



Islamabad POST

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Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Gen. Nadeem Raza attends Azerbaijan Victory Day function

Detailed News On Page-01

Azerbaijan VP greets people on Victory Day

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Pak, Korea have potential in tourism, trade

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Briefs

Putin talks to CIA chief

DNA

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin had a phone talk with CIA Director William Burns while he was on his two-day visit to Russia last week, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Monday. Putin and Burns discussed the issues of cyber security, bilateral relations, and the crisis in Russia-US diplomatic relations, Peskov told reporters. The two also exchanged opinions on the regional crises, the spokesman added. A high-ranking US delegation headed by Burns was in Moscow on Nov. 2-3.

Govt handled Covid-19 effectively

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Hussain said on Monday that Pakistan was in a far better position than rest of the world due to its effective handling of the COVID-19 which was also appreciated by the world community. In a tweet, the minister said the political opponents were spreading lies in frustration and in this situation the PTI workers should play their role in bringing facts to the public knowledge. He said that Pakistan was not located on a separate planet and international prices of commodities had their impact here as well.

Sugar prices to come down

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Energy Hamid Azhar has said that sugar prices will come down in next couple of weeks. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad on Monday afternoon, he said this year sugarcane has recorded a bumper crop, which will meet requirements of sugar in the country. The Minister for Energy said that legal action will be taken if sugar mills in Punjab do not start the crushing well in time.

Talks with the TTP MPs will be taken onboard, assures COAS

Army Chief General Bajwa briefed the Parliamentary Committee on National Security in an in-camera meeting

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa Monday assured taking the parliament into confidence on the talks with TTP and agreement with the TLP. Gen Bajwa briefed the Parliamentary Committee on National Security in an in-camera meeting held here in the parliament building on Monday. The in-camera meeting was chaired by National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser started and was held in the assembly's main hall. Leader of Opposition in National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and other federal ministers and chief ministers were present. The meeting was also attended by Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa and DG ISI Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed, DG ISPR Major General Babar Iftikhar and other senior military officials. The meeting continued for five and half hours but Prime Minister Imran Khan did not attend it, however, Chief of General Staff Lieutenant General Azhar Abbas also participated in it.

Govt, TTP agree on complete ceasefire

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry on Monday said the PTI government had reached an agreement on a "complete ceasefire" with the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). He said authorities in neighbouring Taliban-controlled Afghanistan had facilitated the talks. "The ceasefire will keep on extending with the progress in the negotiations," Chaudhry said in a video statement. No government can undertake any negotiations beyond the limits of the Constitution and law, he said, adding that both the government and the TTP have agreed on a complete ceasefire as per the understanding. He said that sovereignty of the state, security, peace in the affected areas,

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PM Imran orders strict action against sugar mafia

Prime Minister says that the govt is taking all possible steps to reduce the burden on the poor

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday ordered to launch a crackdown against the sugar mafia and hoarders to bring down the prices of essential commodities. Prime Minister said that the government is taking all possible steps to reduce the burden on the poor and has introduced several schemes, including the Ehsas Ration

Sugar shortage, price spike hit across Pakistan

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Coarse sugar shortage crisis hit across Pakistan including provincial capital Lahore and in big cities like Hyderabad as well leaving people disappointed. Sugar price in Narowal reached Rs180/kg, in Bahawalpur Rs160/kg, in Islamabad Rs150/kg. Coarse sugar shortage crisis hit Lahore's Akbari Mandi where no sugar was available for the last four months. In Lahore's open market, sugar is being sold at Rs155/kg while the per mound rate of sugar sacks is Rs7500. Shopkeepers warned that sugar prices could

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RAWALPINDI: Ms Marta Morgan, Deputy Foreign Minister of Canada called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS), on Monday. – DNA

AZERBAIJAN VICTORY DAY



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Nadeem Raza, Governor Punjab Ch. Sarwar, former Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Ambassador of Turkey Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul, Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov, Defence Attache Azerbaijan Col Mehman Novruzlu and others cutting cake to celebrate Victory Day. – DNA

Azerbaijan celebrates Victory Day in Pakistan

CJCS General Nadeem Raza, Governor Punjab Ch Sarwar and others attend reception

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov and Defence Attache Col. Mehman Novruzlu held a reception to celebrate Azerbaijan Victory Day. Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Nadeem Raza, Governor Punjab Ch. Sarwar, former Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, and Ambassador of Turkey Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul attended the reception along with other distinguished guests. The chief guest General Nadeem Raza also performed the cake cutting ceremony along with other guests. Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov while welcoming the guests said

it was an honor for him to speak at the first victory day being celebrated in Pakistan. Ambassador said due to the ethnic cleansing carried out by Armenia over a million Azerbaijani people were left homeless. He said despite Armenian continued violations of international laws no sanctions have so far been imposed on Armenia. Azerbaijan had to act against the aggression of Armenia and the war which continued for 44 days culminated in victory of Azerbaijan. He said Azerbaijan victory is the victory of international law. He said after the liberation of the areas Azerbaijan govt started rehabilitation work in the areas and I am pleased to inform you that in just 8 months Fuzuli airport was made operational, which was recently inaugurated by the President of Turkey and President of Azerbaijan. He said Azerbaijan remains committed to world peace and stability. Ambassador Khazar also talked about the Kashmir issue and said his country fully supported resolution of the dispute as per the relevant UN resolutions. Defence Attache Col. Mehman Novruzlu in his speech highlighted the role of valiant Azerbaijani forces that foiled the evil designs of enemies and won victory for their country. He also thanked Pakistan for extending moral and diplomatic support during the entire conflict. He also paid glowing tributes to martyrs and heroes of the Patriotic War. One minutes silence was observed for the martyrs of the war.

Canadian Deputy FM calls on COAS

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Deputy Foreign Minister of Canada Marta Morgan called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said Monday. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, bilateral cooperation in various fields, overall regional situation, and collaboration in humanitarian measures were discussed. Speaking on the occasion, Gen Bajwa said that Pakistan desires to maintain the tradition of

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Daska by-polls: Action against involved officers

The decision comes after the ECP had released an inquiry report last week

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday said it will initiate departmental proceedings or criminal proceedings, or both against officials involved in the Daska by-poll fiasco. The decision comes after the ECP had released an inquiry report last week, revealing that the NA-75 Sialkot-IV by-election held

in Daska on February 19 was not held in a fair, free, and transparent manner. The ECP has decided to take action against the officers during a meeting chaired by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja with the body's members in attendance, a statement from the body said. The ECP has constituted a committee comprising special

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JI knocks SC over Pandora Papers

Names of more than 700 Pakistani were exposed

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-Is-lami Monday approached the Supreme Court of Pakistan for an independent and transparent inquiry into offshore companies and their owners named in Pandora Papers. JI Emir Sirajul Haq filed the application through lawyer Ishtiaq Ahmed Raja on Monday and prayed the

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Opp. parties to give tough time to govt

DNA

ISLAMABAD: All the opposition including PPP and PML-N have decided to hold a joint protest against the government. All the parties will give a tough time to the government in the parliament. A joint meeting of the opposition parties headed by Shabbaz Sharif was held in his chamber. The meeting was attended by PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Leader Yousuf Raza Gilani, Raja Pervez Ashraf, Raza Rabbani, Shehri Rehman, ANP leader Amir Haider Hoti and JUI leader Saad Mahmood. Shabbaz Sharif has said that there will be a meeting of the joint parliamentary parties of the opposition parties Tuesday.

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Alvi supports inclusive growth in stem and online voting – Page 04

US did more to radicalise Afghanistan than OBL – Page 05

Australia to tour Pakistan for first time in 24 years – Page 06

Fuzuli Airport – the pride of Azerbaijan and Karabakh – Page 07

Just settlement of J&K dispute a prerequisite for peace: PM – Page 08

Afghan FM expected to visit Pakistan

It will be first visit to Pakistan by an Afghan minister since the Taliban took control of Kabul

CENTRELINE REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Afghanistan's acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi is expected to visit Pakistan this week for talks on the relationship between the two countries, a Pakistani official said on Monday. The official, who requested not to be identified, told a private news website that the Afghan foreign minister would pay a two-day visit on Nov 11-12. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, who had visited Kabul last week, had invited Muttaqi to Islamabad. It will be the first visit to Pakistan by an Afghan minister since the Taliban took control of Kabul on Aug 15. Pakistan has not recognised the Taliban government, however, Taliban officials have

been allowed to take control of the Afghan embassy in Islamabad as well as consulates in Peshawar, Karachi and Quetta. "It would be a substantive visit as Amir Khan Muttaqi is a key member in the Taliban set-up," the Pakistani official said. Pakistan's ambassador to Afghanistan Mansoor Khan, who called on Muttaqi in Kabul on Sunday, tweeted that they had discussed measures for strengthening bilateral trade, transit, movement of people and humanitarian engagement. Qureshi had held detailed discussions with Muttaqi during his visit to Kabul on Oct 21, which officials say laid the foundation of a multi-sectoral engagement between the two countries in the days to come which could usher in an era of enhanced bilateral economic cooperation and people to people ties.



Both sides agreed to revive existing bilateral mechanisms and institutional frameworks such as Afghanistan-Pakistan Action Plan for Peace and Solidarity (APAPPS) to sort out differences and to remove hurdles in implementation of decisions on both sides.

China not to attend India's Afghan moot

NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI: China has said it will not attend the regional security dialogue on Afghanistan being hosted by India on November 10 due to a "scheduling issue", sources said. They said China has replied to India's invitation and said it will be unable to attend due to "scheduling issue". The sources said China has conveyed that it is open for dialogue with India on Afghanistan multilaterally and bilaterally. The Delhi Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan will be held at the NSA level and will be chaired by NSA Ajit Doval. Pakistan, an all-weather ally of China, had earlier declined the invitation to the dialogue. NSAs of Iran, Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan have confirmed their participation in the dialogue. On non-participation of Afghanistan in dialogue, the sources said that none of the eight countries recognises or legitimises the Taliban government. India also does not recognise so it has not invited Afghanistan, they added. Earlier Iran hosted meetings in a similar format in 2018 and 2019. Pakistan had not attended any of them but China did participate. The sources said as a matter of practice, India invited Pakistan to Delhi meet, "but it's unfortunate they refuse to attend".



KARACHI: Change of Command Ceremony held at Corps Headquarters Karachi. Lieutenant General Nadeem Ahmed Anjum hands over command of Karachi Corps to Lieutenant General Muhammad Saeed. — DNA

Strict measures needed against Dengue: Minister

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Provincial Minister for Public Prosecution Chaudhry Zaheer-ud-Din has said that war footing measures should be taken against dengue in the district while all resources should be utilized for controlling dengue with conducting a full public awareness campaign. He directed this while presiding over the meeting of District Emergency Response Committee for Anti-Dengue. Deputy Commissioner Ali Shehzad was also present on the occasion. During the meeting, the District Coordinator gave a briefing on anti-dengue measures and

surveillance activities. CEO DHA Dr. Kashif Mehmood and other officers were also participated. Provincial Minister for Public Prosecution Chaudhry Zaheeruddin said that he was monitoring anti-dengue measures in Faisalabad district on the instructions of Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar. He said that the Punjab government has alerted all the departments for anti-dengue so they should fulfill their responsibilities to the best of their ability and no negligence would be tolerated in this regard. He cleared that only paper work cannot be accepted and in the field all necessary surveillance should be done and

submit their report to the authority concerned. He said that public should be engaged to eliminate the larvae and asked them to clean their houses besides streets. He said that regular monitoring would be carried out and with the help of public and govt, dengue would no allow to spread. DC informed that 150 FIRs have been registered against dengue larvae breeders and strict watch program is underway for control of the dengue. He said that District and Tehsil level meetings are being conducted on regular basis and departments are on their foot to clear every hotspot of dengue larvae breeding.

Need to follow Iqbal's philosophy of 'Khudi'



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar said on Monday that Pakistan would emerge as a moderate Islamic welfare state by following the vision of Allama Iqbal. In a message to mark the Iqbal Day, the CM said that Allama Iqbal secured the future of Muslim nation by presenting the idea of a separate homeland in the subcontinent.

He said that Poet of the East Allama Muhammad Iqbal awakened the Muslims from a deep slumber through his poetry and philosophical thoughts and gave the message of self-identification to the youth. The Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar said that following the philosophy and vision of Allama Iqbal was the best way to pay tributes to the poet of the East.

He further said the vision of a 'Naya' Pakistan was in accordance with the philosophy and principles of Allama Iqbal. Prime Minister Imran Khan was materializing the dream of Iqbal's idea of Pakistan as Allama Iqbal believed in the golden principles of justice and equality, self-respect, passion and humanism which were essential elements for development, he added. — APP



Minister visits city areas to check prices

LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Mian Aslam Iqbal on Monday visited different areas of the city to review the situation of flour and sugar. The provincial minister reviewed the availability and prices of sugar and flour at various shops and stores. Consumers expressed satisfaction over the availability of sugar and flour at fixed prices, he said. Talking to the media on the occasion, the provincial minister said that sugar at Rs 90 per kg and 20 kg bag of flour at Rs 1,100 was available everywhere. There was no difference between the sweetness and nutrition of imported sugar and local sugar. Mian Aslam Iqbal warned that hoarders and illegal profiteers should correct themselves otherwise their shops would be sealed instead of imposing fine or register a case against them. — APP

Anti dengue measures inspected

LAHORE: The anti-dengue drive launched by the district administration was in full swing under which surveillance was being carried out at various points in the provincial capital. Assistant Commissioner Cantt Zeeshan Ranjha on Monday visited various areas of cantonment board, where he checked staff working in streets for indoor dengue surveillance and also observed the attendance and performance of the dengue squad deputied on field duty in the area. The assistant commissioner got registered a case against Asifa Education System School over the presence of dengue larva. He also advised the people of the area to adopt dengue preventive measures and maintain proper cleanliness in their localities. Assistant Commissioner Model Town Zeeshan Nadeem visited UC-127 Model Town to inspect anti-dengue

arrangements. For making better arrangements to prevent dengue, it was necessary for the public to cooperate with the administration and field staff, he said. He directed the teams to gear up pace of anti-dengue spray process in the area. All the departments were working in a coordinated manner to make the anti-dengue campaign a success. Assistant Commissioner Shalimar Tehniyat Bukhari inspected anti-dengue arrangements at UC-48 and Assistant Commissioner City Fizan Ahmed visited UC-94 to monitor the dengue workers activities. It is pertinent to mentioned here that 38,486 houses have been inspected for dengue larva during last four days in the city. Anti-dengue spray was also carried out at 12,793 houses and fogging process was also completed at 3,270 outdoor points. — APP

Envoy stresses exploiting potential of Pak-S. Africa trade

HC to Pakistan M Madikiza also appreciated a proposal to sign memorandums of understanding (MoUs) between the FCCI and leading chambers of South Africa

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: South African High Commissioner to Pakistan M Madikiza Monday called upon the businesspeople to exploit full potential of bilateral trade between South Africa and Pakistan. Addressing a function at the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) here, he said "our struggle to enhance business-to-business relations was stalled with the outbreak of Covid-19, but now efforts were under way to resume full-fledged business activities between the two countries.

He appreciated the Look Africa policy of Pakistan and said that in this connection, joint commission was playing a pivotal role. He suggested short- and long-term strategies to bring the youth of both countries closer to each other. "It will further enhance our bilateral trade on a sustained basis," he added. Regarding visa problems, he said serious and genuine businessmen would get preferential treatment. He lamented that a large number of Pakistanis were living in South Africa as illegal immigrants. Therefore, he advised genuine businessmen to apply for a visa to his office directly instead of falling prey to the

agents. He also underlined the importance of the Free Trade Agreement to give a quantum jump in trade and investment. He also appreciated a proposal to sign memorandums of understanding (MoUs) between the FCCI and leading chambers of South Africa. He said the situation had returned to normal after corona and hence we must get maximum benefit out of it. Earlier, FCCI President Atif Munir briefly introduced Faisalabad and Faisalabad chamber and said that two mega industrial estates were being developed in Faisalabad to attract maximum Foreign Direct investment (FDI). He said that those industrial estates,

particularly M-3 Industrial Estate and Allama Iqbal Special Economic Zone, offer facilities of special economic zones and are providing a globally compliant environment. About bilateral trade, Atif Munir Sheikh said that despite the best diplomatic relations, our trade is still in millions, which should be in billions according to the economic potential of the two countries. He said that the FCCI had inked a number of MoUs with local universities and research organisations to cater to the needs of modern and hi-tech industrial units in Faisalabad. He also requested the South African HC to support a proposed trade delegation of the FCCI to his

country for developing direct linkages between their Importers and exporters. Muhammad Fazal, Sohail Butt, Engineer Ahmad Hassan, Engineer Asim Munir and others participated in the question-answer session. Later, Imran Mehmood Sheikh, senior vice president, offered vote of thanks while Rana Sikandare-Azam, along with President Atif Munir Sheikh presented the FCCI shield to High Commissioner Madikiza. Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry President Ms Nighat Shahid Chaudhry, Muhammad Nawaz, Rana Ikramullah, Fayyaz Ahmad and Haji Abdul Rauf were also present.



DC Faisalabad inspects cleanliness situation

He said that more steps should be taken to raise the standard of cleanliness so that the city looks clean and beautiful

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Ali Shehzad reached various roads early in the morning to check the cleanliness situation in the city and inspected the cleaning operation on the roads. CEO Faisalabad Waste Management Company Kashif Raza Awan and other officers of the company were also present. The Deputy Commissioner visited D Type Colony, Millat Colony, Nisar Colony and other areas while inspecting the presence of waste work-



ers said that the cleaning process should be completed in the city before the commencement of normal life.

He said that more steps should be taken to raise the standard of cleanliness so that the city looks clean and

beautiful in all respects as per the expectations of the citizens.

He directed to disposed off garbage in a save manner and said that the attendance of waste workers should be monitored regularly. He asked the residents of areas about the presence of Waste workers and performance of them and on some complaints, DC removed to in charges from services. He went to parks of the area and checked the cleanliness situation and directed to provide best atmosphere to the public. CEO FPMC briefed about cleanliness plan and implementation.

Seminar on "ICE-Free Peshawar" organized

PESHAWAR: Agriculture University Peshawar and Police Department Monday organized a one-day awareness seminar "ICE-Free Peshawar" here at main auditorium where speakers calls for joint efforts to protect youth from the menace of drug abuse. Vice Chancellor of the University Prof Dr Jahan Bakht, Commandant Campus Muhammad Hussain Khan and SSP Investigation Peshawar Kokab Farooq attended the event as special guests. The event was attended by a large number of faculty members including Deputy Commandant Campus Niaz Mohammad Khan, Principals of University Public Schools and Colleges, University Administrative Officers, Police Officers and students of the University, Schools and Colleges. Speaking on the occasion VC Prof Dr Jahan Bakht, Commandant Campus Hussain Khan, SSP Investigation Kokab Farooq and Dr Anwar Ali Shad underlined the need for arranging awareness seminars and events to create awareness among youth about drug abuse. Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Jahan Bakht said that teachers should pay special attention to education and research as well as training of students. The job of educational institutions is not only to award degrees but also to make them active and responsible citizens. He said that in past trainings were arranged at educational institutions from time to time but now no such training and awareness sessions were arranged. — APP

Govt to bring back economic glory

The Minister said that the current tax-to-GDP tax rate in Pakistan was 9% which he said was very low and needed to be doubled to 20%

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue, Shaukat Tarin on Monday said that the government wanted to bring back Pakistan's past economic glory when Pakistan was one of the four largest economies in the Asian region. Back in the 1960s, "we were counted with economies like China and Japan, when we were economically strong" Adviser Finance said while addressing as chief guest in, 'Kamyab Jawan Convention' jointly Organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce (ICCI) and Kamyab Jawan Program



in ICCI Auditorium. The Adviser said that the government is focusing on human resource capital and Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs), which would be the government's top priority. He said that raising

the tax-to-Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio to 20% could improve the country's growth rate and provide employment opportunities to the youth. The Minister said that the current tax-to-GDP tax rate

in Pakistan was 9% which he said was very low and needed to be doubled to 20%. "There is no way out without paying taxes because we use the resources of this country, so taxes are obligatory on all sections,

including traders," he said. He said that no one has the right to use national resources without paying taxes. The Adviser said the government was working hard on human capital and interest-free loans and skills development courses for young people, agricultural loans, home loans in easy installments and health cards are steps in this direction. According to the vision of PM Imran Khan, we are taking important policy steps for the youth, he said. Shaukat Tarin said the young population is 60% of the country without which the country cannot move forward. — APP

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (ROADS DIVISION NO-V)

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tender are hereby invited on percentage basis from the approved contractors of Civil Work and having valid Pakistan Engineer Council (PEC) License 2021-22 for the work:-

S.#	Name of Work	MIT Cost	Earnest Money	Tender Fee	Date & Time of Opening
1	Construction of VRI-I H-11/1 Islamabad (Remaining Portion Rd-0 to 1600)	Rs.20,308,703/-	Rs.609,261/-	Rs. 2,000/-	23.11.2021 (Box closed at 11:30 AM & opened at 12:00 Noon)
2	Development of Class Three Shopping Center in Sector 1-16 Islamabad	Rs. 9,502,607/-	Rs.285,078/-	Rs. 2,000/-	23.11.2021 (Box closed at 11:30 AM & opened at 12:00 Noon)
3	Improvement of Drainage Network in Sector 1-16 Islamabad	Rs. 9,328,050/-	Rs.279,842/-	Rs. 2,000/-	23.11.2021 (Box closed at 11:30 AM & opened at 12:00 Noon)
4	Landscaping of Markaz in Sector 1-16 Islamabad	Rs. 9,686,828/-	Rs.290,605/-	Rs. 2,000/-	25.11.2021 (Box closed at 11:30 AM & opened at 12:00 Noon)
5	Rehabilitation of Vr-I & Service Road (West) 1-14 Islamabad	Rs. 9,529,472/-	Rs.285,884/-	Rs. 2,000/-	25.11.2021 (Box closed at 11:30 AM & opened at 12:00 Noon)
6	Construction of 10 Nos Remaining Streets in Sector 1-14/3 Islamabad	Rs. 9,406,115/-	Rs.282,183/-	Rs. 2,000/-	25.11.2021 (Box closed at 11:30 AM & opened at 12:00 Noon)

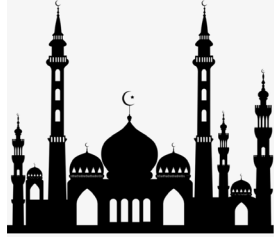
Detailed terms & Conditions can be seen from CDA Website www.cda.gov.pk and PPRa www.ppra.org.pk

- Application for issuance of tender documents S# 01 to 03 on dated 19-11-2021 & S# 04 to 06 on dated 23-11-2021 upto 4:00 PM must be accompanied with valid copies of PEC License obtaining Tender Category C-6 and above for the year 2021-22, NTN Certificate, CNIC, Registration of Firm / Partnership Deed / Sole Proprietorship / Power of Attorney / Authority Letter from the contractor in favor of their representative. No tender will be issued without showing all required document in "ORIGINAL".
- Tender documents can be obtained from the office of Deputy Director Road-V, CDA located at Old Naval Headquarter Room No.43, Sector G-6, Melody, Islamabad on cash payment a mentioned above per set (Non-Refundable) during working hours on or before S# 01 to 03, on dated 22.11.2021 & S# 04 to 06 on dated 24.11.2021 upto to 05:00 P.M against written request which should be on letter head pad having name, address, phone No's and signature of the contractor. No tender will be sold on the date of opening of the tender.
- The prospective bidders are required to submit Bid Security (Deposit at Call) above mentioned work in favor of Deputy Director Road-V, CDA, issued from any scheduled bank against firm's account. Name of Firm should be clearly mentioned on instrument (Deposit at Call). Tender documents shall not be issued without Earnest Money.
- The bid security of all bidders would be deposited in the CDA Bank Account and same may be returned after the acceptance of the Contract with the successful bidder.
- The eligibility criteria of the firms with the relevant experience i.e at least three Number of work in last two (02) financial years may be observe / fulfill before issuance of tender documents.
- Certificate is required on judicial stamp paper worth of Rs.50/ their firm are not involved any litigations and non relation ship.
- Tender bids will be received and opened on above date and time in the office of Director Roads (South), CDA located at Room No.59, Ground Floor (Old Naval H/Qrts) Islamabad.
- Tender rates on percentage basis should be filled in figures as well as in words.
- CDA reserves the right to accept or reject any / all tenders as per PPRa Rules. No conditional tender will be entertained

Deputy Director Roads Division No-V, CDA, Islamabad

PID (I) No. 2981/21

SERVICES



Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	05:08 am
Zohr.....	11:51 am
Asr.....	03:32 pm
Maghrib.....	05:10 pm
Isha.....	06:35 pm



Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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Emergency

Rescue (Police).....	15
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Motorway Police.....	9266044
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MH.....	5611116
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DHQ.....	5556311-4
RGH.....	9290301-7
Holy Family.....	9290322-7
PIMS.....	9261170-79
Polyclinic.....	9218300-09
Shifa International.....	4603666



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RDA.....	5555864
TMA.....	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3



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



Islamabad Metropolitan

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



Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....	0331-5022125
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Pak, Korea possess potential in tourism, agri & trade

Korean government is providing assistance to set up an IT technology park in Pakistan to develop trained IT professionals: Korean Ambassador

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Suh Sangpyo Monday said there were bright prospects for Pakistani skilled youth entering into Korean market as workforce, where Pakistan and Korea possessed great potential for enhanced bilateral ties in tourism, agriculture and trade sectors. In an exclusive interview with News and Current Affairs Channel of Radio Pakistan, he said currently 1,500 Pakistani students were studying in Korean institutes of higher learning in various technical and scientific fields, and many of them were on scholarships. He said due to pandemic restrictions, a further 1,200 Pakistani students could not go to Korea after securing admissions but they would reach there when the Covid restrictions were normalised. Suh Sangpyo said, "Korean government is providing assistance to set up an IT technology park in Pakistan to develop trained IT professionals in the country." He said IT Park constructions were key

projects of the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) of South Korean government. In 2019, Korea signed the framework agreement with Pakistan to provide \$500 million of EDCF loans that gave financial space for the construction of infrastructure in Pakistan. Korean Ambassador said Samsung was establishing a mobile phone manufacturing plant in Karachi where skilled Pakistani manpower will be employed to work in various departments.

Referring to historical ties between Korea and Pakistan, the ambassador said decades' old bilateral relations between the two countries started in the 1960s and Seoul government borrowed Islamabad's five year plan for its economic development and successfully implemented it. The relations further

blossomed in the following years and in the 1970s and 1980s the South Korean tourists started visiting Pakistan to pay pilgrimage to a number of Buddhist religious sites scattered across the country. He said, "Tourism is an area in which both Pakistan and Korea can increase their bilateral ties. Both countries recently signed a framework agreement to facilitate the entry of Korean tourists into Pakistan."

On business relations with Pakistan, the envoy said South Korean business giants like LG, Daewoo and Samsung already have a strong presence in Pakistani market with household products. He said due to law and order situation many Korean companies had to move out from the country in 2000s. "But with the improvement in security environment, the situation is going to reverse in

future," he added. Korean Ambassador said a number of Korean companies were interested in further investing in Pakistan's lucrative market. He said Korean government was trying to increase its bilateral trade volume with Pakistan which currently stood at not so optimum level.

Regarding Korean investment in Pakistan's infrastructure, he pointed towards the building of Lahore-Islamabad Motorway in the 1990s which was a mega project. He said, "In the energy sector, we are cooperating with Pakistani government in hydro power production." He said total investment in hydro power sector was around \$4 billion in Jammu and Kashmir and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa which may increase in future. Suh Sangpyo said, "Pakistan can learn from Korean success in many areas including corporate and economic development, IT, water, and technical education." He said recently, a Korean finance delegation visited Pakistan to explore areas of cooperation. The delegation signed various MoUs of cooperation in diverse fields with Pakistani government.



Lok Virsa to organize Nuqte aur Dairay

ISLAMABAD: National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) would organize exhibition titled "Nuqte aur Dairay" featuring a group artwork display from November 10. According to NIFTH, the exhibition curated by Maryam Irfan, Kausar Iqbal. Eminent artists including Au Baba, Ambreen Siddiqui, Hadiqa Aamir, Imran Ahmad, Kausar Iqbal, Maha Sohail, Mahnoor Tahir, Mahrukh, Maryam Irfan, Ramsah Irfan, Samia Vine, Saba Naz, Shajia Azam, Shireen Bano, Syeda Serat Zainab, Tahir Au Sadiq, Umme Laila and Zobia Yaqoob. COVID-19 SOPs would be strictly followed and mask is mandatory. The exhibition would continue till November 21 at Lok Virsa Art Gallery, Garden Avenue, Shakarparian. - APP

Asad lauds efforts for limiting Covid positivity ratio

ISLAMABAD: NCOG Chairman Asad Umar on Monday appreciated the synergistic efforts of all stakeholders for bringing down the positivity ratio of COVID-19 and implementing obligatory vaccination regime for enhancing public safety and wellbeing. The NCOG morning session was presided by NCOG Chairperson and Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar and National Coordinator NCOG Major General Zafar Iqbal. - APP

Women urged to spare time for breast cancer



NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Begum Samina Arif Alvi on Monday urged women in the country to get to know the symptoms of breast cancer and practice every month the five-minute routine of self-examination. Speaking at a breast cancer awareness event organized at Tarlai Rural Health Centre, she said diagnosis of the disease at the first stage had 98 percent chances of

saving the patient's life. Begum Alvi said taking out five minutes every month was extremely important for a woman to detect any abnormality in the body followed by immediate medical assistance. Expressing concern over the 40,000 deaths due to breast cancer every year, she said it was the time for the women to realize the gravity of the situation and be concerned about their health. Begum Alvi emphasized on

adopting a healthy lifestyle including a balanced diet and physical exercise to prevent breast cancer. She called upon the women to spread the awareness message to at least 10 other women around them. She lauded the government's step to involve nurses and lady health workers in creating awareness on the issue and mentioned the immense support rendered by civil and military departments, welfare organizations, media and ed-

Indian illegal occupied Junagarh is lawful part of Pak

ISLAMABAD: India through an act of brazen aggression transgressed upon the Muslim-ruled princely state of Junagarh and occupied it by force soon after the partition of the Indo-Pak sub-continent in 1947. An analytical report released by Kashmir Media Service said that Junagarh had the unique dispensation of being the second largest among Muslim states and

a rich one as it was ranked 5th in terms of revenue generation among 561 British India princely states was illegally occupied by India in blatant violation of 'Article 26' of 'Vienna Convention of law on treaties. History is evident to the fact that Nawab Mohabat Khanji, the then governor of Junagarh reached an agreement with Qaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali

Jinnah, Governor General of Pakistan and signed the 'Instrument of Accession. Junagarh became the first princely state to accede to Pakistan on September 15, 1947. Junagarh, the report added, is an integral part of Pakistan lawfully as there is a genuine 'Instrument of Accession' duly signed by Nawab of Junagarh & Qaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. - APP

Pakistan Post upgrades its rest houses

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Post has upgraded its 41 rest houses at different destinations across the country to cater accommodation requirement of domestic and foreign tourists. These rest houses were offering cost-effective accommodations to general public at scenic locations, an official told APP. He said that earlier, the rest houses were being used only by officials of Pakistan Post but now the general pub-

lic would also have access to them. On the directives of Minister for Communications and Postal Services Murad Saeed, the rest houses were opened for the general public. The initiative was aimed to cater tourists' accommodation requirement besides enhancement of the department's revenue. Pakistan Post rest houses have been divided into three categories. The rest houses of A-category were located in Karachi, Multan, Jhelum, Mianwali, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Nathia Gali, Hy-

derabad, Sukkur, Shadman Lahore, Lahore Cantt, Sialkot General Post Office (GPO), Sialkot Cantt, Faisalabad GPO and Quetta. The charges of A-category rest houses would be Rs 3,000 per day. The people could contact on phone no: 051-9261937, email address pakpostresthouses@gmail.com and on website Pakpost.gov.pk for reservation in timing 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The reservation could also be made through WhatsApp no. which was 0345-5146457.

Pak's 1st eco-friendly plastic road to pen in F9 park

By recycling the daily collected plastic in road build would reduce the environmental pollution

ISLAMABAD: In an order to curb pollution, the Capital Development Authority in collaboration with private companies would soon complete the construction of Pakistan's first-ever Eco-Friendly one-kilometer plastic road in F-9 Park Islamabad. CDA Spokesperson Rana Shakeel Asghar said Monday. Talking to a private news channel, he said the Plastic Road is one-kilo meters long and contains the recycled plastic equivalent of more than one million plastic cups. It represents a significant step forward from traditional asphalt roads to future-proof plastic roads offering both performance and sustainability benefits, he added. He said around 500 to 600 tonnes of municipal waste is collected in Islamabad on a daily basis, along with 150 to 200 tonnes of plastic waste. By recycling the daily collected plastic in road build would significantly reduce the Environmental pollution in the city, he added. He further explained the

project that after the trial project of F-9 the concept will not only be utilized in Islamabad but will also be replicated in other cities of the country and on major roads of the capital. Replying to a question, he said plastic utilization inroads will add to the longevity of roads by making them water-resistant and also increasing the resistance of roads to change in weather. The same technology can also be used for construction of rural roads as it will enhance their quality as well as longevity, he said, adding, with this environment-friendly project, the roads will be amodel project in durability, sustainability, and cost-effectiveness. He also hailed that the green Pakistan program is a great initiative of PTI govt and CDA has become part of this campaign where it was making its all-out efforts to contribute its part for planting more trees and initiating mega Eco-friendly projects. - APP

ALLAMA IQBAL OPEN UNIVERSITY Directorate of Purchase & Stores INVITATION TO BIDS

Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad invites sealed bids from eligible bidders having valid registration of NTN & GST and who are on active Taxpayer list of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) for supply of following items at DDP basis: -

Tender No.	Description	Bidding Procedure	Pre-Bid Meeting
26/2021-22	Procurement of Tablet for English Department (RELO Funded English Works Projects)	Single Stage – One Envelopes	Not applicable
27/2021-22	Tender for Rent Out of Photocopying Shop & Khokas at AIOU Main Campus, Islamabad		
28/2021-22	Procurement of Gas Cylinders, Regulators and Gases Refilled Cylinders	Single Stage – Two Envelopes	18 th November 2021 at 11:00 AM In the Committee Room, Sir Syed Hall Block NO. 24, AIOU Islamabad
29/2021-22	Providing, Installation & Fixing of Aluminum & Wooden Items for Directorate of Works		
30/2021-22	Tender for Renting Out of Cafeteria & Canteens at AIOU Main Campus, Islamabad		
31/2021-22	Procurement of Tools and allied implements/Lab Equipment for Department of Agricultural Sciences		
32/2021-22	Procurement of Furniture & Equipment for AIOU Model Study Centre, Kharan		
33/2021-22	Procurement of Air Conditioners for AIOU Main Campus Islamabad		
34/2021-22	Procurement of Electrical & Furniture Items for Guest Room at Various Regions Of AIOU		
35/2021-22	Supply, Installation, Configuration, Integration, Enrollment, Commissioning, Testing & Training for Biometric Attendance Management System (BAMS) Hardware & Software at AIOU Main Campus & Regional Offices Nationwide (Turnkey Solution)		
36/2021-22	Hiring Professional Services of Firm for Designing & Development of Comprehensive Web-Portal for AIOU		

- Bid validity with respect to Tender No. 27/2021-22, 30/2021-22 & 36/2021-22 will be 365 days whereas for remaining tenders the bid validity will be 120 days after opening of financial bid.
- The complete set of Bidding Documents containing detailed terms & conditions are available at the websites of Allama Iqbal Open University (www.aiou.edu.pk) and PPRR (www.ppra.org.pk). The tender fee is Rs. 1,000/- (Non-refundable) which can be deposited in shape of bank challan only and attached with technical bids. Bank challan can be download from the website of AIOU. The tender documents can also be purchased from Directorate of Purchase & Stores upon written application after deposition of fee.
- The bid must accompany with 2% of bid security as mentioned in tender document in favor of "Treasurer, AIOU" in shape of CDR, Pay Order, Demand Draft, or Banker's Cheque from a Scheduled Bank of Pakistan and attached with financial bid otherwise bids will be rejected.
- Sealed Bids must be delivered on or before 24.11.2021 (Wednesday) 1030 Hours in the Committee Room of Sir Syed Hall Block No. 24 AIOU Main Campus Sector H – 8 Islamabad. The bids will be opened on same day at 1100 Hours. In case of submission of bids through TCS, the same must be dispatched in the Directorate of Purchase & Store with the assurance that the same must be received one day before the date of submission of bids. Bids received after date/time mentioned above will not entertained.
- Bids without signed & stamped of all pages of bidding documents shall not be entertained.
- If last date of submission of bids falls on holiday suddenly announced by the Government than next working day will be considered for submission and opening of bids at same time & venue.
- Bids with respect to Tender No. 36/2021-22 is invited as per closed framework whereas, 27/2021-22 & 30/2021-22 are open framework agreement under PPRR Rules 2004 (Amended up-to date).
- Late & incomplete bids shall not be entertained

Muhammad Zahid Akhtar Khaki
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Briefs

FBR organizes
AML/CFT
workshop for
DNFBPs

ISLAMABAD: Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) here on Monday organized an outreach and capacity building sessions for designated non-financial businesses and professions (DNFBPs) to ensure anti-money laundering and counter financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) compliance. The workshop was organized in collaboration with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), said a FBR press release.

The representatives from Financial Monitoring Unit (FMU), National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) and Ministry of foreign affairs were the key-note speakers in the training sessions.

The participants attended the training includes real estate agents, jewellers, accountants and lawyers. Director General (DG) DNFBPs, Mohammad Iqbal has stressed upon the need to combat money laundering in its all forms and manifestations.

He apprised the participants of the measures taken by FBR to facilitate the DNFBPs and help build their understanding through various activities including webinars, guidance documents and face-to-face training sessions. Mohammad Iqbal emphasized that while the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) actions on DNFBPs had largely been addressed, FBR as the AML/CFT regulatory authority will continue supervising the DNFBPs for implementation of AML/CFT regime, so that the money generated through crimes cannot be concealed in real estate and gold or precious stones. — APP

CAA redesigns
structure,
chops several
posts

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has redesigned its administrative structure by abolishing several important posts including additional director general aviation authority and additional director public relations.

Many important departments have also eliminated from the new administrative structure of the Civil Aviation Authority. A notification in this regard was issued by director HR on Monday on the instruction of CAA DG. Reportedly, the CAA abolished important posts like additional director general aviation authority and additional director public relations. It has also excluded several other posts from the Civil Aviation Authority administrative structure such as airport managers who used to work under the airport service department. However, the licensing department, aero worthiness, flights standards, aerospace, aerodrome and aero medical departments have been kept in the Civil Aviation Authority administrative structure.

Iqbal day
being
observed
today

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The 143rd birth anniversary of poet of the East would be celebrated with traditional zeal, enthusiasm and fervour here on Monday. A large number of people, mostly students were visiting the Iqbal Manzil (the birthplace of Allama Iqbal) in Sialkot to pay homage to great poet and philosopher. They were taking keen interest in the new historical pictures of Allama Iqbal and his family and books on Iqbaliyat displayed there. Iqbal Manzil has been tastefully illuminated on the eve.

While, Sialkot exporters will also pay homage to Allama Iqbal by cutting his birthday cake there during a special birthday cake cutting ceremony scheduled to be held at Iqbal Manzil to be hosted by Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI). An exhibition of rare books and pictures of Allama Iqbal would be held at Iqbal Manzil. People will visit the graves of parents and other family members of Allama Iqbal at Imam Sahib graveyard Sialkot.

Alvi supports inclusive growth
in stem and online voting

Involvement of women in the productive cycle in the economy further increases our gross domestic product and gross national product: President

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Arif Alvi, the President of Pakistan, recently discussed the importance of e-voting to Pakistan's electoral process in an interview with Giovanna Mingarelli, an award-winning Canadian technology entrepreneur. In the interview, which was featured on the Henna Hundal Show, President Alvi discussed how he has advocated for e-voting in Pakistan since 2010. His case was heard in the Supreme Court in 2018, but was met with concerns over hacking. "In the supreme court, somebody mentioned the fact that internet voting can be hacked. And I said yes it can be hacked, similar to the fact that people can take planes and the plane can crash. But what are the percent chances of hacking? And I took out my phone and told the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and



asked him, do you have any idea of the amount of transactions that take place digitally in the world today? And that was 2018. He

said maybe a few billion dollars and I said no, five trillion dollars are moved on digital platforms throughout the world in a day,"

he said. However, he said digital voting requires a few steps including: the voter having access to a smartphone, a secure system

where voters' identities can be verified, and the ability for the vote to not be traceable but can be audited if needed.

He added that in the Philippines, for example, the use of electronic voting has increased voters' confidence in the voting system. "This is a public situation where we have to convince the people of Pakistan that this is a tried and tested situation," President Alvi said. In his interview with Ms. Mingarelli, President Alvi also addressed his interest in inclusive development strategies through digitization of society.

"I think there is unanimity in the world that digital digitization of an economy increases our GDP, any GDP, by one or two per cent," he said, adding that women also play an important role.

"Involvement of women in the productive cycle in the economy further increases our gross domestic product and gross national product."



ISLAMABAD: Senior representatives of Jpmorgan called on Federal Minister for Privatisation Mian Soomro regarding NPPMCL. — DNA

NIHCR insight of
Indo-Pak History

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Earlier aliens to India had come from Central Asia and multiple ethnic groups continue to pour into India in a great number. The original inhabitants of India, as per sources and historians, are Dravidians or untouchables, who are considered at the lowest ebb in the Indian society, said Prof Emeritus Aslam Syed.

He was responding to a question at a Webinar on Discourse on Indo-Pak History:

From Antiquity to Modernity here. The guest speaker Prof Emeritus Aslam Syed has been serving the Center for Religious Studies, Ruhr Universität, Bochum, Germany. He remained Chairman, Department of History, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad and also served the NIHCR as its Director.

Giving an example, he said that the same treatment meted out to Aborigines who were original inhabitants of America by casting them as Red Indians and were sidelined from American society.

Action
against
hoarders,
profiteers

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Deputy Commissioner, Rawalpindi Muhammad Ali on Monday directed the authorities concerned to accelerate the crackdown against hoarders and profiteers in all tehsils of the district.

According to a district administration spokesman, the DC had instructed all the price magistrates to ensure supply of sugar at official rates and take strict action in accordance with the law against those found involved in the hoarding of sugar and other food commodities.

He informed that the district administration had initiated stern action against those who sell sugar at more than the fixed price. On the direction of Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, the district administration conducted 805 raids in different markets of the district to check hoarding and profiteering during current month while 19 shopkeepers were arrested, 24 FIRs were lodged besides imposing Rs 210,000 fines on the violators. To a question he said, Chakki wheat flour was being supplied at Rs 58 per kg.

The administration on the directives of Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar launched a special campaign and took action against profiteers and hoarders while 19 premises were also sealed for violating the orders of the government.

A wholesale dealer of sugar was also arrested in Rawalpindi on hoarding, he added. Imported sugar was being sold in 33 sahulat bazaars across Rawalpindi district and so far 329 metric tonnes had been sold in these markets, he informed.

Flour was also being sold at government-fixed rates across the district, he said adding, so far, 286,000 bags of flour had been sold in these markets.

Covid claims 9
lives, positivity
ratio declines

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The national tally of Covid-19 active cases on Monday was recorded 22,733 with 449 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 517 people recovered from the disease during the last 24 hours. Nine corona patients have died during the last 24 hours, all the deceased were under treatment in different hospitals, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOCC). Out of the total nine deceased Covid-19 patients, two of them expired on ventilators. Most of the deaths occurred in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) followed by Punjab. There were

1,235 Covid-19 infected patients under treatment in critical condition with three more admitted in past 24 hours in various Covid dedicated healthcare facilities of the country. The national covid positivity ratio during the past 24 hours was recorded at 1.07 percent. The maximum ventilators were occupied in four major cities including Islamabad 14 percent, Peshawar 17 percent, Lahore 15 percent, and Multan 17 percent. The maximum Oxygen beds (alternate oxygen providing facility other than ventilator administered as per the medical requirement of Covid patient) were also occupied in four major cities of Swabi 24 percent, Lahore 19 percent, Sargodha 24 percent, and Multan 36 percent.

Around 17,000 visitors
thronged Lok Mela 2021

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The country's largest Lok festival is arranging a galaxy of unique cultural heritage and traditions depicted by artists, artisans and chefs managed to attract some seventeen thousand visitors to the mega event of Lok Mela 2021 organized by National Institute of Folk and Traditional (NIFTH). A NIFTH official told media that some six hundred crafts people were seen actively demonstrating their works in artistically designed cultural pavilions, putting their creativity in arts, handicrafts and innovation.

The crafts on display were embroidery of various regions including Multan, Bahawalpur, Hazara, Swat, Balochistan and Sindh, block printing, lacquer work, Khussa making, pottery, tie and dye, doll making, khaddar weaving, truck art, wood carving, wood work, paper mache, namda and gabbra, metal work, Shawl weaving, zari work, motikari, traditional carpets, blue pottery, Ajrak, wax printing, stone work, wooden spoon making, pattu weaving and many others. Being a prime



institution dealing with Pakistani folk culture, Lok Virsa is cognizant of the need for gender equality which was seen in each event that it holds from time to time, because in this way both male and female practitioners afford equal opportunity of showcasing their talent and getting due recognition thereof.

Lok Virsa Executive Director Talha Ali said that Pakistan's rich and varied heritage has a craft tradition of more than 9,000 years, dating back to the Mehrgarh civilization in Balochistan, which was revealed in the form of ancient pottery products at archaeological sites.

The Indus Valley Civilization of Mohenjo-Daro in Sindh

and the Harappa civilization in Punjab indicate the impressions of woven cloth production from cotton and wool. According to the tradition, Lok Mela opened with a Dastarbandi/ Chadarposhi of established master artisans and folk artists.

"Dastarbandi" is a symbol of Lok Virsa's sustained campaign to keep the heritage of Pakistan alive and continuing. When a turban or chaddar was placed on someone's head, you have placed your complete trust in that person's wisdom and his stature in life.

This is Lok Virsa's way of showing that the craftspeople and folk artists have importance in national life and they have made a great

contribution to our culture. This year master artisans of pottery Niaz Ahmed, Fouzia Naheed, doll maker and renowned folk artist Bushra Sadiq were honoured.

In the evening, a musical evening of Gilgit Baltistan was held coinciding the Independence Day of Gilgit Baltistan. Folk singers and musicians from Gilgit Baltistan presented melodious songs. Minister for Department of Planning, Development and Information, Government of Gilgit Baltistan Fateh ullah Khan was the chief guest.

A large number of audience mostly belonging to Gilgit Baltistan enjoyed the evening. Folk singers including Ghulam Nabi, Iftikhar, Shakeel Sameen, Burhan, Sher Khan Jan Nisar, Ibrahim Jon, Mir Afzal, Abid, Jameel and Shehbaz along with regional dance group presented traditional songs and music of Gilgit Baltistan.

While some artisans had been a regular feature of Lok Virsa festivals, first-timers were of the view that such an event was not just to educate people about their work, but also about the culture and art of other provinces.

RCCI urges for industrial zones around Ring Road

Ring Road is an important development project of the city and the business community considers it as a game chamber: Nadeem Rauf

NEWS DESK

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has urged Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) to establish industrial and economic zones along the Ring Road. If industrial zones are not established, the status of the Ring Road would be reduced to a single road.

The relocation of goods transportation, company warehouses and the General Bus stand at Ring Road will help in restricting the heavy traffic to enter into the city.

The establishment of industrial zones will boost local industry and SMEs, increase economic activity and create employment opportunities. These remarks were made by RCCI President Nadeem Rauf who called on Chairman RDA, Tariq Mahmood Murtaza in his office here on Monday. The delegation includes group leader and former President Sohail Altaf, senior vice president Asim Malik, vice president Talat Awan and former president Asad Mashhadi. Chairman RDA briefed the delegation on ongoing development

projects in the city, especially the Ring Road project. He said that the suggestions of Rawalpindi Chamber have been incorporated for the development and beautification of the city. Encroachments from the city can be permanently addressed by adopting long term policy. The Ring Road project will

be inaugurated on December 25. President Nadeem Rauf said that Ring Road is an important development project of the city and the business community considers it as a game chamber. RCCI through its platform has always emphasized the establishment of industrial and economic zones along

the Ring Road. He said that the city has become densely populated. The relocation of cottage industry, furniture, show market, Bus/Truck terminals and markets can only reduce the congestion in the city. "Parking is an important issue," he said. New parking plazas should

be constructed on College Road and Iqbal Road. He suggested that a core committee consisting of the Chamber and RDA be set up to review the progress of the projects. He assured full cooperation and extended all kinds of assistance to RDA to eliminate encroachments from the city.

Journalists
protest entry
ban in NA

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Journalists staged a sit-in in front of the main gate of the National Assembly after their entry was banned in the event of military top brass' briefing to the Parliamentary Committee on National Security (PCNS). Parliamentary reporters termed their entry ban as a 'dictatorial attitude' of the government in the name of security.

A huddle of military and civil leadership was held in the National Assembly and top military leadership gave a briefing to the committee comprising MNAs and senators on the current national security issues especially related to the TLP and FATF.

Federal Union of Journalists (FUJ) leaders Shehzada Zulfiqar, Nasir Zaidi, Afzal Butt and others also condemned the banned on journalists to cover the PCNS meeting.

An expensive winter

AFTER two LNG suppliers defaulted on their agreements and refused to supply LNG cargoes, Pakistan had to urgently secure more cargoes from some place if it wanted to avoid severe gas shortages. Just a few days after the default, Pakistan floated a tender to secure cargoes, which indicated the urgency of the matter. It is thus not a surprise that the replacement cargoes that Pakistan has secured have been ticketed at the highest-ever price of \$30.6 per Million British Thermal Units (mmbtu) from Qatar Petroleum. This is of course a heavy onus on our import bill and on the deficit. It will also be seen how the government will manage this without further inflation of prices. The government has been on the receiving end of criticism for inflation—yet it must not evade difficult decisions that would be better for the long-term for political popularity. It must be remembered that a large part of this gas crisis is due to a global rise in prices—the international market has never seen such an unexpected hike in prices. However, it is also time for the government to adjust to the changing realities and be prudent. The defaults were disastrous but were a consequence of the unprecedented market rise and poor agreements. This winter will be difficult but the government now must turn to long-term solutions to this gas crisis. Knowing how volatile the market is, the government must adjust its policies accordingly. We did not utilise LNG when the prices were low in the market in 2020. Nor have we been able to foster a competitive environment so we can escape such exploitative agreements that we have had to sign now in the wake of the crisis. Perhaps it is time to look into more drastic measures to deal with this crisis, like ending the monopoly enjoyed by state-owned gas utility companies.



Feeling the heat

THE US climate agency NOAA has noted that 2021 has been the hottest year ever on record. The highest ever temperatures were recorded in Death Valley California, rising to 54.4 degrees Celsius. The valley is known as the hottest place on earth, but never before has it been as hot as this. The growing heat is not just a matter of discomfort for people. It has immense consequences which too few people around the world are ready or willing to recognise. Vast flooding could be a factor as sea levels rise due to glacier melt and the wildfires we have seen recently expand to more and more areas. The question the world should be asking is one that can only be addressed collectively. What is to be done? We all know that blocking carbon emissions and reducing the rate at which they are being produced is one answer. But will it be enough? Experts warn that if the climate continues to rise by two degrees celsius a year there will be people on the globe who face almost unbearable or unbearable heat at least once every five years. In other words, we would have created a hell on earth itself. Apart from the issue of stopping carbon emissions, most of them produced by the world's largest industrial countries, we also have to consider the far wider use of alternative sources of energy, such as wind energy and energy generated by water and other means. This needs scientific expertise. It also needs the world to agree collectively that climate change is a menace that could destroy us. Right now, floods mean the death of at the most a few dozen or maybe a few hundred people. In the future as climate change worsens, they could mean absolute calamity for entire regions. We need to deal with climate change and global warming before this happens, and heed the advice of experts who say that unless quick action is taken we could well lose large parts of our planet and perhaps even make it unlivable for all the people who currently see it as their home.

US did more to radicalise Afghanistan than OBL

Amra Sabic-El-Rayess

I have felt this myself. After I survived a Serb artillery attack on the Blue Bridge in my hometown of Bihac, I saw a UN car approach. I was just 17 years old. I believed they were coming to help. But instead of stopping to help me and others on the bridge, they sped away. At that moment I realised that the world...

ONE recurring theme in the media coverage of the US pullout from Afghanistan is that after 20 years, trillions of dollars, and thousands of lives lost, we left the country in the same broken state it was before we arrived. "We accomplished nothing," goes the pundit refrain. But that is wrong. We invaded Afghanistan "to prevent it from becoming a breeding ground for terrorists" – and we did not leave it as it was. We left it worse. Far worse. As a survivor of genocide and an academic studying the ways that education can resuscitate broken countries and people, I have repeatedly seen how even the most tolerant Muslims can end up being radicalised under the right set of conditions. I have studied radicalisation trends among my own people, Bosniaks, for years. Bosnian Muslims have long been considered the world's most tolerant Muslim community. But today, a growing number of Bosniaks have adopted Salafism – a rigid ideological thread within Islam – and hold headline beliefs that are in line with those of al-Qaeda, ISIL (ISIS) or Boko Haram. Why is this happening? Radicalisation is the result of a desperate and misguided search for a pathway to empowerment

by people starving for a sense of belonging, recognition, and basic respect. In 1991, Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, who has since been convicted of genocide by the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia, warned Bosniaks: "Do not think that you will not take Bosnia and Herzegovina to hell and the Muslim people maybe into extinction, because if there is a war, the Muslim people will not be able to defend themselves." And he was right. Bosniaks went to hell and back from 1992 through the end of 1995. We had no weapons to defend ourselves as Serbian forces invaded and, assisted by local Serbs, swiftly occupied much of the country. The US and Europe chose to watch silently as genocide, war crimes and mass rapes against Bosniaks unfolded before their eyes. They sat idly by even as Serb forces loaded Bosniaks in Srebrenica onto buses on a hot summer day in 1995 and took them to the sites of their executions. After thousands of deaths, many more rapes and months of unbearable suffering, NATO finally moved to end the conflict. But then, it gave half of the country – including Srebrenica – to the Serbs, who had either committed genocide or silently watched it happen. The genocide, as well as the decision to reward its perpetrators with territory, has had a radicalising effect on some Bosniaks. And my research showed me that this trend continues to this day. If Bosnian Muslims, historically known for their tolerance and acceptance of other cultures and religions, can radicalise, anyone can. Exposure to violence is a critical risk factor for radicalisation. Trauma triggers an internal transformation in a person who is desperately looking to make sense of their pain, loss, exclusion, and shock. I have felt this myself. After I survived a Serb artillery attack on the Blue Bridge in my hometown of Bihac, I saw a UN car approach. I was just 17 years old. I believed they were coming to help. But instead of stopping to help me and others on the bridge, they sped away. At that moment I realised that the world does not really care about "dead Bosniaks sprawled on the streets". As I tried to help a girl whose face had been blown apart by the blast, I experienced an immediate, uncontrollable surge of anger. In the midst of that terror and trauma, I felt an overpowering urge to do something – anything – to make sure this would never happen again to me or the people I loved. Horrific thoughts previously completely unknown to me flooded into my head, unbidden, summoned by the vio-

lence I had just seen. What if we responded to our killers by slaughtering their innocent children? Would that be justified? Would that stop them from committing genocide against us? The US first interfered during a hopeful period for Afghanistan, when the Soviet-influenced Communist Party centralised power in 1978 and started advancing the rights of women, increasing literacy, and pushing for modernisation. Most rural areas, however, remained illiterate and against secularism. America brought this uneducated rural population together with religious fighters to disrupt and destabilise Afghanistan – all to win its proxy war against the Soviets at the expense of Afghan lives and futures. By the mid-1990s, the US got what it wanted – at least in part. The Soviets left, but the Taliban emerged as the strongest force conditioned for more violence. In late 2001, in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, the US intervened in Afghanistan once again, this time to topple the Taliban. In the last 20 years, the US spent trillions on its military activities in Afghanistan but failed to intelligently invest in education and mental health services in the country. It failed to centre its efforts on building robust physical infrastructure, a prosperous economy to allow Afghans to benefit from their immense lithium reserves or a functional legal system to lessen corruption in one of the poorest and most corrupt countries in the world. We invaded Afghanistan as part of our so-called "war on terror", but ended up making the country an even more fertile breeding ground for "terrorists". No one knows if the next chief headline group emerging in Afghanistan will be the impetus that sends us back into that country, but it is likely that many state and non-state actors will flock there to advance their agendas. And keep this devastating cycle of violence intact. If there is one lesson the West should learn from its many interventions in Afghanistan, it is this: people with no hope or support network to help them deal with their trauma become easy targets for radicalisation as they desperately search for a path to empowerment, justice and dignity. In 2001, the year before we invaded, Afghanistan was number 16 on the Global Terrorism Index. After 20 years of occupation, Afghanistan no longer holds that position. It is number one. And we helped them get there.

– Courtesy: Al Jazeera

Bipartisan infrastructure deal is a victory for Biden

Michelle Cottle

Certainly, Tuesday's losses served as a cattle prod – especially the Republicans' overwhelming win in Virginia, which many political watchers had assumed was a solidly blue state. "Put up or shut up!" voters seemed to be saying to Democrats. Nothing focuses the mind like an electoral drubbing. The president and congressional leaders redoubled their efforts to get the feuding factions to take action on one, or preferably both, bills. Biden and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi spoke multiple times throughout Friday

FINALLY! After months of excruciating negotiations, President Biden gets to take a victory lap in celebration of his own Big Freaking Deal. Shortly before midnight Friday, the House passed the \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure package on a 228-to-206 vote – including 13 G.O.P. votes in an era of mind-numbing partisanship. With the bill on its way to the president's desk, Biden declared on Saturday morning that the spending was a "once-in-a-generation investment" – and rightly so. For years, states have struggled to shore up deteriorating systems, much less move ahead with the new technology and projects needed to keep America competitive. Multiple administrations and Congresses talked about addressing the problem. "Infrastructure week" became a running gag during Donald Trump's presidency, because of his constant invocation of the concept and complete inability to deliver on it. But Joe Biden has delivered. Admittedly, this is something of a partial delivery. The fate of the Build Back Better portion of Biden's agenda, the ambitious social spending bill favoured by progressives, is yet to be determined. Having worked to nudge his progressives into line for this win, Biden's next challenge, getting his centrists to embrace a version of Build Back Better, looms large – and has many in his party on edge. But for now, let's focus on the achievement in hand. The infrastructure bill will provide close to \$600 billion in new federal spending over the next decade on a cornucopia of infrastructure delights: roads, rail, ports, water systems, bridges, dams, airports, broadband! It puts \$47 billion toward helping communities deal with the impacts of climate change. Jobs will be created, "the vast majority" of which, Biden stressed, would not require a college degree. "This is a blue-collar blueprint to rebuild America," he said. It is also a much-needed win for Biden and congressional Democrats. For months, the public has suffered through the dispiriting sight of the party's centrists and progressives slashing at each other over this bill and the Build Back Better plan to which it had been linked. Both bills have experienced multiple near-death experiences, and many, many Americans were beginning to doubt whether Democrats had what it takes to get anything

done. Their basic competence was being called into question, and the rolling spectacle of – altogether now! – Democrats in Disarray likely contributed to the party's poor showing in Tuesday's elections. Certainly, Tuesday's losses served as a cattle prod – especially the Republicans' overwhelming win in Virginia, which many political watchers had assumed was a solidly blue state. "Put up or shut up!" voters seemed to be saying to Democrats. Nothing focuses the mind like an electoral drubbing. The president and congressional leaders redoubled their efforts to get the feuding factions to take action on one, or preferably both, bills. Biden and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi spoke multiple times throughout Friday. She huddled with members in her office, while he worked the phones. Late into the night, there were arms being twisted, egos being stroked and deals being cut. The process wasn't pretty, but the sausage got made. It's impossible to know how much this victory will restore voters' shaken faith in the president and his party, but it is a crucial start. Biden is making good on a key campaign promise that will benefit people in all 50 states. Ultimately, that is what Americans care about. While we're handing out kudos, Pelosi deserves to do a special victory dance of her own. Once again, the speaker showed that she knows how to herd her cats – even as they threatened to turn feral. Getting her progressive members to agree to embrace the infrastructure package without a vote on the social spending plan was a minor miracle. This achievement should rank right up there with Obamacare in terms of cementing Ms. Pelosi's leadership legacy. In addition to its substantive merits, this bill allows Biden to point and say: See, I told you I could get a big bipartisan win! Again, 13 House Republicans crossed the aisle to vote with Democrats. Only a half dozen progressives wound up opposing the bill. In this hyperpolarised age, with Republicans making obstructionism their go-to legislative move, this is something to crow about. That said, the Democrats' work is far from done. To get progressives to advance the infrastructure bill, several House centrists signed a statement committing themselves to supporting Build Back Better if a cost analysis from the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office meets their expectations. That estimate is expected some time mid-November, and House leaders are now aiming for a vote during the week of Nov. 15. Now, it doesn't take a political whizz to recognise that there is a whole lot of wiggle room in the centrists' promise. It also won't matter much what House moderates have committed to if Joe Manchin or Kyrsten Sinema, the two Democratic centrists in the Senate who have been working to whittle the social spending bill down to a twig of its original form, decide they aren't interested in passing anything else. Certainly, this is what progressives have feared all along: that once the party's moderates got their beloved infrastructure dollars, they would have no incentive to support the investments in "human infrastructure" that progressives favour. Centrists need to allay their colleagues' fears and get serious about finalising a compromise plan. This months-long standoff has exacerbated rifts within the Democrats' big tent. Tensions are high. Feelings are bruised. Trust is at an all-time low. The president has put his credibility on the line in these negotiations. Thus far, progressives have shown themselves much more serious about making compromises – even painful ones – in order to assuage the concerns of their spending-shy teammates. In passing the infrastructure bill, progressives gave up their leverage. Centrists need to respond with their own show of flexibility. A failure to do so risks fracturing the party's already strained coalition. It would also be a kick in the teeth to the millions of Americans who stand to benefit from the broadly popular measures contained in Build Back Better. Biden and his congressional team deserve to bask in this moment. But they should only give themselves two cheers. There is more to be done. Will the next step be easy? Of course not. But as Nelson Mandela once observed – and this week's infrastructure win drives home: "It always seems impossible until it's done."

– Courtesy: Gulf News

Afghanistan's Taliban and Daesh: A simmering rivalry

Ibrahim Moiz



The more typical Daesh operation in urban Afghanistan has been a systemic attempt to attack civilians, often simply to make a point

DAESH'S Khorasan wing is primarily rooted in the Pakistani insurgency, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, a series of networks quite distinct from Afghanistan's Taliban movement. The nagging persistence of Daesh's so-called Khorasan wing continued last week in a brazen commando-style raid on a military hospital in Kabul, which killed Taliban garrison commander Hamdullah Mukhlis. The group continues to mount an internal challenge to the so-called emirate already struggling to overcome international isolation and an economic crisis. Though Daesh lost most of its territory in the Afghan east against a Taliban campaign in 2019-20, its capacity for spectacular assaults in the Afghan capital remains.

In contrast to many other Daesh attacks, which often targeted civilians and especially minorities as a point of order, this week's raid struck what was at least theoretically a military target. In that respect it was not very different from the same sorts of attacks that the Haqqanis, a network within the Taliban movement, in particular, had been mounting in Kabul through the 2010s. The more typical Daesh operation in urban Afghanistan has been a systemic attempt to attack civilians, often simply to make a point. Though the Taliban insurgency and, indeed, other Afghan groups – both linked and opposed to the American occupation – were not short of civilian victims, it was rare to target civilians in such a pointed manner as Daesh did repeatedly through the latter 2010s. These operations often bore an uncanny resemblance to the neighbouring insurgency that had dogged Pakistan for years, and this was not a coincidence; much of Daesh's Khorasan wing overlapped with the misleadingly named "Pakistani Taliban" insurgency, and to this day, the Khorasan wing's command heavily comprises militants from the eastern side of the Afghan-Pakistani border, including its mysterious governor-general, Shihab Sadiq. As I have argued elsewhere, the "Pakistani Taliban" insurgency that took off in the late 2000s largely stemmed from factors extraneous both to Afghanistan and the Taliban movement – Pakistani peripheral politics as well as sectarian militias and militants. These groups varied widely, but they largely coalesced in 2001-02, when Pakistan's decision to formally support the American invasion of Afghanistan and indeed to ban several such groups threw them in the same camp. By the mid-2000s, the influence of Al Qaeda fighters fleeing Afghanistan and large-scale Pakistani military and American aerial campaigns had served to bolster the ranks of this loose coalition

with thousands of Pashtun clansmen, principally from the Mahsud and Wazir clans. The "Pakistani Taliban", unlike its Afghan namesake, was nonetheless a coalition of militias that often competed or diverged. They nominally pledged loyalty to the Taliban in Afghanistan, but were happy to ignore Taliban directives and organisation. Quite simply, statements of solidarity and loyalty could not disguise the basically different background and only passingly intersecting agenda of the Afghan Taliban and their Pakistani namesakes. By the early 2010s, mutual mistrust between Pakistan and the United States had undermined their links; this was in particular compounded by barely concealed links between the Pakistani insurgency and the secret service of an American-installed Afghan government keen to make Islamabad pay for its support to the Afghan insurgency. With the "Pakistani Taliban" themselves hit by an internal crisis over leadership, Pakistan pounced on the opportunity to mount a large-scale assault in summer 2014 that seized the Waziristan region entirely and forced the insurgents into Afghanistan. The Pakistani insurgency fragmented at precisely the same point as Daesh was making waves in the Fertile Crescent with its proclamation of a caliphate. Thus much of the Pakistani insurgency switched brands, proclaiming loyalty, not to the Taliban "emir" in Afghanistan but the Daesh "caliph" in Iraq. Daesh's Khorasan wing was led by Saeed Khan, formerly Orakzai commander of the Pakistani insurgency; he was joined by at least six members of the Pakistani insurgency's senior leadership. This did not prevent them from trying, with mixed success, to win over defectors from the Taliban and other Afghan groups; the trajectory, outcomes, and implications of these attempts will be the focus of the second part of this article.

– Courtesy: TRT World

Briefs

MPs will be taken onboard...

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The sources disclosing the inside story of the meeting said the Balochistan government had also decided to hold talks with angry Baloch leaders. In the meeting, the opposition criticized the absence of the Prime Minister from the meeting and said that he called the opposition thieves but now he was absent from such an important meeting regarding national security matters.

According to sources, the military leadership briefed the meeting on the talks with the TTP and Gen Bajwa answered most of the questions himself. On the demand of the participants, Gen Bajwa assured to take the parliament into confidence in the matter of TTP. Some of the participants in the meeting raised the issues of martyrs including Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto's mother and former premier Shaheed Benazir Bhutto who were victims of the TTP's terrorism.

Anyhow, the participants urged that instead of supporting a single party or a few people in neighbouring Afghanistan, a policy should be formulated for the whole of Afghanistan. The participants said that a policy on Afghanistan and the United States should be formulated so that Pakistan did not become part of any war of others again. During the meeting, the civil and military leadership confirmed to the committee that the agreement with the TLP was within the country's law and the constitution.

Govt, TTP agree on complete...

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social and economic stability will be kept in view during the talks. "The affected people of these areas will never be ignored and local people will be taken into confidence in these talks," he added. The information minister said that the ceasefire will be extended in view of the progress in talks. "It is a welcoming sign that the affected areas of the country are now heading toward the complete peace after a long time."

He said that the Afghan interim government has played a facilitative role in these talks. Fawad made it clear that the negotiations with the banned TTP Pakistan were started in line with Prime Minister Imran Khan's announcement in an interview last month. Islamabad is believed to have reached an understanding with the Taliban government on the two-pronged strategy. Pakistan, at the request of the Taliban government, agreed to give talks a chance.

If those efforts failed, the Taliban government would take military action against the TTP and other groups threatening Pakistan. Days before the Afghan Taliban were at the gates of Kabul, Pakistan had already begun talks with the government-in-waiting to deal with terrorist outfits such as TTP and Baloch groups which have been for years operating out of the neighbouring country. Pakistani officials in their interactions with the Taliban leadership made a clear demand that all these groups must not only be denied space to operate but also sought military action against them.

Opp. parties to give...

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Replying to a question, Shahbaz Sharif said that no matter what the issue was, the Prime Minister never came, his role was highly reprehensible. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that incompetent and incompetent government will be ousted together. Since the imposition of PTIF, inflation has increased and people are worried. This is the important point on which the entire opposition has gathered. For the sake of problems, whether it is inflation or the attempt to vote through EVMs or political revenge, we are united against it as far as Parliament is concerned. He said that together we will raise the issues of the people, expose the failed policies of the government.



SHUSHA: President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev visited Shusha on November 8, on the occasion of Victory Day celebrations, along with the delegates of Baku Forum. The President briefed them about the development and rehabilitation work going on in Baku. – DNA

Australia to tour Pakistan for first time in 24 years

Cricket Australia is excited about the prospect of touring Pakistan next year for what will be a highly anticipated series in a country so incredibly passionate about the game and their national team

DNA

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board today announced details of Australia's first tour of Pakistan since 1998, which will take place in March and April 2022, and comprise three Tests, three ODIs and one T20I. The Tests will take place in Karachi (3-7 March), Rawalpindi (12-16 March) and Lahore (21-25 March), while Lahore will be the venue for the four white-ball matches to be played from 29 March to 5 April. The Tests will be played as part of the ICC World Test Championship, while the ODIs will be connected to the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League – a 13-team event from which the seven highest-placed sides and the hosts, India, will qualify directly for the event proper in 2023.

PCB Chairman Ramiz Raja, who played eight Tests and 18 ODIs against Australia: "I am delighted to welcome Australia to Pakistan. From a personal point of view, it pleases me no end that we'll be engaged in a three-Test match series, connoisseurs de-

light. "Australia are one of the high-performing sides and them playing in our backyard for the first time after a gap of 24 years will be a special treat for the fans. "Likewise, it will be a great opportunity for the Australia cricketers to not only play at our iconic venues but also feel and enjoy the respect, love and hospitality that this great country offers, something which most of their previous generation of cricketers missed out by playing offshore."

Cricket Australia Chief Executive Nick Hockley: "Cricket Australia is excited about the prospect of touring Pakistan next year for what will be a highly anticipated series in a country so incredibly passionate about the game and their national team.



CRICKET AUSTRALIA



PCB

"Pakistan is a formidable opposition with an exceptionally talented team, as evidenced by their dynamic performances in the current ICC Men's T20 World Cup in the UAE. "We thank the PCB for their considerable efforts in planning for the tour and look forward to continuing to work closely over the coming months to finalise the necessary operations, logistics, security and Covid-19 protocols.

"The safety and welfare of our players and staff remains our number one priority, and we will continue to work with the PCB and relevant agencies to ensure that appropriate and sufficient arrangements are put in place for the tour."

As part of the reconnoitering process, Cricket Australia's delegation will visit Pakistan to meet with PCB officials as

well as provincial and federal authorities to discuss and finalise matters relating to team operations, logistics, security and Covid-19 protocols.

Australia last toured Pakistan in 1998-99 when Mark Taylor led them to a 1-0 series victory – their first since Richie Benaud's side defeated Fazal Mahmood's team by 2-0 in the 1959-60 series. Between the two series, Pakistan hosted Australia in 1964-65 (drew 0-0), 1979-80 (won 1-0), 1982-83 (won 3-0), 1988-89 (won 1-0) and 1994-95 (won 1-0).

Pakistan staged the last four series with Australia offshore – 2002-2003 (Colombo and Sharjah, Pakistan lost 3-0), 2010 (drew 1-1 in England), 2014-15 (won 2-0 in the UAE) and 2018-19 (won 1-0 in the UAE).

Schedule:

3-7 Mar – 1st Test, Karachi
12-16 Mar – 2nd Test, Rawalpindi
21-25 Mar – 3rd Test, Lahore
29 Mar – 1st ODI, Lahore
31 Mar – 2nd ODI, Lahore
2 Apr – 3rd ODI, Lahore
5 Apr – only T20I, Lahore



ISLAMABAD: European Union envoy to Pakistan Androulla Kaminara and Danish envoy Lis Rosenholm participating in cycle2 work ISB initiative. – DNA

Haroon wins gold in COAS Int'l Taekwondo C'ship

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's top notch Taekwondo fighters Haroon Khan showcased a splendid display of martial arts combat in the final of -58KG category against Mehadi Ishaq from Iran by 26-24 points to win the first gold medal in the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Pakistan Open International Taekwondo (G-1) Championship here at Pakistan Sports Complex Islamabad. Both light and hopping on their feet, Haroon Khan and Mehadi Ishaq were evenly matched through the three rounds, unceasing in their attempts at high-scoring head-kicks.

In the decisive fight for gold medal, Haroon Khan took lead in the first round by 8-5 points which continue in second round too with 17-12 point. In the third and final round Iranian fighter changed the strategy and with less than 60 seconds left on the clock the action heated as Mehadi took six consecutive point bring score-



card on 22-20 points but in the final 20 seconds Haroon nabbed kicks to the head and body to win gold medal for Pakistan by 26-24 points. The audience and organizers celebrated the wonderful victory of Pakistani player in final at Liaquat Gymnasium where Haroon Khan prostrated with his coach with Pakistani flag and thanked Allah Tallah over his tremendous performance. On the other side Kazakhstan reached to top with four gold medals in the COAS Pakistan Open International Taekwondo (G-1) Championship. Croatia remained second with two gold's while Oman and Egypt claimed each one gold medal in the championship.

Deandra Dottin's 132 scripts West Indies win

Birthday girl Fatima Sana, who came into this match after recording a five-wicket haul in the fifth and final ODI against West Indies in Antigua in July, took two for 65

KARACHI: A brilliant century by player of the match Deandra Dottin scripted West Indies Women's to 45-run win over Pakistan Women in the first One-Day International at National Stadium on Monday. The West Indies opener smashed 132 off 146 balls and smoked 18 fours and two sixes after Pakistan's stand-in captain Sidra Nawaz opted to bowl after winning the toss. This was Dottin's best score in the format. Dottin added 119 runs for the third wicket with Hayley Matthews, who scored 57 off 67 (eight fours), as their partnership set the platform for the tourists to post 253 for eight before Shemaine Campbell scored a brisk 23 off 20. Dottin's century and the eventual Pakistan defeat eclipsed Anam Amin's maiden five-wicket haul. The left-arm orthodox from Lahore returned five for 35 with two of her 10 overs being maiden. Anam accounted for Dottin, Rashada Williams (15 off 40), Hayley Matthews, Campbell and Kycia Knight (six off six). Birthday girl Fatima Sana, who came into



this match after recording a five-wicket haul in the fifth and final ODI against West Indies in Antigua in July, took two for 65. This match marked a significant moment in the 20-year-old's career as she opened the bowling for Pakistan against the very opposition to whom she bowled as a net bowler when they were in the city two years ago for their T20Is. Pakistan crumbled in their reply. Opener Sidra Amin was caught on the last ball of the second over and one-drop Ayesha Zafar was LBW on the last ball of the eighth over. Both batters were sent packing by Shakera Selman. Iram Javed fought back with a 34-ball 40 as she added 57 runs for the fourth wicket with Kainat Imtiaz (24 off 60), but the dismissal of the former pretty much settled the game in the tourists favour. Aliya Riaz top-scored with 46 off 61 (three fours). She was run out in the 47th over with Pakistan 56 runs away from the target. The two teams will play the second ODI on 11 November at the same venue. – APP

PM Imran orders strict...

FROM PAGE 01

programme, Kamyab Pakistan programme, Kissan Card, and other programmes to provide relief to the masses.

During a meeting chaired by Imran Khan on price control, it was decided to put up the entire sugar stock for sale in the market and start sugarcane crushing across the country from November 15, during which strict enforcement of crushing laws would be ensured.

The premier was informed that, at present, there is an ample supply of sugar in the country. The meeting also decided to initiate strict legal action against hoarding and profiteering.

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Imran Khan directed relevant authorities to implement the Sugar Factories (Control) Amendment Act 2021, Punjab Prevention of Hoarding Act 2020, and the Punjab Registration of Godowns Act 2014 against sugar mafia and hoarders. The premier categorically stated that "profiteering and hoarding will not be tolerated under any circumstances."

Sugar shortage, price...

FROM PAGE 01

go even higher than today rates if administrative measures were not taken. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the situation was also not different from the rest of the country. Sugar is being sold at Rs140/kg in Peshawar.

In Sindh's Hyderabad, sugar is available at Rs150/kg. Shopkeepers claimed that 50 kg sugar bag increased by Rs2,000 and subsequently they increased the sugar price per kg. In Muzaffargarh, sugar is available at Rs135 to Rs140 per kg.

Moreover, the price of 20 kg flour was also inflated by Rs80 in a week, as per the figures released by the Statistics Bureau of Pakistan (SBP). The most inflated price of 20 kg flour is Rs1500, however, Punjab has still a cheaper price of 20 kg flour in comparison to other provinces.

Canadian Deputy FM calls on..

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bilateral engagement and wish for long term and multi-domain enduring relationship with Canada. COAS reiterated the dire need for global convergence on Afghanistan to avoid a humanitarian crisis, ISPR said.

The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's role in evacuation operation in Afghanistan, regional stability and pledged to play her role for further improvement in diplomatic cooperation with Pakistan at all levels.

Daska by-polls: Action against...

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secretary, director-general law, and other officials, who will assist the election commission in the inquiry against all the officials involved in the debacle, the statement said.

The statement revealed that the returning officer (RO) and district returning officer (DRO), who – according to the report – had failed to do their jobs, were ordered to report to the ECP.

Both the officials are now officers on special duty (OSD), while the election commission mulls further action against them in line with the report's findings, the statement said.

JI knocks SC over...

FROM PAGE 01

apex court to allow placement of additional documents (Pandora Papers) in already pending petition on Panama Leaks. The JI had filed the petition before the SC in 2016 on Panama Leaks under the article 184(3) of the Constitution of Pakistan. "We appealed to the Supreme Court [of Pakistan] to constitute a JIT [joint investigation team] to launch an investigation into the owners of shell companies mentioned in Pandora Papers and Panama Leaks," Sirajul Haq told the journalists.

Briefs

Czech parties
sign power
sharing deal

FOREIGN DESK

PRAGUE: The Czech Republic gained a new government on Monday after two party coalitions that garnered a sizeable chunk of votes in the country's parliamentary election last month signed a power-sharing deal.

A three-party, liberal-conservative coalition dubbed Together, composed of the Civic Democratic Party, Christian Democrats and the TOP 09 party, led the election with a 27.8% share of the vote.

Together teamed up with a center-left liberal coalition made up of the Pirate Party and STAN - a group of mayors - which came in third place with 15.6% of votes.

The new partnership will hold a 108-seat majority in the the 200-seat lower house of Parliament, relegating outgoing populist Prime Minister Andrej Babis and his centrist ANO (YES) movement to the opposition.

"We're aware there're no easy times ahead of us," said Petr Fiala, the coalitions' candidate for prime minister. The parties agreed to form an 18-member government. Babis narrowly lost the election with 27.1%. Monday's signing takes the populist billionaire a step closer to the end of his reign in power.

President Miloš Zeman has indicated that he was willing to swear in Fiala as prime minister, but it wasn't immediately clear when that might happen.

IJU expresses
concern
over targeting
media

WEB DESK

HYDERABAD: Indian Journalists Union (IJU) today expresses concern over the tendency and initiative to target journalists along with other social media users by the Tripura government in Agartala and demands a fair probe into the incidents that led to the unwanted action.

"Slapping brutal laws against the opposition voices will not serve the purpose. Rather it will aggravate the situation," commented IJU president K. Sreenivas Reddy and secretary general Balwinder Singh Jammu, adding that the government should handle the issue amicably.

It may be mentioned that the State police has lately booked 102 people under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for digital media posts reflecting the recent violence where a religious place of minority community was shown as burning by some activists.

The authority claimed that many of social media posts comprising video clips, photographs, motivated comments, etc had the potential to flare up communal violence and hence it was compelled to take harsh actions. The opposition parties have already criticised the government actions. The police also booked four New Delhi-based lawyers under the UAPA soon after they visited Tripura and organised a press conference in the national capital, where they alleged that minorities were harassed there in the aftermath of anti-Hindu vandalism in Bangladesh.

Kuwaiti govt
resigns amid
row with opp

KUWAIT CITY: The Kuwaiti government on Monday submitted its resignation to Emir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, according to local media.

Al-Qabas newspaper, citing a government source, said the government headed by Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah decided to resign following a cabinet meeting. The daily, however, did not provide details about the reasons behind the resignation. There was no comment from the Kuwaiti authorities on the report.

The resignation came as several opposition lawmakers sought to question the prime minister and other ministers on various issues, including corruption and the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. The government was formed in March after the previous cabinet of Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah resigned in January. - Agencies

Fuzuli Airport – the pride
of Azerbaijan and Karabakh

It is one of the country's seven international airports. The airport is built on an airdrome abandoned for almost 30 years and surrounded by former minefields. It was constructed at a cost of 75 million manats (\$44 million)

DNA

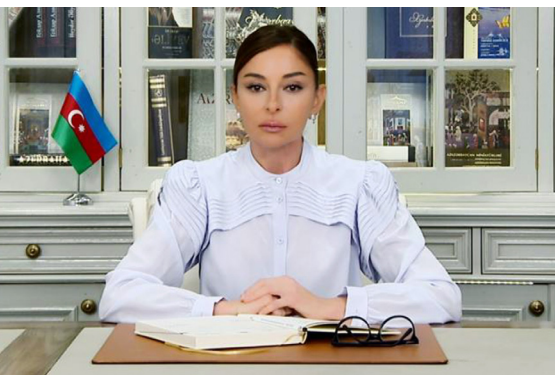
FUZULI, AZERBAIJAN: Pakistani media delegation that is currently on Azerbaijan trip was taken to newly-inaugurated Fuzuli Airport, located in the heart of formerly Nagorno Karabakh area. After Armenian defeat the region is now called Karabakh. The town of Fuzuli was damaged badly during the war however the Azerbaijan administration has done a marvelous job in terms of rebuilding of the infrastructure and demining. The company undertaking the demining work in the region told the visiting delegation that most of the area has been purged of mines.

The Pakistani media delegation was given a guided tour of the airport and briefed about various parts. The airport is fully operational and shall be opened for normal traffic once the area is fully demined, said the in-charge of the airport operations.

Fuzuli International is an airport in the city of Fuzuli in Azerbaijan. It is one of the country's seven international airports. The airport is built on an airdrome abandoned for almost 30 years and surrounded by former minefields. It was constructed at a cost of 75 million manats (\$44 million).

In the late 1980s the town of Fuzuli had some 17,000 residents. During the First Nagorno-Karabakh War, on

24 August 1993, the Azerbaijani Armed Forces were forced to withdraw from Fuzuli. Fuzuli was reduced to a ghost town before its fall in the face of continued pressure from the armed forces of the Republic of Artsakh and of Armenia. Twenty eight years later, on 17 October 2020, it was re-captured by the armed forces of Azerbaijan. Following this, the Azerbaijani government initiated a demining process to clear the city and the surrounding areas from landmines. On 26 November 2020, the Azerbaijani Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies reported that the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) had accepted the appeal of the State Civil Aviation Administration to include six airports, including the airfield in Fuzuli, in its catalog of international airport codes. In January 2021, President Ilham Aliyev issued a decree on the construction of an international airport in Fuzuli. On 14 January, the groundbreaking ceremony for the future airport took place. Turkey-based companies were involved in the construction of the airport. The completed runway was first used on 5 September 2021, when an Airbus A340-500 aircraft operated by Azerbaijan Airlines and a Boeing 747-400 cargo aircraft operated by Silk Way Airlines, landed at the airport.

VP congratulates
Azerbaijani people
on Victory Day

DNA

BAKU: First Vice-President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva has shared a post on the occasion of 8 November-Victory Day, on her official Instagram page, Azertag reported.

"Dear fellow compatriots! I sincerely congratulate you on the first anniversary of the glorious Victory won in the Patriotic War. It is difficult to express in words the feelings and emotions that live in our hearts and given to us by the Almighty. Every Azerbaijani was looking forward to this Victory and every Azerbaijani is rightfully proud of it! On this significant day, I want to express my boundless grat-

itude to the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, our heroic soldiers and officers, and our fearless President who always keeps his word.

May Allah rest the souls of all our unforgettable martyrs in peace. I bow my head to mothers and fathers who raised heroes ready to give their lives for their Motherland.

Azerbaijani people, live forever with your head held high! All of us together have passed a thorny, difficult but glorious path, the path to the great Victory! As a victorious nation, the sacred duty of each one of us now is to defend the independent Azerbaijan and our unity. May the Almighty protect the Azerbaijani people and our Motherland!

Arab League seeks to ease
Saudi-Lebanon diplomatic
rift

FOREIGN DESK

BEIRUT: Lebanon and Saudi Arabia seek to resolve an unprecedented diplomatic rift that emerged following comments by Lebanon's information minister on Yemen's civil war.

The attempt to reconcile bilateral relations came with a top Arab League envoy's visit to Beirut on Monday, as "an initiative to put the crisis on the right track." Hossam Zaki, the league's deputy chief, who is in Beirut holding meetings about the rift, has so far met Prime Minister Najib Mikati and

Foreign Minister Abdalla Bou Habib.

Zaki told reporters after meeting Lebanese President Michel Aoun that he was ready to visit Saudi Arabia but that some tangible moves to ease the crisis have to be felt first.

"The interests of Lebanon and Gulf nations are our goal," Zaki said, and openly asked what Lebanese authorities "plan to do to end this crisis."

Prime Minister Najib Mikati's office quoted the prime minister as saying that Lebanon wants normal relations to be restored with Saudi Arabia and Gulf Arab nations, adding that the

Arab League can play a role in that.

Mikati also said Lebanon will remove all obstacles to restore the relations, according to his office.

Mikati has urged Kordahi to "do what needs to be done" — an apparent appeal for him to step down but the minister has so far refused to apologise or resign.

The crisis began when Lebanon's Information Minister George Kordahi's criticisms about the war in Yemen that a Saudi-led coalition is waging against the Iran-backed Houthi rebels surfaced.

Kordahi, who was named to the government by a party allied to the militant He-

zbollah group, has insisted Yemen's Houthis have the right to defend themselves and said he did not mean to offend with his comments, which were recorded before he became minister.

Lebanon has said that Kordahi's remarks about Yemen, aired in late October, do not represent official government views.

The spat has threatened to destabilise Mikati's government, formed in September after a 13-month deadlock between rival Lebanese groups.

Saudi Arabia has withdrawn its ambassador from Beirut and asked the Lebanese envoy to leave the kingdom.

CIIE shows rosy future of
China-Pakistan trade: Envoy

BEIJING: "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," Moin ul Haque, Pakistani ambassador to China, said to Gwadar Pro in an exclusive interview during the 4th CIIE.

November 5th-10th, the 4th China International Import Expo (CIIE), which attracts nearly 3,000 businesses from 127 countries and regions, is held in Shanghai. On the 5th, Haque visited the 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 government,

especially President Xi Jinping. It has 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 expos are export oriented and CIIE is import oriented." - DNA

Nigerian HC for setting up joint chamber

"If direct flights are commenced, it would surely certainly facilitate trade and investment between the business communities of the two countries"

DNA

KARACHI: High Commissioner of Nigeria Mohammed Bello Abioye has said that although an agreement was signed for setting up joint Chamber of Commerce & Industry between Nigeria and Pakistan in 2015 but no progress has been made in this regard to date. "Setting up a joint Chamber was very necessary to improve trade and investment cooperation between the two countries otherwise we will not be able to do much", he said while exchanging views at a meeting during his visit to Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI).

President KCCI Muhammad Idrees, Senior Vice President Abdul Rehman Naqi along with KCCI Managing Committee Members attended the meeting. Nigerian HC further stated that lack of direct flights was another reason for limited trade between the two countries.

"If direct flights are commenced, it would surely certainly facilitate trade and investment between the business communities of the two countries", he said, adding that Nigeria, which holds a very large population, was a peaceful and stable

country where Pakistani businessmen and industrialists could either establish their business units or undertake joint ventures.

"We can become partners in progress through further strengthening trade ties." He said that Karachi was an important headquarters of Sindh province which was the basic reason for laying a lot of emphasis on enhancing trade ties with the business community of this city.

"Hence, we are keen to strengthen our relations with KCCI as it was the most important platform that

represents Karachi city. Any delegation's visit from KCCI to Nigeria will be fully facilitated as we want to see trade flourishing between the two countries", he said.

He said that many commodities particularly cotton and coco being largely produced in Nigeria can be provided to Pakistan. The Nigerian cotton can be used by Pakistan's textile sector for producing their value-added products.

Earlier, President KCCI Muhammad Idrees, while welcoming the Nigerian High Commissioner,

pointed out that Pakistan imported commodities worth \$116.27 million in 2020, which was 58.4 percent lower than \$279.74 million in 2019 while the exports to Nigeria stood at \$29.97 million in 2020 which was 9.1 percent higher than \$27.47 million in 2019.

He stressed that Pakistan and Nigeria should develop strong trade and economic ties through exchange of trade delegations, continuous liaison with Businesses and SMEs that would help in up scaling the two-way trade. The

trade volume between the two countries can be ramped up by launching direct flights between Pakistan and Nigeria while proper direct banking channel must also be established.

President KCCI was of the opinion that Nigeria offers a huge market for Pakistani pharmaceutical and cereal exporters while Pakistan was known around the globe for its textile products, sports goods, surgical instruments, rice, carpets, footwear and so many other consumable items, which still need to be properly introduced in the African markets. Export of textiles including electro-medical apparatus to Nigeria from Pakistan can enhance two-way trade, he added. He also assured to discuss the pending issue of Pakistan-Nigeria joint chamber of commerce with relevant authorities at the Ministry of Commerce and advised to establish this joint chamber in collaboration with Karachi Chamber which has already established a similar joint Chamber with Afghanistan. He also requested the High Commissioner to look into the possibility of opening up Nigerian Consulate in Karachi.

Obama hits
Russia, China
on climate

AGENCIES

GLASGOW: Barack Obama is expressing confidence at U.N. climate talks Monday that the Biden administration will ultimately get its \$555 billion climate package through Congress, and faulting U.S. rivals China and Russia for what he calls a "dangerous absence of urgency" in cutting their own climate-wrecking emissions. The U.N. climate conference in Glasgow, Scotland, is the former American president's first since he helped deliver the triumph of the 2015 Paris climate accord, when nations committed to cutting fossil fuel and agricultural emissions fast enough to keep the Earth's warming below catastrophic levels.

Climate summits since then have been less conclusive, especially as the U.S. under President Donald Trump dropped out of the Paris accord. President Joe Biden has since rejoined.

Obama's appearance on the sidelines of the talks is meant to remind governments of the elation that surrounded the striking of the Paris accord, and urge them to more immediate, concrete steps to put the 2015 deal into action.

In prepared remarks obtained by The Associated Press ahead of a speech to activists, Obama noted efforts by the United States — the world's second-worst climate polluter now after China — stalled when Trump pulled out of the climate accord.

"I wasn't real happy about that," he admitted.

Germany sets
strict Covid
measures

WEB DESK

BERLIN: German authorities on Monday started to implement stricter measures against COVID-19 amid an alarming rise in new infections.

The country's seven-day case rate soared to 201.1 to per 100,000 people, marking the highest figure since the start of the pandemic early last year. In the eastern federal state of Saxony, tougher rules were put in place beginning on Monday, with new restrictions for unvaccinated people.

According to the "2G rule," only those who are vaccinated or recovered from COVID-19 were now allowed to access restaurants, bars or cultural events. Wearing FFP2 masks became compulsory in taxis, on trains, buses and trams.

Saxony and the neighboring Thuringia are currently the two federal states with the highest incidence of coronavirus cases, more than double the national average. They are also the states with the lowest rate of vaccination. Authorities in Thuringia also announced stricter measures on Monday, introducing the "3G" rule for restaurants and indoor activities, requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination, recovery or a negative test. Students were required to get tested for coronavirus and wear a mask in class.

Floods in
China kill 560
this year

BEIJING: The devastating floods in China this year have killed at least 560 people, affecting nearly 59 million others in various regions of the country, officials said on Monday.

Zhou Xuewen, the vice minister of China's emergency management, told a news conference that floods, between January and October, affected a total of 58.9 million people, while 590 others were killed or are still missing.

The devastating floods, he said, caused the relocation of around 3.51 million people, while 203,000 houses collapsed. "The economic losses caused by the floods rose to 240.6 billion yuan (\$37.6 billion)," the vice minister noted, according to Chinese daily The Paper.

Chinese authorities this year recorded abnormally higher rainfall in many regions. Heavy downpour caused a heavy deluge in Shanxi, Henan, and Hubei provinces since July in China, causing rivers to overflow, break barriers, and damage the electricity-producing dams. Zhou said the flood disaster was "more serious than in previous years." - APP

Briefs

All set to auction Nawaz' property

DNA

LAHORE: Lahore administration on Monday issued a notification of auction of the property of self-exiled former premier Main Nawaz Sharif's property located in Lahore on November 19. According to a private news channel, 20 banners regarding the auction would be put up in Cantt, property place at 135 Upper Mall, Town Hall and other important places of Lahore city. Assistant Commissioner Zeeshan Nasrullah Ranha issued the notification of the auction of the former premier's property on November 19 as per the order of Accountability Court No 3 Islamabad. The notification said that the auction of Mian Nawaz Sharif's property located at 135 Upper Mall Lahore would also be advertised on social media. The notification said that the auction of the former premier's property located at Mouza Mian Mir, 135 Upper Mall has a worth of Rs85.5 million. The total area of Main Nawaz Sharif's property on Upper Mall is 2 Kanal and 8 Marla. According to the notification issued by the AC Cantt, a letter will be written to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Excise Department and Police in this regard. The notification further said that the security deposits would be received from the participants of the auction on November 18.

Chinese envoy calls on Chairman PTA

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Nong Rong called on Chairman PTA, Maj General Amir Azeem Bajwa (R) at PTA Headquarters, Islamabad on Monday. The two sides discussed matters of mutual interest, investment opportunities including enhanced cooperation in the field of information & communication technologies (ICTs) and discussed opportunities in Pakistan's fast-growing telecom sector for the foreign investors. The Ambassador and Chairman PTA agreed to further expand mutual collaboration for mutual benefit of both countries.

Russia ends workplace shutdown

AGENCIES

MOSCOW: Most Russians went back to work on Monday for the first time in more than a week as a nationwide workplace shutdown was lifted across most regions, even though the numbers of new COVID-19 cases and deaths are hovering near record daily highs. President Vladimir Putin announced last month that Oct. 30 to Nov. 7 would be paid "non-working days" - an attempt to slow the surge in cases by imposing the strictest nationwide restrictions since the early months of the pandemic last year. But officials on Monday reported 1,190 nationwide coronavirus-related deaths in the last 24 hours, higher than in the days before the enforced work break and just five short of the record reported last Thursday. There were 39,400 new COVID-19 cases, down from a peak of 41,335 on Saturday. The Kremlin said it was early to judge the impact of the shutdown yet, but it cited Moscow's mayor, a close Putin ally, as saying the epidemic in the capital was stabilising. Despite developing one of the first vaccines against COVID-19 infection last year, Russia has failed to persuade swathes of the population to accept it. Only around 40 percent of the population is immunised.

Just settlement of J&K dispute a prerequisite for peace: PM

The Prime Minister underlined the importance of the OIC's principled position on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute while talking to the OIC's Special Envoy for Jammu and Kashmir, Yousef Aldoubeay

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday reiterated that a just settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people remained a prerequisite for durable peace and stability in South Asia. He was talking to the OIC's Special Envoy for Jammu and Kashmir, Yousef Aldoubeay, who called on him here. The Assistant Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, Tarig Bakht, and senior members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) delegation were also present on the occasion. The Prime Minister underlined the importance of the OIC's principled position on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and the resolute support of the Islamic Ummah to the just struggle of the Kashmiri people for their inalienable right to self-determination. He highlighted the atrocities be-



ISLAMABAD: OIC's Special Envoy for Jammu and Kashmir, Yousef Aldoubeay calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan. - DNA

ing committed by India in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), with over

900,000 troops deployed in the occupied territory, making it the most militarized zone in the world.

The Prime Minister underscored that the illegal and unilateral actions of India since 5 August 2019

were aimed at disenfranchising the Kashmiris and altering the demographic structure of the IIOJK in order to convert it into a Hindu dominated territory. These illegal actions were in clear violation of the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and international law, including the 4th Geneva Convention, he stressed. The PM underscored the urgent need to allow access to the OIC, UN and other human rights organizations international media to visit IIOJK and conduct independent investigations into and reporting upon human rights abuses. He also called for provision of humanitarian support and assistance to the people of IIOJK. The Prime Minister strongly underscored the need for the Islamic world to forge greater unity against the challenges posed by the extremist political ideologies stoking Islamophobia. He also underlined the imperative of peaceful resolution of international conflicts and longstanding disputes including Jammu & Kashmir and Palestine.

Overseas Pakistanis to get discount in custom duty

DNA

ISLAMABAD: There is a good news for overseas Pakistanis as the government has decided to give them a discount of Rs100,000 in custom duty on goods and mobile phone imported from abroad. This is for the first time that the overseas Pakistanis will be given a huge relief in custom duty on the mobile phone. For this reason, special counters will be set up at airports for them. Moreover, Prime Minister Imran Khan in the past has always shown his support and encouragement to the expatriate Pakistanis. He is also a strong believer in the power of Pakistani diaspora and always urged OVPs to make investment in the country.

Pak, UAE ink MOU for Green co-op

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Monday signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for forging Green Cooperation and a new Climate Partnership to promote Clean Energy and Nature Based Solutions at the 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) being held at Glasgow, Scotland. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam who is leading the Pakistani delegation at the global climate summit took to Twitter to announce the significant development. He further wrote, "...many countries including US, Germany, Saudi and UK have now partnered and aligned with Prime Minister Imran Khan." The tweet was followed by hashtag #GreenVision and #10BillionTreeTsunami.

Diabetic topic in curriculum on cards

KARACHI: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health Dr. Faisal Sultan on Monday said that the inclusion of diabetic subject in the general curriculum was on the cards to make the children aware of the disease. Speaking in a dialogue on 'Diabetes - a national challenge' held at a local hotel here, the SAPM that our diabetic patterns had become bad, that is why the talks regarding inclusion in curriculum were under way with the ministry of education. He said, 'Eat less, walk more' was a simple, significant and short sentence, which appropriately described to live a healthy life. SAPM said that many measures were being taken to improve the primary healthcare system in the country. He said that healthy activities had diminished from our society and there was a dire need of reviving them. He said that the cricket was there, which was playing an important role as a healthy activity. Dr. Faisal said that it was high time to create healthy environment by various activities to overcome the diseases like diabetes. He said that they were bringing amendments to improve the health system in the country. We are bringing amendments to the Pakistan Nursing Council, he said. SAPM said that the Sindh province should launch a proper 1122 ambulance service to facilitate the patients. Dr. Akram Sultan, Prof. Dr. Zaman Shaikh, Prof. Dr. Abdul Basit, Dr. Seema and others also highlighted the importance of overcoming the diabetes challenges in Pakistan. They said that the treatment of diabetes was very costly. The panelists also stressed the need for raising public awareness of the diabetes. They said that the primary prevention should be main focus to avert the diabetes ailment. - APP

TLP ends Wazirabad protest

DNA

WAZIRABAD: Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan heralded on Monday to end their sit-in in Wazirabad that was continued for the last 12 days. However, the religious outfit warned the administration if the TLP Chief Saad Rizvi will not be freed within two days, they will stage a sit-in in Lahore. The TLP said that the government had accepted almost 50% of their demands. The announcement regarding the end of the TLP sit-in was made by the members of the party's central Majlis-e-Shura. The Federal government on Sunday issued notification of lifting the ban on the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan. The government lifted the

ban after the cabinet's approval on a circulation summary moved by the Interior Ministry at the request of the Punjab government. The interior ministry had banned the TLP under Rule 11-b of the Anti-Terrorism Act 1997. After lifting the ban, the TLP would now be able to do political activities while seized accounts of the party were also likely to be restored in a couple of days. It has been mentioned that TLP would respect the rule of the law in future and would not create any law and order situation. The government on Sunday released the leaders of the TLP central council including Allama Farooq ul Hasan Qadri, Allama Ghulam Ghous Baghdadi, Engineer Hafeez Ullah.



ISLAMABAD: Leader of the Opposition in National Assembly Shahbaz Sharif talking to PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. - DNA

KSA celebrates 7th anniversary of King's coronation

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia celebrates on Monday - Nov. 8, 2021 (Rabi Al-Akher 3, 1443) - the seventh anniversary of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman's ascension to the throne. The citizens as well as the expatriates rejoice the historic moment at a time when the Kingdom, under the wise leadership of their Monarch, is enjoying all the fruits of the hard-won victory over the unseen killer of coronavirus pandemic with life moving back to normalcy in almost all walks of life. With all strength, determination, and firmness, King Salman is striving to achieve welfare and prosperity for citizens through a massive development drive in all regions of the Kingdom. In turn, the citizens



are reciprocating with their love and loyalty as they rally behind his leadership. On the occasion of the anniversary, the Saudis remember the tremendous development and prosperity that pervaded the country, in all walks of life, and the great steps the Kingdom has achieved to become a global leader, especially after its assumption of the Presidency of the G20 in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. - Agencies

Palestinian activists hacked by Israeli spyware

Three of the hacked Palestinians work for civil society groups. The others do not, and wish to remain anonymous, Frontline Defenders says

NEWS DESK

RAMALLAH: Spyware from the Israeli surveillance company NSO Group was detected on the mobile phones of six Palestinian human rights activists, in the first known instance of Palestinian activists being targeted by the military-grade Pegasus spyware. The non-profit Frontline Defenders disclosed its findings on Monday in a joint technical report together with Amnesty International and the University of Toronto's Citizen Lab, which independently confirmed the results. It is not clear who placed the

NSO spyware, which surreptitiously gives intruders access to everything a person stores and does on their mobile phone, including real-time communications. Three of the hacked Palestinians work for civil society groups. The others do not, and wish to remain anonymous, Frontline Defenders says. Among those hacked is Ubai Aboudi, a 37-year-old economist and US citizen who runs the Bisan Center for Research and Development in Ramallah, in the occupied West Bank. The group is one of the six slapped with terrorist designations by Israel last month.

Aboudi said he lost "any sense of safety" through the "dehumanising" hack of a phone that is at his side day and night and holds photos of his three children. He said his wife, the first three nights after learning of the hack, "didn't sleep from the idea of having such deep intrusions into our privacy". He was especially concerned about eavesdroppers being privy to his communications with foreign diplomats. The researchers' examination of Aboudi's phone determined it was infected by Pegasus in February. The Irish-based Frontline Defenders considers Israel the

main suspect. The first two intrusions were identified on October 19 and three days after the Israeli Defence Minister Benny Gantz declared the six Palestinian civil society groups to be "terrorist" organisations. Al Jazeera's Harry Fawcett, speaking from Ramallah, said Frontline Defenders is "not absolutely alleging that Israel is behind this," but that the "timing of all this is very interesting." The other two hacked Palestinians who agreed to be named are researcher Ghasan Halalika, of the Al-Haq rights group, and lawyer Salah Hammouri of Addameer.

PN's Type 054 Frigate commissioned at China
Ambassador of Pakistan to China, Moin Ul Haq graced the occasion as Chief Guest

KARACHI: Pakistan Navy's first Type 054A/P Frigate, PNS TUGHRIL has been commissioned at Hudong Zhonghua (HZ) Shipyards, China. Ambassador of Pakistan to China, Moin Ul Haq graced the occasion as Chief Guest, said a Pakistan Navy media release. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest underlined that commissioning of PNS TUGHRIL ushered a new chapter in Pak-China friendship that has matured through the tests of times and remained steadfast in all domains. He added that in the context of overall security paradigm of the region, TUGHRIL Class Frigates would strengthen Pakistan Navy's capabilities to respond to maritime challenges to ensure seaward defence, maintain peace, stability and balance of power in Indian Ocean Region. The Ambassador also praised the concerted efforts made by CSSC, CSTC, CSDDC, HZ Shipyards and PLA (Navy) for the landmark achievement by timely delivery of the well-equipped and potent Frigate despite global pandemic. PNS TUGHRIL was first of four Type 054 Frigates being constructed for Pakistan Navy.



The Ship was a technologically advanced and highly capable Platform with enormous surface to surface, Surface to air and under water fire power besides extensive surveillance potentials. The Ship holds the capability to simulta-

neously execute number of naval warfare missions in a highly intense multi-threat environment. PNS TUGHRIL is equipped with state-of-the-art Combat Management and Electronic Warfare system alongwith modern self-defence capabilities. The Vice Party Secretary and Director of the Board CSSC Du Gang also applauded the timely construction of PNS TUGHRIL while emphasising that commissioning of ship is a major milestone and a testimony of Pak-China long-lived friendship; as both countries are bound by the affinity of trust, compassion and commonality. Presenting account of activities, the head of Pakistan Navy Mission while overseeing construction of 054A/P Frigate, Commodore Rashid Mehmood Sheikh highlighted that PNS TUGHRIL, being a multi-mission capable Frigate, would form the mainstay of Pakistan Navy Fleet while bolstering Pakistan Navy's maritime defence capabilities. The ceremony was attended by high level dignitaries from BOMETEC, OIMC, SAS-TIND, PLA (N) and CSSC besides Chairman of CSTC & HZ Shipyards and Commander of PLA (N) Shanghai Naval Base alongwith prominent figures of Pakistan's community in China. - APP