



Islamabad POST

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

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Pakistan Captain Babar Azam ready to conquer the world

Detailed News On Page-06

Pakistan-China anti-epidemic fight praised

Detailed News On Page-08



Afghanistan FM due in Islamabad

Detailed News On Page-01



Briefs

Zardari gets 15-day bail from IHC

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has granted 15-day protective bail to former president and PPP Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari in American property case. The court also on Tuesday ordered the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) not to arrest Asif Ali Zardari for 15 days, directing the former president to file a bail application before the trial court. Disposing of the PPP leader's bail application, the IHC remarked that Asif Ali Zardari should file a bail before arrest application in the accountability court.

Maryam pays tribute to Allama Iqbal

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz has said that Allama Iqbal envisioned a separate homeland for Muslims of subcontinent. In a statement on social media micro-blogging website twitter on the occasion of birth anniversary of Allama Iqbal, the PML-N vice president mentioned that Allama Iqbal envisioned a separate homeland for Muslims of subcontinent where their aspirations will determine affairs of the state.

Asif Ali voted ICC Player of the Month

SPORTS DESK

DUBAI: After a stunning knock during the ongoing T20 World Cup, batsman Asif Ali has been voted the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Men's Player of the Month for October, it emerged on Tuesday. According to the ICC website, Ireland's Laura Delany also secured the title in the women's category. "Asif beat Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan and Namibia's David Wiese to the men's award, and Delany beat teammate Gaby Lewis and Zimbabwe's Mary-Anne Musonda to the women's prize," the report said.

Talks with TTP done on Afghan govt request

Fawad Chaudhry says govt wants to maintain peace; inflation to come down in coming months



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry said Tuesday the interim Afghan government had requested Pakistan to initiate talks with the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). The banned TTP late Monday declared a one-month ceasefire, starting from November 9, hours after the information minister had announced that the government and the militant outfit had agreed to a complete ceasefire under the peace talks. The state must talk from a position of strength with the militant outfit, the information minister said during a post-cabinet press conference, where he mentioned that the talks with the TTP would be in line with the constitution. "TTP is not an organisation, it has several groups [...] and the talks with them could be successful only after they accept the constitution," the information minister said. Chaudhry said the state had gone to war to establish peace in the country and through negotiations, it now wanted to permanently bring peace. The information minister said the people living in merged districts wanted peace as the new generation had a changed

Afghan FM due in Islamabad today

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Afghanistan's foreign ministry confirmed on Tuesday that a "senior Afghan delegation" led by Foreign Minister Amir Khan Mutaqi will visit Pakistan today (Wednesday). The spokesman of the Afghan foreign ministry Abdul Qahar Balkhi made the announcement on Twitter, meanwhile the Pakistani foreign ministry also confirmed the visit. According to the spokesman, the visiting delegation will discuss bilateral ties between the two countries as well as the economy, transit, refugees and expanding facilities for the movement of people. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, who had visited Kabul last month, had invited Mutaqi 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.

perspective after witnessing their fathers' and grandfather's lives – which were spent in war. "It is the state's responsibility to bring peace." Chaudhry said peace was the ultimate goal of the government as it did not want instability in the areas where

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan stands with brotherly Azerbaijan: Qureshi

PML-N leader Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also welcomed the delegation from Azerbaijan and acknowledged Azerbaijan's support on the issue of Kashmir

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has assured Pakistan's complete support to the people of Azerbaijan in every thick and thin. He gave the assurance during the visit of a delegation from Azerbaijan to the National Assembly on Tuesday. The Foreign Minister said Pakistan and Azerbaijan share common views on international fora. He said Azerbaijan is a part of OIC Contact Group on Kashmir where it plays an active role to support Pakistan on the issue.



PML-N leader Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also welcomed the delegation and acknowledged Azerbaijan's unflinching support to Pakistan on the issue of Kashmir. Meanwhile, the Deputy Speaker of the National

Assembly Qasim Suri organized an event in the Parliament House in order to celebrate the Victory Day of Azerbaijan. A delegation from Azerbaijan, which is visiting Pakistan, also attended the event.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Federal Republic of Somalia Khadija Mohamed Al Makhzoumi calls on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff. – DNA

Somalian envoy calls on Air Chief
Khadija Mohamed Al Makhzoumi commended the professionalism of PAF

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Federal Republic of Somalia Khadija Mohamed Al Makhzoumi called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force in his office. During the meeting, both the dignitaries discussed matters of professional and mutual interest. Khadija Mohamed Al Makhzoumi commended the professionalism of PAF and acknowledged its rising indigenous capacity in aviation industry. The Air Chief said that Pakistan and Somalia share common religious values and cultural bonds. The Air Chief highlighted that both the countries enjoy cordial relations and reiterated his resolve to further enhance the existing bilateral cooperation between the two air forces and brotherly countries.

Indian govt's mindset hurdle towards peace

PM says int'l community has moral obligation to avert humanitarian crisis confronting Afghan people



SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday said that the "mindset of the Indian government is the greatest hurdle towards peace in our region today," as he commemorated the second anniversary of the Kartarpur Corridor. Taking to his Twitter account, the premier wrote: "Today is the second anniversary of the Kartarpur Corridor – a corridor of interfaith harmony that allows India's Sikh community

special access to one of their holiest sites." He added that the Kartarpur Corridor reflects his government's commitment to minority rights and interfaith harmony. Speaking about the atrocities committed by the Indian government against the people of Indian Occupied Kashmir and Muslims in India, the prime minister said: "Our commitment comes at a time when we are witnessing a descent into systematic persecution of Kashmiris, Indian Muslims and other

Continued on Page 06

Tarin rejects reports regarding PM Imran

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue Shaukat Tarin on Tuesday rejected reports regarding Prime Minister Imran Khan planning to seek the International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief's help to resume a \$6 billion loan programme. On November 11, a local news publication had reported that Prime Minister Imran Khan has "dropped" a plan to make a telephone call to the managing director of the IMF, which the government had purportedly made last week to seek the official's intervention to remove barriers to the revival of the deal.

Continued on Page 06

Britain approves Chinese vaccines

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Britain has added Chinese vaccines to its list of approved jabs for travellers, British High Commissioner to Pakistan Christian Turner said on Tuesday, terming it "good news" for Pakistani travellers. In an updated travel advisory, the UK said from November 22 4am, World Health Organisation's Emergency Use Listing (WHO EUL) vaccines – Sinovac, Sinopharm Beijing, and Covaxin – will be accepted.

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Australian HC, PCB hosts Girls' Cricket Cup 2021 – Page 06

Armenia should take hand of peace extended by Azerbaijan – Page 07

Shehbaz Sharif bashes govt over surge in power price – Page 08

Self-reliance in defence production hallmark of any country, says COAS

The Army Chief visited Heavy Industries Taxila and lauded "milestones achieved" towards self-sufficiency

NEWS DESK

RAWALPINDI: Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa remarked on Tuesday that "self-reliance in defence production is a hallmark of any country", and lauded Heavy Industries Taxila of the "milestones achieved" towards self-sufficiency. "Self-reliance in defence production is the hallmark of any country and we are proud of the milestones achieved towards that end," Gen Bajwa was quoted in an Inter-Services Public Relations press release.

The military's media wing shared that the COAS during a visit to the Heavy Industries Taxila (HIT) was briefed about the facility's "capabilities, progress of ongoing projects and recently undertaken balancing, modernisation and re-vamping (BMR) measures" for the production units. "COAS visited various facilities of HIT and witnessed



enhanced protection solutions and remote weapon systems for tanks, ingeniously developed 155 mm artillery gun barrel, ballistic and improvised explosive device protection of military vehicles and manufacturing, rebuild and upgradation of tanks and armoured personnel carriers," said the ISPR. The army chief also 'witnessed' the ongoing research and development projects being done at the facility. HIT's efforts to attain "self-reliance through indigenisation in modern technologies of tanks,

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari attends the National Assembly session. – DNA

Punjab arts council Faisalabad observes Iqbal Day

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Attaining of knowledge and continuity of practice are the basic ideas of Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal, the thinker of Pakistan, on which development and prosperity is possible only by working tirelessly. This was stated by Deputy Commissioner Ali Shahzad as the chief guest in a tableau and milli nagmas function organized by Punjab Arts Council and Principals Forum Pakistan at Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan Auditorium. Director FAC Zahid Iqbal, AD Asad Hayat, large number of teachers and students were present on the occasion of Iqbal Day. The Deputy Commissioner said that on the occasion of Iqbal Day, the country developed

rapidly by making philosophy its leader. This is Iqbal's dream which has to be fulfilled through hard work day and night. He said that every poem of Allama Iqbal highlights his intellectual and constructive quest and Fiqr Iqbal is there to guide us but it is necessary. It is a matter of sincerely adopting the thoughts of Allama Iqbal. He said that Allama Iqbal was a great benefactor of the Muslims of the subcontinent who dreamed of a separate homeland for the Muslims and later his dream was came true. He said that Iqbal is the bearer of the universal message of Islam. He said that the essence of Iqbal is the message of Iqbal. He said that unity of Muslims is in the message of

Iqbal. He appreciated the performance of students and holding of such a glorious event. Director Arts Council said that the purpose of celebrating Iqbal day is to acquaint the new generation with Iqbal's message. He said that Iqbal has termed the youth as Shaheen who need to follow the golden principles taught by Iqbal. The secret of a prosperous future also lies in it. Other speakers also addressed the Iqbal day celebrations and highlighted the philosophy of Allama Iqbal's constant struggle. During the function, students of various government and private schools discussed the life of Allama Iqbal. Speeches on the topics of his vital role in Tehreek-e-Pakistan.



FAISALABAD: The Group Photo of children with Deputy Commissioner Ali Shahzad on the eve of Iqbal Day. – DNA

DC Lodhran inspects Sahulat bazars, THQ, roads constructions

SAQIB MUSHTAQ

LODHRAN: Deputy Commissioner Captain (R) Shoaib Ali did a surprise visit to Tehsil Duniyapur for the provision of relief to the people and elimination of artificial inflation. He visited Sahulat Bazaars, local markets, Sugar Sale points, Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Duniyapur, Shelter Homes, Sports Stadium and Under construction roads. At this time Assistant Commissioner Duniyapur Aitzaz Anjum gave detailed briefing regarding the Sugar Sale Points. Deputy Commissioner said that effective steps are being taken throughout the district to eradicate inflation. He added that on directions of Government of Punjab sugar is available on Government's fixed prices at whole sale points. Deputy Commissioner directed Price Control Magistrates to shrink the circle around overchargers and hoarders. Later Deputy Commissioner visited shelter homes in Tehsil Duniyapur, he inquired about the available facilities to the homeless and travelers in winter season. He checked clean warm beddings availability, food quality and Corona SOPs. He inquired from the people staying at shelter homes about the facilities

and spent some time with them. Earlier Deputy Commissioner visited Tehsil Headquarters Hospital's different departments and checked the attendance of staff, medicine stock and other arrangements. At this time Medical Superintendent and other staff was along with him. Deputy Commissioner inquired patients are the facilities being provided to them and also console them. Deputy Commissioner directed Hospital's MS to improve the arrangements and ensure the cleanliness. Deputy Commissioner said that in accordance with Government of Punjab's vision ensuring the provision of modern health facilities to public is our duty and no negligence will be dealt in this regard. He added that visits throughout the district hospitals and other Government institutions will continue so that improvements can be brought and people to be provided with relief. On directions of Deputy Commissioner Captain (R) Shoaib Ali selling of sugar at the Government's fixed price is being strictly monitored, he decided to adopt zero tolerance policy against overcharging and hoarding shopkeepers and in this regard he issued special directions to Price control magistrates throughout the district.

Air Chief pays tribute to Allama Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: On 144th birth anniversary of Pakistan's National Poet Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force pays tribute to the visionary philosopher who during unpretentious point in the lives of Muslims of the subcontinent, instilled hope and credo of "Khudi" and inspired them to struggle for freedom and creation of independent homeland. Iqbal's prudence helped him not only to dream of Pakistan, but also foresee the challenges it would have to face after its creation. Iqbal's philosophy of "Shaheen" has been emulated and made the corner stone of all aspirations related to the aerial defenders of the homeland. By following Iqbal's ideology, we can mould ourselves into resilient, creative and morally sound nation that isn't at odds with the modern world yet also within the ambit of Islamic philosophy, the Air Chief said. – APP

237 cases of dengue reported

PESHAWAR: Around 237 new cases of dengue were reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday, raising the toll of infection to 8630. According to Daily Dengue update shared by Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response System (IDRS), the total number of active cases in the province are 1024. Some 246 patients have recovered from the disease to date. While the number of total recovered patient has reached to 7597. The number of total death caused by the disease during its current outbreak has been recorded as 09, the report added. – APP

SA envoy appreciates 'Look Africa' policy

No doubt Pakistan has expertise in textile but non traditional markets have more potential and our focus should be on these markets in order to promote non-traditional export items

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Receding of Corona has opened new avenues of trade and investment in different countries and Pakistan and South Africa must exploit these opportunities with focus on the promotion of tourism in both the countries, said HE Mr. M. Madikiza, Higher Commissioner of South Africa. He was addressing female entrepreneurs in Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He appreciated the 'Look Africa' policy of Pakistan and said that Pakistani women entrepreneurs should also collaborate with their female trade partners in my country. He said that no doubt Pakistan has expertise in textile but non traditional markets have more potential and our focus should be on



these markets in order to promote non-traditional export items. He said that both the countries have excellent natural beauty from beaches to the snow cloud hills and we should concentrate on exploiting this untapped potential. Mrs. Nighat Shahid, President Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FWCCI) explained her roadmap and

said that she like to send a delegation of female entrepreneurs to directly interact with females of that country and explore new opportunities for the promotion of bilateral trade. She was optimistic that High Commissioner will extend a helping hand in sending a female trade delegation to South Africa in the near future. She also told that she has special

focus on Women Entrepreneurship Development and we have organized All Pakistan Women Chambers Presidents Conference on 'Women empowerment' on 15th Nov, 2021 in Faisalabad Mrs. Farhat Nisar, VP offered vote of thanks while Mrs. Sobia Aqeel, SVP Mrs. Shama Ahmad, Executive Committee Member and others were present on the occasion.



HYDERABAD: Members of civil society, journalists and others burn candles for Nazim Jokhiyo outside Hyderabad press club. – DNA

Faisalabad, Qingdao co-op to turn both into trade hub

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Cooperation between Faisalabad and Qingdao could transform both cities as regional hub of industrial, commercial, educational and research activities which would play a catalytic role in the overall growth of both countries, said Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI). He was addressing a zoom conference specially arranged by Pak-China Centre in connection with declaring Faisalabad and Qingdao as "sister cities" to mark the 70th anniversary of the communist party of China. He said that Faisalabad has

emerged as the fastest growing city of Pakistan which is contributing a major role in the overall economy of Pakistan. As regards FCCI, he said that it is the elected forum of the business community of Faisalabad which has 8000 members within its fold. He said that Faisalabad is strategically located in the heart of Pakistan which is well connected through road, rail and air links. "Faisalabad has two mega industrial estates where many foreign companies including Chinese firms have already established their units which are working profitably", he said and added that investors have been given special incentives of ten years tax holiday which

has made it most lucrative for foreign investors. He said that Pakistan is importing raw material from China and now investors from Qingdao should also exploit this potential by establishing units to fulfill the needs of local industrial sector. He further said that surplus production could also be exported to the Middle East and other countries. He quoted his recent meeting with Chief Minister Punjab Usman Buzdar and said that he has himself inaugurated a Foreign Investment Facilitation Desk for the convenience of new investors. "Similarly, an inspector-less regime has also been introduced to save them from unnecessary hassle", he added.

CM Sindh for to mitigate negative impact of COVID-19

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday said that the Sindh government was framing an effective policy to mitigate the negative impact of the COVID-19 and to encash opportunities in the post-COVID world. "Post-COVID international scenario has lowered risk outlook for Pakistan and CPEC opportunities have made Sindh a better destination promising healthy returns on investment, ease of doing business and high impact sustainable business growth", he added. He expressed these views while addressing the 2022-member participants of National Defence University (NDU) course on National Security & War Course-2022 led by Major General Rahat Naseem Ahmed Khan here at CM House. Shah said that the 20-point National Action Plan (NAP) for countering terrorism and extremism was chalked out in All Parties Conference in 2014. The CM Sindh said that his government was actively implementing NAP points under the Provincial Apex Committee framework. "The Government of Sindh has conducted 26th meetings of Apex Committee with tangible outcomes such as Karachi Operation taken to logical end and now, Karachi is by and large a peaceful city," he said and added Karachi has hosted many international and domestic cricket tournaments. – APP

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کمرشل صارفین کیلئے 11.98 روپے فی یونٹ تک کی رعایت

جنرل سروسز کیلئے 7.94 روپے فی یونٹ تک کی رعایت

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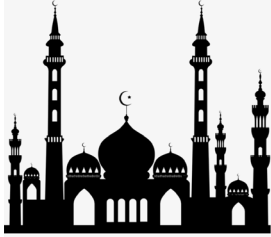
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Maghrib.....	05:09 pm
Isha.....	06:34 pm



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Marriott.....	051-2826121
Monal.....	0334-5421812



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

Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....	0331-5022125
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Allotment of plots to FGEHA board members challenged

The officers in a petition filed in the IHC maintained that they were registered under the Phase-I drive of FGEHA's scheme, Green Enclave in Bhara Kahu

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: As many as 47 serving and retired officers of various ministries/divisions have challenged the decision of the executive board of the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) to allot plots to the members of the board in 'privileged' sectors depriving them of their legitimate rights.

The officers in a petition filed in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) maintained that they were registered under the Phase-I drive of FGEHA's scheme, Green Enclave in Bhara Kahu. The petition said the FGEHA started the registration drive for Phase-II of F-14 and

F-15 and ignored the drive-I by giving preferential treatment to Phase-II drive.

In Phase-II drive, the FGEHA allotted plots to the Supreme Court judges, including Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed, and judges of the high courts, top bureaucracy, including an aide to the prime minister, through balloting held on August 17. Sardar Taimoor Khan, the counsel for the petitioners, informed the court that all the petitioners were federal government employees and when the FGEHA launched the membership drive-I in 2009 on "first come first serve basis" and the petitioners got themselves registered as members.

Under the membership drive-I, a member was en-

titled to the allotment of a plot in any future scheme of their choice. The petitioners said they deposited the membership charges in accordance with the categories of entitlement of plots based on their respective pay scales. The petition stated that for drive-I, FGEHA issued offer of allotment in Sky Garden that is situated near tehsil Murree whereas the petitioners have applied for plots in Bhara Kahu. The counsel informed IHC Chief Justice Athar Minal-

ah that at the same time the FGEHA allotted 4,723 plots to various members in Sector F-14 and F-15 on the said date and in a subsequent meeting of August 25 unanimously decided for allotment of a plot for all the members of the executive board. The petition claimed that "securing plots in the coveted schemes for themselves i.e. members of the executive board of FGEHA by way of a decision taken by the executive board" under a table agenda is a glaring example

of conflict of interest.

The FGEHA's executive board comprises Minister for Housing and Works Tariq Bashir Cheema, who is not a member of the scheme. However, the entitled members of the executive board included secretary housing Dr Imran Zeb Khan, additional secretary Zahoor Ahmed, draftsman Mohammad Israr, senior chief planning commission Mohammad Anwar, senior joint secretary Rizwan Ahmed Sheikh, chief commissioner and chairman Capital Development Authority Amer Ali Ahmed, managing director Pakistan Housing Authority Amir Mohiuddin, director general PWD Akramul Haq, director general FGEHA Tariq Rashid, chief engineer retired Col Imtiaz

Khattak, Asghar Naem and Mohammad Bukh Sangi.

The petition said in October 2019 the FGEHA with the approval of its executive board had signed a joint venture agreement with M/s Commoner Sky Garden for the development of a housing scheme at Mouza Mengal and Mouza Kattar near Murree, where purportedly 6,300 kanals stood mutated in favour of the FGEHA. It said the petitioners had been deceived on account of being required to accept provisional offer for allotment in a housing scheme near tehsil Murree instead of Phase VI Bhara Kahu for which they had made the down payment per consent letters issued on April 27, 2016, and became members in September 2009.

Government asked to review land allotment decision

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday turned down Monal Restaurant's request to withdraw its case and remarked that prima facie allocating eight thousands kanals of land of Margala Hills National Park to military directorate was illegal. The court instructed the federal government to review its notification of 2016 regarding the Margala hill national park land. The court said, the federal government was taking concrete measures to deal with climate change but the Margala Hills National Park was being ignored adding there is no rule of law in the Capital.

It was the duty of Islamabad Wildlife Mangement Board (IWMB) to highlight the violations in Margala hills but it had confined itself to trail 4, 5 and 6, the court observed. Why and how the land was given to military directorate, he court asked the attorney general who submitted that this was a very important issue and he would give his advise to the federal government in this regard. The court instructed the federal government to conduct a survey in Margala hills national park and stop illegal constructions there.

Covid study reveals 5 clusters during 1st wave

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Almost two years into the pandemic, Pakistan has fought three major waves that have swept across its main urban centers with approximately 1.27 million confirmed cases and 28,500 deaths so far. According to a study, the viral population of COVID-19 causing coronavirus or SARS-CoV-2 is continuously diversifying due to different geographical locations and varying environmental conditions. The ever-increasing diversity among the viral population is associated with increased infectivity and transmission. Therefore, it's crucial that surveillance of genetic and antigenic modifications in the global viral population is done alongside massive vaccination initiatives to elucidate the disease impacts of various coronavirus mutants.

FPCCI felicitates Mian Kashif on being member of PIFD

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Nasser Hayatt Maggo Tuesday felicitated Chief Executive Officer of Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Mian Kashif Ashfaq on his nomination as member Pakistan Institute of Fashion and Design. In a felicitation message, the FPCCI Chief appreciated the decision of the federal government for appointing widely traveled Mian Kashif in a prestigious institution where he would contribute significantly in the field of Fashion and Design on the basis of his lifelong

varied experience in private sector. He said Chenone earned good repute by not compromising on the quality of his brand.

Nasser Maggo further lauding his services said Mian Kashif introduced latest designs in furniture industry to help capture share in the world markets.

He hoped that teaching courses of the institute would also be totally revised on modern scientific lines to bring at par with Paris.

He hoped that he would fully exploit the hidden talent in Pakistan and send students delegation to Paris for their orientation. He said there is a vast scope of investment in fashion and design industry.

UPU's climate change themed letter writing competition

ISLAMABAD: Universal Post Union (UPU) has announced theme for 2022 International Letter-writing competition which gives young people a voice in climate crisis. According to UPU, "Write a letter to someone influential explaining why and how they should take action on the climate crisis," is the theme for the Letter-Writing Competition, said a press release. Participating countries including Pakistan hold a national letter-writing competition with support from postal operators and often, assistance from education authorities. Each country chooses a national winner and submits their entry to a global competition held by UPU. An international jury judges the letters and selects the winners, as well as entries worthy of a special mention. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Women posing for a group photo on the occasion of Victory Day reception hosted by the Azerbaijan embassy. - DNA

VU-NSU inks MOU for tech education

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The Virtual University of Pakistan (VU) is executing a mega project entitled "Blended Virtual Education for Knowledge Economy". Technical education through Blended Virtual Education is the motto of current government to equip its youth with

latest technologies. Prof. Dr. Arshad Saleem Bhatti, Rector, Virtual University of Pakistan and Prof. Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar, Vice Chancellor, National Skills University signed the MOU. The MOU signing ceremony was attended by the Registrars, faculty members and technical team of both sides. Rector, Virtual University of Pakistan said

that technology is playing a key role in latest education and VU has 20 years of experience of virtual education. Integration of technology in education system will play important role for the provision of quality education to the masses. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar explain the role of virtual education and highlighted the future aspects/ventures of NSU.



Rashid urges to follow teachings of Allama Iqbal

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior, Sheikh Rashid Ahmad on Tuesday urged the need for imbibing the teachings of national poet Allama Muhammad Iqbal and making sincere efforts to steer the nation out of all challenges. In a message in connection with the 44th birth anniversary of Allama Muhammad Iqbal, Sheikh Rashid said, "His thoughts are not only for Muslims but also for the entire humanity as Allama Iqbal gave the message of love and peace." He added, "Iqbal's writings, poetry and sayings kindled a new light and aroused a sense of respect, self-realization and determination in the Muslims." He has awakened the Muslims of the sub-continent and convinced them to demand a separate homeland where they could live with dignity and exercise their social, religious and cultural rights.

Shafqat briefs WB delegation on joint programmes progress

Ministry is also very keen to participate in the WB "Accelerator" program for which we are formulating certain priority

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education, Professional Training, National Heritage and Culture Shafqat Mahmood held a meeting with the delegation of World Bank led by the Practice Manager Mr. Christian Aedo Tuesday at the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training.

Welcoming the delegation of World Bank, Federal Education Minister Shafqat Mahmood remarked that when he held charge of this ministry, there was no project between the ministry and the World Bank but now we were jointly carrying out so many important

projects including ASPIRE 200 million US dollar program. A program-for-Results financing, 400 million dollars Higher Education Development Program, 19 million US dollars Covid-19 Response, Recovery and Resilience in

education project and 20 million USD DARE grant program. Shafqat Mahmood also assured the World Bank to execute all these programs well within time. Federal Education Minister said the ministry is also

very keen and pleased to actively participate in the World Bank "Accelerator" program for which we are formulating certain priority actions regarding school children, quality education, distance learning, and remedial learning. Discussing the learning poverty, which is according to a survey has increased from 75 percent to 79 percent owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, the federal education minister has said, we are very much concerned about the issue and in next IPEDC which is scheduled to be held this month in Karachi, the introduction of remedial courses to reduce the learning poverty would be the part of agenda of IPEDC.



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For further information please contact the following.

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Mobile: 0300 8553342

Briefs

AIU
announces
MA/MSc
admissions

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) has announced admissions in MA/MSc and teacher training programs for both national and international students after the issuance of HEC's revised notification. According to AIU, for international students, these programs will be offered through learning management system and all academic activities including examination will be conducted online.

However, for national students, face to face examinations will be conducted in examination centers. Admission application forms and prospectuses are available online on the university website. Both national and international students can apply for admission through online mode only till December 6, 2021. All relevant details are available online on the university website (www.aiou.edu.pk).

Moreover, university has uploaded assignments submission schedule on the website for programs offered in autumn 2021 semester including matriculation and intermediate programs. In case, a student does not receive tutor intimation by the deadline of submission of first assignment, he/she may contact his/her respective regional office for the information. Late submission of assignments will not be entertained.

Theatre
Walay acting
workshop
continues

ISLAMABAD: A Theatre Walay series of workshops for aspiring actors, drama enthusiasts, or those generally interested in improving public speaking skills is going on in full swing at the Farm Bani Gala.

Talking to APP, on Tuesday Director Theatre Walay Fiza Khan said the workshops were focusing on use of basic theatre games and activities to build confidence, overcome anxiety, improve communication skills, and work on voice and body language of artists.

She said the workshops were offering new-actors the opportunity to work on navigating their social interactions- build confidence and strategies for effective communication and collaboration.

In the workshops the participants were being learnt to express themselves with vocal and body language training and to overcome stage fright and manage anxiety in public interactions, she added. - APP

CTP
accelerate
awareness
against smog

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi on Tuesday accelerated their ongoing awareness campaign against smog to sensitize the motorists to keep themselves safe during smog season.

The campaign was launched on the special directives of City Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi Rai Mazhar Iqbal with an aim to raise awareness about best practices to keep oneself safe and healthy during smog season, a CTP official said.

Therefore, the drivers and the vehicle owners should maintain their vehicles technically fit before coming on road. The CTP teams were also distributing pamphlets and face masks among motorists, and advising them to avoid waste burning which contributes to smog formation.

The teams during the campaign were also informing the people about the health problems due to smog especially breathing problems as well as eyes, nose and throat infections.

The spokesman informed that 37 challan tickets were issued to smoke emitting vehicles during last month while several vehicles also impounded in different police stations.

Iqbal's vision of exploring world a way to success: Alvi

Iqbal had presented for Muslims a concept of intellectual progression on the principles of modern science, but grounded in faith and spirituality: President

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday said the vision of great scholar Allama Muhammad Iqbal of exploring the world through modern science was a guiding principle for Pakistan to gain a stronghold in the comity of nations.

"The Pakistani nation, at the moment, has no other option but to focus on scientific knowledge to make its mark in the rapidly changing world," the president said in his address here at an event held at Bahria University to mark the birth anniversary of Iqbal, the country's national poet. The conference themed 'Iqbal's multidimensional wisdom: His vision for the social, scientific and technological revival of the Ummah' was joined by academics, researchers, faculty, and students.

President Alvi said Iqbal had presented for Muslims a concept of intellectual progression on the principles of modern science, but grounded in faith and spirituality. He mentioned that Iqbal in his poetry even used the metaphors of immense power within a minuscule atom, planetary bodies, and the 'Shaheen' (falcon) to describe the potential of a Muslim, whose motivation and intellect guide him on right decision-making amid challenges.

"The success of the Islamic world,



and particularly Pakistan, lies in decoding the message of Iqbal in its true spirit," he added. President Alvi said the lectures delivered by Iqbal on 'Reconstruction of religious thoughts' in the 1930s emphasized on reformation of the Muslim mindset to help them realize their exploitation in the Indian sub-continent.

He regretted that even in today's India and the Occupied Kashmir, the Muslims faced mistreatment and demonization. He stressed

that Iqbal's vision of justice and morality needed to prevail in the world, where India's acts of atrocities were being ignored in view of business gains. Senator Waleed Iqbal, lawyer and also the grandson of Allama Iqbal, said Iqbal wanted the Muslims to learn scientific knowledge and also emphasized translating as much academic content into Urdu to benefit the students.

He said Iqbal's philosophy of leadership and management was

about a dream, far-sightedness, integrity to feel the pain of others, truth, and honesty. Vice Chancellor Riphah International University Prof Dr Anis Ahmed said Iqbal's poetry explains 'Tauheed' (Oneness of the Almighty) as the essence of Islamic ideology, which he said, acted as a catalyst for the creation of a separate homeland for the Muslims of Indian sub-continent. Rector Bahria University Vice Admiral Kaleem Shaikat said in the era of social media, there

was a need to promote Iqbal's message and his inspiring poetry among youth to guide them on distinguishing between materialism and spiritualism.

Conference Director Professor Adam Saud said the main objective of the event was to explore the multidimensional wisdom of Iqbal and encourage the young generation to touch new heights of success. Alumnus Junaidullah Shahid presented Kalam-e-Iqbal on the occasion.

7 new
Covid cases,
positivity
drops to 0.42

RAWALPINDI: As many as seven more were tested positive of deadly coronavirus, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 39,066 in the district, while the positivity rate was recorded at 0.42 per cent during the last 24 hours in the district.

As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority here Tuesday, the total infected cases included 36,073 from Rawalpindi and 2993 from other districts. Among the new cases, the report said three belonged to Rawalpindi Cantt, two from Potohar town, and one each from Islamabad and Faisalabad. "Presently 16 confirmed patients were admitted to four city health facilities, counting 11 in Institute of Urology, three in Benazir Bhutto Hospital and one each in Fauji Foundation and Bilal hospital," the report said.

It updated that 37,765 patients had been discharged after recovery, 34,780 with Rawalpindi and 2985 from outside the districts. One hundred seventy-one were quarantined, including 91 at home and 80 in the isolation centres. - APP

Need to
understand
Iqbal's
philosophy

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Faruk Habib said on Tuesday that today there was need to understand Allama Iqbal's message and philosophy was greater than ever. Entire nation and Muslim Ummah was paying homage to the great thinker of Islam and great philosopher and poet Allama Muhammad Iqbal, he said in a message on the occasion of 144th birth anniversary of Allama Iqbal.

He said today the nation must follow Iqbal's teachings as well as retrospect about how much it had acted on his teachings.

"Today we have to pledge to make Allama Iqbal's dream a reality. We will work harder and harder than ever before", he said.

NCOC pays tribute
to stakeholders in
tackling pandemic

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) on Tuesday paid tribute to the Frontline Healthcare Workers including doctors paramedics and nursing staff who have been endangering their lives to save others from the hazards of the calamitous coronavirus.

NCOC session chaired by Chairperson Mr. Asad Umar was also attended by National Coordinator, Major General Zafar Iqbal, and Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health Dr. Faisal Sultan.

The forum took a comprehensive review of the progress of the nationwide vaccination drive and the availability of vaccines in line with project

requirements in the future. Expressing satisfaction over the current stability of the epi curve, the forum appreciated the people of Pakistan for their responsible compliance to NPIs that helped ensure individual as well as collective safety and well-being.

The forum also praised media for its pivotal role in crisis communication and creating mass awareness for generating the desired public response.

NCOC acknowledged the supportive role of telecommunication companies, academia, ulema, and other stakeholders who came forward to help save Pakistan from the ravages of COVID when the pandemic had gripped the region at large.



ISLAMABAD: EU Ambassador Androulla Kaminara and speakers of the first session join the president, chairman and MD of PICSS for a group photo. - DNA

Doctors urged to follow
medical ethics

"You can do this on your own, with a teacher, or with a fellow medical school applicant who could give you their perspective and share ideas"

ISLAMABAD: Dean of Federal Medical Teaching Institute (FMTEI), Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Prof Dr. Rizwan Taj on Tuesday urged the medical practitioners to strictly follow medical ethics to maintain the standard of this noble profession.

Addressing a seminar on 'medical ethics' at PIMS, Dr. Rizwan Taj said that medical ethics analyzes the practice of clinical medicine and related scientific research.

He said that medical ethics is based on a set of

values that professionals can refer to in the case of any confusion or related situation.

He added these values include respect for autonomy, non-maleficence, beneficence, and justice. Such tenets may allow doctors, care providers, and families to create a treatment plan and work towards the same common goal.

He said that medical ethics is particularly relevant in decisions regarding involuntary treatment and involuntary commitment. He added some moral el-

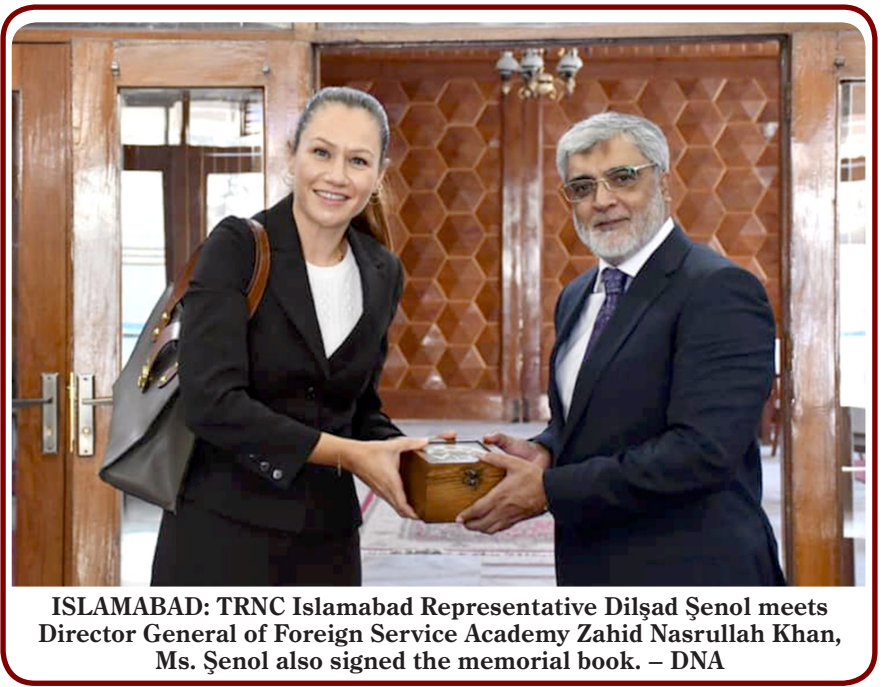
ements overrule others with the purpose of applying the best moral judgment to a difficult medical situation.

Prof Dr. Rizwan Taj said that medical ethics describes the moral principles by which a doctor must conduct themselves. "You need to understand the concept of medical ethics, but you're not expected to be an expert as medical ethics is a changing ideal."

He said that one of the best ways to develop an understanding of medical ethics is to practice analyz-

ing situations using ethical frameworks and ideologies. "You can do this on your own, with a teacher, or with a fellow medical school applicant who could give you their perspective and share ideas."

He urged fresh doctors to try to compare the outcomes given by different frameworks and consider the implications of this. "Make sure you stay up-to-date with the latest health information and see how these ethical frameworks apply to what's currently in the information." - APP



ISLAMABAD: TRNC Islamabad Representative Dilşad Şenol meets Director General of Foreign Service Academy Zahid Nasrullah Khan, Ms. Şenol also signed the memorial book. - DNA

CDA, ICCI to jointly set up industrial estate

The demand of ICCI for setting up a new industrial estate in Islamabad was quite legitimate and assured that CDA was ready to complete this important project in collaboration with ICCI: Chairman CDA

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry led by President Muhammad Shakeel Munir visited CDA Head Office and met with Chairman CDA Amir Ali Ahmed to discuss key issues of business community. ICCI Senior Vice President Jamshed Akhtar Sheikh, Vice President Muhammad Faheem Khan, Convener of ICCI CDA Committee Abdul Rauf Alam, Tariq Sadiq, Khalid Iqbal Malik, Sheikh Amir Waheed, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, Nasir Qureshi, Shaban Khalid, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, Tahir Abbasi, Omais Khattak and Khalid Chaudhry were in the delegation. CDA Member Finance Rana Shakeel Asghar, Member Engineering Syed Munawar Shah and Member State Naveed Ellahi were also present in the meeting.

Addressing the delegation, CDA Chairman Amir Ali Ahmed said that the demand of ICCI for setting up a new industrial estate in Islamabad was quite legitimate and assured that CDA was ready to complete this important project in collaboration with ICCI. He said that ICCI should prepare a comprehensive proposal for a new industrial estate and send it to the CDA so that the project could be taken forward in consultation with the

concerned departments of the government. It was agreed in the meeting that ICCI would hold another meeting with the Chairman CDA on November 15 with a ready proposal for an industrial estate. Chairman CDA acknowledged that Kahuta Industrial Triangle has been neglected for development but added that roads carpeting work has been started in the said industrial estate and assured that the remaining issues would also be resolved soon.

He said that the dualization of Islamabad Dry Port road would be inaugurated next Friday. He said that the process of bids opening for construction of parking pla-

zas in markets was being started soon. He vowed that the CDA would continue to work with ICCI for the development of industrial areas, markets and the city.

Speaking on the occasion, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Muhammad Shakeel Munir apprised the Chairman CDA of the key issues facing the business community and stressed the need for their solution.

He said that the role of CDA is very important in solving the problems of the business community so it is hoped that CDA will play this role effectively. He said that the establishment of a new industrial estate in

the region was very important which would attract new investment, boost industrialization and create plenty of new jobs. He apprised the Chairman CDA of the problems being faced in the lease renewal of industrial plots and assured that ICCI would fully cooperate with CDA in resolving this issue. He said that CDA should allow bifurcation of industrial plots for better promotion of industrial activities.

Abdul Rauf Alam, Convener of ICCI CDA committee, said that the business community was facing problems due to lack of parking facilities in the markets so the CDA should address this issue on priority basis. He said that the remaining development works including carpeting of roads in the markets and industrial areas should be completed soon to facilitate the business community. He said that sewerage lines should be refurbished and the sanitation system should be further improved.

He said that appropriate steps should be taken to solve the problem of slum areas in Islamabad.

Jamshed Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President, Faheem Khan, Vice President ICCI, Tariq Sadiq President Islamabad Industrial Association and other members of delegation also highlighted various issues and stressed on the need to resolve them expeditiously.

29 dengue
cases at allied
hospitals

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: As many as 29 more dengue cases reported in the three public hospitals of Rawalpindi city during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 3042.

This was stated by District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood, on Tuesday.

He said that among the new cases, the Holy Family Hospital (HFH) had registered 17, District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) seven, while five were registered with Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH) in 24 hours.

"This year, around 3042 dengue cases were brought to the allied hospitals of the city, who were provided with the required treatment and 2982 discharged after recovery, including 1783 from HFH, 470 DHQ and 789 from BBH," he added. Dr Sajjad informed that 41 patients were under treatment in HFH.

T20 Semi Finals

PAKISTAN is set to face Australia in the semi-finals of the T20 Cricket World Cup on November 11 after having won all of its five games in a comprehensive fashion during the group stages. Few would have predicted such a dominant run from the team even after they got off to a flying start against arch-rivals India. Never before have we witnessed such a performance as qualifying for the knockout stages was never in doubt.

The tables have truly turned during this tournament as the team has dispelled all doubts and disproved all generalisations that have been associated with Pakistan cricket. PSL stars like Asif Ali proved that they belong on the international stage and veterans such as Shoaib Malik have shown that there is still fuel left in the tank. It would be hard to find shortcomings in any aspect of the game, as the team's batting, bowling and fielding have been top notch consistently. The only area of concern was the middle order and the team's overreliance on Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan; this won't be weighing on the fans minds anymore as the last couple of games have illustrated that there is a lot of depth in this batting line up.

Apart from the performances on the field, this group of players has also raised the bar of sportsmanship in a lot of ways. Not only is this group above the toxic politics we have witnessed in the past, but it has also been extremely humble in its success, nudging Pakistani fans to do the same. It is safe to say that Pakistan cricket is in good hands under this new setup.

This week however, the real test arrives as Pakistan will have to be at its best to beat an in-form Australian team. The unpredictability of this format is such that anything can happen on the day, and past form will have little bearing on how things play out during those 40 overs. Regardless of the result though, this team has made the whole nation proud and has won the hearts of cricket fans all over. The boys in green will be returning home as winners irrespective of who makes it to the final next Thursday.

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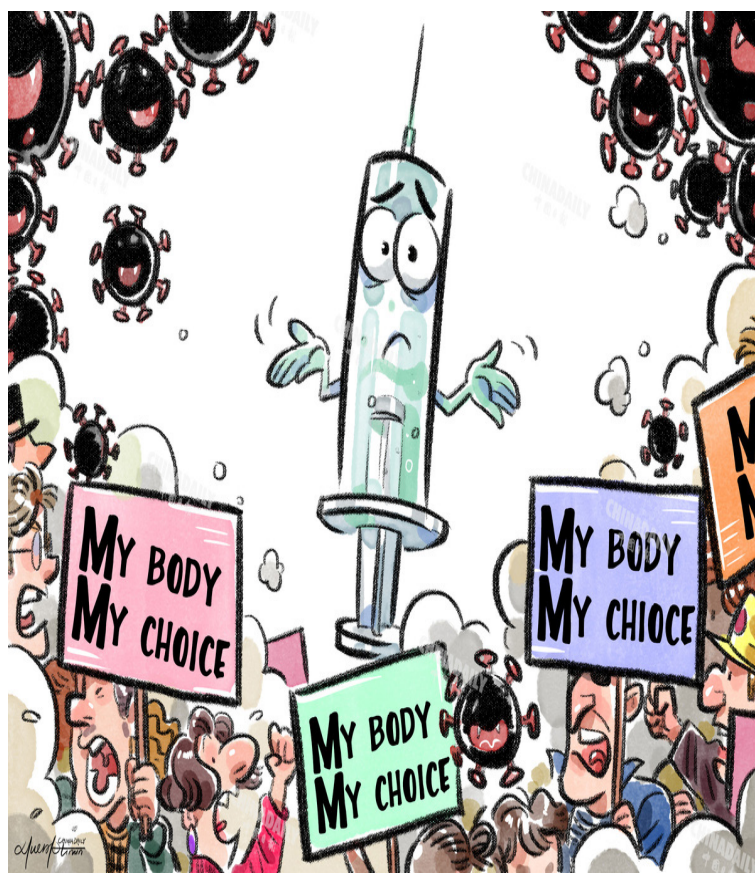
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Harnessing the people's strength key to Afghan future

Zaid M. Belbagi



As the Taliban raised their standard over the presidential palace, Afghans panicked at the sight of fighters still dusty from their rural campaigns taking de facto control of the streets of the capital

LYSE Doucett, the BBC's chief international correspondent, last week joined the ranks of those lamenting recent events in Afghanistan with a poignant "Love Letter to Kabul." The gesture echoed the mood among many that, with the return of the Taliban, the country's diversity and rich heritage, which had only just been rediscovered, will now be lost once again. However, fading glimmers of a more pluralistic and inclusive Afghan society are not the real tragedy; Afghanistan today is heading toward an economic and humanitarian disaster. With Afghans facing starvation, the fate of Kabul's movie theaters and rose gardens can wait while a solution to the country's imminent peril is found.

As the Taliban raised their standard over

the presidential palace, Afghans panicked at the sight of fighters still dusty from their rural campaigns taking de facto control of the streets of the capital. Any hope of a rival power base taking hold was also lost as resistance in the Panjshir Valley was swiftly quashed. The Taliban, who went to great lengths to charm the public and reassure international partners that they wished to rule with the Afghan people and not over them, are now showing themselves to be unable to avert an all-out collapse of the country. Just as in the 1990s, the Taliban's lack of human resources, coupled with the fragility of the Afghan state, are leading to what the UN described last month as "the world's worst humanitarian crisis."

Access to education and healthcare have never been high on the Taliban's list of priorities. The Islamic emirate's preoccupation with the private lives of Afghans has returned, as the group — which seems to have tempered its views — finds itself locked in a competition for the ownership of fundamentalist Islam with Daesh-Khorasan militants. In the three months since the Taliban regained control of the country, militants have tried the untested government with a spate of attacks aimed at state infrastructure and minorities. With scores of innocent Afghans killed, the Taliban are failing to deliver on the law and order mandate they promised the people.

The Taliban, media savvy through years of competing with successive Afghan governments for the country's political stage, claim international recognition is critical if they are to secure aid to see off the resurgence of Daesh on their territory. Taliban leaders have warned their international counterparts that, unchecked, militants in the country could become internationally bothersome. However, with the US and others lukewarm about the Taliban and less motivated still toward military cooperation with them, it is more likely that, just as with Al-Qaeda, the Taliban will be unable to restrict the activity of militant groups on Afghan territory.

Until the flight of President Ashraf Ghani, a staggering two-thirds of Afghan gross domestic product came from foreign aid. This valuable resource (much of which was misappropriated) provided the fledgling state with the wherewithal to face the country's

challenges. Since August, however, this has been withheld, with the country's \$9 billion in foreign reserves also frozen as the international community seeks to deprive the Taliban of significant capital (previously, grants from overseas financed three-quarters of Afghan public spending). This situation, coupled with a severe drought and the pandemic, have pushed the economy to the brink of collapse.

An over-reliance on foreign aid has led to the absence of a sustainable economy. And the informal businesses that lived off the black market were dealt a further blow last week, when the Taliban banned the use of foreign currencies. With the onset of the harsh Afghan winter, it is not just the state's reserves that will freeze: The UN World Food Programme has warned that 22.8 million people — more than half of Afghanistan's 39 million population — are facing acute food insecurity and are "marching to starvation," compared to 14 million just two months ago. It estimates that \$200 million per month is required to feed those in need — funds the international community is still reluctant to unfreeze as the Taliban have been unconvincing in illustrating their credentials for good governance.

The question of the frozen aid comes amid an International Monetary Fund warning of a 30 percent contraction in the size of the economy by next year. With circumstances set to worsen, a longer-term solution to the country's problems is required. The Taliban cannot hope to secure international assistance when they continue to fail to protect women and their right to education or to provide the stability required for aid to be distributed. Separately, their governing credentials should not be judged by their ability to unlock aid, but rather to improve the circumstances of Afghans, break the aid curse and build an alternative society to that which the country has known over the last five decades. Ghani, like Hamid Karzai before him, governed with generous international assistance. However, this stunted the development of Afghanistan, encouraging a system prone to corruption and the misuse of funds. Afghanistan cannot seek to turn a corner until the strength of the people is harnessed to avoid successive humanitarian catastrophes.

—Courtesy Arab News

Democracy: A curse

Munaza Kazmi

Socrates was to have first hand, catastrophic experience of the foolishness of voters. Since, in 399 BC, the philosopher was put on trial on trumped up charges of corrupting the youth of Athens. A jury of 500 Athenians was invited to weigh up the case and decided by a narrow margin that the philosopher was guilty

IN the ancient times, Socrates (469-399 B.C.E) the Greek philosopher, in the known world known as the Father of Western Philosophy, once asked his fellow Adeimantus, "If you were heading out on a journey by sea, who would you ideally want deciding who was in charge of the vessel? Just anyone or people educated in the rules and demands of seafaring?" The later of course, replied Adeimantus, so why then, responds Socrates, do we keep thinking that any old person should be fit to judge who should be a ruler of a country?

In the conversation, Socrates's point is that voting in an election is a skill, not a random intuition. And like any skill, it needs to be taught systematically to people. Letting the citizenry vote without an education is as irresponsible as putting them in charge of a trireme sailing to Samos in a storm. However, Socrates was to have first hand, catastrophic experience of the foolishness of voters. Since, in 399 BC, the philosopher was put on trial on trumped up charges of corrupting the youth of Athens. A jury of 500 Athenians was invited to weigh up the case and decided by a narrow margin that the philosopher was guilty. He was put to death by hemlock in a process which is, for thinking people, every bit tragic.

Crucially, Socrates was not elitist in the normal sense. He didn't believe that a narrow few should only ever vote. He did, however, insist that the only those who had thought about issues rationally and deeply should be let near a vote. Which is obviously rational.

However, if we consider we have given the vote to all without connecting it to that of wisdom. While Socrates knew exactly where that would lead: People Leading. And here the fundamental trouble lies in, we have passed the power mainly in the hands of the unthinking, unconcerned and uneducated lot inspired by mere personal relations or gains.

Let's understand this with an example. Imagine an election debate between two candidates, one who was like a doctor and the other who was like a sweet shop owner. The sweet shop owner would say of his rival: Look, this person here has worked many evils on you. He hurts you, gives you bitter potions and tells you not to eat and drink whatever you like. He'll never serve you feasts of many and varied pleasant things like I will.

Consider the response of public... However, do you think the doctor would be able to reply effectively? The true answer — 'I cause you trouble, and go against your desires in order to help you'. Only if the public can understand. We have forgotten all about Socrates's salient warnings against democracy. We have preferred to think of democracy as an unambiguous good — rather than a process that is only ever as effective as the education system that surrounds it. As a result, we have elected many sweet shop owners, and very few doctors.

Hunting season

DESPITE the houbara bustard being on the WWF's IUCN Red List, hunting permits are still being issued to Arab dignitaries by the provincial governments. It is important to remain cognisant of the fact that the hunting season has always been used as a diplomatic tool to enhance relations with countries, especially considering that Pakistan hosts a fair share of exotic animals and birds. However, when the risk of extinction is imminent and unavoidable, and little efforts are being directed towards conservation, then we are well within our rights to prioritise our ecosystem first.

The houbara bustard has been declared as an internationally protected bird by virtue of the fact that only 42,000 of them remain in Asia, according to the International Fund for Houbara Conservation (IFHC).

Permits granted to royals from the Gulf often enable for over 2000 birds to be killed within a single hunting safari which often lasts at least three weeks. At this rate, the population of the vulnerable species is bound to decline rather immediately and irreversibly.

In light of the harm being caused, the Supreme Court of Pakistan passed a law in 2015 according to which a blanket ban on the hunting of the houbara was implemented.

However, exceptions are still entertained and poaching, unregulated hunting and the degradation of the natural habitat continue.

Before we lose the rare bird to extinction entirely, our government must focus on intensifying conservation efforts. When the population has recovered to the point where sustainable hunting can happen, without the trade-off of extinction, then we can fulfil our responsibilities to participate in soft diplomacy.

Khudi – The essence of 'self-realization'

Wajeaha Bilal



Rejecting the idea of Muslims as oppressed nation, Sir Dr Muhammad Iqbal went into politics as president of All India Muslim League, in 1930

FROM 1st century BC, the Roman empire had grown in power expanding its rule over Europe, Mediterranean Africa, and the Middle East. By the 2nd Century, it was at its peak and the imperial culture, with its emphasis on power, risked the values of scholarship and philosophy from ancient times. In the following epoch, political thinking was subordinated to religious dogma and the ideas of ancient Greece were largely neglected. In the 7th Century, Islam emerged as a powerful religion that spread from Arabia into Asia and Africa, and also inspired the political thinking in Christian Europe. Unlike Christianity, Islam was open to secular political thinking and urged wide scholarships and the study of other philosophies. Libraries were set up in cities throughout the Islamic empire to conserve classical texts and many scholars incorporated the ideas of ancient learning into their practices. Cities like Baghdad became centers of learning and scholars such as Al-Kindi, Al-Farabi, Ibn Sina, Ibn Rushd and Ibn Khaldun emerged as political theorists.

It would then take an immense influence of the Islamic culture to bring fresh ideas to medieval Europe, as scholars rediscovered the classical texts. In the 12th Century, the texts that Islamic scholars had preserved and translated became a source of inspiration for the Christian scholars, particularly in Spain where the two faiths co-existed. As the Middle Ages drew to an end, the introduction of secular thinking into intellectual life had a profound effect in the West and there was a rush to find and translate not only the texts but also Islamic commentaries. Search for knowledge and a desire to seek aspiration were the traits of an Islamic society that were gradually understood and adopted by the West.

With the rise of colonialism and fall of the Muslim empire, the Muslim society was in a dire need of awakening. They had slowly let go of their Islamic virtues that were keenly observed by the western civilization. Many thinkers and reformers sought to bring the true spirit of Muslim values amongst the masses and in this regard the works of our national poet Allama Iqbal are a true asset for every being. Sir Muhammad Iqbal (9 November 1877), a South Asian poet and ideological innovator was a philosopher, poet, politician, and a social reformer. Influenced by Islamic determination as well as ancient philosophies, Allama Iqbal, was a huge advocate for the revival of Islamic identity while promoting independence from slavery and western domination. His poetic ideas are dominated by the active self that is not passive. Being alive and aware is the fundamental virtue of being a faithful identity. One would have to make an extraordinary journey of transformation to embrace that divine spark which Iqbal refers to as Khudi in his works. According to him, one would have to go through many experiences in life

before finally arriving at the point of realization, leading to self-discovery.

In his major works, Iqbal has expressed in many ways that the whole universe revolves around the nature of the "self". The aim of life is not destruction, but it is self-awareness and self-knowledge. Asrari-Khudi (The Secrets of the Self), published in Persian, was an amazing philosophical poetry book of Iqbal. This book deals mainly with the individual identity, while his other work Rumuz-i-Bekhudi addresses the social interaction of an individual. One of his masterpieces, the Javid-Nama (Book of Eternity) depicts the poet's journey through the universe, guided by the great sufi poet, Jalaluddin Rumi, while encountering a wide range of mythic and historical figures. His works also stress on the political and social awakening of Islamic civilization across the world. His famous lectures compiled in the book "The Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam" put forth his social and religious philosophy, which aims at forming a dynamic and democratic society inspired by the life of the Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him).

Rejecting the idea of Muslims as oppressed nation, Sir Dr Muhammad Iqbal went into politics as president of All India Muslim League, in 1930. His participation in the London RT Conferences of 1931 and 1932, brought forth an optimistic vision of a social and political order. He travelled across Europe and West Asia to harvest political and financial support for Muslim League. He influenced the religious thoughts of Muslims, not only in the subcontinent but also in Europe, Asia, and Africa. His philosophy about religious and political issues made him one of the greatest thinkers of the 20th century. He revived the divine spirit of freedom not only for his contemporary Muslim society, but also for many generations to come. He did not approve of relaxing in mere spiritual aura nor did he believe in chanting in the hollow pleasures of the western materialistic approach. His ideas were international that were open to every race and culture.

Iqbal's poetry 'Cheen o Arab Hamara, Hindustan Hamara' depicts the cultural unity with the Chinese and Arab world. Iqbal's social and political views that are appreciated by the common people of our country are more dynamic and global with deep meaning that has been widely appreciated by other reformers as well. Many scholars and leaders in Iran realized the importance of Allama Iqbal's poetry during the rise of the Iranian Revolution of 1979. Iqbal's Asrari-Khudi and Bal-i-Jibreel are very popular in Iran. Ali Shariati, a revolutionary activist and a sociology professor, described Dr Iqbal as someone who gave a message of "rejuvenation" and "awakening" to the Muslim world.

Allama Iqbal passed away in 1938 but even today millions are mesmerized by the beauty and effect of his poetry. He deciphered the purpose of human existence, streamlined the philosophy of life, and revived the teachings of Islam to awaken the masses. He spread the message of hope and courage to stand up and act collectively for the true Muslim identity. He believed that self-realization could light the spark to live with hope and freedom. Human life exists due to movement and the spirited breath that flows in it. A heart that is full of life is the only secret to an active life. Only a humble human that realizes its true potential is worthy of being called the most eminent of God's creatures.

'O Nightingale, sing thee, for with thy intonation, A falcon's heart emerges in the pigeon's frail creation, Disguised within your heart is the secret of life...'

We all realize the need for a mass awakening in this world, thus Allama's poetry is relevant now more than ever. We wish to revive the message of Allama Iqbal for our own sake and practice self-awareness in a world that seems to be lost in a digital slumber of technology and western dominated social media. Iqbal was a sufi poet and a reformer who believed in the supremacy of the awakened soul over the frail body and of love over hopeless enslavement.

(Twitter@WajeahaBilal)

Briefs

Talks with TTP done on Afghan govt request

FROM PAGE 01
The TTP had a stronghold — and that “is what we are trying to do”. The information minister said speaking in detail about the agreement would be premature, as the government and TTP have agreed to a ceasefire. “First, the ceasefire will come into force, after that we will analyse and see how can we take the talks forward,” the information minister said. Chaudhry said the new set-up in Afghanistan wanted peace in Pakistan ahead of acting Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi’s visit to the country. The acting foreign minister is set to make his maiden visit to Pakistan on Thursday (November 11), Chaudhry said. Chaudhry said Pakistan has decided to establish a special fund to support Afghanistan and Islamabad was ready to everything it can to help the Afghans during their hard times. Three hundred million Afghans are suffering from malnutrition, children are being sold for rice and pulses, he said, stressing that the situation in the neighbouring country could not be overlooked. Taking a jibe at the Opposition, he said they would have to wait for a year or two, and after that, they would have to wait for another five years, as they have no program and no leader. “You cannot achieve everything that you want through conspiracies [...] I would first suggest the Opposition to stand on its feet and stop hatching conspiracies,” he said. The information minister said the government’s position was “stable” and in the next two to three months the mounting inflation would also come down — and we will move toward the election in 2023. Chaudhry said the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) “group” comes out on the streets every year, as protests against the government were its activity during the winters. The information minister noted the price of petrol and gas were increasing across the world — not only in Pakistan but said the inflation would come down in the country. The federal government is working on the mechanism of setting up a central helpline — 911.

Self-reliance in defence...

FROM PAGE 01
artillery guns and ballistic protection solutions for vehicle”, was also lauded. “COAS expressed his confidence in expertise of HIT and appreciated the commitment of the chairman, officers and workforce towards transforming HIT into a modern defence production industry for meeting requirements of armed forces and law enforcement agencies at par with international standards,” said the ISPR. The military’s media wing stated that the COAS on arrival was received by HIT Chairman Major General Syed Aamer Raza.

Indian govt’s...

FROM PAGE 01
minorities by the ideological Hindutva BJP govt of India.” He said that the Narendra Modi-led Indian government’s mindset is “the greatest hurdle towards peace in our region today.” Separately, Prime Minister Imran Khan said that he has been warning of a humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan that is now seconded by World Food Program chief who just issued an alert in this regard. Imran Khan expressed his government’s resolve that Pakistan would continue to provide all possible relief but the international community must act now. He said that it has a moral obligation to avert this humanitarian disaster confronting the Afghan people. In a tweet, Imran Khan wrote this while sharing a BBC article that quoted WFP executive director David Beasley. David paid a visit to Kabul on Sunday and talking to BBC he said, “We’re now looking at the worst humanitarian crisis on Earth. It is as bad as you possibly can imagine.” “Ninety-five percent of the people don’t have enough food, and now we’re looking at 23 million people marching towards starvation,” he added.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Speaker National Assembly Qasim Khan in a group photo with participants of a ceremony to commemorate the 1st anniversary of Patriotic War Victory of Azerbaijan at Parliament House. Ambassador of Azerbaijan and Turkey also present. — DNA

Australian HC, PCB hosts Girls’ Cricket Cup 2021

“Australia prides itself in championing gender equality and inclusion in sports and investing in increased participation in sport for women and girls

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: The Australian High Commission and Kinnaird College for Women with the support of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) hosted the Girls’ Cricket Cup 2021 in Lahore. Australia’s High Commissioner to Pakistan, Dr Geoffrey Shaw, congratulated the schools on their participation and thanked Kinnaird and PCB for their valuable support. “Sport can help tear down barriers and stereotypes,” Dr Shaw said. “We hope to empower these girls by giving them an opportunity to play cricket and compete on the sporting field.” To prepare for the tournament, top PCB coaches led the girls on a three-day coaching clinic. “We are very grateful for the participation of first-class women cricket coaches and members of



the Pakistan National Women’s Team, who took time out to build the girls’ confidence and encouraged them to push beyond the boundaries,” Dr Shaw said.

The High Commissioner highlighted Australia’s commitment to support gender equality in Pakistan, and the value of sport as a tool to promote this important objective.

“Australia prides itself in championing gender equality and inclusion in sports and investing in increased participation in sport for women and girls. By provid-

ing these opportunities we hope to support the next generation of female sports leaders,” the High Commissioner said. The Principal of the Kinnaird College for Women, Rukhsana David said, “I welcome the Australian High Commission’s collaboration with the Kinnaird College — to provide these young schoolgirls a forum to compete for this Cricket Cup. Kinnaird is happy to host this initiative to empower girls through sport and promote leadership skills among young girls.” The 3rd Girls’ Cricket Cup involved teams from four schools and sports institutes: Government Junior Model School Samnabad, Government Higher Secondary School Umer Block Iqbal Town, Government Central Model School Gulbargill and girls from underprivileged background at the Kinnaird Academy.

England to play two additional T20Is in Pakistan next year



DNA

LAHORE: England will play two additional men’s Twenty20 Internationals to the five T20Is originally planned when they will tour Pakistan in September/October 2022, England and Wales Cricket Board Chief Executive Tom Harrison announced today following his meeting with

Pakistan Cricket Board Chairman Ramiz Raja. The men’s side will then return to Pakistan in November/December at the back of the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup Australia 2022 to play three Tests, which will form part of the ICC World Test Championship. ECB Chief Executive Tom Harrison: “Myself and ECB’s Senior Director Martin Darlow visited Lahore

to talk face to face with the PCB around some of the things that have happened over the past few weeks, leading to the cancellation of our tour in October. We also wanted to discuss the future as the two boards have a historic relationship and want to move the agenda towards a forward-looking one as opposed to one looking back. “We’re happy to announce that we’ll play two extra

white-ball T20Is on our men’s tour of Pakistan in September/October 2022. We will then return after the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup in Australia to complete the Test match element of that tour. “This is just to reaffirm our commitment to Pakistan cricket to getting England teams, men’s and women’s teams, eventually playing in Pakistan at home. “I don’t think there’s a cricketer in England who doesn’t want to test their abilities against the huge talent this country has and in the conditions they know best. “We also talked with our colleagues at the PCB around pathway engagement, how we can support proposals around the women’s game and some interesting ideas around the domestic agenda here in Pakistan. “We’re going to build on these plans going forward together and we’re excited about that too.”

Pak ‘emperor’ Babar ready to conquer world

DUBAI: He was the fresh-faced 15-year-old who stared down Shoaib Akhtar in the nets, became the highest-ranked T20 batsman in the world before being elevated to national hero after masterminding a rare Pakistan victory over India. In the breathless aftermath of that 10-wicket win over their fiercest rivals at the World Cup, the national cricket captain was even likened by one commentator to emperor Zahiruddin Babar who conquered India in the 16th century and founded the Mughal Dynasty. Fortunately for Pakistan, the unassuming 27-year-old Babar Azam has his feet firmly on the ground. He has guided his team to five wins in five games at the T20 showpiece and a semi-final clash against Australia in Dubai on Thursday. Along the way, he has piled up a tournament-leading 264 runs. On Sunday, against Scotland, he hit his fourth half century of the competition. It all started with a brilliant unbeaten 68 against India. That innings, in tandem with fellow opener Mohammad Rizwan’s 79 not out, gave Pakistan

their first win over their arch-rivals in 13 World Cup matches. He then scored 51 against Afghanistan and 70 against Namibia — innings that helped him regain the number one spot in the international T20 rankings. “Obviously it’s a proud moment,” said Babar. “The focus on the goal and hard work are behind this and I want to improve day by day.” In April this year, Babar also ended Indian maestro Virat Kohli’s three-year tenure as number one ODI batsman with scores of 103, 32 and 94 in a three-match series in South Africa which Pakistan won 2-1. Babar has risen from modest beginnings but was a YouTube hit at 13. Acting as a ballboy at Lahore’s Gaddafi stadium in October, 2007, he confidently pounced a six from South Africa’s JP Duminy which had been launched over long-on. The slow motion replays and praise from the TV commentators who hailed his nonchalance gave Babar surprise airtime. His talents were obvious but his father Azam Siddique was determined that the teenage Babar didn’t get too far ahead of himself.

Halep starts Linz journey with victory

LINZ: Simona Halep started with a victory in Linz, where she eliminated Aliaksandra Sasnovich, 7-5, 6-3. Simona then got her revenge against the Belarusian player after losing to her last month, at Indian Wells. Simona now goes to the quarterfinals where she will see the Italian Jasmine Paolini again, whom she defeated in their previous meeting (6-3, 6-4, last year, in Rome). Simona’s match was not easy, however. After a launched start of the match, in which she broke away at 4-0 on the background of a game similar to the one we saw in Cluj, Simona was pushed behind by an opponent capable of causing her problems again. Sasnovich obviously likes Simona’s ball and has shots and tactical options to complicate her life, even for

match segments. This happened in the next almost half hour, in which the Belarusian returned dizzily from 0-4, recovering with remarkable ease both breaks, on the way to 4-4. Sasnovich then served without much emotion when he had to stay in the set at 4-5. And she did all this based on a solid first serve and an aggressive forehand with which she dictated from the baseline, maneuvering Simona all over the field and forcing her to take two steps back. Sasnovich also found excellent cross-country angles and struggled with her ability to change pace, alternating heights and finding some very effective shots. With a vulnerable two service and an oscillating forehand in places, Simona stayed behind for a while, while the Belarusian was at that very high level, very aggressive, with flat balls. — DNA

China can blockade its key harbors: Taiwan

Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen says Taiwan is already an independent country and vows to defend its freedom and democracy. Tsai has made bolstering Taiwan’s defences a priority, pledging to produce more domestically developed weapons, including submarines, and buying more equipment from the US

TAIPEI: China’s armed forces are capable of blockading Taiwan’s key harbours and airports, the island’s defence ministry said on Tuesday, offering its latest assessment of what it describes as a “grave” military threat posed by its giant neighbour. China has never renounced the use of force to bring democratic Taiwan under its control and has been ramping up military activity around the island, including repeatedly flying war planes into Taiwan’s air defence zone. Taiwan’s defence ministry, in a report it issues every two years, said China had launched what it called “gray zone” warfare, citing

554 “intrusions” by Chinese war planes into its southwestern theatre of air defence identification zone between September last year and the end of August. Military analysts say the tactic is aimed at subduing Taiwan through exhaustion, a leading news agency reported last year. At the same time, China’s People’s Liberation Army (PLA) is aiming to complete the modernisation of its forces by 2035 to “obtain superiority in possible operations against Taiwan and viable capabilities to deny foreign forces, posing a grave challenge to our national security”, the Taiwan ministry said.

“At present, the PLA is capable of performing local joint blockade against our critical harbours, airports, and outbound flight routes, to cut off our air and sea lines of communication and impact the flow of our military supplies and logistic resources,” the ministry said. China views Taiwan as Chinese territory. Its defence ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen says Taiwan is already an independent country and vows to defend its freedom and democracy. Tsai has made bolstering Taiwan’s defences a priority, pledging to produce more domestically de-

veloped weapons, including submarines, and buying more equipment from the United States, the island’s most important arms supplier and international backer. In October, Taiwan reported 148 Chinese air force planes in the southern and southwestern theatre of the zone over a four-day period, marking a dramatic escalation of tension between Taipei and Beijing. The recent increase in China’s military exercises in Taiwan’s air defence identification zone is part of what Taipei views as a carefully planned strategy of harassment. “Its intimidating behavior does not only consume our combat

power and shake our faith and morale, but also attempts to alter or challenge the status quo in the Taiwan Strait to ultimately achieve its goal of ‘seizing Taiwan without a fight’, the ministry said. To counter China’s attempt to “seize Taiwan swiftly whilst denying foreign interventions”, the ministry vowed to deepen its efforts on “asymmetric warfare” to make any attack as painful and as difficult for China as possible. That includes precision strikes by long-range missiles on targets in China, deployment of coastal minefields as well as boosting reserve training. — APP

Tarin rejects reports regarding PM Imran

FROM PAGE 01
The PM’s aide taking to Twitter today rejected the news, terming it as “flawed and baseless”. “Such [a] proposal was never under consideration,” he added. The publication had reported that the adviser had said that there was no need for a telephone call to the managing director of the IMF.

Britain approves Chinese vaccines

FROM PAGE 01
“Formulations of these vaccines, such as AstraZeneca Covishield, AstraZeneca Vaxzevria, and Moderna Take-da, also qualify as approved vaccines,” the advisory said. Pakistan’s vaccination certificate is being accorded recognition as well, so travellers can now easily take a trip to the country. Oxford/AstraZeneca, Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna, and Janssen are already on the approved list of vaccines. Furthermore, if a traveller gets an approved one-dose vaccine — the Janssen vaccine — they will be considered fully vaccinated. According to the advisory, travellers must have had a complete course of an approved vaccine at least 14 days before they arrive in England. The day that a person has their final dose will not count as one of the 14 days.

Bangladesh cricket to probe WC performance

DHAKA: Cricket authorities in Bangladesh are to investigate their team’s underwhelming performances in the T20 World Cup which saw them open with a defeat to Scotland and lose all five Super 12 stage matches. Eighth-ranked Bangladesh trudged through to Super 12s only courtesy of wins against minnows Oman and Papua New Guinea. They then came under scathing criticism after finishing bottom of their group, skittled out twice for less than 100 in their last two matches. A committee will gauge “relevant stakeholders to assess why the team could not deliver the expected performance in the event,” the Bangladesh Cricket Board said Monday. Commentator and retired Australian batting great Mark Waugh called Bangladesh “embarrassing” after they were bowled out for 73 against Australia in their final match, who raced to their target in just 38 balls. “Bangladesh offered nothing with the bat. That is an embarrassing display,” the Australian said on Fox Television. “It’s supposed to be the T20 World Cup and you wouldn’t find that in third grade in the park.” Former BCB chief Saber Hossain Chowdhury attacked his successor Nazmul Hassan “Papon”, after the poor showing. “Bangladesh has now played four World Cups under Mr Papon, things have gone from bad to worse,” Chowdhury tweeted. — APP

Newcastle appoint Howe as new manager

LONDON: Newcastle ended their long wait to hire a new manager on Monday, unveiling former Bournemouth boss Eddie Howe as the man to lead the Magpies into a new era under wealthy Saudi ownership. Howe, 43, takes charge of a side languishing second from bottom of the Premier League, five points from safety, and without a win all season. He replaces Steve Bruce, who left the club by “mutual consent” on October 20, two weeks after the Saudi-led takeover propelled the club into the ranks of the super-rich. Newcastle said Howe, who was not first choice, had been handed a contract “until summer 2024”. “We have been incredibly impressed by Eddie through what has been a rigorous recruitment process,” said co-owner Amanda Staveley. “As well as his obvious achievements with AFC Bournemouth, where he had a transformational impact, he is a passionate and dynamic coach who has clear ideas about taking this team and club forward.”

Briefs

Bangladesh sentences former chief justice to 11 years in jail

DHAKA: Bangladesh's former chief justice was sentenced in absentia to 11 years in jail for corruption on Tuesday, in a case that opposition groups and supporters say is politically motivated.

Surendra Kumar Sinha, 70, headed the Supreme Court when it ruled in 2017 that parliament could not sack judges, a move hailed by lawyers as safeguarding judicial independence.

Sinha left Bangladesh in late 2017 alleging he had been forced to step aside following the landmark ruling. He lives in North America where he has reportedly sought asylum.

Campaigners have said his departure was a massive blow to the credibility of the country's judiciary, and accused the government of going after Sinha.

"It was very obvious that the government was angry with him and... was determined to just kill his reputation," Asif Nazrul, a law professor at Dhaka University told AFP.

Judge Shaikh Nazmul Alam of Special Judge's Court in Dhaka delivered Tuesday's verdict, ordering Sinha to serve seven years in jail for laundering money and four years for breach of trust, prosecutor Khurshid Alam Khan said. — APP

Chinese mainland reports 43 cases

AGENCIES

BEIJING: The Chinese mainland on Monday reported 43 new locally transmitted COVID-19 cases, the National Health Commission said in its daily report on Tuesday.

Of the new local cases, 12 were reported in Hebei, eight in Heilongjiang, seven in Sichuan, five in Liaoning, four in Gansu, three in Jiangxi, and two each in Henan and Yunnan.

Also reported were 19 new imported cases, of which four each were reported in Guangdong and Guangxi, two each in Tianjin, Shanghai, Sichuan and Yunnan, and one each in Beijing, Fujian and Shaanxi, according to the commission.

No new suspected cases or new deaths related to COVID-19 were reported on Monday, said the commission.

A total of 9,779 imported cases had been reported on the mainland by the end of Monday. Among them, 9,386 had been discharged from hospitals following recovery, and 393 remained hospitalized. No deaths had been reported among the imported cases.

The total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases on the mainland had reached 97,885 by Monday, including 1,222 patients still receiving treatment, 27 of whom were in severe condition.

Fire kills 4 newborns in India

WEB DESK

NEW DELHI: A fire has swept through a newborn care unit in a hospital in central India, killing four infants, officials say, the latest in a string of hospital fires in the country this year that have killed dozens.

An investigation was ordered into the fire that occurred on Monday night at the Kamla Nehru Children's Hospital in Bhopal, said Shivraj Singh Chauhan, the chief minister of Madhya Pradesh state.

"The untimely departure [death] of children from the world is an unbearable pain," Chauhan said on Twitter, offering his condolences to the families affected. He announced a compensation of 400,000 rupees (\$5,400) for the family of the victims.

There were 40 children in total in the unit, out of which 36 — most of them underweight — have been rescued, said Medical Education Minister Vishwas Kailash Sarang. "The other children are being treated," Sarang later said on Twitter.

Armenia should take hand of peace extended by Azerbaijan

"There are conflicts and troubles in many parts of the world, but the places where people have come together for talks and to find political solutions are now much safer and more prosperous"

DNA

BAKU: Armenia should take the hand of peace extended by Turkey and Azerbaijan and not squander this opportunity, the Turkish defense minister said on Tuesday. Hulusi Akar told reporters at a news conference in Baku that he expects talks between Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkey, Georgia, Russia, and Iran will help ensure a "stable environment" in the region.

He said Turkey is pleased to see that "the cease-fire has held, violations have significantly decreased, and important steps have been taken toward stability."

"There are conflicts and troubles in many parts of the world, but the places where people have come together for talks and to find political solutions are now much safer and more prosperous," Akar said.

"If Armenia understands this, makes the necessary contributions and responds positively, serious progress can be made in terms of both security and welfare."

On the Zangezur corridor, he said the initiative "does not harm anyone" and should be supported.

Zangezur is a key transport corridor connecting contiguous Azerbaijani territory

**Azeri, Russian FM's discuss joint statement**

BAKU: Azerbaijani and Russian Foreign Ministers Jeyhun Bayramov and Sergey Lavrov discussed the implementation of the joint statement, on the eve of the anniversary of the trilateral statement signed on November 10, 2020.

The discussion took place during the phone talks on November 8, 2021, the Foreign Ministry has reported.

The parties also exchanged views on the agenda of bilateral cooperation.

Russia played a key role in the signing of a ceasefire deal between Azerbaijan and Armenia to end the last year's 44-day war. The trilateral peace deal signed by the Azerbaijani, Russian and Armenian leaders on November 10, 2020, ended the 30-year conflict between Baku and Yerevan over Azerbaijan's Karabakh that along with seven adjacent regions came under the occupation of Armenian armed forces in the war in the 1990s. — DNA

to its exclave of Nakhchivan. Zangezur was part of Azerbaijan, but in the 1920s, the Soviets gave the region to Armenia, cutting off Azerbaijan's land link with Nakhchivan.

Akar said the Shusha Declaration signed between Turkey and Azerbaijan this June is evidence of the vision of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his counterpart Ilham Aliyev.

After Azerbaijan liberated its territory from

Armenian forces, "a new struggle has begun, an economic struggle," said the Turkish defense minister. "This is a struggle to ensure that people can return to their lands and live in peace and security," he said.

"The Turkish Armed Forces are working day and night with our Azerbaijani brothers to eliminate all kinds of threats and dangers [from the liberated areas], especially explosives and mines that ... threaten the lives of innocent people."



MINSK: Pakistan ambassador to Belarus Sajjad Haider Khan posing for a group photo with the ambassadors of Turkey and Azerbaijan on the occasion of the reception held to commemorate 1st Victory Day Anniversary by Azerbaijan. — DNA

Iran warns off US drones near its Gulf drills

FOREIGN DESK

TEHRAN: US drones "changed their route" after approaching Iran's borders where military forces were carrying out annual exercises. Iran's military has warned off US drones trying to approach Iranian war games near the mouth of the Gulf.

The US drones "changed their route" after approaching Iran's borders "following the air defence's interception and decisive warning," reported state broadcaster IRIB on Tuesday.

The official IRNA news agency also reported the incident, saying the unmanned US aircraft entered "two Iranian air

defence identification zones... and changed course after air defence warned them it had decided to intercept them." Neither source gave a date for the incident, but both said it involved one MQ-9 Reaper drone and one RQ-4 Global Hawk. Iran's annual exercises concluded on Tuesday, a few weeks before resumption of talks between Tehran and world powers to revive a 2015 nuclear deal.

The exercises stretched from the east of the Strait of Hormuz to the north of the Indian Ocean and parts of the Red Sea. About a fifth of oil that is consumed globally passes through the strategic Strait of Hormuz waterway in the Gulf.

Thousands protest in New Zealand against Covid rules

FOREIGN DESK

WELLINGTON: New Zealand beefed up security measures at its parliament on Tuesday as thousands of people gathered to protest against COVID-19 vaccine mandates and government lockdowns aimed at controlling the pandemic. All but two entrances to the parliament building, known as the Beehive, were closed off in unprecedented security measures, as mostly unmasked protesters marched through central Wellington and congregated outside parliament.

While the demonstration was peaceful, many people were seen holding signs and placards with messages like "Freedom" and "Kiwis are not lab rats" and shouting slogans as they demanded the government roll back compulsory vaccination and lift restrictions.

Placards showing support to former U.S. President Donald Trump and slamming the media as "fake" and lying were

also displayed. "I will not be coerced and I will not be forced into taking something I don't want in my body," a protester said outside parliament.

"I'm asking (the government) to give us back 2018. Simple as that. I want my freedoms back." New Zealand has struggled to fight off a highly infectious outbreak of the Delta variant this year, forcing Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern to move from its strategy of elimination through lockdowns to living with the virus with higher vaccinations.

Ardern last month said the country would require teachers and workers in the health and disability sectors to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, inviting criticism from people calling for more freedoms and for ending mandatory vaccine requirements.

"Treat us like people!" another protester exclaimed when asked about the government's stance on mandating the vaccine. "I'm here for freedom. The government, what they're doing, is anti-freedom."

Romania's two biggest parties agree to end political crisis

FOREIGN DESK

BUCHAREST: Romania's two biggest political parties will begin talks to form a controversial coalition government to end the political stalemate that follows the ousting of Prime Minister Florin Citu on October 5. Citu's National Liberal Party (PNL) voted 48 votes to 22 to begin talks with the rival Social Democratic Party (PSD) after two previous attempts failed.

USR leader Dacian Cioloș and Nicolae Ciuică, a former army general, were both previously asked by President Klaus Iohannis to form a government but neither could get enough support in Romania's bitterly-divided parliament.

Between them, the PNL and the PSD, which won 30% and 25% of the vote in parliamentary elections in 2020, have enough seats to agree a coalition, likely including the Democratic

Czech Senate drops plan to strip president

PRAGUE: The Czech senate dropped a plan on Tuesday to strip hospitalized President Milos Zeman of his powers temporarily due to poor health, after he publicly said he was well enough to appoint a new prime minister. Zeman, 77, has been hospitalized since Oct. 10. Lawmakers had discussed invoking a rule known as Article 66 to strip his powers if he was unable to appoint a new government to replace Prime Minister Andrej Babis, who lost an election last month. "In this situation, where the president has declared that he would appoint the prime minister, that he would appoint the ministers, a session to invoke Article 66 should not take place," said Zdenek Hraba, chairman of the senate committee dealing with the constitution and parliamentary procedure.

Authorities have not officially disclosed Zeman's illness, but one of his doctors said last week he was suffering from liver disease. — Agencies

Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (UNDR) and other minority parties. The PNL faces deep opposition from its own ranks, with former prime minister and former president of the party, Ludovic Orban — an arch-rival of both Citu and Iohannis — threatening to

break away and form a rival party. He is believed to have around 20 PNL MPs that would go with him.

Although the PSD voted unanimously to begin talks with the PNL, the two parties have key ideological differences and still have to agree on who will be given impor-

tant ministries such as health and justice, not least who will be prime minister. The discussions are expected to take some weeks.

If successful, there has been speculation that a PNL-PSD coalition could see seven years and see massive political reform including transforming the country into a parliamentary republic.

For Romanian voters — particularly PNL supporters — a coalition with the PSD could be "a bitter pill to swallow," Costin Ciobanu, an analyst, told Euronews.

"After 2017, both the party and President Iohannis were very critical of the PSD [...]. During his re-election campaign in 2019, Iohannis said that one of his key accomplishments was sending the PSD into opposition, Ciobanu said. As recently as September 2021, the PNL's leader — and still prime minister until a new government is formed — Citu said he would "never" negotiate a coalition with the PSD.

Migrant crisis 'threatens security' of entire EU

"Sealing the Polish border is our national interest. But today the stability and security of the entire EU is at stake"

AGENCIES

WARSAW: Hundreds of migrants camped overnight in Belarus near Poland's border in freezing temperatures as officials warn tension could increase in coming days.

Poland has warned that an unprecedented wave of migrants trying to illegally enter the country from Belarus threatens the security of the entire European Union.

Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki issued the warning after visiting the border, where hundreds of migrants camped out in freezing overnight temperatures, on Tuesday.

"Sealing the Polish border is our national interest. But today the stability and security of the entire EU is at stake," Morawiecki tweeted.

"This hybrid attack of (Belarusian President Alexander) Lukashenko's regime is aimed at all of us. We will not be intimidated and will defend peace in Europe with our partners from NATO and EU."

Belarus denied the charges that it was coordinating the attempted crossings.

The Belarusian defence ministry called the allegations "unfounded and unsubstantiated" and accused Poland of "deliberately" escalat-

EU imposes new sanctions on Belarus amid migration crisis

BRUSSELS: The European Union has suspended visa facilitation arrangements for Belarusian government officials in response to Minsk's hostile actions using migrants, the Council of the EU announced on Tuesday.

"The Council today adopted a decision partially suspending the application of the EU-Belarus visa facilitation agreement," the institution representing EU member states said in a press statement.

The decision means that Belarusian government officials will not be able to apply for EU visas using simplified procedures reducing the number of required documents and the administration fee.

The statement also notes that the sanctions do not concern ordinary citizens, as

can still "enjoy the same benefits under the visa facilitation agreement" in place since July 2020.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Monday called for new sanctions on Belarus in response to a growing migration crisis at its border with Poland.

"The EU will in particular explore how to sanction, including through blacklisting, third country airlines that are active in human trafficking," she added.

The European Union accuses Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko of seeking revenge for EU sanctions on his regime by inviting "tourists" from countries that are the main sources of migration to the bloc. — Agencies

ing tensions. "We would like to warn the Polish side in advance against any provocations directed against the Republic of Belarus to justify illegal

use of force against disadvantaged, unarmed people, among whom there are many children and women," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

Polish authorities shut an official border crossing with Belarus at 0600 GMT on Tuesday near where thousands of migrants tried to push through the day before.

Poland's Border Guard told Reuters that about 800 people were camped out on the Belarusian side of the fence, part of a group of up to 4,000 migrants there and in nearby forests. A spokesman for Poland's special services said estimates showed there could be up to 12,000 migrants in Belarus.

Poland said it had deployed additional soldiers, border guards and police, while neighbouring Lithuania said it might introduce a state of emergency on its border with Belarus. Polish police said on Twitter on Tuesday that the night was calm, although a rock was thrown at a police car, after the Monday confrontation.

A Polish official said tension could increase in coming days and additional international help could be accepted if that were the case.

European Union ambassadors at the United Nations are expected to meet to discuss the tension on Tuesday, the PAP news agency reported.

The Belarusian state news agency Belta quoted the interior minister as saying that no migrants had broken the law.

Active corona cases in Russia exceed 1M

NEWS DESK

MOSCOW: The active coronavirus cases in Russia exceeded the 1 million mark on Tuesday after 39,160 more infections were registered in the country over the past day.

Currently, the active cases stand at 1,004,844 while the total number of people exposed to the virus in Russia has mounted to 8.87 million, the coronavirus emergency task force said in a daily report.

In addition, Russia's single-day coronavirus death toll climbed to a new record as 1,211 people died of the disease in the last 24 hours, pushing the overall count to 249,215, it said.

Recoveries went up by 32,036 since Monday to reach 7.61 million.

Since December 2019, the pandemic has claimed more than 5.05 million lives in 192 countries and regions, with over 250.4 million cases reported worldwide, according to the US' Johns Hopkins University.

Indonesian, UAE to extend flight networks

JAKARTA: Indonesia's flag carrier Garuda Indonesia and its counterpart Emirates in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have agreed to cooperate in expanding flight networks on 18 routes connecting Indonesia, the Middle East, Europe and Africa.

The cooperation will give added values to Emirates' service users as Garuda Indonesia has extensive domestic networks, connecting Emirates' passengers to various priority destinations in Indonesia, Garuda Indonesia's President Director Irfan Setiাপutra said in a statement on Monday.

Meanwhile, Garuda Indonesia's passengers would have easy access to Emirates' various destinations including Dubai, Bahrain, Moscow, Johannesburg, Cairo, London and Manchester, he added.

Setiাপutra further said Emirates' passengers who wish to travel to Indonesia via Jakarta can have connecting flights to various priority destinations including Denpasar (Bali), Surabaya (East Java), Makassar (South Sulawesi), Balikpapan (East Kalimantan), Manado (North Sulawesi), Medan (North Sumatra), Padang (West Sumatra) and Surakarta (Central Java).

He expressed hope that the cooperation, which will begin by Jan. 2, 2022, can encourage tourism and trade activities in the context of national economic recovery. "Based on the same commitment to provide safe, healthy and comfortable flight services with the implementation of strict health protocols, we hope that this partnership can provide various choices of destinations with the best flight services for passengers," he said.

Emirates' Chief Commercial Officer Adnan Kazim said the partnership with Garuda Indonesia will provide access for Emirates' passengers to more destinations in Indonesia from Dubai as well as to the airline's global networks via Jakarta and Denpasar (Bali).

Kazim said Indonesia is an important market for Emirates, and that the partnership with Garuda Indonesia is a proof of its commitment to continue enhancing the UAE airline's networks and improve its services. — APP

Morocco's forex reserves up to \$36 bln

RABAT: Morocco's foreign exchange reserves rose to 36.7 billion U.S. dollars by Oct. 29, up by 10.3 percent on the yearly basis, the Moroccan central bank said in a periodical report published on Monday.

The increase is mainly due to the remittances from Moroccan diaspora, which reached around 8 billion dollars in the first nine months of 2021.

From Oct. 28 to Nov. 3, the central bank injected 9.8 billion dollars into the financial market, the report said. The local currency dirham remained stable during the same period against the euro, and depreciated by 0.1 percent against the U.S. dollar, the report added. — APP

Briefs

Norway police shoot dead knife-wielding attacker

OSLO: Norwegian police said they shot and killed a knife-wielding man who threatened several people early Tuesday in central Oslo before attacking a patrol car that arrived on the scene.

A policeman was injured as the officers tried to arrest the attacker in the capital's Bislett neighbourhood, police told a press conference. No details about the identity of the attacker or his motive were disclosed.

"We're not excluding any motives, but there is nothing at this stage that indicates this is a terror attack," police inspector Egil Jorgen Brekke told reporters. According to tabloid VG, the man was Russian and in his 30s, and had been sentenced to psychiatric care in December 2020 after stabbing a man in Oslo in 2019. Footage posted by witnesses on social media and broadcast by Norwegian media show the barebreasted suspect wielding a large knife on the pavement outside a shop.

A police car can be seen ramming the man into a building in a bid to stop him. The man then rushes the vehicle, opens the front passenger door and leans inside the car. — APP

People rejected incompetent league in 2018

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Political Communication Dr. Shahbaz Gill on Tuesday said that the people rejected the incompetent league during the 2018 general elections. In reaction to the statement of Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, he said that those who are disqualified will face such embarrassment in the next general elections of 2023. He said that incompetent Sharif and his courtiers have no space in Pakistani politics.

He added that there was only one system suitable for the courtiers where they could plunder the national wealth.

Gill said LNG's robbers were giving lectures on LNG daily. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi committed corruption under the patronage of Sharif's family, he added. He said that the rented premier of the Sharif family should stop delivering lectures on democracy. — DNA

Noor murder case: CCTV transcript submitted

ISLAMABAD: The prosecution in the Noor Mukadam murder case on Tuesday submitted the transcript of the CCTV footage that captured the events leading to Noor's murder at an Islamabad house earlier this year to a sessions court.

Noor, 27, was found murdered at a residence in the capital's upscale Sector F-7/4 on July 20. A first information report (FIR) was registered the same day against Zahir Zakir Jaffer — the main accused, who was arrested from the site of the murder, under Section 302 (premeditated murder) of the Pakistan Penal Code on the complaint of the victim's father, Shaikat Ali Mukadam. A trial court on October 14 had indicted Zahir along with 11 others in the case — his parents, their three household staff including Iftikhar (watchman), Jan Muhammad (gardener) and Jameel (cook), Therapyworks CEO Tahir Zahoor and employees Amjad, Dilip Kumar, Abdul Haq, Wamiq and Samar Abbas. The murder trial formally began on Oct 20.

According to the transcript, submitted in the court of Additional Sessions Judge Ata Rabbani today, the time of the digital video recorder was 35 minutes ahead of Pakistan Standard Time. — DNA



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Nadeem Raza, Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov and others listening to the national anthems on the occasion of Victory Day. — DNA

Shehbaz Sharif bashes govt over surge in power price

Taking a jibe at the PTI-led government, Shehbaz said that the deceiving government made a promise to provide relief to the masses but instead of providing relief, the government increased the power tariff

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Opposition leader in the National Assembly Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday bashed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government saying the recent Rs2.52 per unit hike in the electricity price was a cruel act.

Taking a jibe at the PTI-led government, Shehbaz said that the deceiving government made a promise to provide relief to the masses but instead of providing relief, the government increased the power tariff. Shehbaz was of the view that the government made a false claim that the budget was tax-free.

"I keep on saying as long as this government stays, neither the economy nor the lives of people will be saved," he added. Shehbaz said if the government ends subsidy on gas for industries, it means the start of an economic ruin. If the wheel of industry stops working, how the employment could be generated, he wondered. After ending subsidy on gas, the electricity would become more expensive and it would further slow down the economy. The government has purchased the costliest ever LNG and the news that it would sell the LNG at Rs5,000 per unit is quite alarming, the opposition leader added.

Opp. devises strategy to give tough time to govt in NA

ISLAMABAD: All opposition parties, including the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and the Pakistan Peoples Party, have finalised a strategy to give tough time to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government in a joint sitting of parliament on November 11.

According to details, the session of the opposition parties' legal committee was held in Islamabad to review strategy regarding the joint sitting of Parliament tomorrow. The session was attended by former prime ministers Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Yousuf Raza Gilani, PPP leader Sherry Rehman, former opposition leader Syed Khurshed Shah, Shazia Marri, PML-N spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb, MNA Khawaja Asif, Saad Rafique and former NA speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq.

Speaking to the media after the meeting, the PML-N spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb said that the opposition has finalised a strategy to thwart the government's

Gas shortage of 400-500 cubic feet per day speaks volume of government's corruption,

legislation. She said that government wants to pass 30 bills in the joint sitting and opposition parties are ready to thwart government's NAB Amendment Ordinance and EVM's legislation. PPP leader Yousuf Raza Gillani said that opposition will spoil government's conspiracy to "bulldoze" Parliament. He said that all opposition parties have agreed over giving tough time to the ruling coalition inside the Parliament.

The joint sitting of the parliament was summoned on November 11 at 11:00 am. Prime Minister Imran Khan will host the lunch for the National Assembly (NA) lawmakers and senators of the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and coalition partners on Wednesday (tomorrow). PM Imran Khan will host the lunch for the lawmakers and senators of PTI and coalition partners tomorrow at the PM House at 2:00 pm. — DNA

incompetence and criminal mismanagement, said Shehbaz. He lamented that in a

span of three years, the price of sugar has gone up from Rs53/kg to Rs160/kg.

Sugar prices have registered an increase of 200 percent which is very hard for the inflation-hit masses, added Shehbaz. Shehbaz said profiteers have pocketed Rs270 billion, but the government is behaving in a way as if everything was ok.

Rising electricity prices will slow down industrial production, unemployment will rise further, said Shehbaz. He held that price of sugar in Peshawar has gone up to Rs175 per kg. "Where is the government? Where is the relief," he asked. Shehbaz Sharif has become active to give tough time to the government by expediting his contacts with the opposition leaders and members to fizzle out the government plan to railroad legislation from parliament on majority basis.

Sources revealed on Tuesday that the PML-N president spurred his efforts to frustrate government plan to bulldoze bills from parliament on majority basis. He is making contacts with the opposition leaders and has formed two parliamentary committees of the opposition in this regard, sources added. According to sources, the separate meetings of both the committees regarding to devising protest strategy and a constitutional way to halt the government process of legislation would be held consecutively.

SC dismisses pre-arrest bail plea of fraud accused

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed pre-arrest bail plea of Ahmed Ali, accused of Rs 75 million fraud, over withdrawal of bail application.

A three-member SC bench comprising Justice Yahya Ata Bamdial, Justice Umar Afridi and Justice Mansoor Ali Shah also dismissed the post-arrest bail plea of another accused Fayyaz. The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) arrested Ahmed Ali, an employee of a private bank, outside the Supreme Court premises after rejection of his bail.

During hearing of the case Justice Umar Ata Bamdial said that this was a case of public interest as Rs 75 million was stolen.

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah directed the FIA to complete the fraud investigation soon. He observed that the crime took place fifteen months ago but the accused had not been charged yet. The counsel for the accused pleaded that his client wanted to withdraw bail application. The court accepted his plea and disposed of the case. — APP

US celebrates 59 successful pakistani entrepreneurs

ISLAMABAD: The U.S. Embassy Islamabad celebrated 59 successful Pakistani entrepreneurs during Global Entrepreneurship Week.

Together, these 59 grant recipients are on track to create 3,552 new full-time jobs, generate \$21 million in revenue, and leverage \$4.8 million in private sector investment. At a virtual event today, the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), recognized the successful participants who utilized Challenge Fund grants to create innovative, sustainable, and scalable business solutions for the challenges facing Pakistani small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

USAID funding and support helped the entrepreneurs overcome challenges, secure private sector funding, and strengthen their businesses over the past four years. Entrepreneurship and innovation help boost employment, productivity, and trade, and can drive a nation's economy.

During the event, entrepreneurs discussed the challenges and opportunities for establishing and growing successful businesses in Pakistan. One of USAID's grantees, Ubaid Ullah, co-founder of Darewro Delivery Services, said, "The USAID grant enabled us to develop sophisticated technologies to serve communities that were previously inaccessible. For example, we were able to help more than 100 women-led businesses, generate 78 new jobs, and onboard more than 500 micro-SMEs. The grant also enabled us to become the largest delivery-on-demand service in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the only one in the Newly Merged Districts."

"I am happy to see that USAID's Small and Medium Enterprise Activity grants and business development programs have transformed ideas into profitable realities and innovative solutions," said USAID Mission Director Julie A. Koenen. "Global Entrepreneurship Week reminds us that growing the economy and creating employment opportunities for youth can be achieved by unleashing the energy of young, innovative entrepreneurs. — APP

China-Pak anti-epidemic fight good example for world: Wenbin

China and Pakistan had been supporting each other. When China was in depth of anti-epidemic war, Pakistan was among the first to help China

BEIJING: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Wang Wenbin Tuesday said that the China-Pakistan joint fight against Covid-19 pandemic had achieved a positive progress and set a good example for the world.



"Pakistan and China are strategic cooperative partners. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, over two countries have stood together in mutual assistance," he said during his regular briefing in response to a question raised by APP. He remarked that the joint fight of the two countries against the virus had achieved a positive progress and set a good example for the world. "China always attaches high importance to Pakistanis

needs on vaccines and we have engaged in close cooperation," he added.

The spokesperson said that Pakistan was a priority in China's vaccine assistance and exports and added, there were such means like commercial purchases and facilitation of Covax. Wang Wenbin said that China had provided strong support to Pakistan.

Just a few days ago, 200,000 doses of vaccines from China Red Cross Society arrived in Islamabad. He said that Chinese vaccine businesses were already engaging in joint production in Pakistan, adding, "We will stand together with Pakistan to help it defeat the virus."

In an earlier statement, the spokesperson remarked that since the outbreak, China and Pakistan had been supporting each other. When China was in depth of anti-epidemic war, Pakistan was among the first to help China.

In the same way, the Chinese side has been helping and assisting Pakistan with testing agents, masks protective suits and vaccines. These were concrete steps illustrating our iron brother relationship, he added. On February 01, last year, the first batch of 500,000 doses of coronavirus vaccines donated by the Chinese government arrived by a special plane in Islamabad.

Later, on February 8th, China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) delivered a batch of Covid-19 vaccines to the Pakistan Armed Forces at the latter's request.

Thus, Pakistan became first country to receive Covid-19 vaccines assistance from the Chinese government as well the Chinese military. According to official sources, China has so far provided over 110 million doses of vaccines to Pakistan, making to help it successful inoculation drive. — APP

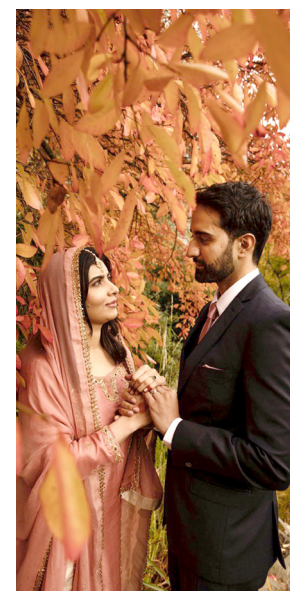
Malala Yousafzai gets married

DNA

LONDON: Nobel laureate and activist Malala Yousafzai surprised everyone on Tuesday night by announcing she had tied the knot with Asger Malik.

"Today marks a precious day in my life," she wrote in a Twitter post. "Asger and I tied the knot to be partners for life. We celebrated a small nikkah ceremony at home in Birmingham with our families," she announced, asking people for prayers.

The 24-year-old wore a tea pink outfit paired with simple jewellery. Her husband is Asger Malik, the general manager of the PCB's High Performance. Malala also posted four photos from the nikkah ceremony in which she could



be seen posing alongside her newlywed husband, Asger, as well as her parents, Ziauddin Yousafzai and Toor Pekai Yousafzai.

Pakistan Boulevard inaugurated in Izmir, Turkey

Ambassador Syrus Sajjad Qazi also visited Pakistan Pavilion in Izmir. Pakistan Pavilion is located in Kulturpark Izmir, where Turkey's First International Fair was organized

DNA

IZMIR: 'Pakistan Boulevard' was inaugurated in Izmir by Mayor Tunç Soyer today. Ambassador of Pakistan in Turkey Syrus Sajjad Qazi, Honorary Consul General of Pakistan in Izmir Cahit Yasar Eren, Mr. Selami Poyraz, President of the Chamber of Commerce Assembly, and Mr. Mahmut Ozzgener, President of the Board of Izmir Chamber of Commerce also participated in the inauguration ceremony.

Pakistan Boulevard is a 1.5 km long street located in the heart of business and financial district of Izmir. Ambassador Syrus Sajjad Qazi also visited Pakistan Pavilion in Izmir. Pakistan Pavilion is located in Kulturpark Izmir, where Turkey's First International Fair was organized. It was originally built in 1938 and has been renovated as the Izmir Tourism Office and an Exhibition Center.



In a meeting with Mr. Tunç Soyer, Mayor of Izmir, the Ambassador thanked the Izmir Municipality and the people of Izmir for these warm gestures, which would fur-



ther strengthen people to people contacts and boost cultural cooperation between Pakistan and Turkey. Both dignitaries discussed additional opportunities in the area

of public diplomacy. The people of Pakistan and Turkey enjoy close ties grounded firmly in a common cultural and linguistic heritage.

No plan to change currency notes: SBP

ISLAMABAD: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Tuesday rejected the news regarding currency notes saying there was no plan under consideration to change the designs of the notes.

"Some fake news regarding new designs of currency notes is circulating on social media. SBP categorically denies the news and clarifies that no such proposal is under consideration at the moment," said the Central Bank's official twitter handle. — APP