



Islamabad POST

Monday, November 22, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

Prime Minister directs action against land mafias, facilitators

Detailed News On Page-01

Ousted Sudan PM returns after deal

Detailed News On Page-08



United sack Solksjaer after hurting defeats

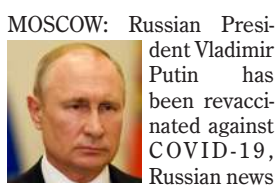
Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Putin vaccinated again

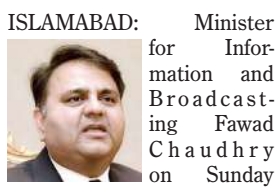
DNA



MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin has been revaccinated against COVID-19, Russian news agencies quoted him as saying on Sunday. Putin said in June 2021 that he had been vaccinated with Sputnik V vaccine. "Today, on your recommendation and that of your colleagues, I got another vaccination, Sputnik Light. This is called revaccination," Putin said at a meeting with the deputy director of the Gamaleya Research Centre for Epidemiology and Microbiology, which developed both vaccines.

SCBA must remain 'neutral'

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry on Sunday advised the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) to remain 'neutral' as lawyers will only be able to contribute then. The minister made the remarks through his official Twitter handle, following the third Asma Jahangir Conference held on Saturday, which was addressed by the CJ and other senior judges. Fawad said that the conference "concluding with speech by an absconder [former premier Nawaz Sharif was] nothing but a contempt of judges and judiciary."

EVM new way to rob votes

DNA



SHAKARGARH: Former federal minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) secretary general electronic voting machine (EVM) is new way to rob votes. Talking to media he said that internet voting has not yet been recognized worldwide, while the PDM stands firm against unconstitutional measures. Ahsan Iqbal said that the PML-Q and MQM are providing oxygen to the government and if their leadership does not reconsider their politics, then the political grave of both the parties will be dug with PTI.

Cadastral Mapping Action against land mafias, facilitators

Prime Minister shared the "shocking facts" coming out of the digitalized land record revealing that the encroached properties also included forest land

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Sunday that government will take action against land mafias and their facilitators with the help of digital record maintained by cadastral mapping. In a series of Tweets on Sunday, the prime minister said that when the government began cadastral mapping of Pakistan to digitalise land records there was a massive resistance just like protests over Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). He shared the "shocking facts" coming out of the digitalized land record revealing that the encroached properties also included forest land valuing Rs 1,869 billion. "The most shocking facts to come out are: 1. The huge total value of all encroached state & 3 major cities land - approximately Rs 5595 billion; 2. The approximate value of encroached forest land - Rs 1869 billion," he wrote on Twitter. He said the encroachment had also aggravated Pakistan's existing lack of sufficient forest cover. He said like the Electronic Voting Machines, the government also faced "massive resistance" while beginning the cadastral mapping of Pakistan to digitalize land records. "Results of Phase 1 survey of state lands shows why

Continued on Page 06

Cadastral mapping complete; land to be recovered

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam says the government has completed the cadastral mapping of the state land. Briefing media persons in Islamabad, he said the government is determined to recover the state land from illegal occupants. He said the total area of forest land in Pakistan is around 30,000 square kilometers and around 700,000 acres of forest land is under illegal occupation. Malik Amin Aslam said 10,000 acres out of 15,000 forest land in Shaheed Benazirabad has been illegally occupied, which makes 70 percent of the total forest land of the district. He said in Takhtpari area of Rawalpindi, 755 acres out of 2,200 acres forest land have been illegally occupied, which makes 34 percent of the total land.

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan rejects Indian Minister's statements

Pakistan is fully capable of defending itself against any aggression: FO

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan strongly rejects highly irresponsible, provocative and gratuitous remarks by the Indian Defence Minister threatening Pakistan. A statement from foreign office said that his unfounded remarks are delusional on the one hand, and reflective of India's characteristic hostility towards its neighbours on the other. India's smear campaign against Pakistan has been totally exposed and discredited. It has no takers in the international community. "It is no secret that Indian leaders engage in falsehoods and

Continued on Page 06

Moeed Yusuf stresses consensus on Kashmir

KHAYAM ABBASI



ISLAMABAD: National Security Adviser Dr Moeed Yusuf has said consensus on Kashmir issue and national security is imperative to safeguard supreme national interest. In an interview with a private news channel, he said government believes in consensus and dialogue to address all internal and external threats being faced by the country. Talking about the prevailing situation in Afghanistan, he warned that Pakistan would not allow the new Afghan government to carry out activities from the Afghan soil against any country. The Advisor said unrest in Afghanistan will incur impacts on Pakistan, and peaceful Afghanistan is in the best interest of the entire region. Shedding light over prevailing Pak-US relationships, he reaffirmed Islamabad's commitment to forge friendly relations with Washington as both the countries share common interests on various areas.



HASSANABDAL: Sikh yatees perform religious rituals at the Gurudwara Panja Sahib, Hassanabal, on Sunday. - DNA

Gunmen shoot dead three coal miners

Baluch separatist groups have previously claimed responsibility for similar attacks

BUREAU REPORT

QUETTA: Gunmen shot and killed three workers at a coal mine in southwestern Pakistan, officials said on Sunday. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. Suhail Anwar Hashmi, the top administrator in Harnai district in Baluchistan province, said the early morning violence took place in the Sharag area where most of the province's coal mines are located. Haranai is located about 124 miles (200 kilometers) northeast of Quetta, the provincial capital of Baluchistan. Hashmi said counterterrorism and local

Continued on Page 06

Toppling the PTI govt only way out

Bilawal says Prime Minister Imran Khan is continuously creating crisis and increasing the miseries of the people

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Lashing out at the "incompetency" of those running the country, PPP Chairperson Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari claimed Sunday that the resolution of all problems of the public lies in the ouster of the PTI-led government. Expressing serious concerns over the ongoing gas crisis across Pakistan, Bilawal Bhutto said that Prime Minister Imran Khan is continuously creating crisis and increasing the miseries of the people.

Continued on Page 06

Khaqan accuses NAB of 'selective' accountability

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: Former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on Sunday lashed out at the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and branded it a "tool to convert people into turncoats". Addressing the Asma Jahangir Conference in Lahore, the PML-N leader gave a speech detailing his grievances against the watchdog and held it responsible for a series



of ailments plaguing the country. During his speech, Abbasi said that in one of the cases filed against him

Continued on Page 06

PDM steering committee meets today

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the steering committee of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) on its future strategy and long march will be held in Islamabad today (Monday) under the chairmanship of Maulana Fazlur Rehman. The meeting will discuss the date of the long march from Lahore to Islamabad while other proposals for anti-government protests will also be considered. The meeting of the PDM leadership will also be held in Islamabad on November 23. The meeting will decide on the recommendations of the steering committee. - APP

Taliban start paying salaries to govt employees

Salaries will be paid for the period starting August 23, adding that some govt employees will be paid even for the month before the Taliban took power

NEWS DESK

KABUL: Afghanistan's Taliban authorities said on Saturday they had begun paying government employees who had not received a paycheck since the Islamists seized power and triggered a major financial crisis. Most government employees have yet to return to work and many had not been paid for months even before the Taliban captured power, especially rural workers. "We are going to start paying

salaries from today. We will pay three months' salaries," Ahmad Wali Haqmal, spokesman for the finance ministry said at a press conference. Haqmal said salaries will be paid for the period starting August 23, adding that some government employees will be paid even for the month before the Taliban took power. The payment will be made through the country's banking system which Haqmal said had not been "paralyzed" since the fall of the previous government. "It just needs time to operate normally,"

he said. The government employees will still be unable to access their full salaries. Since August, Afghanistan's banking sector has collapsed, and those with money in the bank have struggled to access their funds as branches curtailed withdrawals to \$200 to \$400 a week. The financial crunch was aggravated after Washington froze about \$10 billion of assets held in its reserve for Kabul and deteriorated further after the WB and IMF halted Afghanistan's access to funding.

Asad's Chopin music show leaves audience spell-bound

Ambassador of Poland Maciej Pesarski and the Defence Attache Bogdan Obuchowski arranged the music performance to celebrate the National Day and the Armed Forces Day of Poland

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: When music maestro Asad Anees played the national anthems of Pakistan and Poland on the piano, the audience could not resist spontaneous applause. This was probably the first event since the Corona ban was over, which was a well attended show. Asad Anees' piano performance won the hearts of not only foreigners but also Pakistanis present on the occasion. The performance ostensibly relaxed the knee-jerk atmosphere caused by the Corona pandemic. The Ambassador of Poland Maciej Pesarski and the Defence Attache Bogdan Obuchowski arranged the music performance to celebrate the National Day and the Armed Forces Day of Poland rather in a different way. Ambassador Maciej in his brief remarks on the occasion welcomed the guests besides giving a brief description of what the Chopin music was. Additional Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr. Tariq was the chief guest, while members of the Diplomatic Corps, Members of Parliament, and military personnel attended the reception. The ambassador said Polish and Pakistani relations are very strong. We are good partners and close friends working together to bring about more peace and stability. There exists huge potential between the two countries and I look forward to tapping this potential. The ambassador highlighted the salient



ISLAMABAD: Maestro Asad Anees exhibiting his piano skills at the Polish residence. - DNA

features of defence cooperation between the two countries adding just after the Second World War a group of Polish pilots helped Pakistani people in their efforts to build a new Pakistani state, especially mentioning the name of Air Commodore Wladyslaw Jozef Marian Turowicz who opted to live in Pakistan. It may be mentioned here that Turowicz was the administrator of Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) from

1967 to 1970. He was one of forty five Polish officers and airmen who joined RPAF on contract in the early fifties. After completion of his initial contract, Turowicz opted to stay on in Pakistan and continued to serve in PAF and later, SUPARCO. Turowicz made significant contributions to Pakistan's missile/rocket program as a chief aeronautical engineer. In Pakistan, he remains highly respected as a scientist and noted aeronautical engineer.

The Chopin competition is the most important musical event in Poland and one of the most important musical events in the world. Apart from its huge role in popularizing Chopin's music, it discovers the greatest pianistic talents, providing young musicians with the most effective start in their international career. Maestro Asad Anees started learning piano at the age of 6, with his father being his first mentor. He made his debut at the age of 12 and has thereafter given many piano recitals in different cities of Pakistan as well as in the UAE and USA. Foremost among them stands his performance in Carnegie Hall, New York City. Asad had taken part in the Faiz International Festival every year since 2013 and has made it to the final stage of the Crane International Piano competition held in State University of New York. He successfully cleared his ATCL piano exam of Trinity College London in 2017. Fryderyk Franciszek Chopin happens to be the founder of the snore of music. He was a Polish composer and virtuoso pianist of the romantic period who wrote primarily for solo piano. His piano writing was technically demanding and expanded the limits of the instrument, his own performances noted for their nuance and sensitivity. Additional Secretary Dr. Tariq rightly mentioned that famous Pakistani poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz had also mentioned Chopin in his works, which is a clear testimony of Pakistani legendary poets' great interest in this sort of music.

Inside...

- DC Faisalabad inspect uplift schemes in city - Page 02
- China digital farming: Pak-project "Digital Dera" starts - Page 03
- IPS-JUB join hands to promote policy research - Page 04
- Mid East tries cooperation alongside competition - Page 05
- Shuai reappears after accusing former Chinese official - Page 06
- Poland says Belarus keeps bringing migrants to its border - Page 07
- Sudan's PM reinstated after political agreement - Page 08



FAISALABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib listening the complaints during an open court at his office. — APP

Govt working for education on emergency basis

SAQIB MUSHTAQ

LODHARAN: Commissioner Multan Division Dr. Irshad Ahmad said that Government of Punjab has started working for the betterment of educational institutions on emergency basis. He added that schools in rural areas will be upgraded to improve the quality of education on priority. He added that teachers should enhance their capacity to introduce students to modern education. He expressed these remarks during

his surprise visit to Duniyapur's Government Boys High School and Duniyapur Public School, at this time Deputy Commissioner Captain (R) Shoaib Ali and other notables were there. Commissioner Multan Division accessed the condition of the school's building and classrooms and checked the attendance of teaching and non-teaching staff. Commissioner visited different classrooms and indulged in conversation with students. He also inquired about corona vaccination to the students. Commissioner Multan inquired from

students about corona vaccination of them and their family members, later Commissioner Multan also visited THQ Hospital Duniyapur, he visited different wards and departments of the hospital. Commissioner visited under treatment patients and inquired about the medical facilities being provided to them. Commissioner also visited Corona Vaccination center established in the hospital, he inquired about the availability and vaccination record. Commissioner also visited under construction Sports complex in Tehsil Duniyapur, he urged to complete the construction work on sports complex soon. Commissioner was briefed about the ongoing development and construction on the sports complex. He said that with the completion of sports complex people of Duniyapur will get best sports facilities. He added that projects of public welfare should be completed as soon as possible. He also visited Land Record Center and Rural Treasury Center Duniyapur, Commissioner inquired from people present at the center by visiting different counters. Assistant Commissioner Duniyapur Aitzaz Anjum briefed Commissioner Multan about the progress of Land Record Center and Rural Treasury Center.



Maximum relief is manifesto of PTI: Shaukat

PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister for Labour, Culture and Parliamentary Affairs, Shaukat Yousafzai has said that the provision of maximum relief to the people and making the province model developed was the manifesto of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government. He expressed these views during inspection of the under-construction Sasobi Kormang Bridge at Shangla on Sunday. The provincial minister expressed anguish over the alleged use of old and poor material in the bridge and directed the Secretary Communication and Works for taking immediate notice and high-level investigation into the matter. Shaukat Yousafzai warned that the use of poor quality material in construction work will not be tolerated in any circumstances and those involved in such practice will face legal proceedings. — APP

Govt approves Rs1m PhD scholarships

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister for Minority Affairs, Wazir Zada on Sunday said that promotion of interfaith harmony is the need of hour for maintaining peace, tolerance and brotherhood in the society. Addressing the 202nd Birthday Anniversary of Hazrat Bahauddin held here at Khwendo Kor, Wazir Zada said that PTI government has always prioritized welfare of minority communities and steps were underway for their socio-economic development. He said that provincial government had announced of rupees one million scholarships for minority's student who intended to study in PhD classes. He expressed the hope that the step would help non-Muslim students to get higher education. Wazir Zada also informed that on the directives of KP CM Mahmood Khan, 1000 houses would be constructed in each division of the province for minorities' community. — APP

PIDE to generate debate around "Opportunity"

PESHAWAR: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad is hosting the 35th annual general meeting and conference of the Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE) from November 22 to 25 in collaboration with the Institute of Management Sciences (IMS) here. The theme of the Conference is "Opportunities to Excel: Now and the Future". The PIDE firmly believes that there should be opportunities for everyone irrespective of the social fabric. This will be the second time that the AGM is being held outside Islamabad. Walking the talk, PIDE aims to hold the next rounds across all regions of Pakistan, starting with the provincial capitals at first. The institute, to make the conference more inclusive, has also invited and is facilitating students to participate from different regions of the country. Professor Doni Rodrick and Professor Cass Sunstein from Harvard University, Cambridge USA, will also be speaking on "Technology, Globalization and a Need for a New Model of Development" and "New Frontiers in Behavioural Science: Scar-

city, Nudge, Sludge, and Social Norms", respectively. Besides these, renowned speakers from diverse backgrounds will also be joining. These include Arshad Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor, Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS); Hans Timmer; Regional Chief Economist, World Bank; Tochen Hippler, Country Director, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and Dr. Hafiz Pasha, the former Federal Minister, and many others. Other prominent and well-known personalities of the country from all walks of life including Taimoor Saleem Khan Jhagra, Finance Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Yahya Akhundzada, Secretary Education KP, Zahoor Ul Haq, VC Abdul Wali Khan University (Mardan), Naseem Zehra (Journalist), Fasi Zaka (Columnist), Pervez Hoodbhoy (Educationist), Muhammad Aurangzeb President HBL, Khalid Mahmood (Deputy Commissioner Peshawar), Hijab Fatimah (Designer/Artist/Director), Haya Fatima (Filmmaker), Sarmad Khoo-sat (Artist/Director), Wajahat Malik (Documentary Filmmaker) will also participate in the 04 days International conference. — APP

Corona positivity drops in KP

PESHAWAR: The positivity ratio for Coronavirus dropped as only 51 new cases were reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during last 24 hours, said Corona updates shared by the Health Department here on Sunday. During the period two persons have also been died of the virus, reaching toll from the disease in the province to 5816 with consecutive decline in new cases, the number of the total active cases has also been dropped to 1279. In the meanwhile, 69 patients have also been recovered from the disease. — APP



HYDERABAD: Members of civil societies holds a protest against the murder of Quratulain, they conduct a march from Nasim Nagar to Hyderabad press club. — DNA Photo by Jan Ali Laghari

Indonesia aims to reach \$50 bn e-com trade target

He said that global retail e-commerce sales in 2020 stood at US\$ 4.28 trillion, which is expected to reach US\$ 5.4 trillion by 2022

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Pakistan, Adam Mulawarman Tugio on Sunday said that Indonesia aimed to reach a US\$50 billion e-commerce trade target by 2025 to connect with the biggest sector of global trade. There are vast opportunities in e-commerce trade between Pakistan and Indonesia, which will increase bilateral trade and investment opportunities on both sides, Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan, Adam Mulawarman Tugio told APP here. The Ambassador said that Pakistan and Indonesia are countries with large youth populations that can make their mark in the global e-commerce trade and create vast employment opportunities in both the countries. He said that global retail e-commerce sales in 2020 stood at US\$ 4.28 trillion, which is expected to reach US\$ 5.4 trillion by 2022. He said that there is an era of Infor-

mation Technology (IT) and online connectivity in the world and now the big global brands are connected to small and big markets and are continuing their business activities. The Ambassador said that Pakistan and Indonesia can be linked with e-commerce trade to increase bilateral trade as well as connect both sides' youth in connection of business and trade. With such connections, young people from both the countries and people can benefit from each other's experiences and skills to promote economic and cultural integration. He said that e-commerce integration in both the countries could also help in promoting tourism in both of countries and strengthen the ties between the people of both countries. Tugio said that Pakistan and Indonesia are among the most beautiful countries in the world and with the promotion of tourism in both countries mutual economic activities



would reach its peak. He said that the two countries have similarities in many areas, including religion, culture, architecture, landscape, and cuisine which must be familiar to the people of both countries. Replying to the question, he said Indonesia had made investments in Palm oil in Karachi which would enhance economic cooper-

DC Faisalabad inspects uplift schemes in city

He inspected the ongoing construction work and inspected the quality work of the carpet road at main bazar national colony

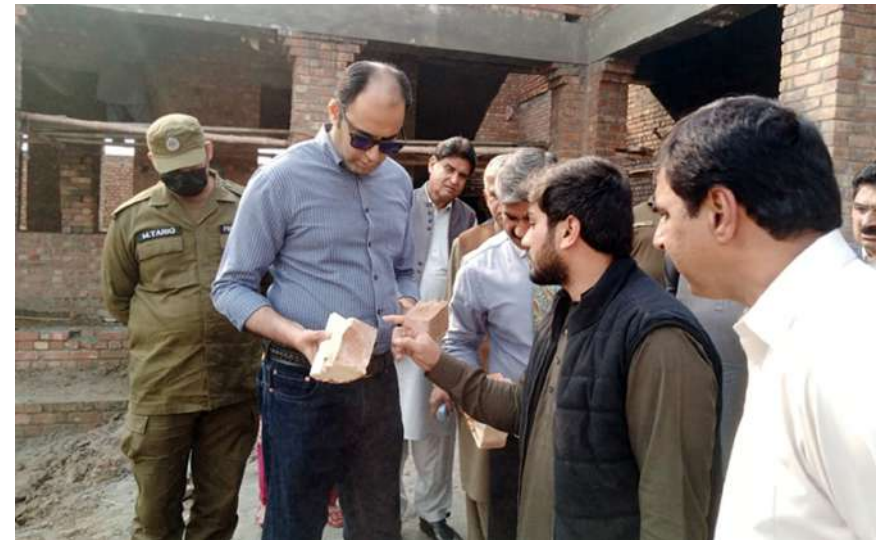
ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Ali Shehzad inspected the quality of development schemes in different areas. He inspected the ongoing construction work and inspected the quality work of the carpet road at main bazar national colony, establishment of govt girls primary school behind sandal college, repair and construction of Jhang road and satiana road projects. He directed the officers of the departments implementing the development projects that transparency of public welfare projects is a priority and no compromise will be made on construction standards. He directed the officers of FDA, Schools Education, Communication and Work and Local Government and Community Development Departments to be present on the spot and monitor the development schemes. He said that the projects should be completed in said time frame and he will continue to inspect the progress and quality of schemes regularly. Meanwhile the District Price Control Committee meeting was held at DC office under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner

Ali Shehzad, in which consultation with wholesalers, retailers, traders and consumer representatives has re-fixed the wholesale and retail prices of various essential commodities. During the meeting, reviewing the current market prices of various essential commodities and fluctuations in their availability rates, the prices of various essential commodities for the general markets were unanimously fixed. According to the detailed price of Basin has reduced upto three rupees and it would be sold at Rs 122 per kg in wholesale while the retail price was Rs 128 per kg. Similarly, gram white(mota) Rs 175 per kg

and Rs 182 per kg respectively White gram(break) at Rs 155 and Rs 161 per kg, black gram(mota) at Rs 116 and Rs 122 per kg, black gram(break) at Rs 111 and Rs 116 per kg, pulse gram(moti) at Rs 121 and Rs 127 per kg, Pulse gram breek Rs 116 and Rs 122 per kg, Pulse mash washed foreign Rs 229 and Rs 236 per kg, Pulse mash unwashed foreign Rs 211 and Rs 218 per kg, Pulse Masoor will be sold at Rs 167 and Rs 173 per kg, pulse masoor(breek) at Rs 182 and 188 per Kg. Rice super basmati (old) at Rs 128 and Rs 134 per kg. Ari rice after reduction price upto 5 rupee and now new

price is Rs 55 per kg, milk at Rs 95 per kg, yoghurt at Rs 100 per kg, meat at Rs 950, Beef Rs. 450 per kg, Roti Rs. 7 per kg weighing 100 grams. The prices of fruits and vegetables will be auctioned in the daily markets while the prices of poultry products will be provided by the Livestock Poultry Association to the Secretary Market Committee at 7 am daily in consultation with the Livestock Poultry Association. Deputy Commissioner Ali Shehzad said that price control magistrates were active in conducting raids in the markets and there would be no concession from illegitimate profiteers.



Extraordinary grant scheme launched for SMEs

PESHAWAR: The federal government has launched extraordinary grant provision project for promotion of investment and creation of employment opportunities in small and medium enterprises (SMEs) sector in the country. The project 'National Business Development Programme' (NBDP) being implemented by SMEDA, Ministry of Industries and Production (MoI&P), across Pakistan including Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. Talking to APP, General Manager at SMEDA's Regional Office, Peshawar Raja Hassan-ineer Javed said that an entrepreneur could obtain a matching grant upto Rs 500,000 for purchase of raw material,

office equipment such as computer, printer, Photocopy machine, scanner and quality testing instruments etc. Those who are running the businesses of schools, beauty parlours, hospitals, clinics, furniture and stock materials are also eligible for the grant. Under the programme, NBDP will provide 80 percent matching grant out of the total investment while the remaining 20 percent will be borne by the applicant. Elaborating the scheme, the SMEDA official said that if an SME is required an amount of Rs 0.1 million for grant, then, the applicant will have to provide Rs 20,000 on his own, the remaining amount of Rs 80,000 will be provided by NBDP. Similarly, in case of the

maximum investment of Rs 625,000, the share of the applicant should be of Rs 125,000. The amount is provided in shape of grant and will not be recovered from the SME. The grant is provided on reimbursement basis. The applications will be filed only online, for which SMEDA has given a specific link while information could also be obtained from SMEDA headquarters Lahore, Regional Offices, or by calling SME Business Helpline (042) 111-763-111. The official said that procedure for obtaining this grant is very simple. The first conditionality is that the applicant should be a Pakistani National holding National Identity Card (NIC) of Pakistan. — APP

Over 1.8mn children vaccinated

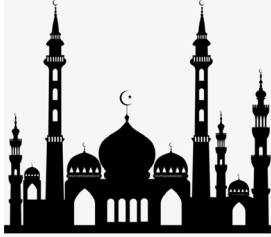
BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: As many as 1821038 children between the age of nine month to 15 years have been vaccinated in six days in the ongoing measles and rubella catch-up campaign while 545920 children upto age of 5 years were administered polio drops. Deputy Commissioner Ali Shehzad was informed during the review meeting. CEO Health Dr. Kashif Mahmood, District Health Officer Dr. Bilal Ahmed, Assistant Commissioner city Muhammad Yousuf, District Manager Punjab Health Facilities Management Company Khalid Latif, UNICEF Regional Coordinator Dr. Serena and other concerned officers were also present. Deputy Commissioner said that all out resources would be utilized to achieve the day by day target and if there would be any issue of refusal then came into notice so that action could be taken for resolve it. He said that monitoring of the campaign is also carried out and in case of any negligence strict action would be taken. CEO DHA briefed the meeting about the campaign.

70 new corona cases reported in Punjab

LAHORE: Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) Secretary Imran Sikandar Baloch Sunday said that during the last 24 hours, 70 new cases of corona have been reported from across the province. In a statement, he said that 42 positive cases were reported in Lahore, nine in Kasur, eight in Rawalpindi and four cases were reported in Faisalabad. The secretary said that so far, the total number of cases has reached 442,433. Besides, 423,053 patients have fully recovered in the province, bringing the total number of active cases to 6,385 till date. In last 24 hours, four deaths were reported in Punjab pushing the toll to 12,995. He added that 13,053 tests were conducted making a total of 8,245,725 tests, in same time. The overall positive rate of Covid-19 in last 24 hours was recorded at 0.5 per cent in all the cities of the province, while Lahore recorded a positive rate of 1.6 per cent, 0.9 per cent in Rawalpindi, 0.6 per cent in Multan and 0.8 per cent in Gujranwala. — APP

SERVICES



Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	05:18 am
Zohr.....	11:54 am
Asr.....	03:24 pm
Maghrib.....	05:02 pm
Isha.....	06:29 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
-----------------	--------------



ISLAMABAD: Pakistani music band performs during a function held to celebrate 70 years of Pakistan-Spain friendship. – DNA

China digital farming: Pak-project “Digital Dera” starts

The Farmland Digital Integrated Management System’s machine vision and intelligence are primarily used for monitoring plant diseases and insect pests

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China’s digital farming and smart agriculture practices are going to be a shot in the arm of Pakistan’s agriculture growth with inspiration from Chinese agro-based innovative technologies and techniques. According to Gwadar Pro, a group of young Pakistani agri-tech entrepreneurs have pioneered a project “Digital Dera” in district Pakpattan, around 148 kilometres away from Lahore. A tech-savvy project “Digital Dera” aims to empower farmers with cutting-edge agriculture solutions and assist them in the creation of smart communities.

Talking to Gwadar Pro, founder of “Digital Dera” and co-founder of a Think Tank ‘Agriculture Republic’, Aamer Hayat Bhandara emphasised that data, information, advisory and technology are pre-requisites for maximising agricultural growth. He believed that despite the ideal weather and fertile land, Pakistan is unable to achieve the standard yield due to the lack of modern agricultural techniques. He also urged the usage of sensors to assist farmers in making accurate decisions for their crops. He was of the view that because China is leading the world in technological innovation, therefore, he proposed that Chinese agro-based companies aligned with modern agriculture

vision may digitally equip Pakistani farmers by transferring technology of agriculture drones, geo-tagging, data collection through satellite imagery, electric tractors and human resource development. Talking about the impact and prospects of “Digital Dera”, he said that this model can easily be replicated anywhere in the country. He also looked forward to collaborating with China on capacity building and the transfer of digital technology in agriculture. It is an encouraging development that footprints of China digital farming in Pakistan are getting visible. Farmland Digital Integrated Management System, which Shandong ARK IT Business

implemented in east China’s Shandong Province, is now working on digital agriculture development in Pakistan. While supplying high-quality drip irrigation and sprinkler irrigation equipment, the company also uses artificial intelligence technologies to help Pakistan’s small farmers and large-scale plantations save money and boost efficiency. The Farmland Digital Integrated Management System’s machine vision and intelligence are primarily used for monitoring plant diseases and insect pests. To achieve agricultural production prediction, pest control, and other challenges, the system uses artificial intelligence technologies such as computer

vision, picture recognition, and deep learning. Pakistani farmers can directly replicate the advanced Chinese agricultural technology in order to accomplish higher crop yields to ensure food security in the country. It should be noted that, Pakistani food imports have risen by 54 per cent during the last fiscal year. In Pakistan, various factors have contributed to increased food imports, and one of them is low crop yield. According to a study conducted by Zarai Taraqati Bank Limited in 2020, Pakistan is far behind other countries, as far as crop yield is concerned. This study emphasised the use of technology to improve crop yield. Traditional farms are

considerably less efficient and sustainable than digital farms, whereas digital farming entails the use of new technologies such as data science, digital communication channels, automation, and sensors. As a result, an increasing number of farmers have access to improved data, allowing them to make better decisions in order to increase output and reduce waste. By employing modern technology and digitizing the agriculture regime of the country through Chinese collaboration, Pakistan can address food security issues, save foreign exchange by lowering food imports and can also enhance the income of millions of farmers across the country.

AIOU, British organization to promote female education



SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) and a British NGO have initiated collaboration to promote female education in Pakistan. AIOU is rightly privileged to be selected by the British

NGO for this noblest cause because of its contributions to mass education in Pakistan. In this regard, Mr William Von Schrader, Country Director, ACTED UKAID visited AIOU and had a meeting with DGRS, Inamullah Sheikh, in his office. DGRS briefed him

about AIOU’s significant role in promoting mass education in Pakistan. He, further, told him that AIOU is top prioritized by the Pakistani females in their educational pursuits because of its quality educational services available in every nook and corner

of the country. Out of 1.2 million students enrolled at AIOU, women are fifty seven percent which is a reflection of their preference of AIOU to other educational institutions of the country, he added. It is pertinent to mention here that UKAID is direct grant holder of the British government which is providing funds for promoting female education in the developing countries of the world. AIOU is also planning to participate in UKAID’s ongoing projects in the districts of Kashmir and Jackabad of the Sindh province. Director, International Collaboration and Exchange Office, Dr Zahid Majeed arranged this meeting. Dr Zahid Majeed, Media focal person, DGRS, Sadaf Ashraf and other officials also attended the meeting.

OGDCL carries out 336 Line-km 2D surveys in 3 months

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) has carried out 336 Line-kilometer 2D seismic surveys in its various operational areas during first quarter of the current fiscal year, representing 42 per cent of the country’s total 2D seismic data acquired in three months. “Moreover, the company using in-house resources processed/reprocessed 518 Line km of 2D and 360 sq. km of 3D seismic data,” according to an official report. During the period under review, the company injected four operated wells, producing 69,770 barrel (BBL) crude oil and 184 million cubic feet (MMCF) gas, in its production gathering system. “In line with its production strategy to boost oil and gas production, the company injected wells including Tando Alam-21, Sial-1, Pasakhi12 and Mangrio-2 which cumulatively yielded gross crude oil and gas production of 69,770 barrels and 184 MMcf respectively,” the report said. Overall, the OGDCL’s production contributed around 47 per cent, 29 per cent and 36 per cent towards the country’s total oil, natural gas and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) production respectively. In an effort to arrest natural decline and sustain production from mature wells, the company also carried out 22 work-over jobs comprising three with rig and 19 rig-less. Moreover to induce improvement in the current well flow parameters, the pressure build-up survey jobs were completed at various wells of producing fields like Mela, Pasakhi, Nashpa, Qadirpur and Maru-Reti fields.

Tributes paid to Baba Guru Nanak

RAWALPINDI: A Punjabi poetry recital was held in connection with the 552nd birth anniversary of Sikh spiritual leader Baba Guru Nanak to promote inter-faith harmony here on Sunday by the Rawalpindi Arts Council. Renowned poet Prof. Dr Arshad Mahmood Nashad presided over the poetry recital. Famous poets Anjum Khaliq, Prof Baqir Wasim, Tahir Baloch and others recited their poetry and paid tribute to Baba Guru Nanak on his birth anniversary. Director Punjab Arts Council Waqar Ahmad said on the occasion that Baba Guru Nanak Dev Ji’s birthday was a blissful event for the Sikh community, adding Baba Guru Nanak always preached the message of peace, brotherhood, brotherhood and love. A large number of people belonging to the literary circle participated in the recital. Arif Farhad anchored the poetry recital while Dr Farhat Abbas and Naseem Sehar participated as guests of honour in the gathering. – APP

NIHCR webinar on discourse of history

DNA

ISLAMABAD: There were 23 foreign invasions took place before Muslims arrived to India, said Prof Emeritus Aslam Syed while responding to a question. Aryans from Central Asia were the first to invade India followed by Macedonians, Maurians, Kushans, Scythians, Parthians, Bectarians, Sasanids and lastly Huns, among others, before Muslims actually arrived to India. Geographically, it was convenient for all these people to easily get to India either through land or sea routes, he said. The guest speaker Prof Emeritus Aslam Syed has been serving the Center for Religious Studies, Ruhr University, Bochum, Germany. He remained Chairman, Department of History, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad and also served the NIHCR as its Director. Prof Syed revealed that the successive invaders got to India through Central Asia connecting Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan due to political developments taking place in China and Mongolia.

Police conducts search operation

RAWALPINDI: Police on special directive of City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi on Sunday launched special search operation in Saddar wah Police station and adjoining areas. According to police spokesman, heavy police contingents, Elite Force, Special Branch personnel and Ladies police under the supervision of senior police officers conducted search operation. During operation, police have searched 37 houses, 2 shops while over 25 persons were interrogated. However, no arrest was made on the occasion. The spokesman informed that the search operations to net criminals and proclaimed offenders are being conducted in different areas regularly. – APP

37,874 Covid patients recovered in Rawalpindi

DNA

RAWALPINDI: As many as 37,874 COVID-19 patients had been discharged after getting treatment from the district’s health facilities, out of which 34,878 belonged to Rawalpindi and 2996 from other districts. According to data shared by the district health authority here Sunday, seven more cases have arrived during the last 24 hours, including four from Rawal town, while one case each has reached from Gujjar Khan, Attock and AJK. The report said that 26 confirmed patients were admitted to four city hospitals, including nine each in the Institute of Urology and Fauji foundation hospital, six in Benazir Bhutto Hospital and two in Bilal hospital.

Art and history museum in final stages of restoration

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad art and display history museum, being restored at F-9 Park would be open to public soon, said Capital Development Authority (CDA) chairman Aamir Ali Ahmed on Sunday. The museum would have a gallery, showing detailed images of how Islamabad emerged as a city, he said. Ahmed said the initiative was aimed at promoting art and culture and a link of residents with history of Islamabad. Similarly, he said the images and artifacts would also be displayed of historical significance. The artists from the city would be involved to form a non official board to manage the centre, he added. The federal apex agency was converting the already existing

building to a museum which was being used as a restaurant earlier. Meanwhile, CDA enforcement directorate conducted a massive operation against Land Mafia in various areas of Islamabad and retrieved around 20 kanals of government land. The civil administration and Islamabad Police provided assistance to CDA to execute the operation smoothly. As per details, issued by the authority the operation was conducted at the junction of Pandorian and Khanna Dak areas of Islamabad where two illegal cattle sheds, three houses and foundations of two buildings were demolished with help of heavy machinery. CDA administration has reiterated that protection of government lands is our top priority and no laxity will be tolerated in this regard.

It is pertinent to mention here that for the last several months, the CDA in the federal capital has been engaged in continuous operations against encroachments and illegal constructions, from which billions of rupees of government lands have been retrieved from illegal occupants.



“The artists from the city would be involved to form a non official board to manage the centre, he added. The federal apex agency was converting the already existing building to a museum which was being used as a restaurant earlier,”



Briefs

CDA launches operation against land mafia

ISLAMABAD: Dated November 21, 2021: On the special directions of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) administration, the Enforcement Department, with the assistance of Islamabad District Administration and Islamabad Police, demolished encroachments and illegal constructions in different areas of Islamabad. In this connection, a massive operation was conducted at the junction of Pandorian and Khanna Dak areas of Islamabad where two illegal cattle sheds, three houses and foundations of two buildings were demolished with help of heavy machinery. The operation resulted in retrieval of more than 20 Kanals state land. CDA administration has reiterated that protection of government lands is our top priority and no laxity will be tolerated in this regard. It is pertinent to mention here that for the last several months, the CDA in the federal capital has been engaged in continuous operations against encroachments and illegal constructions, from which billions of rupees of government lands have been retrieved from illegal occupants. — APP

Nullah Lai project to help control flash flooding

RAWALPINDI: Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Syed Gulzar Hussain Shah has said that Nullah Lai Expressway project would help control flash flooding during heavy rains in Rawalpindi city particularly in low-lying areas of the town. He said that Nullah Lai Expressway project would be a game changer project for the development of the city. The Commissioner who is also holding DG RDA charge commended NESPAK Private Company for its tireless work on the Nullah Lai Expressway project. Nullah Lai Expressway project would be completed at a cost of around Rs 100 billion, he added. He directed the authorities that the project should be started as soon as possible and all-out efforts should be made for its completion within stipulated time frame. The project would also help resolve traffic congestion problem on the city roads, he said, adding, with the completion of this project, the environment of the city would also improve. According to Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) spokesman, the Expressway's width had been reduced from 35-50 meters to 25-35 meters due to which the land area was now reduced. He informed that the project for this corridor would be carried out by a private party, NESPAK without the government funds. — APP

Sufficient stocks of fertilizers available: DDA

RAWALPINDI: Sufficient stocks of DAP and Urea are available in the division, said Deputy Director Agriculture (DDA) Sadia Bano on Sunday. She informed that the authorities concerned on the directives of the Commissioner Gulzar Hussain Shah had launched a campaign and conducting raids to check hoarding and profiteering. She said that wheat had been cultivated in most rain-fed areas of the division. The authorities concerned were directed to take strict action in accordance with the law against hoarders of fertilizers particularly of DAP and Urea, she added. The commissioner had issued orders to notify the prices of DAP and Urea to prevent overcharging, she said adding, there was no shortage of DAP and Urea in the division. On the instructions of the Commissioner, all the Price Control Magistrates and Deputy Directors of Agriculture, Extensions were taking all possible steps to control the hoarding and overcharging of DAP and Urea to facilitate the farmers, she added. — APP

IPS-IUB join hands to promote policy research

He hoped that the MOU would help build a strategic community comprising academia, research institutions and policy-makers in the country

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: "It is the need of the hour for positive, centripetal forces in Pakistan to come together and promote impactful indigenous research in the country, and Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) and The Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB), through their collaborative ventures, are set to contribute in this regard". These were the views shared by Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob (TI), vice chancellor, The Islamia University of Bahawalpur, during a signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between IPS and IUB aimed at exploring and pursuing joint research, academic and publishing ventures, facilitating cooperation and collaboration between the two institutions in fostering dialogue and discussions among scholars, experts and policy makers in the areas of national interest, and capacity building endeavors for the research faculty and students to carry out policy-oriented research. Khalid Rahman, Chairman, IPS



signed the document on behalf of his organization.

The MOU signing ceremony, which took place at IPS in Islamabad, was also attended by IPS' Vice Chairman Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, Prof.

Dr. Jawad Iqbal, dean, Faculty of Management Sciences and Commerce, IUB, Naufil Shahrukh, GM Operations, IPS, Syed Nadeem Farhat, Senior Research Officer, Shahzad Gill, assistant professor, IUB, Shafiq Sarfraz,

manager outreach, IPS among a number of other officials from both the alma maters.

The Vice-chancellor of IUB further said that such strategic collaborations in academia and think tanks were required to re-

alize Pakistan's dream of a knowledge-based economy and society. He hoped that the MOU would help build a strategic community comprising academia, research institutions and policy-makers in the country.



ISLAMABAD: Visitors taking interest in picture during an exhibition in Islamabad. —DNA

Zardari files fresh plea for acquittal in Toshakhana case

DNA

KARACHI: Former president Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday filed a fresh plea in the accountability court of Islamabad seeking his acquittal in the Toshakhana (gift depository) reference under the new National Accountability Bureau (NAB) law. This is the second time the PPP co-chairman has filed an acquittal plea in the case. He moved the fresh application through his lawyer Sheeraz Rajpar on the basis of the recent amendments made to the country's accountability law. He challenged the jurisdiction of the NAB court to hear the reference. Zardari states in his plea that he is being subjected

to political victimisation. The national graft buster instituted bogus and baseless cases against him, he added. The application argues that the reference doesn't fall within the domain of the accountability court after the promulgation of the National Accountability (NAO) Ordinance, 2021.

He pleads with the court to quash the Toshakhana reference filed by the NAB. In September 2020, the court had indicted the former president along with former prime minister Yousuf Raza Gillani in the case. Zardari is accused of illegally keeping expensive vehicles gifted by various heads of states and other foreign dignitaries instead of depositing them in the Toshakhana.

President ICCI, Chairman CDA visit Jinnah Super Market

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) along with Amir Ali Ahmed, CDA Chairman visited Jinnah Supermarket to see on the ground situation of issues and take measures to address them. CDA Member Engineering, Director General Water, Director Municipal Administration, Director Streetlights, Director Roads Maintenance, Director Technical, Director Sanitation and others also accompanied CDA Chairman.

ICCI Senior Vice President Jamsheed Akhtar Sheikh, Vice President Muhammad Faheem Khan, Jinnah Supermarket President Asad Aziz, Fasihullah Khan, Abdul Rehman Siddiqui and others were also present on the occasion.

President ICCI Muhammad Shakeel Munir and Asad Aziz President Jinnah Super Market, F-7 Markaz briefed the CDA Chairman Amir Ali Ahmed about the important issues of market. They said that the street lights were not working in the market due to which traders were facing difficulties and urged that CDA should restore all the street lights.

They said that the underground parking in Jinnah Super was not functioning and emphasized that CDA should make it functional as soon as possible so that the problem of parking of traders could be solved. They called for removal of encroachments from the market and upgradation of sewerage and drainage systems.

They stressed that more plants should be planted in the market to improve the environment situation. They

said it was very encouraging that CDA under the leadership of Amir Ali Ahmed has undertaken a lot of development works in Islamabad and expressed their determination that ICCI in collaboration with CDA would focus on better development of all major markets.

Chairman CDA Amir Ali Ahmed after hearing the details of the problems and seeing the market conditions, issued orders on the spot orders to solve them. He said that streetlights of the market should be restored within 24 hours and underground parking should be made functional within three days.

He also directed that the footpaths and sit-out areas should be repaired soon to uplift the market. He said that sewerage and drainage systems should also be improved. He said that CDA

FAFEN rejects baseless allegations

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) has rejected the malicious smear campaign and baseless allegations by one of its former members, who was expelled from the network for misconduct a few days ago, said a press statement issued by the Executive Council of FAFEN here on Saturday.

The statement said that the allegations and insinuations raised by Mr. Sarwar Bari, National Coordinator of Pattan Development Organization for almost three decades, at a press conference in Islamabad at mala fide that are only meant to damage the integrity, credibility

and unity of Pakistan's largest non-partisan network of civil society organizations.

Bari's accusations followed his and his organization's termination from the basic membership of FAFEN a few days ago after he failed to provide any evidence to substantiate similar claims and his campaign against the network that he has been running since October 2021. His termination was approved by consensus by the 20-member National Council of FAFEN according to its established rules and procedures.

Mr. Bari no longer represents FAFEN and its positions and neither should he use the name of the network for his social and media legitimacy.

CTP launch smog awareness campaign

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) have launched a smog awareness campaign to sensitise people of the twin cities to avoid any health or safety hazards during smog season.

According to a spokesman, the campaign has been launched on the special directives of City Traffic Officer (CTO) Taimoor Khan with an aim to raise awareness about best practices to keep oneself safe and healthy during smog season. Therefore, drivers and car owners should bring the vehicle on the road while keeping it in good condition. In this regard, the teams distributed pamphlets and face masks among motorcyclists, motorists and pedestrians and urged them to avoid waste burning to control the smog formation to protect themselves from breathing problems, eye, nose and throat infections. The teams briefed that heart and breathing patients should take extra measures to avoid any situation and use protected sunglasses while going outside could be helpful to avoid any sort of eye infection. — APP

16,316 citizens get fine tickets

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) issued 16,316 fine tickets to road users over violation of traffic signals during the ongoing year, a police spokesman said.

Following the directions of IGP Islamabad Qazi Jamil ul Rehman, he said that special campaign is underway to check violations while various squads headed by Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Muhammad Sarfraz Virk are performing duties at main roads of the city and taking action against the violators.

During the ongoing year, the police spokesman said that action was taken and 16,316 road users were fined over violation of traffic signals. The Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Muhammad Sarfraz Virk said that efforts are underway to ensure disciplinary traffic system in the city and he also appealed the citizens to follow rules.

He said that ITP personnel have been directed to ensure implementation on traffic rules and regulation irrespective of status and rank and demonstrate patience and politeness while issuing traffic violation tickets to the road users. He said that ITP is utilizing all available resources to facilitate the general public. The force issues traffic violation tickets not as a punitive measure but the purpose is to ensure safe road environment in the Capital and secure the lives of the people.

PMAS-AAUR to celebrate its silver jubilee

RAWALPINDI: Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) is going to celebrate its silver jubilee from November 22 to 27 at the completion of 25 years of its establishment.

According to PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman, the University started with less than 300 students enrolled in one Faculty and has now reached a total strength of over 12,000 students in its six faculties and seven Institutes. During 25 years, this Alma Mater not only produced graduates well acquainted with cutting edge technologies to match the market demand but also made a great deal to uplift and develop scientific avenues, especially in the field of Agriculture, he added.

He said, "We have to cherish Silver Jubilee Celebrations of PMAS-AAUR with full Zeal and Zest, extensively engaged in achieving its prime objective of uplifting poor masses of rainfed regions of the country." "At this important juncture, I would urge the participation from the stakeholders in a week-long variety of scientific, social and cultural events chalked out in line with our resolve of transforming conventional agriculture to modern-day digital and precise chores of agriculture compatible to international standards", he said. — APP

National vice chancellors conference concludes

The participant vice chancellors and representatives of the universities appreciated the efforts and various initiatives undertaken to promote values of peace, co-existence, harmony, responsible citizenship at university campuses

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The 2nd National Vice Chancellors & DSAs Conference on Effective Engagement of Students at University Campuses successfully concluded at Islamabad. The conference was attended by vice chancellors, director student affairs and representatives of student societies. During the conference, various success stories, experiences and learned lessons related to effective engagement of student were shared as follow up of Roadmap of Tolerant and Peaceful University Campuses which was prepared by vice chancellors and director student affairs of 27 universities in April 2017. During this two days conference, overview of Azm-e-Pakistan activities at university campuses aimed at strengthening student societies/clubs was also shared. Panel and group discussions on the topics of student societies for peace building and role of faculty members/university administration in peace building also held. The participant vice chancellors and representatives of the univer-



sities appreciated the efforts and various initiatives undertaken to promote values of peace, co-existence, harmony, responsible citizenship at university campuses.

According to the declaration signed by the vice chancellors and representatives of the universities, it was agreed to join National Student Societies/Clubs Network and Inter Uni-

versity Alliance on Student Activities, organizing inter-university students activities and competitions, sharing best practices, expertise, knowledge and experience on effective engagement of students, award of Roll of Honour to acknowledge the talented students in co-curricular activities and extending cooperation in other areas of

mutual interest related to effective engagement of students at university campuses.

It was apprised that so far more than 50 universities have given their written consent to join National Student Societies Network. Speaking on launching ceremony of Pakistan's first ever National Student Societies Network, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali Shah Chair-

man Vice Chancellors Committee said that if we want our students to get opportunities in life, they should be active members of campus based student societies/clubs as employers also prefer those students with experiences in societies.

In his keynote address, Prof. Dr. Atta ur Rahman Chairman Prime Minister's Task Force on Science and Technology highlighted importance of effective engagement of students through strengthening student societies/clubs at university campuses, promoting inter-university collaborations and organizing inter university co-curricular activities/competitions. He said that only academic education is not enough to get success in life, students need to be an active part of university clubs and society in order to groom their personality. He stressed upon need to improve social inclusion and national integration through student societies and clubs.

He appreciated establishment of Pakistan's first ever Student Societies Network and assured his and cooperation of Higher Education Commission (HEC) in making this initiative a success.

Increased interest rate

THE State Bank of Pakistan's decision to increase the interest rate by 150 points up to 8.75 percent is a necessary decision in a bid to control the remorseless rise in inflation. The new interest rate is close to October's inflation, which stood at 9.2 percent. One could argue that this decision was very necessary on part of the SBP, given the trajectory of the economy. Interest rates are an important facet of monetary policy—an increase is likely to reduce borrowing and encourage saving, while a reduced rate leads to greater spending and more currency circulation in the market. The government did manage to see growth projections through policies made in the last few months, but the consistent devaluing of the rupee and the bloating of our import bill through oil and food commodities led to any gains made to reduce the current account deficit irrelevant with the rise in prices. Make no mistake however, as is evident from the SBP's statement, this decision is also likely to greatly slow down growth as the economy will inevitably contract by thinning down the amount of currency in the market. The question is; will this decision lead to stability or lead us in the direction of yet another recession? A belt tightening has been sorely needed considering that nothing looks to be slowing the descent of the Pakistani rupee against the dollar. The situation is untenable and made all the worse considering that this does not reflect any market volatility—the trajectory is gradual, but steady. This reflects a worrying trend that our financial heads have been unable to reverse until now. Will the interest rate on its own make a difference? Doubtful. Inflation remains high, and while this might help reduce its impact on households, all of our business activity currently relies on imports in high volumes due to both fuel and food. Going forward, the objective of the government should be to bring some much-needed confidence back into our economy. An IMF restart would help achieve that, as would the recently promised Saudi injection in our foreign reserves. The economy remains in a precarious position, but the SBP is looking to stabilise things—the steps it is taking will not be enough. It will need help from the outside to turn things around.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily
Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza
 Member APNS / ABC Certified
 Vol: 02 Issue: 166
 Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com
 Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960
 Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



Mid East tries cooperation alongside competition

James Dorsey

Turkey and the UAE have been at loggerheads because of Turkish allegations that the Emirates had funded a failed 2016 military attempt to topple President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Emirati objections to Turkish support for political Islam, particularly the Muslim Brotherhood

JUST in case there were any doubts, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu demonstrated with his visit to Lebanon this week that improved relations between Middle Eastern rivals would not bury hatchets. On the contrary, improved relations shifts the battlefield away from potential armed conflict, allowing rivals to compete while enjoying the benefits of trade and economic cooperation as well as lines of communication that help prevent disputes and conflicts from spinning out of control. With his visit, Mr. Cavusoglu was stepping into a breach. He sought to fill a vacuum after Turkey's geopolitical and religious soft power rivals, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, together with Bahrain and Kuwait, imposed an economic boycott on Lebanon and withdrew their ambassadors from Beirut. A one-time middle-income country, Lebanon is teetering on the brink of collapse due to endemic corruption and an elite willing to protect its vested interests at whatever cost. As a result, the United Nations estimates that three-quarters of the population have descended into poverty. Aggravating Lebanon's predicament, the boycott intends to loosen the grip on the country of Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed militia and political party, which has become part of the elite. A Hezbollah protest in October, demanding the

replacement of a judge investigating last year's devastating Beirut port explosion that killed more than 200 people, descended into sectarian violence reminiscent of Lebanon's 15-year long civil war in the 1970s and 1980s. Mr. Cavusoglu travelled to Beirut in advance of a one-day UAE-Turkey business forum in Istanbul and a visit by UAE Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed, the first in 12 years. Turkish interior minister Suleyman Soylu met in Rome with his UAE counterpart, Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, days after the Beirut visit on the sidelines of the Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly. Turkey and the UAE have been at loggerheads because of Turkish allegations that the Emirates had funded a failed 2016 military attempt to topple President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Emirati objections to Turkish support for political Islam, particularly the Muslim Brotherhood. Turkey and the UAE have fought military and/or political proxy battles in Libya, Syria, the Eastern Mediterranean, and France, where they were on opposite sides of the divide. Moreover, Turkey supported Qatar and expanded its military presence in the Gulf state during the 3.5 year-long UAE-Saudi-led diplomatic and economic boycott of Qatar that was lifted in January. Similarly, Egypt and Saudi Arabia have been seeking to tone down their differences with Turkey at a time of uncertainty over the United States' security commitments in the Middle East and the need of all Middle Eastern states to focus on some combination of economic reform, diversification, and expansion as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and the demands of climate change. Against that backdrop, Mr. Cavusoglu travelled to Tehran a day before arriving in Beirut. In Tehran, he sought to bolster his position as a potential mediator in Lebanon, manage Turkish-Iranian tensions in the Caucasus along the Azerbaijani-Iranian border, and find some common ground in Syria where the two countries are also at odds. "If there is anything that can be done for the issue (in Lebanon) to be resolved as soon as possible, we are ready to carry it out," Mr. Cavusoglu said. Despite improving relations between Turkey, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia, it was unlikely that the Gulf states would loosen their stranglehold on Lebanon or that they would trust Turkey to be an acceptable and unbiased mediator. At the same time, Turkey appeared to be further drawing regional battle lines not only with Saudi Arabia and the UAE but also Southeast European states as well as Russia and Iran, with which it simultaneously competes and cooperates. It did so in a gathering in Istanbul last week of the

Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States. The council groups Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan, Turkic-speaking states in Central Asia and the Caucasus. Turkmenistan, the only other Turkic-speaking nation, and Hungary have observer status. The Istanbul gathering restricted membership and observer status to Turkic-speaking countries. The decision bars not only other Southeast European countries from associating themselves with the council but also Iran, where Azeris, the country's largest ethnic minority, account for 15 per cent of the population, and Russia with its Turkic minorities. Add to all of this the diplomatic impact of last week's arrest on espionage charges and the subsequent release of an Israeli tourist couple for taking pictures of Istanbul's Dolmabahce Palace, one of the city's major tourism attractions. The palace on the shores of the Bosphorus served as the administrative headquarters of Ottoman sultans in the 19th century and the place of death in 1938 of Kemal Mustafa Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey. The couple's release prompted the first phone call between Mr. Erdogan and top Israeli leaders in nine years, with President Isaac Herzog and Prime Minister Naftali Bennett phoning the Turkish president separately to thank him. Israel has until now cold-shouldered Turkish efforts to improve long-strained relations between the two countries. Beyond the fact that Mr. Erdogan does not want the incident to scare off badly needed tourists at a time of severe economic crisis, it also provided an opportunity to break through to Israel and reduce the UAE's geopolitical advantage in maintaining close ties to the Jewish state. Mr. Erdogan expects the Turkish move to be reciprocated. That is precisely what Israeli conservatives fear. "Ankara's accusations of 'espionage' and apparent threats to raise the price for the detainees show that it was using hostage diplomacy involving innocent tourists. This is how Hamas, which is backed by Ankara's ruling party, has also behaved... Normal regimes don't detain innocent people," thundered Seth J. Frantzman, the right-wing Jerusalem Post's Middle East correspondent. A podcast version of this story is available on Soundcloud, iTunes, Spotify, Stitcher, TuneIn, Speaker, Pocket Casts, Tumbler, Podbean, Audible, Patreon, and Castbox. — **Dr. James M. Dorsey is an award-winning journalist and scholar and a Senior Fellow at the National University of Singapore's Middle East Institute.**

China's rise and US' decline spell conflict

Marwan Bishara

The US may have hoped that China's membership would mean cheap imported goods and the moderation and democratisation of the Chinese government, but eventually, China's ascension led to a \$300bn annual trade deficit and the communist party tightened its grip on power, alas

THIS week's Chinese American summit was sweet and sour. The three-hour virtual meeting between US President Joe Biden and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping started respectfully, was even friendly, but soon descended into recriminations and veiled threats. **No surprise there.** The friction between these two leading world powers has grown too wide and deep to bridge with diplomatic niceties. They disagree on almost everything from trade and security to human rights, and in the rare case they agree on an outcome, they disagree on the process. But some of the disagreements, such as the future of Taiwan, are boiling over, risking bringing the two powers into direct confrontation in

a reckless test of wills. Beijing seems to insist on bringing the self-governed island back into the fold, by force, if necessary, while Washington appears determined to push back against China's use of military intimidation and economic and diplomatic blackmail to strong-arm Taiwan into submission. So, while both leaders have officially committed to maintaining the status quo in Taiwan in the context of the "One China" policy, they also took time at the summit to put each other on notice. President Xi warned the US against interfering in intra-Chinese affairs, and cautioned that "whoever plays with fire will get burned". President Biden, who had hastily promised to defend Taiwan against any Beijing aggression in the past, meanwhile, warned China against the repercussions of altering the status of Taiwan by force, which in my view are more likely to be economic than military — but no less disruptive. In that way, the summit has addressed everything from security, trade to human rights, but resolved nothing. It merely clarified the rules of engagement moving forward once the three-hour diplomatic truce is over. **No surprise there either.** The disagreement over Taiwan, like those over Hong Kong and North Korea, is a symptom of a far greater conflict over supremacy in Asia and indeed, the world — all of which invokes a comparison with the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union. Yes, I am mindful of the pitfalls of such an analogy, aware of both the similarities and dissimilarities between the two eras, and yes, I am conscious of the fact that China, unlike the USSR, is deeply integrated into the western-led international system, and does not seek world domination through an alternative global ideology. Not yet anyway. But the similarities are becoming uncanny as a rising China begins to pose a strategic challenge to the global system similar to that of the Soviet

Union; as Biden frames the conflict between the US and China in ideological terms (a clash between democracy and autocracy); and as both sides show a willingness to resort to all means necessary to achieve their goals short of a large military confrontation, or a destructive "hot war". China has certainly pulled ahead of Russia, which is trying to revive its old glory and influence by any means necessary. President Vladimir Putin may play dirty games with the West, but Xi is adamant about rewriting the rules of the game altogether. China's strongman rejects the "international rules-based order" the West dictates and insists on co-authoring the principles of a new world order. The US may have hoped that China's membership would mean cheap imported goods and the moderation and democratisation of the Chinese government, but eventually, China's ascension led to a \$300bn annual trade deficit and the communist party tightened its grip on power, alas. As the China miracle unfolded, US power has continued to unravel over the past 20 years, beginning with the debacles of its wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and the greater Middle East and through the 2008 financial crisis and the disastrous Trump presidency, as Washington lost lots of assets, credibility, and influence among friends and foes alike around the world. That is why Biden, who urged Xi not to let their competition veer into conflict, must tread carefully after the summit ends to ensure the US has the necessary geopolitical clout to deter a bellicose China from making any aggressive moves in Asia and beyond. Likewise, it is incumbent on the Chinese leader, who is feeling super-confident nowadays, to refrain from resorting to unsavory means or unnecessary threats that could escalate into a large confrontation with dangerous consequences. The world's wellbeing, indeed its survival, depends on it. **Courtesy Al Jazeera**

Thriving dengue

THE plight of the citizens of Pakistan in matters of health seems to be never-ending as provinces continue to report dengue cases rather regularly. The outbreak is the worst that has been seen in years as previously, the government was effectively able to take all the precautionary measures needed to ensure that cases remain minimal. According to the data collected, 582 cases have been reported in Karachi, 213 in Punjab, 98 in KP and 76 in Balochistan within the last two weeks alone. Even these statistics may not be accurate keeping in mind a substantial portion of the patients are treating themselves at home. Additionally, the interior regions of the provinces not only lack proper diagnostic facilities but nurture environments that are conducive to the spread of the virus as well as the procreation of the mosquitoes. Uncontrollable transmission rates have even resulted in a new variant of the virus being discovered and detected through the Aga Khan University Hospital. The conditions are clearly dire and it seems as though there is not much that the government is doing except issuing warnings every now and then. Insecticide sprays, frequent environmental checks, issuing of FIRs against those violating dengue fever prevention protocols and increased public awareness during the dengue season kept the spread of the disease at a minimum in previous years. A big factor for it was the diligence with which the authorities carried out the anti-dengue campaign—a level of determination that seems to be lost this year. This is an easily preventable disease and for us to sit back and rely on the cold to wipe away the problem is unacceptably worrisome. In the face of this, the people must take matters into their own hands and use repellents responsibly, remain indoors, refrain from leaving stagnant water in or around their homes and contact a doctor as soon as they feel any symptoms.

New Israeli govt, same old settlements

Yossi Mekelberg

Uri Reicher, an Israeli architect, in his testimony to the Civil Administration last month on behalf of a number of Israeli human rights and peace organizations, portrayed the government's intentions in no uncertain terms: "It could even be said that, in fact, the project has been advanced not out of urban planning considerations, but in order to achieve the political goal of thwarting any opportunity to reach a political agreement"

HERE is a general view, and not without considerable justification, that the new Israeli government formed only five months ago has brought change, and mainly for the better. After years of vitriolic populism from the school of thought(lessness) of Benjamin Netanyahu and his deviant disciples, the civility and businesslike manner with which the current government handles its affairs is a breath of fresh air. Paradoxically, in an extremely ideologically diverse coalition, it operates almost as a government of technocrats, which also enables it to survive and get things done. Yet, in one area, this government, despite a strong dovish presence around the Cabinet table, has performed a complete eclipse of common-sense, and this is in its relations with the Palestinians, particularly on the issue of settlements expansion. This is a government led by a prime minister, Naftali Bennett, who is a former director of the Yehsa Council, the umbrella organization of Jewish settlements in the West Bank (and formerly in the Gaza Strip). But it is also a parity government with an alternate prime minister, Yair Lapid, who, when he takes office, should adopt a more pragmatic line. Yet, despite claiming from the outset that this coalition would maintain a "status quo" in its settlements policy, the opposite is taking place in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, both of which under international law are occupied territories. Last month Israel's government put forward plans for 3,000 housing units in Jewish settlements in the West Bank, through the High Planning Council of the Civil Administration, which is simply another arm of the military occupation. The Israeli NGO Peace Now, which monitors settlement matters, has reported that 90 per cent of these approved housing units are in settlements that under a future peace agreement, in line with previous borders drawn in past peace initiatives, Israel will have to evacuate. This suggests two options. The first is that the current government, not so differently from previous administrations, is not committed to any peace agreement based on a two-state solution, especially one that entails a viable Palestinian state with territorial contiguity. Continuing to build and expand settlements in the heart of the Palestinian population not only renders a historical compromise impossible, but also increases friction with the Palestinian population, and stokes resentment and anger toward Israel.

Alternatively, even among those within the government who support a genuine peace agreement based on a two-state solution, there persists an illogical and irreconcilable view that Israel can expand its settlements without compromising future peace negotiations, as if the two phenomena are not at all related. The expansion of settlements is seen as a tool of appeasing the settlers and their allies in the coalition, or even a response to natural growth that requires housing. The motivations for this approach range from cynical, short-term political calculations aimed at survival in power, to utter irresponsibility and betrayal of the cause of peace. As if the approval of thousands of housing units in the settlements was not enough, the "momentum" is continuing, with further tenders being announced for 1,355 housing units in the settlements, including in East Jerusalem. More than half of these homes are intended to be built in the settlement of Ariel. A brief glance at a map of the West Bank exposes the real play behind the establishment of Ariel in 1978 and enlarging it to become the most populated Jewish settlement in the West Bank in the first place. It is located deep inside the West Bank, and is part of a block of settlements that cut into two what is supposed to be, one day, a sovereign Palestinian state. And yet again the government expands this settlement. However, the most controversial of the recent flurry of settlement expansions is the plan to construct almost 3,500 homes in the E1 area. Building Jewish settlements on this particular piece of land, which will create an urban block between Ma'ale Adumim and Jerusalem, will aggravate the isolation of East Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank, and disrupt the territorial contiguity between the northern and southern parts of the West Bank. Consequently, it will deliver a hammer blow to the already improbable chances of a two-state solution. It will determine that even if a Palestinian state is established, it will not be able to become more than Bantustan-like, made up of a number of enclaves, that for all means and purposes will be under complete Israeli control. Uri Reicher, an Israeli architect, in his testimony to the Civil Administration last month on behalf of a number of Israeli human rights and peace organizations, portrayed the government's intentions in no uncertain terms: "It could even be said that, in fact, the project has been advanced not out of urban planning considerations, but in order to achieve the political goal of thwarting any opportunity to reach a political agreement." Settlements are not the only obstacle to peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians. There is an array of major stumbling blocks, but the settlements have become both for practical and symbolic reasons the manifestation of Israel's disingenuousness when it talks about its desire for peace. Furthermore, it also affects other core issues in this dispute. The act of surrounding East Jerusalem with illegal settlements sends a message that a future Palestinian capital will never be within the city, not even in some eastern parts of it, and that is a message to which no Palestinian leader could agree. Moreover, the more land that Israel grabs in the West Bank to expand its own settlements, the less there is for Palestinians to house themselves and develop their economy, and the more pressure it puts on natural resources, such as water. Any future peace agreement will mean hundreds of thousands of Palestinians currently living as refugees in neighboring countries and elsewhere in the Palestinian diaspora will come to live in the West Bank, and Israel's settlement policy will make this harder to resolve by the day. The new government in Israel has fashioned itself as the "change government." But, sadly, when it comes to expanding settlements, it is the same old story, with no, or very few, dissenting voices, even among the more peace-minded within this coalition. And with the silent consent of the international community, block by block, house by house, settlement by settlement, the dream of fair and just peace is evaporating into thin air, with no one to stop it. — **Courtesy Arab News**

Briefs

Action against land mafias, facilitators

FROM PAGE 01
the resistance: phenomenal state land encroachment including of forest land through land mafia-political elite connivance," he commented. With this accurate digital record, he said the government would now take action against these land mafias and their facilitators. Earlier, in a press conference SAPM Malik Amin Aslam said in Punjab and KP, around 160,000 acres of state land was encroached. The forest land mapping of 30,000 square km was also completed and 700,000 acres of forest land was found to have been intruded by the land mafia. Takhtpuri Forest in Rawalpindi had a total of 2,210 acres area out of which 755 acres encroached. The Lohi Bher Forest had over 57 percent (629 acres) of its total area encroached by land mafia.

Cadastral mapping complete...

FROM PAGE 01
He said Loi Bher forest comprises 1,079 acres of which 629 acres are under illegal occupation. Malik Amin Aslam said the Survey of Pakistan covered every inch of the state land, while compiling the cadastral map of the country. He said action will be taken against the illegal occupants of the state land. Malik Amin Aslam said forest cover of Pakistan can be enhanced upto five to seven percent if illegally occupied forest land is recovered.

Gunmen shoot dead three coal...

FROM PAGE 01
police teams were searching for the assailants. Baluch separatist groups have previously claimed responsibility for similar attacks on coal miners in the region. In January, gunmen abducted a group of workers from a coal mine in the district of Bolan and shot them dead in a nearby mountainous area. Authorities found 11 bodies and three wounded at the site. The gas and mineral-rich Baluchistan province has been the scene of a low-level insurgency for some two decades. Initially, insurgents demanded a greater share for the local population of the province's gas and mineral income. But later, Baluch separatist groups started pressing for independence from Pakistan.

Pakistan rejects Indian...

FROM PAGE 01
fantasies while pointing fingers at neighbours including Pakistan. In doing so India wants to divert the attention of the international community from the widespread violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed by the Indian occupation forces in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), said the statement. Pakistan is fully capable of defending itself against any aggression. The entire world was witness to Pakistan's capability and resolve in thwarting the Indian misadventure in February 2019. It is a well documented fact that Indian occupation forces have been committing egregious human rights violations and grave crimes against innocent Kashmiris in IIOJK including extra-judicial killings, custodial deaths, torture, arbitrary detentions, using people including innocent children as human shield, and collective punishment by demolishing homes. The Dossier presented by Pakistan to the international community in September 2021 contains incontrovertible evidence of the gross and systematic human rights violations and crimes against humanity by Indian occupation forces in IIOJK. Indian gov't's frustration is evident from the fact that despite its unabated state-terrorism in IIOJK, it has utterly failed to silence the peaceful voices of Kashmiris demanding their right to self-determination promised to them by the UNSC in its various Resolutions.

Shuai reappears after accusing former Chinese official

Peng's disappearance and official silence in response to appeals for information prompted calls for a boycott of the Winter Olympics in Beijing in February, a prestige event for the Communist Party

BEIJING: Missing tennis star Peng Shuai reappeared in public Sunday at a youth tournament in Beijing, according to photos released by the organizer, as the ruling Communist Party tried to quell fears abroad while suppressing information in China about Peng after she accused a senior leader of sexual assault. The post by the China Open on the Weibo social media service made no mention of Peng's disappearance or her accusation. The three-time Olympian and former Wimbledon champion was shown standing beside a court, waving and signing oversized commemorative tennis balls for children. The ruling party appears to be trying to defuse alarm about Peng without acknowledging her disappearance after she on Nov. 2 accused Zhang Gaoli, a member of the party's ruling Standing Committee until 2018, of forcing her to have sex. Peng's disappearance and official silence in response to appeals for information prompted calls for a boycott of the Winter Olympics in Beijing in Feb-

ruary, a prestige event for the Communist Party. The women's professional tour threatened to pull events out of China unless the safety of the former No. 1 doubles player was assured. Discussion of Peng's accusation has been deleted from websites in China. A government spokesman on Friday denied knowing about the outcry. The ruling party's internet filters also block most people in China from seeing other social media abroad and most global news outlets. Comments on Chinese social media on Sunday criticized the Women's Tennis Association and others who spoke up about Peng. Comments in Chinese on Twitter poked fun at the awkward release of photos and video of Peng by employees of state media this weekend while the government stayed silent. "When will the WTA get out of China?" said a comment on the Sina-Weibo social media service, signed "Sleep Time." Peng adds to a growing number of Chinese businesspeople, activists and ordinary



people who have disappeared in recent years after criticizing party figures or in crackdowns on corruption or pro-democracy and labor rights campaigns. Some re-emerge weeks or months later without explanation, suggesting they are warned not to disclose they were detained or the reason. Peng's appearance Sunday was mentioned in the final sentence of a report about the tournament on the web-

site of the English-language Global Times, a newspaper published by the ruling party and aimed at foreign readers, but not immediately reported by other media within China. The Global Times editor, Hu Xijin, said Saturday on Twitter, which can't be seen by most internet users in China, that Peng "stayed in her own home freely" and would "show up in public" soon. The Global Times is

known for its nationalistic tone. Hu uses his Twitter account to criticize foreign governments and point out social and economic problems abroad. A comment on Twitter signed bobzhang999 said, "Hu Dog, with so many photos, why don't you let Peng Shuai talk?" Another, signed Magician, said, "Let Peng Shuai's parents hold a news conference." Tennis stars and the WTA have been unusually vocal in demanding information about Peng. Other companies and sports groups are reluctant to confront Beijing for fear of losing access to the Chinese market or other retaliation. The ruling party has given no indication whether it is investigating Peng's accusation against Gao, 75, who left the Standing Committee in 2018 and has largely disappeared from public life. Even if Peng's accusation is deemed valid, people in China often are jailed or face other penalties for embarrassing the party by publicizing complaints about abuses instead of going through the secretive,

often unresponsive official system. The status of star athletes such as Peng is especially sensitive. State media celebrate their victories as proof the party is making China strong. But the party is vigilant about making sure they cannot use their prominence and public appeal to erode its image. Steve Simon, the WTA's chairman and CEO, expressed concern for Peng's safety after Hu, the newspaper editor, posted two videos Saturday that appeared to show her in a restaurant. "While it is positive to see her, it remains unclear if she is free and able to make decisions and take actions on her own, without coercion or external interference. This video alone is insufficient," Simon said. "Our relationship with China is at a crossroads." The International Olympic Committee has remained quiet about the status of Peng, who competed in three Olympics, helping to contribute to the IOC's multimillion-dollar revenue from broadcasting and sponsorships.

Toppling the PTI govt only way out

FROM PAGE 01

The premier should apologise to the citizens who are starving due to the policies of the PTI-led government, he said. Responding to a question about the prevailing gas crisis, the PPP leader said that there would be no gas crisis in the country if the government would have imported LNG timely. By increasing the gas prices, the government took it out of the reach of the public, Bilawal said, adding that if the Pakistan gas pipeline project of their government would have been completed, there would be no energy crisis in Pakistan. "Due to the incompetency of the government, industries are not able to fulfill their export orders today," he added. Earlier, on November 18, taking a jibe at the ruling party for bulldozing the electoral bills in a joint sitting of Parliament, former president Asif Zardari had said they [the PTI government] were using all their energy to sow the seeds of this legislation, but they will not benefit its fruits, and rather someone else will reap the benefits. Questioned over the joint session being convened without taking the Opposition into confidence and whether the government succeeded in its plans, Zardari had replied the government was getting success due to other reasons. "And you know the other reasons better," he had said.

Khaqan accuses NAB of...

FROM PAGE 01

the chargesheet was 35 pages-long, while the NAB reference was 19 pages-long. "You can write anything in any chargesheet [...]. What are we doing, where are we going?" Lamenting the country's current situation, he continued that the law required him to maintain financial records for the last seven years. However, he was being accused of something that occurred 35 years ago, he said. "If you accuse me of something, then you also need to give the record for [the last] 35 years. I definitely cannot. I am all for accountability... [but] NAB is not accountability," he said, accusing the anti-graft watchdog of being a tool to carry out political engineering. "If you want accountability of politicians, it is very simple. The whole world does it. You don't need special laws, it's about tax laws." The PML-N leader stated that those who impose taxes on the people of Pakistan should give details of their own assets and answer for their own lifestyles. "If members of parliament walk out to [sit in] a vehicle that costs Rs30-60 million, go to their Rs500 million home [with a] monthly electricity bill of 0.2m. And they pay no taxes, what does that tell you? "That's a corrupt politician. Why don't we go after them? Let us start with the president of Pakistan. Let the prime minister be next, followed by the leader of the opposition. "Ask them this basic question: how do you justify your lifestyle?" The PML-N leader stated that the anti-graft watchdog was now solely about "victimisation", the price of which was being borne by the people of the country. He said that when NAB was established in 2000, Pakistan had a per capita income of \$576, which has since risen to \$1,190. "Bangladesh was at \$358 and now they are at \$2,097 while India has risen to \$1,900 from \$443." He continued that accountability and electoral laws could only be amended through consensus. He lamented the fact that when the opposition presented amendments to the laws, they were later disregarded and branded by the government as an attempt to seek an NRO (National Reconciliation Ordinance). Abbas also drew attention to the "negative impact" NAB cases can have on an individual. "Does anybody care about people who are accused by NAB? Does anybody care about their families? Do you know that they can't operate their accounts, businesses or apply for bank loans? There is a big human cost that is paid here."

China downgrades diplomatic ties with Lithuania

FOREIGN DESK

BEIJING: China downgraded its diplomatic ties with Lithuania on Sunday after the Baltic state allowed Taiwan to open a de facto embassy there. "Chinese government, out of the need to safeguard national sovereignty and basic norms governing international relations, has no choice but to downgrade its diplomatic relations with Lithuania to the charge d'affaires level," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. The decision came after Taiwan, which China views as its breakaway province, opened its representative office, a de facto embassy, in Lithuania on Thursday. China said the diplomatic relations was "damaged" by Lithuania. The move cre-

ates "the false impression of 'one China, one Taiwan' ... undermines China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and grossly interferes in China's internal affair," the statement further said. It expressed Chinese government's "strong indignation and protest" against the recent move, warning Lithuania of consequences. China urged the Lithuanian government to immediately step back and "not to underestimate the Chinese people's strong resolve, will and capability to defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity." In August, Beijing asked Lithuania's ambassador to return home and recalled its ambassador from Vilnius after the European country moved ahead and decided to exchange diplomatic offices with Taiwan.

ICC appoints Geoff Allardice as CEO

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) today confirmed Geoff Allardice has been appointed as the organisation's permanent CEO after more than eight months in the role on an interim basis. Allardice, a former first-class cricketer, was the ICC General Manager, Cricket for eight years having previously held a similar role at Cricket Australia. Greg Barclay, ICC Chair said: "I am delighted to have Geoff as the role of ICC CEO on a permanent basis. He has shown tremendous leadership during an extremely challenging period of the successful delivery of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021. "Geoff has unrivaled knowledge of the global cricket landscape and its stakeholders and has consistently demonstrated he is the right person to work in partnership with our Members to shape the sport for the next decade as we embark on delivering a new strategy and our next commercial rights cycle." Geoff Allardice, ICC CEO added: "It's a great privilege to be appointed as the CEO of the ICC and I would like to thank Greg and the ICC Board for the opportunity to lead the sport as we enter an exciting new phase of growth. - DNA



MULTAN: Players in action during Mass Wrestling Championship for boys and girls organize by Division Sports Department at Sports Gymnasium. - DNA

United dismiss Solskjaer after trophyless three years

WEB DESK

MANCHESTER: Solskjaer leaves with United already realistically out of the Premier League title race. Manchester United have ended Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's three-year reign as manager at Old Trafford. But the club plans to wait until the end of the season to name the Norwegian's permanent successor. "Ole will always be a legend at Manchester United and it is with regret that we have reached this difficult decision," the club said in a statement on Sunday. Saturday's 4-1 embarrassment at the hands of struggling Watford was the final straw for the United board, who had stuck by Solskjaer in recent weeks despite humiliating home defeats to Liverpool and Manchester City.



"While the past few weeks have been disappointing, they should not obscure all the work he has done over the past three years to rebuild the foundations for long-term success," the club said. Solskjaer leaves with United already realistically out of the Premier League title race, 12 points behind leaders Chelsea down in seventh in the table, and having exited the League Cup. Former

midfielder Michael Carrick, who was part of Solskjaer's coaching team, will take charge of the forthcoming games while the club look to appoint an interim manager till the end of the season. Another defeat in Spain would leave the Red Devils needing both results in the final round of matches in Group F to go their way to avoid crashing out at the group stage for a second consecutive season. A run of five defeats in Solskjaer's final seven league games contrasts sharply with the anticipation that surrounded the club in August when Cristiano Ronaldo made a surprise return to Old Trafford in the final days of the transfer window. United also spent over \$134 million on Jadon Sancho and Raphael Varane as they looked to build on finishing second in the league to Manchester City last season.

Barcelona beat Espanyol as Xavi makes winning start

Barcelona's XI boasted eight La Masia graduates, including Ilias Akhomach, who was handed his debut. Ilias was the second 17-year-old in Xavi's first starting line-up along with Gavi and when he was replaced at half-time, on came the 19-year-old Abde Ezzalzouli

SPORTS DESK

BARCELONA: Xavi Hernandez made a winning start as Barcelona coach on Saturday as a dubious Memphis Depay penalty was enough to defeat local rivals Espanyol 1-0 in La Liga. Depay's strike at the start of the second half ensured Xavi's homecoming at Camp Nou ended in victory, but a nervy one, that will have left him under no illusions about the difficulty of the task ahead. Raul de Tomas twice struck the post late on as Espanyol spurned a flurry of late chances that really should have seen them take a draw from a game Barca dominated for an hour and then almost let slip from their grasp. Results, though, must come quickly and this one lifts Xavi's team from ninth in the table to sixth, six points behind fourth-placed Atletico Madrid, who earlier needed a late Felipe header to win 1-0 at home to Osasuna. Sevilla, in third, were held to a 2-2 draw by Alaves. There was also an undeniable uplift in mood at Camp Nou, with the 74,418 attendance almost double the 37,278 that watched Barca draw here against Alaves two weeks ago.

"They made things complicated for us in the last 15 minutes," said Xavi. "We would have deserved 2-0 but it's a good win to start the project." At his unveiling last week, Xavi had emphasised the need for "rules" and even before kick-off there were signs of a

shift. The players rolled into Camp Nou under a plume of red smoke, with the squad arriving all together on the team bus. Barcelona's XI boasted eight La Masia graduates, including Ilias Akhomach, who was handed his debut. Ilias was the second



17-year-old in Xavi's first starting line-up along with Gavi and when he was replaced at half-time, on came the 19-year-old Abde Ezzalzouli. In the warm-up, there was a more intense exercise of attack against defence and when Depay scored it was perhaps not just relief that saw all 10 outfield players celebrating together in the corner. The football was faster and more fun. Barcelona's players seemed liberated in the final third, where passes were flicked, scooped and backheeled. The best of them, by Gavi, led to Depay winning the penalty. They started in a 4-3-3 with both Gavi and Ilias hugging the touchlines and stretching Espanyol's defence out wide. As well as the additional width, there was a clear intention to hunt the ball higher up the pitch. Barca were happy to leave defenders one against one at the back if it meant more players pressing Espanyol in their own half. Nico almost scored when he stepped into to steal a pass from goalkeeper Diego Lopez but he looked, unsuccessfully, for a penalty instead of finishing. There were 11 shots in the first 45 minutes and plenty of chances as Depay failed to catch an early volley before Ilias blazed over from close range.

Briefs

Azerbaijani, Armenian leaders to meet in Brussels

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan will meet in Brussels in December, Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Leyla Abdullayeva has said. Abdullayeva made the remarks while commenting on the EU Council president's proposal to hold a meeting of the Azerbaijan and Armenian leaders within the framework of the upcoming summit of the Eastern Partnership countries.

Abdullayeva noted that Azerbaijan had agreed on the meeting between Aliyev and Pashinyan. "The Azerbaijani side is always open to political dialogue and welcomes such contacts," she said. The spokeswoman reminded that President Aliyev had repeatedly voiced on international platforms Azerbaijan's position in the context of the post-war realities. "We believe that the Brussels summit and the meeting to be held within its framework will create additional opportunities," Abdullayeva noted.

The worst escalation of tension was registered between the sides on November 16, 2021, that is a year after Baku and Yerevan signed a ceasefire deal through Russia's mediation on November 10, 2020, to bring to an end to six weeks of fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Covid curbs spark protests in Europe

NEWS DESK

HAGUE: Tens of thousands have taken to the streets in cities across Europe and Australia as anger mounted over fresh restrictions imposed against a resurgent pandemic. Dutch police faced a second night of rioting, this time in The Hague, after the previous night's violence in the port city of Rotterdam.

In Austria, around 40,000 came out to protest in central Vienna near the Chancellery, responding to a call from the far-right FPÖ party.

They held up banners decrying "Corona dictatorship" and slamming the "division of society". From Monday, 8.9 million Austrians will not be allowed to leave home except to go to work, shop for essentials and exercise.

Thousands also marched in Croatia's capital Zagreb and in Denmark, around a thousand people protested against government plans to reinstate a Covid pass for civil servants going to work. In Australia around 10,000 marched in Sydney and there were also protests in other major cities against vaccine mandates applied to certain occupations by state authorities.

Chileans vote in presidential election

AGENCIES

SANTIAGO: Chileans will vote for a new president Sunday following a polarizing campaign in which the leading candidates vowed to chart starkly different paths for the region's most economically advanced country staggered by a recent wave of social unrest.

Pre-election polls point to a large number of undecided voters but consistently have favored two of the seven candidates running: former student protest leader Gabriel Boric and his ideological opposite, José Antonio Kast, who has a history of defending Chile's military dictatorship.

But neither is expected to garner enough support to cross the 50% threshold required to avoid a runoff vote next month. Within striking distance of the two front-runners are center-right candidate Sebastián Sichel and center left former Education Minister Yasna Provoste. Also up for grabs is Chile's entire 155-seat lower house of congress and about half the senate.

Poland says Belarus keeps bringing migrants to its border

Europe accuses Belarus of flying in thousands of people from the Middle East and pushing them to cross into the European Union, which has been at odds with Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko since a disputed election last year

FOREIGN DESK

WARSAW: Poland accused Belarus on Sunday of continuing to ferry migrants to its border, despite clearing camps close to the frontier earlier this week, as Polish premier Mateusz Morawiecki toured Baltic states to seek support in the crisis. Europe accuses Belarus of flying in thousands of people from the Middle East and pushing them to cross into the European Union, which has been at odds with Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko since a disputed election last year. Minsk, which denies fomenting the crisis, cleared a migrant camp near the border on Thursday and started to repatriate some people to Iraq in an apparent change in tack in the conflict that has mushroomed into a major East-West confrontation.

Yet Poland says Minsk continues to truck hundreds of migrants to the frontier, where about 10 migrants are believed to have died with a frigid winter setting in. "On Saturday ... a group of about 100 very aggressive foreigners, brought to the border by Belarusian servicemen, tried to enter Poland by force. (Polish) services prevented the crossing," the border guard said on Twitter on Sunday. There had been 208 attempts by migrants to force their way into Poland from Belarus on Saturday, the border guard said, a few more than on Friday but well below the 501 attempts recorded on Wednesday. Neighbouring Lithuania said 44 migrants were

US police hunt felon after 'accidental' gun discharge

WASHINGTON: Police were hunting a convicted felon who fled Atlanta's international airport after his gun accidentally discharged during a security search and sparked panic. The incident on Saturday sent dozens of passengers scurrying for cover, and resulted in three injuries, none of which were caused by the discharge. "We are actively pursuing this individual," Atlanta Police's Major Reginald Moorman said in a press conference after identifying the suspect as 42-year-old Kenny Wells. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) said the incident occurred after a "prohibited item" was identified inside a passenger's bag-

gage by an X-Ray machine. As a security officer opened the compartment containing the item, "the passenger lunged into the bag and grabbed a firearm, at which point it discharged." "The passenger then fled the area, running out of the airport exit," the TSA said, adding that the officer had told the passenger not to touch the item. One person was injured in a fall in the ensuing panic and two others complained of shortness of breath, police said. Shortly after the incident at around 1:30 pm (1830 GMT), the airport said on Twitter that there was no active shooter, and "there is no danger to passengers or employees." - APP

Baku to host Int'l Nizami Ganjavi Forum

DNA

BAKU: International Nizami Ganjavi Forum will be held in Baku on November 24-26 as part of the Nizami Week. The forum "Nizami Ganjavi Intercultural Bridge", will be attended by foreign guests. The is organized by the Azerbaijan Culture Minister to celebrate the poet's 880th anniversary. Nizami Ganjavi is considered one of the most prominent figures of medieval Azerbaijani philosophical poetry. The poet wrote lyrical poems, including gasidas, ghazals and rubais. He dedicated his whole life to lyrical poems, and different philosophical problems. The works of Azerbaijani poet and thinker have



been translated into many languages. Rare manuscript copies of his works are kept and preserved in world-famous libraries, museums and literary foundations in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Baku, Tashkent, Tabriz, Tehran, Cairo, Istanbul, Delhi, London, Paris and others. In Khamsa (Quintet), the poet revealed the living pages of history.

Tikhonouskaya urges Austria to do more

NEWS DESK

VIENNA: Belarusian opposition leader in exile Svetlana Tikhonouskaya urged Austria's government and Austrian companies present in Belarus to do more to help her allies against President Alexander Lukashenko in remarks published on Sunday.

Her comments in a joint interview with Austrian newspapers Kleine Zeitung and Die Presse come on the eve of a video conference hosted by Austria in support of Belarusian civil society in the face of a crackdown on opposition by Lukashenko's government. Tikhonouskaya helped organise the conference. Austrian companies are among the most important European Union firms in Belarus. Raiffeisen Bank International's (RBI) Priobank is the fourth-biggest bank in the country in terms of loans, and phone operator A1 Telekom Austria (TELA) has a share of roughly 42% of its mobile market. "We understand that large companies like A1

prevented from entering on Saturday, the lowest number in a week. A dozen migrants from Iraq, speaking with Lithuanian news portal DELFI over the border with Belarus on Saturday, said they were forcibly brought there

do not want to give up their business activities in our country," Tikhonouskaya said.

"However, they could make their presence subject to certain conditions and make clear that their employees cannot be thrown in prison simply because they have a different opinion to Lukashenko."

Austria could take in students expelled from university in Belarus, she added.

Lukashenko claimed a resounding victory in last year's presidential election despite the widely held view that the vote was fraudulent. Various opposition groups say Tikhonouskaya won. The resulting crackdown has involved hundreds thrown in prison, allegations that opposition activists were tortured, and spurred a lively opposition movement in countries like Latvia, Lithuania and Germany where many Belarusians live.

In the latest confrontation between the EU and Minsk since the election, Europe accuses Belarus of flying in thousands of people from the Middle East and pushing them to cross the Polish border into the EU.

in military trucks by Belarus officials, who ignored their wish to go back to Iraq.

Poland's Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki visited Estonia and Lithuania on Sunday to discuss the crisis with his

counterparts from the Baltic states. He will travel to Latvia later in the day.

"Today, on Poland's Eastern border, we are dealing with a new type of war, a war in which migrants are weapons, in which disinformation is a weapon, a hybrid war," Morawiecki said in Estonian capital Tallinn, adding further economic sanctions against Minsk were being discussed.

Morawiecki said in Lithuania that he was receiving information that the difficult situation in Afghanistan after the Taliban took over the country in August "may be used as the next stage of the migration crisis".

"I think that the things that unfold before our eyes, these dramatic events, may only be a prelude to something much worse," he added. Poland and Lithuania called for continued support from the European Union and NATO.

"For us, it is very important that any talks (with Belarus) are coordinated with Lithuania, Poland and Latvia, which are at the forefront of the hybrid attack, and no decisions are taken which do not solve the situation fundamentally", Lithuanian PM Ingrida Simonyte told reporters.

France's foreign minister said on Sunday that Russia had to exert pressure on its ally, Belarus, to end the migrant crisis.

A poll by SW Research published by Rzeczpospolita daily on Sunday showed 55.1% of Poles are worried the crisis on the border could escalate into a regular armed conflict. However, hundreds took part in protests in Warsaw and close to the Belarusian border on Saturday to demand help for the migrants.

India police charge Amazon executives

NEW DELHI: Indian police have charged executives from Amazon's local arm over claims the US retail behemoth's online portal was used to smuggle and sell marijuana.

Two men were arrested last week with 21 kilograms (46 pounds) of the drug in central Madhya Pradesh state and told officers they were using Amazon's India platform to ship their goods elsewhere in the country. They admitted to shipping their crop by falsely marketing it as stevia leaves, a natural sweetener, according to a police report seen by AFP on Sunday.

Executives from Amazon's India unit had been included in the charges because of contradictions between evidence collected in the police investigation and responses received by the firm, the report said. Neither police nor Amazon gave any indication of how many employees were facing charges. Amazon said it was investigating the case and pledged full cooperation with police in a Sunday statement to AFP.

"We do not allow the listing and sale of products which are prohibited under law to be sold in India," a company spokesperson said. - APP

Tight monetary policy to thwart growth

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Industrial & Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has appealed the government to review its tight monetary policy stance as it will hamper the production and thwart the economic growth of the country.

PIAF senior vice chairman Nasir Hameed and vice chairman Javed Siddiqi, in a joint statement, said that the growth in large-scale manufacturing industries is already nominal in the first quarter of current fiscal year, as the industries were poised to face the impact of high input prices and shortage of gas in winter, while further hike in markup rate is another threat for them. During the July-Sept period of fiscal year 2021-22, the LSM sector output grew just by 5.2%, while on a month-on-month basis, the LSM sector contracted by less than 1% in Sept over Aug. The year-on-year growth rate in Sept was only 1.2% over the same month of previous year. The low base effect has so far been driving the growth in large industries as the index had dropped to the low level of 86.2 in April last year from the peak of 160 before Covid-19 struck Pakistan. The index still remains below the pre-Covid level as it stood at 139.8 in Sept. Since large industries contribute heavily to revenue collection and job creation, any change in key policy rate will affect negatively on the growth of industry, they added.

EU urges 'big move' from Britain

LONDON: European Commission vice-president Maros Sefcovic urged Britain on Sunday to make a "big move" to break months of deadlock over post-Brexit arrangements in Northern Ireland that has threatened a trade war. Sefcovic is set to meet UK Brexit minister David Frost in London on Friday for further negotiations, after talks broke up Friday with Britain saying there was "potential for momentum". But the UK has hinted it may still trigger a suspension clause in the so-called Northern Ireland protocol, which could spark a damaging trade war and dramatic unravelling in post-Brexit relations.

Brussels has repeatedly warned of "serious consequences" from such a move, suggesting the separate Brexit trade and cooperation deal could be pulled and tariffs imposed. Months of talks, proposals and counter-proposals have failed to break the impasse, with Britain demanding the protocol is overhauled while the EU has insisted more modest changes offered in the summer can suffice.

"I hope that (the) UK will also now make the big move towards us because we really made far reaching proposals and put them on the table," Sefcovic told the BBC. - APP



BUCHAREST: Pakistan ambassador to Romania Dr Zafar Iqbal received Prof Dan Dungaciu, Director of the Institute of Political Science & IR, Romanian Academy at the embassy. During the meeting, bilateral collaboration with Pakistani academia was discussed. - DNA

Pakistan and China join hands in livestock feed research

WEB DESK

BEIJING: Pakistan and China joined hands in feed research, says a report published by China Economic Net on Sunday.

"In Pakistan, at least sixty percent of feed additives are imported from China. Through my research and learning in China, I hope to enhance Pakistan's self-reliance in this regard".

This was stated by Waseem Abbas, a product manager at the Animal Nutrition Feed Additives Section of Jawad Impex International Lahore, and Ph.D. scholar at the College of Animal Science and Technology, China Agricultural University (CAU), Beijing, China.

He has just ended a 14-day seminar on feed formula organized by Hunan Agricultural Group, during which

he and other 20-odd Pakistani participants including farmers, students, and scientists learned through an array of courses such as the nutrition requirements on animals, feed formula design, the application and development of fodder in livestock and breeding industry, fodder processing techniques and fodder additives.

"Additives, meal and grains are indispensable parts in feed. On the contrary, they are essential for the balance and sufficiency of nutrition in feed, thus improving its efficiency and quality, something in dire need in Pakistan", said Waseem.

According to a research by University of Illinois, feed costs represent the largest input cost to produce milk (estimated to be 35 to 50 percent). In Pakistan, livestock pro-

duction contributes to over 60% of the total agricultural output value.

Commercial farmers and corporate about ten to fifteen percent are to overall dairy producers, they need feed additives to lower their cost while maximizing production.

Around 85 percent of households farmers and they are feeding conventional feeds which are limited to fulfill the nutritional requirement of animals, now farmers are moving to words modern/balanced feed which included feed additives to increase feed efficacy. In poultry, similarly, feed additives fulfill adequate nutritional profile for the birds.

Following the international practices, additives are commonly used in feed, with Vitamin premix, Mineral premix, amino acids, enzymes, toxin binders' antioxidants, choline chloride, etc. as the most commonly used feed additive.

But high prices and low efficient quality of feed in Pakistan is constraining the related sectors (meat, milk and egg production) from fully unleashing their potential. "For example, soybean is a major protein source of feed for poultry/dairy. But due to the high prices in Pakistani market complicated by the pandemic-caused cross-border transaction impediment, people have to turn to less-nutritious ingredients i.e. vegetables and animal proteins sources", said Waseem.

"During my study in China, I have visited many large feed producers and found that China is using advanced, innovative techniques and machinery, like pelleting machine, grinders, etc.", Waseem observed.

Visit of the Uzbekistan President to Russia ends

Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Vladimir Putin adopted a Joint Statement on Cooperation in the Field of International Information Security. In total, 18 bilateral documents were signed during the visit

NEWS DESK

TASHKENT: President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev wrapped up his visit to Russia.

At the meeting of the leaders of the two countries, topical issues of further strengthening the Uzbek-Russian strategic partnership and expanding multifaceted cooperation, primarily in the trade, economic, cultural and humanitarian spheres, were thoroughly considered. Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Vladimir Putin adopted a Joint Statement on Cooperation in the Field of International Information Security. In total, 18 bilateral documents were signed during the visit.

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev arrived in Russia on November 19 at the invita-

tion of the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin. The high-level talks were held in the Moscow Kremlin.

Earlier, Vladimir Putin warmly welcomed the President of Uzbekistan, congratulated him again on his convincing victory in the last Presidential election and wished him success in his future activities.

"Uzbekistan is not just our closest neighbor, but also an ally - that's exactly how we treat Uzbekistan", the Russian President noted. - This is a large regional country with which we are connected by a lot - both historically and today.

To date, 18 percent of Uzbekistan's total trade turnover is accounted for by Russia. Trade turnover is growing: despite the pandemic, it grew by more than 15 percent last year. This is a very good indicator that



even in the most difficult times we interact, and we interact successfully.

And the current work - both in the regional format and in the national one - continues in all directions. This applies to the economy, humanitarian ties, and transport infrastructure. Here we have a very large

field for joint work and, of course, we have something to talk about.

The President of Uzbekistan thanked the President of Russia for the invitation and warm welcome.

"I especially would like to note that in recent years there has been a breakthrough in our relations -

we have never had such indicators. And, as you said, the trade turnover is growing: by the end of nine months, it is already five billion, by the end of the year it will be seven billion. There has never been such a figure in our relationship yet.

The Intergovernmental Commission led by the Prime Ministers is working very seriously - you supported it, it gives very serious results. Before the visit, very serious work was carried out. Three large forums were held: regional, educational and media forum.

If we talk about the results, we already have US\$14 billion worth of projects under development today. This is also based on the results of the interregional forum - when we started it three years ago, we did not have anything like this. The result is serious: there are regions, it gives a very big boost.

Today, I think we have a good opportunity to discuss interregional, bilateral, security issues, the issue of Afghanistan", Shavkat Mirziyoyev said.

In general, the Presidents noted with great pleasure the high level of bilateral relations between the two states based on strategic partnership and alliance.

During the talks, special attention was paid to further expansion of trade-economic and investment cooperation.

In recent years, a real breakthrough has been achieved in these areas. Meetings of the Joint Commission at the level of Prime Ministers and the Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation are regularly held. Close cooperation has been established between the regions. This year, more than 50 high-level mutual visits have been organized.

Briefs

New Gwadar Airport to be operational by 2023

ISLAMABAD: The New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA), the \$ 246 m greenfield airport being built at an area of 4,300 acres would be operational by September 2023. According to an official source, the passenger terminal building of the project would be completed by June 2023; work related to air traffic control by March 2023, while the overall construction of the airport would be finished before September 2023. The NGIA was being managed and operated by Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). To be owned by a joint venture between Pakistan, Oman, and China, the airport would handle domestic and international operations. The airport development is a part of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) development, which was a cornerstone of China's One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative. The biggest in Pakistan and would also become the nation's second airport capable of handling A380 aircraft upon its commissioning in 2022. It was expected to stimulate the development in Gwadar peninsula and boost trade between Pakistan and China. The airport would be operated under open sky policy and developed under the guidance of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). The NGIA project was initiated as an early harvest high-priority project of the CPEC programme in 2014. — APP

Italian Consulate to mark Italian Cuisine Week

DNA

KARACHI: The launch of the VI Edition of the Week of Italian Cuisine in the World will be celebrated in Karachi from 22-28 November 2021, this year it is dedicated to the theme "Tradition and perspectives of Italian Cuisine: awareness and enhancement of food sustainability", which combines the promotion of Italian agri-food products with the enhancement of the Mediterranean Diet, as a model of healthy and sustainable diet and lifestyle. The Consulate of Italy in Karachi has invited two special guests from Italy; Chef Samuele Crestale hailing from Milan and Antonino Fracchiolla, a cheese expert from the south. The two gentlemen will take you on a gastronomical excursion to Italy. The Cuisine week will consist of a series of activities aimed at promoting Italian Agri-food products, goods and services by organizing a Ho.Re.Ca Summit featuring live cooking by Chef Samuele Crestale and Display of Cheese by Antonino Fracchiolla together with local vendors. A seminar will be held to create awareness about food sustainability jointly with CNH Industrial (former FIAT Group) to address the issues in the agri supply chain in Pakistan.

Sudan's PM reinstated after political agreement

The 14-point deal, signed in the presidential palace in Khartoum, also provides for the release of all political prisoners detained during the coup and stipulates that a 2019 constitutional declaration be the basis for a political transition, according to details read out on state TV

FOREIGN DESK

KHARTOUM: A political agreement has been signed in Sudan enabling Abdalla Hamdok to be reinstated as prime minister. Sudan's top general Abdel Fattah al-Burhan signed the deal on Sunday with Hamdok to restore the transition to civilian rule nearly a month after a military coup. The 14-point deal, signed in the presidential palace in Khartoum, also provides for the release of all political prisoners detained during the coup and stipulates that a 2019 constitutional declaration be the basis for a political transition, according to details read out on state TV. "I should begin by saying that our country is guarded and preserved by God

Almighty and whatever we reach at dead end, my fellow Sudanese people are capable of restoring our country back on course," Hamdok said. "When I then accepted the designation as an interim prime minister, I realised that the road was not strewn with roses, it would be a daunting task, fraught by risks and dangers. However, by joining hands, we can all prevent our country from plunging into the unknown. We should all come together to let the people decide who will take and hold the reins of power. "Signing this framework political agreement will open doors to address all the pending issues of the transitional period over the past two years and under this partnership we have managed to achieve a lot.



We have brought Sudan back into the international community, lifted its name from the terrorist blacklist and many other achievements. However, we still have many challenges laying ahead," he added. It remains unclear how much power the government would hold. The coup, more than two years after a popular uprising forced the removal of longtime ruler Omar al-Bashir and his government, has drawn international criticism. Sudanese people have been taking to the streets en

masse since the military takeover, which upended the country's fragile transition to democracy. The agreement comes just days after doctors said at least 15 people were killed by live fire during anti-coup demonstrations. Hamdok was held under house arrest by military leaders for weeks. "We will continue to work towards preserving the transitional period until all your dreams of democracy, peace and justice are achieved," al-Burhan said after Hamdok's reinstatement. "Over the past five or six days, a group among ourselves has been making maximum efforts. All the credit goes to them for reaching this agreement and we believe this will pave the way for a totally and complete transitional period." The Forces of Freedom

and Change (FFC) civilian coalition, which had been sharing power with the military, said it did not recognise any agreement with the armed forces. "We affirm our clear and previously announced position: no negotiation and no partnership and no legitimacy for the putschists," the FFC said in a statement. Those who carried out and backed the coup should face justice, it said, calling on people to turn out for the latest round of anti-military protests on Sunday. The Sudanese Professionals Association (SPA) on Sunday also rejected the political deal. "The treacherous agreement signed today between Hamdok and al-Burhan is totally rejected, and concerns only its parties," the pro-democracy group said in a statement.

Saudi agency continues relief work in Pakistan, others

BALUCHISTAN: The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center recently distributed 3,926 winter bags to those affected by the earthquake in the Harai district of Pakistan's Balochistan province, benefiting 25,578 people. The aid is part of the center's 2021 winter project to help people in need in Pakistan. With one of the largest humanitarian aid budgets in the world, KSrelief has been working in 76 countries, and after Yemen, Palestine, Syria and Somalia, Pakistan is the biggest beneficiary of the organization's humanitarian operations. In Yemen, KSrelief is aiding people in the Aden, Marib, Al-Jawf, Al-Mahra and Hadramaut governorates by delivering tons of food and equipment in 22 trucks in one week. The aid includes 1,000 tents, 1,750 shelter bags and 7,060 cartons of dates. The distribution comes within the framework of the humanitarian efforts being provided by KSrelief for the Yemeni people. Meanwhile, the mobile medical nutritional clinics of KSrelief provided treatment services for 4,435 patients in the Hodeidah governorate. The clinics include the epidemiology clinic, emergency clinic, internal medicine clinic, children's clinic, reproductive health clinic, nutritional therapy clinic, immunization clinic, awareness and education clinic, and surgery and surgical dressing department.



LAHORE: Ambassador of the Netherlands Wouter Plomp attending the Asma Jehangir conference in Lahore. — DNA

Israel's violations of children's rights requires int'l action

DNA

RAMALLAH: Under Israel's prolonged colonial occupation, Palestinian children live in constant fear based on lived experiences of torture, imprisonment, maiming, killing, and mass displacement. Their reality is one of perpetual injustice in a system that persecutes, assaults them, dehumanizes them, disrupts their lives, and deprives them of their potential by systematically violating their rights at will and with complete impunity. During 2021 alone, Israeli occupying forces killed 81 Palestinian children, including 67 children in Gaza and 14 children in the occupied West Bank, and East Jerusalem, and injured scores of others. During this period, the

occupation also damaged 154 schools and 80 kindergartens. Due to these criminal attacks and other illegal Israeli practices, 1.2 million Palestinian children are in need of humanitarian aid. In addition to the lethal effects of this systemic violence, such prolonged exposure to violence causes widespread trauma among and inflicts mass psychological trauma on their mental health and well-being. This daily reality violates the fundamental rights of Palestinian children, including their basic rights to life, safety, dignity, and education. It is no way for a child to live. Given this demonstrably dismal record, Israel belongs on the United Nations list of parties that commit grave violations affecting children in situations of armed conflict.

Solid evidence of money laundering by a big fish: NAB

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB has said that NAB has solid evidence of money-laundering of billions of rupees by the big fish which were laundered by opening fake accounts in the names of 'falooda wala', 'chhabri wala' and 'paupar wala' etc. The Learned Accountability courts in which NAB had filed references against accused persons are the relevant authority to decide about the innocence of any accused person as per law. The people who are claiming about their innocence in media should better request the concerned

learned Accountability court to have hearing of their cases on a day to day basis so that they plead about their innocence where law will take its own course of action. NAB would continue performing its national duties without caring about any baseless media reports and propaganda against NAB as an institution as per law. He said that NAB is committed to the logical conclusion of mega corruption cases by utilizing all available resources as per law. He said that NAB had constituted a Combined Investigation Team to benefit from the collective wisdom of senior supervisory officers. He said the CIT had the services of director, additional



director, investigation officer, legal counsel and experts of the monetary and land revenue department which is lending quality. He said NAB was the focal institution of Pakistan under the UN Convention against corruption and the chairman of SAARC

Anti-Corruption Forum. He said NAB was considered a role model organization in SAARC countries. The Chairman said that NAB from Oct 2017 to Oct, 2021 has recovered Rs 538 billion directly and indirectly from corrupt elements which is a record achievement as compared to other years which shows a commitment and dedication of NAB officers towards performance of their national responsibilities in eradication of corruption from the country. He said that there are 1278 corruption cases, having an accumulative volume of approximately Rs. 1335 billion, are under trial in various accountability courts of the country.

Italian coast guards rescue more than 420 migrants

DNA

ROME: The Italian Coast Guard rescued more than 420 migrants Saturday, including dozens of minors, from boats in difficulty in the Mediterranean Sea including using cargo ships to block the wind that was buffeting one of the overcrowded vessels. A coast guard statement said 70 migrants were brought safely by one of its motorboats to the tiny Italian island of Lampedusa, south of Sicily. Meanwhile, a different coast guard vessel was headed to the port of Porto Empedocle on Saturday evening in Sicily with more than 350 migrants aboard after they

were plucked to safety from a foundering fishing boat 70 miles (115 kilometers) from the Sicilian coast, the statement said. Among them were more than 40 minors. That fishing boat "was in danger, due to the bad weather conditions at sea and due to the elevated number of persons on board," the Coast Guard said. After being rescued by two motorboats, they were transferred to a larger Coast Guard vessel. The statement described the rescue of the larger number of migrants as "complex." Four cargo ships in the area were pressed into service to "mitigate the impact of the wind" on the rescue operation, it said.

4th phase for Khalistan referendum being held

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The 4th phase of Khalistan referendum, aimed at carving out a separate homeland for the Sikh community in India, is being held in the UK cities of Leicester, Coventry and Derby on Sunday. According to an analytical report by Kashmir Media Service, voting for the Khalistan referendum kick-started on 31 October 2021 in London in which over 30,000 Sikhs participated. Sikhs massively participated in the next two phases of Khalistan referendum held in the UK on 7 and 14 November 2021. Huge participation of Sikhs in Khalistan referendum has unnerved the BJP-led Indian government, which was forced to threaten the British Sikhs of Indian origin of tough action to prevent them from participating in Khalistan referendum. The referendum for Sikh separate homeland will also be held in the US, Canada, Australia and the Indian region of Punjab, soon. The KMS report said that voting in Geneva for Khalistan referendum will be held on December 10.

UNESCO, NFM Technical Committee visits DK

The technical team led by Dr. Kaleemullah Lashari led the experts team checked DKG area and ongoing development work

NAZIR H SIYAL



DKG area and ongoing development work, regarding conservation of site guidelines and suggestions by the experts on the occasion. During the routine visit of technical committee

among Ihsan Abbasi Curator and Naveed Sangah briefed the experts of UNESCO and National Fund for Mohen Jo Daro (NFM) about proper Conservation work on the site.

NOVEMBER 2021

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:

www.centrelines.com.pk
www.dnanews.com.pl
www.islamabadpost.com.pk

@PostIslamabad / @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

Islamabad POST

11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza,
G-8 Markez, Islamabad-Pakistan
Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165

MEMBER ALL PAKISTAN NEWSPAPERS SOCIETY (APNS)

CENTRELINE

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

NOVEMBER 2021

Azerbaijan celebrates Victory Day

Indonesian Independence Day celebrated

Serena Hotels host seminar at ISH

Khazar Farnadov
Azerbaijan one of the fastest growing countries

LARGEST CIRCULATED DIPLOMATIC MAGAZINE

RS 500