



Islamabad POST

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

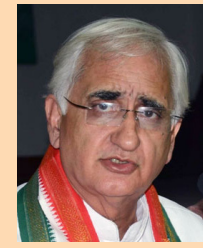
Price Rs. 20

Pakistan-China mull mutual cooperation in poverty reduction

Detailed News On Page-08

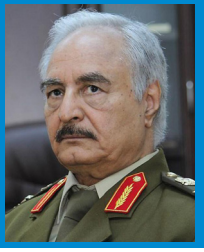
Extremists attack home of Indian Ex-FM

Detailed News On Page-08



Libya: Khalifa Haftar to run for President

Detailed News On Page-07



Briefs

India is on a dangerous path

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday said that India was pursuing the dangerous policy of Islamophobia and stressed the need for steps by sane elements in society to prevent the trend. He said India would lead itself to destruction by promoting hatred against Muslims. "Dangerous for India. In this Islamophobic hatred, India will destroy itself, no less," he wrote in a tweet. He said, "I hope and pray that sane elements within Indian society prevent this."

Allied parties on same page

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said on Tuesday that the government's electoral reforms are aimed at securing public interest. Talking to the media at the Parliament House here in Islamabad, the government has taken its allies into confidence on the matter. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that the government has no hidden agenda over the issue all they want is to ensure fair and transparent elections. The minister said we have also given enough time to opposition to think over the matter and suggest their amendments. He said all members of his party and allied parties are on same page for these reforms.

Govt not to complete its term

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former president Asif Ali Zardari said on Tuesday that those who brought Prime Minister Imran Khan into power now admit that they made a mistake. Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) co-chair made the remarks while talking to the media, following his appearance in the Islamabad accountability court. "Imran Khan's government will not complete its term. Now Allah knows best how to fix this mistake," the ex-president added.

'Our 5-year performance to bury Opp'

PM Imran says he wonders why opposition parties were opposing the use of technology in the elections

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that his government's five-year performance will "bury" the politics of his opponents and added that all his policies were focused on the future of the country instead of winning next election. "From day one, they [opposition] wanted to topple my government because they fear that their 'political shops' will be shut after [PTI's] five-year performance," said PM Imran while addressing a ground breaking ceremony of dualisation of Lillah-Jhelum road on Tuesday. PM Imran said past rulers made policies and built projects which were only aimed at winning next elections such as Metro Bus projects. Hailing the performance of his government, the premier said for the first time in the country's history his administration was undertaking long term projects to tackle the challenges of climate change and water crisis. "We are building mega dams... planted 2.5 billion trees and in the coming years 10 billion more trees will be planted," he added. PM Imran said Economist Magazine ranked Pakistan as the top country in the world which handled the Covid-19 pandemic in a best possible way despite limited resources.

Continued on Page 06

Fawad invites opposition to sit with govt

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry has once again invited the opposition parties to sit with the government on electoral and other reforms. Talking to the media persons outside the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in Islamabad on Tuesday, he said that a joint session of the parliament had been summoned tomorrow to get passed the electoral reforms bills. Chaudhry said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government would also welcome the suggestions of the opposition parties. "EVM [Electronic voting machine] and electoral reforms are not personal agenda of PTI and [PM] Imran Khan, it is a national agenda. Reforms are necessary, we are passing this bill tomorrow. All the allies have expressed full confidence in the leadership of the prime minister."

Continued on Page 06

India allows reopening of Kartarpur Corridor

India's Home Minister announced that the corridor will re-open from Wednesday

MONITORING DESK

NEW DELHI: India gave the green light for thousands of Sikh pilgrims to cross the border into Pakistan from Wednesday ahead of the birth anniversary of the religion's founder Guru Nanak. The Kartarpur Corridor, a visa-free crossing allowing Indian Sikhs to visit the temple in Pakistan where Guru Nanak passed away in 1539, first opened in 2019 for Nanak's 550th birth anniversary but was closed last year because of the pandemic. India's Home Minister Amit Shah announced that the corridor will re-open from Wednesday ahead of Nanak's birth anniversary celebrations this Friday. "In a major decision, that will benefit large numbers of Sikh pilgrims, PM @narendramodi gov't has decided to re-open the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor from tomorrow," he said on Twitter. "I am sure that [the] gov't's decision to re-open the Kartarpur Sahib corridor will further boost the joy and happiness across the country," Shah added. A Pakistani official source said the corridor had never been closed on the Pakistan side, and that they were waiting for confirmation from Indian authorities that the pilgrims would be allowed to cross.

Anniversary ceremonies begin at Kartarpur

NAROWAL: The ceremonies to mark the 552nd birth anniversary of Sikh faith founder Baba Guru Nanak Dev Ji will begin at Kartarpur Gurdwara Complex on Wednesday. Thousands of Sikh Yatees residing across the world and in India are arriving to attend the event. A delegation of ten Afghan Sikh Yatees arrived in Peshawar through Torkham border crossing on Tuesday. During their stay in Pakistan, the Sikh Yatees would pay obeisance at different Gurdwaras including Gurdwara Janam Asthan in Nankana Sahib and Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur. Meanwhile, all arrangements have been finalized to welcome Sikh pilgrims participating in 552nd birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak. This was stated by the spokesperson of Evacuee Trust Property Board Amir Hashmi in an exclusive talk with Radio Pakistan's Lahore correspondent Ahmad Kamal today. - DNA

Imran appreciates foreign participation in ITIF fair

The diplomats from Iran and Belarus also visited the exhibition. As many as 54 local and foreign delegates are participating in the expo

NAZIR H SIYAL

KARACHI: Governor Sindh Imran Ismail has appreciated the measures taken by the government to control Covid-19 pandemic, which is evident from the participation of foreign delegations in the 17th International Trade and Industrial Fair. He was speaking at the inauguration of the exhibition on Tuesday. The three-day event will conclude on November 18, 2021. The diplomats from Iran and Belarus also visited the exhibition. As many as 54 local and foreign delegates are participating in the expo. Several companies from Belarus and Iran have setup over 100 stalls showcasing their products. Business-to-business (B2B) meetings also held. Governor Sindh said Expo Center Karachi was the hub of trade fairs, and added this arena would soon be modernized, while the Vaccination Center would be limited to one hall to facilitate and encourage the foreign visitors. Andrei Metelitsa, Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus to Pakistan discussed bilateral relations. He welcomed all kinds of cooperation with Pakistan and stated that bilateral ties



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Imran Ismail, Ambassador of Belarus Andrei Metelitsa and others inaugurating the 3-Day 17th ITIF Asia expo. - DNA

are based on mutual connectivity. Andrei Metelitsa said Pakistan would be an important trading hub going forward. He said International Trade and Industrial Fair is an important forum for the promotion of petrochemicals, tyres and other products. The diplomat said bilateral trade between two



KARACHI: Andrei Metelitsa, the Ambassador Republic of Belarus, reading Daily Islamabad Post during visit of 3-Day 17th ITIF Asia here at local hotel on Tuesday. - DNA

and industrial exhibition and expressed intentions to further improve bilateral relations with Pakistan. Vice President Ecommerce Gateway Pakistan, Umair Nizam said the pandemic had frozen all activities, and now trade is on a new path.

"Leading local and international brands are showcasing alternate energy, auto engineering and transport sector products." Umair Nizam said over 5,000 visitors attended the event. It is expected over 10,000 persons would visit this exhibition.



ISLAMABAD: PM Imran Khan performs ground-breaking of Lillah - Jehlum Carriageway. - DNA

'Govt pressuring parties to partake in joint session'

"Struggling against such elements is 'jihad," Moulana Fazl says

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The PTI-led government is pressuring parties with smaller representation to participate in Wednesday's joint Parliament session, Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman said Tuesday. The government has decided to convene the joint sitting as it continues its efforts to coax political allies - the PML-Q and the MQM-P - to rein in their support for the bills it plans to table



on the electronic voting machines (EVMs), NAB, and other issues. The PDM chief, addressing a press conference along with other

Continued on Page 06

Joint session of parliament today

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The government has convened a joint sitting of parliament on Wednesday (today) to get controversial bills, including the one on the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), passed. To gain support for the legislation, Prime Minister Imran Khan had earlier convened a meeting of the government allies - Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM) and Pakistan Muslim League-Q (PML-Q) - on Monday. However, following the meeting, the coalition partners still remained uncertain about supporting the bills, including those related to EVMs and giving voting rights to over nine million overseas Pakistanis.

Macron reverts flag to navy blue

Previously, the shade was lighter to match the blue of the EU flag

PARIS: The French presidency has reverted the blue of the country's tricolour flag back to the pre-1976 navy tone in a nod to the Revolution. Previously, the shade was lighter to match the blue of the EU flag as decided by President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing in 1976. "The President of the Republic has chosen for the tricolour flags that adorn the Elysée Palace the navy blue that evokes the imagination of the Volunteers of Year II, the Poilus of 1914 and the Compagnons de la Libération of Free France". - DNA

IHC serves show cause notices to Shamim, others

The court said that the ex-chief judge and the said journalist would have to present evidence to prove their claims

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday served show-cause notices to ex-chief judge of Gilgit Baltistan Rana Shamim and others in controversial statements' case, and instructed the respondents to submit their reply within seven days. Attorney General of Pakistan Khalid Javed, Advocate General Islamabad Niazullah Niazi, journalist Ansar Abbasi and Chief Editor of an English daily newspaper

Mir Shakeel ur Rehman appeared before the court. However, Rana Shamim remained absent from the proceeding and his son Ahmed Hassan Rana appeared on behalf of him. Rejecting the apology requests by the respondents, the court asked them to submit written reply in response of the show cause notices till next date. Addressing Mir Shakeel ur Rehman, Chief Justice Athar Minallah said this court had summoned him unwillingly.

Continued on Page 06

Taliban asks UN for a seat at the table

Taliban regime complying with the Doha agreement and the government would not let int'l terrorist outfits operate on its soil

NEWS DESK

KABUL: The Taliban government in Afghanistan has urged the United Nations (UN) to recognise the new regime in Kabul, saying the Taliban regime would have "positive relations" with all countries, including the United States. In a series of tweets on Tuesday, Taliban Spokesperson Suhail Shaheen said the takeover of Kabul by the Taliban "opened up a new phase" of investments and joint ventures in Afghanistan. The spokesperson further said that the Taliban regime was complying with the Doha agreement and the government would not let international terrorist outfits operate on its soil.

Continued on Page 06

UNSC: Pak opposes new permanent seats

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 8 (APP):Pakistan has reaffirmed its strong opposition to the drive by the Group of Four - India, Brazil, Germany and Japan - for permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council, saying there is no justification for creating "new centers of privilege" within the UN. "There are no states which can justifiably claim such unequal and elevated status, on the basis of any objective criteria," Ambassador Munir Akram told the UN General Assembly which debated Security Council reform on Monday. - APP

Inside...

US-Pakistan hopes for faithful ties in future: John Coronado - Page 02

"Tormented Truth 1971 & Beyond" sheds light on war - Page 03

Asad Qaiser assures resolving issues of business community - Page 04

Vilification of Indian Muslims: The method in the madness - Page 05

Racism in English cricket is 'institutional': Azeem - Page 06

Xi-Biden talks raise hope for better ties but strains remain - Page 07

Azerbaijan will always remember Pak support during Patriotic War - Page 08

US, Pakistan hope for faithful ties in future, says John Coronado

John said it's timely a need, he know that there are business opportunities and task to everything we talking about which is a reason we are here

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: A Joint Venture of Ghani Global Holdings Limited (GGL) and Kilowatt Labs Inc USA held a Signing Ceremony here at the local hotel on Tuesday. On the occasion, Guest of honour Mr. John Coronado US Commercial Counselor Pakistan, the President GGL group Mr. Ashraf Bhawani and CEO Atique Ahmed Khan, Chairman AKD group, Aqeel Karim Dhedhi and various other business heads and CEOs of local and international organizations attended the Joint Venture event. The Speakers spoke high about the electric super Ca-

pacitor energy is the future of technologies and in this connection, Pakistan would be among eighth country to start the super Capacitors energy at large for every aspects of life and EV automobile technology etc they said. The guest Speaker US Commercial Counselor Pakistan, Mr. John Coronado expressed that this moment is precious and great for us not only for business but talking about as part of a business, which is also a part of US Government and our job is to promote business ties and relationships between United States and Pakistan he said. He further said I am happy to see few familiar names

on the list as I walking in, happy to talk about some subjects that are very timely, added earlier a week, he took participate in a round table discussion that was specific to electric vehicles and obviously a large part of that has to do storage, battery and everything else and so everything that we are discussing here is need of the hour. John said it's timely a need, he know that there are business opportunities and task to everything we talking about which is a reason we are here and my office as the US commercial services offered always happy as it is US consulate here in Karachi he told. He assured that the US

Embassy in Islamabad always to support further ties between US industry and partners in Pakistan, there is so much room for us to grow and those ties and I know that US companies are always keen to be part of that growth, they are keen to be part of those partnerships that not only look out what's good business by them, what is good for Pakistan is, whether it's energy or there is waste energy, water treatment across the big opportunities. He said we are happy to support those efforts, let me just wish the bird a best of successful, I'm sure it's going to be long and faithful relationship in future.



KARACHI: Nazir Siyal Islamabad POST Bureau Chief in Karachi, in a group photo with Ambassador of Belarus and others during the expo, on Tuesday. – DNA

CM Punjab meets Prime Minister Imran Khan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Punjab Usman Buzdar has reportedly met Prime Minister Imran Khan to discuss the current political situation of the country. According to the sources, consultations were made between the two on the political situation and Joint session of the Parliament. During the meeting, CM Punjab briefed the PM regarding ongoing projects in different constituencies of Punjab. Chief Minister assured the PM that all issues of the members of the National Assembly will be solved. CM Punjab has invited members of the Tehreek-e-Insaf on dinner. He will give dinner to the Tehreek-e-Insaf and allied members of the National Assembly at Punjab House.

UAJK Neelum to launch Tourism Program

MUZAFFARABAD: The Vice-Chancellor of Azad Jammu and Kashmir University, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi has said the university will launch the Tourism and Hospitality Management Program in its Neelum Campus to cater to the future need of the tourism and hospitality professionals in the region. He was talking to a representative delegation of students of Neelum Valley Campus of the University, which called on him and briefed him about the problems of students studying on the campus. The Vice-Chancellor said that the Neelum Valley is one of the most attractive places in the tourist community and the study of tourism is best suited to the students of this region to enhance their awareness of the growing importance of this industry and the economic benefit attached to this sector. – APP

DC inspects quality and prices of essential commodities

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Ali Shahzad himself came to the field to check the availability, quality and prices of essential commodities specially sugar and flour and conducted spot checks in different areas including Razaabad. Deputy Commissioner also inquired from the customers about the quality and prices of essential items. The Deputy Commissioner clarified that the prices of items in the markets, ba-

zaars and super stores will be implemented at a fixed rate to ensure relief to the consumers. He asked the shopkeepers to pay the prices fixed at the officially fixed prices other wise they will be behind bars for complaining of defective items in this regard. The DC urged the Assistant Commissioners to continue the process of price checking and no concession should be made to the vendors who rob the consumers.

1000 bags of fertilizer seized
Assistant Commissioner

City Sahibzada Muhammad Yousuf conducted a successful raid and seized 1000 bags of urea and DAP fertilizer stored in the godown and sealed the warehouse. When the warehouse was raided near Small Industrial, Estate chak 7 J.B bags of fertilizer were stored there, which were seized by the Assistant Commissioner and under the supervision of revenue and Agriculture the sale of fertilizer is being carried. AC also imposed a fine of Rs.25 thousand for not maintaining the stock cash register.



Over 4.37 mln people vaccinated in Faisalabad

FAISALABAD: Over 4.37 million (4,374,612) people have so far been vaccinated against COVID-19 in the district. District Health Officer Dr Ataul Mun'im said on Tuesday that 2,940,579 citizens were injected first dose while 1,371,988 were administered the second dose of vaccine. He further said that 38,319 health workers were also given first dose while 23,726 received the second dose of vaccine. He said that sufficient stock of coronavirus vaccine was available in the district. He said that 37 vaccination centres and 20 mobile vaccination camps were operational in Faisalabad where registered people were being vaccinated. In order to facilitate the people these centres had been established in various areas of the city including Allied Hospital, District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ), Government General Hospital G.M Abad, Faisalabad Institute of Cardiology, Government General Hospital Samanabad, Children Hospital, Sports Complex Samanabad, Tehsil Headquarters (THQ) Hospital Jaranwala, Samundri, Tandianwala, Chak Jhumra and Chak 469-GB, he added. He further said that timing of these vaccination centres was 8 a.m to 8 p.m except Sports Complex Samanabad centre which would remain open round the clock.

FIA arrests in-charge Utility Store

DNA

KARACHI: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Corporate Crime Circle has arrested the in-charge of a utility store for embezzling more than Rs160 million. According to details, the FIA Corporate Crime Circle in Karachi conducted an operation and arrested the in-charge of the utility store who embezzled more than Rs 160 million during the operation. The Federal Investigation Team said that the accused named Mukhtarwasim was in charge of the Gulshan-e-Hadeed Utility Store. According to the preliminary investigation, the accused had committed fraud of Rs12.7 million.

KP govt establishes 19 model shelter homes

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has established 19 model shelter homes in different districts to provide quality accommodation facilities to shelter less and poor people during harsh weather conditions. Out of these shelter homes, eight were established by Pakistan Baitul Mall in different districts of the province. "Establishment of shelter homes is a great step of PTI Govt as the past government's did not pay any heed to the plights of homeless people," Younas Afridi, District Officer, Social Welfare Department told APP on Tuesday. Restoring the dignity and self-respect of shelterless and destitute, the shelter homes established under the Prime Minister's vision to turn Pakistan into Madinah-like social welfare

state, has started delivering in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where hundreds of thousands of underprivileged and vulnerable segments benefited in the province most vulnerable to climate change. Being the brinchild of Prime Minister Imran Khan, shelter homes working under the supervision of Social Welfare Department and Pakistan Baitul Mall were unique projects of the PTI Govt facilitated a large numbers of poor and homeless people, senior citizens, needy women and children in KP since 2018. He said the main objective behind establishing of shelter homes was to restore self-respect of shelter less who spend nights under open sky and provide quality accommodation and meal to them free of charge. These facilities are aimed at broadening the circle of social

responsibility between the state and citizens. KP government have setup a model shelter home at Pachagi Road Peshawar where all modern facilities including free breakfast, meal, transport and others services being provided to shelterless since 2018. He said currently, we have 100-bed capacity at Pachagi shelter home and efforts was on to increase it before harsh winter season. Pachagi shelter homes is a prime choice of shelter less, destitute and underprivileged segment of the society where free services including night accommodation are also being provided to passengers of other districts, he said, adding over 1,30,000 people have been benefited only from Pachagi shelter home established three years ago in heart of Peshawar City. – APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Ali Alizada called on Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Shafqat Mahmood at his office. – APP

AJK PM urges world to end silence over IIOJK

Niazi said more than one hundred youths were martyred by the Indian forces while many innocent civilians had gone missing during the so-called search operations conducted by the Indian army

MIRPUR: Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi on Tuesday said India was violating the political and religious rights of Kashmiris besides committing massive human rights abuses in IIOJK blatantly defying Global norms and commitments in the Internationally acknowledged disputed territory. The Prime Minister expressed these views while talking to Chairman Kashmir Committee Shehryar Afridi who called on him at Jammu and Kashmir House in the federal metropolis. Niazi said Central Jamae Mao-

sque in occupied Srinagar was constantly lying closed for a long and the cowardly Indian army was terrorizing the Kashmiris. He said the Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan has projected Kashmir issue effectively in its true perspective internationally and has also mobilized the Islamic Ummah for resolving the Kashmir dispute to establish lasting and durable peace in the region. Niazi said more than one hundred youths were martyred by the Indian forces while many innocent civilians had gone miss-

ing during the so-called search operations conducted by the Indian army. He said India was constantly violating human rights in occupied Kashmir and attempts were being made to promote Hindutva on which the United Nations and human rights organizations were observing silence, which they should immediately end. He said Indian forces had intensified the reign of terror in occupied Kashmir to crush the indigenous freedom movement launched by the people of occupied Kashmir for attaining their fundamental

right to self determination. He said India was engaged to reduce the Muslim population in occupied Kashmir while the Hurriyat leaders had been put behind the bar and all atrocities were being perpetrated to suppress their voices. The Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi said freedom movement was enlightened by the blood of martyrs which no power of the world could suppress. The Chairman of the Kashmir Committee Shehryar Afridi reiterated his commitment that Pakistan would continue to provide

political, moral and diplomatic support to Kashmiris in attaining their right to self determination. Under the leadership of Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan, they would continue to highlight the case of Kashmir at every international forum. He highly commended the supreme sacrifices offered by the Kashmiri people for the liberation of occupied Kashmir. He expressed hope that long night of terror and repressions would soon end and Kashmiri would ultimately get their fundamental right to self determination. – APP

PTCL achieved tier III certification

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Telecommunication Company (PTCL) has received tier-III certification of design for its Commercial Data Center (CDC) in Lahore from Uptime Institute (UI). The certification validates PTCL stringent compliance with international standards in modern data center design and management for delivery of high-quality hosting facilities to its customers. The certification followed a rigorous assessment based on the design of mechanical and electrical components, testing PTCL's highest standards in performance and readiness for seamless delivery of digital facilities to commercial clientele. PTCL designed the data center to also allow maintenance of its digital infrastructure without impacting its services. PTCL's CDC is a carrier-neutral facility that provides enhanced ease and flexibility to subscribers to use digital connectivity from multiple carriers of their choosing. Commenting on the achievement, Saad Muzaffar Waraich, Group Chief Information Officer, PTCL & Ufone, said, "We are glad to receive the tier-3 certification for our data center. It comes as a validation of our commitment to excellence in digital services delivery to our customers. The endorsement from a reliable certification institute will not only reinforce our resolve to further enhance and modernize our digital facilities, but also highlight PTCL's data hosting services as the most dependable and high-quality data solution for all enterprises in the country." PTCL being the national carrier of Pakistan, ushers in high quality digital services to help individuals as well as businesses to reach their full potential for growth and sustainability.



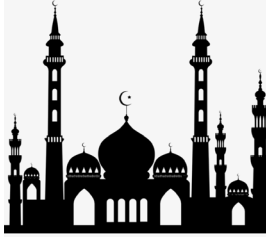
FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Ali Shahzad inspected the price checking at different shops. – DNA

ANF seizes 596KG drugs, arrests 36

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force Pakistan seized 596.787 Kg narcotics valuing US\$ 74.237 Million internationally, arrested 36 culprits including 3 women & 2 Nigerian Nationals and impounded 12 vehicles while conducting 30 counter-narcotics strikes throughout the country. The seized drugs comprised 141.555 Kg Heroin, 287.415 Kg Hashish, 99.2 Kg Opium, 2.044 Kg Amphetamine, 14.92 Kg Methamphetamine (Ice), 1.539 Kg Cocaine, 50 Kg Ketamine and 220 x Ecstasy Tablets (0.114 Kg). ANF Balochistan, recovered 180.246 Kg drugs in 4 operations while arrested 5 accused and seized 3 x vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 70 Kg Heroin, 110.2 Kg Hashish and 100 x Ecstasy Tablets (0.046 Kg). ANF Punjab, recovered 26.055 Kg drugs in 5 operations while arrested 4 accused and seized 1 x vehicle. The seized drugs comprised 23.415 Kg Heroin, 0.600 Kg Hashish, 0.800 Kg Opium and 1.240 Kg Methamphetamine (Ice). ANF KPK, recovered

246.537 Kg drugs in 8 operations while arrested 11 accused including 1 woman & 1 Nigerian National and seized 3 x vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 0.09 Kg Heroin, 175.2 Kg Hashish, 60 Kg Opium, 10.06 Kg Methamphetamine (Ice) and 1.187 Kg Cocaine. ANF Sindh, recovered 101.25 Kg drugs in 5 operations while arrested 4 accused and seized 2 x vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 48 Kg Heroin, 1.400 Kg Hashish, 1.500 Kg Methamphetamine (Ice), 0.350 Kg Cocaine and 50 Kg Ketamine. ANF North, recovered 42.699 Kg drugs in 8 operations and arrested 12 accused including 2 women & 1 Nigerian National and seized 3 x vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 0.050 Kg Heroin, 0.015 Kg Hashish, 38.400 Kg Opium, 2.044 Kg Amphetamine, 2.12 Kg Methamphetamine (Ice), 0.002 Kg Cocaine and 120 x Ecstasy Tablets (0.068 Kg). All cases have been registered at respective ANF Police Stations under CNS Act 1997 and further investigations are under process. – APP

SERVICES



Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	05:14 am
Zohr.....	11:52 am
Asr.....	03:26 pm
Maghrib.....	05:04 pm
Isha.....	06:30 pm



Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines

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



Emergency

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



Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....	115
PIA Flight Info.....	114
PIA Cargo.....	9280979
Railway Enquiry.....	117
Railway Exchange.....	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.....	5555489
CAA.....	9281092



Hospitals

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



Departments

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



Complaints

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

Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....	0331-5022125
-----------------	--------------

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Leader of the House in Senate, Senator Shahzad Waseem, CEO Serena Hotels Aziz Boolani and others taking interest in the vintage cars during a show held at the Islamabad Serena Hotel, on Tuesday. – DNA

“Tormented Truth 1971 & Beyond” sheds light on war

The book is written with the aim of to get rid of the myth of three million Bengalis genocide carried out by Pakistan Army in 1971: S.M Hali

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The India Study Centre (ISC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized the Book Launch of “Tormented Truth 1971 & Beyond...” authored by Group Captain (Retd) S. M. Hali SI (M) on November 16, 2021, at ISSI, Islamabad. The event was attended by diplomats, dignitaries, scholars, students, journalists, and people from all walks of life. Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, welcomed the Chief Guest General Ehsan ul Haq, NI (M), (Retd), the distinguished audience and participants. The DG ISSI expressed his utmost delight for covering a rather neglected research topic in the history of Pakistan and congratulated the author Group Captain (Retd) S. M. Hali. He recalled his teenage years when the unfortunate event of 1971 happened. He said that it is torment-



ed history in which Gen. Yahya, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto share a responsibility. Their actions provided India an opportunity to dismember Pakistan. However, the DG ISSI Amb. Chaudhry did condemn the illegal and immoral Indian intervention in Pakistan's internal affairs. Earlier, Dr. Saif ur Rehman Malik, Director ISC, lauded Group Captain (Retd) S. M. Hali for producing the book. He said that the ISC under the able guidance of DG ISSI Amb. Aizaz Ahmad

Chaudhry has so far conducted 16 major events involving national and international speakers. Recently, the ISC has also produced a book entitled “India's Relations with Neighbours: Cooperation or Confrontation?,” covering India's foreign relations with its neighbours, he added. Group Captain (Retd) S. M. Hali, SI (M) while shedding lights on his book said that his research and title of the book tell the truth about the dismemberment of Pakistan in 1971. He said that it is very important to know

that why he had written this book. The book is written with the aim of to get rid of the myth of three million Bengalis genocide carried out by Pakistan Army in 1971. The myth of three million Bengalis genocide is a part of Bangladeshi syllabus. Hali said that he had realized that the truth must be told to the world. We acknowledge that Bangladesh is a reality, and it has been thriving and we Pakistan are proud of their success but still the truth must be told and every few years the old

wounds are opened that Pakistan Army has to apologize and the people of Pakistan have to apologize. In last, he said that let's move forward with message of friendship. Senator Javed Jabbar while expressing his views articulated that why truth is associated with torment and truth is supposed to be beautiful and supreme revealing everything. The truth can be a source of great pain and the truth sometimes cannot be born. When sometimes the truth is distorted as it has been

since 1971. And 1971 will remain a source of disturbing memory. Hali has made an extensively researched effort and added further literature. The creation of Bangladesh did not reject the reality of Muslim nationalism in South Asia. It rejected the original state structure of Pakistan even the constitution of Bangladesh Article 2A says that the state religion will remain Islam, he added. Later, Ambassador Salahuddin Chaudhry, said that being a person of Bengali origin, he followed the advice of his father (Vice Chancellor International Islamic University) to stay in Rawalpindi and he vehemently argued that he is a proud Pakistani. He shared his personal experiences of Hindu Bengalis and people of India tormenting the people of East Pakistan, especially those who had a patriotic view of Pakistan. Amb. Chaudhry did congratulate the author for laborious research and worthy analysis.

Gang busted over raping & blackmailing girls

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Cyber Crime Cell has arrested the gang members including cops who were involved in raping and blackmailing young girls, on Tuesday. A gang was busted by FIA that was involved in filming videos of young girls after raping them for blackmailing purposes. According to the agency, two officials of Punjab police were also arrested for their alleged involvement in the heinous crime. The raids were conducted by the FIA cybercrime team in different localities of Rawalpindi following the complaint of a victim girl. The girl had registered a complaint that the accused Subhan used to send her obscene videos through different mobile numbers. The victim girl said that the accused had demanded Rs500,000 from her after threatening her to forward her videos to her parents. – Agencies

Panahgahs ensure quality shelter, food for everyone

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Focal Person on Shelter Homes (Panahgah) Naseem ur Rehman on Tuesday said shelter homes have revived centuries old heritage of Mughal era that was helping to provide quality shelter to the neglected segments of the society including labourers, tourists and travellers without any discrimination. He explained that most people were visiting from far-flung areas of the country in Islamabad in search of jobs and study but due to the expensive rate of hotels they were not able to get affordable places but under Ehsaas Panahgahs government would facilitate them by providing them quality shelter and best food services. In an interview with APP, he said shelter homes programme

is not only a charity, but also helping to reduce poverty which is the act of justice as the provision of shelter and food is the basic right of every person. The Panahgah programme was initiated in December 2018 to provide free accommodation and food facilities to poor people and daily earners, to materialise Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision of transforming the country into Madina-like state where all the citizens irrespective of their caste, religion, race and social status are treated equally. Prime Minister Imran Khan during a visit noted that the people were sleeping on roadside and in public parks. Panahgahs are connecting places, “we connect those who need help with those who want help,” Naseem said. He said on the direction of Prime Minister, the work on the establishment of Panahgahs was immediately initiated and now the programme is getting momentum with each passing day. To a query, Naseem said living in Panahgahs, the migrant workers would save Rs 7,000 per month that obviously provided him an opportunity to directly spend the hard earned money on his family welfare. – DNA

Germany pledges to invest in climate, energy sector

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (NEECA), supported by the German Development Cooperation, organised a stakeholder workshop in Islamabad on 16th November 2021 to identify the prevailing roadblocks to adapting energy efficiency in the building sector in Pakistan. Key actors from Pakistan's energy sector attended the workshop and discussed the key barriers that pre-

vent the implementation of building energy conservation in Pakistan. A study on the roadblock analysis on energy efficiency for building sector in Pakistan was also presented at the workshop. The study highlights the international best practices and provides information on the energy efficient appliances and building insulation material available in the Pakistani market. It also emphasises on the importance of re-structuring the existing building codes through incorporating energy efficiency measures.

The workshop was attended by the representatives from the Ministry of Energy, Pakistan Planning Commission, Municipal Development Authorities, World Bank, Pakistan Green Building Council, Naya Pakistan Housing Authority and Association of Architects among others. They discussed and identified four major roadblocks to energy efficiency in the building sector including (i) product knowledge based; (ii) institutional; (iii) financial and (iv) institutional. They also proposed solutions to minimise these roadblocks for

promoting energy conservation in the buildings in Pakistan. Dr. Sardar Mohazzam, Managing Director NEECA, while speaking at the workshop highlighted the major initiatives of NEECA for promoting energy efficiency in Pakistan and stressed upon the importance of analysing the roadblocks to energy efficiency in consultation with all stakeholders. “The roadblock analysis provides key insights and will be very useful for informed policy making for improving energy efficiency in the building sector”.

38,018 vehicles with tinted glasses fined

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has fined some 38,018 vehicles having tinted glasses during its ongoing campaign. ITP has constituted special squads for effective action against those vehicles having tinted glasses and fancy number plates, a news release said. Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Muhammad Sarfraz Virk has urged the citizens to obey traffic laws, avoiding tinted glasses to ensure safe road environment in the city. He directed to take strict action against the tinted glass vehicles as per law with a purpose to eliminate the VIP culture. The SP ordered to check every violation and issue violation ticket to every violator. “The elimination of VIP culture and equal application of law are our main objectives which would be achieved at every cost,” he maintained. He directed his staff to continue education campaign and inculcate traffic sense among the road users along with the enforcement of law. He stressed the need to bridge the gap between police and public through polite attitude and by demonstrating sense of responsibility. The SP (Traffic) said that this campaign will remain continue in the coming days to curb this violation effectively. – APP

International conference on CPEC kicks off at IIUI

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Iqbal International Institute for Research and Dialogue (IRD), International Islamic University Islamabad is organising a two-day international conference on “Pak-China Economic Corridor and Formation of Different Narratives” on Wednesday at Qaid-e-Azam Auditorium, Faisal Masjid Campus Islamabad at 9 am. The conference will be attended by eminent national and international experts in economics, sociology and mass media. In different sessions of the conference, these experts will discuss various aspects of CPEC's regional and global impact. Explaining aims and objectives of the conference, Dr. Hassan Al-Amin, Executive Director, Iqbal International Institute for Research and Dialogue told APP that CPEC is an important project aimed at extending the western part of China to the southern Arabian Sea. Many sub-projects of energy, infrastructure, railways and other industries are being implemented and CPEC has entered into the second phase, he added. He said there were many narratives circulating about CPEC in Pakistan, region and globally including China, Pakistan's official narrative, political narrative, narrative of less developed regions and of socio-economic experts. Dr. Hassan Al-Amin further said for the organization of the conference, articles were requested last year in response to which economists from all over the world, teachers and researchers of national and international universities submitted research papers. The articles were thoroughly reviewed and selected experts were invited to present their papers.

AIU reschedule examinations

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University has announced to reschedule the examinations date of MA, MSc, M.Com, MBA, MLIS, M.Ed and Post Graduate Diploma programs for the spring semester 2021 due to some unavoidable reasons. According to the AIU, the exams which were earlier scheduled to start from 2nd December have been postponed and new schedule has been issued. The examinations for these programs will now start from 16th December. The earlier date sheet has been canceled, while new date sheet and roll number slips will be sent to the students. – APP

COMSTech funds OIC science projects worth 39m

ISLAMABAD: OIC ministerial standing committee on scientific and technological cooperation (COMSTech), Islamabad and International Foundation for Science (IFS), Stockholm, Sweden have selected 18 research projects from 9 OIC member states – Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, Tunisia, and Uganda for the session 2021. A total funding of US\$ 225,865 has been granted to projects in the fields of Food Sciences, Biological Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, Natural Sciences, Biomedical Sciences, Physical Sciences, Genetic Engineering, and Health Sciences. Project funding granted in this session ranges from US\$ 9,000 to 15,000 each project. Four Pakistani scientists have won grants worth Rs. 9.56 million for their research projects. COMSTech-IFS has so far financed 376 research projects in various disciplines of science and technology in 32 OIC member states by providing US\$ 4.123 million funds. The 376 research projects from Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somali, Sudan, Suriname, Togo, Tunisia and Uganda have been financed under this program. – DNA

Briefs

Police arrest 3 for over illegal weapons

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Police, in their crackdown against illegal weapons, rounded up three persons from different areas and recovered illegal weapons from their possession. A police spokesman informed that Ratta Amral police held Usman and recovered one 30 bore pistol and ammunition from his custody. Kallar Syeda police held Atif for having a 30 bore pistol while Murree police netted Abdul Samad for possessing a pistol of 30 bores and ammunition. Separate cases have been registered against all the accused while further investigations were underway, he added.

Two detained over bike lifting

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Police busted a dacoit, bike lifter gang and arrested two accused besides recovering three stolen motorcycles, cash Rs 28,000, weapons and other items from their possession. A police spokesman said, a police team under the supervision of Station House Officer, Ratta Amral Police Station netted two accused namely Nisar Khan, ring leader, and Muhammad Usman. They were allegedly involved in several robberies, motorcycle snatching and other crimes registered in different police stations. Police recovered three stolen motorcycles, cash Rs 28,000, weapons and other items from their possession. They confessed to have committed dacoities, bike lifting and other crimes in different areas. The arrested accused were later shifted to jail for identification parade, he added. A case has been registered against them while further investigation was underway.

Public phone numbers given to ICT police

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police officials have been given special cell numbers which would be made public to ensure easy access to them by citizens. A ceremony was held here at office of Deputy Inspector General of Police (Operations) to distribute numbers among the police officials from rank of Station House Officers to Inspector General of Police (IGP). IGP himself distributed official cell numbers among the police officers and said that citizens may remain in contact with relevant police authority of the area even after his posting or transfer to some other place.

DIG (Operations) Afzaal Ahmed Kausar, SSP (Investigation) Att-ur-Rehman, SSP (Operations) Syed Ali Akbar Shah, all Zonal SPs and DSPs were also present on the occasion. Each officer has been allocated a permanent and unique Cellular Phone Number. In case of transfer of the officials the new officer on this post will get the same number. IGP said that purpose of this step was to facilitate citizens and bridge the gap between police and public. He said that a digital room has been also established to monitor the police interaction with citizens visiting police stations. He said that purpose of this step was to ensure friendly police ecology and resolve complaints of people on immediate basis. Islamabad police chief directed policemen to adopt decent attitude with public and said those involved in corrupt practices would not be tolerated and be shown door. He also asked for improvement in investigation process and ensure registration of crime without any inconvenience to citizens.

Asad Qaiser assures resolving issues of business community

Business community is the backbone of the country's economic development and all possible steps are being taken by the government to address their key issues: Speaker NA

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) along with Muhammad Naveed Malik, former Senior Vice President ICCI called on Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser and discussed with him the key issues of the business community as well as the overall economic situation of the country. Addressing the ICCI delegation, Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser said that the business community is the backbone of the country's economic development and all possible steps are being taken by the government to address their key issues. He called upon the business community to intensify efforts for further promoting the business and investment activities in the country. Asad Qaiser informed the ICCI delegation that the Executive Committee of the Pakistan-Afghanistan Parliamentary Friendship Group in the National Assembly was working to further promote bilateral trade between



the two countries. He said that in order to increase regional trade, it was necessary to increase the liaison with the respective chambers of commerce and industry of these countries and ICCI should play its role in this regard. He suggested that a joint conference of the business community and investors of Pakistan and Afghanistan should be convened to explore new avenues of trade promotion between

the two countries. He assured the ICCI delegation of his utmost cooperation in resolving the key issues of the business community. Expressing his views on the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the major issues being faced by the business

community. He said that setting up of new industrial estate in the region was very important to boost the industrial activities, encourage new investments, create new jobs and improve the government's tax revenue. He stressed that the government should take necessary steps to execute this important project in collaboration with ICCI.

Shakeel Munir lauded the investor-friendly policies of the current government and commended the role of Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser in boosting Pak-Afghan trade relations. He also invited Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser to visit Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry for an interaction with the business community.

"Gandhara" gives insight of Buddhist heritage in Pak

MUHAMMAD JABRAAN

ISLAMABAD: "Gandhara" is a documentary jointly produced by the High Commission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Sri Lanka and Siddhivinayak Cine Arts (Private) Limited with the support of and in coordination with the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs. It takes the viewers on a visual journey along the Gandhara Buddhist heritage sites of Pakistan. The documentary will be launched today (November 16) at Temple Trees by His Excellency, Prime Mahinda Rajapaksa, in the presence of Venerable Buddhist monks, Cabinet and State Ministers, MPs, ambassadors of Buddhist countries, as well as business, tourism and media fraternity of Sri Lanka. One of the Tooth Relics of



the Lord Buddha, discovered from the Gandhara region is preserved at Taxila Museum in Pakistan. It is the region where the Gandhara Buddhist civilization reached its pinnacle of glory from 1st century AD to the 7th century AD. The first anthropomorphic statue of Lord Buddha was created in the region now called Pakistan. Also known for one of the world's oldest Buddhist University, Thakshashila, Taxila in Pakistan is home to some of the most sacred Buddhist artifacts found during arche-

ological excavations around the 12th century. A sapling from the sacred Bodhi Tree in Anuradhapura, gifted by the government of Sri Lanka to the government of Pakistan, also grows in the gardens of Taxila Museum. In order to present this heritage to the Buddhist world in general and Sri Lanka in particular, the idea of "Gandhara: The Buddhist Heritage of Pakistan" was conceived. Launched with the blessings of the Prime Minister and Minister of Buddha Sasana, Religious and Cultural Af-

airs, His Excellency, Mahinda Rajapaksa and the Prime Minister of Pakistan, His Excellency Imran Khan, this documentary will open up new avenues in religious tourism as well as strengthening cultural and people to people ties between the brotherly countries of Sri Lanka and Pakistan. With special permission from the Government of Pakistan, both local and foreign technicians including Director, Mr. Muteen Saherai & Production Controller Mr. Sajjad Mohammad (Gateway To Production, England) from England have contributed to this film. The film is based on a screenplay that explores the historical ruins and artifacts captured in a realistic way while also exploring background historical information. Ven. Agrahera Kassapa Thero is the Senior Adviser to the entire project.

Child rights must be first priority, says Afshan

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson

National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC) Afshan Tehseen Bajwa on Tuesday strongly urged the policy makers, government institutions, parents and other civil society stakeholders to converge their efforts for ensuring equal rights to each child. The parents and all other stakeholders should play a vital role in creating enabling environment for providing child rights, said the Chairperson NCRC in her exclusive talk with APP on prevailing child rights situation and the Commission's working. Bajwa said the National Commission on the Rights of Child was committed to provide an enabling environment for children to enjoy their rights with dignity. She added that NCRC was working under the obligation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the



Child, where the government of Pakistan has constituted the Commission through a notification on February 28, 2020 under the Act of 2017. As per its mandate, the National Commission on the Rights of Child would continue to monitor situations and developments on child rights to propose required actions to safeguard children from abuse and exploitation, she added. She further added that the Convention on the Rights of the Child was an international human rights agreement that outlined the specific rights that children and young people could claim. - APP

ISE RMC approves its first REIT Scheme

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: ISE Towers REIT Management has structured a "Rental REIT Scheme" being the first REIT in the North region of Pakistan. The Board has approved the scheme in its meeting held on 15 November 2021. The Scheme shall be launched after approval by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan. Chairman Board of Directors, Zahid Latif Khan, while presiding over the meeting briefed that the Scheme will convert the real estate owned by the

Company in ISE Towers into a Perpetual Rental REIT Scheme. The Scheme will be listed on the Securities Exchange under "Direct Listing" model. The recent pro-business amendments to the REIT Regulations, 2015 made by Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan have paved the way for launch of the REIT Scheme, and it will be followed by more Schemes in near future. Zahid Latif Khan added while lauding the efforts and initiatives of SECP to develop the real estate sector.

Chairman MPBC visits RCCI, hints opening MATRADE office

SHAHEEN HANIF

RAWALPINDI: Datu Sri Nazir Meraslam, Chairman, Malaysia-Pakistan Business Council (MPBC), visited the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) and called on President Nadeem Rauf and other officials. RCCI President Nadeem Rauf, gave a detailed briefing on Chamber current and upcoming events. The RCCI President gave a briefing to the Chairman of Malaysia-Pakistan Business Council on the ongoing activities of the



Chamber. He said that in order to further strengthen the trade relations between Pakistan and Malaysia, cooperation could be enhanced in many sectors especially in the areas of tourism, pilgrimage,

construction, e-commerce, IT and education. The office of Malaysian External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) should also be opened in Pakistan. The Chamber will provide all

kinds of assistance, he added. While talking to RCCI office bearers, Chairman MPBC, Nazir Meraslam said that opening a trade office in Pakistan could increase bilateral trade and he is holding meetings with different stakeholders in this regard. The efforts of Rawalpindi Chamber in promoting trade activities are commendable, he said. After halal certification, it will be easier to send meat from Pakistan to Malaysia. There is also a demand in Malaysia for skilled manpower, security guards and construction related manpower.

Anti-dengue walk held

RAWALPINDI: Cooperative Department, Punjab on Tuesday held a walk to create awareness about the health issue due to dengue here at media town. People from different walks of life, including staff of a Cooperative Housing Society, participated in the walk, arranged on the directive of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Muhammad Ali. The walk participants were carrying banners and placards calling for taking preventive measures against dengue, urging the citizens to maintain cleanliness in and around their homes. The walk was led by Joint Registrar, Cooperative Department Mir Ahmed Shah. Speaking on occasion, the Registrar briefed the participants about efforts of the department to check dengue spread. - APP

Rupee recovers 41 paisas against dollar

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The exchange rate of Pakistan rupee strengthened by 41 paisas against the US dollar in the interbank trading on Tuesday and closed at Rs174.88 as compared to the previous day's closing of Rs175.29. According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollars in the open market were recorded at Rs 176.3 and Rs 177.8 respectively. Similarly, the price of the euro was appreciated by Rs 1.86 and closed at Rs 198.90 against the last day's trading of Rs 200.76, the State Bank of Pakistan reported.

Vintage & classic cars attract enthusiasts

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Vintage and Classic Cars Club of Pakistan (VCCCP), in collaboration with Serena Hotels, organized a car show titled "Heritage on wheels" with a large number of spectacular vintage cars on display on Tuesday afternoon at the Serena Business Complex lawn. Chairman of the Vintage and Classic Cars Club of Pakistan, Mohsin Ikram said that the Club was formed around 30 years ago to cater the car enthusiasts all over Pakistan and promote the hobby under the motto of safeguarding "heritage on wheels". He said the purpose of the event was to showcase these beautiful vehicles to the public, and promote a soft image of Pakistan. He appreciated the vintage car owners for their passion in maintaining these vehicles as cultural artefacts, and celebrated the fact that this year's show included a mother who drove all the way from Karachi with her family. He extended warm thanks to CEO Serena Hotels Mr. Aziz Boolani for supporting the show under the banner of Serena Hotels' Cultural Diplomacy. As many as 35 vintage cars including from Karachi Lahore, and Islamabad were displayed at the



show which was attended by a large number of car enthusiasts. The 1922 French-manufactured Amilcar

was the oldest car in the show; others included the UK-built 1954 Austin Healey, 1955 TR, and USA made

1955 Ford Thunderbird. Some of the cars have been driven over Karachi as part of the 11th VCCCP

Rally 2021, and will leave for Peshawar tomorrow for the last leg of the rally.

Subsidy provision

THE Ehsaas Roshan subsidy promises poor households Rs1000 per month, 35 percent of which has to be donated by the federal government and 65 percent by the provincial. The people of Sindh and Balochistan however, may not be fortunate enough to experience relief from rising inflation as both governments have refused to participate in the PM's initiative. This root cause of this lack of confidence in the scheme must be explored and justifications for why the welfare of the people is not prioritised must be given. The Sindh government has historically been at odds with the federal government due to grievances that revolve around negligence and the fact that the PPP is one of the main opposition parties in the country. While tussle makes the entire issue tougher to deal with, it is not impossible. Cohesiveness through the various levels of government is only possible when the interests of the people are secured and in that spirit, both parties must be willing to come to the discussion table. The same is expected from the Balochistan government, whose rejection of the scheme comes as a shock considering that it is an ally of the federal government and a coalition partner. Ideally there should have been no contention but it seems that there are unresolved issues that must be addressed immediately so that the objective of providing mass-relief can be achieved. The subsidy programme was an initiative that was introduced by PM Imran Khan to ease tensions arising from crippling inflation that has incapacitated majority of the population. Accordingly, it is the job of the federal government to highlight, explain and create awareness about the utility of the programme effectively so that it is accepted and that all hesitations are neutralised. Without going the extra mile, such complications will continue to arise and delay the project entirely.

U.S.
Foreign
Policy



Punjab vaccination progress

PAKISTAN'S fight against COVID appears to be progressing in the right direction since in the past week there have been less than 300 new cases as the positivity rate again for the second time fell below 1 percent this month. It is encouraging to note that the positivity rate has remained below 2 percent since October 15 on the back of an expanded immunisation drive across the country. The vaccination drive in Punjab in particular has been progressing really well as Asad Umar revealed on Monday that the Reach Every Door (RED) campaign has managed to inoculate more than 1.25 crore people in just 16 days. These figures shared by the government are extremely impressive given that the RED campaign was initiated just a few weeks ago because Punjab was falling behind other provinces on vaccination numbers and also because it was the worst hit province. Now that the number of cases have fallen drastically, it would be safe to say that Pakistan has done considerably well compared to other countries in the region. The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) has announced that 50 percent of the country's eligible population has received at least one dose. Also, after Punjab, KP has become the second province to vaccinate half its population with one dose. We have made great strides in countering this pandemic and these efforts should be consolidated going forward. Going forward, we can ill-afford to relax and allow for any kind of complacency as millions of citizens still need to be vaccinated. The vaccination rates must be maintained going forward because of the risk of a fifth wave and new deadlier variants like Epsilon that have made their way into Pakistan. With commercial activity being resumed in full across the country, we must continue to be vigilant and remember that the fight against COVID is far from over.

Vilification of Indian Muslims: The method in the madness

Ruben Banerjee

A Muslim is killed in Dadri, adjacent to Delhi, for suspected possession of beef at home; Pehlu Khan, a dairy farmer, is publicly lynched in Rajasthan for alleged cattle smuggling. India loses a high-profile cricket match to Pakistan in the T20 World Cup and several Kashmiri students are arrested for allegedly celebrating the rival's victory

IN addition to the Hindutva ideology, the demonisation of Muslims is a useful distraction for those in power. Munawar Faruqi makes people laugh for a living, but the 29-year-old stand-up comedian has recently lost his sense of humour. It started at the beginning of the year when the son of a legislator in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) accused him of denigrating Hindu gods prior to a comedy show in the city of Indore, central Madhya Pradesh. Faruqi was promptly arrested and sent to jail, where he spent a month. From there his troubles only mounted. Right-wing activists who provide both muscle and vocal support to Modi, have been hot on his trail, forcing him to cancel shows in city after city. Most recently, in Raipur, a date was cancelled after members of Bajrang Dal, one of the most raucous Hindutva groups, threatened violent disruption. Faruqi is not alone in having his life turned upside down. Many others in the country - mostly Muslims - are living such nightmares. This includes a poor bangle-seller who 'strayed' into a Hindu neighbourhood of Indore and was accosted by religious vigilantes. Badly beaten, he

was then thrown into jail on a plethora of charges by an insensitive establishment that is increasingly seen to be condoning such mob justice. In a country as vast and populous as India, whose population is 1.3 billion, the targeting of minorities has reached alarming proportions. The actual numbers may seem small, as they are confined to double digits per year. However, they still have a chilling effect. Each incident forces the minority to further cower in fear while the perpetrators are emboldened ever more. Taken together, these violent acts bolster an agenda of majoritarianism that the ruling BJP and its ideological fountainhead, the RSS, are pushing to impose on a country founded on the principle of unity in diversity. At the moment, Hindutva forces that believe in the primacy of Hindus in a nation with no less than 14 percent Muslim population are enjoying free reign. At the receiving end are not just Muslims, but anyone whose language they deem does not have a place in the majority. Essentially, what is under attack is anything Islamic. FabIndia, a popular clothing chain, had to hastily withdraw the Jashn-e-Riwaaz advertisement campaign it launched to celebrate Diwali - the Hindu festival of lights - in the face of an orchestrated outrage about its use of an Urdu phrase. Prakash Jha, a noted filmmaker, was assaulted and his face blackened by a mob that was enraged by his upcoming web series, whose name they felt portrayed Hindus in a poor light. But, of course, it is Muslims who are bearing the brunt of an offensive that has been gaining momentum ever since Modi rose to power in 2014 and retained it in 2019. Electoral verdicts in favour of the BJP have been interpreted as sanctioning the party's Hindutva agenda, and that India, which prides itself for the rule of law, is sinking into lawlessness. The targeting of racial minorities has gathered momentum and is now taking more ominous tones - both physical and psychological. A Muslim is killed in Dadri, adjacent to Delhi, for suspected possession of beef at home; Pehlu Khan, a dairy farmer, is publicly lynched in Rajasthan for alleged cattle smuggling. India loses a high-profile cricket match to Pakistan in the T20 World Cup and several Kashmiri students are arrested for allegedly celebrating the rival's victory. A prominent university of Uttar Pradesh releases a poster featuring a picture of poet Muhammad

Iqbal to mark Urdu Day - the official language of Pakistan that is widely spoken in India too - but is compelled to change it and apologise. Ironically, it was Iqbal who penned the patriotic song 'Saare Jahan Se Accha Hindustan Hamara' (India is the best among the world) that is still played in official ceremonies with pomp and grandeur. The unmistakable message is that India may no longer be the best place for Muslims, a group who find themselves caught in a cultural pincer grip that has been expanded on eloquently in a recent book, Born A Muslim: Some Truths About Islam in India by journalist Ghazala Wahab. According to Wahab, India is generally suspicious of the minority community. That suspicion pushes members of this community deeper into ghettos where they can fall under the influence of conservative clerics who prey on their vulnerabilities. Without much hope for education, prosperity and assimilation, the community drifts farther away from the mainstream, and the existing cultural divide widens. India has a long history of communal strife. One major riot took place all the way back in 1894 in Mumbai and claimed about 100 lives. But the rapid worsening of relations in recent years is taking a bigger toll: it has tarnished India's reputation as a beacon of tolerance in a region beset with fault lines. So why do the rulers of present-day India persist with their Hindutva agenda? Apart from ideology, one reason could be that the demonisation of Muslims is a useful distraction for those in power. There are many things wrong with the country, including a tanking economy, growing unemployment and rising poverty. Yet many are blind to such problems and remain bound together by their mutual hatred of Muslims. Channeling public anger in this manner can reap electoral dividends as well. Though members of a dominant religion, Hindus, who are divided into castes and sub-castes, are a disparate voting bloc. Those inherent differences, however, tend to fall by the wayside in support of the majority when religious hatred takes centre stage. This seemed to be the case during the last state elections, which were preceded by communal tension in the bellwether state of Uttar Pradesh and ended up benefiting the BJP. Elections are due again in that state and several others next year, and we can expect more of the same. Evidently there is a method to the madness of vilifying Muslims.

- Courtesy TRT World

In democracy, people are masters of the country

Wang Xisu

The CPC-led government is committed to improving people's livelihoods, by taking measures to ensure employment, schooling, housing, medical care, and eldercare for the eligible and needy. The coverage of the programs is about 95 percent. To be sure, China's economic policy is tilted toward the less-advantaged and low-income people, rural areas and places with high concentration of ethnic minority groups. Also, the government has exempted farmers from paying agricultural tax

DEMOCRACY is derived from two Greek words-demos meaning people, and kratos meaning rule. In the West, elections are held to decide which party and/or individual should lead the country. Which is a key element of Western democracy. And campaigns for state leadership and seats in parliaments dominate their politics. In the early part of the last century, democracy was translated as "people-master" in Chinese. Thus democracy came to be interpreted as "people are the masters of the country", and "to serve the people" became the central notion and purpose of Chinese politics. A slight inaccuracy in translation has made a world of difference. The concept of "people-master" tallies with the traditional belief that "the most valuable are the people, next comes the state, and the least is the ruler" a saying attributed to Mencius way back in the 4th century BC. The term "master" was especially attractive in a country where the majority of the people were oppressed and exploited. A new social order where people enjoyed equal rights thus turned into an appeal of the times. The Communist Party of China, on its founding in 1921, undertook the task of building the "New China" and making the people the masters of the country. So eliminating the root cause of inequality was its first priority when it took power in 1949. To do so, it launched a land redistribution program, nationalized urban industries and enterprises, granted equal rights to women, and introduced programs to end illiteracy by creating education opportunities for all, especially the underprivileged. In the absence of equality, advocating rights and liberty is like hitting the nail only to miss its head. Besides, equality cannot be achieved by only enacting and implementing an equal rights law. Without economic independence, enjoying equal rights in political and social life would be like a pipe-dream for the underprivileged. The CPC-led government is committed to improving people's livelihoods, by taking measures to ensure employment, schooling, housing, medical care, and eldercare for the eligible and needy. The coverage of the programs is about 95 percent. To be sure, China's economic policy is tilted toward the less-advantaged and low-income

people, rural areas and places with high concentration of ethnic minority groups. Also, the government has exempted farmers from paying agricultural tax. China's infrastructure, including the high-speed train network, is well known around the world. But what is little known is that paved roads, internet connectivity, and electricity have reached each and every village, connecting even the remotest and toughest mountainous terrains in Tibet. To hear directly from the people, understand their needs, and engage them in the country's affairs, the CPC, in consultation with other political parties and prominent public figures, ushered in a new system: the people's congress in 1954. Now there are people's congresses at all four levels national, provincial, municipal and township. Like legislatures in other countries, the National People's Congress makes laws and decides on key appointments. But it is drastically different from them in three ways. First, deputies to the people's congresses are representatives of the people in the true sense of the term. They are nominated and elected from all walks of life and represent all localities, and ethnic and age groups, with the seats distributed in proportion to the size of the sector they come from. As most of the deputies to the people's congresses come from the grassroots and have direct contact with ordinary people, they know well the needs and problems of the local people. And at every annual NPC session, they bring thousands of motions with them. These proposals are the true voice of the people. An apt example is Shen Jilan, a female farmer who could barely read or write. She was elected to the first National People's Congress in 1954 as a role model in her village. She raised the demand of all working women: "Equal pay for equal amount of work for both men and women." Her proposal was accepted, made into law and included in the country's Constitution. Shen was the only deputy to maintain her NPC seat for 13 consecutive terms till she died at the age of 91 in 2020. Second, the NPC supervises the government in a constructive way. It sees to it that the government does the right things the right way. The government, on its part, submits its work report and budget plan to the NPC at the latter's annual session for review and approval. The Government Work Report is drafted with the contributions of hundreds of thousands of front-line managers, industrial leaders, professional experts, academics and other individuals. After the NPC approves the Government Work Report, it is implemented with concerted efforts of the government, legislatures and all sectors of society. The NPC also sends inspection teams from time to time to check on the progress of the plan work and then sends its feedback to the government. In short, the NPC doesn't make things difficult for the government; instead, it lends it a helping hand. The NPC is not a rubber stamp as some people label it. And third, the fundamental and long-term interests of the people define the functions of the NPC, and they are the cornerstone of consensus building. The people's congress is not a battlefield for partisan gains, but a meeting place for people's representatives from different backgrounds to decide what is best for the majority of the people. Debates are necessary, but they should be healthy, and filibustering and confrontations should not be part of the game. Serving the fundamental and long-term interests of the people is what best manifests people-master-style democracy. It guides policymaking and strategic development. It also helps distinguish right from wrong, and noble from mean. Most importantly, it is the core value that summons all forces and resources of the nation to work together. What are exactly the fundamental and long-term interests of the people? The Chinese people have considered peace and stability, development and prosperity, unity and harmony, security and health of the people, and clean and beautiful environment to be the most important features of the nation. And it is those very features that the country is working to achieve and protect.

- Courtesy China Daily

The real difficulties in climate change

Nidhal Guessoum

The biggest difficulty in getting to net zero is not in the transportation sector, it is in industry and electricity production. Gates says that when someone tells him they have a plan for the climate change problem, he asks them: "What's your solution for cement?"...

THE COP26 conference on climate change has just ended, and the results were mixed. On the positive side, a large majority of people around the world, particularly the young generation, are fully convinced that climate change is a big problem and that it must be seriously addressed now. And on the ground, a number of governments have pledged to make a series of efforts: To reach "net zero" greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, 2060 or 2070; "phase down" coal (close coal-fired power plants within a decade or two); stop deforestation by 2030 (although even that is not fast enough); and other small steps. On the negative side, however, I think there has been too much focus on goals and target dates, and too little on the paths and scenarios that will get us there. Indeed, it is not enough for a country to announce, say, 2060 as its target date for net zero emissions; what is needed is a clear plan to achieve that. And judging from the media

coverage that has accompanied COP26, I think most people still do not understand the most (and least) effective ways that will help us solve the problem (to a significant degree). So how can we do that? My simple advice to everyone is: Read Bill Gates' recent book, "How to Avoid a Climate Disaster." In it, he deconstructs the problem, explaining climate change clearly and documenting what a disaster it is now and how much bigger it will soon be, why we need net zero as soon as possible (although 2030 is not feasible), what areas of human activity (industry, transportation, energy, agriculture, etc.) are most impactful, and what to do about each. One important idea that Gates stresses is that we must be cognizant of the needs of developing countries in terms of energy and food production, building and infrastructure, etc. Thus, we cannot expect developing countries to cut down on emissions as much as rich countries and we need to compensate rising countries for the efforts and sacrifices they will make. It is important to understand the reason for the problem we are facing: Fossil fuels are so widely used because they are abundant, powerful, very cheap and easy to move. For almost a century now, we have developed whole industries for drilling, processing and moving them. Conversely, renewable and clean energies are still expensive and inefficient. For example, compared to fossil fuels, nuclear and solar energies are (at least now) five to 10 times less efficient; other energies (wind, hydrothermal, etc.) are even less potent. So the first lesson to learn is the need to develop effective energy production technologies: Solar power, safe nuclear (including small reactors for big ships), electric batteries for cars and buses, etc. Speaking of transportation, contrary to what one gets from the media ("why does so and so use private jets?"), it is not the main source of global warming. It is so in the US (Americans fly and drive a lot), but not for the whole world. In fact, transportation contributes only 16 percent of global greenhouse gases, far behind industrial emissions (31 percent) and electricity produc-

tion (27 percent). Even agriculture, particularly meat production (cow methane emissions), contributes 19 percent of greenhouse gases. This is mainly why, in 2020, when the pandemic wiped out 90 percent of flights, greenhouse gas emissions dropped by only 5 percent. Clean transportation, especially in cities, can certainly help to reduce both global warming and the pollution in the air we breathe. Indeed, many cities are now using electric buses, which can run for a few hours, then get charged again. And if gasoline is expensive (as in Europe), the "green premium" for going electric is very low, perhaps reaching zero, thus encouraging people to adopt it. In Europe, electric cars are already a good alternative for people who drive mostly around the city (not far and not for too long). Flying and shipping are more complicated, and we need to develop technologies for those: Alternative but efficient and clean fuels for planes, nuclear power for big ships, or other solutions. Additionally, we need to use video conferences more extensively to reduce the number of trips. The biggest difficulty in getting to net zero is not in the transportation sector, it is in industry and electricity production. Gates says that when someone tells him they have a plan for the climate change problem, he asks them: "What's your solution for cement?" By "cement," he means "industry," where we have not found a way to produce cement, steel and plastic without filling the atmosphere with tons (or rather billions of tons) of carbon dioxide and other bad gases. Likewise for the power plants that produce electricity, which are still hugely needed in many parts of the world. To sum up, if we are going to properly address climate change, we must understand the specifics of the problem and the possible realistic solutions in each case. We need new technologies (better solar panels, better electric car batteries, better industrial processes, etc.) and effective policies (carbon tax, green subsidies, etc.). And we need clear, detailed governmental plans. The rest is just rhetoric.

- Courtesy Arab News

Briefs

'Our 5-year performance to bury Opp'

FROM PAGE 01

He also quoted a World Bank report on how the poverty in Pakistan had been reduced during his government's tenure. However, the premier admitted that people were facing difficulties due to high inflation, saying that due to Covid-19 entire world was facing the same problem amid supply chain disruption. The premier also assured that his government was making all-out efforts to ease the woes of the masses, saying, "Like I saved country from Corona, I will also reduce inflation". Speaking on introducing the electronic voting machine (EVM), PM Imran said he wondered why opposition parties were opposing the use of technology in the elections. He said this latest technology was being used across the world in the elections but "I wonder why opposition parties [in Pakistan] are afraid of technology".

Fawad invites opposition...

FROM PAGE 01

"I will ask the opposition to come and sit with us in the joint session of the parliament tomorrow and consider these reforms with open heart," said Chaudhry. He said that the allies of PTI had assured their support and expressed their confidence in the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan. Commenting on The News report that highlighted an accusation against the former chief justice of Pakistan Saqib Nisar, the minister said that it was highly appropriate that the Islamabad High Court (IHC) took notice of the former chief justice Gilgit-Baltistan Rana Shamim's affidavit. Earlier, Chaudhry apologised to the ECP for his remarks against the electoral watchdog and Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja. The commission had issued a show-case notice to Chaudhry and Railways Minister Azam Swati for their remarks and allegations against it and the CEC.

'Govt pressuring parties to...

FROM PAGE 01

Opposition leaders in Quetta, said: "The incompetent rulers are gearing up to extend their reign [by getting the bills passed in the Parliament]. The incumbent government is ruling on a 'fake' majority." "Struggling against such elements is 'jihad'," he said, adding that Opposition parties' lawmakers had received calls, asking them to not attend the joint session. The PDM chief claimed that someone else was "pulling the strings of the government", as it could not function on its own. "The country is running under oppression." Fazl advised the government that if it introduced legislation in the Parliament through coercion, it would hold no value. "I have a lot to say." Speaking of his meeting with PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto, Fazl said he had visited him as "his doors were not closed for anyone." The PPP chairman had last week met Fazl, with the meeting culminating in both leaders deciding to adopt a joint strategy against the PTI government in the Parliament.

Mushfiqur dropped from Pak T20 series

DHAKA: Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) have announced a 16-member squad for the upcoming three-match T20I series against Pakistan, starting from November 19 in Dhaka. Senior wicketkeeper-batter Mushfiqur Rahim has been dropped from the Bangladesh T20 side for the first time since 2008. The selectors have made six changes from the ICC Men's Twenty20 World Cup 2021 squad with Litton Kumar Das, Soumya Sarkar and Rubel Hossain also missing out. - APP

Racism in English cricket is 'institutional': Azeem

He said he had lost his career to racism, which is a "horrible feeling" but that "hopefully" by speaking out there will be "massive change in five years' time". "All I wanted was an acceptance, an apology, an understanding, and let's try and work together

LONDON: English cricket is "institutionally" racist, says former Yorkshire player Azeem Rafiq, 30, told a Digital, Culture, Media and Sport select committee that racist language was "constantly" used during his time at Yorkshire. In an emotional testimony, he also said the club gave him "inhuman" treatment after his son was still-born in 2017. He added the issues he faced at Yorkshire are "without a shadow of a doubt" widespread in domestic cricket. Rafiq said he had lost his career to racism, which is a "horrible feeling" but that "hopefully" by speaking out there will be "massive change in five years' time". "All I wanted was an acceptance, an apology, an understanding, and let's try and work together to ensure it never happens again," he

continued. "I was not going to let this go, no matter how much damage it causes me - I was determined to become a voice for the voiceless." In wide-ranging testimony, Rafiq also said: "All he ever wanted to do was realise his 'dream' of playing for England Racist language, including terms aimed at his and others' Pakistani heritage, was used "constantly" and "never stamped out" during his time at Yorkshire. The use of such terms was racist and not "banter" as the report had concluded. It left him feeling "isolated" and "humiliated", with racist comments made by others in front of team-mates and coaching staff but not challenged. The use of such language was so common it "became the norm" and people at the club "didn't think it was wrong" He "didn't realise" and was "in



denial" about the scale of the problem during most of his first spell at Yorkshire, until 2014. He thought "things had changed" when he returned for his second spell in 2016

But the atmosphere became "toxic" after Gary Ballance took over as captain later that year, shortly after former batter Andrew Gale replaced Jason Gillespie as head coach. Aged 15 and a

practising Muslim, he was pinned down by a senior player at his local cricket club and red wine was poured into his mouth. He said he did not drink alcohol until "around 2012" when he felt he had to "fit in" at Yorkshire. He said he "wasn't perfect" and was "not proud" of some of the things he did and said while drinking, but these have "no relation" to the racism he was subjected to. The report into his allegations was "shoddy at best" and the panel failed to speak to key witnesses. Rafiq speaks of 'inhuman treatment' during 'difficult pregnancy' Rafiq was giving evidence to MPs after a report found he was a victim of "racial harassment and bullying" but the club said they would not discipline anyone. Yorkshire's former chairman Roger Hutton subsequently

addressed the committee, followed by representatives from the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), including chief executive Tom Harrison. Hutton, who offered his "profound apologies" to Rafiq, said Yorkshire's director of cricket Martyn Moxon and former chief executive Mark Arthur "failed to accept the gravity of the situation". "They have not wanted to apologise or take the recommendations of the panel going forward," he added. When asked by Damian Green MP if he thought cricket was institutionally racist, Rafiq replied: "Yes, I do." In response to a question by Julian Knight MP, chair of the DCMS select committee, on whether the issues he faced were "replicated" at other counties, Rafiq said: "It's a problem up and down the country." - Agencies

IHC serves show cause notices to Shamim, others

FROM PAGE 01

This was a constitutional court, he said questioning whether the public's trust on judiciary was being eroded through such news items. The chief justice remarked there was a difference between social media and a newspaper as it had an editorial policy. Apparently, the affidavit was seemed fake, he said, adding that the former chief justice was served notice because of newspaper's report. Chief Justice Athar Minallah remarked that he had full confidence on judges of IHC that's why he had initiated this case. The chief justice noted that many times social media campaigns were launched against him, if someone give affidavit then whether the newspaper would publish it on front page.

On the directives of court, journalist Ansar Abbasi read out the headline of news story. The court asked whether anyone in this courtroom could tell that from where we had taken orders. The said affidavit, Justice Minallah said, was not part of any court's record.

The chief justice asked that from where the ex-judge notarized this affidavit. Why it was notarized from abroad. The court asked Ansar Abbasi whether he himself had investigated this news or inquired from registrar IHC about the content. Justice Minallah said if chief justice of Pakistan would give him such instructions then he would move to supreme judicial council against it. Why ex-judge of Gilgit Baltistan remained silent for three years, he asked.

The chief justice remarked it was an open challenge if anybody proved that the bench, hearing the cases of Nawaz Sharif, was dissolved on the instructions of somebody then he would take full responsibility.

The court said that the ex-judge and the said journalist would have to present evidence to prove their claims. This court wouldn't take time to initiate contempt of court proceeding against ex-judge. The court asked Ansar Abbasi that he was a journalist instead of a messenger.

On a query of the bench, newspaper's editor Aamer Ghouri said the story could be published if someone has documents. The court asked what documents that were not part of any court's record. The court asked whether Ansar Abbasi and Rana Shamim have evidence regarding issuance of instructions to this court. If yes, then this court would take action against ex-judge of Pakistan, Justice Minallah remarked. The court instructed all the respondents to appear in person on next date of hearing. The court asked the AGP what would be consequences if the affidavit would prove fake. The AGP said it would be a criminal act. The AGP said the timing of this affidavit was also questionable, adding that it was issued just few days before hearing on the appeals of Nawaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz.

Ansar Abbasi requested the court to also conduct an inquiry into the allegations along with a contempt of court proceeding. The court said these allegations were leveled against the judges of IHC and it was an attempt to damage the repute of IHC. The hearing of the case was adjourned till November 26.

Taliban asks UN for a seat at the table

FROM PAGE 01

He claimed the Taliban have the support of the Afghan nation and had established its writ across Afghanistan, adding that the Taliban "represented people's aspirations". According to Shaheen, the Taliban government fulfilled the criteria to become a member of the UN.

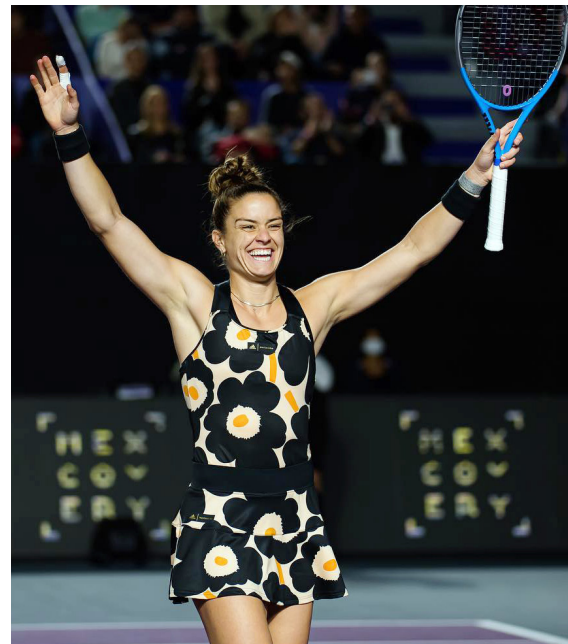
"We hope legal requirements will supersede political preferences," he said without elaborating on these "preferences". Last month, UN chief Antonio Guterres had slammed the Taliban for breaking promises over girls' education. "I am particularly alarmed to see promises made to Afghan women and girls by the Taliban being broken," he had told reporters.

Top seed Sabalenka crashes out as Sakkari advances

SPORTS DESK

GUADALAJARA: It was win or go home as Aryna Sabalenka and Maria Sakkari took the court for the final round-robin match at the 2021 WTA Finals on Monday night, as the winner would join Garbine Muguruza, Anett Kontaveit and Paula Badosa in the final four. And in the end it was Sakkari who survived to reach the semis, fighting back from 3-1 down in the third set to win after two hours and 47 minutes, 7-6 (1), 6-7 (6), 6-3.

"I think the atmosphere makes it even more special," Sakkari said in her on-court interview. "It's my first night match—I knew it was kind of unreal—here, but playing in front of you guys, it's my first big win in Mexico and I think I will never forget it." Sabalenka had won the pair's last four meetings, and eight of their last nine sets, and she had her opportunities to continue the trend in this one, too. The Belarusian had all kinds of chances in the first set, not only breaking for a 5-3 lead, but—after getting broken right back—bringing



up a set point with Sakkari serving in the next game, 4-5, 30-40. But she missed a forehand putaway wide on that set point, and after a few more holds the two went to a tie-break, where Sakkari ripped through seven points in a row from 1-0 down to claim a one-set lead. After again building a 5-3 lead in the second set, and even holding two set points in

that game, Sabalenka eventually snuck out the second set in a tie-break, clinching it on her fourth set point with a massive crosscourt backhand winner. Then, after a slight hiccup—she got broken in the opening game—Sabalenka continued to forge ahead in the third set, opening up a 3-1 lead. But like she's done so many times throughout her

career and especially this year, Sakkari fought back, battling through the last five games in a row to complete an absolutely electric win. Sakkari was asked afterwards what the key to her victory was.

"A bit of luck always helps," she said. "But of course my fighting spirit and playing with my heart is always something that makes my life a lot easier on the court." More solid numbers were key to Sakkari's victory, too. She finished with 27 winners to 36 unforced errors, a -9 differential, while Sabalenka had 29 winners to 56 unforced errors, a -27 differential. Sabalenka also finished with 7 aces to 20 double faults.

Sakkari's win over the No. 2-ranked Belarusian didn't just clinch her the final spot in the final four at the season-ending event, it was also the equal-biggest win of her career, tying her victory over a No. 2-ranked Naomi Osaka in Miami this year. Awaiting the No. 6-ranked Sakkari in the semifinals will be the No. 8-ranked Kontaveit—Sakkari leads their head-to-head, 6-5, and they're 2-2 this year.

Harry Kane hails 'fantastic' England after demolition

WEB DESK

SERRAVALLE: Harry Kane praised "fantastic" England after they booked a place at next year's World Cup with a ruthless 10-0 demolition of hapless San Marino on Monday. England captain Kane scored four times in the first half after Harry Maguire's opener and a Filippo Fabbri own goal. Emile Smith Rowe, Tyrone Mings, Tammy Abraham, and Bukayo Saka completed the rout after the interval as England finished top of Group 1 to ensure their place at the tournament in Qatar in 12 months' time.

It was England's record win in a competitive international and Kane was delighted with the stylish way Gareth Southgate's unbeaten side achieved their qualification target. "We were fantastic. It came to the last game and we were expected to win but we've done a good job. Fantastic to go through," Kane told ITV. "We still need to keep working. I feel like we have been improving year on year. We have to make the most of the time, every training session to fine-tune the little pieces." Kane, who scored a hat-trick in Friday's 5-0 win against Albania, moved alongside Gary Lineker on 48 England goals.

The Tottenham striker is behind only Bobby Charlton (49) and Wayne Rooney (53) in England's all-time list. His 16 goals in 2021 is a calendar year record for England and he is the first Three Lions player to score three or more in successive games since Tommy Taylor in 1957. "Fantastic again. Every time I wear an England shirt I am proud and when I score goals it is one of the nicest feelings I can have in my career. Nice to be among those names," Kane said.



Venues confirmed for ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022

DUBAI: As the dust settles from the recently-concluded ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021, the world now looks to Australia, who aim to defend their title on home soil. Seven host cities have been announced for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 in Australia, with the tournament beginning on October 16 and ending with a final at the MCG under lights on November 13. 45 matches will be hosted across the venues in Adelaide, Brisbane, Geelong, Hobart, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney. The semi-finals will be hosted at the Sydney Cricket Ground and Adelaide Oval on 9 and 10 November respectively. Men's T20 World Cup 2021 champions Australia and runner-up New Zealand, plus Afghanistan, Bangladesh, England, India, Pakistan, and South Africa as the next highest-ranked teams, gain direct entry into the Super 12 stage of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022. Namibia, Scotland, Sri Lanka, and the West Indies join the tournament through the First Round phase, with the final four spots for the tournament filled via two qualifying tournaments: one in Oman in February, and one in Zimbabwe in June and July.

"With 12 teams already confirmed in the line-up, we eagerly await the culmination of the qualification process to see which other teams will join them," Head of Events Chris Tetley stated. - APP

Swiatek spoils Badosa's birthday at WTA Finals

GUADALAJARA: Iga Swiatek departed the WTA Finals with a win after spoiling Paula Badosa's birthday 7-5, 6-4 on Monday. The Polish player couldn't advance from her group after losing her first two singles but got to finish her two-title season with a smile. She also ended Badosa's eight-match winning streak. Swiatek, the youngest player at 20 in the eight-woman field, came from a break down in each set. "I think it was a really solid match from me. I'm pretty happy that I had a chance to show my tennis finally, overcome all these factors around, just play the game", said Swiatek. "For sure this

tournament was special. Playing three days with such high-quality players, it's hard. I hope my next time is going to be a little bit more lucky for me". Badosa, 24 on Monday, had already qualified first in their group and will face Spanish compatriot Garbine Muguruza in the semifinals. "I was quite focused, thinking about the match I have tomorrow. It's an important one", said Badosa, who is looking forward to facing Muguruza, a player she used to idolize. "I think it's amazing to have two Spanish players. For me it was already a dream to be here, so you can imagine how I feel to play the semifinals and against her". - APP



Pakistan to host ICC Champions Trophy in 2025

The International Cricket Council (ICC) confirmed the 14 host countries of the ICC men's white ball events from 2024-2031. 11 Full Members and three Associate Members have been selected to host two ICC Men's Cricket World Cups, four ICC Men's T20 World Cups and two ICC Men's Champions Trophy events



SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Pakistan will host the ICC Champions Trophy in 2025, which means that they will defend

their title, won in 2017, in their own backyard. The International Cricket Council (ICC) confirmed the 14 host countries of the ICC men's white ball events from 2024-2031. 11 Full Members and three Associate Members have been selected to host two ICC Men's Cricket World Cups, four ICC Men's T20 World Cups and two ICC Men's Champions Trophy events. The USA and Namibia will host an ICC World Cup event for the first time. Whilst Australia, Bangladesh, England, Ireland, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, Scotland, South Africa, Sri Lanka, West Indies and

2024 T20 World Cup:	USA and West Indies
2025 Champions Trophy:	Pakistan
2026 T20 World Cup:	India and Sri Lanka
2027 ODI World Cup:	Namibia, Zimbabwe & South Africa
2028 T20 World Cup:	Australia and New Zealand
2029 Champions Trophy:	India
2030 T20 World Cup:	England, Ireland and Scotland
2031 ODI World Cup:	India and Bangladesh

Zimbabwe have previously staged major events and will do so again over the next decade. The hosts were selected via a competitive bidding process overseen by a Board sub-committee chaired by Martin Snedden along with Sourav Ganguly and Ricky Skerritt.

The ICC Board accepted the recommendations of the committee who conducted a thorough review of each bid along with ICC management. A similar process to identify the hosts for ICC Women's and U19s events for the next cycle will be undertaken early next year. Re-

acting to the development, PCB Chairman Ramiz Raja said that "it's a matter of great pride and delight that Pakistan will be hosting ICC Champions Trophy 2025". ICC Chair Greg Barclay said: "We are delighted to have concluded this competitive bidding process for the first time for ICC events.

To have 14 Members hosting 8 events is a reflection of the truly global nature of our sport and I'd like to thank every Member that submitted a bid and offer our congratulations to the successful bidders. "It is fantastic to be returning to so many previous hosts, but what is really exciting about this process is the countries who will stage ICC events for the first time including the USA which is a strategic growth market for us. This gives us the opportunity to deepen our connection with fans in traditional cricket nations and also reach new fans around the world."

Briefs

2 explosions
rock
Ugandan
capital

AGENCIES

KAMPALA: Two blasts shook Uganda's capital Kampala early on Tuesday, with one just meters away from the main gate to the country's parliament and the other near the city's central police station.

Several vehicles near the explosion sites were torched in the blasts, with fire fighters, bomb squads, and several security agencies working to secure the perimeter. Ambulances have been moving in and out of the scene, though the number of casualties remains unclear.

At least four bombs exploded in different parts of Uganda over the last two weeks.

The Daesh terror group, also known as ISIS, claimed responsibility for one of the attacks, though President Yoweri Museveni has said the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) rebel group was responsible.

Cuba: Mass
protests
thwarted

NEWS DESK

HAVANA: Cuban authorities thwarted a planned mass protest by arresting prominent dissidents or confining them to their homes.

Leaders had called for a "Civic March for Change," after street protests in July this year.

Opposition figure Manuel Cuesta Morua, the leader of the Ladies in White rights movement Berta Soler, and her husband Angel Moya, a former political prisoner, were among those detained. The demonstration was called upon by playwright Yuniors Garcia and his Facebook group Archipelago, an online discussion forum with about 35,000 members. He was not allowed to leave his apartment, and government supporters hung Cuban flags from the roof of his building to block his windows.

Dissidents wanted to launch protests at 3 p.m. local time, across 10 cities, including the capital Havana, as well as Guantanamo and Pinar del Rio. However, there were no signs of organized demonstrations.

Social media videos showed some smaller groups protesting, but were immediately countered by pro-government demonstrators. Officers in plain clothes and uniforms were present across Havana throughout the day.

FPCCI
organizes
WB seminar

DNA

KARACHI: Mian Nasser Hyatt Maggo, President FPCCI, has called for World Bank's technical assistance in enabling rapid and sustainable growth in the exports of Pakistan. "We have a share of a meagre 0.11% in the total global exports despite being fifth largest country in the world in terms of population," he added.

The seminar was organized by Policy Advisory Board of FPCCI and was attended by print and electronic media. Mian Nasser Hyatt Maggo explained that no country in the world can prosper with such a low exports volume as compared to its population; in addition to investigating other foremost economic issues; namely, insufficient Foreign Exchange Reserves (FER), exchange rate volatility and dependence on external debts. Mohammad Younus Dagha, Chairman Policy Advisory Board, appreciated the analysis presented in the Pakistan Development Update by the World Bank. He agreed with the view that the export incentives, subsidies and concessionary financing require to be available to all exporters rather than a few sectors; and, that these should be focused towards diversification and value addition. He also agreed that tariffs for raw materials and intermediate goods need to be brought down to make our industries competitive both against imports as well as for exports.

Xi-Biden talks raise hope for better ties but strains remain

"This is extremely dangerous, it's playing with fire, and they that play with fire will burn themselves," Xi was quoted as saying by the agency

AGENCIES

BEIJING: China on Tuesday welcomed a virtual meeting between President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Joe Biden as raising hopes for better relations, while the U.S. was more muted on the talks as the world's two biggest powers sought to ratchet down more than a year of tensions.

The leaders appeared to put aside the language of acrimony in their first formal meeting since Biden took office. Xi welcomed the U.S. leader as his "old friend," and Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said the exchange was candid and constructive.

"If China-U.S. relations cannot return to the past, they should face the future," Zhao said, calling the meeting "conducive to increasing positive expectations for U.S.-China relations."

However, both sides held firm to their positions on the issues that divide Washington and Beijing, with Xi warning that the U.S. and Taiwan are playing with fire over the self-governing island that China claims.

The two nations were aiming to end a sharp deterioration in re-

习近平主席同美国总统拜登视频会晤
Virtual Meeting between President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Joe Biden

lations that accelerated under former U.S. President Donald Trump and had festered since Biden became president in January. The video conference, which took place Tuesday morning in Beijing and Monday evening in Washington, lasted more than three hours. Facing domestic pressures at home, both Biden and Xi seemed determined to lower the temperature in what for both sides is their most significant — and frequently turbulent — relationship on the global stage.

"As I've said before, it seems to me our responsibility as leaders of China and the United States is

to ensure that the competition between our countries does not veer into conflict, whether intended or unintended," Biden told Xi at the start of the meeting. "Just simple, straightforward competition." The White House set low expectations for the meeting, and no major announcements or joint statements were delivered. Still, White House officials said the two leaders had a substantive exchange. Xi greeted the U.S. president as his "old friend" and echoed Biden's cordial tone in his own opening remarks, saying, "China and the United States need to increase communication and cooperation."

The positive tone sets an example for both countries to try to identify common ground rather than find fault with each other, whether on trade, climate change, or geopolitical issues such as Afghanistan and North Korea, said Wang Huiyao, president of the Center for China and Globalization think tank in Beijing. "I see this dialogue as a stabilizer of the bilateral relation," he said. "I don't expect this one summit to bring us back to the good old days, but certainly it stops the downward spiral." Xi held a tough line on Taiwan, which Chinese officials had sig-

naled would be a top issue for them at the talks.

Tensions have heightened as the Chinese military has dispatched an increasing number of fighter jets near the self-ruled island, which Beijing considers part of its territory.

Xi blamed the tensions on Taiwan seeking to attain independence through reliance on the U.S. and some on the American side using Taiwan as a way to interfere in China, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

"This is extremely dangerous, it's playing with fire, and they that play with fire will burn themselves," Xi was quoted as saying by the agency.

Chinese military forces held exercises last week near Taiwan in response to a visit by a U.S. congressional delegation to the island.

The White House said Biden reiterated the U.S. will abide by the longstanding U.S. "One China" policy, which recognizes Beijing but allows informal relations and defense ties with Taipei. But Biden also made clear the U.S. "strongly opposes unilateral efforts to change the status quo or undermine peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait," the White House said.



KARACHI: H.E Mr Hassan Nourain Consul General of Iran along with his staff after reading Daily Islamabad Post and Centerline Media News coverage in it, during visit of 3-Day 17th ITIF Asia here at local hotel on Tuesday. - DNA

Pak HC holds
virtual Khuli
Katchehry

LONDON: High Commissioner for Pakistan to the United Kingdom Moazzam Ahmad Khan held the 10th virtual 'Khuli Katchehry' with the British Pakistani community on Tuesday in London.

A large number of diaspora members discussed and sought redressal of their problems regarding visas, NICOPs, POCs, passports, Roshan Digital Account and property matters in Pakistan, says a press release.

The High Commissioner redressed some problems of the community members instantly assuring that the remaining issues would be taken up with the concerned authorities in Pakistan.

He also welcomed the sug-

gestions of the diaspora members for the improvement of the consular services at the mission.

On this occasion, the High Commissioner also urged the British Pakistanis to open Roshan Digital Account (RDA) to send their remittances to Pakistan and take advantage of a number of profitable investment opportunities introduced under the RDA initiative of the Government of Pakistan.

The participants appreciated the initiative of virtual Khuli Katchehry at the mission and termed it a useful platform for community facilitation. As per the directions of Prime Minister Imran Khan, the High Commissioner holds the virtual Khuli Katchehry every month. - APP

Haftar announces
run for president

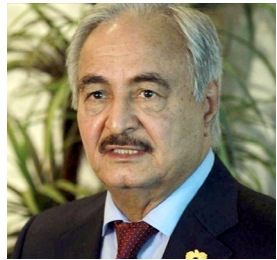
FOREIGN DESK

TRIPOLI: Libyan warlord Khalifa Haftar on Tuesday announced he will run in the country's upcoming presidential elections.

In a televised speech, Haftar said the elections are the only way out of the Libyan crisis.

"I declare my candidacy for the presidential elections, not because I am seeking for authority but because I want to lead our people towards glory, progress and prosperity," Haftar said. Haftar is a controversial figure in the Libyan political scene, who is backed by regional powers, including Egypt, France and Russia.

Haftar's self-proclaimed "Commander-in-Chief of the Libyan National Army" has contributed greatly to



the decade-long turmoil in Libya after leading a 14-month military offensive, with the support of foreign powers, to unsuccessfully topple the internationally recognized Government of National Accord (GNA) in the west. Mass graves in Libya's southwestern city of Tarhuna, a former stronghold for Haftar, continue to be discovered since the warlord's defeat in June 2020 with hundreds of bodies exhumed.

Uzbekistan-European Union
eye expanding cooperation

DNA

BRUSSELS: The Cooperation Council between the European Union and Uzbekistan held its sixteenth meeting on Tuesday, 16 November in Brussels. The meeting was chaired by Mr Augusto Santos Silva, Portugal's Minister of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of Mr Josep Borrell, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. The delegation of Uzbekistan was led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Mr Abdulaziz Kamilov.

The Cooperation Council took stock of developments in relations between the EU and the Republic of Uzbekistan over the past two years, noting with sat-

isfaction the intensity of contacts at all levels despite the disruption to regular scheduled face-to-face meetings as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The two sides agreed on the importance of pursuing a green, sustainable economic recovery from the pandemic. The Cooperation Council discussed the Republic of Uzbekistan's ambitious reform

programme, and issues relating to the rule of law, trade, investment and energy relations, and international cooperation.

The Cooperation Council also discussed questions of good governance and the role of civil society, as well as measures to improve the business climate in Uzbekistan. The EU welcomed Uzbekistan's GSP membership (EU Gener-

al System of Preferences that unilaterally grants duty-free access for most goods) since April 2021, and discussed progress in Uzbekistan's application to join the WTO. Human rights questions were also discussed.

The Cooperation Council took note of the progress in negotiations for a new Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Uzbekistan. This new agreement will further deepen bilateral relations and support the ongoing ambitious reform programme in Uzbekistan. Nine formal negotiating rounds have taken place to date, with both sides meeting also remotely during the pandemic to achieve steady progress towards finalising a text.



Armenia-Azerbaijan: Tension again spikes

Two Azerbaijani servicemen were wounded as a result of large-scale Armenian provocations in Kalbajar and Lachin regions on the state border

DNA

BAKU: The Defence Ministry has stated that Armenia uses artillery equipment on the state border with Azerbaijan.

In a report posted on its website on November 16, the Defence Ministry said: "The Armenian armed forces units continue large-scale provocations against Azerbaijan on the state border. To aggravate the situation on the state border, the military formations of the opposing side using mortars of various calibre and artillery pieces subjected to fire the Azerbaijan army units stationed in Lachin region."

The Azerbaijan army units are taking adequate measures to suppress Armenia's provocations, the report added.

In a report posted on its website on November 16, the Defence Ministry said: "The Armenian armed forces units continue large-scale provocations against Azerbaijan on the state border. To aggravate the situation on the state border, the military formations of the opposing side using mortars of various calibre and artillery pieces subjected to fire the Azerbaijan army units stationed in Lachin region."

The Azerbaijan army units are taking adequate measures to suppress Armenia's provocations, the report added.

Armenian provocations
become more intense

BAKU: Azerbaijani Defence Ministry Spokesman Anar Eyvazov has said that "Armenian provocations have become more intense today [November 16]." Trend has reported.

He made the remarks at a news conference held on November 16 due to the large-scale provocations committed by the Armenian armed forces against Azerbaijan on the state border in Kalbajar and Lachin regions. "The Azerbaijan army takes adequate measures to prevent Armenian provocations," he added.

The Defence Ministry earlier reported that Furthermore, the ministry said that two Azerbaijani servicemen were wounded as a result of large-scale Armenian provocations in Kalbajar and Lachin regions on the state border. On November 16, at about 1100, Armenian military formations launched a sudden military operation in order to capture the high grounds in this direction of the state border and take more advantageous positions, thereby gaining military superiority.

two Azerbaijani servicemen were wounded as a result of large-scale Armenian provocations in Kalbajar and Lachin regions on the state border.

Earlier, Baku condemned Yerevan for the recent escalation of tension on the Azerbaijan-Armenian state border. In an official statement posted on the Foreign Ministry website on November 15, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Leyla Abdullayeva said: "All responsibility for the current tension lies directly with the military and political leadership of Armenia." - DNA

It added that Armenian military units, assembling additional forces, special military equipment at the border combat positions in Basarkechar and Garakilsa regions, attacked the Azerbaijan army's combat posts in Kalbajar and Lachin regions. "The opposing side using weapons of various calibre and grenade launchers intensively firing on the positions of the Azerbaijan army, damaged the combat posts. As a result, ac-

Syria
abolishes
position of
Grand Mufti

FOREIGN DESK

DAMASCUS: Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has issued a decree that effectively abolished the position of the republic's grand mufti, without giving reasons for the decision.

The decree issued on Monday delegated to the Council of Jurisprudence Scholars tasks that were previously entrusted to the mufti, including setting the start and end dates of the holy month of Ramadan and declaring religious decrees or fatwa.

The decree also abolished Article 35 of a law regulating the power of the jurisprudential council and the work of the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs under the grand mufti, and strengthened the power of the council, headed by the minister of endowments.

The decision effectively forces Syria's Grand Mufti Ahmad Badr al-Din Hassoun, the highest Islamic authority in Syria, into retirement.

The has been wide speculation among the public around the reasons for al-Assad's decision. It came days after Syria's Jurisprudence Council issued harsh criticism of Hassoun's interpretation of a set of Quranic verses during the funeral of famous Syrian singer Sabah Fakhri, who died earlier this month.

The grand mufti is regarded as the most senior Sunni Muslim representative in Syria and issues religious edicts on behalf of the Syrian government.

Hassoun has held the position of grand mufti since 2005, after the death of his predecessor Ahmed Kufartar in 2004. He was known for being a staunch supporter of the government since the start of the civil war and was pictured on numerous occasions with al-Assad.

Palestinian
youth shot
dead by
Israeli forces

TUBAS: A young Palestinian was fatally shot by Israeli forces on Tuesday in the city of Tubas in the occupied West Bank, according to a Palestinian medic. Saddam Bani Odeh, 26, was shot in the heart and succumbed to his wounds shortly after being admitted to hospital, the medic at the Turkish-built Tubas Hospital told Anadolu Agency.

According to eyewitnesses, Israeli forces raided the city early Tuesday to arrest Palestinians, triggering violent clashes with local residents. Israeli forces used live bullets and tear gas canisters to disperse angry residents, who responded by hurling stones, they said. Bani Odeh was shot in the midst of the clashes.

Israeli forces frequently storm Palestinian towns and neighborhoods to make arrests, which often spark clashes with defiant youths.

Russia rejects
accusations of
endangering
ISS astronauts

MOSCOW: Russian officials on Tuesday rejected accusations that they endangered astronauts aboard the International Space Station by conducting a weapons test that created more than 1,500 pieces of space junk. U.S. officials on Monday accused Russia of destroying an old satellite with a missile in what they called a reckless and irresponsible strike. The debris could do major damage to the space station as it is orbiting at 17,500 mph (28,000 kph). Astronauts now face four times greater risk than normal, NASA Administrator Bill Nelson told The Associated Press.

The test clearly demonstrates that Russia, "despite its claims of opposing the weaponization of outer space, is willing to ... imperil the exploration and use of outer space by all nations through its reckless and irresponsible behavior," U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement. The Russian space agency Roscosmos wouldn't confirm or deny that the strike took place, saying only that "unconditional safety of the crew has been and remains our main priority" in a vague online statement released Tuesday. - Agencies

Briefs

PML-N expects SC to take notice of ex-judge revelations

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said Tuesday that the party had left the matter of an affidavit given by former top judge of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Supreme Court Rana Shamim against former chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) to the judiciary. Talking to a private television channel after appearing in an Accountability Court (AC) in LNG Quota reference, he said he hoped that the Supreme Court (SC) would take suo moto notice of the affidavit. He said that the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) would decide the date for beginning the long march towards Islamabad, and that he was not in a position to speculate on that. To a question whether the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government would complete its five-year term, the former prime minister replied, "No matter whether Imran Khan is the prime minister for five days, five months or five years, he is a burden on the country."

Hamza Shahbaz meets Pervaiz Elahi

LAHORE: Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly Hamza Shehbaz on Tuesday held a meeting with Punjab Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi while paying a visit to Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid's (PML-Q) ailing leader Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain at a hospital in Lahore to inquire about his health. Hamza visited Shujaat at the Doctors Hospital and Medical Center where the latter is currently admitted. During the visit, Hamza met and spoke with Elahi as well as Chaudhry Salik Hussain (Shujaat's son). "Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain is a senior politician of the country and a very fine man," Hamza told reporters as he prayed for the PML-Q president's recovery. The meeting comes amid reported tensions between the PML-Q and the ruling PTI, with the former being a coalition partner of the government. During a recent meeting chaired by Elahi, the PML-Q's parliamentary party had admitted that it was becoming difficult with each passing day to continue supporting the PTI's Punjab and federal governments while expressing concern over price hikes and inflation. The parliamentary party members vented their anger against the government and said the common man was suffering and they were unable to face their voters in respective constituencies. — APP

Dubai starts issuing multiple-entry permit

ISLAMABAD: Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Executive Council has announced the start of issuing a multiple-entry permit to the Emirate of Dubai for a period of five years for employees of international companies present in the emirate. Sheikh Hamdan said that our goal is to facilitate institutions and enable their teams to move quickly and easily to and from Dubai to participate in meetings, conferences and exhibitions held throughout the year, Gulf today reported. Sheikh Hamdan stressed that the continuous development of the frameworks regulating the work environment, raising the efficiency of the infrastructure, enhancing the factors of attraction, flexibility and speed in decision-making, are factors that confirm Dubai's position as the best city to work and live in the world. — APP

Azerbaijan will always remember Pak support during Patriotic War

Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov says his country genuinely wants to co-exist peacefully with Armenia; Pakistani companies invited to take part in the rebuilding of the newly liberated areas

EXCLUSIVE

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Here is the second part of the interview of Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov. Full text of the interview appears in the November 2021 issue of Centreline Magazine.

4. During the 44-day Patriotic War Pakistan wholeheartedly supported Azerbaijan. How would you describe the role of Pakistan?

We are especially grateful to Pakistan for its very active support to Azerbaijan in the Second Karabakh War. From the first days of the war, the Pakistani government has expressed its full moral and political support for Azerbaijan in restoring our territorial integrity. Other high-ranking Pakistani officials, members of parliament and public figures also supported us in the 44-day war, which resulted in the complete defeat of the Armenian army and the restoration of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity. I would also like to note that Pakistan is one of the few countries that did not recognize Armenia. This is another manifestation of fraternal relations between our countries. We will always remember who supported us during the war. Therefore, it is not surprising that Pakistani flags are everywhere in my country. Two countries have always supported each other in all matters. As you know, Azerbaijan supports the settlement of the Kashmir issue in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council. This position is based on justice, international law and our fraternal relations.

5-The process of reconstruction of the newly liberated



territories continues. Do you think Pakistani companies can also participate in the reconstruction process? Immediately after the liberation of our lands, President Ilham Aliyev openly stated that Azerbaijan would give preference to brotherly and friendly countries in the reconstruction work in those territories. We are interested in seeing the close involvement of fraternal Pakistani companies in all aspects of the restoration of the liberated territories. Our relevant entities are working closely with Pakistani companies to speed up the necessary preparations. I am sure we will see real results soon.

6- The Azerbaijani leadership is interested in ensuring peace in the region, but the

Armenian side does not send any positive message in this regard. Please comment on this. As the conflict is over, we have declared our readiness to begin the delimitation and demarcation of the border between Azerbaijan and Armenia, to begin negotiations on a peace agreement based on mutual recognition of each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Such an agreement can bring peace and cooperation to our region. However, we have not yet seen enough positive reaction from Armenia to our proposal. One of the areas that can lead to cooperation in the region is transport projects. In this context, the Zangazur corridor connecting Azerbaijan



with its integral part the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic and Turkey will create new opportunities for our region. Azerbaijan has created a new reality in the South Caucasus region. Armenia must choose between regional cooperation and illegal and unfounded territorial claims against its neighbors. The international community must also play a role in this matter urging Armenia to understand that there is no alternative to peace. Armenia should not support revanchism and militarization. Azerbaijan is determined to take the necessary steps to contribute to and strengthen peace and development in the region.

7- What is the latest situation in the liberated territories in terms of infrastructure development?

Large-scale construction work is being carried out in the liberated territories because we have left the conflict behind. Azerbaijan is building new cities and settlements by applying modern urban planning and using the concepts of "smart city" and "smart village". In Azerbaijan, which carries out all this work at its own expense, \$ 1.3 billion has been allocated from the state budget this year. However, the main problem is the excessive number of mines planted by Armenia in the liberated territories. About 30 Azerbaijani citizens, including two journalists, have been killed and about 130 injured in a mine explosion since Armenia signed a capitulation act on November

10, 2020. Currently, Azerbaijan is one of the most mined countries in the world, which slows down the reconstruction process in the liberated territories and the return of IDPs to their homes. Armenia does not provide accurate maps of mined areas, and the accuracy of the few maps it provides is only 25 percent. Armenia should be pressured by the international community to provide us with accurate mine maps of all liberated territories.

8-Can you tell us the role of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation in Pakistan?

As you know, with the initiative and support of H.E. Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva, First Vice-President of Azerbaijan, President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Goodwill Ambassador of ISESCO and UNESCO the Heydar Aliyev Foundation has implemented humanitarian social oriented projects in Pakistan. Thus, the opening ceremony of a secondary school for girls was held on February 9, 2008 in Rara settlement of Muzaffarabad city, which was damaged by the earthquake. During these years, with the initiative and support of the Foundation, free medical diagnosis and operations were provided, there were contribution to building of medical facilities and water supply systems, charity events were organized, peoples with disabilities were provided with wheelchairs and etc. We will continue to coordinate with brotherly Pakistan on the implementation of new projects in this direction. All these activities are aimed at serving humanity and strengthening the friendship between the two brotherly peoples. Such projects are an example of our commitment to further strengthen the historically strong fraternal ties between the two peoples.



ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong calls on Senator Sania Nishtar SAPM to explore avenues of collaboration in poverty alleviation. — DNA

Pak-China to collaborate on poverty eradication

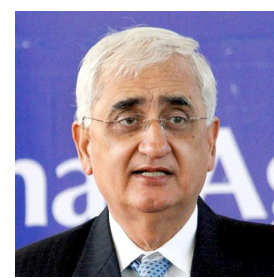
DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Nong Rong called on Senator Dr. Sania Nishtar, SAPM today to explore avenues of collaboration in poverty alleviation. On the Cooperation for Poverty Alleviation in the field of commerce, the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division (PASSD) of the Government of Pakistan and Ministry of Commerce of China are entering a memorandum of understanding (MoU).

The MoU has been approved by the Federal Cabinet on October 27, 2021 and will be inked soon between China and Pakistan. The meeting discussed the implementation arrangements of the MOU. China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic partners. Under the MOU, both the countries will enhance cooperation and exchange of experience, especially in the context of poverty reduction, through leveraging potential for commerce. The Chinese side is led by Ministry of Commerce and Pakistan's side by PASSD. The Chinese side will take advantages of commerce in connecting urban and rural areas, linking home and abroad, matching production and marketing, focus on the exchange of experience on developing poverty alleviation industries, creating employment opportunities, promoting the domestic and foreign trade in poverty-stricken areas, and thus helping to eradicate poverty in the strategy of precise poverty alleviation and eradication, to help Pakistan expand its vision and innovate its method for poverty alleviation, promote better economic and social development in Pakistan. Both countries will also establish a communication mechanism to exchange poverty alleviation experience in the field of commerce under the framework of China Pakistan Joint Economic and Trade Committee. Also, regular exchanges will be organized on the implementation mechanism, management mode and main effectiveness of commerce-based poverty alleviation to promote programmatic cooperation.

Extremists attack Muslim ex-FM's home in India

Salman Khurshid published a book last month in which he compared Hindu nationalism under Modi to 'extremist groups' such as ISIL



NEW DELHI: Hindu hardliners have attacked and set fire to the home of a former Indian foreign minister, police say, in the latest incident of religious violence that critics say has been inflamed under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Salman Khurshid, a Muslim from the main opposition Congress party, published a book last month in which he compared the kind of Hindu nationalism that has flourished under Modi to "extremist groups" such as ISIL (ISIS). Police said a mob of about 20 people from a hardline local Hindu group massed outside Khurshid's house near the northern city of Nainital on Monday. "They shouted slogans, threw stones, broke several windows, ransacked [the entry] and set fire [to a door]," local police chief Jagdish Chandra told the AFP news agency.

The Times of India newspaper reported that the group had set fire to an effigy of Khurshid, fired shots and threatened the daughter-in-law of the caretaker with a gun. Khurshid, who served as foreign minister from 2012 to 2014, was away with his family at the time of the incident. He later posted images of the aftermath of the attack on social media. "Shame is too ineffective a word," Khurshid, 68, said on social media. "I hoped to open these doors to my friends who have left this calling card. Am I still wrong to say this cannot be Hinduism?" he added. Activists say that religious minorities in Hindu-majority India have faced increased levels of discrimination and violence since Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came to power in 2014. — Agencies

Pfizer strikes global licensing deal for Covid pill

GENEVA: US pharmaceutical giant Pfizer on Tuesday announced a deal to make its prospective antiviral Covid-19 pill available more cheaply in the world's least wealthy countries. Pfizer will sub-licence production of its promising Paxlovid pill to generic drug manufacturers for supply in 95 low- and middle-income nations covering around 53 percent of the world's population. Under the deal struck with the global Medicines Patent Pool (MPP), Pfizer - which also produces one of the most widely-used Covid vaccines with German lab BioNTech - will not receive royalties from the generic manufacturers, making the treatment cheaper. — Agencies

Taliban arrest man for selling 130 women

KUNDZ: The Taliban have arrested a man for allegedly selling dozens of women in northern Afghanistan after duping them into believing they would be marrying into money, officials said Tuesday. The man was arrested in northern Jowzjan province late on Monday, Damullah Seraj, the Taliban provincial police chief, told reporters. "We are still in our initial stages of the investigation. We hope to find out more about this case later," he said. Mohammad Sardar Mubariz, a district police chief in Jowzjan, told AFP the man would target poor women desperate to improve their circumstances. After saying he would find them a wealthy husband, he would move them to a different province where they were instead sold into servitude. He allegedly trafficked around 130 women this way. Crime, nepotism, and corruption are not new in Afghanistan but rising poverty is undermining the Taliban government's claim to legitimacy. Since their return to power about three months ago, the Taliban are trying to contain a spate of crimes such as robberies and kidnappings in the big cities. — APP

Clashes erupt as Belarus-Poland crisis worsens

"Illegal migrants have been gathering at the border crossing in Kuźnica, at the Belarusian side. New groups, which so far have been squatting at the border, are joining them. An attempt to forcefully cross the border is being prepared. Everything is taking place under the supervision of Belarusian forces"

FOREIGN DESK

SOKOLKA: Clashes erupted between stranded refugees and Polish border guards at the Polish-Belarusian border early on Tuesday. Refugees at the Kuznica border crossing trying to cross into Poland reportedly threw stones at Polish guards, who responded by using water cannon and tear gas, according to Poland's Ministry of National Defence (MOD). The MOD said: "The migrants attacked our soldiers and guards with stones and are trying to force the fence to get to the Polish territory. Our forces used tear gas to thwart the aggression of migrants." Marta Szymanderska from Grupa Granica, a coalition of NGOs which are responding to the humanitarian crisis at the border, told Al Jazeera: "The use of force [by Poland] is completely unjustifiable be-

Lukashenko says wants to avoid 'confrontation'

MOSCOW: Belarus leader Alexander Lukashenko said on Tuesday he wanted to avoid confrontation over migrants at the Polish border in a crisis that the EU has accused him of orchestrating. His comments came after the EU and the US vowed to expand sanctions on Belarus this week, with thousands of migrants - mostly from the Middle East - camped at the Polish border in freezing temperatures. Brussels says Belarus's authoritarian leader has lured the migrants to the EU's doorstep,

charges that Minsk has denied. "We cannot let this so-called problem lead to heated confrontation," Lukashenko told a government meeting, according to state news agency Belta. "The main thing now is to protect our country and our people, and not to allow clashes." Lukashenko discussed the crisis with Germany's Angela Merkel on Monday, his first phone call with a Western leader since he suppressed mass protests against his rule last year. — APP

It was unclear if there were any injuries among refugees, while at least one policeman was wounded. The Polish Border Guard said: "Illegal migrants have been

gathering at the border crossing in Kuźnica, at the Belarusian side. New groups, which so far have been squatting at the border, are joining them. An attempt to forcefully cross the border is being prepared. Everything is taking place under the supervision of Belarusian forces." Earlier on Tuesday, more Polish police and security forces arrived at the border to prevent what Polish authorities claimed was an attempt by migrants to illegally cross into Polish - and European Union - territory. Video footage posted on social media showed people near the border running away after being sprayed with water cannon. The situation appeared calmer by the afternoon. Thousands of refugees and migrants are trapped in a no-man's land between the Polish and Belarusian borders as a result of an East-West geopolitical crisis involving Warsaw and its allies, and Minsk and Moscow.