



Islamabad POST

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Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Fumio Kishida gets re-elected as Japan's prime minister

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Joint session delay shows govt defeat

Detailed News On Page-01



China will start more projects in Pakistan

Detailed News On Page-08



Briefs

Ramiz Raja praises green shirts

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Ramiz Raja has expressed satisfaction over the performance of the national cricket team in the ongoing ICC Men's Twenty20 World Cup in the United Arab Emirates. The former captain hailed the performance shown by the Men in Green and said that the whole nation is together just because of them. "The performance has been excellent so far," Raja said in a video message. "The national cricket team has removed the tag of inconsistency from its performance."

Imran will complete his term

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Sheikh Rashid Ahmed on Wednesday reiterated that Prime Minister Imran Khan will complete his term. Talking to media persons after Supreme Court of Pakistan summoned PM Imran Khan, Sheikh Rashid said that orders of the apex court are applicable on everyone including Prime minister of the country. Responding to a question, the minister said that there is nothing to worry about and the premier will complete his constitutional term. Earlier, a three-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Gulzar Ahmed conducted hearing on APS attack case.

Maryam mocks govt

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz has reacted to the adjournment of the joint sitting of Parliament. Taking to her twitter account, Maryam Nawaz said the rejected Khan Sahib (PM Imran Khan) was just giving a speech that the members should vote in the joint sitting of considering it as 'jihad'. "So can the nation ask why 'jihad' had to be abruptly postponed? By the way, the nation knows everything, but it is still possible to ask!" she tweeted.

APS Tragedy

No holy cows in Pakistan, PM tells SC

The prime minister said when the massacre took place, his party was in power in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The prime minister said he had met the bereaved parents in hospitals when the terrorist incident took place

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: "There are no holy cows in Pakistan, I believe in rule of law," said Prime Minister Imran Khan to a Supreme Court bench headed by Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed Wednesday. The prime minister had appeared before the apex court after he was summoned earlier today by the chief justice in a case pertaining to the Army Public School (APS) massacre. On December 16, 2014, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militants stormed the Army Public School in Peshawar and martyred over 140 people, mostly schoolchildren. In a plea to the SC, the parents of the children had demanded registration of the case against the top leadership of the country at the time and requested a transparent inquiry into the incident. The court had asked Attorney General Khalid Jawed Khan to review the situation and take necessary steps-whether it be an investigation or filing cases against those responsible- and inform the court. When the hearing resumed today, the CJP summoned

Key findings of APS Judicial Commission

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Judicial commission was established by then CJ Justice Saqib Nisar in October 2018. Justice Ibraheem was appointed its head. The judicial commission concluded on 30 June 2020 that terrorism perpetrated by Pak enemies reached its peak in 2013-2014. The report said that assistance provided to terrorists by the schools locality is unpardonable. The Judicial Commission concluded "When the infidels are within the inside no agency no matter how capable or equipped could counter an attack. The Judicial Commission concluded that NACTA had issued a generic threat alert about terrorists seeking to target army families and academic

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Pakistan values ties with the EU: COAS

The EU envoy appreciated Pakistan's role in the Afghan situation and efforts for regional stability

NEWS DESK

RAWALPINDI: Ambassador of European Union (EU) Androulla Kaminara called on Chief of Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said Wednesday. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, the regional security situation - including current situation of Afghanistan - and bilateral cooperation with EU were discussed. Speaking on the occasion, Gen Bajwa reiterated that



Pakistan values its relations with EU countries. "We earnestly look forward to enhance mutually beneficial multi-domain relations based on common interests," he said. The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's role in the Afghan situation and efforts for regional stability, and pledged on behalf of the EU that it will play its role for further improvements in diplomatic cooperation with Pakistan at all levels, the ISPR said.



ISLAMABAD: A commemoration ceremony was held in the Turkish embassy to pay homage to Great Leader Atatürk, founder of the Republic of Turkey, with respect and gratitude on the 83th anniversary of his passing to eternity. Ambassador of Turkey Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul laid floral wreath. The embassy staff also joined the Ambassador in the commemoration ceremony. - DNA

Troika Plus meeting today

Afghan Foreign Minister also reaches Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi will inaugurate the Troika Plus meeting in Islamabad today (Thursday), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement on Wednesday. Per MOFA's statement, special representatives from China, the Russian Federation, the United States and Pakistan will attend the meeting to shed light on the situation in Afghanistan. "Pakistan attaches high importance to the Troika Plus mechanism on the situation in Afghanistan," read the statement. It further stated Pakistan hopes that deliberations for the meeting would add to the ongoing efforts to achieve lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan. The Troika Plus on Afghanistan will be attended by Pakistan's Special Representative for Afghanistan Ambassador Mohammad Sadiq, the State Department's Special Representative and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Afghanistan Thomas West, Russia's special envoy for Afghanistan Zamir Kabulov, and Chinese special envoy for Afghanistan, Yue Xiaoyong.

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Opp. wants PM to resign over his allies' mistrust

Shehbaz says delay in parliamentary session confirms defeat of govt

SHUJAAT HAMZA

PTI allies withdraw support for EVM

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The opposition parties in the parliament reacting over postponing the scheduled joint session on Wednesday urged Prime Minister Imran Khan to tender his resign after mistrust of his party member and allied parties on him regarding the new legislation. The Opposition Leader in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif termed the postponing the joint session of

ISLAMABAD: The backdoor lobbying of the government led by Prime Minister Imran Khan has reportedly failed to garner the support of parliamentarians over the electronic voting machine (EVM) bill that Pakistan Tehreek e In-saf is set to table. According to the insiders, the lobbying with the government bloc to seek support for the bills, to be tabled by PTI, have failed as Muttahida Qaumi Movement - Pakistan (MQM-P) and Pakistan Muslim League - Q (PML-Q) have shared their reservations. "We were not consulted over the EVM and its terms of reference," the

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NZ humiliate England to reach T20 WC Final

Kiwis defeat Cup aspirants in a thriller; Pakistan take on Australia today

SPORTS DESK

ABU DHABI: Daryl Mitchell smashed an unbeaten 72 as New Zealand beat England by five wickets with an over to spare to reach the Twenty20 World Cup final on Wednesday. Chasing 166 for victory, New Zealand were in trouble at 13-2 and 107-4 when Jimmy Neesham hit an

11-ball 27 and Mitchell finished it off with a boundary. New Zealand will be in their first ever T20 World Cup final where they will face either Australia or Pakistan. Earlier, all-rounder Moeen Ali smashed an unbeaten 51 to steer England to a challenging 166 for four. England lost their openers including Jos Buttler for 29, lbw off Ish Sodhi, after being invited to bat first as Kiwi skipper Kane Williamson won an all-important toss in Abu Dhabi. But Moeen hit back with his 37-ball knock and put on a key partnership of 63 with David Malan, who hit 41, for the third wicket. Pace bowlers Tim Southee and Trent Boult kept a tight leash in the first three overs before Buttler smashed two successive boundaries.

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Shusha - the fairyland of Azerbaijan (Part-1)

It was not less than an ordeal for the Azeri people to live a life of subjugation in their own city but after 30 years they have finally re-taken their home as a result of the 44-day Patriotic War

ANSAR M BHATTI

SHUSHA, or Susa, is well known for its cultural as well as tourist attractions. It used to serve as a key tourist resort even in the Soviet era. Situated at an altitude of 1,400-1,800 metres (4,600-5,900 ft) in the Karabakh Mountains, the city has a lot to offer to the visitors. Most sources date Shusha's establishment to the 1750s by Panah Ali Khan, founder of the Karabakh Khanate, coinciding with the foundation of the fortress of Shusha, attributing this to an alliance between Panah Ali Khan and Shahnazar, the local Armenian prince. Shusha is often considered the cradle of Azerbaijan's music and poetry, and one of the leading centres of the Azerbaijani culture. During the first war, the Armenian forces occupied the city and destroyed most of the infrastructure. After taking over Shusha, the Armenians had forced the Azerbaijani people to leave the city. A large number of Armenians from mainland Armenia flocked to the place and settled there. So much so that Armenians even forcibly evicted Azeri people from their homes. It was not less than an ordeal for the Azeri people to live a life of subjugation in their own city but after 30 years they have finally re-taken their home as a

result of the 44-day Patriotic War. I had heard and read about the scenic beauty and natural grandeur of Shusha and when I reached there, as part of the Pakistan media delegation, I was simply nonplussed to witness nature at its best. The lush green lofty mountains and thick clouds kissing these mountains presented a spell-binding panorama. We were told the place looks like Murree but it was ostensibly much more attractive and seductive, especially for those who happen to be ardent admirers of nature and scenic beauty. True, beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder, but Shusha by all means in itself is an epitome of beauty. It took us almost five hours to reach our first destination Fuzuli, another town which was hit hard by the Armenian aggression. Armenians before leaving the place filled it with mines with a view to inflicting losses on the Azerbaijani forces and people; however with the timely and committed efforts of Azerbaijani armed forces and landmines experts, the area has been cleared. During the briefing to the media delegation, a practical demonstration was arranged as to how the landmines worked. Fuzuli International is an airport in the city of Fuzuli in Azerbaijan. It is one of the country's seven international airports. The airport is built on an air-drome abandoned for almost 30 years



The writer at the gate of the Shusha Fort

and surrounded by former minefields. It was constructed at a cost of 75 million manats (\$44 million). In the late 1980s the town of Fuzuli had some 17,000 residents. During the First Nagorno-Karabakh War, on 24 August 1993, the Azerbaijani Armed Forces were forced to withdraw from Fuzuli. Fuzuli was reduced to a ghost town before its fall in the face of continued pressure from the armed forces of the Republic of Artsakh and of Armenia. After witnessing the way Azerbaijani govt is carrying out development work in Fuzuli, one can easily say that after one year the city will have a new look

and a lot to offer to the local as well as international visitors. Our next stop was of course the fairyland Shusha and all of us were excited to reach the place. By the time we left Fuzuli the sun had already set and dark clouds encircled the entire district. The road leading to Shusha was built in a record time. The distance from Fuzuli to Shusha is only 63 kilometers and it took us an hour to reach our first destination in Shusha - a traditional restaurant named Qoc.et recently inaugurated. Extremely tired after a long trip, each one of us enjoyed juicy lamb chops, fresh grilled chicken along with mouth-watering kebabs. Traditional Azerbaijani breads and a collection of seasonal salads was yet another delicacy that made our dinner memorable. As soon as we left the restaurant for the boarding and lodging facility, light drizzle and dark clouds welcomed us. It was quite a romantic scene and I am sure if poets like William Wordsworth, William Blake, John Keats or PB Shelly were there, they would have exhausted their vocabulary to describe the scene. When it comes to the beauty of the place, I think I should stop here and leave it to the nature lovers to rush to the place and see with their own eyes because seeing is believing!!

(Part 2 tomorrow)

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DFED to provide huge grants for green projects: Director WWF

"In later phase additional grant of 3.5 million Euro would also be given to start pilot projects"

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Pakistan Director Tahir Rasheed has said that 160 million Euros Dutch Fund for Environment & Development (DFED) will sustain green projects which will have healthy impact on the lives of local communities as well. He was addressing an awareness session on DFED in Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCI) here Wednesday. While calling for the need to integrate global efforts to protect global environment he said for the environmental protection and achieving Mil-

lennium Sustainable Development goals an estimated amount of 4.2 trillion dollars was needed. "The rich countries have so far donated 1.7 trillion dollars but still there is a huge shortfall, as vulnerable economies are unable to spare funds for this purpose as their prime object is to feed their burgeoning population". Dutch Fund has been created to launch green projects which will have trickle down impact on the local communities, he said, adding that initially a grant of 60 thousand Euros will be given for pre-feasibility and feasibility studies. "In later phase additional grant of 3.5 million Euro

would also be given to start pilot projects", he said, and added that for full-fledged operation of these green projects competitive bank loans could also be provided. He said that six countries including Pakistan were already working with the funding of Dutch grant while India and Indonesia recently applied for this fund. About the hazards of burning stubs of rice crop, he quoted that in 17 cities of India a project had been launched to use the stubs for electricity generation, adding that this would prevent damage to the environment. "With this project the concerned farmers could also get a reasonable amount for

their field waste", he said. He cited a project in the Indus delta for which 7 million Euro have been earmarked or were in the final approval stage.

He further said that saline water in Punjab could also be used profitably and in this connection 14.9 million Euro grant could also be approved. Similarly bagasse of sugar mills could also be used through environment friendly technologies.

Sohail Ali Naqvi, Senior Manager Fresh Water Program (WWF) said that this organization was already working on textile and leather based projects in Punjab. He said that in Faisalabad a project could be launched to treat industrial effluents as the treated water could be used for irrigation purposes. Earlier, Executive Member Sanaullah Khan Niazi briefly introduced Faisalabad and Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry, while Muhammad Fazil presented vote of thanks.

Dr. Tahir Rasheed presented WWF memento to Muhammad Fazil. He also presented traditional Sindhi "Ajrak" to Sanaullah Niazi.



Govt to improve water storage: Moonis

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Water Resources, Moonis Elahi on Wednesday said that the government had initiated construction of several projects in order to increase water storage and ratio of hydropower generation in the country. He presided over a meeting with Chairman WAPDA in Ministry of Water Resources, wherein he was briefed about the development portfolio of WAPDA and the progress achieved so far on water and hydropower projects. Speaking on the occasion, Federal Minister underscored the significance of water resources as they are fundamental to our sustainable socio-economic development, balanced ecosystems and for human survival itself. That is why, the Federal Government is constructing water and hydropower projects in the country to improve water situation and increase the ratio of hydel electricity in the National Grid, he added.

He said, WAPDA is constructing more than 10 Projects in water and hydropower sectors under 'Decade of Dams programme'. These projects, including Diamer Basha Dam, Mohmand Dam, Dasu Hydropower Project, Nai Gaj Dam, Sindh Barrage and K-IV Project are scheduled to be completed one after the other.

On completion of these projects, gross water storage capacity will increase from 13 million acre feet (MAF) to more than 24 MAF with an addition of 11.7 MAF, sufficient to irrigate another 1.6 Million Acres of land and provide 950 million gallons per day for drinking purpose to Karachi and Peshawar.

The installed hydel generation capacity will be doubled to cross 18000 MW with an addition of 9000 MW. - APP

190 new cases of dengue reported in KP

PESHAWAR: Around 190 new cases of positive cases dengue were reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Wednesday, raising the toll of infection to 8820. According to Daily Dengue update shared by Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response System (IDSRS), the total number of active cases in the province are 978. 236 patients have recovered from the disease today. While the number of total recovered patient has reached to 7833. The number of total death caused by the disease during its current outbreak has been recorded as 09, adds the report. - APP

Youth peruse their career at Hunar Rozgar Mela

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: In order to provide a platform to the job seeking young graduates in Faisalabad, Hunar Rozgar Mela 2021 was organized by TVET Sector Support Programme and Migration for Development (PME) to meet employment objectives for over 471 openings of private industry in Faisalabad.

A large number of CBT trainees and graduates had shown their skills, notably in key economic areas, and held on-the-spot interviews by the recruitment enterprises of private sector in the Hunar Rozgar Mela here on Wednesday. The donor funded TVET Sector Support Programme implemented by National Vocational and Technical Training Commission, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

and Programme Migration for Development (PME) organized Hunar Rozgar Mela 2021 in Faisalabad. The ceremony was graced by Head of TVET Sector Support Programme Ms. Iris Cordelia Rotzoll, along with Director General NAVTTC Punjab Mr. Mujeeb ur Rehman and Chairman Punjab Vocational Training Council (PVTTC) Maj. Shah Nawaz Badar (Retd). Head of TVET Sector Support Programme Ms. Iris Cordelia Rotzoll while speaking at the opening ceremony of the Rozgar Mela said that 'Skilled youth of any country play a vital role for the economic development. TVET SSP is working with NAVTTC, PVTTC and Punjab TEVTA to play its role in providing quality skills and job opportunities to youth.' Chairman Punjab Vocational Training Council (PVTTC) Maj. Shah Nawaz Badar (Retd) while speaking at the occasion said that we are happy to see the results

of TVET Sector Support Programme and efforts of Punjab Vocational Training Council (PVTTC) especially in the area of industry-linkages. We hope and expect a greater cooperation and collaboration between PVTTC and the private sector in enhancing quality of training and employment opportunities for our graduates. DG NAVTTC Mr. Mujeeb ur Rehman said that, "Our efforts are to have best vocational and technical training system here in Pakistan than confirms the international standards. Today while seeing all these graduates having choice of the employment search as per the same demand-driven aspects of industry is the real showcasing of what we had aimed for." Moreover, a panel discussion on the topic 'Employment for Economic Sustainability and the Role of the Private Sector in TVET in post COVID Scenario' was conducted.



Speaker Asad Qaiser lauds PAJCCI's initiatives

He reiterated that if both Governments will support PAJCCI then it will ensure the raising of trade volume to \$2bn in short span of time

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly, Speaker, Asad Qaiser while lauding Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI)'s initiatives to strengthen economic ties between the two brotherly countries has stated that revival of trade, economic integration and people-to-people contact with Afghanistan will result in progress and development of both countries leading to regional prosperity. He remarked to consider him as PAJCCI member who will jointly raise the voice of the business community at all levels. He sought name of PAJCCI members to be included in Parliamentary group to ensure PAJCCI and Parliament works together for the attainment of the same vision to establish mutually beneficial socio-economic relationship. Speaker further sought PAJCCI to submit draft proposal for resolution of standing issues at the earliest so that an action report may be deliberated with the Prime Minister Imran Khan. PAJCCI, President, Jawed Bilwani

said: "It is a great honor to have Speaker Asad Qaiser on board and I believe that his presence projects the interest of the Government to help and resolve issues pertinent to Pak-Afghan Bilateral and Transit Trade." He also lauded the support of Government departments engaged in rigorous discussions with PAJCCI and facilitated resolution of several issues tabled during the interactions promptly. PAJCCI, Chairman, Zubair Motiwala provided overview of PAJCCI initiatives, current situation of trade

with Afghanistan, issues and difficulties faced by business community on both sides, support of both governments since change of Afghan regime, efforts of Pak-Afghan Parliamentary Friendship Group, personal interest and efforts of the Speaker National Assembly to establish and sustain government to government relationship, vision and support of Prime Minister Imran Khan in extending all support to Afghanistan. Deliberating issues at borders, he said that the undue charges at borders by corrupt Law Enforcement

Agencies are increasing the cost of doing business and impacting trust. He urged the Government of Afghanistan to give preferential treatment to Pakistani business in the same way as the Government of Pakistan (GoP) has abolished sales tax on Afghanistan exports of fresh fruits and vegetables. He reiterated that if both Governments will support PAJCCI then it will ensure the raising of trade volume to \$2bn in short span of time. He requested Afghanistan to ensure safe passage for Pakistan's trade to CIS countries and transit

of liquid gas to Pakistan. PAJCCI, Co-Chairman, Khan Jan Alokzai who led the Afghan business delegation and has been instrumental in opening the dialogue with current Afghan Government to address the issues faced by business community of both sides. He thanked the forum and extended special thanks to Prime Minister Imran Khan Speaker National Assembly, Pak-Afghan Parliamentary Friendship Group and Member Customs for their presence and support extended to PAJCCI for getting the issues resolved. He informed the forum that Afghan Foreign Minister along with high powered delegation is arriving today to initiate discussions and negotiations with the Government of Pakistan with the sole objective of sustainable and trust-worthy long term relationship between two countries. He urged both the Governments to finalize APTTA and PTA by engaging PAJCCI as the body representing all sectors of trade and transit. He specifically mentioned that Pakistan is the only neighboring country who stood by Afghanistan in this difficult time.



RAWALPINDI: Christian Turner, British High Commissioner calls on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ. - DNA

British HC calls on COAS Bajwa

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Mr Christian Turner, British High Commissioner called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ, today.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, regional security situation including the recent developments in Afghanistan were discussed. COAS said that Pakistan values UK's role in global and regional affairs and we look forward to enhance our bilateral relationship. COAS reiterated the need for global convergence on Afghanistan for avoiding humanitarian crisis and coordinated efforts for economic uplift of the Afghan people.

The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's role in Afghan situation, efforts for regional stability and pledged to play their role for further improvement in diplomatic cooperation with Pakistan at all levels.

396 cases of corona detected

DNA

KARACHI: Fortunately no death stemming from Coronavirus reported on Wednesday, however 396 new cases emerged when 17,889 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here from CM House on Wednesday. Mr Shah said that fortunately no death was reported on Wednesday. He added that till last Tuesday the number death and was 7,599. Mr Shah said that 17,889 samples were tested which detected 396 cases that constituted 2.2 percent current detection rate.

He added that so far 6,558,063 tests have been conducted against which 471,892 cases were diagnosed, of them 95.7 percent or 451,588 patients have recovered, including 47 overnight. The CM said that currently 12,705 patients were under treatment, of them 12,491 were in home isolation, 20 at isolation centers and 194 at different hospitals. He added that the condition of 190 patients was stated to be critical, including 14 shifted to ventilators.

Dist dept holds seminar on Measles and rubella

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Ali Shehzad has said that in connection with the establishment of a healthy society during the measles and rubella catch-up campaign starting from November 15, children between the ages of 9 months to 15 years are must vaccinated. All arrangements have been made for the success of the campaign. However, media representatives should convey the message to parents to make vaccination against measles and rubella mandatory to increase the immunity of children against diseases so that the future of the

nation be secured. He said this while addressing a consultation seminar held at a local hotel on the role of media in "Measles and Rubella Vaccination Campaign" jointly organized by UNICEF, WHO and Primary and Secondary Health Care Department, Government of Punjab. Director Health Services Dr. Kamran Rasheed, CEO DHA Dr. Kashif Mahmood, DHO Dr. Bilal Ahmed, CEO DEA Ali Ahmed Sian, Regional Coordinator UNICEF Dr. Saarena, WHO Representative Dr. Mudassar, rwpw representative of Primary & Secondary Health Care Department Dr. Mushtaq, Chairman Private Schools Alliance Sadaqat Lodhi, Health Education Officer Shafiq Ahmed Asif and other

health department officials besides media representatives were also present. Deputy Commissioner said that the media should play its important and vital role in raising awareness about the usefulness and importance of this drive as people value their opinion. He said that the scope of other awareness programs in this regard should be widened so that success of campaign. He said that it was a national duty to vaccinate children up to the age of 15 years. The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the organization of the media workshop and assured all possible support from the district administration for the success of the campaign.



5mln people to be vaccinated till November 12

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Secretary Archeology Punjab Saqib Manan directed that teams should be active in vaccinating the survivors above 12 years of age even in the last days of Reach Every Door (Red) Corona Vaccination Campaign so that more people could be vaccinated. He issued the directive while presiding over a meeting at DC Office in which Deputy Commissioner Ali Shehzad gave a briefing on the objectives of the Red Campaign. Additional Deputy Commissioner Headquarters Muhammad Khalid, CEO Health Dr. Kashif Mahmood, CEO Education Ali Ahmed Sian, District Health Officer Dr. Bilal Ahmed, Deputy Director Colleges Imdadullah Chaudhry, Sec-

retary RTA Muhammad Sarwar and other officers of Health Department were also present. The Secretary Archeology Punjab took a detailed look at the targets of the campaign and called for speeding up the coverage of students in public and private schools and colleges. Talking to media persons, the Secretary Archeology Punjab said that the Red Campaign is in full swing in the district and so far 750,000 people have been vaccinated against Corona during the campaign while One million people will be vaccinated by the end of the campaign whereas even before the campaign the vaccination process was going on uninterrupted and by November 12, a total of 5 million people in the district will be vaccinated.

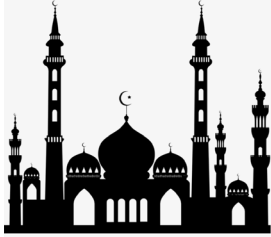
AJK PM reviews progress on NAP

MUZAFFARABAD: A meeting of the Apex Committee, responsible for implementation on National Action Plan (NAP) was held chaired of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Quayyum Niazi here on Wednesday. Prime Minister commended the Chief Secretary Azad Kashmir, General Officer Commanding (GCO)12 Division Murree, Brigade Commander 1AK Brigade, Heads of Intelligence Agencies, Secretaries to the Government, Divisional Commissioner and Inspector General of Police. He also commended the role of the Armed Forces for the implementation on NAP. The Prime Minister said the Kashmiri people had been struggling for the achievement of their right to self determination and raised the awareness of freedom and liberty instead of bowing down before the oppressive imperialism. He said the government was taking solid measures to bring the state a real base camp for the liberation movement and all resources would be channeled to achieve the goal. The Prime Minister said the agenda of the National Action Plan for National Security, consisting of 20 points of national consensus, was put forward to eliminate terrorism wave following the tragic incident in Peshawar in early 2014. - APP

20 criminals arrested

FAISALABAD: Police arrested 20 criminals and recovered narcotics and illegal weapons during last 24 hours. Police said on Wednesday that raiding teams nabbed 11 drug pushers and recovered 1.9 Kg hashish and 74 litres liquor from their possession. In a crackdown against illegal weapons, police arrested 9 people and recovered 6 pistols, a rifle, a repeater gun and a number of bullets from them. Further investigation was underway. - APP

SERVICES



Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	05:09 am
Zohr.....	11:52 am
Asr.....	03:30 pm
Maghrib.....	05:08 pm
Isha.....	06:34 pm



Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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Emergency

Rescue (Police).....	15
Bomb Disposal.....	15
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PIMS.....	9261170-79
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Shifa International.....	4603666



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



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G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8.....	9266316
Wapda Islamabad.....	9217579
Wapda Rawalpindi	111-309-309



Islamabad Metropolitan

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



Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....	0331-5022125
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Arif Alvi links Pakistan's progress with digitalization

“The technology is running ahead of us and we need to take hold of it by adopting a proactive and marketable approach,” he said, adding that China was an inspiring model in making strides in the technology sector

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday said Pakistan's progress was linked with extensive digitalization of all sectors, particularly education and health, and stressed fast decision-making in this regard to match the global advancements in Information Technology (IT) sector.

“Pakistan needs a paradigm shift in IT sector with an ability to process and analyze more data and devising the policies as per contemporary needs,” the President said, in his address here at the National Broadband Network Forum. The forum themed ‘Broadband for all’ was jointly organized by Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and Huawei Technologies Pakistan, which brought together local and foreign stakeholders for an insight into transformative technologies and viable solutions to challenges.

President Alvi said Pakistan was heading in the right direction to improve its digital footprint and



ensure access of its citizens to the ‘information highway’ and communication services. However, he said, had the decision on expanding broadband infrastructure taken a decade earlier, the country would have witnessed a revolution in the IT sector. “The technology is running ahead of us and we need to take hold of it by adopting a proactive and marketable approach,” he said, adding that China was an inspiring model in making strides in the technology sector.

He said digitalization of financial and banking systems would not



only improve the response time, but also ensure transparency in transactions. The president said coronavirus pandemic had increased manifold the importance of access to broadband services, particularly in areas of education and health. He said online learning was still the cheapest source of knowledge, adding that he was in touch with universities to encourage distant education along with the traditional brick-mortar setups to increase the number of graduates.

He expressed satisfaction that fifty percent of the country's population had access to cellular services.

The president appreciated the contribution of PTA and Huawei Technologies Pakistan on organizing the initiative, hoping that it would help promote constructive dialogue on increasing broadband proliferation, leading to accelerated fiberization and launch of 5G services in Pakistan.

Secretary Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication Muhammad Sohail Rajput said without an effective broadband infrastructure, the dream of a digital Pakistan would be difficult to materialize. He said the government was focusing on the

incentivization of private sector to enhance broadband capacity and thus contribute to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth.

President and Group CEO Pakistan Telecommunication Limited (PTCL) and Ufone, Hatem Bamatraf said broadband internet had a great impact on the digital economy and provided an opportunity to overcome business challenges complemented by cellular communication. Pakistan's IT sector, he said, had immense potential of growth in areas of broadband, cloud computing, and analytics management. He emphasized ‘digital deepening’ in the country driven by an economic approach. Chairman PTA Maj Gen (Retd) Amir Azeem Bajwa said the forum was a step towards deliberating upon augmentation of broadband infrastructure, data analytics, spectrum management, and emerging technologies.

He said Pakistan had achieved international accolades in the IT sector with 107 million broadband subscriptions and 186 million cellular services subscribers.

Turkey Alumni gathering aimed to promote Pak-Turk relations

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The first ever gathering of alumni of Turkish universities was organized by newly established office of “Turkey Alumni in Pakistan (TULIP)” at Islamabad Club aimed to connect the alumni of Turkish universities. A large number of Alumni, Ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul, Head of the Mission Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) Dilsad Senol, Deputy Coordinator of Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) Mehmet Selcuk Karagoz, MD Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal Mr. Malik Zaher Abbas Khokhar, Air Vice Marshal Asad Ikram, Assitant Commissioner Islamabad Aneel Saeed, President of Islamabad Chamber



of Commerce Muhammad Shakeel, representative of Pak Türk Maarif School and Collages Bugra Ozler and dignitaries of different educational and charity organizations attended the event. The meet up was organized to help alumni of Turkish universities to keep in touch

with each other, share information, experiences and to provide opportunities to build professional development, networking, and friendship building.

During the address, Ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul assured his support to Turkey

Alumni in Pakistan (TULIP) in its efforts to promote Pakistan Turkey relations in various fields. President of Turkey Alumni in Pakistan (TULIP) Mr. Saif ul Islam Khan said “this alumni association can play an important role in further strengthening the relations between two brotherly countries. Alumni of Turkish universities are asset of Pakistan and they are ready to serve for prosperity of the country.”

During the program, a tribute also paid to national poet of Pakistan Hazrat Alama Muhammad Iqbal on the occasion of his birth anniversary. Ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul gave the cultural shawls as a present to heads of Pakistani and Turkish organizations on behalf of Turkey Alumni in Pakistan (TULIP) at the end of the program.

Senate offers support for economic development



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Senate Standing Committee Chairman Senator Haji Hidayat Ullah had met in FPCCI Capital office with Senator Haji Ghulam Ali vice president SAARC CCI & Mr. Qurban Ali Head FPCCI Capital office Islamabad. Crises faced by SME's sector, Increase in Exports, hurdles faced by the business community nowadays and investment and trade issues were also discussed in the meeting. Gilgit Chamber founder President Mushtaq Ahmed, Prominent leading

businessmen from Gilgit, Haji Muhammad Hussain, and Haji Fida Hussain were also present in the meeting. SAAARC Chamber Vice President, former president FPCCI and Senator Haji Ghulam Ali said that the government is not facilitating the business community in its current economic policies. It is the need of time to facilitate business community and to provide a business-friendly environment for trade and industry sector if we are serious to increase our exports. And if the government is serious to increase Foreign Exchange Reserves.

IIUI holds seminar on Iqbal day

ISLAMABAD: Iqbal International Institute for Research and Dialogue (IRD) of International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI) hosted a national seminar on “Iqbal and the Modern Scenario” at Faisal Masjid Campus. The seminar was also collaborated by Departments of Urdu, History and Pak Studies. Participants of the seminar opined that revival of the Muslim's glories was possible by following Iqbal's philosophy of independent reasoning and utilization of youth for unity in the ranks of Muslim World. The speakers shared their thoughts on Iqbal's work, message and application of his ideas in society. Participants expressed that country could acquire socio-economic targets by following the guiding principles of the poet of East.

“Allama Muhammad Iqbal, through his poetry motivated the Muslims for and revival of Muslim legacy. His message and thoughts are a source of solution to the contemporary challenges,” said Prof. Dr. Muhammad Masoom Yasinzai, Rector, IIUI. He said that Iqbal's pain for Muslims must be felt by all of the Muslim societies. Prof. Jaleel Aali was the Chief Guest of the Seminar, while it was also attended by Barrister Zafarullah Khan, Dr. Habib Ur Rehman Asim, Dr. Ahmed Shuja Syed, Vice President (R&E), IIUI, Executive Director, IRD, Dr. Husnal Ameen, Dr. Najeba Arif, Dean Faculty of Languages and Literature, IIUI, senior faculty members and a large number of male and female students of the university. Prof. Jaleel Aali pointed “Intellectuals of east are over inspired from western literature and research. He opined that Iqbal advocates that Islam is a social movement. – APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistafin visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and met with President Mr. Muhammad Ahmed Waheed and other members. – DNA

Pak vulnerable to Climate Change, says Dr. Steffen

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad & Hanns Seidel Foundation Pakistan jointly organized a Conference on “Climate Change as a Non-Traditional Security Challenge: Relevance for Pakistan” at Islamabad. The aim of the Conference was to establish a strong narrative based on critically analyzed climate change scenarios in the region and particularly in Pakistan. The discussion focused on highlighting the grave implications of climate change on the major pillars of national security of Pakistan. Mr. Ashfaq Ahmed Gondal, Former Federal Secretary of Information and Broadcasting and Vice President (Federal Region), CGSS in his opening remarks stated that the consequences of climate change must be realized. We have no idea about its reper-

cussions if remedial measures are not taken on time. There is an immediate need to enhance the storage capacity of existing water reservoirs. Thereby, constructing new mega-dams along with the large-scale rehabilitation is the dire need of time. The integrated strategies to achieve sustainable climate change targets must be communicated to the local government and community level so that the environ-

mental threat may be catered at the grass-root level. Dr. Steffen Kudella, Resident Representative, Hanns Seidel Foundation Pakistan in his welcome remarks stated that in the effects of Climate Change can be seen everywhere in the world. Especially Pakistan is threatened by and vulnerable to Climate Change. Fortunately, Climate Change is solvable. It needs to be slowed down by

cutting emissions. Carbon dioxide needs to be actively removed from the atmosphere by planting new trees or restoring old ones. We need to fight misinformation about Climate Change. And in the short-term, we need to prepare and adapt, for instance by planning for water scarcity and building more resilient cities and communities. In short: We need to act now for the future. HSF works in the service of democ-

racy, peace and development. We understand that without formulating answers to serious non-traditional security risks such as Climate Change, sustainable development and national and regional stability are very hard to achieve.

Mr. Shakeel Ahmed Ramay, Chief Executive Officer, Asian Institute of Eco-civilization Research and Development, Islamabad gave a presentation on “Non-traditional Security Challenges: Dynamics and Challenges”. He discussed the characteristics of Non-Traditional Security and stated that it does not belong to the state or maybe trans-state in nature. They are equally dangerous or more for people and the state or planet. Mr. Ramay stated that Government should invest on adaptation as it can avert big losses in the future. Pakistan should develop a conceptual framework to identify and monitor potential conflicts related to climate change and resources.



Shelter homes benefit 3.82m

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Around 3,811,900 passengers and homeless people have so far benefitted from Panahgahs (Shelter Homes) established across the country by the incumbent government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to provide sollicit to the marginalised people.

The shelter homes were providing nutritious food and night stay in neat and clean settings, said an official of PBM. Around 3,606,819 people were served meals, while 2,050,81 availed night stay facility in Panahgahs, he said. The Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) had stepped up efforts to transform shelter homes (Panahgahs) into winter friendly entities with the advent of winter season aimed at ensuring safe and warm environment for its dwellers. Efforts for providing multiple facilities like room heating, warm water, quilts and others to the daily wage earners and needy were underway, he informed.

Right now, around five shelter homes were functioning in federal capital including seven each in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, five in Sindh and one in Gilgit-Baltistan under PBM, he said. PBM was planning to expand the network of its shelter homes to accommodate optimum number of deserving people, he added. The initiative was receiving tremendous response as the people from all over the world were providing donations to shelter homes, he informed. There were various dedicated places and a large number of Langar Khanas (food centers) across the country, where the poor including women, daily wagers and senior citizens were being offered free meal two times a day and night stay.

No stopping of SPI data

ISLAMABAD: Spokesperson to Finance Minister, Muzammil Aslam said Wednesday that there was no exercise under consideration to stop the release of weekly Sensitive Price Index (SPI) data by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). Responding to news reports published in a section of press, Aslam said that a question was raised during committee discussions about best international practice for essential commodities price reporting. Encouragingly, PBS reporting of Consumer Price Index (CPI) and SPI was prompt than India and Bangladesh, he added. “Just to put record straight. No such exercise under consideration. When committees discussing the prices, question was raised on best international practice for essential commodities price reporting. Encouragingly, PBS reporting of CPI & SPI is prompt than India & Bangladesh,” he tweeted. – APP

12 women nominated for Silicon Valley Startup

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The Founder Institute Acceleration Program has shortlisted 12 women for leading startups of Acceleration Program for Women Entrepreneurs (APWE) to be empowered with entrepreneurial and social development skills. Through the APWE, 12 female entrepreneurs from Pakistan would travel to the Silicon Valley to develop network with established business leaders in the United States, said a news release. The program would provide top 12 women led growth stage startups with essential skills required to seek funding from the world's top United States based investors and venture capitalists. President, The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) Islamabad Murtaza Zaidi said, “APWE is one of the most progressive initiatives happening in the Pakistani entrepreneurial ecosystem for women led businesses seeking growth and scale. Unfortunately, the global trend demonstrates that men owned businesses tend to get more funding opportunities”.

Briefs

Action sugar stockers accelerates

NEWS DESK

RAWALPINDI: Deputy Commissioner, Rawalpindi Muhammad Ali has directed the price magistrates to accelerate the crackdown against hoarders and take strict action in accordance with the law to check sugar hoarding in all tehsils of the district.

According to a district administration spokesman, there were sufficient stocks of sugar in all tehsils of the district and there was no shortage of imported sugar in Rawalpindi district.

He informed that the DC had instructed all the price magistrates to ensure supply of sugar at official rates and take strict action against the violators.

He said, no one would be allowed to indulge in hoarding of food items particularly sugar.

He informed that the district administration had initiated stern action against those who sell sugar at more than the fixed price.

Assistant Commissioner Taxila also visited different markets to check prices and availability of sugar, he said adding, several shopkeepers were imposed fines amounting to Rs 30,000 on official rate violation.

The administration on the directives of Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar had launched a special campaign and took action against profiteers and hoarders while the premises of the violators were being sealed.

Imported sugar was also being sold in 33 sahulat bazaars across Rawalpindi district and so far 329 metric tonnes had been sold in these markets, he informed.

37 more tested dengue positive

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: District Coordinator for Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr. Sajjad Mehmood on Wednesday said around 37 more people were diagnosed dengue positive in last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 3050.

Dr. Sajjad said ten cases were reported from the Rawalpindi Cantonment area among 14 from Potohar town, four from Metropolitan Corporation Rawalpindi and one each reported from Murree and Taxila.

He said so far 2148 patients were reported from Rawalpindi district.

Dr. Sajjad said with dropping mercury number of dengue reported cases were declining daily and hoped that the disease spread would end by mid-November.

Gang involved in looting people busted

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) of Islamabad Police has arrested two accused of a gang involved in looting people on gun point and recovered 12 mobile phone, cash, motorbike and weapons from their possession, a police spokesman said.

A CIA police team comprising ASI Bashrat Usman and other officials while using modern technology and scientific methods of investigation traced the gangsters.

The accused were identified as Aqib Shahzad resident of Dhoke Kala Khan and Hamza Ali resident of Iqbal Town Rawalpindi. 12 snatched mobile phones, cash, motorbike and weapons were also recovered from their possession.

During the preliminary investigation, the accused have confessed their involvement in numerous incidents of looting people in areas of twin cities. Separate cases have been registered against the accused in I-Area, Sabzi Mandi and Aabpara police stations and further investigation is underway.

DIG (Operations) Afzaal Ahmed Kousar has appreciated the performance of the Police team and directed all police officials to ensure effective policing measures in their respective areas.

Need to follow Iqbal's vision to make Pakistan progress

Allama Iqbal's poetry and thoughts provided guidelines to the policymakers on how to make Pakistan a welfare state

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has stressed upon the need for following the principles of Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal, the great Muslim Philosopher and Poet to make Pakistan a progressive and prosperous economy.

He said that we as a nation should work with commitment, honesty and dedication for the economic uplift of the country.

He was addressing as Chief Guest a ceremony organized by the Islamabad Founder Lions Club at the residence of senior political leader Syed Zafar Ali Shah who presided over the event. Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President, Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI, Ch. Muhammad Yasin Secretary General CDA Mazdoor Union, Sheikh Amir Waheed and Baser Daud former Presidents ICCI were the Guests of Honor. Muhammad Naveed Malik, Ch. Masood, Engr. Azhar ul Islam, Dr. Afshan Malik, Raja Hasan Akhtar, Hafiz Bilal, Nasira Ali and others were also present at the occasion. Shakeel Munir paid rich tributes to the services of Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal for the Muslim Um-



mah and particularly for the Muslims of Sub-Continent. He said that Allama Iqbal's poetry and thoughts provided guidelines to the policymakers on how to make Pakistan a welfare state. He said that Allama Iqbal through his poetry and philosophy had created a revolutionary spirit and enthusiasm in the Muslims of Sub-Continent for the creation of Pakistan and urged that we as a nation should adopt the same spirit and enthusiasm to make Pakistan a

strong economy of the region. He said that the economy of Pakistan was confronted with many challenges and implementation of the principles of Allama Iqbal would steer it out of difficulties to put it on the path of sustainable growth. He said that we should inculcate youth about the poetry and teachings of Allama Iqbal so that our young generation could drive Pakistan towards fast economic growth and development. Syed Zafar Ali Shah speaking at

the occasion said that Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal had given a wake-up call to the Muslims of the Sub-Continent to rise above mutual differences for launching a strong movement for a separate homeland. He said that Allama Iqbal had rendered great services for the promotion of the cause of Muslim Ummah and played a prominent role in the renaissance of Muslim society in the Sub-Continent. He said that the best option for the

government to make Pakistan a prosperous nation was to follow the principles of Allama Iqbal. Baser Daud President and Engr. Azhar ul Islam Secretary General Islamabad Founder Lions Club stressed that the government should take measures to implement the thoughts, ideas and principles of Dr. Allama Iqbal to overcome the multifarious problems being faced by the country. A cake was cut at the occasion to celebrate the birthday of Allama Iqbal.

Marriott Hotel welcomes new GM & Chief Executive



ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Marriott Hotel has appointed Mr. David Richard O'Hanlon as its new General Manager. The official introduction for the new General Manager was made by Mr. Haseeb Gardezi - Chief Operating Officer, Hospitality and Education Division, Hashoo Group, during the dinner reception held at Islamabad Marriott Hotel on 8th November 2021. Maurizio Romani has been appointed as the General Manager of Karachi Marriott. Mr. David has worked in the hospitality industry for more than 25 years in South Asia, SE Asia, Middle East, Eastern and Western Europe. Prior to joining Islamabad Marriott Hotel, he was the General manager at BWH Hotel Group, Thailand. Adding to this, Islamabad Marriott Hotel welcomes Mr. Metin Isci, from Turkey, as the new Executive Chef, who has over a 20-year experience of working in five-star hotels, including Istanbul Marriott Hotel. - DNA

QAU Professor reports 150 Covid variants

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Professor and Chairperson at National Center for Bioinformatics, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Dr. Amir Ali Abbasi has reported the largest genomic and epidemiological data of coronavirus in Pakistan that included the full-length high-quality genome sequences of more than 150 coronavirus samples.

Dr. Amir Ali Abbasi reported this in collaborations with researchers from National Institute of Health (NIH), Islamabad and National Genomics Data Center, Beijing Institute of Genomics, CAS / China National Center for Bioinformatics.

This study was recently published in the highly prestigious international journal Genomics, Proteomics & Bioinformatics with the title "Genomic Epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2 in Pakistan".

The data reveals initial introductions and transmission of the virus in Pakistan and has identified 29 over-represented mutations/variations in Pakistani samples of coronavirus.

Dr. Amir Ali Abbasi explained, mutations are tiny errors in the genetic code that occur during the spread of the virus.

Principal investigator of this study Prof. Dr. Yiming Bao who is the Director of National Genomics Data Center, Beijing further added, "While some mutations in genomes of coronavirus are harmless, others can

bring about such changes in the virus that can enhance its transmissibility and infectivity and thus making it more deadly, as in the case of Indian, UK and South African variants of COVID-19".

The genomic epidemiology of coronavirus in Pakistan has revealed international introductions of COVID-19 in Pakistan from 28 countries and also identified five distinctive spreading clusters during the first wave of pandemic. Among them, the largest cluster was introduced possibly from the USA, France, Portugal, Sweden, Oman, and Qatar, which were consistent with the epidemiological investigations.

No progenies of any of these 150 viruses have been found outside of Pakistan, most likely due to the nonpharmacological intervention, such as travel restrictions, etc, to control the flow of virus outside our country.

This recent study by the research team and collaborators of Dr. Amir could provide guidance for an effective strategy for disease control and spread. "So, we, evolutionary biologists know that in order to check the virulence of the virus and keep its spread under control it is important to keep a track of virus evolution through massive genome sequencing initiatives," said Prof. Dr. Amir Ali Abbasi.

IHC seeks report from PTA on banning social application

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday directed Pakistan Telecommunication (PTA) to apprise the bench that which section of Prevention of Electronic Crime Act 2016 (PECA) allowed it to ban any social media platform.

The court observed that the attorney general of Pakistan had assured this bench that all stakeholders would be consulted before finalizing the social media rules.

Chief Justice Athar Minallah heard the petition regarding social media rules and ban on TikTok.

The additional attorney general informed the court that social media rules had been prepared. The court said it could see the new rules in the

same case. Justice Minallah asked whether the stakeholders were consulted or not in line of social media rules.

TV anchor Hamid Mir on the occasion stated that social media experts were not heard to which the chief justice

said then the court could appoint him as amicus curiae and hear them. Hamid Mir suggested the name of social media expert Sadaf Baig to assist the bench. The court remarked that news was seen in newspapers that a trend was continuing against judiciary on social media.

It doesn't matter, but whether the PTA

would block the whole application on it, the court asked.

The court asked that what objections were there on social media rules and how they were removed. There shouldn't be child pornography or hate speeches contents on social media but public office holders and institutions could be criticized, it further remarked.

Justice Minallah asked that what section of PECA allowed PTA to block the whole application. The department could only block objectionable material, he added.

The court said 99 percent material couldn't be blocked on one percent objectionable material. This was misuse of powers.

The court sought the report and adjourned hearing of the case till November 22.

Informational video on Ehsaas Roshan Riayat Program

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection,

Dr. Sania Nishtar has released an informational video on the Ehsaas Roshan Riayat program for public awareness. The video highlighted the information for Kiryana merchants and low income groups about the procedure of participation in the program, eligibility criteria and benefits.

Low-income households and Kiryana merchants can register themselves by visiting this registration portal <http://ehsaasrasyon.pass.gov.pk>. Only one application can be made from each household, so each household has to select one member of their household and enter his or her Computerized National Identity Card and mobile phone number as only a registered household member can avail discounted grocery items from the Kiryana shops.

The buyers must ensure that their mobile phone and SIM

are registered on their CNIC. They will receive a message regarding eligibility from 8171 within four weeks from the time of start of registration process.

The Kiryana merchants can also register on this website. The government has announced a special package for them under which they would be given attractive profit.

In addition, cars, motorcycles, mobile phones and other valuable prizes will be awarded every three months on the basis of best performance. To participate in this program, the grocery shopkeeper must have a bank account and if the grocery owner does not have a bank account, contact the nearest branch of National Bank of Pakistan immediately.

Once both the grocery owners and the household are registered, the eligible family member will be able to take their CNIC card and mobile phone and get a discount on the purchase of specific grocery items.



JKNF denounces IIOJK fresh arrest spree

ISLAMABAD: The Jammu and Kashmir National Front (JKNF) on Wednesday took strong exception to the recent arrest spree of Kashmiri youth by the Indian troops during house raids in different areas of the territory.

In a statement received issued here, JKNF spokesman Shafiq-ur-Rehman, while referring to the worsening human rights situation in the region said that the Indian troops along with paramilitary and police personnel have arrested near a dozen youth during nocturnal raids conducted in Baramulla, Islamabad, Pulwama, Rajouri, Poonch and Jammu districts over the past couple of days.

He said that the detention of youth under the notorious Public Safety Act and Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) was a serious violation of human rights.

Terming it as a deliberate attempt to push Kashmiris towards violence, Rehman said that India's racist regime was hell bent on pushing the region into a quagmire of violence.

He said that the violent search operations going on in the length and breadth of the state, in particular the Muslim majority areas of Jammu province speak volumes about the apartheid regime's anti-Kashmir policy.

He said that the world human rights organizations must take notice of the Indian belligerence and continued human rights violation in Kashmir and play their due role in bringing an end to the rights abuses in the region. - APP

CPU rescues 1054 children

NEWS DESK

RAWALPINDI: Child Protection Bureau (CPU) rescued 1054 street children from different areas of the city during last year and unified with their families after required arbitration. District Officer Child Welfare Protection Bureau (CPWB), Ali Abid Naqvi told media on Wednesday that children under 15 years of age had been taken into custody who were involved in begging.

Ali said the most children were later handed over to their parents after getting assurance from their parents and guardians that they would not force them to beg again.

He informed that the bureau, in collaboration with City Traffic Police, had registered 248 First Information Reports under ongoing anti-begging drive. "Presently 75 children are in the custody of the bureau who to whom food, education and shelter is being provided at the centre", he added.

RCB imposes over Rs 1.5 mln fines on violators

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) on the special directives of Executive Officer Cantonment Board, Rawalpindi Muhammad Umar Farooq Ali Malik, accelerated its ongoing anti-encroachment drive and confiscated 178 truckloads of goods from different markets during first four months of the current fiscal year besides imposing fines amounting to over Rs 1.5 million on the rules violators.

According to RCB spokesman, Qaiser Mehmood, 275 operations were conducted during the period while 42 rules violators were also issued notices. He informed that Anti-encroachment teams confiscated the encroachment material from Tench Bhatta, Kamalabad, Peoples Colony, Dhoke Saydian, Misrial Road, Saddar, Bakra Mandi, Chor and other areas, adding that operation was being conducted on daily basis while permanent and temporary encroachments were being removed.

He advised the citizens not to violate the rules otherwise stern action would be taken against the violators and no relaxation would be given to anyone. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Inspector General Police Islamabad Qazi Jamil Ur Rehman is presenting shield to Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari Former Vice President ICCI at a reception to honor Islamabad police by business community. - DNA

Climate summit

THE UN Climate talks have entered their final week and it seems as though all stakeholders are on different pages and little progress has been achieved. It has become evident that we have gambled away our environment in the hopes that future technologically-driven solutions will mitigate the damage being done in the status quo. Without much progress being made on this front, all we have are open promises from world leaders without any guarantee that they will be kept or that each state will be as dedicated to the cause as another. Representatives of countries from across the globe have been in Glasgow, working on ways to achieve the overarching goal of limiting temperature rises by 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius. Carbon reduction plans are yet to be decided, rules governing the carbon market are still to be discussed and the funds to aid developing countries combat climate change have to be allocated. As of right now, \$100 billion has been promised to struggling nations but answers to questions like where the money will come from, who will be in charge of spending, what it should be spent on and how will an annual provision of such a large amount be sustained have not been given as of yet. We have now reached a point of no return according to experts, meaning that climate change will definitely become a bigger problem for upcoming generations. Delaying it by as much as possible is our strategy but if countries cannot find common ground and continue to participate in surface-level talks that have no practical bearing then our future will look bleaker. In the backdrop of these talks, the world has suffered from a pandemic, floods, drought, supercharged storms, high temperatures and the loss of ice cover. Each of these occurrences has had an adverse impact on the international community. Thus, the problem is not that there is a lack of awareness of knowledge about how bad the circumstances can get, but it lies in the fact that practical steps are not being taken fast enough to neutralise global warming. If we are to limit our emissions by as much as 30 percent by 2030, we must be more proactive with our approach.

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JCPOA talks

ABOUT five months after Ebrahim Raisi was elected as the president of Iran, it appears that the Islamic Republic and western powers have finally agreed to resume stalled talks in Vienna on November 29 about reviving the nuclear deal. However, following this announcement, Iranian officials have expressed serious doubts with representatives from the UK, France, Germany, Russia and China about whether it is worth engaging in talks given how the Trump administration abandoned the nuclear deal. During Hassan Rouhani's tenure, talks were close to reaching an agreement before President Trump abruptly walked away and adopted an extremely belligerent stance against the Iranian government—undoing whatever progress had been made under the Obama administration. It is understandable to see why Iran feels uncertain about the US' intentions. The moderate faction in Iran faced a lot of trouble convincing the hardliners that a nuclear deal would eventually work in Iran's favour and improve relations with the West, however this has not been the case. As a result, attitudes towards engaging with the US have hardened over the years, especially under the new government headed by Mr Raisi. The US has certainly lost credibility as this issue is not limited to the case of Iran, but was also witnessed in the earlier cases of Iraq and Libya. Therefore, it makes sense for the Iranian authorities to ask for guarantees from the Biden administration before they resume talks over the nuclear deal. Considering the damage to bilateral relations under the Trump presidency, the White House will have to consider some confidence building measures to bridge the trust deficit. Given these obstacles, it remains to be seen if there will be any tangible outcomes following the talks in Vienna later this month. Expectations are low all around as many are of the opinion that just the resumption of talks should be viewed as an achievement. One hopes that this long-standing issue can be resolved in the near future given how it has adversely impacted the Iranian people economically, and also the rest of the region in terms of how it has complicated the geo-political situation.

Justice denied for the victims of Mai Lai massacre

Andrew Mitrovica

Lieutenant General Said and his allies inside and outside the Pentagon will dismiss anyone who dares suggest that Ahmadi and his family were not killed by mistake with the same certainty that once heralded the killings as a just, eye-for-an-eye response to terror

SURPRISE: Top US soldier clears US soldiers of murder. That should have been the headline attached to any story written about the "findings" of a recent "probe" into the massacre of an Afghan family, including seven children, obliterated by a US "Hellfire" missile in late August. Of course, not one editor – as far as I can gather – opted to tell that simple, blunt truth. Instead, most trotted out the usual pallet of euphemisms in effect to absolve US soldiers of the murders of an Afghan humanitarian worker, Zemari Ahmadi, three of his children, Zamir, 20, Faisal, 16, and Farzad, 13, as well as his cousin, Ahmad, 30, and three of Ahmadi's nephews, Arwin, seven, Benyamin, six, and Hayat, two and two three-year-old girls, Malika and Somaya. So, editors wrote lots of headlines like this one to summarise the predictable "conclusions" of a report authored by US Air Force Lieutenant General Sami Said: "Watchdog Finds No Misconduct in Mistaken Afghan Airstrike." The Pentagon could not have penned a more agreeable precis of Lieutenant General Said's "investigation" into the summary execution

of Ahmadi and his family. The Pentagon is, no doubt, delighted. But it is important and instructive to de-construct – for the record – this exculpatory, Pentagon-pleasing header to reveal just how wrong and indecent it is. First, Lieutenant General Said would not have given the murders of Ahmadi and his kin a nanosecond of attention had the Pentagon been able to continue to deceive the world about what happened in the courtyard of Ahmadi's home on August 29. Remember, some of the most powerful soldiers in the US "chain of command" instantly trumpeted the ambush as swift, expert and righteous retaliation for a terrorist bombing on the perimeter of chaotic Kabul airport that maimed and killed dozens of US soldiers and Afghans trying to flee. The Pentagon assured us that two "high-profile" terrorists had been killed before they could maim and kill others and that the carefully planned drone strike avoided, crucially, causing any civilian casualties. Quoting an allegedly in-the-know Department of Defense official, US news media reported that the principal target "was a known entity" believed to be "associated with potential future attacks at the airport" and the US had located him and "had sufficient eyes on and sufficient knowledge" to assassinate him. Every word was a lie. Still, the Pentagon kept repeating its lies with the ease of a metronome for days, even as Afghans insisted that a large, extended family, not terrorists, had been disembowelled and incinerated. Few believed them because, unlike the "well-placed" Pentagon sources, Afghans could not, it appears, be trusted. It was only a week after the New York Times published a story casting doubt on the official, lie-littered version of events that the US military grudgingly admitted it had slaughtered a family, not terrorists. Turns out, America's righteous retaliation was Mai Lai with a drone.

Well, sir, was that not the job of the US soldier or soldiers who were watching Ahmadi come and go that day: To look closely. To watch closely. To see and then to warn or call off the strike to prevent civilians from being annihilated. Fuelled by anger and the urge to exact what they were convinced was a necessary and commiserate measure of revenge, it is my "genuine belief" that US soldiers did look, did see, but did not care who they murdered, as long as Afghans died to avenge quickly the murders of their brothers and sisters in arms. Lieutenant General Said and his allies inside and

outside the Pentagon will dismiss anyone who dares suggest that Ahmadi and his family were not killed by mistake with the same certainty that once heralded the killings as a just, eye-for-an-eye response to terror. Lieutenant General Said and his cocksure confederates must answer this question: How do they explain that from 2015 to 2019, the US government made – by conservative accounts – so-called "condolence payments" totalling more than \$2m to 455 Afghan families? If they truly buy the, by now, perfunctory claim that Ahmadi and his family were killed by "mistake", please also explain how the US military kept making "mistake" after "mistake" after "mistake" that resulted in the deaths of Afghan women, children and men again and again and again and, apparently, after each "mistake" failed to make sure not to make any more "mistakes"? On October 22, 2020, a US air strike targeting a religious school was reported to have killed 12 children and wounded 14 civilians. Were the deaths of those 12 children a "mistake", too? Four days later, a US air strike on the Taliban killed three children and a Taliban commander. Were the deaths of those three children a "mistake", too?

Like the other, long train of instances where US soldiers killed Afghan children, women, and men, we are expected to accept, without question, Lieutenant General Said's finding that not a single US soldier violated any laws, including the rules of war, in the destruction of Ahmadi and his family. We are expected to accept, without question, the word of this devoted member of the same US military that told lie after lie after lie day after day after day about who it had, in fact, destroyed as Ahmadi arrived home by car with precious jugs of water in tow, to be greeted by a gaggle of happy and excited children. We are expected to accept, without question, that the US military told all their lies in good, if misguided, faith. Finally, we are expected to accept, without question, once again, that US soldiers are innocent of murdering innocents. Zemari Ahmadi, Zamir, Faisal, Farzad, Ahmad, Arwin, Benyamin, Hayat, Malika and Somaya deserve justice. But you, I and their families know that they will never get it.

Courtesy Al Jazeera

Citizen engagement key to improving policies and services

Sara Al-Mulla

Through the world-class Seoul Innovation Bureau, the government continues to tap into citizens' valuable contributions. For example, an online portal was created to encourage people to share ideas and insights on policy areas and services

PROGRESSIVE governments are accessing a wider pool of ideas and solutions from their citizens in order to remain competitive, responsive and resilient. Citizen engagement can play an integral role in policymaking through the granular understanding of issues and ideation of practical solutions that meet real-life needs. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the impact of engaging citizens in informing decision-makers on effective response efforts, which often hinge on the personal attitudes and behaviors needed to mitigate transmission of the virus. Many nations have embedded citizen engagement as a key stage in their policy or service design processes. Engagement can take the form of public

opinion polls, satisfaction surveys, interviews, citizen-led advisory committees, online forums, feedback forms, design-thinking workshops, and ideation sessions. To illustrate, policymakers can solicit public opinion on various issues, such as education or healthcare, in order to evaluate current delivery systems or gauge reception to future plans.

Many governments also conduct annual well-being surveys that assess various areas, from labor policies, economic programs and urban planning plans to social services, education systems and healthcare services. A notable example is the recent case of the pandemic, where many opinion polls questioned citizens' willingness to be vaccinated and take personal measures to avoid COVID-19 infection, along with behavioral health data and well-being levels – findings that helped chart the path forward on containment plans. To leverage the advantages of collective dialogue, many governments are experimenting with innovative tools and ideas. The UAE has done a marvelous job of designing citizen-centric public services. One way of achieving this is via the engagement of public bodies with citizens in the form of public opinion polls, brainstorming workshops and consultations on ideas currently being developed by government agencies.

In 2017, the UAE convened a meeting for federal and local government representatives to design the country's road map for the next five decades. The government asked for ideas from the public, to be submitted on electronic portals, on priority areas, including youth, housing, technology, national identity, education, health, and the environment. Another successful event was the Services Factory, which engaged the public to identify needs and design ideas for services in order to improve the overall government service experience. Discussions revolved around enhancing

services pertaining to employment, pensions, marriage registration, newborns, scholarships and enterprises.

Singapore has also taken many measures to foster citizen engagement in policy and service design. In 2019, the Singaporean government launched the Citizens' Panel on Work-Life Harmony, which brought together 55 participants to discuss optimal conditions in the workplace and community to achieve work-life harmony and possibly address the country's low fertility rates. The group was made up of a unique mix of demographics – including business owners, senior management, full-time employees, freelancers, students and homemakers – that enriched discussions and offered unique perspectives on the same challenge. This workshop eventually led to the formulation of 17 recommendations that were presented to various stakeholders.

South Korea, meanwhile, has a remarkable record of engaging citizens in various stages of policymaking at all levels of government, such as priority setting, budget planning, policy design, delivery and evaluation. One notable example is when the Seoul Metropolitan Government convened 100 citizens from diverse backgrounds to participate in the devising of its 2030 master plan. Together with public officials and urban planning experts, the citizens shared valuable insights on key areas, such as stable housing markets, efficient transportation networks, labor policies for women and the elderly, the conservation of historical landscapes, the promotion of the creative industries, and the customization of welfare services according to different areas' needs. As evident in these many successful stories, we can glean valuable ideas and insights by harnessing the collective intelligence of citizens in the process of designing policies and services.

Israeli hyperbole: The art of deception

Marwan Bishara

The Israeli responsible for both decisions is none other than the war general cum defence minister Benny Gantz. It was he who led the Israeli assault against the Gaza Strip in 2014 and who stands accused of war crimes for the death of more than 2,000 Palestinians, including more than 500 children. And it was he who ran for parliament in 2019 on a record of bloodshed, boasting of killing 1,364 "terrorists", read civilians

ISRAELI hyperbole is as old as the Israeli state. It is tautological, serving as the raison d'être and modus operandi of Israel, the garrison state. It is farcical, fantastical, and also dangerous in the way it surpasses mere rhetoric to shape the country's strategy in Palestine and the Middle East in general. For decades, Israel hyped and manufactured threats – grave threats, existential threats – using them as a pretext for preemptive wars and justification for holding onto occupied territories. It demonised the Palestinians and the Arabs as hateful "terrorists" bent on the destruction of Israel. It exaggerated Iran's capacity and intention to develop and deploy nuclear weapons. And of late, its spokespersons and supporters have invariably charged critics with anti-Semitism. Israel has skillfully and successfully peddled and amplified these and other charges, especially after its 1967 war victory and occupation, elevating hyperbole into an art form of deception, extortion, and propaganda. It has regularly claimed that for the sake of its national security, even survival, it had "ein breira" (no alternative) but to launch into this or that illegal or horrific invasion, occupation, mass incarceration, assassination, elevating hyperbole into an art form of deception, extortion, and propaganda. It has regularly claimed that for the sake of its national security, even survival, it had "ein breira" (no alternative) but to launch into this or that illegal or horrific invasion, occupation, mass incarceration, assassination, or preemptive attack. So, it should have come as no surprise when, last month, Israel designated six prominent Palestinian human rights groups as "terrorist organisations", only a few days before announcing a big settlement expansion in the occupied West Bank. Though largely fabricated or unsubstantiated, the designation has put the Palestinians on the defensive and shifted the international attention away from Israel's own occupation and terror. The Israeli responsible for both decisions is none other than the war general cum defence minister Benny Gantz. It was he who led the Israeli assault against the Gaza Strip in 2014 and who stands accused of war crimes for the death of more than 2,000 Palestinians, including more than 500 children. And it was he who ran for parliament in 2019 on a record of bloodshed, boasting of killing 1,364 "terrorists", read civilians. Does this sound like a person with any legitimacy to judge Palestinians? Indeed, do occupiers have any legitimacy to judge the occupied? Well, he is not alone. In fact, Gantz echoes a whole class of hysteric cynics, no less his current and previous bosses, premiers Naftali Bennett and Benjamin Netanyahu. In 2015, Bennett, the religious extremist settler leader cum minister of education, called Israel's rather moderate partner, President Mahmoud Abbas, "a terrorist", and declared that Israel "should not speak with him". Today, Prime Minister

Bennett uses the same pretext to boycott Abbas and evade any meaningful diplomacy with the Palestinians. Of course, he is also punishing the Palestinian president for taking Israel to the International Criminal Court for its war crimes in Palestine.

Israel does not only hype and deflect charges of its own state terrorism; it does the same on the nuclear front as well. For almost three decades, Israel's longest-serving prime minister, Netanyahu, led the charge against Iran, accusing it of secretly developing nuclear weapons for use against Israel, and advocated for nothing short of sweeping sanctions and/or preferably war against the Iranian regime. Israel has claimed Iran would produce a bomb by 1998, 1999, 2000, 2004, 2005, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014 and 2015 and almost every year since.

Netanyahu may have failed to convince western powers to use force against "evil Iran", as they did against Iraq, but he generally succeeded in blackmailing them into maintaining crippling sanctions against the Iranians. Hying the Iranian nuclear threat also allowed him to keep Israel's own nuclear weapons off the table, ensure Israel's total regional military superiority at no financial cost, and insist on total liberty of action against Iran and its allies. In that way, hyperbole has been effective with foes and friends alike.

It has proved a winning strategy in dealing with Israel's own allies, especially the United States. Take for example the Israeli tantrums against the two most pro-Israeli US presidents, Ronald Reagan and George W Bush. In 1981, Prime Minister Menachem Begin accused the US of treating Israel like a "banana republic" and hinted of "anti-Semitic overtones" in some of the punitive measures the Reagan administration took after it denounced the Israeli bombing of the Iraqi nuclear reactor, its bombing of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) headquarters in Beirut that led to the killing of many civilians, and its annexation of the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, all in violation of international law.

Soon after, the US reversed its punitive measures and Israel became by far the biggest recipient of US aid, its status elevated to the US's most valued ally in the Middle East. Feeling empowered, Israel invaded Lebanon under the pretext of combatting terrorism, leading to tens of thousands of Palestinian and Lebanese casualties and an 18-year occupation of south Lebanon.

Twenty years later, another war general cum prime minister, Ariel Sharon, warned the United States against appeasing Arab nations at the expense of Israel the way European democracies appeased Hitler on the eve of World War II, in response to the Bush administration's plans for a "global coalition against terrorism" after the attacks of 9/11. In the following decade, Israel emerged as the closest partner and biggest winner from Washington's global war on terror, using its privileged status to violently crush the second Palestinian intifada.

In the 2010s, Israel humiliated President Barack Obama on Iran and Palestine, accusing him of supporting dangerous diplomacy with both, which according to Bennett, would lead to "the mass murder of Israelis". Rattled by Israeli hyperbole, Obama went on to boost US security guarantees, subsidise Israeli defence, and commit \$38bn in military aid. Israel did not spare its European allies either. In 2015, its then-foreign minister, Avigdor Lieberman, accused them of "betrayal" and "fueling anti-Semitism" for merely supporting Palestinian statehood, going as far as drawing parallels with European powers abandoning Czechoslovakia to the Nazis in 1938.

In that way, Israeli hyperbole has been a remarkable success. It has galvanised Western supporters and blackmailed Western leaders into shutting up or speaking up for Israel, rendering them conciliatory or complicit with its wars, crimes and war crimes. None of the above is meant to downplay Israel's own immediate national security concerns. But its hyperbole has been a tool of expansion and domination rather than survival. Truth be told, Israeli hyperbole is partly an extension of Middle Eastern hystericisms. But while certain populist Iranian, Palestinian, and other hysterical threats against Israel cover-up for insecurity, Israel's hysterical victimhood conceals bellicosity.

– Courtesy Al Jazeera

Briefs

No holy cows
in Pakistan,
PM tells SC

FROM PAGE 01

PM Imran Khan to appear before the bench in his personal capacity. As the PM reached the rostrum, Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan said the parents of the martyred children are demanding action against the rulers of the time when the APS massacre took place.

In response, the prime minister said when the massacre took place, his party was in power in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The prime minister said he had met the bereaved parents in hospitals when the terrorist incident took place but since they were struck by tragedy, it wasn't possible to speak to them properly. The chief justice told the prime minister that the parents of the APS victims were not seeking compensation from the government. "Parents are asking where was the security system [that day]? Despite our comprehensive orders, nothing was done." The prime minister told the chief justice that a National Action Plan was introduced after the APS massacre, adding that there is "no holy cow" in Pakistan.

"We won the war against terrorism," he said. "There were bomb blasts taking place at the time every single day." At this, the Supreme Court said the government should listen to the parents of the APS schoolchildren and take action against the culprits. "The government should take action against those involved in the Army Public School massacre." The prime minister assured that the government will fulfil the requirements of justice. The apex court, in turn, directed the prime minister to ensure implementation on its October 20 verdict. "Hold on for a minute, judge sahab," the prime minister responded. "Allah will give patience to the parents of the schoolchildren, what more could the government have done apart from giving compensation?"

The prime minister told the bench that he had met the parents of the martyred children before, adding that he would meet them again.

Key Findings
of APS
Judicial...

FROM PAGE 01

institutions as result of Zarb e Azb and Khyber 1 Operations. The most important part of the Judicial Commission is "it lauded Pak Army both for uprooting terrorism from the country post APS incident and unflinching support to the families. The few important points to note:

- All perpetrators of APS attacks, master minds and those who executed heinous crime have been killed, sentenced to death and necessary actions taken. All twelve terrorists involved in APS attack apprehended. The six main terrorists involved were tried by the Military courts and given death sentence. 5 have been executed while one terrorist has filed writ petition in SCP.

- Army was appreciated and no blame was affixed by the highest inquiry commission.

- Army took disciplinary action against those individuals who did not come up to the warranted necessary measures including dismissal from service.

- Next of Kins of Shuahada and the injured have been looked after in the best possible manner.

NZ
humiliate
England...

FROM PAGE 01

Jonny Bairstow also got a couple of fours but did not look comfortable after being promoted to open in place of the injured Jason Roy. Adam Milne replaced fellow quick Bould from one end to break through as he got Bairstow out for 13 off 17 balls with Williamson taking a sharp catch at mid-off. In-form Buttler tried to rebuild but an attempt to reverse sweep leg-spinner Ish Sodhi got him trapped lbw for 29 off 24 deliveries.

The opener, who moved past Pakistan's Babar Azam as the leading batsman in the tournament with 269 runs, reviewed the call but replays suggested the ball would have hit his off stump.

Muslim nations should unite
against rights abuse: Mazari

"In coming months, you will see a more offensive diplomacy on Kashmir," Mazari said. "In illegally occupied Kashmir, India is committing war crimes and doing a slow genocide," she added

DNA

ISTANBUL: Divisions in the Muslim world are "unfortunate" and countries like Pakistan and Turkey can push for a united stance against oppression of Muslims across the world, said Pakistan's human rights minister.

"We need to have stronger voices coming from the Muslim world on these [human rights] issues," said Shireen Mazari, calling on the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to do more in this regard. She said the government of Prime Minister Imran Khan in Pakistan was "moving towards a welfare state" by reforming the justice system and ensuring basic rights of the people. On war-torn Afghanistan where Taliban are now leading an interim government, the human rights minister urged the international community to step forward and help avert the evolving humanitarian crisis.

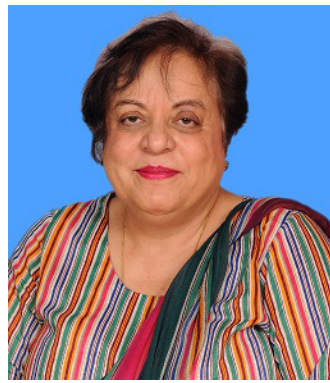
She added Pakistan will gear up its policy on Kashmir. "In coming months, you will see a more offensive diplomacy on Kashmir," Mazari said. "In illegally occupied

Kashmir, India is committing war crimes and doing a slow genocide," she added.

'Dialogue makes Taliban flexible' Urging support from the international community on war-torn Afghanistan, she said: "We want the Taliban government to live up to the commitments that they made when they came into Kabul. And we think that it's better to cooperate with the Taliban and have dialogue with them, rather than to take punitive measures."

Taliban regained power in August after complete withdrawal of foreign forces and breakdown of the US-backed government. "Because if you talk and negotiate, you make them more flexible. If you push them in a corner, they will take a much harder position," Mazari argued. "And the most important thing right now is for the international community to provide humanitarian aid because there is a humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan," she said.

She said the 20 years of foreign invasion in Afghanistan had left behind "nothing." "When the US suddenly left, what happened, the infrastructure was not there... it



just collapsed. The Afghan National Army melted away. Ashraf Ghani ran away, I believe, newspapers say with money. And there was no government structure, there was no social welfare structure, nothing," she added. The Taliban-led interim government is facing a financial crunch as the US has frozen Afghanistan's foreign reserves worth \$9 billion. Ensuring human rights Pakistani state's responsibility Mazari, an alumna of the London School of Economics and Columbia University, said Pakistan is committed to ensuring human rights because they are enshrined

in the country's Constitution. "And because it's our responsibility to see the commitments we have made under the seven human rights conventions that Pakistan has signed, that we live up to them," she said. She said her government has brought various bills to criminalize enforced disappearances and ensure protection of journalists, besides reducing the number of crimes for which the death penalty is applicable.

"Because of those commitments, we have moved forward. We are moving because we believe in those issues. And our commitments are in our party manifesto also," she said, referring to election promises made by the ruling party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). "Now for the first time, in fact, the Cabinet has approved in principle, a complete overhaul of revamping of the criminal justice law," she said.

She said by the end of this year Pakistan "should have completely revamped the criminal justice system." Mazari said Pakistan now also has minorities commission which is "headed by a minority person, and the majority of the

members are from the minority communities."

"We're the first country in South Asia and third in Asia where our government has approved business and human rights National Action Plan. It's a big development which has now business in human rights as part of the UN Human Rights Council's agenda."

Fake news is a challenge On the allegation of suppressing voices of dissent, the human rights minister said: "If we were choking the voices of dissent, you wouldn't be hearing about it. The fact that you're hearing about dissent means that dissent is allowed." "Pakistan has 40, 50 plus channels now. And they all do what they want," she claimed.

She, however, said Pakistan was facing the challenge of fake news. "Our issue is with fake news. The EU DisInfo Lab revealed how the Indians were using fake news. That is the problem," she said, referring to a massive network of websites, NGOs, think tanks working for past 15 years hurting Pakistan's interests at the UN, EU parliament and Geneva.



BRUSSELS: Pakistan ambassador to Belgium Zaheer Janjua meets member European Parliament Lars Patrick Berg. Ambassador discussed on regional situation & issues of mutual importance. - DNA

Murray battles to
opening victory
in Stockholm

STOCKHOLM: Andy Murray came through a tense second-set tie-break to edge out Norwegian qualifier Viktor Durasovic in the Stockholm Open first round on Tuesday. The former world number one needed three match points and saved a set point in the breaker to win 6-1, 7-6 (9/7).

"At the end it was just a big fight, and I managed to get the tie-break," said Murray. "It feels like he is playing better than 300 or so in the world."

The injury-hit 34-year-old, still bidding to climb from his current lowly ranking of 143, will face Italian top seed Jannik Sinner in the last 16. "Sinner has had a fantastic season," Murray said. "He was very unlucky to not make the final eight (ATP Finals) in Turin."

"He loves playing indoors on hard courts, so it will be a big test for me," Murray, playing on a wildcard, is hoping to bounce back this week from the disappointment of his tight opening loss to German Dominik Koepfer in last week's Paris Masters. He was still a hot favourite against world number 354 Durasovic and raced through the first set.

The three-time Grand Slam champion broke in the opening game of the second, but Durasovic battled back. He managed to stave off two match points in the tie-break but could not take a set point when leading 7-6 and Murray did enough to seal an enticing encounter with rising star Sinner. - Agencies

Raducanu stumbles to
early defeat in Linz

LINZ: US Open champion Emma Raducanu ended her breakthrough season on Tuesday when she was knocked out of the WTA event in Linz, losing her second round match 6-1, 6-7 (0/7), 7-5 to world number 106 Wang Xinyu. The 18-year-old top seed Raducanu, who confirmed after the match that Torben Beltz will be her new coach, stunned the tennis world in September when she became the first qualifier ever to win a major. Playing in just her third tournament since her Flushing Meadows success, the British teenager, now ranked 20 in the world, struggled against the 20-year-old Chinese who galloped through the first set as Raducanu battled to keep her service together.

The Briton was far from her most fluent in the second set but made short work of Wang in the tie-break which she took to love as she won 10 points in a row. Wang, however, stayed with her in the decider, breaking to go 5-4 up after which Raducanu took a medical time-out for treatment for a hip spasm. She picked herself up to save two match points and level at 5-5 but again failed to hold, allowing Wang to take her second opportunity to serve match, closing it out after two hours and 36 minutes. It marked another disappointing day at office for Raducanu who has been without a win since parting company with Andrew Richardson

Babar Azam
just opposite of
Kohli: Hayden

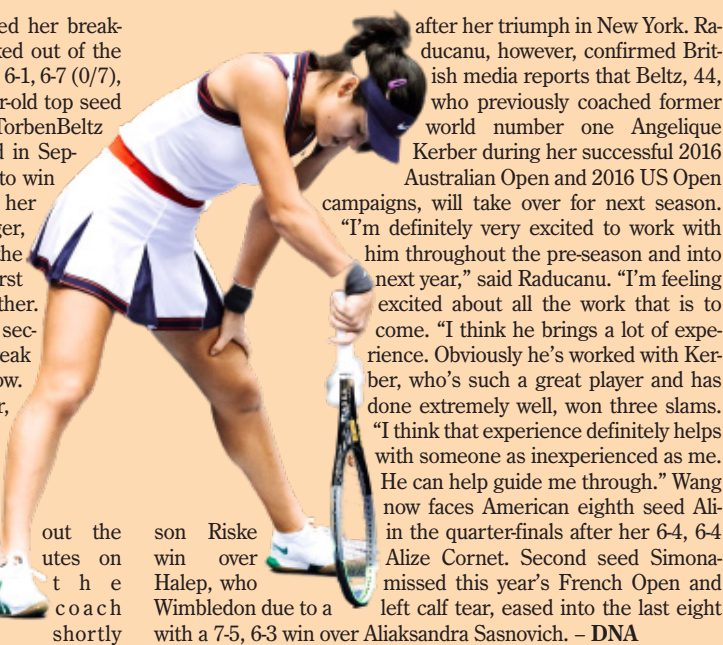
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after her triumph in New York. Raducanu, however, confirmed British media reports that Beltz, 44, who previously coached former world number one Angelique Kerber during her successful 2016 Australian Open and 2016 US Open campaigns, will take over for next season. "I'm definitely very excited to work with him throughout the pre-season and into next year," said Raducanu. "I'm feeling excited about all the work that is to come. I think he brings a lot of experience. Obviously he's worked with Kerber, who's such a great player and has done extremely well, won three slams. I think that experience definitely helps with someone as inexperienced as me. He can help guide me through." Wang now faces American eighth seed Ali in the quarter-finals after her 6-4, 6-4 Alize Cornet. Second seed Simona missed this year's French Open and a left calf tear, eased into the last eight with a 7-5, 6-3 win over Aliaksandra Sasnovich. - DNA

Brazil, Argentina eye World Cup qualification

MONTEVIDEO: Brazil host Colombia in Sao Paulo on Thursday knowing victory will book their ticket to Qatar with six World Cup qualifiers to spare following a near perfect record so far. Even a draw for the Selecao would be enough if Uruguay lose at home to Argentina on Friday, and Brazilian media have reported that coach Tite is already planning to head to the Arab Cup in Qatar next month to check out World Cup venues and facilities.

Publically, though, Tite is not getting ahead of himself with a trip to face arch rivals Argentina in San Juan on the horizon next week. "We have two important matches against two teams that, for me, are of the highest level," said Tite. "A good performance and a good result against Colombia will provide us with a good preparation for Argentina." Tite caused a surprise by recalling Barcelona's Philippe Coutinho to his squad after more than a year out, largely due to a nine-month absence with a knee injury that required three surgeries.

"It feels like it did the first time, that's how I see it every time I'm in the squad. It's an honor to wear this jersey," said Coutinho, who has struggled for playing time this season at his club. Brazil have dominated the single CONMEBOL World Cup qualifying group, winning 10 of their 11 matches and scoring 26 goals. Their only blemish was a 0-0 draw away to Colombia last month that

brought to an end a nine-match winning run. Another tight game is likely against a team on a run of three consecutive goalless draws. Colombia welcome back playmaker James Rodriguez for the first time in a year despite his ignominious start to life at Al-Rayyan, his new Qatari club.

Lats month, in only his third league match since leaving Everton, the former Real Madrid and Bayern Munich player was bizarrely sent off after picking up two quick-fire yellow cards for protesting after he was

awarded a free-kick. James's inclusion is a welcome boost for Colombia, who is without injured veteran striker Radamel Falcao. Colombia are currently locked in a tight battle to qualify automatically for the World Cup alongside Ecuador and Uruguay. The three sides are separated by a single point in the battle to finish in the top four places, with the fifth-placed finishers heading into an inter-confederation play-off.

Like Brazil, second-placed Argentina could also secure qualification this month, al-



though they would need other results to go their way. And they may have to do without star player Lionel Messi, who is suffering from knee and hamstring problems and has missed his club Paris Saint-Germain's last two matches. After their trip to Uruguay, Argentina, unbeaten in 25 matches, host Brazil next week and victories in both could be enough to book their ticket to Qatar. Uruguay, though, will be out for revenge after their 3-0 capitulation in Buenos Aires last month. They will be without injured Manchester United forward Edinson Cavani, although Atletico Madrid's Luis Suarez has travelled back to South America.

Having also crumbled 4-1 away to Brazil last month, iconic Uruguay coach Oscar Tabarez finds himself under pressure, with many fans believing the 74-year-old's record-breaking 15-year tenure should come to an end. He will also have to do without Real Madrid's Federico Valverde amongst eight absentees. Free-scoring Ecuador, in third, will look to bolster their qualification hopes as they host rock-bottom Venezuela on Thursday, before a trip to Chile next week. Only Venezuela appear out of the qualification picture, sitting nine points behind the top five, although Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Bolivia have some ground to make up with just six qualifiers left. Crucially, Paraguay host Chile and Peru entertain Bolivia on Thursday in must-win matches. - Agencies

Troika Plus
meeting
today

FROM PAGE 01

Pakistan has still not officially recognised the caretaker government in Afghanistan. However, Qureshi, after his visit to Kabul, told the media that he had invited the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan Amir Khan Muttaqi to Pakistan, who has accepted his invitation.

Pakistan, China, Russia, and the US have major stakes in bringing peace to Afghanistan. These countries have long been active participants in the Afghan peace talks. The four key players had established the forum named Troika Plus to restore peace in Afghanistan, develop regional consensus on the Afghan issue, and help the war-torn country in addressing its problems.

Opp. wants
PM to
resign...

FROM PAGE 01

the parliament was one another U-turn of the PM. He said calling the joint session in haste and then postponing it in hurry had shown the non-seriousness of the government and it had made the legislation a child's play. Shehbaz said that Tuesday's defeat in National Assembly had forced the government to postpone the joint meeting. He also said that the government was getting an escape to face the music from the opposition.

In addition to this, he said that the delay in a unified parliamentary session identifies the end of black legislations and the sensitive matters of law making are not being given required attention. Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz has reacted to the adjournment of the joint sitting of Parliament. Taking to her twitter account, Maryam Nawaz said she rejected Khan Sahib (PM Imran Khan) was just giving a speech that the members should vote in the joint sitting of considering it as 'jihad'.

"So can the nation ask why 'jihad' had to be abruptly postponed? By the way, the nation knows everything, but it is still possible to ask," she tweeted. Earlier in another tweet, the PML-N vice president mocked the prime minister and said that the days of torment on the country were coming to an end. Criticizing the prime minister, Maryam Nawaz said, "If bread is expensive, then eat less, what should I do? If sugar is expensive then leave it sweet, what should I do? If petrol expensive then doesn't drive, what should I do?"

"If rape is increasing, then women should not go outside, what should I do? Be patient with the family of martyrs, what should I do? You just keep on breaking the country like a torment! But now these days of torment are coming to an end! If you are restless, go to the grave, you will find peace. What should I do," Maryam satirically asked many questions pointing finger towards Imran Khan.

Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Spokesperson Maryam Aurangzeb said Fawad Chaudhry should speak the truth that the numbers were not complete, and the government allies were also not ready to vote so they postponed the session.

PTI allies
withdraw
support...

FROM PAGE 01

parliamentarians objected according to a private television channel report Wednesday. The allies have withdrawn their support for the EVM bill. The development, said the insiders, has led to the postponement of the joint parliamentary session scheduled for tomorrow wherein various bills, including one of NAB Ordinance, were to be tabled. Separately late yesterday, MQM-P leader and former port city mayor Waseem Akhtar said that his party, currently in the treasury seats enjoying alliance with the ruling party, is long-mulling parting ways with them as Karachi people who voted them still await any progress. In an exclusive interview tonight, with ARY's Har Lamha Purjosh program, the former mayor of Karachi said despite being allies with the ruling Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf since the beginning, the MQM-P was still not allowed to operate from its political offices in Karachi.

Briefs

Turkey marks 83rd death anniversary of Ataturk

WEB DESK

ANKARA: Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the leader of the country's War of Independence and founder of the Republic, died in 1938 in Istanbul at the age of 57. Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has marked the 83rd anniversary of the passing of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the Republic of Turkey.

Erdogan paid his respects to the country's founder and leader of its independence movement, at Anitkabir, Atatürk's mausoleum, in the capital Ankara on Wednesday.

"We will never allow the integrity of our country; the survival of our state; the unity, peace, and ancient values of our noble nation to be attacked," Erdogan wrote in the Anitkabir memorial book.

"We continue to enlarge and develop our republic, which you established and entrusted to us, and to make it the shining star of its region and the world, despite the hostiles involved in the aspirations of the invaders," he added.

"With the historical successes we have achieved in every field, especially in education, health, security, and industry, we are moving towards our 2023 goals with determination."

Afghan delegation visits Custom HQ-Peshawar

DNA

PESHAWAR: VP PAJCCI, Zia Sarhadi warmly welcomed Afghan Delegation led by Co-Chairman PAJCCI, Khan Jan Alkozai at Torkham Border who arrived to attend 8th focus group meeting in Islamabad on November 10.

Co-Chairman PAJCCI, Khan Jan Alkozai applauded the efforts of PAJCCI and Custom officials in ensuring smooth arrival via Torkham border and established that last like meeting where lot of issues get resolved, it is believed that a lot more would be achieved at this time also. The delegation visited custom house Torkham and discussed matters of importance with AD Customs Torkham, Muhammad Tayyab. Afghan delegation then visited Custom HQ - Peshawar where they were welcomed and well received by Director Transit Peshawar, Arbab Qaiser Hamid and Amjad-ur-Rehman, Collector Custom Appraisalment. Khan Jan Alkozai, appreciated Customs' hospitality and accredited them for their support.

Sino-Pak cos sign millions of dollar deals

ISLAMABAD: Nine Chinese companies are set to initiate long-term development projects in Pakistan, organizers of Pakistan Industrial Expo 2021 said according to Gwadar Pro. More than 100 Chinese companies participated in the 5th Pakistan Industrial Expo 2021 (October 29-31) through both physical and online participation.

The previous four editions of Pakistan Industrial Expo attracted 31 Chinese companies who are cooperating with local ones to set up assembling plants or technology exchange.

Numerous Pakistani associations and chambers also visited the venue and signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with the organizer. The organizer Everest International, announced that the Chinese and Pakistani companies had signed intended cooperation agreements (ICAs) worth US \$ 34 million in different sectors including construction, engineering, manufacturing and technology transfer. They said at least 9 Chinese companies are considering to start long-term development projects in Pakistani market as a result of interaction between both sides at the expo. - APP

Israeli govt will be responsible if Palestinian institutions damaged

The Ministry holds the Israeli government fully and directly responsible for any harm caused to these institutions or their employees as a result of these arbitrary decisions that fall within the framework of collective punishments imposed on the Palestinian people

DNA

RAMALLAH: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants of Palestine condemns in the strongest terms the military order issued by the occupation army to ban and prosecute the six Palestinian institutions, in implementation of the decision of the Minister of the Occupation Army, Benny Gantz, issued last month claiming that they are "terrorist organisations." Israel as a whole and as an extension of the comprehensive aggression launched by the occupying state against our people, and it is also a blatant attempt to muzzle and silence the voices that expose and follow up the violations and crimes of the occupation at all levels, especially European and international ones.

The Ministry holds the Israeli government fully and directly responsible for any harm caused to these institutions or their employees as a result of these arbitrary decisions that fall within the framework of collective punishments imposed on the Palestinian people.

The Ministry warns of the dangers and repercussions of this decision and the Is-

Yasser Arafat remembered

NEWS DESK

RAMALLAH: This historic day for the Palestinian people, for all Arabs and Muslims, and for all the independent people of the world, is a sad day that we all commemorate a great memory of the martyrdom of the first guerrilla and the founder of the modern and contemporary Palestinian revolution, a revolution against injustice, and against the Israeli occupation of Palestine. We will remain faithful to your just message of embodying the State of

Palestine, the cradle of religions, and its capital, Holy Jerusalem, the ascension of the Prophet Muhammad (Peace and Blessings be upon him), and the cradle of Prophet Jesus Christ (Peace be upon him), the message of achieving independence.

He is the immortal in us, Yasser Arafat, "Abu Ammar." He is the father, brother and leader, the first President of Palestine and the Palestinian people.

To his soul mercy, forgiveness, peace and paradise from the Lord of the worlds.



raeli military orders and its consequences and repercussions on the entire conflict arena, and calls on the international community, particularly the European Union and the United States of America, to move quickly to compel the occupation to reverse its terrorist decision. In a related context, the Palestinian diplomacy was able to put on the agenda of

the UN Security Council session to be held today in New York an explicit and clear item related to this Israeli decision to put the international community in the picture, details and dimensions of its repercussions, and at the same time, the international community put them before its responsibilities in providing international protection For our people

in general and to stop this decision and protect the institutions of Palestinian civil society. The ministry is also following up its contacts and action at the international level to condemn this decision, and to mobilize the broadest international front pressure on Israel to reverse its decision.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Palestine expresses its deep concern about the Colombian President, Ivan Duque, opening today an office for trade and innovation for his country in occupied Jerusalem, as part of an official visit to the occupying country, despite the demands of the State of Palestine not to take this step, which is a violation of international law.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Palestine is surprised by Colombia's taking this step, especially as it is known for its commitment to international law and international legitimacy resolutions that affirm that Jerusalem is an inseparable part of the occupied Palestinian territory, and therefore opening offices to represent the interests of countries in Jerusalem, regardless of its nature, is a violation of international law. And a departure from the basic standards and international positions that support the two-state solution.

The Ministry calls on Colombia to reverse this step, which is a reward for the occupying power and its racist policies, and an encouragement to it to continue committing more violations that undermine the imposition of peace.



BAKU: Pakistan ambassador to Azerbaijan Bilal Hayee meets with Rashad Nabiyyev, Minister of Digital Development and Transport of Azerbaijan. Both sides discussed potential areas of cooperation. - DNA

Merkel calls Putin amid migrants crisis

AGENCIES

BERLIN: The German chancellor and Russian president discussed the Poland-Belarus border crisis in a phone talk on Wednesday.

Angela Merkel's spokesman Steffen Seibert said the chancellor called on Russian President Vladimir Putin to use his influence on Belarus to stop the use of migrants as a political tool to exert pressure on the EU.

"She underlined that the instrumentalization of migrants by the Belarusian regime is inhumane and unacceptable," Seibert said on Twitter.

Tensions between Poland and Belarus escalated on Monday after nearly 4,000 migrants, mostly from the Middle East countries, headed to the Polish border and tried to breach the barriers. Poland's Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki had

accused Russian President Vladimir Putin of engineering the migration crisis.

A Kremlin statement emphasized that Putin told Merkel that the EU should discuss the migration crisis directly with Belarus.

The statement said both the leaders discussed the refugee situation on the borders of Belarus with the EU countries and expressed concerns over the humanitarian consequences of the migration crisis.

Putin proposed direct talks between the representatives of the EU member states and Belarus to address the problems, the Kremlin said.

The leaders agreed to continue the conversation on this topic, the statement added. The EU accuses Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko of engaging in a form of "hybrid" warfare and using migrants as a weapon to destabilize the European countries.

Trade fair ProdExpo2021 opened in Minsk, Belarus

DNA

MINSK: Ambassador Sajjad Haider Khan participated in the opening ceremony of the 27th International Specialized Wholesale Trade Fair "ProdExpo2021".

The Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus Alexander Subbotin opened the exhibition which will continue until 12 November. The Minister of Agriculture, members of Diplomatic Corps, government officials and business representatives also attended the ceremony. On this occasion, the Ambassador had a brief conversation with the Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus. The Ambassador briefed him about the current activities and collaborations between the two countries in the field of trade as well as education.

With reference to the par-

Genocide denial, Komsic breaks off interview

FOREIGN DESK

SARAJEVO: When it emerged that his interviewer denied the Srebrenica genocide, the Croat member of Bosnia and Herzegovina's presidency broke off the interview and walked away.

Video of the Tuesday interview with Serbia's state-run news agency Tanjug quickly went viral, with Bosnians praising Zeljko Komsic for refusing to continue talking with someone who denies the genocide, a fact confirmed by both historians and international court rulings.

In the interview, Komsic, president of the Presidential Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina, stressed that the reality of the 1995 Srebrenica genocide is "very important." Komsic then asked the interviewer why he would not recognize the genocide.

"A terrible crime was committed there (in Srebrenica),"



the interviewer replied.

"No, a genocide was committed," explained Komsic. "That is what the verdicts of the international court say. Genocide is not a 'terrible crime'. Some other crimes were terrible, but this is genocide."

The journalist then claimed that the genocide characterization was a position particular to Komsic.

"No, that is not my position, it is written in the verdicts of the international court," Komsic asserted.

Asked whether he agreed with verdict, Komsic shot back: "Don't you agree?" "I do not agree with that verdict," the journalist said.

Mostar Bridge demolition

SARAJEVO: With throwing flowers into the Neretva and jumping without applause, the 28th anniversary of the destruction of the Old Bridge was marked. The "Mostari" diving club, as it was the case in previous years, marked the anniversary of the demolition of the Old Bridge with a symbolic jump without applause at exactly 10.16 a.m., when the recognizable arch of the Old Bridge collapsed into the Neretva in 1993. On behalf of the Coordination Team for the organization of the celebration of the 28th anniversary of the demolition of the Old Bridge, Seada noted that this year primary schools from Stolac to Prozor were included in the marking of this anniversary. - APP

Kishida re-elected as Japan's PM

FOREIGN DESK

TOKYO: Japan's parliament on Wednesday re-elected Fumio Kishida as prime minister

after his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) won general elections in the country last month, local news reported. Kishida, also the leader of the LDP, was elected Japan's 100th premier early on Oct. 4 before calling for general elections.

A special session of the House of Representatives of the Japanese parliament was convened on Tuesday to re-elect Kishida, reported Kyodo News.

The LDP is supported by junior coalition partner Komeito in the parliament. "In a short period of time, the government has pushed forward policies with speed," said Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno. The coalition partners also agreed to give out cash and vouchers for \$886 to all children aged 18 or younger as Japan is struggling with a weakened economy due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CIIE reflects global community's trust on China

NEWS DESK

BEIJING: The International Import Expo (CIIE) that concluded on Wednesday in Shanghai reflected the trust of global community on China and the resilience of the Chinese people against all odds, according to an article carried by China Economic Net.

China hosted the fourth China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai. This event took place from November 4 to 10 where about 3000 businessmen from 127 countries participated, a number higher than previous editions.

Muhammad Asif Noor, Director of Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies, Pakistan writer of the article stated that at the opening ceremony, China's immense contribution towards global economic and social wellbeing was highlighted.

Since its inception, CIIE has become an enabling platform to showcase investment projects and exchange ideas to boost trade in goods and services. It has evolved into an initiative for public good where people from multiple cultures and nationalities come together for cooperation, trade, investment promotion and connectivity.

An interesting component of this expo is the mixture of online and physical exhibitions. A special zone has been dedicated to the theme of global health and pandemic prevention, which attracted high-ranking companies of Fortune Global 500.

Azerbaijan warns Armenia to stop provocations

"To deliberately create a military confrontation, the Armenian side tried to reinforce in the area by blocking the road between the positions of the Azerbaijani army in this area of the border, using baskets made of metal structures"

DNA

BAKU: The Azerbaijani Defence Ministry has stated that Armenia attempted another provocation on the state border in order to create a military confrontation. In an official statement posted on its website on November 10, the ministry said: "Armenia once again tried to commit an act of sabotage in the Lachin region area of the Armenian-Azerbaijani border."

The ministry stressed that at noon on November 9, about 60 Armenian servicemen in two military trucks moved towards the Lake Garagal in Lachin region and settled on the road leading to the Azerbaijani army's positions.

"To deliberately create a military confrontation, the Armenian side tried to reinforce in the area by

blocking the road between the positions of the Azerbaijani army in this area of the border, using baskets made of metal structures," the ministry said.

Units of the Azerbaijani army located in this direction carried out urgent measures within a short period of time, by concentrating additional personnel and military equipment in the area.

"As a result of the measures taken, about 60 Armenian servicemen were besieged and all their actions were restricted. In view of Russia's request in the early hours [on November 10], the Azerbaijani servicemen facilitated their return. We state that Armenia's another military provocation has failed," the ministry stated.

It pledged "tougher and more effective measures" if similar provocations repeat in the future.

"We hope that the Armenian army's next disgrace will be a lesson to them and such provocative steps will not be allowed in the future. The Azerbaijani army has no losses in terms of personnel and territory. The operational conditions are currently under the full control of units. All the responsibility for the recent tensions on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border lies with the military-political leadership of Armenia," the ministry said.

The Azerbaijani foreign and defence ministries earlier described Armenian Defence Minister Arshak Karapetyan's visit to Azerbaijan's Karabakh region as Armenia's another provocative act.

Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Leyla Abdullayeva underlined that this shows that Armenia is deliberately trying to aggravate the situation.

"And the fact that these steps were taken on the eve of the first anniversary of the signing of the trilateral statement serves the purpose of casting a shadow on the activities of the Russian peacekeepers, and in general, this is a violation of the provision of the trilateral statement," she stated. Moreover, the Azerbaijani Defence Ministry described Karapetyan's unauthorized entry into the Azerbaijani territory, holding meetings with illegal Armenian formations and expressing views on their combat readiness as a military-political provocation.

"The political and military leadership of Armenia, grossly violating the provisions of the trilateral statement, attempts to destabilize the situation in the region and overshadow the activities of Russian peacekeepers," the ministry stressed.

The ministry emphasized that the visit of the Armenian defence minister once again demonstrates that Armenia continues to directly support irregular Armenian military units, aggressive separatism, and terrorist acts on the Azerbaijani territory.

"We would like to remind the Armenian defence minister of the fate of his former colleagues and other Armenian generals who made utopian claims such as 'impassable Ohanyan line', 'new wars, new territories'," the ministry stated.

"We warn the military-political leadership of Armenia that in case of a continuation of such illegal visits to Azerbaijan's territory, the necessary measures will be taken to prevent aggressive separatism and terrorist acts in accordance with the legislation of Azerbaijan," the ministry added.



Briefs

Ahsan urges SC to summon PM over rigging

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Secretary General



Ahsan Iqbal has said that the Supreme Court should also take notice of the rigging in Daska by-election and summon the prime minister and the Punjab chief minister. Talking to the media men in Islamabad on Wednesday, Ahsan Iqbal said the Election Commission of Pakistan report on the rigging in Daska by-poll had exposed government 'dirty tactics'. He called for the accountability of those involved in the rigging. "If these people would be held accountable then it will set an example for others in the future," he added. Ahsan Iqbal criticizing the NAB said that the Finance Ministry informed that the NAB only submitted Rs6.5 billion in the national exchequer against receiving a supplementary grant of Rs5.5 billion in the last three months.

"This is a joke," he commented. He urged PTI supporters and those who believed Prime Minister Imran Khan is an honest person, to get information about gifts the premier received from foreign countries and why the government was hiding in the Toshakhana case.

Pakistani delegation in US to collaborate on ICT sector

ISLAMABAD: Fifteen Pakistani parliamentarians, officials, and civil society members discussed international best practices for information and communication technology (ICT) governance during a recent visit to Washington, D.C., organized and funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP).

Pakistani participants met with U.S. counterparts and discussed the opportunities and challenges of regulating the ICT sector. The delegation met with members of the Senate and House of Representatives, as well as U.S. Federal Trade Commission Chair Lina M. Khan, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Pakistan Affairs Lesslie Viguerie, and Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for South and Central Asia Zeba Reyazuddin. The delegation also engaged in a private sector roundtable that included representatives from Visa, Mastercard, Amazon, Facebook, and Google. — APP

Myanmar charges US journalist with terrorism

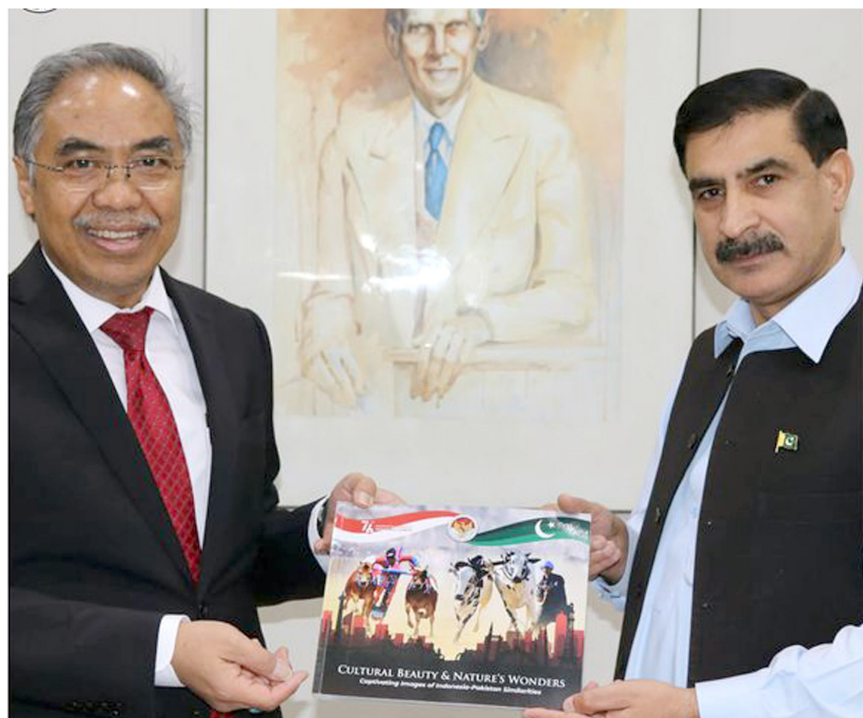
YANGON: Myanmar's junta has charged a US journalist detained since May with sedition and terrorism, which carry a maximum sentence of life imprisonment, his lawyer said Wednesday. The military has squeezed the press since taking power in a February coup, arresting dozens of journalists critical of its crackdown on dissent that has killed over 1,200 people, according to a local monitoring group. Danny Fenster, who had been working for local outlet Frontier Myanmar for around a year, was arrested as he was heading home to see his family in May and has been held in Yangon's Insein prison since. The 37-year-old is already on trial for allegedly encouraging dissent against the military, unlawful association and breaching immigration law. The additional charges under Myanmar's anti-terror and sedition laws open Fenster up to a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. The trial is scheduled to begin on November 16. — APP

Indonesia keen to expand academic links with Pakistan

The ambassador said that Indonesia takes pride of its world class tourist destination. It receives millions of foreign tourists from all corners of the world annually

BUREAU REPORT /DNA

PESHAWAR: The Vice Chancellor, University of Peshawar Prof. Dr. Muhammad Idrees welcomed the Indonesian ambassador Adam Mulawarman Tugio. University's Dean Prof Dr Zahid Anwar, Chairman Department of International Relations Dr. Syed Hussain Shaheed Soherwordi, Registrar Saifullah Khan, Directors and senior administrative staff members were also present on the occasion. National Anthem of both countries Pakistan and Indonesia were played at start of the program. During his address to the students and staff at Sahibzada Abdul Qayyum Auditorium the Indonesian ambassador said that Indonesian embassy is looking ahead to accommodate students of University of Peshawar in upcoming higher education scholarships phase. The ambassador said that his government is looking to facilitate students to students exchange programs, and University of Peshawar is one-stop to facilitate bilateral students to students and Faculty to faculty exchange program in both the countries. The ambassador said that Indonesia takes pride of its world class tourist destination. It receives millions of foreign tourists from all corners of the world annually. However, it is also true that in the absence of the insufficient marketing and promotion the outbound tourists in Pakistan are un-



PESHAWAR: Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugio presenting book on Indonesia to Vice Chancellor of Peshawar University. — DNA

ware of the huge and diverse tourism opportunities in Indonesia. Students can play a vital role to design a 3D model of all tourists places for better promotion. Similarly, Pakistan also offers many great

opportunities to the international tourists such as ecotourism and adventure tourism in its northern areas and the archeological and heritage tourism in the world famous cities of Taxila, Lahore and Mohenjodaro

etc. The Ambassador also mentioned the similarities in Pakistan and Indonesia regarding culture, tradition, food and art etc. As he also presented his book to the Vice Chancellor written on the said similarities. The Vice chancellor, University of Peshawar in his welcome and concluding remarks paid gratitude to visiting Indonesian ambassador for his commitment to promote and place University of Peshawar among the prominent universities of Pakistan. Vice Chancellor said that Indonesia-Pakistan bilateral relations have seen significant development as the two countries continuously endeavor to expand their all-round cooperation including in the areas of trade & economy, academic linkages and tourism, but now we will make the educational exchange program stronger. Dr. Syed Hussain Shaheed Soherwordi in his address said that Indeed, this visit of H.E the ambassador Adam Mulawarman Tugio provides us a timely platform as students from different departments are here and where we can discuss, exchange views and learn from one another experiences and suggestions to have better understanding of the issues and plan better next time when organizing promotional programs and events. Dr Shaheed also said that Pakistan and Indonesia has strong ties as former president of Indonesia Sukarno when visited Pakistan in 1963. And also there is square of his name in Peshawar "The Sukarno Square".

US embassy to remain closed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: U.S. Embassy Islamabad will be closed on Thursday, November 11, 2021, in observance of Veterans Day. The Embassy will re-open for official business on November 12, 2021.

Saudi energy minister blasts COP26 'lies'

NEWS DESK

RIYADH: The Saudi energy minister hit out on Wednesday at "lies" and "fabrications" over the Kingdom's stance at the COP26 climate change summit in Glasgow. After a speech in which he strongly defended Saudi Arabia's track record in combating global warming, Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman was asked about "serious allegations" that the Kingdom had been blocking negotiations at the meeting. He replied: "These are not serious allegations, these are fabricated allegations." Asked if the allegations amounted to lies, he said: "Absolutely."

Greenpeace, the environmental activist group with a history of animosity toward the Kingdom, made unsubstantiated claims this week that Saudi negotiators had obstructed progress at key meetings in Glasgow. Saudi negotiators have told Arab News the claims were "baseless and inaccurate." In his COP26 speech, a defiant Prince Abdulaziz mounted a plea for an unbiased and objective assessment of possible solutions to the urgent issue of global warming. The world was facing a "universal phenomenon" that required "an international, shared and effective response," he said.

Munir urges world to ward off crisis in Afghanistan

DNA

NEW YORK: Pakistan's Ambassador to the United Nations, Munir Akram, has said the world community has moral obligation to ward off the humanitarian crisis confronting the Afghan people.

In a tweet, he said after years of conflict, the Covid-19 pandemic and drought have combined to create a major humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, which is being compounded by the constraints placed on financial and economic support to the country. "Years of conflict, the Covid pandemic and drought have combined to create a major humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, which is being compounded by the constraints placed on financial and economic support to the country," the Pakistani envoy wrote on Twitter.

Ambassador Akram tweeted after PM Khan drew attention to the World Food Programme's alert about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, saying the world community has "moral obligation" to ward off the disaster confronting Afghan people. With a harsh winter on its way, the latest IPC (the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification) assessment, a global standard for assessing food insecurity, found 22.8 million people could face acute risk, while 8.7 million face emergency levels of hunger — a record in the ten years the UN has been conducting IPC analyses in the country. "The Afghan people need massive and unconditional humanitarian assistance from the international community to avoid a major human catastrophe," the Pakistani envoy said. "Financial liquidity must be provided to Afghanistan, including by releasing its frozen assets, to prevent its economic collapse and the destitution of its suffering people. "Politics must not deny the right to life of the Afghan people."



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Norway met with Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf Saeed Al Maliki, at the Saudi Embassy. — DNA

Chinese envoy visits Foreign National Security Cell

Says the Chinese govt will start further development projects in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Nong Rong on Wednesday visited Foreign National Security Cell, National Action Plan Secretariat and received a briefing on security to the Chinese citizens. Minister for Interior, Sheikh Rashid Ahmad received the envoy where he was informed about the steps taken by the law enforcement agencies to ensure the security of the Chinese citizens and overall security measures. Sheikh Rashid said that a secured atmosphere was a must for the promotion of economic activities between the two countries. He added the government was committed to ensuring a foolproof security mechanism and surveillance system. He said that the government had established a foreign national security cell in order to ensure a safe

and sound security system for foreigners in Pakistan. He added apex committees had been constituted for regular monitoring of security situations and coordinating security matters. He added it was also ensured to fully implement the recommendations of these apex committees. Chinese ambassador appreciated the decision of setting up a foreign national security cell and termed it a good step for ensuring security to Chinese citizens and various development projects. He said that common objectives will be achieved by enhancing coordination between the cell and the Chinese embassy. He said that the Chinese government will start further development projects in Pakistan as the Chinese government wants economic progress in Pakistan. — APP

Poland detains refugees, increases troops at border

Polish Defence Minister Mariusz Blaszczak told broadcaster that it was "not a calm night", as he reported "many attempts to breach the Polish border"

NEWS DESK

WARSZAWA: Poland has detained hundreds more migrants and refugees who attempted to enter the country from Belarus overnight and deployed 3,000 extra soldiers to strengthen the border. Polish Defence Minister Mariusz Blaszczak told broadcaster PR1 on Wednesday that it was "not a calm night", as he reported "many attempts to breach the Polish border". Some tried to break through a barbed-wire fence using spades and other tools, but were repelled by Polish security forces. Crowds of people have gathered in subzero temperatures near the Belarus-Poland frontier in recent days hoping to cross into the European Union nation, bringing a simmering months-long border crisis to a head and prompting flashbacks of the 2015

Russian bombers signal backing for Belarus

MOSCOW: Russia took the rare step of dispatching two nuclear-capable strategic bombers to patrol Belarusian airspace on Wednesday in a show of support to close ally Belarus at a time when it is locked in a migrant standoff with the European Union. Moscow's decision to up the ante came as the 27-nation bloc considered sanctions on Wednesday to punish Minsk for what it calls an artificially created crisis, something Belarus denies. Migrants trapped in Belarus made multiple attempts to force their way into Poland overnight, Warsaw said on Wednesday, announcing that it had reinforced the border with extra guards. — Agencies

refugee crisis. Polish radio station RMF said about 200 people tried to breach the border on Tuesday afternoon, and a second group of 60 people made an attempt after midnight. Blaszczak said all who attempted to cross were detained, and that the force of Polish soldiers stationed in the area had been strengthened to 15,000 from 12,000. Hundreds are camped along the border, a fraction of the estimated 4,000 migrants and refugees gathered in areas near the frontier, including nearby forests. Poland and other EU states accuse Belarus of encouraging the migrants and refugees — who are mostly from the Middle East, Afghanistan and Africa — to cross in revenge for Western sanctions on Minsk over President Alexander Lukashenko's crackdown on dissent after last year's disputed election.

India hosts moot on Afghanistan

NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI: India's archival Pakistan and China also declined to attend the Delhi Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan held on Wednesday following the fall of the United States-backed government and the Taliban takeover of the country. India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval had invited security chiefs from Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turk-

menistan and Uzbekistan for the talks. "This is a time for close consultation among us," Doval said in opening remarks before the meeting. He said he hoped the deliberations will help the people of Afghanistan and enhance the region's collective security. India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement the meeting will address "the relevant security challenges and support the people of Afghanistan in promoting peace, security and stability".



ISLAMABAD: Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed, Director General Inter Services Intelligence called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff. — DNA