



# Islamabad POST

Monday, November 08, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

**Iraqi PM Mustafa al-Kadhimi survives 'assassination attempt'**

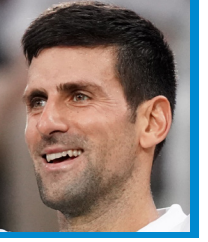
Detailed News On Page-01

**Opposition is trying to stay relevant: Fawad**

Detailed News On Page-01

**Novak Djokovic wins Paris Masters title**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Briefs

**PTI represents all country**

DNA

MULTAN: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi says the desire of PDM about sacking government will not prove fruitful as PTI is the only political party which represents federation and has roots in all parts of the country. Addressing inauguration ceremonies of development schemes in Multan today [Sunday], he said the opposition has no ideology or agenda and the government has no fear of their long or short march.

**Country handed over to IMF**

DNA

WANA: Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) head Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said that change has become disaster and the country has been handed over to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Addressing a peace conference and meeting of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-F (JUI-F) in Wana, JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that incompetent rulers have drowned everything and "Tsunami of inflation" is a major cause of the government's incompetency. "Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) neither was ready to merge before nor ready to integrate now. Inflation is increasing across the country day by day," the JUI-F chief maintained.

**Pakistan an 'all-round' team**

DNA

DUBAI: Australia coach Justin Langer has praised the Pakistan cricket team as they prepare for a potential semi-final showdown with the Green Shirts at the Twenty20 World Cup this week. Commenting on the Pakistan side, he said: "They've got a good all-round team, like we have, and they're well led." The Australian coach also had words of praise for skipper Babar Azam and told reporters he looks forward to the clash in Dubai.

## 'Daska by-poll report; PM must resign'

Shahbaz Sharif says three days have passed and no action has been taken – "Should it be called NRO"

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President and Opposition Leader in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif has said that the action should be taken over Daska by-poll inquiry report and Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan should face the law after receiving the report regarding Daska by-election.

While giving statement in National Assembly, Shehbaz Sharif said that after the historic rise in prices of essential commodities including flour, sugar, electricity, gas and petrol, the government is inflicting more oppression on the nation by buying the most expensive LNG in history. "Purchasing in the highest-ever price more than \$30 per Million British Thermal Units (mmbtu) is another serious scandal." The opposition leader further said that the price of criminal behavior of the government will be recovered from the people, which can only be termed as "unjust regime of a mindless king". "There is only seen corruption and incompetence from flour to medicine and from sugar to LNG, while, the current government has become 'looting and fraud movement,'" he added. Reacting to the Daska election report, PML-N President and Leader of

Continued on Page 06

## Opposition trying to stay relevant, says Ch Fawad

SAIFULLAH

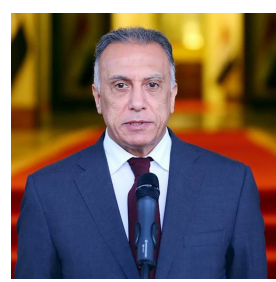
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry on Sunday slammed opposition parties, terming their movement against the PTI "merely an effort to stay relevant in the news". The minister stated that the opposition parties in Pakistan are an "unholy alliance", with some divided into groups of one and others into three. "They don't have any leaders, nor do they have any programmes," Fawad said. The information minister maintained that their movement against the "only federal party" (PTI) was nothing more than an attempt to stay relevant. "The only national political party is the PTI, whose agenda is the national agenda," he added. The minister's statement comes a day after the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) – an alliance of opposition parties – announced that it would stage a series of rallies in the provincial capitals and finally a long march from Lahore to Islamabad against the PTI-led government for its anti-people policies and the rising inflation. Besides agreeing to organise a long march, the leaders also announced holding anti-inflation protest rallies in the provinces.

## Iraqi PM survives 'assassination attempt'

Forces in the area shot down two drones while the third managed to hit al-Kadhimi's residence

AGENCIES

BAGHDAD: Iraq's Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi has survived an assassination attempt after drones laden with explosives targeted his residence in the capital, Baghdad, in an incident that dramatically raises tension in the country weeks after a general election disputed by Iran-backed militia groups. Al-Kadhimi escaped unhurt, but security sources told Reuters news agency that at least six members of the prime minister's personal protection force were wounded in Sunday's attack. Security forces in the area shot down two drones



Continued on Page 06

## Pakistan condemns attack

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office on Sunday said Pakistan strongly condemned the cowardly attack on the residence of the Prime Minister of Iraq in Baghdad, which resulted in injuries to many people. In a statement it said, "It is a matter of relief that Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi is safe. Pakistan stands in solidarity with

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov met with Prince Ahmed Umer Ahmedzai, new Convener of Pakistan-Azerbaijan Parliamentary Friendship Group in the Senate of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. – DNA

## Pakistan to meet Australia in Semi Final

DNA

SHARJAH: Pakistan will meet Australia in the semi final of the ongoing T20 World Cup. Pakistan on Sunday beat Scotland with 72 runs as the Babar Azam-led team confined the opposing team to 117 runs at the end of the 20th over. Pakistan had set a 190-run target for the Scottish team. Scotland opens George Munsey and Kyle Coetzer proved

Continued on Page 06

## Pakistan to buy most expensive LNG cargo

KARACHI: The state-owned Pakistan LNG Limited (PLL) is going to buy the most expensive Liquefied Natural Gas of the country's history as it is purchasing one LNG cargo for \$30.65 per Million British Thermal Units (Mmbtu) for the month of November. Sources informed that the PLL has decided to buy the costliest-ever LNG in order to avert the gas crisis in the winter season. The PLL will buy the LNG cargo for the current month at the exorbitant price of \$30.65/MMBtu from Qatar Petroleum.

Continued on Page 06

## Mirziyoyev takes office as Uzbek President

The President delivered a speech on priority areas for the next five years

DNA

TASHKENT: A solemn ceremony of inauguration of the President-elect of the Republic of Uzbekistan took place in Tashkent at a joint meeting of the chambers of the Oliy Majlis. The ceremony was attended by members of the Senate and deputies of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis, heads of state and public organizations, representatives of the diplomatic corps, domestic and foreign media. According to the



results of the voting, a candidate from the Movement of Entrepreneurs and Businesspeople – Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirmonovich Mirziyoyev was elected to the post of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan,

who received 80.12 percent of the vote. In accordance with Article 92 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the President took the oath: "I do solemnly swear to faithfully serve the people of Uzbekistan, to strictly follow the Constitution and laws of the Republic, to guarantee the rights and freedoms of its citizens, and to conscientiously exercise the duties vested on the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan".

Continued on Page 06

## Govt removes TLP's name from first schedule AT act

TLP was placed in the said schedule in April 2021 on the recommendation of the Punjab home dept

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) on Sunday ceased to be a proscribed organisation after the government accorded approval to the Ministry of Interior's summary asking for its removal from the First Schedule of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997. TLP was placed in the said schedule in April 2021 on the recommendation of the Punjab home department.

According to a notification by the Ministry of Interior: "The provincial cabinet has considered the request of the organisation and in view of the assurance and commitment by the organisation, is of the opinion that the said organisation shall abide by the Constitution and laws of the country and therefore, keeping in view the larger national interest and long term perspective to ensure that such incidents do not recur in future, the government of Punjab has proposed to the federal government to consider revoking of proscription of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan." The notice goes on to state that "in exercise of the powers conferred under sub-section (1) of Section 11U of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997 (as amended), the federal government is pleased to remove the name of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan from the First Schedule of the said Act as a proscribed organisation for the purposes of the said Act".

## Pakistan culture center in Baku inaugurated

Pakistan Cultural Centre is offering free Urdu classes for the students who want to learn Urdu language. Guest lectures by the renowned Pakistani academia, panel discussions and debate groups are invited by this Centre to hold discussions about culture and similarities between the two countries

ANSAR M BHATTI IN BAKU / DNA

BAKU: A delegation of Pakistani media practitioners visited the Pakistan Cultural Center Baku during its recent visit to Baku. The visit was arranged by the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Pakistan. Pakistan's Ambassador to Azerbaijan Bilal Hayee briefed the delegation about the working of the Center. Ambassador Bilal Hayee said that the purpose of the establishment of the Cultural Center was to promote Pakistani culture abroad. Earlier, Ambassador Bilal Hayee also invited the delegation to the Pakistani embassy and showed various sections of the mission. He also talked about Pakistan, Azerbaijan relations and shared his vision of taking these relations further forward.

It may be mentioned here that Pakistan Cultural Centre (PCC) was formally opened at the Azerbaijan University of Languages (ADU) on July 31, 2021. The centre was inaugurated by Speaker of National Assembly of Pakistan Mr Asad Qaisar. Several parliamentarians from Pakistan and members of Pakistan-Azerbaijan joint parliamentary groups from Pakistan and Azerbaijan were also present on the occasion. The idea of Pakistan Cultural Centre was conceived by Ambassador Bilal Hayee after his meeting with the Rector of ADU. Later it was implemented with the help of Azerbaijan University of Languages. The key objectives of Pakistan Cultural Centre include the promotion and projection of Pakistan's diverse and rich culture. It is also expected that in fu-



BAKU: In-charge of Pakistan Cultural Center Mahmood briefs the Pakistani media about the Center. Pakistan's Ambassador Bilal Hayee is also present. – DNA

ture, teaching of Urdu language and Pakistan history would commence from the platform of Pakistan Cul-

tural Centre. The Center is also geared to create awareness among the Azerbaijani youth about Paki-

stan's beautiful landscape, ancient heritage, modern urban centers and huge economic potential.

In this centre, a special corner is established where the scholarly work of Allama Muhammad Iqbal is exhibited. Students and staff of ADU have shown profound interest in the arts and books on Pakistan. Around 40-50 people visit the center on a daily basis. They are briefed on the rich and diverse culture of Pakistan and tourism potential. This centre is the first solid platform in Baku to project Pakistan's culture, heritage and tourism. This will also advance our brotherly relationships with Azerbaijan to a new high. Pakistan Cultural Centre is offering free Urdu classes for the students who want to learn Urdu language. Guest lectures by the renowned Pakistani academia, panel discussions and debate groups are invited by this Centre to hold discussions about culture and

similarities between the two countries. Ambassador-hour project is being organised in which Ambassador personally comes to meet with different students, takes their questions and brief on different current issues. PCC also participated in food festivals where delicious Pakistani food was exhibited to international audience. To boost the youth's extra-curricular activity PCC has announced a prize competition and an exhibition of paintings on the topic of Pakistan-Azerbaijan friendship. Students are taking part with great enthusiasm in this project. Pakistan's Ambassador and other embassy staff visit the Center occasionally to meet with the students and staff as well as holding cordial gatherings to enlighten the participants about Pakistan's culture.

## Inside...

Govt undertaking massive development programmes: Farrukh – Page 02

Stability in Afghanistan to improve Pakistan-Kazakh trade – Page 03

11th Pakistan Mountain Festival begins December 1 – Page 04

Azerbaijani Patriotic War: November 8 – Victory Day – Page 05

NZ qualify for semis, knock India out of T20 World Cup – Page 06

Azerbaijan struggles to restore historical capital Shusha – Page 07

OIC supports Kashmiris' right to self-determination: Envoy – Page 08



# Govt undertaking massive development programmes: Farrukh

Addressing a function after laying foundation stone of a Civil Dispensary and Water Filtration Plant in Nasir Town, he quoted the global inflation and said that the petrol which was available at US \$ 40 per barrel has jumped to US \$ 85 per barrel

## BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: State Minister for Information & Broadcasting Farrukh Habib said that despite financial crunch, the government is undertaking a massive development programme to make Pakistan self-reliant particularly in agriculture sector. Addressing a function after laying foundation stone of a Civil Dispensary and Water Filtration Plant in Nasir Town, he quoted the global inflation and said that the petrol which was available at US \$ 40 per barrel has jumped to US \$ 85 per barrel.

Similarly, other commodities have also recorded more than 100 percent increase in their prices which has created problems for economies like Pakistan. However, despite of this ground reality, Prime Minister Imran Khan is striving hard to transform Pakistan in true Islamic state on the pattern of Riyasat-e-Madina, he added.

He said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government has already provided health card to every citizen in KPK while in Punjab, health cards would be delivered by March 2022 which would ensure free health

facilities to each family up to Rs.1 million per annum. Similarly, the government has introduced Kamyab Jawan programme. Akhuwat has so far disbursed small loans worth Rs.50 billion to 1.5 million individuals so that they could start their own businesses. State Minister for Information & Broadcasting Farrukh Habib said that government is also going to launch 200,000 scholarships. Under this programme students could get computer training and earn from Rs.50,000 to Rs.100,000 per month. It will also help

young talented students who have unique ideas but are starved of cash, to get long term loans at only 3 to 5 percent markup. Under this programme the government has already disbursed Rs.30 billion. He said that loan of Rs.1 million is available without any guarantee. Similarly, loans were also offered for construction of houses. The government has approved loans worth Rs.80 billion and out of it Rs.19 billion has so far been disbursed. He said that the government has plugged all loopholes to plunder state exchequer and build spatial

palaces abroad. Farrukh Habib said that mafias are out to foil our productive efforts for uplift of the country. He said that Faisalabad had become a graveyard of power looms but we have revived its dynamism and now textile sector is working with full capacity. The construction sector has also become a most profitable job. The government has performed well despite of ill impacts of coronavirus. We have to face a multidimensional war against looters, plunders, mafias and corrupt elements.



## Journalist's widow seeks justice

NAUSHERO FEROZ: Late journalist Aziz Memon's widow has appealed for the immediate arrest of her husband's killers and sought financial assistance to run her house and a job for her son.

She has also appealed for fulfillment of the promises made by the provincial ministers and advisors to provide her justice and financial help.

She said her financial condition was very bad and all their expenditures were being borne by her late husband's elder brother. The deceased journalist Aziz Memon was the correspondent of a local regional newspaper and a news channel at Mahrabpur Tehsil of district Naushero Feroz, Sindh, who was murdered on February 16, 2020.

Late Aziz Memon's widow said the provincial ministers and advisors had promised for the provision of job to her son but unfortunately not a single promise had been fulfilled so far.

She appealed to the Prime Minister, Chief Justice of Pakistan, Army Chief and Chief Minister Sindh for financial support and justice. - APP

## Popularity graph of PTI increases

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Transport and Mass Transit, Malik Shah Mohammad Khan Wazir on Sunday said that the popularity graph of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government was increasing with each passing day based on resolving people's problems at their doorstep.

He was addressing a joint-ceremony where large numbers of political workers belonging to other parties have announced joining in PTI at village Atlas Khan, tehsil Meriana, district Bannu. The Minister said that people of Bannu have extended their confidence over the leadership of the PTI with approval of several developmental projects for the area. He said that PTI would also emerge a victory in upcoming general elections on the basis of performance.

On the occasion, a local leader of Pakistan Muslim League Aslam Khan Barakzai along with his family and supporters has announced joining PTI. Minister Shah Mohammad Khan welcomed new entrants and congratulated them for being a part of the people-friendly political party of the country. - APP

## Siyal, SSP Qambar offer condolence to the victims

### NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Former provincial minister Sohail Anwar Sial and SSP Qambar Sameer Noor Channa reached village Khairpur Jooos for condolence on Sunday. On the visit of SSP, victim's family members shared the details of incident and injustice.

Former provincial minister Sohail Anwar Sial said that police will conduct a transparent investigation into the incident.

The legacy of the slain woman will definitely get justice. He said that we stand with the legacy of the slain woman and no one will be treated unfairly. The deceased journalist Aziz Memon was the correspondent of a local regional newspaper and a news channel at Mahrabpur Tehsil of district Naushero Feroz, Sindh, who was murdered on February 16, 2020.

Late Aziz Memon's widow said the provincial ministers and advisors had promised for the provision of job to her son but unfortunately not a single promise had been fulfilled so far.

She appealed to the Prime Minister, Chief Justice of Pakistan, Army Chief and Chief Minister Sindh for financial support and justice. - APP



edly shot dead by the gunmen and among Ghulam Shaheed Isran, father of PPP MPA Ghanwer Kham Isran in his presence on a dispute of plot in Khairpur Jooos at Pakho police station near Larkana.

PPP Minister Sohail Anwar Sial and SSP Sameer Noor assured that Qambar's main accused Ghulam Shaheed Isran would also be arrested.

Former provincial minister Sohail Anwar Sial said that PPP leadership is with the victims and Justice will be provided to the victims. Police are investigating the incident.

PPP leadership will not help the accused involved in the murder. The heirs of the dead woman will be justice and the incident is heartbreaking.

SSP Qambar Sameer Noor Channa denied that police was not present at the time of firing, while the incident is being investigated transparently, that is why I have personally come to the victims and assured that justice will be done.

On the other hand Hafiz Uzair Gul Jagirani of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam District Qambar Shahdadkot and others reached with party activists and said that a woman was martyred, while holding a Holy Quran while firing.

A case of desecration should be registered. The cruel accused did not even think of the Holy Quran but the police officer of Pakhu police station refused to register another case of martyrdom of the Holy Quran.

The police handed over the bodies to their relatives after completing necessary formalities. - APP



LAHORE: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Political Communication Dr. Shahbaz Gill addressing a press conference. - APP

## KP to launch Tablet-in-a-School programme

PESHAWAR: The provincial government under its education sector reforms is launching Tablet-in-a-School Programme for monitoring of schools in the province.

Talking to APP, a senior official of the Elementary and Secondary Education Department (E&SED) here on Sunday said that the government is abolishing the complete abolition of wrong postings and every teacher will have to teach on his actual post. He said for the enrollment of the out of school children, a double shift programme has been started.

In the first phase of the programme 3000 children have been enrolled in 120 schools while over 400 more schools have been selected for the second phase and later the number of such schools would be reached to 1000. The present government has also introduced the School Bags Act to get the children rid of the burden of heavy bags. Students Facilitation Centres have also been established at all Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) of the province wherein the students are provided all facilities under the roof of the same building.

He said that e-transfer policy has also been introduced to guarantee merit and transparency in transfer and postings and now all transfers and postings are being made online. - APP

## Couple commits suicide

FAISALABAD: A couple committed suicide, in the precinct of Sadr Jaranwala police station.

Police said on Sunday that Muqaddas, resident of Chak No.21-GB had love affairs with Adnan of the same locality and wanted to marry him, but her parents arranged her marriage with another youth on Saturday night. However, the girl and her paramour swallowed poisonous pills few hours before the arrival of marriage party (Baraat).

Both the girl and youth were being shifted to hospital in critical condition when they died on the way. The police handed over the bodies to their relatives after completing necessary formalities. - APP

## Scholars must continue preaching tolerance : DC

### ISHFAQ MUGHAL

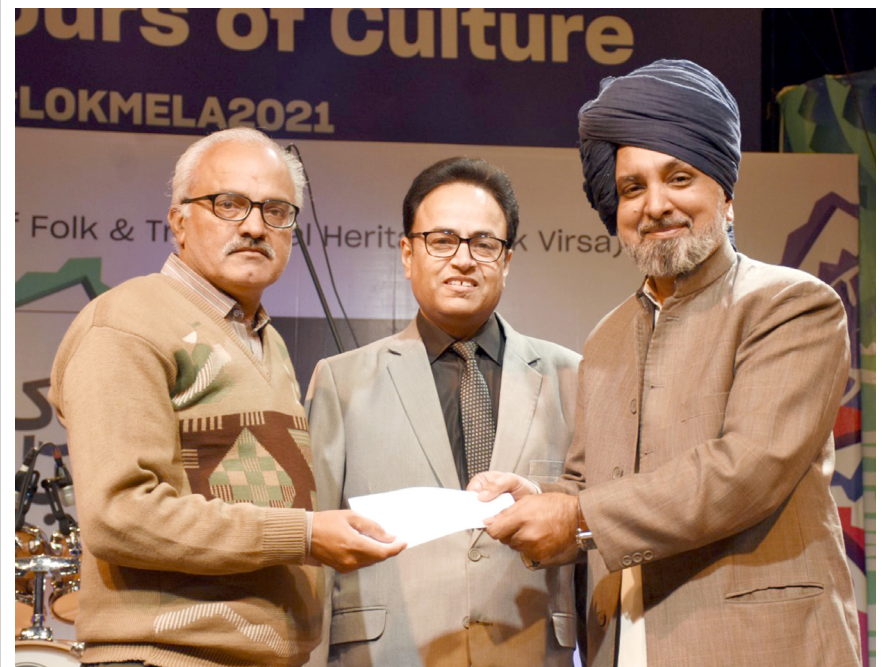
FAISALABAD: District Mosque Committee meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Ali Shehzad in which Maulana Muhammad Yusuf Anwar, Sahibzade Faiz Rasool Rizvi, Mufti Muhammad Zia Madani, Syed Jafar Naqvi, Sahibzade Zahid Mahmood Qasmi besides other scholars, Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Fazal Rabi Cheema, Assistant Commissioner City Sahibzade Muhammad Yousaf was also present.

Welcoming the religious scholars, the Deputy Commissioner paid tribute to their services for maintaining the atmosphere of social peace and religious tolerance.

Expressing happiness and satisfaction, he said that scholars of all schools of thought in Faisalabad district United and such meetings are held for the sake of goodwill and the strengthening of mutual relations. He said that religious scholars should continue to teach religious tolerance, love and observance of law from their mihrabs and pulpits and especially

encourage the immunization of corona vaccines in Friday gatherings so that public can be protected from this epidemic.

He assured that some of the issues identified by the ulmas would be resolved on priority basis and said that regular meetings of the mosque committee would be held. Uma Karam assured to district administration for holding peace in district and presented some issues. In the end, prayers were offered for the development and prosperity of the country and the nation, peace & security, unity and solidarity and blessings.



ISLAMABAD: Executive Director Lok Virsa Talha Ali presented award to photo journalist Sultan Bashir. - DNA

## Punjab Ad hoc doctors get extension

### DNA

LAHORE: Following the special directives of Chief Minister Usman Buzdar, the Punjab government has extended the contracts of ad hoc doctors for one year.

The Punjab government has given relief to the ad hoc doctors following CM Usman Buzdar's order by extending their contracts for one year.

The move will benefit more than 4,000 doctors hired on

an ad hoc basis.

The chief minister also directed to timely disburse the salaries of the doctors besides taking all-out steps to remove hurdles at the earliest for re-appointment of the medics.

CM Buzdar said in a statement that the provincial government is fully aware of the issues being faced by the doctors who are serving humanity.

He vowed that the government will leave no stone unturned for addressing the issues of the doctors.

## Private Sector must explore digitization

LAHORE: Chairman UK-Pakistan Business Council Mian Kashif Ashfaq Sunday urged the private sector to fully explore economic potential of digitization for boosting export by timely overcoming global multi-dimensional challenges.

Talking to a delegation of faculty of Institute of Fashion and Design led by Ms Fauzia which called on him here today he said world needed to work on these lines as it had changed the working of the global system due to its multi dimensional impacts including time efficiency and accuracy. He said digitization and artificial intelligence (AI) had changed the world pattern of working and it was more importance of using technology for people to create a fair and competitive economy as well as an open, democratic and sustainable society.

Mian Kashif who is also member senate of this institute said digital transformation for economic growth and recovery required close collaboration, shared learning and exploring to work together on areas such as health, governance and satellite mapping. He underlined the need for regulation of the digital space to ensure respect for human rights, including the rights to privacy and freedom of speech and safety of vulnerable groups such as women and children.

He said sharing best practices and legislative approaches between the international players and Pakistan could create opportunities for dialogue, partnership and investments promoting regional and global connectivity.

He said the covid-19 pandemic was accelerating the digital transformation and also exposing its challenges. - APP

## Ashrafi urges world role for peace in Afghanistan

He said that people witnessed the Ashra Shan-e-Rehmatul-lil-Alameen was celebrated on official level and the Seerat Authority was being established to take Pakistan in the right direction and making it a welfare state like Madina

LAHORE: Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi has appealed to the Muslim world leaders to play their role for peace and development in Afghanistan.

Addressing a press conference at the Punjab Institute of Quran and Seerat Studies here on Sunday, he said that stability in the region was essential for establishment of peace both in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

He said that the anti-state elements were trying to create chaos in Pakistan by fanning sectarianism, but they would never succeed in their nefarious designs. He said that the Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) would arrange the 5th Paigham-e-Islam conference on Feb 30, 2022 at the Islamabad Convention Centre, in which around 5,000 ulema and mashaikh would take part from all-over the world.

Ashrafi said that Imam-e-Ka'aba and Palestine's chief qazi had also participated as chief guests in the previous four conferences. He

said: "We hope for their participation in the upcoming conference as well." He said that the conference would be arranged with an aim to make Muslim world free from Islamophobia, terrorism and sectarianism.

He said that a series of ulema and mashaikh conventions would be

arranged by the PUC in various cities of the country to educate youth about Seerat-un-Nabi and to eradicate negative trend of obscenity and immorality.

He urged ulema to help protect the youth through their knowledge and play their role in that regard.

He said that people witnessed the Ashra Shan-e-Rehmatul-lil-Alameen was celebrated on official level and the Seerat Authority was being established to take Pakistan in the right direction and making it a welfare state like Madina. Ashrafi said that Prime Minister Imran Khan pursued the case of

Namoose-Risalat on every national and international forum in an effective manner, adding that no other Muslim leader in the past could fight the case in that way. He offered condolences of the death of police personnel, who sacrificed their lives for establishing peace in the country.

He prayed for the injured police personnel and said that may Allah Almighty grant them speedy recovery.

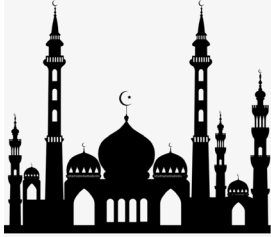
Hafiz Ashrafi said that Pakistan had always condemned the attacks on Saudi Arabia and it would always stand with the leadership and people of Saudi Arabia for its security, defence and stability. He said that the PUC also condemned the bomb blast at Kabul and armed drone attack on Iraqi prime minister in Baghdad last night.

To a question, Ashrafi said that the PUC had formed its legal committee, which would engage Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) and other government bodies for eradication of obscenity in the advertisements and dramas. - APP





## SERVICES



## Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	05:07 am
Zohr.....	11:51 am
Asr.....	03:32 pm
Maghrib.....	05:10 pm
Isha.....	06:35 pm



## Hotels &amp; Restaurants

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



## Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
-----------------------	---------



## Emergency

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



## Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....	115
PIA Flight Info.....	114
PIA Cargo.....	9280979
Railway Inquiry.....	117
Railway Exchange.....	9270831-2
WASA Rawalpindi.....	5555489
CAA.....	9281092



## Hospitals

CMH.....	5611111
MH.....	5611116
Cantt Hospital.....	9270907-11
DHQ.....	5556311-4
RGH.....	9290301-7
Holy Family.....	9290322-7
PIMS.....	9261170-79
Polyclinic.....	9218300-09
Shifa International.....	4603666



## Departments

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

## Stability in Afghanistan to improve Pak-Kazakh trade

Peace and stability in Afghanistan would strengthen trade ties between Pakistan and Kazakhstan, besides contributing to the economic uplift of Afghanistan as a regional transit hub: Yerzhan Kistafin

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistafin has expressed the hope that the peace and stability in Afghanistan would strengthen trade ties between Pakistan and Kazakhstan, besides contributing to the economic uplift of Afghanistan as a regional transit hub. This was stated by the Ambassador during his visit to the All Pakistan Business Forum where he held a meeting with APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood, Chairman Ibrahim Qureshi and general secretary Khurram Niaz. Yerzhan Kistafin pointed out that a number of Pakistan products including fruits, vegetables, pharmaceuticals, surgical instruments and leather goods had a great potential in Kazakhstan. Pakistan and Kazakhstan

have great potential to enhance cooperation in many fields and if both countries facilitate their private sectors, the annual bilateral trade volume could surge from the current level to \$300-500 million. The current bilateral trade volume of \$45 million was hugely low, compared with the real potential of bilateral trade, he said, adding that the alternative route of Karakoram Highway may also be explored for uplifting bilateral trade. However, the Karakoram route becomes inaccessible during the harsh winter season but it can be safely used during the remaining part of the year. The Kazakh ambassador said Kazakhstan is the biggest landlocked country in the world and we understand the importance of regional connectivity. He said Afghanistan could be the most beneficial country



if trade increases between Pakistan and Kazakhstan though it. He warned that if stability did not come to Afghanistan, it would have wider regional implications. Pointing to increased potential of people to people cooperation between Kazakhstan and Pakistan, he said Pakistan Prime Minister discussed bilateral agenda and economic cooperation during meeting with Kazakhstan President in Dushanbe. He said our nations have been cooperating for centuries but

nowadays there is less information about the culture and lifestyle of the people of both countries. He said we need to enhance awareness about each other. Speaking on the occasion, APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood said both countries should focus on establishing air, road and railway links in order to boost two-way trade. Regular exchange of trade delegations and holding single-country exhibitions on a reciprocal basis is necessary to identify new areas of mutual cooperation. Maaz Mahmood recommended that both countries must take initiatives to enhance trade and investments in textile and cotton products, pharmaceuticals, and food items, engineering equipment and machinery, and construction enterprises. Pakistan and Kazakhstan are going to sign three

memoranda of understanding for cooperation in the areas of trade and investment, defence and strategic studies, and training in foreign services which needs to be institutionalized as soon as possible. APBF Chairman Ibrahim Qureshi said there is a paradigm shift in Central Asia to further enhance regional connectivity through greater regional cooperation and socio-economic integration due to which there is an urgent need that both the countries must institutionalize all possible measures to further strengthen their bilateral relations. Ibrahim Qureshi said that the peace in Afghanistan may be a game changer for the rest of the region and may open a new gate of unlimited opportunities of mutual cooperation, coordination and collaboration in diverse fields between the two countries.



ISLAMABAD: President ICCI Shakeel Munir, former Presidents Khalid Javed, Zafar Bakhtawari, Zubair Ahmed, Sardar Yasir Ilyas, Zahid Maqbool, Nasir Qureshi, Khalid Choudhry, Naveed Malik, Eng. Azhar ul Islam, Muhammad Hussain and others are in a group photo at brunch hosted by Ahsan Bakhtawari-Former Vice President in honor of newly elected office barrer of ICCI. - DNA

### President ICCI vows to resolve traders' issues

ISLAMABAD: Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has said that he will use his full potential to represent the traders and industrialists of Islamabad and use his full energies to make the Islamabad Chamber a prominent place. He expressed these views while addressing a reception hosted by former Vice President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari and Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari in honor of the newly elected officials and outgoing officials of the chamber in Islamabad today. And said that our team thanks Ahsan Bakhtawari. Like his father Ahsan Bakhtawari always seeks excuses to honor and respect his friends. He said that the Islamabad Chamber is of utmost importance as it is the center of diplomatic, government and parliamentary institutions and he would provide positive suggestions and advice for the development and prosperity of the country in all these institutions. The outgoing president of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce, Sardar Yasir Ilyas, said on the occasion that he had done his duty of representing the traders before the President and the Prime Minister and would continue to do so in his personal capacity. Sardar Yasir Ilyas further said that I am very happy that when I came, I was first embraced by Zafar Bakhtawari and today as we are leaving, our farewell party is also being given by Zafar Bakhtawari and his son's. Khalid Javed, former president and former chairman of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce, said in his address that we can solve our problems through unity and solidarity in the business community. He also invited the opposition party of the chamber to work together for the solution of the problems of the traders. Former Vice President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari in his address said that traders and industrialists are the backbone of the country's economy but they have not yet found such a role in the society. This position is to be achieved by serving the people with honesty, patriotism and sincerity. - DNA

### Pvt. labs asked to adopt safe methods to dispose waste

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority (IHRA) has directed the private laboratories to follow the regulations and appropriate treatment methods for the safe disposal of infectious waste in the federal capital. "Infectious waste produced at the labs and hospitals can greatly endanger the public health and the environment and thus cause nosocomial infections if waste is not managed well," Chief Executive Officer, IHRA, Dr. Quaid Saeed Akhunda said on Sunday in an interview. He said that the authority has decided to take action against those laboratories in the federal capital which are not following proper procedures for disposal of waste right from handling, collecting, transporting, discarding and marking till incineration to avoid minimal exposure to others. He said that the authority has also started a crackdown on private COVID-19 testing laboratories in the federal capital on issuing fake results of the infection tests with the support of travel agents. - APP

### Electricity theft major reason of circular debt

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Friends of Economic & Business Reforms (FEBR) has asked the government to reduce the burden of heavy taxes on the power sector, as it has lifted the electricity prices up and added to the already soaring cost of trade and industry. FEBR President Kashif Anwar, in a statement issued here on Sunday, said that excess payment of General Sales Tax worth Rs85 billion have been paid to the Federal Board of Revenue while GST billed by independent power producers stood at Rs117 billion whereas the GST billed to the consumers stood at Rs202 billion. In addition to it, the government was collecting Rs22 billion taxes on fuel adjustment charges. The total amount of fuel adjustment charges with taxes stood at Rs383 billion where it comes to Rs361 billion without taxes and duties from the consumers. Keeping in view of this heavy burden, the rationalization of GST and other taxes in the power sector



is a must to reduce the price of electricity, he suggested. The higher rate of electricity theft is the major reason for the rising circular debt that has crossed Rs2.5-trillion mark this year. The power distribution companies are still bleeding from the highest rate of electricity theft. The average rate of electricity theft is 17 percent in the current financial year 2020-21 which needs to be controlled at any cost. He said that there is no denying of the fact that the government has been facing numerous economic challenges besides other internal and external issues and problems during the last three years.

### Preparations for Property Convention in full swing

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan International Property Exhibition and Convention, organized by the Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry, will be held on 26-27 November 2021 at the PCFC Islamabad - inaugurated by Chaudhry Fawad Hussain. Prominent builders, developers, Allied Construction and Bank projects from across the country will be on display - the three-day exhibition will be attended by a large number of business communities from Rawalpindi, Islamabad and Peshawar - Chairman Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry Khurshid Barlas told the media. - DNA

### SC to hear sacked employees' case

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice had constituted a three-member bench to hear a review petition pertaining to judgement on striking down the Sacked Employees (Reinstatement) Act 2010. A three-member SC bench comprising Justice Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Qazi Muhammad Amin Ahmed and Justice Aminuddin Khan would take up the case on November 11. Justice Mushir Alam, who authored the judgment in August, has already retired. The SC had struck down the sacked employees law, ruling that the legislation enacted by the then PPP government did not fulfill the criteria laid down by the apex court in numerous cases. Additional Attorney General Sajid Ilyas had filed a review petition against the top court's verdict. The review petition stated that the court passed the judgment without issuing a formal notice under order XXVIII CPC and hearing the attorney general for Pakistan, particularly with reference to the constitutionality of the Act. The plea further highlighted that the impugned judgment was reserved in December 2019 but was not announced until August 17, 2021, after a lapse of 20 months, which was against the set principles of due process. It also submitted that the legitimate rights and interests of the existing employees, including their seniority positions and promotion prospects, could have been protected without declaring the entire act as ultra vires the Constitution.

### Screening test for CSS exam to be held in February

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Establishment, Mohammad Shehzad Arbab has said that the screening test for Central Superior Service (CSS) Competitive Exam (CE) 2022 would be held in February next year. Talking to APP, he said that MCQs (Multiple Choice Questions) based Preliminary Test (MPT) prior to main written examination of CSS was accorded approval by the Federal Cabinet in its last meeting. The SAPM said the screening test was aimed at filtering the serious candidates for the CSS written exam. It would prove to be a 'win-win' not only for the FPSC, but also for the candidates by saving the time of FPSC, as well as, students. He said the initiative would reduce the CSS recruitment process from 20 months to 12 months, enabling FPSC to effectively select highly motivated candidates for the main CSS exam. Shehzad said the screening test before competitive examinations was being practiced all over the world. The test did not take into account domain specific knowledge required to perform in various groups. He said the matter was earlier considered in Cabinet meeting held on December 10, 2019, where in the proposal for introduction of screening test prior to written exam was not approved. - APP

آپ نے اپنے  
ووٹ کا اندراج  
کروالیا ہے

انتخابی فہرستوں پر نظر ثانی 2021-22  
گھر گھر ووٹرز کی تصدیق کا آغاز  
7 نومبر تا 6 دسمبر 2021

میرا ووٹ میری پہچان

ایکشن کمیشن آف پاکستان  
www.ecp.gov.pk

www.ecp.gov.pk

PakistanECP

@ECP\_Pakistan



## Briefs

## Ehsaas Roshan subsidy to be increased

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The subsidy amount being given under the newly announced Ehsaas Roshan program would be gradually increased keeping in view the impact of inflation on the purchasing capacity of the common people.

This was stated by the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection, Dr. Sania Nishtar in a statement Sunday. Dr. Sania said, "For now it is important that this system shall run on massive scale in a transparent manner and create its acceptability for the masses; the amount of subsidy or the quantity of the commodities can be increased through a single policy decision".

"The buyers and the Kiryana stores merchants will be mobilized and registered for this program on a large scale; the success of this program will be determined and more avenues will be explored to make it more beneficial for the masses," she said.

Those who were criticizing should know first that the system was developed on fast track basis in a very short period to provide relief to the masses. "Increasing subsidy amount or quantity of items is quite an easier task", she said. The SAPM revealed that the web portal to register beneficiaries under Ehsaas Roshan program will open from Monday.

"The program will enable buyers having monthly income less than Rs. 31,000 to buy flour, pulses and cooking oil or ghee on subsidized rates from the designated Kiryana or utility stores", she said.

The Kiryana stores merchants having bank accounts would download app in their mobile phones through which they would ascertain the eligibility of the buyer, click on the icons of required commodities and pass on the subsidy.

The buyer having registered mobile numbers with their Computerized National Identity Cards would be able to purchase the items on subsidized rates and receive a digital receipt.

## Six illegal arm holders detained

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested six arm holders and recovered illegal weapons from their possession, informed police spokesman here Sunday.

Airport police arrested three accused Asif Rashid, Mohammad Akash Nadeem and Akbar Ali and recovered 3 pistols 30 bore from their possession. Similarly, Sadiqabad police held two accused Mohammad Noman and Mohammad Adeel and recovered 2 pistols 30 bore from their custody.

Jatl police arrested accused Mohammad Kawish and recovered 1 pistol 30 bore from his possession.

Police have registered separate cases against all of them and started an investigation.

The divisional SPs said that operations against those possessing illegal weapons should be continued. — APP

## 10 gamblers arrested, valuables recovered

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested ten gamblers and recovered mobile phone TT Max game and valuables from their possession, informed a police spokesman. Rata Amral alongwith his team arrested 10 for playing.

Those who were arrested including Nazir, Akhundzada, Umarzada, Anzar Gul, Adnan, Liaqat Shah, Mohsin, Akhtar Gul, Khurshid and Faisal Khan, SP Rawal Division said that strict action would be taken against anti-social elements. He made it clear that operations against gamblers would be continued. — APP

## 11th Pakistan Mountain Festival begins December 1

Margalla Hills Trail-3 cleanup will be organized on December 5 coupled with a briefing on the Margalla Hills National Park by the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB)

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Devcom Pakistan's annual flagship event Pakistan Mountain Festival will begin on December 11 with a live painting competition among the undergraduate and postgraduate students of art and design. More than 50 students will take part in the opening event of the 11th edition of the festival that is aimed at celebrating the United Nations International Mountain Day (IMD). Exhibition of the paintings will be organized on December 7 in collaboration at the Rawalpindi Art Gallery of the Punjab Arts Council.

The Margalla Hills Trail-3 cleanup will be organized on Sunday December 5 coupled with a briefing on the Margalla Hills National Park by the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB). Third Pakistan Mountain Youth Parliament and launch of the second batch of Pakistan Mountain Ambassadors is scheduled for December 9. A grand daylong event will be organized on Saturday December 11 on the International Mountain Day. It will include a conference Pakistan Mountains by 2030 including panel discussions on mountaineering and tourism in the changing climate, Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) and Disaster Risk Management (DRR), invasion on culture and heritage, and youth and women development.



A mountain culture show, exhibition of paintings, showcase stalls of organizations, arts and crafts will also enrich the daylong events.

Pakistan Mountains Pride Awards were launched in 2019 after the names of five living legends including Agostino Da Polenza Mountain Conservation Award, Shoaib Sultan Khan Mountain Community Development Award, Nazir Sabir Mountaineering Award, Ashraf Aman Sustainable Mountain Tourism Award, and Ustad Jan Ali Mountain Music Award. The eleventh edition of the Pakistan Mountain Festival will be concluded with the second edition of awards. Speaking to this scribe, Executive Director Devcom-Pakistan and founder and director

of Pakistan Mountain Festival Munir Ahmed said: International Mountain Day (December 11) is dedicated to raising awareness about opportunities and challenges facing mountain regions, as well as building alliances that will bring positive change to mountain peoples and places around the world. Devcom-Pakistan has been organizing different events to mark IMD engaging mountain communities and stakeholders in the mountain regions and downstream with the collaboration of different partners from government, national and international nongovernment and UN organizations, and academia since 2005. It was branded as Pakistan Mountain Festival in 2009.

Munir Ahme said: Pakistan's mountains are

the most vulnerable to deforestation and ecosystem degradation that have accelerated the pace of glaciers melting. Pakistan is ranked fifth on the World Vulnerability Index just because of the degradation of mountains.

We need to address the challenges confronting our mountains that play a significant role in providing water and food supply to millions of people. Mountains cover around 22 percent of the surface of the earth and 13 percent of the world's population live in the mountains. Ninety percent of the world's mountain inhabitants live in developing countries, where a huge population lives under the poverty line, and one out of every three individuals experiences the danger of food insecurity.

Mountains offer 60-80 percent of the world's freshwater. According to the UNO, almost one billion people live in mountain areas, and over half of the human population depends on mountains for water and nutrition. Mountains are facing risk from climate change and natural calamities. Mountains face climate change as the global temperature continues to warm which disturbs starving and poorest people of the world who live in the mountains. Due to the increasing temperature, glaciers on the mountains start melting which brings floods in the world. Currently, 329 million people living in the mountains face food scarcity.



ISLAMABAD: An artisan busy in artwork by pieces of stone and glasses at a stall during annual Lok Mela-2021. — APP

## Rashid Hafeez holds khuli kutchery in PP-16

RAWALPINDI: Provincial Minister for Literacy and Informal Basic Education Punjab Raja Rashid Hafeez held here on Sunday a weekly 'khuli kutchery' in PP-16, Public Secretariat to hear public complaints. A large number of citizens attended the 'khuli kutchery' and submitted applications to the provincial minister.

Rashid Hafeez contacted the authorities concerned on the spot and issued orders to resolve the public complaints within possible time frame. The issues raised by the people included water supply, sewerage, sanitation, construction of roads and streets, electricity, Sui gas and other issues.

Addressing the citizens, Rashid Hafeez said the Punjab government was making earnest efforts to resolve the problems of the people by utilizing all available resources.

"In my constituency, dozens of water supply projects were completed during last three years, while many more are underway. We have also done more to



solve problems than the past regime," he said. The provincial minister said the elected members on the directives of Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar, visit their constituencies regularly and hold weekly 'khuli kutcheries' to know the public issues of their constituencies and make all-out efforts to solve them. On the occasion, Provincial Minister for Literacy and Informal Basic Education Punjab Raja Rashid Hafeez urged the citizens to assist the administration in cleaning the city and dump their household garbage only at designated places so that the sanitation staff could pick it up easily and maintain a healthy environment.

## Colorful and cultural 'Lok Mela 2021' concludes

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A seven-day long folk festival 'Lok Mela' came to a colourful conclusion at National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage- Lok Virsa here on Sunday.

Over 600 artisans and folk artists from all the four provinces including Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B) and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) had participated in Lok Mela, featuring folk songs, traditional dances and traditional cuisines. Traditional crafts were also displayed in their respective cultural pavilions which had been decorated to showcase their cultural heritage.

Minister for Federal Education and National Training and National History and Literary Heritage Shafiqat Mahmood also visited Lok Mela.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister appreciated the efforts of bringing artists and artisans from every nook and corner of the country to a combined platform in the federal capital to



showcase the diversity of art and talent in the country. He said that government was fully committed to strengthen national institutions. He said that annual Lok Mela organised aiming to promote untapped talent and the diversity of arts and crafts that every nook and cranny of the country offers. He also visited the different cultural pavilions set up as part of Lok Mela and spoke with the artisans and artists. Lok Virsa Executive Director

Talha Ali appreciated the culture departments, art councils, craftspeople and folk artists of all provinces and regions for their cooperation. Being a weekend, a large number of people thronged to the meal to view cultures from different parts of the country. Number of people could also be seen purchasing traditional craft wares such as Kashmiri 'Shaals', Khyber Pakhtunkhwa dresses and Sindhi dresses.

During seven days Lok Mela, music nights were also organized in which folk singers performed and got big applause from the audience. The traditional food corners were also attracted a huge food lovers. Particularly, L e h r i Sajji, Chapal kabab were attracted a huge crowd. A large number of foreign diplomats were also visited the cultural festival and highly praised the performances and crafts display.

## COVID claims another life in Rawalpindi

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: The Corona virus claimed another life while 11 new cases were reported during last 24 hours raising the tally of confirmed cases to 39,055 in the district.

As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority here on Sunday, the total infected cases included 36,065 from Rawalpindi and 2990 from other parts of the districts. Among the new cases, the report said six belonged to Potohar town, three from Rawal town, while one each case has reported from Attock and Taxila.

"Currently 18 confirmed patients were admitted to four city facilities, counting ten in Institute of Urology, four in Benazir Bhutto Hospital, three in Fauji Foundation Hospital and one in Bilal hospital," the report said. District Health Authority updated that 37,746 patients had been discharged after recovery, 34,764 with Rawalpindi and 2983 from other districts.

The report informed that 176 persons were quarantined, including 91 at home and 85 in the isolation centres. The report further updated that 3,268,843 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 0.91 per cent during the last 24 hours in the district, it added.

## Two member gang of bike lifters held

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Police busted a two member bike lifter gang and recovered 5 stolen motorcycles and Rs 11,500 from their possession, informed police spokesman here Sunday.

During course of action, Rata Amral police arrested those were identified as Waqas and Asghar.

Police have registered separate cases against both of them and further investigation was in progress.

SP Rawal said that the arrested accused would be challaned with solid evidence and operations against anti social elements would be continued.

## RCB generates over Rs 780 mln revenue

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB), under its ongoing campaign, managed to generate over Rs 780 million revenue during last four months of the current financial year, 2021-22.

According to RCB spokesman, Qaiser Mehmood, the board collected over Rs 532 million property tax, over Rs 108 million water charges, over Rs 37 million Conservancy charges, over Rs 116 million TTP Tax and over Rs 5.3 million Trade License Fee while over Rs 3.1 million Professional Tax was also collected during the period.

The RCB teams on the directives of the CEO, RCB Muhammad Farooq Ali Malik were conducting raids in different areas to take action against the defaulters of Property Tax, Water Charges, Transfer of Immovable Property (TIP) Tax and Trade Tax, he added. He urged the residents to pay all taxes, otherwise strict action in accordance with the law would be taken against the defaulters and heavy fines would also be imposed. To a question, he informed that the Board had accelerated its operation against illegal construction and issued a large number of notices to the violators.

The RCB Land Branch/Building Control Cell was conducting raids and the owners of the buildings and structures erected illegally were being issued notices, he added. The spokesman said, the staff was carrying out raids in different areas in the board jurisdiction including Dhoke Gujran, Bhatta Chowk, Misrial Road, Quaid-e-Azam Colony, Trench Bhatta, Peoples Colony, Dhoke Chaudharian, Afshan Colony, Dhoke Syedan, and several other areas and notices were served to the building rules violators, property tax and water charges defaulters. — APP

## VC AIOU pays visit to Maulana Rumi shrine

Maulana Rumi, the great Sufi mystic, philosopher and Islamic scholar, lives in our hearts: Prof Dr Zia Ul-Qayyum

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum, Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University visited shrine of Maulana Rumi in Konya, Turkey and offered Fatiha. He paid glorious tributes to one of the greatest and renowned Sufi mystic, philosopher and religious scholar of the Islamic world. He, also, visited Maqam Iqbal, situated next to Maulana's grave, which was established in the remembrance of great ideological, philosophical and poetic contributions of Allama Iqbal. Prof Dr Zia Ul-Qayyum was given state protocol on reaching Konya. During a meeting with the Mayor of Konya, Prof Dr Zia Ul-Qayyum said that Maulana Rumi lives in the hearts of Pakistani nation as a Sufi saint of great fame and repute. He, further, added that AIOU has estab-



lished three chairs of excellence and one of them is exclusively dedicated to Allama Iqbal. He said that in order to promote and strengthen research on Iqbal and his spiritual leader Maulana Rumi, AIOU will invite renowned scholars from Turkey to address

AIOU academia and students. He, further, added that International Collaboration and Exchange Office of AIOU has been assigned the task to initiate collaborations and exchange programs between AIOU and leading Turkish universities. He thanked the Mayor for

warm reception and special arrangements to visit Moqam Iqbal which is currently closed for the tourists because of renovation. The Mayor of Konya graciously invited Prof Dr Zia Ul-Qayyum to visit Turkey again with a delegation of AIOU which he accept-

ed while heartedly. It is pertinent to mention here that Prof Dr Zia Ul-Qayyum is on official visit of turkey these days and is accompanied by Dr Zahid Majeed, Director, International Collaboration and Exchange Office, AIOU.

Prof. Zia also met General Secretary of Municipal Corporations, Konya, who shared his memories of Pakistan as a young student. He said that he has strong bonding with Pakistan and Turkish nation has great respect, affection and love for the Pakistani nation. He greatly admired Pakistani nation for actively participating in Khilafat Movement and Reshmi Romal Movement.

Prof Dr Zia Ul-Qayyum was also invited by a Konya TV channel for the interview. During the interview, besides sharing his vision as VC, AIOU, he thanked the mayor and secretary general of municipality of Konya for their wonderful arrangements and warm hospitality.



## Sugar mafia

**T**HE price of sugar has reached a criminal high at Rs160 per kilo as opposed to the government mandated fixed retail price of Rs89.75 per kilo. In Punjab, crackdowns on sugar mills have provided enough evidence to support the idea that the actions of many in the sugar industry were deliberate and accordingly, the government penalised them. However, a long-term solution must be devised as this is a recurring issue that we have not been able to resolve.

According to details reported by the authorities, huge stocks of hoarded sugar were recovered from different cities across Punjab—100 sacks from Lahore, 480 from Sargodha and 6757 metric tonnes from Rahim Yar Khan. Many sugar mill owners have been found guilty of delaying the production of new stocks despite the fact that they are bound by the sugar act to start crushing the sugar in the first week of November. These hoarding and delaying tactics have resulted in an artificial shortage across the country. In turn, this shortage drove up prices by as much as 50 percent, taking a toll on the public at large. For a basic commodity to be out of range for the majority of the population is unacceptable and it is good to see the government take some initiative to protect others from exploitation.

Outside of seizing sugar for the purposes of recovery and shutting down a mill or two, there has to be a plan created to ensure that the prices of sugar remain relatively stable for long periods of time. We have asserted pressure on the mafia before as well but it seems as though they persevere every time, at the expense of the population. Setting a stronger precedent by enforcing accountability, enacting strict surveillance policies and introducing laws that strictly prohibit such activity are a few steps that the government can take to ensure that the long-term aim of securing price stability is achieved.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 02 Issue: 157

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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



## Daska revelations

**M**OST by-elections are unfortunately marked by violence and allegations of rigging. The NA-75 by-election, held in February in Daska was no different when it led to clashes between voters and police breaking out in multiple places, including polling stations and a police station several times during the day. While it is a sad fact about the state of politics today that controversy has been expected from almost every by-election, recent revelations that have come out after a report was released on Friday by the Election Commission of Pakistan indicates that the issues created in Daska in February have far darker origins than previously thought. The report concludes that election officials, police and the local administration failed to play their "designated role in a requisite manner and were found to be puppets in the hands of their unlawful masters" during the by-election. The ECP report also revealed that the concerned authorities including police and officials of district administration performing their duties during elections were fully involved in the incident; it also implicates known politicians for being aware.

This report is highly incriminating for the credibility of our election system but especially for the government. The ruling party has often been at the forefront of campaigning against rigging and advocating for free and fair elections. PTI also appealed to the Supreme Court of Pakistan against the ECP directives to conduct re-polling in the entire constituency of NA-75 Daska. It is unforgivable that in 2021, there was still negligence in the process of the by-poll on part of the government in an election that was crucial. Just negligence would bring liability but the allegation that there was deliberate maladministration on part of relevant officials and a "pre-planned scam" is unacceptable. This report must be taken extremely seriously. The integrity of future elections is at stake. The findings must now go to court and those named must be called to give an explanation.

# Azerbaijani Patriotic War: November 8 – Victory Day

Bahruz Orujov



As part of the 44-day military operation, the valiant Azerbaijani Army almost obliterated the entire Armenian military arsenal, breaking through the engineering and fortification systems built by Armenia for 30 years

**O**N November 8, Azerbaijan marks the first anniversary of the "44-day Patriotic War" against Armenia. This date is the day of victory in Azerbaijan in honor of the great triumph in the Second Karabakh War over Armenia. According to the decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev dated December 3, 2020 "On the establishment of Victory Day in the Republic of Azerbaijan", it was decided to solemnly celebrate November 8 as Victory Day in the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Patriotic War, which had lasted from September 27 till November 10, 2020, resulted in the retrieval of Nagorno-Karabakh, an internationally recognized part of Azerbaijan. It was an important milestone in our history. Until the Day of Victory, due to the aggressive policy of Armenia, 20% of our lands were occupied by Armenia or Armenia-backed separatists of Nagorno-Karabakh, and more than 1 million Azerbaijanis were expelled from their native lands as a result of its policy of ethnic cleansing. The implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 822, 853, 874, and 884 concerning the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the activities of the OSCE Minsk Group have not yielded results. However, Azerbaijan, itself, enforced the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions.

Under the leadership of the Gallant Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev, the Glorious Azerbaijani Army succeeded to liberate its lands from the occupation in a 44-day "Iron Fist" operation,

ensuring the territorial integrity of our country. Throughout the Victory War, the fearless Azerbaijani Army achieved incredible success on the short-term battlefield. Our lands were purged from the occupiers at the expense of the blood and lives of our courageous martyrs. A total of 2914 brave sons sacrificed their lives in the war for their motherland.

As part of the 44-day military operation, the valiant Azerbaijani Army almost obliterated the entire Armenian military arsenal, breaking through the engineering and fortification systems built by Armenia for 30 years. It liberated Jabrayil, Gubadli, Zangilan, Fuzuli regions, Hadrut settlement of Khojavend region, Sugovushan village of Tartar region, several villages of Khojaly and Lachin regions, as well as important strategic heights in the direction of Agdara, Murovdag, and Zangilan. During this period, 5 cities, 4 settlements, 286 villages, in total, more than 300 settlements, numerous strategic heights were freed from occupation.

Despite the fact that the fighting was taking place on the battlefield, the inferior enemy was blatantly targeting civilians and civic zones, located far from the battlefield. By violating international humanitarian law, Armenian armed forces were deliberately using forbidden ballistic missiles, like Scud-B rockets and even the Iskander-M, as well as banned white phosphorus and cluster munitions, including Smerch cassette bombs. On October 4, 11, and 17, the country's second-largest city Ganja, as well as other cities like Agdam, Barda, Fizuli, Goranboy, Nafalan, and Tartar became regularly exposed to missile fires and heavy artillery shelling, which caused massive killing and injuring of innocent people. More than 100 civilians were killed and 414 were injured, and more than 3,000 homes and 100 residential buildings were leveled to the ground or damaged as a result of the heinous bombing of civilian areas and artillery attacks. These vicious atrocities committed by Armenia against Azerbaijani civilians are considered War

Crimes or warfare crimes against Humanity.

On November 8, after 28 years of yearning, the city of Shusha, which is of great importance to the people of Azerbaijan and is considered the crown of Karabakh, was liberated from occupation. Although Shusha city is considered a strategic city for separatist Armenians and Armenia due to its height, it is a cradle of culture, a fortress of spirituality, which has a special place in the history, culture, and morality of the Azerbaijani people. The operation to liberate Shusha, which was carried out in high mountainous conditions, was a masterpiece of brave Azerbaijani soldiers indeed. The liberation of Shusha from enemy captivity played a decisive role in the fate of the war. Armenia surrendered to Azerbaijan and was forced to announce its capitulation.

On November 10, 2020, the leaders of Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Russia signed a trilateral joint statement on ceasefire and complete cessation of all military operations in Karabakh. This date has been a historic day for the Republic of Azerbaijan. Because the 2nd Patriotic War resulted in the absolute victory of Azerbaijan and the capitulation of Armenia. Then Armenia was compelled to return unconditionally to Azerbaijan the city of Aghdam on November 20, 2020, Kalbajar on November 25, and Lachin on December 1, 2020. Thus, the occupation which has been festering for 30 years, protracting injustice, and the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict eventually came to end in 44 days. It is necessary to particularly highlight the full political and moral aid of fraternal countries such as Turkey and Pakistan in gaining the triumphant victory. During the war, these brethren states have drastically rendered their unprecedented support for the just stance of Azerbaijan on various platforms in the international arena. The Republic of Azerbaijan and Azerbaijani people thank Pakistan for its unanimous assistance on the 2nd Patriotic War. **Long Live Azerbaijan-Pakistan Friendships and Brotherhood!**



## How the US-Pakistan alliance hijacked itself

Abdul Basit

The Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan has emboldened Pakistani extremist groups. Some of them have already become aggressive in their activism, bordering on vigilantism and violence, demanding a Taliban-style theocratic rule in Pakistan. In a way, the Taliban victory in Afghanistan...

**T**HE more the US asked Pakistan to do, the further Pakistan moved from addressing the root causes of terrorism - and convincing its public that it was worth doing. After the US withdrawal from Afghanistan and the Taliban's return to power, Pakistan should move away from the Western counter-terrorism (CT) discourse, which has spanned during the last two decades of the so-called "War on Terror" (WOT). In its place, Pakistan should forge an indigenous security narrative to create much-needed public ownership to confront extremism. Terrorism in Pakistan predates the WOT and it did not end with the US exit from Afghanistan. On the contrary, due to the WOT and a host of other factors, including Pakistan's dichotomous CT and regional policies, terrorism and its underlying causes have worsened.

Concurrently, Pakistan will also have to address its national identity crisis that potentially opens the room for radical and extremist groups to (re)define its national identity in line with their self-styled narrow worldviews. Arguably, a doctrinal shift in internal security policies would only provide a temporary respite, as witnessed in the past, but addressing the perennial question concerning Pakistan's national identity is necessary for a long-term solution.

Without popular support, reversing the rising tide of extremism would remain an uphill task in Pakistan. In 2015, following the massacre of 153 schoolchildren and staff members in Peshawar by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, a consensus, enshrined in a 20-point road map called the National Action Plan (NAP), was devised to fight extremism. However, the implementation on the NAP has dissipated in the last few years. One of the WOT's major lessons is that the kinetic capabilities are necessary, but not sufficient means to overcome extremism. A range of non-kinetic measures within the myriad local conflicts is equally important for devising holistic policy responses.

So far, Pakistan's internal security policies have confronted extremist groups through kinetic measures. Now Pakistan should devise the much-needed non-kinetic approaches to address the root causes of extremism and radicalism. The security discourse that developed in the shadow of the WOT either treated extremism in Pakistan as an outcome of its alliance with the US or the negative spillover of the Afghan conflict. To be precise, Pakistan provided logistical support to the US and NATO forces stationed in Afghanistan and granted basing rights of the Shamsi and Shabbaz airbases to the US in Balochistan and Sindh provinces for drone operations. During this period, domestic measures taken against extremism, such as stationing troops on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border and madrassa reforms, in Pakistan were viewed as the war of necessity imposed by the US in return for the economic and security assistance. Every US "do more" demand from Pakistan strengthened the local perception that the latter was fighting the former's war along its northwestern borderlands. Further-

more, the post-9/11 Western discourses, barring some exceptions, stereotypically viewed Pakistan as a security threat, an enabler and abettor, or worse, the sponsor of extremism. This cliched characterisation of Pakistan in the Western discourses undermined the efforts to evolve an indigenous security narrative against extremism.

For instance, the US drone strikes in the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), now merged with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, violated Pakistan's territorial sovereignty and strengthened the extremists' narrative that the Pakistan Army was doing America's bidding. Especially, the civilian casualties in the US drone attacks in the ex-FATA region undermined the writ of the Pakistani state. Hence, the evolution of an indigenous security discourse remained hostage to Pakistan's conflict-prone alliance with the US.

As opposed to Western discourse - which portrays Pakistan as a security threat - the fact of the matter is that Pakistanis are the main victims of militant violence emanating from the country. In the last two decades, as many as 80,000 Pakistanis have lost their lives to terrorism, in addition to incurring a whopping \$150 billion in economic losses.

This is not to suggest that the Pakistani state's ill-considered policies in Afghanistan since the 1980s have not played a part in promoting a culture of religious intolerance and militancy in the country. Undoubtedly, the flawed state policies remain the most critical variable of the myriad challenges of extremism and radicalism confronting Pakistan today.

However, the situation has evolved significantly in the last twenty years. Therefore, without factoring in the local contexts and nuances of a complex and diverse threat landscape, the monocausal explanations blaming state policies alone for all that is wrong in the Pakistani society is over simplistic and reductionist. While underlying this uncomfortable reality, the onerous purpose of devising an indigenous security discourse in Pakistan should be to initiate a bold debate in the country following the US exit from Afghanistan.

In retrospect, the WOT had a paradoxical impact on Pakistan's diverse threat landscape. On the one hand, it made the threat landscape more complex, lethal and pervasive. For instance, in the last twenty years, the number of militant and insurgent groups has increased in Pakistan. Extremists have permeated all segments of Pakistani society. Unlike the conventional view that extremists and terrorists are drawn from Pakistan's peripheral tribal areas and primarily educated in madrassas, recent trends have underscored the ingresses of extremism in Pakistan's educated, urban middle and upper-middle classes as well.

On the other hand, the WOT compelled Pakistan to reorient the training manuals, strategic doctrines and threat perceptions of its security forces from conventional warfare against India to fight asymmetric conflict against a plethora of non-state violent actors in the ex-FATA region and Balochistan. Also, Pakistan established a well-defined institutional infrastructure to deal with extremism. For instance, Pakistan has created the National Counter Terrorism Authority in 2009, the country's premium CT body, and Counter Terrorism Departments in the police department at the provincial levels along with passing new laws to facilitate the fight against militancy.

The Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan has emboldened Pakistani extremist groups. Some of them have already become aggressive in their activism, bordering on vigilantism and violence, demanding a Taliban-style theocratic rule in Pakistan. In a way, the Taliban victory in Afghanistan is redefining Pakistan's conflict-prone relationship with a range of religious and radical groups. In the age of social media, Pakistan would find it difficult to gloss over the dichotomies and paradoxes which emanate from its convoluted identity crisis. As long as the jury is out on what was the purpose of Pakistan's creation, an Islamic or a moderate Muslim state, the country will recurrently witness Shariah movements such as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan or Tehreek-e-Nifaz-e-Shariat Muhammadi, trying to violently redefine the country's national character in line with their narrow worldviews.

— Courtesy: TRT World

## The only way to tackle climate crisis

Peter Harrison

The unifying factor of these? They are all profit-driven and absolutely unessential; we can live without them, or at the very least reduce our consumption of them

**F**OR as long as I can remember, there has been talk of saving the planet - it is nothing new. Now, in a cold, gray and rather damp Glasgow, the world's leaders are yet again speaking about the same subject. So far, there have been pledges to end deforestation, reduce methane emissions and slow the increase in global temperatures - all good sense. But cast your mind back to December 2015, when the world agreed to substantially reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. The aim was to limit the global temperature increase this century to 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, while pursuing the means to limit the increase to 1.5 C, but that has not happened yet.

In his opening remarks in Glasgow, COP26 President Alok Sharma acknowledged that time was running out for the planet. He said that "we know the window to keep 1.5 degrees within reach is closing." Sharma referred to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report in August, which made the not-so-shocking revelation that "human activity is unequivocally the cause of global warming." Now I might be missing something here, but what else could it have been?

OK, flatulent cows have a lot to answer for. The methane they emit is absolutely a cause of global warming; the gas traps heat in the atmosphere. But just pause for a moment and consider this: Why are there so many cows on the planet in the first place? It is not because of a calf boom brought on by frisky bovine - it is entirely because of people's greed for meat. And it is not just the methane that is a problem. In February, the World Resources Institute revealed that one of the main reasons for deforestation was to make room for cattle ranchers. Another reason for such widespread loss of the world's forests was the creation of palm oil and then soy, both used in the bulking out of produce.

The unifying factor of these? They are all profit-driven and absolutely unessential; we can live without them, or at the very least reduce our consumption of them. We cannot save the planet for future generations if all we are going to consider is profit.

Under Donald Trump's presidency, the US left the Paris Agreement because he said it was bad for the US economy. If we are to save the planet, then we must accept that profits will fall, at least while we diversify - it is happening in some places. Take oil-rich Saudi Arabia, a country whose economy has been driven by the black stuff for decades. The Kingdom this week offered to lead the way toward a cleaner economy driven by hydrocarbons that are less harmful to the planet and are a gateway to even cleaner fuels.

Who would have thought it? Saudi Arabia offering to make such a massive lifestyle change, and at a time when the likes of Australia and the UK are still talking about burning coal? When I was a child, there were droughts and famine, extreme weather that left a trail of destruction in its path - the climate has been suffering for as long as I can remember. The climate activists, the Greta Thunbergs of this world, have been the only people with a consistent message throughout: Make changes now or, in the not-too-distant future, face up to the consequences of our greed. I have six nieces and nephews - it is they and their friends who will have to deal with the consequences of our inaction. I shudder to think what things will be like for their children. The leaders in Glasgow need to commit, change their laws and change the way they look at the economy, while we all need to change our eating habits.

Courtesy: Arab News



## Briefs

## Daska by-poll report; PM must resign

FROM PAGE 01  
the Opposition in Parliament Shahbaz Sharif said that like the people's capital, the people's vote and the right to elect their representatives should also be robbed and snatched.

"Daska report has come and vote theft has been proved, tell Prime Minister Imran Niazi what is waiting now, now action should be taken. Imran Niazi has the slightest respect for law, democracy and political ethics. So resign after receiving the report regarding Daska election and face the law."

The PML-N president said that three days have passed and no action has been taken on the Daska inquiry report of the Election Commission of Pakistan. "Should it be called NRO? Imran Niazi says that the people do not understand the reasons behind the rise in inflation," he maintained.

Separately, the PML-N has demanded that the judiciary take a suo motu notice on the Daska by-election for "violation of the Constitution" after a report by the Election Commission of Pakistan determined that the polls were not held in a free and transparent manner.

Addressing the media on Sunday, PML-N stalwart and former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said that Article 240 of the Constitution says all institutions should help the Election Commission of Pakistan in holding transparent elections.

He said that the ECP's report contains the names of all those involved in the "rigging" of the polls held on February 19, and that a meeting held in this regard was attended by "many PTI members". "The meeting decided how the election would be rigged," he alleged. Abbasi called for exemplary punishment of all "conspirators" and termed the report a "test" for the superior judiciary. Noting the report's contents, he said that Deputy Chief Justice Sialkot summoned all presiding officers to Daska College and gave them instructions.

## Pakistan to meet Australia in Semi Final

FROM PAGE 01  
to be tough nuts to crack for Pakistan's star bowlers as they held on despite a barrage of bouncers delivered by Shaheen Shah Afridi and Haris Rauf at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Sunday. Hassan Ali was able to dent the Scottish armour though with a piercing delivery that hit the off stump at 5.3 overs, dismissing Coetzee. Next to go was Matthew Cross, run out by Imad Wasim at 7.6 overs.

Shadab struck in the 11th over to claim George Munsey and Dylan Budge's scalps. Earlier, Pakistan batsman Shoaib Malik propelled his team to a lofty 189-run total.

## Iraqi PM survives...

FROM PAGE 01  
They are receiving treatment," the official added without giving details. No group immediately claimed responsibility for Sunday's attack.

Al-Kadhimi appealed for calm and restraint in a post on Twitter. "I'm doing fine, praise be to God, and I call for calm and restraint on the part of everyone for the good of Iraq," he said.

He later appeared on Iraqi television, seated behind a desk wearing a white shirt and looking composed. "Cowardly rocket and drone attacks don't build homelands and don't build a future," he said.

## Pakistan condemns attack

FROM PAGE 01  
the brotherly government and people of Iraq. We extend our heartfelt sympathies to the injured and pray for their early recovery. No cause justifies such wanton acts of violence. We reiterate our strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations", he said.

## NZ qualify for semis, knock India out of T20 World Cup

New Zealand are likely to face England in the semi-finals but it will be confirmed after the Pakistan-Scotland match

DNA

ABU DHABI: New Zealand are through to the semi-finals of ICC Men's T20 World Cup after securing eight-wicket win over Afghanistan in Abu Dhabi. New Zealand chased down the target of 126 for the loss of two wickets after restricting Afghanistan to 124-8. Blackcaps' win means that India are now out of contention to qualify. The Men in Blue will now face Namibia in the final league match tomorrow which holds no importance. Earlier, Afghanistan captain Mohammad Nabi opted to bat first but his decision was not supported by the top-order. Afghanistan lost three wickets inside the powerplay. Mohammad Shahzad (4) was the first man to dismiss as wicketkeeper Devon Conway grabbed a stunner behind the stumps while Trent Boult removed Hazratullah Zazai (2). Emerging batter Rahmanullah Gurbaz (6) couldn't take his innings along as he was trapped by Tim Southee for LBW dismissal. Meanwhile, Najibullah Zadran provided some hope for the Afghan fans with



quick runs but he lost his partner Gulbad in Naib (15) at the halfway mark. Najib continued to play his shots while skipper Nabi chipped in singles. The left-hand-

er Najib reached his sixth half-century and eventually scored his highest T20I score. Afghanistan needed a finish from both batters but Blackcaps has timely dismissals at the backend. Kane Williamson-led side restricted Afghanistan to 124/8. Najib scored 73 off 48 balls where he hit six fours and three maximums. Trent Boult starred for New Zealand, bagging figures of 3/17 while Tim Southee took 2/24. In return, Mujeeb Ur Rehman managed to get rid of Daryl Mitchell, who was looking dangerous. Mitchell scored 17 off 12 balls, powered by three fours. In the ninth over, Rashid Khan bagged his 400th T20 wicket by removing Martin Guptill. Guptill tried to play a big shot but missed the ball completely. He stroked four boundaries for his 23-ball 28. New Zealand pushed Afghanistan back after a fine third-wicket stand from Williamson and Conway. The duo steered the chase in the 19th over with Williamson scoring unbeaten 40 off 42 balls while Conway made 32-ball 36. Left-arm pacer Boult was awarded Player of the Match for his brilliant spell in the first innings. New Zealand are likely to face England in the semi-finals but it will be confirmed after the Pakistan-Scotland match.



KARACHI: Pakistan Women's Cricket team Captain Javeria Khan and West Indies Women team Captain Stafanie Taylor pose with trophy during unveiling ceremony of Pakistan and West Indies Women ODI Series 2021 at National Cricket Stadium. - DNA

## Djokovic wins Paris Masters title

PARIS: World No 1 Novak Djokovic came back from the brink to defeat stubborn Russian Daniil Medvedev and win the Paris Masters. Djokovic beat the 25-year-old, who sits behind him in the world rankings in second place, with an almost gladiatorial performance as he took the final 4-6, 6-3, 6-3. Medvedev claimed the prestigious title in Paris last year, having defeated Alexander Zverev in three sets last year to win his third Masters event, but finished runner-up in the French capital this time. The pair, undoubtedly the two best in the men's game on current form, had met in two prior finals this year, being the Australian Open, where Djokovic won in straight sets, and the US Open, where Medvedev did the same. This time, a final-set decider was required as the Serb helped set aside if not banish some of the bad memories from Flushing Meadows. Djokovic will finish as the world's highest ranked player for the seventh time, which he secured by beating Hubert Hurkacz in the semi-finals. The 20-time Grand Slam champion, who has now been No 1 for 345 weeks and counting, broke the record he jointly held with Pete Sampras with the feat and has now topped the standings in seven of the past 11 seasons. And the all-time great overcame his Russian counterpart in a thrilling encounter in Paris. - APP



## Smith seals victory for Arsenal against Watford

LONDON: In Mikel Arteta's 100 games as Arsenal manager, none of his players have brought more excitement and promise than Emile Smith Rowe and Bukayo Saka. It felt rather appropriate, then, that the Spaniard's first century of managerial matches was brought to a winning close by Smith Rowe, who is not yet deemed good enough for England but is certainly making a difference at his club. Another goal for Smith Rowe brought another victory for Arsenal, who are now 10 matches unbeaten going into the international break. It is not so long since these pauses in the season brought precious respite for Arsenal and their manager, but right now they must wish they could play day after day. The north London mood has truly been transformed in the past few weeks, thanks in large part to the superb form of Smith Rowe. Not even a missed penalty dampen their spirits against an awkwardly defensive Watford side, who they simply did not have the required quality in attack. In Smith Rowe, Arsenal had a player capable of unlocking a defence. Watford did not, even if their late pressure caused more than a few nerves in the Arsenal camp. Smith Rowe's strike, alty area, was his third in the last Premier League game. Last season he was challenged by Arteta to increase the number of goals and assists he contributed to the team, and he is emphatically answering that call at the moment. On the touchline it had been a battle between the Premier League's oldest manager and its youngest, with Ranieri deploying all of his cunning in a bid to slow the home side in the opening minutes. Arsenal have started fast in recent games, racing into thrilling leads, but Watford soon turned this into a frustrating afternoon for Arteta's side. Niggling foul followed niggling foul as Watford disrupted Arsenal's flow and tried to make the game as broken as possible. They also sat deep in their own half, allowing Arsenal to have the ball at the back without giving them the space to work it forward. In the absence of Thomas Partey, out with a tight groin, Arsenal were not able to play the decisive passes through the lines in the first half. They still had plenty of chances before the break, though, and they even had the ball in the net after seven minutes. Saka converted, and promptly produced a choreographed celebration with Smith Rowe, before VAR correctly ruled the goal out for offside. If the premature celebration had been awkward, then it was nothing compared to the atmosphere at the Emirates when Aubameyang missed his penalty. - Agencies



## Mirziyoyev takes office as Uzbek...

FROM PAGE 01  
The National Anthem of Uzbekistan was played. The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev delivered a speech on priority areas for the next five years. "We have developed a Strategy for the Development of New Uzbekistan and widely discussed it together with the people during the election campaign. In this important conceptual document, to ensure the consistency and continuity of our transformations, the main idea is "From the Action Strategy to the Development Strategy", the Head of the state said. It was noted that this strategy consists of seven directions. The first direction is building people's state through the development of a free civil society. To this end, in the future, most of the state functions will be transferred from the center to the regions. Each mahalla will have the position of an assistant hakim. The district budget will receive funds from additional sources and separate funds will be formed for each mahalla. The central agencies will be transformed, a compact and effective management system will be created, and the agencies performing duplicate functions will be optimized. "The leader should not be a burden for people, but, on the contrary, make their life easier", the President said.

## Pakistan to buy most expensive...

FROM PAGE 01  
Two other global companies which first accepted the PLL tenders for the LNG supply had backed out on their commitment and refused to supply the liquefied gas in the month of November. These cargoes were supposed to be delivered between Nov 19-20 and Nov 26-27. The PLL had floated emergency tenders for the procurement of these two cargoes. For these emergency tenders, the PLL had got bids worth \$31/MMBtu. The PLL has decided to buy LNG cargo for \$30.65/MMBtu for Nov 26-27. It is also trying to procure the LNG cargo for Nov 19-20. The PLL is already in talks for the resumption of two cancelled LNG cargoes as well. Sources said before this, the Pakistan LNG Limited bought the costlier LNG cargo in the month of October for \$20.29/MMBtu.

## Over 800 migrants disembark in Italy

TRAPANI (ITALY): More than 800 migrants who were plucked to safety in the Mediterranean disembarked from a charity rescue vessel in Sicily on Sunday, with most set to be transferred to two waiting quarantine ships. Red Cross workers helped the migrants - some wrapped in blankets, many barefoot - off the Sea Eye 4, which had begged Italy to allow it to dock after carrying out multiple rescue operations. Save the Children staff said they had been told there were around 170 minors aboard, but it was not yet clear how many were travelling with families and how many were unaccompanied. Some of the migrants raised their arms in celebration and cheered as the red ship pulled into the port of Trapani in western Sicily. Others sat with their legs dangling over the side, looking tired and drawn. The Sea Eye 4 was already carrying nearly 400 people who had been pulled to safety at sea when it raced to the rescue of another 400 people crowded onto a wooden boat on Thursday. It was given permission to dock just hours after a fellow charity delivered urgently needed relief supplies, including food and blankets, and after repeated appeals for help, the German NGO Sea Eye told AFP. After coronavirus tests, the adults without health problems were to be placed on quarantine ships. The UN's human rights agency said on Twitter it was "relieved that once again Italy has welcomed people whose lives were in danger at sea, and who were saved by the fundamental work of NGOs". - APP

## Sirty clinches title of CNS Int'l Squash C'ship

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi gave away the prizes to winner and runner up of the championship and congratulated them for their hard work and valued achievements

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Moustafa El Sirty clinched the title of 15th CNS International Squash Championship 2021. Closing ceremony of the championship was held at Pakistan Navy Roshan Khan Jahangir Khan Squash Complex, Karachi. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi graced the occasion as Chief Guest. While addressing the ceremony Naval Chief highlighted Pakistan Navy's long association with the game of Squash. He stated that holding of CNS Open Squash since year 2000 on regular basis is indicative of Pakistan Navy's commitment to promote the game of squash in the country. The Chief Guest expressed



his gratitude to Professional Squash Association (PSA), Pakistan Squash Federation, players, sponsors and the tournament organizers for impeccable conduct of the event. Later, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi gave away the prizes to winner and runner up of the championship and congratulated them for their hard work and valued achievements. The final match of the tournament was played between Mr Moustafa El Sirty from Egypt & Mr Tsz Fung Yip from Hong Kong. After a tough and thrilling competition Mr Moustafa El Sirty won the match. The ceremony was attended by a large number of civil and military dignitaries, sponsors, national sports personalities and senior players of sports community.



## Briefs

Libyan gov't  
rejects  
suspension  
of FM

## AGENCIES

TRIPOLI: The Libyan government on Sunday rejected the Presidential Council's decision to suspend Foreign Minister Najla Mangoush, who was accused of not coordinating foreign policy with the council. The Council of Ministers said that decision is not within the authority of the Presidential Council. "According to the results of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum held in Geneva, the Presidential Council has limited powers, has no legal right to appoint or dismiss members of the executive branch, and this right is exclusively vested in the Prime Minister of the National Unity Government," it said. It added that the Foreign Ministry "has shown great success in the international arena by organizing the Libyan Stability Conference and adopting a positive communication policy towards friendly and brotherly countries in a way that will contribute to Libya's stability." Emphasizing that the efforts of the ministry should be supported by all officials and parties, the statement said the National Unity Government instructed Mangoush to continue in her role and reiterated "its appreciation for her patriotic efforts by performing her duty as requested." It added that these powers are exclusive to the prime minister.

Turkey tests  
Siper missile  
defence  
system

ANKARA: Turkey has tested its first long-range domestically-engineered missile defence system, the 'Siper'. The country's top defence industry official announced on Monday that Ankara has successfully achieved another milestone in developing an indigenous long-range and multi-layered defence system. "We will eliminate all threats against our Gokvatan [a reference to Turkey's air space] in the most powerful way with Siper, which we plan to take into (army's) inventory in 2023," said Ismail Demir, President of Defence Industries. According to Demir, Turkey will continue to produce new weapons and will have up to six different multi-layered air defence systems. The Siper project is led by Turkey's defence companies Aselsan, Roketsan and the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey. Besides Siper, which is expected to rival Russia's S-400, Korkut, Sungur and Hisar air defence systems are in place. Turkey has been dedicated to fortifying its aerial defence capabilities since the mid-2000's. Ankara has developed short and medium range defence systems dubbed the Hisar A and Hisar O.

Iran holds  
annual  
military  
exercises

## WEB DESK

TEHRAN: Iran's military has launched an annual exercise near the mouth of the Gulf, a few weeks before the resumption of talks between Tehran and world powers to revive a 2015 nuclear deal. "The military exercise in Iran's coast on the Gulf of Oman is to display the country's military might and readiness to confront our enemies," Admiral Mahmoud Mousavi, the spokesman for the Zolfaghar-1400 drill, told state TV on Sunday. The exercise covers an area from the eastern parts of the Strait of Hormuz to the northern parts of the Indian Ocean and parts of the Red Sea, state TV reported. About a fifth of oil that is consumed globally passes through the strategic Strait of Hormuz waterway in the Gulf. Periodic confrontations have taken place between Iran's military and US forces in the Gulf since 2018, when former US President Donald Trump exited the nuclear pact and reimposed harsh sanctions against Tehran.



SHUSHA, AZERBAIJAN: Media delegation from Pakistan visited Shusha (Susa), the strategic town liberated from the Armenian occupation by Azerbaijan. For Azerbaijani people Shusha holds immense importance. It is said that who controls Shusha in fact control the entire Karabakh region. Editor Islamabad POST, Centreline and DNA News Agency is also part of the delegation. – DNA

Azerbaijan struggles to restore  
historical capital Shusha

Shusha, also known as the pearl of Karabakh, founded by Karabakh Khan Penahali in 1752, has numerous historical monuments

## FOREIGN DESK

SHUSHA: Shusha, the culture and historical capital of Azerbaijan, was destroyed by Armenian forces during its three-decade-long occupation. The region was liberated Nov. 8, 2020, after 28 years. Buildings in the seven districts of the city, including mosques, schools, residential compounds and historical sites, have been damaged and many were destroyed by Armenian forces before they fled the city. A group of Pakistani journalists, including an Anadolu Agency reporter, visited the city Saturday where Azerbaijani officials gave a tour of the destruction that was carried out by Armenia during the occupation. "Shusha is an important and historical city for us and look at all the buildings, including religious and historical places, destroyed by the Armenians during their occupation," a senior official with the Azerbaijan presidency, who did not want to be named, told reporters. At least 17 mosques, springs and historical sites, like the tomb complex of the Molla Panah – also

known as Vagif, a prominent Azerbaijani poet – were destroyed but has now been rebuilt by the government, he said. More than 300 historical monuments were destroyed. The beautiful city, which is a symbol of Azerbaijani history and culture, located at the top of a hill, also has strategic importance. It is located on the road leading to Khanakendi, the largest city in Upper Karabakh. In January, Azerbaijan's president declared Shusha the cultural capital of the country. Shusha, also known as the pearl of Karabakh, founded by Karabakh Khan Penahali in 1752, has numerous historical monuments. Many distinguished scientists, intellectuals and cultural icons were born in the city. But most monuments and even the Shusha fortress walls were damaged and are now being repaired by the government. The city is also known as the "cradle of Azerbaijani music" because famous composers and musicians such as Jabbar Garyaghdiglu, Gurban Pirimov, Bulbul (Nightingale), Seyid Shushinski, Khan Shushinski and Uzeyir Hajibeyov were born here. Writers and thinkers include

Hurshidbanu Natavan, Gasim Bey Zakir, Suleyman Sani Akhundov, Abdurrahim Hagverdiyev, and Najaf Bey Vazirov who were also born in Shusha. Ahmet Agaoglu, a politician, jurist, writer and journalist, who left a deep mark in Azerbaijan and Turkey, where he spent a part of his life, is also a native. After the liberation of Shusha, the government approved a master plan to rebuild it. It is going to restore the old city, build business centers and 25 residential complexes that will consist of 2,000 residential flats. "The master plan has already been approved by the government and all projects will be completed within 18 months," said a senior official with the Shusha administration. The government has already constructed new roads of around 100 kilometers (62 miles) from Fuzuli to Shusha in a few months, which is now open to traffic. Civilians are not allowed to visit certain areas because Armenian forces planted thousands of landmines in the region, which is now being cleared by authorities. President Ilham Aliyev is expected to visit Shusha on Nov. 8 to cele-

brate the first Victory Day in the liberated region where he will also inaugurate several new projects for the area. "As you see, all cities, even the city of Shusha have been destroyed and of course, the Azerbaijani government is doing its best to restore and revive the Karabakh region," Tural Ganjali, a member of Azerbaijan parliament that represents the Karabakh region, told Anadolu Agency. "We hope that it will take a short period of time that we will be able to return [as] we are waiting every day, every night when we are going back," he said, about displaced residents. According to officials, nearly 1 million people were displaced when Armenia occupied the Karabakh region in the 1990s and are living in different parts of the country. Tural Ganjali, who was born in Khanakendi and raised in Shusha, said he is the happiest person in the world to see the liberation of his homeland and the end of the occupation. "These days we are celebrating the tremendous victory that we have achieved last year, and, of course, it's a historic victory for all of us – especially for those people who

have lived as refugees, as internally displaced persons for 30 years," said Ganjali. He added that all displaced people are very happy and preparing to return home as the government is already working on the restoration of the destroyed region. Shusha is located at an altitude of 1,300 meters to 1,600 meters (4,265 feet to 5,249 feet) above sea level and is known for its natural beauty and pleasant weather. The government has already built roads to the city, while work on a highway is underway and is expected to be completed next year. The city, already famous for its natural beauty and springs, was a famous tourists spot during the Soviet era. The Jidir Plain in the south, surrounded by forests and promenades, hosted horse races, festivals and sporting events for years. Azerbaijanis who are currently celebrating their victory on Nov. 8, said they are impatiently waiting to visit Shusha and other areas of the Karabakh region. "I have been looking forward to visiting Karabakh throughout my whole life," said Jamila Mammadova, a student in Baku.

Six dead in  
mine blast in  
Kazakhstan

## DNA

NUR SULTAN: Six workers died and two more were in "critical condition" Sunday after a methane explosion at an ArcelorMittal mine in Kazakhstan, the company and the emergency ministry said. A sudden blast took place Sunday morning at the Abaiskaya coal mine operated by ArcelorMittal Temirtau, a Kazakh unit of the steel giant in the Central Asian country's industrial Karaganda region. Sixty-four workers were in the mine at the time of the accident, and 56 were able to get out. "Six people died (and) two were injured," the emergency ministry said in a statement. ArcelorMittal said the accident had taken place due to an "outburst" of gas and coal. The company said the two injured workers were in "critical condition." A government commission headed by Emergency Minister Yury Ilyin was dispatched to the scene. Mining accidents are fairly common in former Soviet countries due to lax safety practices and outdated infrastructure.

Pak envoy  
visits Fudan  
University  
Shanghai

SHANGHAI: Ambassador of Pakistan to China, Mr. Moin Ul Haque, visited Fudan University Shanghai and met with Mr. Xu Ningsheng, President of Fudan University. According to China Economic Net, during the meeting, President Xu briefed the Ambassador on the strengths of the University and expressed readiness for further enhancing cooperation with Pakistani academic institutions in the disciplines of medical, public health, business management, and new engineering technologies. Ambassador expressed satisfaction at the ongoing cooperation with Fudan university particularly mentioning noting the contributions of the Pakistan Study Center being hosted by the University for over the last decade and the CPEC Consortium of Universities Secretariat also based at Fudan. Together with the newly established China-Pakistan Education Centre, a solid platform has been created for enhancing academic and educational ties between Fudan University and Pakistani universities and research institutes in various disciplines. The Ambassador also appreciated the university leadership for taking good care of Pakistani students during the Covid-19 outbreak. The two sides agreed to share proposals to further enhance institutional linkages and mutual cooperation in education and research. Vice President of Fudan University, Director of Pakistan Study Centre, and Consul General of Pakistan in Shanghai were also present during the meeting. – APP

Azerbaijan,  
Kyrgyzstan  
eye transport  
cooperation

BAKU: Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan are planning to sign intergovernmental agreements in the field of transport, Kyrgyz Ambassador Kairat Osmonaliyev told Trend on Nov. 7. According to Osmonaliyev, during a video conference between representatives of the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Kyrgyzstan and the Ministry of Digital Development and Transport of Azerbaijan, draft intergovernmental agreements on international road and air traffic, the resumption of the flights on Baku-Bishkek route, including other directions, as well as issues of developing cooperation in the sphere of transport communications. "Besides, we discussed the issues of increasing the quotas for forms of permits for bilateral transit transportation by road, exchange of experience with the Azerbaijani side on the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route project [Middle Corridor]," he said. The similar mechanism of operational interaction is planned to be organized between other interested structures of Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan, added the diplomat. – APP



WASHINGTON: Lunch hosted by Ruth and John D. Hazel Dean GEORGE MASON University Washington DC at COSMO Club in Honor of Mohammad Saddique Sheikh Chairman and Malik Sohail Hussain Secretary General US-Pakistan International Chamber. – DNA

Palestine slams  
Israeli refusal

## FOREIGN DESK

RAMALLAH: Palestine on Sunday decried the Israeli refusal to reopen a US consulate to serve Palestinians in occupied East Jerusalem. On Saturday, Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said there is no place for an American consulate to serve Palestinians in Jerusalem. Bennett's statement is a "critical test for the US administration of Joe Biden," the Palestinian Foreign Ministry said in a statement. The ministry called on the US administration to stick to its stance on reopening the US Consulate in Jerusalem for the Palestinians. "It is high time for the international community to take the lead in respect-

ing its obligations and assume its legal and moral responsibilities towards the [Israeli] occupation and settlements, and to stop its miserable trust in the Israeli government," the ministry said. In 2019, former US President Donald Trump closed the US Consulate in East Jerusalem and merged it with the US Embassy after moving it to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken had earlier announced plans to reopen the US consulate in East Jerusalem. Jerusalem remains at the heart of the Israel-Palestine conflict, with Palestinians hoping East Jerusalem, now occupied by Israel, might eventually serve as capital of a future Palestinian state.

## Envoy for expanding Pak-Belarus trade ties

Established in 1973, the company employees over 3000 staff and exports over Euro 50 million worth of textile products particularly home textile products i.e curtains, table covers and a wide range of fabrics for uniforms to foreign buyers including IKEA

## DNA

BELARUS: The Ambassador of Pakistan to Belarus Sajjad Haider Khan participated in the XII International Investment Forum "Mill of success" held in the city of Mogilev, which was chaired by the Governor of Mogilev region. The Minister of Economy of Belarus and Chairman Belarusian Chambers of Commerce & Industries were amongst the keynote speakers. The representatives of several countries, including government bodies, chambers of commerce and industry and members of the diplomatic corps attended the event. The Ambassador also visited the exhibition held on the side lines of the Investment Forum. Addressing the businesspersons during the reception held by the Governor in honour of the participants of the Investment Forum, the Ambassador highlighted the developing friendly ties between the two countries and invited the participants to benefit from the trade & investment opportunities between the two countries.

During the event, the Ambassador also met with the Governor of Mogilev region Leonid Zayats, appreciated his leadership in organizing the business forum and shared Pakistan's desire to strengthen mutually beneficial relations more specifically between Punjab and Mogilev which enjoy the status

of sister regions. Earlier during the day, the Ambassador visited the OJSC "Lenta", a leading textile manufacturer. Director General Ms. Elena Shaytura and Deputy DG Mr. Sergey Larchenko briefed the Ambassador regarding the range of products being manufactured at

the facility which include different types of ribbons, curtains, tablecloths, towels, and medical bandages etc. The Ambassador also visited JSC "Mogotex", largest manufacturer of textile products in the Republic of Belarus, a recognized leader in the market of Russia as well as countries of near and far abroad. Director General Victor Matievich briefed about the operations of the company which has three factories covering weaving, finishing and sewing. Established in 1973, the company employees over 3000 staff and exports over Euro 50 million worth of textile products particularly home textile products i.e curtains, table covers and a wide range of fabrics for uniforms to foreign buyers including IKEA. Highlighting the strengths of the textile sector of Pakistan, the Ambassador invited the Belarusian textile companies to participate in one of the trade exhibitions held in Pakistan to explore further opportunities. During the interactions, the leadership of the two textile companies showed interest in importing raw materials from Pakistan required for production of home textile items and gauze bandages.





**Briefs**

**Sindh govt responsible for sugar crisis**

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Political Communication Shahbaz Gill on Sunday blamed Government of Sindh for recent sugar crisis in the country. Addressing a press conference, Shahbaz Gill said that Sindh government went against national interest of country just to gain some political benefit. Gill said that the sugar mills which used to start operation in October were deliberately closed by the provincial government. He added that; however, public knows everything.

A day earlier, spokesperson of Finance Ministry Muzammil Aslam on Saturday said that increase in demand of sugar and delay in crushing of sugarcane caused hike in price of the commodity. Muzammil Aslam, while addressing a press conference, said that government has sugar stock for 22 days but Sindh government is not asking the Centre for cheap sugar nor is it starting crushing of sugarcane. He said that price of sugar is a provincial matter and because of that Punjab government raided several warehouses which were hoarding sugar which reduced price of the essential commodity but on the other hand, Sindh government did not take any such action and is just busy in blaming the federal government for the hike.

**India's moot an attempt to undo spoiler image'**

ISLAMABAD: Having faced strategic losses in Afghanistan after US withdrawal, India plans to host the NSA-level summit in New Delhi next week, which the analysts believe, is nothing but an attempt to cover up its image of "spoiler" and try to enhance its relevance in the region. Being well-cognisant of India's true face and negative role in the region particularly in Afghanistan, key regional stakeholder Pakistan had already declined India's invitation to be part of the summit. "I will not go! I am not going... a spoiler cannot be a peacemaker," Moeed Yusuf told media when asked whether he planned to go to attend the summit on the invitation of Indian counterpart Ajit Doval. According to Indian media, China has not yet confirmed its participation in the summit which was being keenly watched. "Aside from Pakistan, another country that is yet to respond to India's invitation is China," Indian news agency ANI reported on Friday. - APP

**Taiwan: 16 Chinese warplanes enter air zone**

WEB DESK

TAIPEI: Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense on Sunday said 16 Chinese fighter jets had entered its Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) a day earlier. The number of aircraft sent into the ADIZ is one of the largest since early October, when the People's Liberation Army (PLA) sent around 150 warplanes into the air defense zone in separate maneuvers over five days. The ministry said it issued radio warnings and monitored the aircraft on Saturday using air defense systems. The jets entered the ADIZ off Taiwan's southwestern coast, following a path similar to previous incursions. The ADIZ extends hundreds of kilometers from Taiwan's coast and even includes parts of mainland China. It is much larger than Taiwan's sovereign air space, which only extends 12 nautical miles from the coast.

**OIC supports Kashmiris' right to self-determination: Envoy**

The special envoy reaffirmed OIC's support to the just struggle of the Kashmiri people. He expressed complete solidarity with the valiant Kashmiri people

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The special envoy of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on Jammu and Kashmir Yousef Aldobeay on Sunday said OIC would continue to support Kashmiris' right to self-determination. He stated this while talking to representatives of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) in a meeting here. He assured the delegation of Kashmiri leaders that OIC would continue advocating the Kashmir cause. The Kashmir issue was similar to the Palestine issue as human rights of people of Kashmir and Palestine were being violated and they were facing the threat

of demographic changes. The special envoy reaffirmed OIC's support to the just struggle of the Kashmiri people. He expressed complete solidarity with the valiant Kashmiri people. He said OIC had longstanding support for the right of self-determination for the people of Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with United Nations (UN) Security Council resolutions. The foreign ministers of OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir extended the support to Kashmiris in a joint communique during a meeting on the sidelines of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly in New York in September this year. The envoy said after his visit to Azad Jammu and Kash-



mir he would prepare and present a report during the next ministerial meeting of the OIC, on the situation in the region. In the coming days, the OIC envoy would get a first-hand

account of the gravity of the situation on ground in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and along the Line of Control. This was the second visit of the special envoy to Pa-

kistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Yousef Aldobeay said his first visit to Azad Kashmir last year was beneficial as during it he had the opportunity to meet the Kashmiri leadership. Ghulam Muhammad Safi, Faiz Nakhshbandi, Sheikh Abdul Mateen and Altaf Wani were part of the APHC delegation which met the OIC special envoy. The APHC delegation thanked the special envoy for the OIC's steadfast support to the people of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The delegation apprised the special envoy of the grave human rights and humanitarian situation in the IIOJK. They stressed that following its illegal actions

of 5 August 2019, India was now taking steps to disenfranchise the Kashmiri people and to turn the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir into a Hindu dominated territory. The delegation unequivocally rejected these actions and termed them as gross violation of UN Security Council resolutions and international law including the 4th Geneva convention. The Kashmiri delegation affirmed that no amount of suppression by the Indian occupation forces could subdue the resolute spirit of the Kashmiri people to free themselves from the yolk of Indian occupation. They underscored that the valiant Kashmiri struggle would soon be crowned with the glory of success.

**14-member Balochistan cabinet takes oath**

QUETTA: A new 14-member Balochistan cabinet took oath at a ceremony at the Governor House in Quetta on Sunday. Balochistan governor Syed Zahoar Ahmad Agha administered the oath to the new cabinet members. According to an official handout, a notification of the appointment of five advisors would also be issued on the occasion. Balochistan Awami Party's (BAP) Mir Zahoar Ahmed Buledi, Sardar Mohammad Saleh Bhootani, Sardar Abdul Rehman Kethran, Nawabzada Tariq Magasi have now become part of the new cabinet. Noor Nuhammad Damar, Akbar Askani, Sikandar Imrani, Abdul Khaliq Hazara, Zamrak Achakzai and Muhammad Khan Lehri were also sworn in to the new cabinet. Furthermore, Ahsan Shah, Mir Naseebullah Marri, Mubeen Khan Khilji and Mir Asadullah Baloch also took oath of office as provincial ministers. On October 29, BAP leader Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo took oath as the new Balochistan chief minister after he was elected to the office unopposed. Governor Balochistan Zahoar Ahmad Agha administered the oath to the newly-elected chief minister at the Governor House, Quetta, after he received 39 votes in the Balochistan Assembly. - APP

**National security Committee meets today**

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the parliamentary committee on national security comprising members of the National Assembly (NA) and Senate will be held on Monday (today) at 11 am. The meeting will be chaired by Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaisar to be held at National Assembly Hall. Moved by Minister for Law and Justice Muhammad Farogh Naseem, the National Assembly passed a motion in its sitting on November 5, to allow the use of chamber of the National Assembly on November 8, for a briefing to the Parliamentary Committee on National Security. The meeting will be briefed by military officials on current national security issues. During the meeting, the top military brass will brief about the overall affairs of national security. Federal Ministers Pervez Khattak, Ejaz Ahmad Shah, Ali Amin Gandapur, Shafiqat Mahmood, Asad Umar, Shibli Faraz and other ministers will also attend the meeting. Advisor to Prime Minister Babar Awan and Moeed Yusuf will also attend the meeting. The four provincial chief ministers, the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) president, AJK prime minister and the chief minister of Gilgit-Baltistan have also been invited to attend the meeting. - APP

**Pak exports to China to be doubled in next 3-5 years**

BEIJING: Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque expressed the confidence that Pakistan's exports to China would be doubled in the next 3 to 5 years as a result of increasing interest of Pakistani traders and companies to trade with China. "China-Pakistan export and import trade is very promising. I can foresee that in the next 3 to 5 years, Pakistan's exports to China, such a huge market, will be doubled. And there is an increasing interest of Pakistani traders and companies, to trade with China," he said during his visit to the 4th China International Import Expo (CIIE) being held in Shanghai. "November 5th-10th, the 4th China International Import Expo (CIIE) has attracted nearly 3,000 businesses from 127 countries and regions, according to China Economic Net (CEN). Ambassador Haque visited the Pakistani pavilion and discussed the trade situation with Pakistani exhibitors. After the visit, he said: "CIIE is a flagship expo of China, and I must give full credit to the Chinese gov-

ernment, especially President Xi Jinping. It was his idea to launch this expo. Pakistan has been a very active partner since the first CIIE. Our prime minister was a keynote speaker at the first CIIE. And since then, we have had our speakers and exhibitors regularly. It's a unique expo because most of the countries' trade exports are export oriented and CIIE is import oriented." He said, "CIIE is one of the examples of China's opening up, which has boosted the growing economy for not only China, but also BRI countries. Yesterday, Xi said that if you walk alone, you can go fast, but if you walk together, you can go longer. I fully agree with him and we have to work together. International solidarity and cooperation are very important to address many challenges in the world, including trade imbalances, climate change, health pandemics and so on. So, we are very happy that we are a very close partner of China, cooperating on international multilateral affairs." - APP

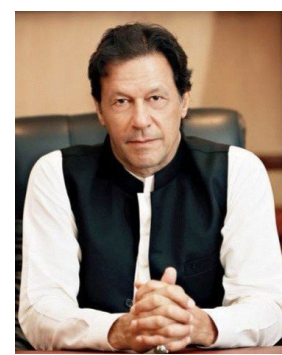
**Global inflation: Pakistan doing 'relatively' better**

The PM says despite the worldwide inflation trend, Pakistan's exports recorded an increase of 17% in October

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday said that coronavirus lockdowns resulted in unprecedented rise in commodity prices internationally and adversely affected most countries in the world. Prime Minister, in a tweet, said that despite that Pakistan has fared relatively much better compared to other countries. However, he said, "Pakistan MashaAllah has fared relatively much better." The prime minister also shared a video clip of Finance Ministry Spokesperson Muzammil Aslam who rubbished the notions of Pakistan's dwindling economy. Quoting the data of Food and Agriculture Organization, he said from September to October this year, food prices increased by 1.9%, World Cereal Index by 3.2%, edible oil prices by 9.6%, and dairy products by 2.6%.

However, he said despite the worldwide inflation trend, Pakistan's exports recorded an increase of 17% in October and are likely to touch \$30 billion mark this year. Textile exports are expected to reach \$22 billion this year. He said consequent to the government's timely measures, the non-oil imports of the country reduced by 12.5% last month making a difference of \$750 million. He said due to increasing income, tax collection also surged with 32% increase in four months making the government to receive additional Rs 151 billion compared to last year. He said according to the latest data, country's cotton crop increased by 81% during the last four months. In August, the industry recorded a growth of over 12% and companies' profits by 21%. "All this shows that the country's economy is heading fast and employment would be required in the coming days," the spokesperson commented.



Addressing a question about any relief for the middle class in PM's recently announced Rs 120 billion relief package, he said the government had already announced a concession of Rs5-7 on every electricity unit to be consumed more than the previous year's consumption during November to February. Moreover, he said the sugar prices would fall in the near future owing to record sugarcane crop. "All these things will appear on the ground in coming days," he remarked. He said the prices of oil, gas and edible oil were not in

the government's control; however owing to the record crops this year, Pakistan would emerge from a food deficit to a food surplus country. On the other hand, opposition is demanding resignation of Imran Khan over rising prices of commodities including sugar and petrol. Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) has announced a long march against PTI government in December while PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has pressed Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan's ouster for ending inflation. Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's Maryam said that the PML-N and PDM want to become voice of people. "The severe punishment of inflation imposed by an incompetent ruler, the suicides of fed up people with starvation and even after making country as most backward in the region but the business of lies continues from upper to lower level," she added.



KABUL: Pakistan ambassador to Afghanistan Mansoor Ahmad Khan calls on Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Mutaqqi. - DNA

**Dengue claims another six lives in Lahore, Gujrat**

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: The dengue virus continues spreading its tentacles and claiming lives in Punjab as four more people in Lahore and two in Gujrat succumbed to the disease during the last 24 hours. According to a report of the provincial health department on Sunday, 414 new cases of dengue were reported in Lahore and four lost their battle for life against the disease. As many as 1,524 dengue patients are under treatment in the city hospitals. A total of 13,274 cases have been reported in the metropolitan city this year. On Saturday, the health de-

partment inspection teams checked 60,199 indoor and 8,944 outdoor points in Lahore and destroyed dengue larva from 824 points. In Gujrat, two dengue patients were expired during last 24 hours. The number of dengue patients is rising in the city but the administration is not taking any proper anti-dengue measures. The number of dengue patients has exceeded 100 in the Aziz Bhatti Shaheed Hospital. In the urban area of Islamabad, 31 people and in the rural area 11 people fell prey to the dengue virus during the last 24 hours. The total number of dengue patients has reached 4,102 in the federal capital.

**Anti-Muslim attacks: India hunts 'fake news'**

A police report released to media identified 102 posts that it said were published by "unknown miscreants" to provoke conflict between "people of differing religious communities". Local media reports said police had written to Facebook, Twitter and YouTube to demand the posts be removed

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Indian police are seeking the owners of around 100 social media accounts accused of sharing "fake news" after mob attacks on mosques in the country's northeast. Last month's violence in Tripura state erupted on the sidelines of a rally for hundreds of followers of a right-wing Hindu nationalist group. The incident appeared to be a revenge attack prompted by the killing of several Hindu worshippers across the border in Muslim-majority Bangladesh. Four mosques were vandalised and several Muslim-owned homes and businesses were ransacked. According to police, people aiming to

whip up further violence shared misleading images on social media after the incident. "The accounts identified were spreading rumours, fake news, fake videos and fake photographs that were not even linked to Tripura," a senior police officer in the state told AFP on Sunday, on condition of anonymity. "It is still too early but everyone will be identified and arrested for such fabrications." A police report released to media on Saturday identified 102 posts that it said were published by "unknown miscreants" to provoke conflict between "people of

differing religious communities". Local media reports said police had written to Facebook, Twitter and YouTube to demand the posts be removed. Much of the offending posts had been removed by Sunday and AFP could not determine their content. Those that remained online largely appeared to be highlighting the plight of Muslims targeted in the attacks. "Tripura is burning!" read a post by an Indian journalist based in New Delhi, which was published on the day of the incident without accompanying photos or footage and highlighted in the police document.

Last month's attacks put the state on high alert, with security forces guarding mosques and police banning gatherings of more than four people. Tripura is ruled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party. Leaders of India's minority Muslim community say they have increasingly been subject to attacks and threats, with little opportunity for official recourse, since the Hindu nationalist party came to power in 2014. "The state government is yet to initiate any big action against those who perpetrated violence," said a statement from a coalition of Indian Muslim groups on Saturday. "Those police officers who did not prevent the violence should also be subject to enquiry and action must be taken against them," it added.



**Strong quake rattles Swat, adjoining areas**

DNA

SWAT: A strong earthquake jolted Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Swat district and its adjoining areas on Sunday. The earthquake was measured 4.8 on the Richter Scale and, according to the National Seismic Monitoring Centre, the epicentre of the moderate earthquake was near Afghanistan's Hindukush Region and its depth was 120km. According to the National Seismic Monitoring Centre (NSMC), the tremor of the moderate quake had a depth of 120 kilometres and its epicentre was the Hindu Kush mountain range in Afghanistan. There were no reports of losses of life and property, in earthquake. No loss of life or injuries were reported so far. After the tremors were felt, people in the region ran out of their houses and chaos ensued in the area.