” for Emergency Use Authorization.



ISLAMABAD: Palestine Ambassador Ahmed Rabei and his wife visited cultural festival at Lok Virsa. The Ambassador and his wife praised the diversity of culture and rich heritage of Pakistan. — DNA

Senate, NA
sessions marred by
opposition's protest

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Opposition parties on Friday have staged a protest in both Upper and Lower Houses of the Parliament, against increasing inflation across the country. During the Senate session, the opposition bench members chanted slogans against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government by holding placards and walked out of the House. Meanwhile, Leader of the House Shahzad Wasim said that rates of petroleum products have been enhanced due to international increase in their prices. Responding to points raised by the opposition on rise in petroleum price, he said the government has significantly decreased taxes on petroleum products. He said Prime Minister Imran Khan presented a massive relief package of 120 billion rupees to provide essential items on subsidized rates. He said in addition to the relief package, several projects are also being run under Ehsaas Program at a cost of 260 billion rupees for

the deserving people.

Later the, opposition pointed out lack of quorum and staged walk out against the rise in petroleum prices. The House will now meet again on Monday at 4:30 p.m. PML-N president and Opposition Leader in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif termed the fuel price hike “another petrol bomb exploded on the masses in the dead of night”.

“This is IK's [Prime Minister Imran Khan] way of providing “relief” after giving a long sermon yesterday. Unfortunately, everyday dawns with horrible news for the people,” he wrote on his official Twitter handle. PPP parliamentary leader in the Senate Sherry Rehman slammed the prime minister wondering if he was giving the public relief by hiking fuel prices. “The prime minister was not giving relief but, in fact, he was asking for it,” she said. She lamented that everything would get costlier with the hike in petroleum prices as weekly inflation index has already shot up to 14.31%. The senator demanded that the government withdraw the recent hike.

Delhi air
turns
toxic after
Diwali
fireworks

NEW DELHI: India's national capital, Delhi, woke up to grey skies as air quality dipped to hazardous levels following the festival of Diwali.

Despite a ban, people across the city burst firecrackers late into Thursday night, worsening pollution levels. Vehicular and industrial emissions, dust and weather patterns make Delhi the world's most polluted capital. The air turns especially toxic in winter when farmers in neighbouring states burn crop stubble. And fireworks during Diwali, which happens at the same time, only worsen the air quality as low wind speeds trap the pollutants in the lower atmosphere.

The concentration of PM2.5 - dangerous tiny pollutants in the air - stood at 999 per cubic metre, the maximum reading, in some parts of Delhi on Friday, according to the government's air quality monitors. Several places recorded figures close to or higher than 500, which is categorised as “severe”. — Foreign Desk

Muslims in
India's Tripura
living in fear

“We found that the attackers had poured kerosene inside the mosque as well. But before any more damage could happen, the village had woken up and the attackers fled”

MONITORING DESK

TRIPURA: Liton Miya is still in a state of shock. It was 10 pm on October 23 when the 35-year-old heard some villagers scream in panic. As he rushed out along with others, a wooden bier and some prayer mats in the courtyard of the local mosque were on fire. “We found that the attackers had poured kerosene inside the mosque as well. But before any more damage could happen, the village had woken up and the attackers fled,” Miya said outside the small tin shack which serves as a mosque and traditional religious school in a quiet corner of Naraura village in Sipahjila district of Tripura state in northeastern India.

Naraura is less than 50km (31 miles) from Comilla in neighbouring Bangladesh, where a photo of the Quran placed on an idol of a Hindu deity during the Durga Puja festival triggered violence across the Muslim-majority country, killing six people, including two Hindu men.

In apparent retaliation to the deadly violence in Bangladesh, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (World Hindu Council or VHP), and other local groups took out protest rallies in Tripura and allegedly attacked Muslims and their religious places, including mosques. The VHP is affiliated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the ideological fountainhead of India's Hindu supremacist groups which seeks to convert India into an ethnic Hindu state. Most top

leaders of India's governing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, started their political careers as RSS workers. Tripura, a remote state dominated by Bengali-speaking Hindus, is currently governed by Modi's BJP. Muslims form about nine percent of its 3.7 million population. The string of attacks targeting mosques has triggered fears and anxiety among Tripura's Muslim minority. “There are 16 mosques which have been targeted,” said Mufti Abdul Momin, who heads a faction of Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind, an influential pan-India Muslim organisation, in Tripura. Momin said most incidents happened in the night and the locals were not able to identify the perpetrators.

Pak-Turkey starts building Milgem class corvette

Naval Chief highlighted that it is a historic occasion as Ministry of Defence Production, Pakistan Navy, Karachi Shipyard and M/s ASFAT of Turkey have joined hands for construction of two Corvettes in Pakistan

DNA

KARACHI: Keel Laying Ceremony of MILGEM Class Corvette for Pakistan Navy was held at Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works (KS&EW). Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi graced the occasion as Chief Guest. While addressing the ceremony, the honourable Chief Guest expressed that it is a matter of pride to witness the Keel laying of MILGEM Corvette in Karachi Shipyard being constructed in collaboration with M/s ASFAT of Turkey. The Admiral highlighted that it is a historic occasion as Ministry of Defence Production, Pakistan Navy, Karachi Shipyard and M/s ASFAT of Turkey have joined hands for construction of two Corvettes in Pakistan while another two are under construction at Turkey. Naval Chief appreciated the performance of KS&EW and mentioned that indigenization is at the forefront of our policy and it is convincing to see state of the art warship being



built in Pakistan. Construction of corvettes in Pakistan is aimed to provide impetus to local ship building in-

dustry and to further enhance KS&EW capabilities. These ships are being constructed as per modern naval ship class standards and will

be equipped with state of the art weapons & sensors including surface to surface, surface to air missiles and anti-submarine weapons. The addition of these ships would significantly add to lethality and operational capability of Pakistan Navy. Earlier, the MD KS&EW Rear Admiral Ather Saleem presented performance of KS&EW and highlighted that the shipyard is fully cognizant and aligned with the goals set forth by Government and Pakistan Navy for self-reliance in Defence Shipbuilding Industry. He emphasized that deep rooted friendship with brotherly country Turkey for this mega project will open new vistas of further co-operation in the field of indigenous warship construction and other defence sectors in Pakistan. MD KS&EW also highlighted current production activities of KS&EW that include constructions for both inland and abroad projects. The ceremony was attended by representatives of M/s ASFAT and other high ranking officials from GoP, Pakistan Navy, KS&EW and business community.

Russian
diplomat
found dead
in Berlin

BERLIN: A Russian diplomat was found dead in October outside the country's embassy in Berlin, it emerged Friday. The man, whose lifeless body was recovered on October 19 on the pavement by police, had apparently fallen to his death from the embassy complex, according to the Spiegel weekly which first reported the case. A German foreign ministry spokesman said the case was “known to the ministry” but would not provide further details. Confirming the death, the Russian embassy called it a “tragic accident”. “All the procedures related to repatriating the diplomat's body back to the homeland were promptly settled with responsible German law-enforcement and medical authorities in accordance with current practices,” said the embassy in a statement. Russia's mission however said it “considers speculations which have appeared in a number of Western media” over the diplomat's death “to be absolutely incorrect”. The diplomat was identified as a 35-year-old second secretary at the embassy by Spiegel. But the magazine said German authorities believe he was also an agent of the Russian secret service FSB. He is also reportedly related to a high-ranking official of the FSB's second directorate - a unit that Western secret services say was involved in the killing of a Georgian national in central Berlin in 2019. — APP

Thousands
of US intel
officers face
sacking

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: Thousands of intelligence officers risk being fired for failing to obey the US government's vaccine mandate as some Republican lawmakers raise concerns about removing such employees from agencies vital to national security. Chris Stewart, a Republican from Utah and a member of the House Intelligence Committee, said that several intelligence agencies had at least 20% of their workforce unvaccinated as of late October. Some agencies in the 18-member intelligence community had as much as 40% of their workforce unvaccinated, Stewart said, citing information the administration has provided to the committee but not released publicly. He declined to identify the agencies because full information on vaccination rates was classified. While many people will likely still get vaccinated before the administration's Nov. 22 deadline for civilian workers, resistance to the mandate could leave major agencies responsible for national security without some personnel. Intelligence officers are particularly hard to replace due to the highly specialised work they do and the difficulties of completing security clearance checks. The Office of the Director of National Intelligence declined several requests to provide figures for the intelligence community. The office also would not say what contingency plans are in place in case officers are taken off work due to not complying with the mandate.

First Rabi-
us-Sani on
Sunday

ISLAMABAD: The Islamic month of Rabi-us-Sani would commence on Sunday as the crescent moon of the new month was not sighted anywhere in the country, said Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad on Friday. Talking to media, he said the meeting of Ruet-e-Hilal Committee also attended by the experts of Meteorological department and others was held here to sight the new crescent moon of Rabi-us-Sani. — APP