



Islamabad POST

Tuesday, November 23, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Pakistan aim to launch women's edition of PSL

Detailed News On Page-06

Azeri investors keen to invest in Pakistan

Detailed News On Page-08

Opp slammed for maligning institutions

Detailed News On Page-01

Briefs

Nawaz, Maryam targeted

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Reacting to the alleged audio clip of former chief justice Saqib Nisar, PML-N President Shahbaz Sharif said that the tape showed how Nawaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz were targeted as part of a grand scheme to keep them out of political process. Taking to Twitter, Shahbaz Sharif said that the time has come to "right the wrongs" inflicted on ex-prime minister Nawaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz.

Balochistan to get full resources

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Asad Umar Monday said that the government was committed to provide maximum share in federal resources to Balochistan for its speedy development. He said that the federal government would provide maximum resources to the Balochistan for development and bringing it on par with other provinces in accordance with the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan, said a press release issued here. Asad Umar was addressing a "National Workshop on Balochistan" here. In the workshop, the minister talked about "Pakistan's Future Trajectory and Development Projects".

Audio tape fabricated

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice (ret'd) Saqib Nisar has termed the alleged leaked tape of his conversation with an unidentified person as fabricated. Speaking to a TV channel on Sunday, Justice (ret'd) Saqib Nisar said that he has just listened to this audio tape. He said that such things are being made, this is not my voice. It is pertinent to mention here that in the viral leaked audio clip, Justice (ret'd) Saqib Nisar has allegedly passed instructions to some unidentified person to sentence Nawaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz.

POL levy to increase each month

Minister says Pakistan had already agreed with the International Monetary Fund to increase the price of electricity

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue Shaukat Tarin on Monday said petroleum development levy should be increased by Rs4 per litre every month as the government aims to take the petroleum development levy up to Rs30. Speaking at a press conference after receiving a confirmation from the IMF regarding the staff-level agreement, the PM's aide said that it Pakistan had already agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to increase the price of electricity. "It was hence, an uphill task to back out from the programme after the receipt of \$500 million from the Fund," he added. At the press conference, he was flanked by Federal Minister for Energy Hammad Azhar. "Negotiations with the IMF have ended successfully," he said, adding that the IMF has called for tax reforms to continue.

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan, IMF reach staff-level agreement

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have reached a staff-level agreement, the international money lender revealed Monday. "The agreement is subject to approval by the Executive Board, following the implementation of prior actions, notably on fiscal and institutional reforms," reads a statement by the IMF. "Completion of the review would make available SDR 750 million (about US\$1,059 million), bringing total disbursements under the EFF to about US\$3,027 million and helping

Continued on Page 06

Fawad slams Opposition for maligning institutions

says Panama scandal was investigated by the Int'l Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ)

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain on Monday advised the opposition to stop the campaign launched by them to malign the state institutions, duly protected by the Constitution. "I want to give advice to the opposition that it should stop running a campaign



against judiciary and army and respect the Constitution which gives them full protection," he said while

talking to media persons after attending a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan. He said the way, the opposition kept both of the institutions on their target through their leaders and social media account was "quite inappropriate". "In my opinion it is a sheer violation of the Constitution," he added.

Continued on Page 06



PESHAWAR: Lieutenant General Nauman Mahmood handing over Command of Peshawar Corps to Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed at Corps Headquarters Peshawar. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Bangladesh, Defence adviser, Brigadier General Abdul Fazal Md Sanaullah along with Senator Talha Mehmood and others cutting the cake during the ceremony of Armed Forces Day of The People's Republic of Bangladesh. - DNA

Soldier martyred

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A soldier of Pakistan Army embraced martyrdom on Monday when a vehicle of security forces was targeted by the terrorists near the Pakistan-Iran border in Balochistan, the military said. According to a statement issued by the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), a group of terrorists, in a cowardly attack, targeted a patrolling party of security forces in the Panjgur area of the province along the border. "During heavy exchange of fire, one soldier, Sepoy Jalil Khan, a resident of DI Khan, sacrificed his life fighting valiantly," the statement added. ISPR further said that Pakistan's security forces remained determined to defeat such acts of inimical elements, aimed at disrupting the peace, stability and progress of Balochistan.

Lt. Gen. Faiz takes command

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Former director general of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed has taken over the command of Peshawar Corps on Monday. The ceremony for handing over the command was held at Peshawar Corps Headquarters, said a statement issued by the military's media wing, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR). Lieutenant General Nauman Mahmood handed over the Command of Peshawar Corps to Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed. It may be mentioned here that new ISI Director-General Lt Gen Nadeem Anjum had assumed charge of his office on Saturday last after he was formally notified by the PM Office on October 26.

PM approves Rs 5bn Afghan aid package

The Prime Minister instructed all ministries to facilitate Afghans to the maximum

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan visited the newly established Afghanistan Inter-Ministerial Coordination Cell (AICC) today where he chaired the first Apex Committee meeting of AICC. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Adviser on Finance Mr. Shaukat Fayaz Tarin, Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa, National Security Adviser Dr. Moeed Yousaf and senior

Continued on Page 06

Taliban bans women from TV dramas

DNA

KABUL: Women have been banned from appearing in television dramas in Afghanistan under new rules imposed by the Taliban government. Female journalists and presenters have also been ordered to wear headscarves on screen, although the guidelines do not say which type of covering to use. Reporters say some of the rules are vague and subject to interpretation. The Taliban seized power in Afghanistan in mid-August and many fear they are gradually imposing harsh restrictions. The militant Islamist group, which took control following the departure of US and allied forces, almost immediately instructed girls and young women to stay home from school. During their previous rule in the 1990s,

Continued on Page 06

India refusing to give back bodies of Kashmiris

Ever since April 2020, the Indian government has stopped handing over bodies of Kashmiris

NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR: Last year, 20-year-old Junaid Rashid, a former college student, was killed in a shoot-out with the Indian military in the Shopian district in Indian administered Kashmir was buried in Handwara, a town day-drive away from his town. Junaid's father Abdul Rashid Wani, who was recently interviewed by Israeli publication Haaretz, said he has no idea when and how Junaid joined the alleged militant group. "We tried our best to force him

to return home," Wani said while talking to the media. According to reports, while Wani was persuading his son to return home, he received a phone call from the government authorities telling him that his son has been killed and that he will be buried in Handwara. However, Wani told the media that even though he was briefly shown Junaid's body in Srinagar, he could never muster the courage to visit his son's grave. Ever since April 2020, in the wake of the COVID-19 wave in

Continued on Page 06

US delegation meets COAS

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A delegation led by Mr Gregory Weldon Meeks, Chairman House Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC), USA and Mr Amerish Babul Bera, Members HFAC (Chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia Pacific, Central Asia and Non-proliferation) called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS). During the meetings, matters of mutual interest, current security situation in Afghanistan and bilateral cooperation in various fields were discussed. COAS said that Pakistan desires to maintain the tradition of bilateral engagement with all the regional players and wish for enduring peace in the region. COAS reiterated the need for global convergence on

Continued on Page 06

Inside...

- Governor highlights access to emergency care system - Page 02
- Pakistan's first unique stem cell transplant done at Shifa - Page 03
- ICCWS to focus on strategies pertaining to cyber security - Page 04
- Iran and US on the way of negotiation - Page 05
- Pakistan beat Bangladesh, sweep T20I series 3-0 - Page 06
- Egypt used French military support to 'kill civilians': Report - Page 07
- Azerbaijan companies keen to invest in Pakistan: Envoy - Page 08

Envoys of Norway, Japan, and Poland present credentials

President Alvi highlights Pakistan's desire to further expand bilateral cooperation with the friendly countries

A.M.BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan offers enormous investment opportunities and foreign businesses should take advantage of the business-friendly policies of the country, especially in agriculture, Information Technology, telecommunication, energy, and tourism sectors. The President expressed these views while talking to the Ambassador-designates of Japan, the Kingdom of Norway, the Republic of Poland, and the non-resident Ambassador-designate of the Kingdom of Cambodia who separately called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Earlier, the Ambassador-designate of Japan, Mr



Ambassador of Poland

Mitsuhiro Wada, the Ambassador-designate of the Kingdom of Norway, Mr Per Albert Isaas, Ambassador-designate of the Republic of Poland, Mr Maciej Pisarski, and the non-resident Ambassador-designate of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Mr

Ung Sean, presented their credentials to President Dr Arif Alvi at a ceremony. The President congratulated the newly-appointed envoys and expressed the hope that they would play their role in further strengthening political, commercial, diplo-



Ambassador of Japan

matic and cultural relations with Pakistan. Talking to the Ambassadors-designates separately, the President highlighted Pakistan's desire to further expand bilateral trade and commercial cooperation with the friendly countries,

saying that the mutual trade needed to be taken to its fullest potential. He asked the ambassadors-designates to encourage the businesses of their respective countries to invest in Pakistan which is an attractive destination for investment. The Pres-



Ambassador of Norway

ident apprised the envoys about Pakistan's successful handling of the COVID-19 pandemic by introducing smart-lockdowns which led to the containment of the disease. He also highlighted the need to provide humanitarian assistance to Afghani-

stan which had been a victim of war for over 4 decades. The President expressed his best wishes for all the envoys for their new assignment in Pakistan and hoped that they would play their role to further cement bilateral relations during their tenures.

Briefs

Farrukh for timely completion of projects

FAISALABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib has directed the district administration to complete all development projects in-time to facilitate the masses as early as possible. During a briefing at DC Complex here on Monday, he said that the government was sincere to provide all basic amenities to the masses and in this connection, a number of development schemes including construction of roads were initiated. He said that the government had released billions of rupees for these projects and now district administration was duty bound to ensure use of quality material in these schemes as well as its in-time completion. Farrukh Habib also directed to make community centers and sports complexes functional for facilitation of the people and said that a multipurpose hall would also be established in Government Science College within next six months. He said that the government had allocated Rs.300 million for minority package and implement on this package would be started soon. — APP

10 criminals held, contraband seized

FAISALABAD: Police here on Monday arrested 10 criminals and recovered drugs and illegal weapons from their possession in the district during last 24 hours. According to police, raiding teams nabbed 5 drug pushers and recovered 4.8 Kg hashish and 39 liter liquor from their possession. In a crackdown against illegal weapons, police arrested 5 persons and recovered 4 pistols and one rifle from them. Further investigation was underway, police said. — APP

Over 4.41m people vaccinated in Faisalabad

FAISALABAD: Over 4.41 million people have so far been vaccinated against COVID-19 in the district. District Health Officer Dr Ataul Mun'im said on Monday 2,956,457 people were injected first dose while 1,391,856 were administered the second dose of vaccine. He further said that 38,375 health workers were also given first dose while 23,781 received the second dose of vaccine.

He said that sufficient stock of coronavirus vaccine was available in the district. As of now 197,815 first doses and 131,876 second doses were in the stock in Faisalabad. He said that 37 vaccination centers and 20 mobile vaccination camps were operational in Faisalabad where registered people were being vaccinated. In order to facilitate the people these centers had been established in various areas of the city including Allied Hospital, District Head Quarters Hospital, Government General Hospital G.M Abad, Faisalabad Institute of Cardiology, Government General Hospital Samanabad, Children Hospital, sports Complex Samanabad, Tehsil Head Quarters Hospital Jaranwala, Samundri, Tandianwala, Chak Jhumra, Sports Complex Chak Jhumra, Sports Complex Jaranwala, Government General Hospital Chak 224-RB, New Building RHC Khurrianwala, New Building THQ Samundri, New Building THQ Tandianwala, Social Security Hospital Madina Town, Wapda Hospital, Rural Health Centers Mureed Wala, Chak 174-JB, Chak 134-JB, Chak 229-RB, Chak 65-GB, RHC Lundianwala Jaranwala, RHC Khurrianwala Jaranwala, Pindi Sheikh Musa, Kanjwani, Mamukanjan, RHC Chak 400-GB, RHC Chak 153-RB, RHC Chak 374-GB and Chak 469-GB, he added. He further said that timing of these vaccination centers was 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. except Sports Complex Samanabad center which would remain open round the clock. — APP

Governor highlights access to emergency care system

Professor Dr Junaid Abdul Razzak is the founding convener (Dean) of Emergency Medicine at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Pakistan

NAZIR H SIYAL

KARACHI: Dr. Junaid Abdul Razzak, Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine, Weill Cornell Medicine, USA called on Governor Sindh Imran Ismail at Governor's House here on Monday. Member of Provincial Assembly Sindh Ali Aziz GG and Dr Saufuddin Siddiqui of Meritorious Group of Institutions were also present on the occasion. Professor Dr Junaid Abdul Razzak is the founding convener (Dean) of Emergency Medicine at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Pakistan. His current research focus is on implementing and measuring health system innovations for enhancing access to emergency healthcare for vulnerable populations especially in low and middle income countries. He is interested in studying innovations that will help emergency care system development in low resource settings of Pakistan. Governor Sindh while highlighting the significance of access to emer-



gency care system said that emergency care was an essential part of the health system and serves as the first point of contact. In times of mass emergency events – including natural disasters, conflict and outbreaks like COVID-19 the need for care for injuries and other acute conditions increases. "When anyone in an emergency, every minute counts",

he underlined. He further said that the people living specially in a rural community continue to have unequal access to emergency care. Remote and Rural areas continue to suffer from shortage of medicines as well as limited access to emergency physicians. "We need to research, collaborate, contribute and ultimately develop practical

solutions for these pressing issues to continue to safeguard our nation's emergency care safety net", he added. Dr Junaid Abdul Razzak stressed for mobilising the youths to acquire primary emergency care training so as to become instrumental in saving human life in case of real emergency. He said for this purpose he wanted to im-

part this training to students of universities. He further said that emergency care training might be included in schools and colleges curriculum to expand the care net. He also informed that such training schedule is being commenced for Karachi police personnel during the next week as well. The Governor Sindh appreciated the spirit and efforts of Dr. Junaid Abdul Razzak and assured him of full assistance in developing such health care facilities in the province. He directed his Principal Secretary Dr Saif Ur Rehman to write letter to all the Vice Chancellors of universities in the province for training to university students. He further directed for arranging meeting of Dr Junaid Abdul Razzak with Federal Minister Education for discussion over inclusion of emergency health care system topic in the schools and colleges curriculum. He further directed to coordinate with the Rangers Authorities in Karachi for imparting-emergency care training to rangers personnel too.

Efforts to curb drugs to be further intensified

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Raja Basharat on Monday assured that efforts would be further intensified to eliminate the menace of drugs in surroundings of educational institutes. He was addressing the current session of Punjab Assembly which started three hour and 20 minutes behind its scheduled time with Speaker Chaudhry Pervaiz Ellahi in the chair. Earlier, Speaker Chaudhry Pervaiz Ellahi expressed dismay over the increase in property tax and said that schedule regarding increase in property tax should be surfaced. The speaker asked the government to form a joint strategy in coordination of other institutions concerned for eradication of drugs in surrounding of educational institutes. During the question answer session related to Excise and Taxation Department Punjab, the speaker dismissed the session over non satisfactory answers by the secretary concerned. On point of order, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz MPA Samiullah Khan pointed out the absence of cabinet ministers during the Punjab Assembly's session and said that it has become a routine that most of the cabinet ministers remained absent from the session. He said that government's ministers did not pay any attention to the House. Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) parliamentary leader Syed Hassan Murtaza also criticized the government over inflation and said that situation could become worst if timely steps were not taken to control inflation. On completion of agenda, Speaker Chaudhry Pervaiz Ellahi adjourned the session till November 23 (Tuesday) at 11:30 a.m. — APP

FCCI hails CRC establishment bill

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) has welcomed the approval of bill for the establishment of Corporate Restructuring Company (CRC) and hoped that it will play a catalytic role in the revival of sick units lying dormant for the last many years. Talking to the Executive Committee members of the FCCI, he said that this legislation has paved the way for the revival of at least 40 industrial units in Faisalabad alone which were victims of the circumstances. He further said that these units still have complete infrastructure with all paraphernalia and they could immediately start production with re-scheduling of their bank instalments. He said that thousands of jobs would be created in addition to enhancing exports to earn precious foreign exchange. He said that most of the sick units were not the wilful defaulters and the circumstances have pushed them to the verge of collapse putting at stake their huge investment and reputation. He said that Corporate Restructuring Company will resolve the banks and finance related problems and facilitate them to restart their units immediately.

Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, Benazir Bhutto worked for democracy: MPA

PTI Govt fails to solve issues of common men, despite rising inflation in country: MPA Ghazala Siyal

NAZIR H SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) sacrifices are more than other political parties, so for the rights of common men and democracy, that's why Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto devoted their lives for country solidarity and democratic parliament rule against the dictators. These views expressed by the Provincial Member Sindh Assembly and by birth worker Ghazala Siyal, while her interview to the Daily "Islamabad Post" a day before. MPA Ghazala Siyal said that dictators are every five years or three, always removed political democratic governments and laid dictatorship rules in country illegally she termed. She said it is vital clear that every time country men observed that whenever hard time came, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leaders escaped and leave country in difficult time, but PPP all the time struggle and their leaders put in jails and their workers and supporters. Despite of all odds, they continued their struggle for democracy and for Parliamentary role in country she added. Ghazala said when Benazir Bhutto martyred, the situation was worst in Pakistan and unknown forces wanted to harm country solidarity and separation of provinces on peak, but true and brave leader of PPP Co Chairman Asif Ali Zardari after incident, raised slogan of Unite Pakistan and no one hidden hands will be tarnish the country solidarity on the occasion. Woman MPA told that during



Musharaf dictator government, PPP after general elections, succeeded in majority seats representation in country Parliament. PPP led by Asif Ali Zardari all over Pakistan ended 58/2b by supreme Parliament resolution for the closing of doors of dictators in future, added that PPP name would be written in golden words because of PPP was majority party and played role to remove that article through Parliament and granted the rights of parliamentarians and provincial autonomy as benefits. She said when after PML-Nawaz leader government removal, Nawaz Sharif

always saying by his slogan that give the rights of vote to common men, PPP did that work in parliament and for rights of parliament, a true struggle is only by PPP she said. She also expressed that It is vital clear that credit of 18th amendment goes to PPP because sacrifices and struggle of party, parliamentarians unfold policies in the parliament, to benefits on grassroots level of common men she quoted. To a question, MPA Ghazala Siyal lamented that Electronic Voter Machine (EVM) needs expertise not only Staff but voters also, can you provide

these machines in far and flug locations, and provide proper electricity to operate by thousands of IT experts in during the course of time, She asked PTI, are we ready for that process, because upcoming elections are scheduled in 2023. She told it is long process, which could not be a possible as to fix on the responsibility on Election Commission or other assigned staff during general duty staff during elections, so that tier is also need of parliament consensus and debate on the issue by the Opposition Parties to the issue. She opined that according to literacy rate we are not 100 percent educated to perform or all experts in all the way, so that PTI should come out the dreams and should not make fool the nation. She said there are dictatorship policies of PTI led Imran Khan, these are not in favour of common men, PTI has failed to provide water, electricity, gas and issues like rising inflation. People on elections will not support PTI in upcoming election. People are sick of the policies of present Govt, the rising prices of commodities due to inflation has hit the country economy. To a question about Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), the Opposition Parties should be united to struggle against the ineligible PTI government and its doctorship policies led the country into destruction she said. She said upcoming election is success of Pakistan People's Party and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari would lead the country economy to the path of success.

Hybrid seeds could increase production

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Domestic production of hybrid seeds could give a quantum jump to the agriculture yield in addition to weeding out the rural poverty, said Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh, President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI). Addressing the first meeting of the FCCI Standing Committee on Seeds, he hoped that this standing committee will give tangible proposals to make Pakistan self-reliant in food production and enabling FCCI to take up these

issues with the Provincial and Federal Government for their immediate resolution. Earlier Haji Gulzar Ahmad Chairman FCCI standing committee on seeds said that the share of agriculture in GDP is around 19% while it was also providing jobs to the 48% workforce. He expressed concern over the hefty import of food items and said that it is alarming for an agrarian economy. He said that we must take fundamental steps to give a quantum jump to our per acre yield in addition to promoting a culture of value addition in this sector.



ISLAMABAD: Swiss ambassador to Pakistan Bénédicte de Cerjat visits Pakistan Boy Scouts Association headquarters. — DNA

SC should reconsider disqualification: Tareen

It is the demand of justice and law that if you have been sentenced then right to appeal should be given, if Supreme Court reconsiders then talk of legit and justice will be done

SAQIB MUSHTAQ

LODHAN: Jahangir Tareen said while talking to the media in Lodhran that nobody can say whether he will get relief from Supreme Court or not in his disqualification case but Supreme Court should reconsider the life-time disqualification. He added that there are two things one, people were sentenced in some crime and serve 5 years in prison and then return to participate in the Elections, Supreme Court should decide itself of reconsideration, secondly that in Article 184/3 people were disqualified and in this

there is no right to appeal, What kind of a thing is that to have no right to appeal? It is the demand of justice and law that if you have been sentenced then right to appeal should be given, if Supreme Court reconsiders then talk of legit and justice will be done. In a reply to a journalist's question "how do you feel about the change" he said that change in the country is very necessary, our system does not serve any good to the common person this is the reason why our people are oppressed. Police and Civil Service reforms including deployment of better people everywhere

so that better decisions can be made. Today DAP is vanished, 15/20 days ago everyone knew that shortage of fertilizer is coming. If decisions are taken on time then fertilizer crisis could be avoided. Jahangir Khan Tareen said that relief is to be given to people then timely elections and decision needs to be taken. Jahangir Khan Tareen spent a busy day in Lodhran where

he participate in worker's bliss and sorrow. He visited Chak no. 44M, Union Council Sirajwala, he consoled the family and said Fataha For deceased Former Counselor Rana Muhammad Akram, in Lodhran City said Fataha for Usman Muzzamil's mother, Mian Wakeel Sukhera's father, Mian Khursheed Qureshi's brother, Peer Riaz Uddin Sanvi's mother. Jahangir Khan Tareen met with PTI's active leader Chaudhry Ejaz Yousuf at his residence, also met with PTI Lodhran's Tehsil Saddar Mehar Muhammad Ashraf Sial in his office. Jahangir Tareen participated in the wedding ceremony of Rao Saeed Ad-

vocate's son Rao Jawad Ahmad and congratulate him. Party leader Tahir Ameer Khan Ghauri, Malik Arslan Nawaz Bhutta, Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, Sheikh Munawar Nadeem, Syed Bugh Ali Naqvi, Sajid Inam Toor, Mehar Muhammad Afzal, Ahmad Sher Lodhra, Malik Sadaqat Lodhra, Shehzad Lodhra, Rana Javed Thakur, Mallik Abid Channar, Malik Akram Areeen, Rana Tauheed, Aqeel Sial, Mehar Ejaz Sial, Rao Tariq Haneef, Rana Faiz Irshad, Qari Muhammad Saleem, Rao Nauman Mehdi, Rao Danish Ali, Rao Haider Ali and other were along with Jahangir Khan Tareen at this time.

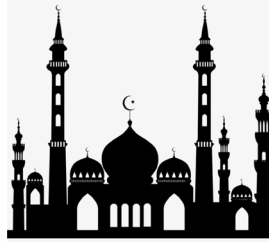


KP Assembly passes waqf properties bill

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assembly Monday unanimously passed 'the KP Waqf Properties (Amendment) Bill, 2021 to make effective framework for leasing out the waqf property and prevent its unauthorized occupation in order to generate maximum income from waqf property. The bill was moved by Minister for Auqaf, Hajj and Religious Affairs Zahoore Shaker, with Speaker Mushtaq Ahmad Ghani in the chair. The bill stated that the income collected from waqf property would be utilized for religious, pious and charitable purposes as recognized by Islam. Similarly, the House also unanimously passed 'the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincially Administered Tribal Areas Levies Force (Amendment) Bill, 2021 and tabled 'the KP Appointment of Law Officers (Amendment) Bill, 2021. Both the bills were moved by Minister for Labour Shaukat Ali Yousafzai. Later, the chair adjourned the assembly proceedings till Friday 10am. — APP

— APP

SERVICES



Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	05:19 am
Zohr.....	11:54 am
Asr.....	03:24 pm
Maghrib.....	05:01 pm
Isha.....	06:28 pm



Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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Emergency

Rescue (Police).....	15
Bomb Disposal.....	15
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 Inquiry.....	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: Trekking friends enjoyed a gorgeous weather on the beautiful Trail 3 with a limited number of participants due to busy weekend schedules. – DNA

Pakistan's first unique stem cell transplant done at Shifa

Dr. Ayaz Mir, FACP, Director of Bone Marrow & Stem Cell Transplant at Shifa emphasized that only a few dozen centers in the world including USA and Germany were doing such transplants for this rare tumor

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A 59 years old female underwent first successful Stem Cell Transplant in Pakistan for Primary Central Nervous System Lymphoma (PCNSL), a rare blood cancer, at Shifa International Hospital in Islamabad. The patient was given a series of chemotherapy, immunotherapy, targeted small molecule inhibitor, and radiation therapy, leaving behind

less than 5 mm of tumor on brain scans. She then underwent Peripheral Blood Hematopoietic Stem Cell Harvest through an Apheresis machine for four days. Stem Cells were collected and preserved at -80°C for 1 week in a special medium. Drugs eliminated tumor in the brain, but also inevitably caused collateral damage to Bone Marrow, making the patient aplastic and otherwise unable to survive. To rescue Bone Marrow, her stem cells were then in-



Shifa International Hospitals Ltd.

fused back through a central line in the bloodstream over 3 days. Over next 2-3 weeks, she remained in a severely immune-compromised state in a specialized unit with

HEPA filters requiring radiated blood products, nutritional and anti-microbial support, but gradually the Stem Cells kicked in and her Bone Marrow was re-

populated resulting in improvement in blood counts. Dr. Ayaz Mir, FACP, Director of Bone Marrow & Stem Cell Transplant at Shifa emphasized that only a few dozen centers in the world including USA and Germany were doing such transplants for this rare tumor. It took a specialized team of coordinators, apheresis techs, blood-bank experts, excellent nursing care, and doctors to successfully orchestrate this complicated process. Shifa has done about

350 Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Transplants, but this was one of the most challenging. To make the treatment affordable for the masses, he emphasized that the government and the pharmaceutical industry should take special measures for encouraging local manufacturing of drugs as Pakistan lags behind other regional countries in the field of cancer drug manufacturing. It will also curb the multi-billion PKR black market exploiting the desperate.

AIOU sets Dec 6 deadline for Master admissions

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has set December 6, 2021 as the deadline for the admission in programs offered in the second phase of autumn 2021 semester including MA, MSc, M Ed, BA General (Associate Degree) and PGD programs. AIOU has offered admission in these programs in accordance with HEC's revised notification dealing with the subject matter, a press release on Monday said. HEC has granted special permission to the universities to invite applications for admission in master's degree programs in the context of COVID-19 pandemic till June 22. Two-year MA Programs include M Com, History, Urdu, Islamiyat, Arabic, TEFL and Library and Information Sciences whereas M Sc programs include Administrative Sciences, Economics, Social Studies, Mass Communication, Pakistan Studies as well as Public Nutrition and Sustainable Environmental Design. Moreover, one year M Ed programs include Elementary Teacher Education, Special Education, Teacher Education and Science Education. On the other hand, M Sc (face to face) programs include Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Botany, Microbiology and Environmental Sciences. It is pertinent to mention here overseas Pakistanis and foreigners can also apply for admission in these programs. For international students, these programs will be offered through university's uniquely customized learning management system. All academic activities including examinations will be conducted online. However, Pakistani students will appear in face-to-face examinations. Admission application forms and prospectuses for all programs are available online on the university website (www.aiou.edu.pk). However, national and international candidates can apply for admission via online mode only. – DNA

IESCO issues power suspension schedules

DNA

ISLAMABAD: According to Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO)'s spokesman, System Maintenance/Development Work is in process. Therefore power supply of below mentioned feeders/areas will be temporarily suspended as per given schedule: On 23rd November, From 08:00 AM to 5:00 PM, From 9:00 AM to 02:00 PM, Lohi Bhair, Coral, Alipur, Ghauri Garden, Sohwaran, Khanna 2, Anoor Colony, Khanna East, Nogzi, Dhok Awan, Zaraj Housing Scheme, New Rawat, Bank Road 2, City Center, Kashmir Road, Kalial, Gulshanabad, Attock Oil Refinery Grid and Humayun feeder and surroundings will remain closed.

Admin provides 100,000 sugar bags to marts

RAWALPINDI: The district administration provided more than 100,000 bags of sugar to all the dealers, marts, Cash & Carry stores in Rawalpindi district on the directives of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi Muhammad Ali. According to a district administration spokesman, sugar stocks were enough to meet demand of the commodity in all Tehsils of the district until Dec 5. He said, no one would be allowed to sell sugar at exorbitant rates. He informed that the DC had directed all the price control magistrates to ensure availability of sugar at Rs 90 per kg to the public and take stern action against the shopkeepers found involved in profiteering. The spokesman said citizens could lodge complaints about profiteering at phone numbers 051-9259268 and 051-9292529. He informed that the Administration on the directives of Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Syed Gulzar Hussain Shah conducted nearly 18,000 inspections during last week in four districts of the division to check prices of daily use items. The strict action in accordance with the law was taken against hoarders and profiteers, he said and informed that due to solid steps taken by the authorities concerned, now the rates of sugar were stable in the division and artificial price hike had been controlled. The spokesman informed that imported sugar was also being sold in 33 Sahulat Bazaars in Rawalpindi division. – APP

Digitization of land record to be completed

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Malik Amin Aslam on Monday said the government had completed over 88 percent 'digitalization of land record survey', whereas remaining 12 percent would be complete till December.

It is another revolutionary step of the incumbent government against corrupt land mafias in the country, he said while talking to a private news channel.

Amin Aslam said the project would help the government in preventing record tempering, land grabbing, illegal constructions and recurrent phenomena of encroachments, adding, PM Imran Khan would directly monitor the project.

He said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government was committed to change this mafia tradition and would not let mafia exist in the country anymore, adding, in the first phase, the government would complete this one year project of digitization of land records in major cities of Pakistan like Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad. Repling a query about forest mafia, he said government had faced massive resistance when it began cadastral mapping of Pakistan to digitalis land records, adding, provincial forest departments were not agreed to provide data about their lands but now government was successfully working on the project. He said with the accurate digital records of forest land, the government would now take strict action against those involved in land mafias and their facilitators. To another question he said the encroached state land number was highest in Sindh. – APP

ANF arrests two drug paddlers

ISLAMABAD: Anti Narcotic Force Rawalpindi conducted two separate operations at Islamabad International Airport and arrested two persons involved in drug smuggling.

According to a spokesperson of ANF, the force-sized 2,452 kg cocaine from the trolley bag of Muhammad Fawad, a resident of Swabi who was coming to Pakistan from Turkey via Doha.

The seized cocaine was expertly hidden in the ladies' purse and the bottom of the trolley, said a news release.

In the second operation, a Nigerian national was detained at Islamabad International Airport on suspicion, during interrogation, the accused confessed to having drug-filled capsules in his stomach. The accused was shifted to the hospital and drug-filled capsules were recovered from his stomach.

Both the operations were carried out on a tip-off from ANF intelligence. The investigation has been started after registering cases against the accused under the Anti-Narcotics Act. – APP

Ehsaas One Window facility served 60,912 people



DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Ehsaas One Window Center in the federal capital has served 60,912 people till date from across the country since its opening in the month of June. According to an official source, "The only One Window Center facility established in the federal capital initially has served the existing and intended beneficiaries by providing them guidance and information about all the Ehsaas programs at a single platform and resolving their issues regarding biometrics and payments etc". The Ehsaas One Window facility having all the services at one place facili-

tated the people who previously needed to go to many offices to get their complaints resolved. The official source revealed that Ehsaas One Window Centers would be opened at each district across the country while a small version office would be set up at Tehsil level. The discussions were underway with the provincial governments for provision of buildings for establishing the centers. The Ehsaas One Window initiative comprises of six components including establishment of one-window facility, digital information and services platform, a mobile application, digital interface for back office, an integrated database and a target policy for beneficiaries, the source said. The partner banks have opened their branches at the center while a National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) office has also been set up at the center to facilitate the people.

NOVEMBER 2021

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Briefs

IHC seeks suggestions in social media rules

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday has sought suggestions from the amicus curiae in a case related to social media rules.

IHC Chief Justice Athar Minalah, while hearing identical petitions filed against the implementation of "Removal and Blocking of Unlawful Online Content (Procedure, Oversight and Safeguards), Rules 2020" appointed Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ), Pakistan Bar Council (PBC), Sadaf Baig, Nighat Dad and Fariha Aziz to assist the court into the matter.

IHC CJ Justice Athar Minalah while summoning the suggestions from the assistants remarked that the court will see that rules are not in contradiction with the constitution of Pakistan.

Additional Attorney General Qasim Wudood apprised the court that a committee headed by Federal Minister Shireen Mazari held meetings with more than 30 stakeholders including Facebook, Google, Twitter and others.

Showing resentment over the closure of the short-video sharing app, TikTok, the IHC chief justice said where it happens that authority makes policies on ethics? Why TikTok was banned and unblocked, he asked.

"This is not a joke, we have to move forward by obeying the law of the land," he remarked. You cannot fight with technology, the world has advanced in the field of technology.

7th ICASE to be held from Dec 14-16

ISLAMABAD: The Seventh International Conference on Aerospace Science and Engineering (ICASE) will be held at Institute of Space Technology (IST) on the theme "Emerging technologies in Aerospace Engineering and Geographic Information Science" from December 14-16.

The three-day conference is being arranged by National Center of GIS and Space Applications.

An official of IST told APP that the researchers, professionals and students can register as visitors to attend the conference sessions and the workshops on Small Satellite (CubeSat) Design for Earth Observation Applications, Geomagnetism and Ionosphere, Optical Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Science and Synthetic Aperture radar (SAR) for Earth Remote Sensing. The public and private industries, linked with Aerospace Engineering and Geographic Information Science, are invited to display their products and solutions during the conference.

Researchers and organizations may display their research posters linked with Aerospace Engineering and Geographic Information Science.

The last date for registration is November 30 while all the information is available at www.ncgsa.org.pk/icase/#conferenceregistration, the official said.

IGP suspends SHO Shalimar police station

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Qazi Jamil ur Rehman on Monday conducted surprise visit of Shalimar police station and suspended its Station House Officer (SHO).

The IGP along with by DIG (Operations) Afzaal Ahmed Kausar and SSP (Operations) Syed Akbar Ali Shah also inspected the record and front desk of police stations.

He directed to improve arrangements to facilitate the citizens and directed Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) to report at Central Police Office.

Islamabad police chief said that police station is the basic unit of police department and aggrieved persons visit police stations for relief and justice.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov and his wife attending a Pakistani wedding ceremony. – DNA

ICCWS to focus on strategies pertaining to cyber security

The two day conference will feature keynotes, technical talks, paper presentations, industry exhibits and panel discussions. It will also include technical workshops on different topics of cyber security

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Centre for Cyber Security (NCCS) at Air University Islamabad in technical co-sponsorship and joint collaboration with is organizing a two day international conference titled ICCWS - International Conference on Cyber Warfare & Security from 23- 24 November, 2021.

Air University leads the academia by establishing Pakistan's first dedicated academic department of Cyber Security from BS to PhD programs and housing the secretariat of National Centre of Cyber Security.

With a vision to be recognized as a leading Cyber security Academic Institution in the world, Air University will be achieving yet another milestone during ICCWS 2021 by inaugurating The National Cyber



Security Academy. The NCSA will be a world class institution which will create experts in Cryptology, Network Security, Hardware Security, Digital Forensics and Software Security supported by hi tech Labs, and a national cyber range. The 2nd annual ICCWS conference will

provide an opportunity to learn, share and demonstrate ideas, strategies, and policies pertaining to cyber security. Researchers will present their original technical papers covering various domains of cyber security. Conference content will also be submitted for inclusion

into IEEE Xplore® as well as other Abstracting and Indexing (A&I) databases. The two day conference will feature keynotes, technical talks, paper presentations, industry exhibits and panel discussions. It will also include technical workshops on different topics of cyber security. In all, ICCWS will provide a networking platform to prominent national and international cyber security experts together with the stakeholders from the government, industry as well as from academia. Several researchers and practitioners working in cyber security and related domains are invited to share their research ideas and experiences related to the state-of-the-art and emerging areas of cyber security. ICCWS-2021 will also include high-quality and focused technical programs on cyber security with keynote talks from prominent industry and academia experts.

I-12 allottees assured of development issues be fixed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the allottees of sector I-12 headed by Aftab Ujjan, President of I-12 Action Committee met Mr Amer Ali Ahmed Chairman Capi-

tal Development Authority (CDA) and other officers on Monday in the conference room of CDA headquarter to discuss the inordinate delay in the development of sector I-12. The allottees apprise him that CDA had failed to de-

velop Sector I-12 despite the lapse of 30 years. The work on construction of service roads of sector I-12 has been halted which was started in January this year. They also showed their concerned about dumping of city's garbage in sector I-12.

CDA Chairman Amer Ali Ahmed regretted that the development of this sector took so much time.

He assured the delegation that the development work of sector I-12 will resume in January 2022 after floating a new tender next month. He directed the members and directors to issue tenders in the 1st week of December and ensure that the development work will restart in January 2020. On the issue of garbage dumping he directed the concerned officers to remove the garbage dump from sector I-12 immediately. Chairman said, we have started development work in various stalled sectors. A meeting regarding progress of sector development will be held with Director Sector Development every month.

8171 msg service for Ehsaas Roshan Registration

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection, Senator Dr. Sania Nishtar Monday said that 8171 SMS service has been opened to facilitate the enrollment of deserving families with limited or no access to the internet.

"Ehsaas has opened 8171 service for enrollment of families under Ehsaas Roshan Riayat for easing out the registration process after assessment through our recent field visits to 24 small cities", she said.

Under the Ehsaas Roshan Registration Drive ongoing these days, Senator Dr. Sania Nishtar, SAPM along with Ehsaas and National Bank of Pakistan teams went to 24 small cities and towns around Rawalpindi, Jhelum, Attock, Chakwal, Mianwali, Nowshera, Peshawar and Dera

Ismail Khan to educate local Kiryana shopkeepers, trader associations, district administrations, local media and public on Ehsaas Roshan programme and to get their feedback as well. Families earning less than Rs. 50,000 a month can register themselves under the Roshan programme of Ehsaas.

Only one member of an applicant family whose cell number is issued on his personal Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC) can enroll his family either through 8171 SMS service or the web-portal. For registration through 8171, the said member of a family can SMS his/her CNIC number to 8171. – APP



Govt mulling options to include PWDs in census

The event was organized by Community Based Inclusive Development Network Pakistan in collaboration with INGO Sightsavers and HANDS, a national NGO

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The federal government is seriously mulling to collect accurate number of people with disabilities (PWDs) in the next population census scheduled to be held next year in the country in order to have a data support for framing a national policy to ensure their rights as well as welfare.

"Discussions with relevant quarters as well as stakeholders are underway for possible considerations related to inclusion of PDWs in the next national census," disclosed Dr. G.M. Arif, Member National Census Committee, government of Pakistan, while addressing a national conference titled 'Inclusive Census 2022 in Pakistan' here in Islamabad on Monday. The event was organized by Community Based Inclusive Development Network Pakistan in collaboration with INGO Sightsavers and HANDS, a national NGO. Key objectives of the conference were to advocate the government for ensuring effective counting of PWDs in the national population census 2022,

and also to push for Pakistan's effective participation in the second Global Disability Summit being held in Oslo, Norway, from February 15-17, 2022 (GDS22). The summit will mobilize efforts for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the principle of 'Leaving No One Behind' and on building back better and more inclusive with regards to Covid-19. Dr. G.M. Arif also said that during the national census 2022, the fo-

cus should be on reaching out to the households with PWDs mainly both genders to collect their accurate population in the country. Besides Dr. G.M. Arif, Rabia Awan, Director PSLM & Sample Design, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Munazza Gillani, Country Director, Sightsavers Pakistan, Dr. Tanveer Ahmed, Chief Executive Officer HANDS, Asim Zafar, Secretary CBIDN, Dr. Sarwat Mirza, National Coordinator CBIDN, Iftaq Khaliq, Programme Manager, Sightsavers Pakistan, also spoke

during the conference. The speakers termed the PWDs as equal citizens of society and stressed the need for holding national census to collect accurate population of PWDs so that a sufficient chunk of government budget is ensured not only to secure their basic rights but also help them spend a respectable life by getting sustainable employment opportunities.

Rabia Awan, Director, PSLM & Sample Design, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, appreciated the efforts of Sightsavers and CBIDN Network in recognizing inclusion of people with disabilities in the national Census 2022. Rabia Awan, Director, PSLM & Sample Design, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, appreciated the efforts of Sightsavers and CBIDN Network in recognizing inclusion of people with disabilities in the national census 2022. She, however, said that the laws can be developed but it is important to ensure their effective implementation to provide basic rights to the people in general and people with disabilities. She has endorsed the discussion and ensured that Pakistan Bureau of Statistics will make sure the inclusion of disability in the census. The digital tools will be used for effective counting of all the households. Overall the experts were of the view that accurate data of the people with disabilities is critical for the budgetary allocations and mapping out strategies for the development in disability sector. This would help in understanding the magnitude of a problem and making informed decisions accordingly.



ITP to ensure road discipline

ISLAMABAD: Newly appointed Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Islamabad Muhammad Omer Khan stressed upon the personnel of the force to accomplish their responsibilities professionally and work hard for maintenance of better image of the force. In a meeting with Zonal Deputy Superintendent of Police and beat Inspectors, he said police force should adopt courteous attitude with the public and make more efforts for the equal implementation of traffic laws on roads showing politeness and firm attitude. Assistant Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Headquarters, Ayesha Gul was also present during the meeting. The suggestions for the betterment of the traffic system were extended by the personnel including engineering issues. The SSP (Traffic) Muhammad Omer Khan said officers of Islamabad Traffic Police should discharge their duties with honesty, hardworking and firmness. He said ITP had become a role model for other forces by ensuring equal application of law in the capital while its personnel ensure smooth traffic flow on roads despite tough weather conditions. – APP

Cell for voter's registration complaints sets up

MUHAMMAD JABRAAN

RAWALPINDI: District Election Commission (DEC), Rawalpindi has set up a Cell for voters registration complaints, said District Election Commissioner Rawalpindi Shaheen Ghazal on Monday. She said that the citizens can lodge complaints if any about the voters' registration on the numbers of the complaint cell including 051-9290177, 051-9290174 and 03337734243.

She informed that the door-to-door voters' verification campaign was in full swing in Rawalpindi district. 3,454,461 were total registered voters in Rawalpindi district while all persons who were eligible would be registered under the campaign before 2023 general elections, she added.

She said, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) like other parts of the country had started door-to-door voters' verification and authentication campaign across Rawalpindi district. Shaheen Ghazal informed that the first phase of the verification campaign would continue till 6th of next month while the second phase of electoral rolls' verification would commence from Jan 26, next year. DEC urged the citizens to cooperate with the election commission and take part in the verification process.

Stay order extended against rare animals import

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday ordered the Ministry of Climate Change to make the import policy in light of international agreements in a case pertaining import of rare breed animals. The court extended its stay order against the import of rare species for three weeks and adjourned the case.

Chief Justice Athar Minalah, hearing the case, remarked that it was giving a last opportunity to the ministry for amendment in import policy.

The representative of the ministry adopted the stance that it was commerce ministry who was supposed to bring amendment in this law and prayed the court to issue instructions in this regard. To this, the chief justice remarked whether the lawyer wanted this court to run the affairs of government, adding that this was not court's job. The court responsibility was to just interpret the law, he added.

The chief justice said the import policy should have been amended in light of Act 2012 and international agreements. Whether the responsibility of the Ministry of Climate was just to plant the trees, he asked. The court adjourned further hearing of the case till next date. – APP

Flour crisis

THE Punjab government has had a strange relationship with the flour industry. The flour market in the region has done very well at times, with Punjab completing 95 per cent of its 3.5-million-ton wheat procurement target in May 2021. However, the flour mills industry has a tendency of going on strikes at the slightest provocation. Consistent strikes and shutdowns lead to shortages of wheat in the market, which can escalate into a full-blown crisis.

The current situation with flour mills is echoing some of the danger signs of a crisis. Punjab's flour mills had announced to observe strike against new policies of Punjab government whereby flour mills have been instructed to procure wheat from South Punjab rather than the district food department. The food department had asked the flour mills to get wheat from Bahawalnagar and sell the 20 kg wheat flour bag at Rs1,100. This was a reduction of the previous subsidy on wheat sold to flour mills—in retaliation, flour mills in Punjab and Islamabad have been on strike, leading the market close to chaos.

The government should have seen this coming. The consequence of higher-priced wheat to the flour mills was inevitably going to result in less supply and a reduction in subsidy of flour prices to the public. The decision of the flour mills to strike and withhold supply has, as expected, led to a shortage crisis in the market.

The government is within its rights to enact these measures. Yet it must, in the wake of a constantly striking flour industry, know how to handle such a situation. It must navigate the negotiation process better and not let things devolve into a crisis so quickly. The flour mills have legitimate grievances as well—there is reported to be increased corruption in the procurement and storage process, which has led to the decision of delegating procurement to South Punjab.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 02 Issue: 167

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

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A hard nut to crack

RETIRED Senior Judge Rana Mohammad Shamim must be wondering whether he did the right thing in opening a can of worms. For, the allegations of judicial interference levelled against former chief justice Mian Saqib Nisar are dashing to the brink of an enormous saga. The son has stepped inside the ring now; his interview putting more heat on the much-talked-about affidavit. Talking to a television channel, he went into great detail about the long-standing "direct relations" the G-B justice enjoyed with the former prime minister Nawaz Sharif. While Ahmed Hassan Rana had likely spilt beans to defend the veracity of his client's testimony. If Mr Shamim enjoying warm feelings for the Sharif family and representing them in the past had been broadcasted to squash any bias concerns, job (not well done).

The fact that his counsel has now concocted a drawn-out story about the explosive statement being leaked to the press makes literally no sense and opens his father to stinging questions. Already, PM-L(N)'s Musaddaq Malik has called the interaction "interesting and funny." But there's more. Weaving a cat-and-mouse fable about different realities dictating the judicial corridor in G-B than the rest of Pakistan despite them being under one flag was quite an unusual strategy that Rana Junior employed to hold the honourable judge at bay. Since Justice Minallah has already made note of his inaction as "unbecoming of a judicial officer," the former justice would have to compose a strongly-worded defence before the bench.

Only a Buddhist blind monkey would be oblivious to the obvious upper hand the Sharif clan wishes to gain through such unwise obstructions. Clearly, not the judiciary as was rightly asserted by the IHC. Investigating the dirty nexus that brought about such ill-founded claims (easily torn apart in just one interview) should be of paramount importance. Though the ex-chief justice may enjoy cross-the-board confidence, the public still needs to be reassured of the court's "impartiality and independence." However, one can't help but wonder when would the mighty and the wealthy learn their lesson. Instead of fighting for their exoneration on merit, the top one per cent is always seen in pursuit of some onerous Gordian knot. And going by the viral Judge Arshad's video and Judge Shaukat Aziz's famous accusations, nowhere can this be witnessed more ostensibly than the chronicles of Sharif and Co.

Iran and US on the way of negotiation

Dr. M Akram Zaheer



The absence of collective efforts by the P5 + 1 to bring Iran back to the UN Security Council is another interesting reason. Russia has many differences with the Biden government and also has complex relations with Iran, including direct involvement in Iran's civilian nuclear program

IRAN'S new president Ibrahim Raisi seeks diplomatic way to end the sanction regime. At his swearing ceremony on August 5, 2021, he stated that the Crisis in the region must be resolved through inter-regional dialogue. He spoke that "I extend my hand of friendship and brotherhood to all the countries of the region, especially to our neighbours, and I warmly shake their hands". Few weeks ago, Washington also advised Tehran to turn to the talk quickly on reviving a nuclear deal. In

addition, if the president of Iran is genuine in his determination to see the sanction lifted, well that is precisely what's on the table in Vienna". Washington hopes Iran Tehran seizes the opportunity now to advance diplomatic solution".

There are many reasons why analysts think that the situation is changing. It is the first general course of Sino-US diplomacy. When National Security Adviser Jack Sullivan and Secretary of State Anthony Blinken met with top Chinese diplomats in Anchorage in March, the tone was bitter and reproachful. On July 26, under-secretary of State Wendy Sherman struggled to meet with Chinese counterpart. China advised United States to change its highly misguided mind-set and dangerous policy of thinking China as an imaginary enemy. Before her arrival Mr Wang said that China would not accept the United States super position in the relationship. A few weeks after, same senior official of China also met to the Taliban leadership. China's "wolf warrior" diplomacy is crystal clear because it openly complains about United States behaviour, ridicules the decline of the United States, and it also expresses that Washington is facing the consequences of China's violation. In broader scenarios for Sino-US relationship are deteriorating.

The absence of collective efforts by the P5 + 1 to bring Iran back to the UN Security Council is another interesting reason. Russia has many differences with the Biden government and also has complex relations with Iran, including direct involvement in Iran's civilian nuclear program. However, Russian officials are clearly concerned about the possibility of Iran's proliferation and speak of the need to limit Iran. Russian diplomat Mikhail Ulyanov has played a key role in the Vienna-based nuclear talks with Iran and played a role of messenger between Iranian and American officials. A senior US negotiator said in closed-door meeting last week and appreciated Russia's positive role. He described Russian willingness to adopt "very cooperative approach". In it, they want to work with us to see if we can get back to the agreement. Another reason is Chinese increasing its

investment in Persian Gulf particularly in Iran that is clear violation of US sanctions against Iran. With the beginning of the Trump administration and the growth of the Biden administration, China has made clear violation of US law. Iran desperately needed cash, meanwhile, China has benefited from subsidized oil. As long as the nuclear talks continue, a few barrels of oil here and there can act as a negotiator. However, Chinese imports a record amount of oil from Iran has increased more than eleven million barrels per day. The future of the nuclear talks is still unclear whether Iran will be agreed with the United States, and it is also unclear that China will agree to cut off its imports. Although China also has serious concerns about Iran's proliferation, but is happy to be freely involved in global efforts to stop Iran. China expresses all the feelings about its desire to resolve the dispute through negotiations, but at the same time adheres to its agreements with Iran. Both the countries are business partners and China is the only big customer of Iranian oil due to its isolation in the world. China accounts for about a third of Iran's trade and Iran accounts for less than 1% of China's trade. China's economy is 30 times larger than Iran's and its population 18 times larger. China is an elephant and Iran is an ant. Although China does not agree with the proliferation of Iran, but it does not feel threatened by Iran. China also sees Iran as a useful tool in its foreign policy, as a way to get closer to the United States and its allies, and takes Iran as its proximity. The main thing is to pull the trigger. The Iranian leadership's views on the nuclear talks are unclear, but there are growing indications that the president Raisi and the clerics are more distrustful of the United States than ever before. Tehran is examining the declining of American influence in the region. China is allying with the Iranian resistance and pursuing a goal of gaining special blessings from Iran which will bring energy benefits for it.

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Constructive Turkish role crucial to Syria solution

Yasar Yakis

The Trump administration's Syria policy could hardly be characterized as stable and consistent. Due to his moody style, President Donald Trump made abrupt decisions that surprised even the various departments of his own administration

FORMER US Ambassador to Syria James Jeffrey last week said the country's crisis cannot be solved without Turkey's involvement. He said this during a panel discussion organized by a Turkish think tank. Jeffrey served as the US ambassador to Turkey between 2008 and 2010 and to Iraq between 2010 and 2012. Before that, he was deputy national security adviser. He speaks fluent Turkish. Thanks to all these attributes and his thorough knowledge of the intricacies of the Middle East, he made substantive contributions to the shaping of Washington's Syria policy. His visit to Turkey provided an opportunity to shed light on some unclear aspects of Turkey-US relations and update the notes. No country is innocent in its dealings with the Syrian crisis, but successive US administrations have

had a detrimental impact because Washington played an important role throughout the crisis. At the outset, it assumed the leadership role in protecting demonstrators from the disproportionate use of Syrian military force, but it gave up this task too soon. The Obama administration unnecessarily hesitated on the question of responding to chemical attacks on civilians. At a later stage of the crisis, it also started curbing Iranian efforts to consolidate its military and political presence in Syria.

At present, Washington encourages Turkey to counter the Syrian government forces in Idlib, while in the northeast of the country it is almost at war against Ankara on the side of the Kurds. In the interviews that Jeffrey gave after the panel discussion, he repeated that America's support for Kurds is merely tactical, implying that, unlike with the Kurds, its relations with Turkey are of a strategic nature. Turkey is not persuaded by this explanation because, whatever support the US provides to the Kurds, it ultimately amounts to strengthening their fighting capacity. Upon being asked whether the US would protect the Kurdish fighters of the Syrian Democratic Forces if Turkey were to carry out a new military operation in Syria, Jeffrey gave an evasive answer by saying that he was sure Ankara would abide by the ceasefire agreed between Turkey and the US in 2019. This is nothing less than a warning that the US would become uneasy if Turkey carried out yet another military operation in Syria. To be realistic, there is little prospect that America would bring to an end its strong support for the Kurds. America's claim that it is supporting the Kurds only for the purpose of fighting Daesh is also unconvincing. The Trump administration's Syria policy could hardly be characterized as stable and consistent. Due to his moody style, President Donald Trump made abrupt decisions that surprised even the various departments of his own administration. As for President Joe Biden, he has not yet dis-

closed his Syria policy, but there is no sign of a major shift on the horizon. Many countries may be waiting for him in order to adjust their policies to that of the US. Jeffrey seems to be a strong supporter of keeping US forces in the northeast of Syria. He believes this is important for interrupting Iran's supply lines to Syria and Lebanon. Jeffrey has also alluded to intensive contact between Turkey and the US aimed at stemming both Iran's activities in Syria and Russia's growing influence in the Black Sea region. It seems that Turkey will have to walk a tightrope because of the delicate balance that needs to be observed between two major powers: Russia and the US. Turkey's purchase of the Russian-manufactured S-400 air defence system continues to cast a shadow over Turkish-US relations. Ankara is trying to maintain cooperation by keeping alive the possibility of upgrading the US-manufactured F-16 fighter jets in its inventory and purchasing new F-16s, thus preventing a total collapse in relations. Meanwhile, Syrian President Bashar Assad has moved from the status of survival to a stage of consolidating his position. In Turkey, apart from the pro-government media, few believe that Assad will agree to cede his place.

Iran is trying to further consolidate its presence in Syria and complete the missing link between Tehran and the Lebanese Hezbollah. This effort collides from time to time with Russia's ambitions to settle more strongly in Syria. Moscow would prefer to be the only foreign actor in Syria and is uneasy with some of the Iranian activity. Jeffrey's suggestion that the Syrian crisis cannot be solved without Turkey's involvement is not an overstatement. He may have meant it, but this should not be construed as Ankara having a monopoly of the methods that could lead to the solution of the crisis. In fact, it holds several keys for that purpose, but it may contribute to the solution only if these keys are used in a constructive way.

— Courtesy Arab News

Taliban repeating the United States' mistakes

Obaidullah Baheer

Izzatullah served five years in prison under the Republic and was later picked up by the Taliban under suspicion of links with Daesh-K. Izzatullah's beheaded and tortured body was found on the side of a road in Sorkhrod district of Nangarhar. Such bodies are found every few days in the outskirts of Jalalabad, and the deaths are widely thought to be linked to the Taliban's attempts to counter Daesh-K. The Taliban's brutal strategy against Daesh-K, its lack of control over local commanders who kill ex-ANDSF members..

WASHINGTON'S ill-planned approach strengthened the Taliban insurgency. Now, Kabul risks doing the same to Daesh-K. The Taliban's military success in Panjshir Valley, north of Kabul, showcased its military might. The little resistance the group faced in its march across Afghanistan whetted their appetite for a grand battle that would add glory to its conquest. And what better jewel than Panjshir, a region that had defied the Taliban throughout their years in power and contributed to the collapse of its regime in 2001?

The scorched-earth strategy the Taliban used in the battle of Panjshir meant they were attempting to transform from a guerrilla group into a military force through the use of conventional warfare. The brutal tactics earned the Taliban the short-term victory they desired; however, it also strengthened the cycle of hatred and vengeance that will turn into the undesirable long-term effects the Taliban will have to face.

The Taliban's experience at Panjshir also fed into the delusion that coercive force was a viable tool against all security threats. We now see the Taliban applying the same strategy in a very different context regarding the threat from Daesh in Khorasan Province (Daesh-K/IS-K). The Taliban are failing to learn from the United State's failure at counterinsurgency in Afghanistan. The US' ill-planned and culturally insensitive approach strengthened the insurgency rather than weakening it. The indiscriminate bombing, night-raids, rendition and inhuman detentions were some of the key factors that led to the resurgence of the Taliban in 2003. The approach also

served to further legitimise the Taliban's narrative of the US being an invading army which had little good will towards the larger Afghan population. The Taliban are now repeating the same strategy against Daesh-K in Afghanistan. Unlike the killing of ex-Afghan National Security Forces (ANDSF) members across the country, the strategy of killing suspected Daesh-K members seems to be an informed policy by the group. The Taliban's crackdown against anyone suspected of collaboration with Daesh-K echoes the Republic's tactics of unlawful detentions, torture and extra-judicial killings. The Taliban's killing of a well-known Salafi scholar, Obaidullah Muta-wakil, less than a month after the group's takeover of the country, was one primary instance. In recent weeks, many who were picked up by the Taliban in the Nangarhar Province have been found dead on the sides of roads. One such example is Mawlawi Izzatullah Mohbi, who was a father of five children and head of the youth wing of Hezbi Islami, an ideological forefather to the Taliban and a party that had declared unconditional support for the movement when it came to power.

Izzatullah served five years in prison under the Republic and was later picked up by the Taliban under suspicion of links with Daesh-K. Izzatullah's beheaded and tortured body was found on the side of a road in Sorkhrod district of Nangarhar. Such bodies are found every few days in the outskirts of Jalalabad, and the deaths are widely thought to be linked to the Taliban's attempts to counter Daesh-K. The Taliban's brutal strategy against Daesh-K, its lack of control over local commanders who kill ex-ANDSF members, and its ruthless campaign in Panjshir, is bound to drive its opponents to find common cause. There are reports that ex-ANDSF members have been turning to Daesh-K in order to bolster their chance of survival against the Taliban.

The difficulty of engaging with the Taliban diplomatically is due to its lack of compliance with international norms and respect for human rights. This has driven countries like Iran to discuss alternatives to the movement. Rasool Musavi, the director of the West Asia desk of Iran's Foreign Ministry, recently highlighted how Daesh-K was the only available alternative to the Taliban — but that it's a much worse alternative. The fact that such thoughts are being said out loud is a dangerous sign.

The US refused to engage with the Taliban when the group offered to surrender in 2001. It then failed to reassess its counterinsurgency strategy against the group, only to hand the country over to them 20 years later. If the Taliban continues down that road and keeps up its heavy-handed counterinsurgency strategy, it will push the population towards endorsing Daesh-K and any larger resistance movements. The Taliban seems to be setting itself up for an unwinnable war. In any insurgency, each day the government doesn't win, it loses. And each day the insurgency doesn't lose, it wins. The Taliban must be nuanced in its counterinsurgency approach and adapt to its new role of being the head of government. Its limited capacity to govern and maintain security will be a challenge it has to address, and fast.

— Courtesy: TRT World

Briefs

New Delhi lifts construction ban

NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI: New Delhi has lifted a ban on construction activities as air quality improved marginally, but schools and offices will remain closed until at least Wednesday, says the Indian capital's environment minister. Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) on Monday dropped to 303 on a scale of 500, down from 499 nearly a week ago, when a thick haze hung over the city of some 20 million people.

The current AQI levels still indicate "very poor" conditions, according to government monitoring agencies. "Air quality is slowly improving," Gopal Rai, the capital's minister for environment, forest and wildlife development, told a news conference. "Labourers were facing difficulties, and that is why we have decided to resume construction activities." Rai said the authorities would monitor construction sites to ensure that builders follow dust-control measures set out by the government. In an interview with Reuters news agency late last week, Rai said the city would consider restricting private vehicles to driving on alternate days if severe air pollution continued to plague India's capital.

China dispatches 1,000 tons of aid materials for Afghans

BEIJING: A Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Monday said that a special freight train loaded more than 1,000 tons of aid material and living production materials for Afghan people has left from Wuxi Station in Xinjiang, China to Afghanistan. The cold winter has arrived. The safety and security of the Afghan people have always affected the hearts of the Chinese people. Just two days ago, a special freight train loaded with more than 1,000 tons of aid materials and living production materials departed from Wuxi Station in Xinjiang and will be transported to Afghanistan by rail and steam, Zhao Lijian said during his regular briefing held here. He said that this train was the third Xinjiang-Afghanistan freight train operated by China. The materials carried are cotton-padded clothes, cotton shoes, blankets, naan and milk tea powder from Xinjiang to aid Afghanistan. These are what the Afghan people urgently need through the winter. The spokesperson said that Afghanistan was still facing a severe economic situation and added, the international community should strengthen solidarity and cooperation, extend a helping hand in a timely manner, and support Afghanistan in improving people's livelihood. — APP

Russia dismisses claims on Ukraine

MOSCOW: Russia's SVR foreign intelligence service on Monday dismissed growing Western allegations that Moscow is planning an invasion of Ukraine. "The Americans are painting a frightening picture of hordes of Russian tanks that will start to crush Ukrainian cities, saying they have some 'reliable information' of such Russian intentions," the SVR said in a rare statement to Russian news agencies. It said the US is sending its allies "absolutely false information on the concentration of forces on the territory of our country for the military invasion of Ukraine". Western countries have this month raised alarm over reported Russian military activity near Ukraine, with the US saying it has "real concerns" over what it called "unusual activity". The SVR said "US bureaucrats are scaring the global community" with the allegations. The Kremlin earlier Monday said the West is leading an "information campaign" on the issue with the aim of "escalating tensions". — APP

Egypt used French military support to 'kill civilians': Report

"Sirli", the name of the mission between the two countries, was designed to provide intelligence on security threats along Egypt's western border with Libya

AGENCIES

LONDON: Egypt has used intelligence supplied by the French military to target and kill civilians suspected of smuggling, according to a report by investigative website Disclose, based on leaked documents. French opposition deputies immediately called for a parliamentary committee to be set up to investigate the claims, while Defence Minister Florence Parly ordered her own investigation following the publication of the report on Sunday.

"Sirli", the name of the mission between the two countries, was designed to provide intelligence on security threats along Egypt's western border with Libya, Disclose said. "In principle, the mission ... consisted of searching the Western Desert to find possible terrorist threats coming from Libya," using a light aircraft designed for surveillance and reconnaissance, it said. "But very quickly, the (French) members of the team understand that the intelligence supplied to the Egyptians are used to kill civilians suspected of [carrying] contraband," the website wrote. French military staff regularly notified their superiors of the abuse of the information, it added. Disclose based its report on hundreds of classified documents on the operation that were leaked to

it. According to those documents, the French military was implicated in at least 19 air attacks against civilians between 2016 and 2018. Operation Sirli began in February 2016 during the presidency of Francois Hollande.

It continued despite reservations expressed by both French military intelligence (DRM) and the air force about the way Egypt was using the intelligence, said Disclose. One such note was addressed to Defence Minister Parly on January 22, 2019, before an official visit to Egypt by French President Emmanuel Macron. Neither the French presidency nor the military responded to requests for comment from the

journalists who carried out the investigation. Within hours of the story's publication, a statement from France's defence ministry confirmed that the two countries had arrangements in the fields of intelligence and counterterrorism. Citing security reasons, however, they were not prepared to say any more on the matter. The statement said an investigation is being launched into the information revealed by Disclose. The left-wing opposition France Unbowed party issued a statement calling for a parliamentary inquiry into the allegations. The party called for Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, who served as defence minister dur-

ing the Hollande presidency, to appear before Parliament to respond to the allegations. Although France has expressed a desire to refocus its arms exports on Europe, Egypt remains one of its main clients. Its sales there increased considerably when President el-Sisi took power in 2014. Since then, Egypt has bought France's Rafale fighter aircraft, a frigate, four corvettes, and two Mistral helicopter carriers. In December 2020, Macron awarded el-Sisi the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, the highest honour France has to offer, provoking outrage from activists who have criticised his human rights record.

Belarus leader says EU refusing to discuss migrants

"The idea that there could be a humanitarian corridor to Germany for 2,000 migrants... is not an acceptable solution for Germany or the EU"

AGENCIES

MOSCOW: Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko said Monday that the European Union was refusing to discuss the fate of 2,000 migrants wishing to go to Europe and stranded in Belarus. The West accuses Belarus of bringing in would-be migrants - mostly from the Middle East - and taking them to areas along its borders with EU members Poland and Lithuania with promises of an easy crossing. Belarus denies the claim, instead criticising the EU for not taking in the migrants. "I am waiting for the EU to respond on the issue of 2,000 refugees," Lukashenko told officials on Monday, adding that he expected Europe to let the migrants in. "They said, (German Chancellor Angela) Merkel promised me that they will consider this problem at the

level of the European Union. But they are not doing it," he said, quoted by state news agency Belta. Lukashenko said European officials refused any contact on the subject despite calls from the Belarusian foreign minister. "We should demand that the Germans take them in," Lukashenko said. German government spokesman Steffen Seibert said Monday that Berlin made clear last week that was not acceptable. "The idea that there could be a humanitarian corridor to Germany for 2,000 migrants... is not an acceptable solution for Germany or the EU," he said. Earlier this month Belarus cleared a makeshift border encampment, sending 2,000 migrants to a nearby logistics centre. Last week Lukashenko and Merkel spoke by phone twice, discussing the migrant crisis and agreeing to maintain contacts. The migrants, many fleeing war and poverty, have spent thousands to fly into Belarus on tourist visas. Once at the border, they are faced with squalid, freezing conditions. The West accuses Belarus of engineering the crisis in revenge for sanctions slapped on Lukashenko's regime after its brutal suppression of protests against his rule. The migrants say they want to get to Germany via Poland and Lukashenko has said that he is ready to send them there by plane if necessary. — APP



KUALUMPUR: M. Saravanan, Minister for Human Resource Malaysia hosted HC Amna Baloch for a luncheon meeting at his residence. Matters related to enhancement of Pakistani workforce in Malaysia were discussed. — DNA

China pushes for nuclear weapon-free Southeast Asia

AGENCIES

BEIJING: China on Monday said it is ready to work with the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) towards a nuclear weapon-free region besides ensuring stability in the disputed South China Sea. "China supports ASEAN's efforts to build a nuclear weapon-free zone, and is prepared to sign the Protocol to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone as early as possible," President Xi Jinping told the China-Asia summit marking

30 years of the relations between two sides. Beijing's demand for a nuclear-free Southeast Asia comes as the US and UK empower their ally Australia with nuclear-armed submarines under a deal called AUKUS signed in September. Xi also announced the establishment of China-ASEAN Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during his speech for "a new milestone" in the history of their relations. "Maintaining peace is our greatest common interest and the most cherished aspiration of people of all countries," he said, urging taking a course of "dialogue

instead of confrontation." Reiterating Beijing's long-held focus on "practicing true multilateralism," Xi said: "China firmly opposes hegemonic and power politics. China pursues long-term, friendly coexistence with neighboring countries, and is part of the common efforts for durable peace in the region. China will never seek hegemony, still less bully smaller countries." While Xi announced to jointly work with the ASEAN to build a "health shield" for the region, he urged the 10-member grouping to "pursue common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable

security." The president also called for deepening cooperation in various areas such as defense, counter-terrorism, joint maritime search, countering transnational crime, rescue and exercise, and disaster management. "Joint efforts are needed to safeguard stability in the South China Sea and make it a sea of peace, friendship, and cooperation," he said. China will donate an additional 150 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to ASEAN countries, Xi said, while Beijing will contribute an additional \$5 million to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund.



ISLAMABAD: Foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi welcoming Gregory Meeks Chair House Foreign Affairs Committee. — DNA

Australia to open borders for foreign travelers

MELBOURNE: Australia on Monday announced it is lifting restrictions on foreign travelers, including students and skilled workers from next month. Speaking to a news conference in Canberra, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the new move was part of his government's national plan to return to normal life. "From the 1st of December 2021, fully vaccinated eligible visa holders will be able to come to Australia without needing to apply for a travel exemption. El-

gible visa holders, including skilled and student cohorts, as well as humanitarian, temporary, working holiday maker and provisional family visa holders," Morrison said. He added that his country will also welcome fully vaccinated citizens of Japan and Korea to quarantine-free travel from their home country to Australia. "The steps we are taking today are about securing our economic recovery," Morrison said, adding that the return of skilled workers and students to Australia is

a major milestone. However, travelers who arrive in Australia must provide proof of vaccination and a negative PCR test taken three days before departure. In the first phase, Australia removed travel restrictions and scrapped the permission requirement for international travel for vaccinated Australians from Nov. 1. However, unvaccinated people still need permission from the government prior to their international travel. — APP

Eye camp of Pakistani doctors in Kabul

ISLAMABAD: A team of eye specialists including Pakistani doctors treated a large number of patients in Kabul on Monday under a three-day free camp organized by Pak-Afghan Cooperation Forum.

The first day of the medical camp witnessed a large number of patients with eye problems, who were given a proper medical treatment including eye checkups, examinations, and surgeries. Pakistan's ambassador to Afghanistan Mansoor Ahmed Khan said the country was planning to expand cooperation with Afghanistan in the health sector.

"An eye camp by Pakistani specialists commenced today at Jinnah Hospital Kabul. In next three days, free medical advice and treatment will be rendered for our Afghan brothers and sisters," he tweeted. The free camp has been set up at Jinnah Hospital in Kabul to treat the Afghan patients. The camp, set up at the capital's Muhammad Ali Jinnah Hospital, will run till Wednesday, where the doctors and paramedics will provide medical assistance to the Afghan patients. Earlier, the same medical camp was organized in the Afghan city of Khost from November 18-20, where eye specialists from Pakistan examined 2523 patients and carried out 324 surgeries. — APP

Hybrid Mulberry to benefit small farmers

BEIJING: Chinese Hybrid Mulberry to benefit small farmers in Pakistan, says a report published by China Economic Net (CEN).

The report stated that "With an annual turnover of RMB 20 mln, our protein mulberry garden changed local farmers' livelihood, for protein mulberry planting we mobilized over 76 acres of land and provided jobs for over 200 households. With a successful yield test conducted in Xinjiang, we are looking forward to introducing protein mulberry plants, as well as planting technology, mulberry leaf processing equipment to Pakistan, since Pakistan and Xinjiang share climatic similarities, and have a large ideal customer base." Wu Zhanwen, the owner of Runze Protein Mulberry ecological garden in China's Zheng Ding county, told CEN. Protein mulberry is a hybrid type of mulberry developed by the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences. As the name implies, it maintains a higher level of protein compared to other types of mulberry plant, the highest protein content of protein mulberry leaves was 36%, and that of branches was 28%.

Due to its resistance to drought, heat as well as cold, it shares 20 ~ 30 year life cycle in the northern part of China, where the lowest temperature can hit minus 30. It has attracted much attention in its uses in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), food and beverage industries. — APP

Karot station in Pakistan brings green future: CTG

BEIJING: The Karot Hydropower Station officially has started to impound water, marking that the project has been put into the initial operation after six years' construction in Pakistan, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Monday. According to Wang Yi, Karot Hydropower Project team leader, the impoundment is divided into two stages as planned. The first phase is planned to take about 28 days to fill the reservoir to 451meters, meeting the working conditions for the first power unit.

While in the second stage, it will take about 20 days to make the reservoir reach 461 meters high, achieving 150 million cubic meters' capacity, which will lay a solid foundation for the commercial operation of all units by July next year. Karot hydropower station is a major pilot project of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and the first large-scale hydropower investment and construction project under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). — APP

Azerbaijan, EU to work on digital transformation

The agreement was reached at a meeting between Azerbaijan's Digital Development and Transport Minister Rashad Nabiye and representatives of the Directorate-General for European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijan and the European Union (EU) have reached an agreement on the joint implementation of digital transformation and human capital development projects in Azerbaijan. The agreement was reached at a meeting between Azerbaijan's Digital Development and Transport Minister Rashad Nabiye and representatives of the Directorate-General for European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations. During the meeting, the parties noted that Azerbaijan-EU relations are developing steadily. They added that there is great potential to expand cooperation in all areas, includ-

ing digital development and transport. Moreover, the sides discussed key initiatives on the economic and investment plan within the framework of the joint document "Recovery, Sustainability and Reforms: Priorities of the Eastern Partnership for the period after 2020" for Azerbaijan. The meeting was also attended by representatives of international financial institutions, including the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the French Development Agency (AFD). Earlier, representatives from the Azerbaijani Energy Ministry, the Directorate-General for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, EBRD, EIB, and AFD have discussed prospects for energy cooperation. During the meeting, the parties focused on the implemented work and reforms in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency. They also touched on the involvement of EU financial institutions in the recovery and reconstruction of the liberated lands. It should be noted that the EU invested over \$21.5 billion in Azerbaijan's economy from 2012 to 2021. Azerbaijan's trade turnover with the EU amounted to \$9.3 billion last year, which is 38 percent of the country's foreign trade. The Delegation of the European Commission to Azerbaijan was opened in Baku in February 2008.

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Azerbaijan, Korea eye Karabakh rehabilitation

DNA

BAKU: President Ilham Aliyev and a visiting senior Korean official have discussed further opportunities for Azerbaijani-Korean cooperation in many spheres, including the rehabilitation of Karabakh liberated from Armenia's occupation in 2020, Azertag reported on November 22. At a meeting with Chairman of the Presidential Committee on Northern Economic Cooperation of the Republic of Korea Chong Soo Park, the head of state hailed the regular contacts between the two countries. Aliyev described this as an indicator of mutual interest in deepening cooperation on both sides. He expressed his confidence that the high level of political relations between the two countries would have a positive impact on cooperation in all other areas. Emphasizing that a presentation of the work

to be done in Azerbaijan's liberated lands would be held in the Republic of Korea in the coming days, Aliyev said that the aim was to involve Korean companies in the liberated lands. The Azerbaijani leader noted that Armenia consistently destroyed the Azerbaijani cities and villages during the occupation and that large-scale construction work had been launched on those territories after the victory. He added that companies from friendly countries to Azerbaijan were invited to this work. He stressed that a presentation of these activities in Korea once again confirmed the friendly relations between the two countries. The president said that Korean companies successfully operated in various economic fields in Azerbaijan. Aliyev stressed these companies' activities to implement major industrial infrastructure projects. He added that Korean companies also played a role in the modern architectural image of Baku.

Briefs

Australia to open borders for foreign students

FOREIGN DESK

CANBERRA: Australia on Monday announced it is lifting restrictions on foreign travelers, including students and skilled workers from next month. Speaking to a news conference in Canberra, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the new move was part of his government's national plan to return to normal life. "From the 1st of December 2021, fully vaccinated eligible visa holders will be able to come to Australia without needing to apply for a travel exemption. Eligible visa holders, including skilled and student cohorts, as well as humanitarian, temporary, working holiday maker and provisional family visa holders," Morrison said. He added that his country will also welcome fully vaccinated citizens of Japan and Korea to quarantine-free travel from their home country to Australia. "The steps we are taking today are about securing our economic recovery," Morrison said, adding that the return of skilled workers and students to Australia is a major milestone.

UN warns of Afghan banking collapse

AGENCIES

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations on Monday pushed for urgent action to prop up Afghanistan's banks, warning that a spike in people unable to repay loans, lower deposits and a cash liquidity crunch could cause the financial system to collapse within months. In a three-page report on Afghanistan's banking and financial system seen by Reuters, the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) said the economic cost of a banking system collapse - and consequent negative social impact - "would be colossal." An abrupt withdrawal of most foreign development support after the Taliban seized power on Aug. 15 from Afghanistan's Western-backed government has sent the economy into freefall, putting a severe strain on the banking system which set weekly withdrawal limits to stop a run on deposits. "Afghanistan's financial and bank payment systems are in disarray. The bank-run problem must be resolved quickly to improve Afghanistan's limited production capacity and prevent the banking system from collapsing," the UNDP report said.

Portugal to stop using coal plants

NEWS DESK

LISBON: Environmental activists are welcoming the end of electricity generation from coal in Portugal, though they said Monday the possible conversion of the country's last coal-fired power plant into one that burns wood pellets would be a step in the wrong direction. The Pego plant located 150 kilometers (90 miles) north-east of the Portuguese capital Lisbon stopped generating over the weekend, as Portugal became the fourth European Union country to stop burning coal to produce electricity. Belgium quit coal in 2016, and Austria and Sweden followed suit last year. Portugal has no coal, oil or gas, which are all imported, and has been investing heavily in green energy in recent decades. "Coal's dire economics and public desire for climate action are driving faster and faster phase outs across Europe," said Kathrin Gutmann, campaign director for Europe Beyond Coal, which aims to ensure coal is phased out in Europe by 2030. Coal power is the single biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions.

Azerbaijan companies keen to invest in Pakistan: Envoy

Ambassador Khazar Farhadov said that the leadership of Azerbaijan and Pakistan have the will to upscale the economic cooperation and both countries should focus on promoting direct connectivity between their private sectors

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan said that the State Oil Company of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SOCAR) intended to invest USD 1 billion in Pakistan's energy sector while many other companies were interested in JVs and investment in Pakistan as they consider Pakistan a potential market for business and investment activities. He said this while interacting with the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI). The envoy said that the leadership of Azerbaijan and Pakistan have the will to upscale the economic cooperation and both countries should focus on promoting direct connectivity between their private sectors to enhance bilateral trade relations. He said that his embassy was ready to arrange virtual meetings between the companies of both countries that could be followed up with exchange of trade delegations. He said that Azerbaijan has signed agreements with EU and other countries and Pakistan's close



ISLAMABAD: President ICCI Shakil Munir presenting souvenir to Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov during his visit to Islamabad Chamber. - DNA

economic cooperation with it would provide Pakistani products easy market access to Central Asia and Europe. He said that Pakistan and Azerbaijan were working on a preferential trade agreement that would lower customs tariffs and improve bilateral trade between the

two countries. He said that Pakistani companies including pharma units have good potential to set up production plants in Azerbaijan. He said that Azerbaijan was establishing a free economic zone next to the port of Baku and Pakistani investors should explore JVs and invest-

ment in this facility. Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that the bilateral trade of around US\$ 16-17 million between Pakistan and Azerbaijan was quite less than the actual potential of both countries

and stressed that more efforts should be made from both sides to improve it. He said that many Pakistani products including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, surgical instruments, sports goods, cutlery, electrical appliances, textile & leather products, furniture, home-made crafts, food and

fruits products, engineering & consumer goods and rice could find a good market in Azerbaijan and emphasized that Azerbaijan should import these products from Pakistan. Jamsaid Akhtar Sheikh, Senior Vice President ICCI said that Pakistan was focusing on Central Asia for trade & exports and close cooperation with Azerbaijan would help in getting better market access to this important region. He said that Azerbaijan was quite rich in energy and it should cooperate with Pakistan in meeting our country's rising energy needs. Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI said that steps should be taken to bridge the gap between the private sectors of both countries to increase two-way trade up to the real potential of both countries. Sheikh Ejaz, Hamayun Kabir, Saeed Khan, Mrs. Parveen Khan, Muhammad Naveed Malik, Hafiz Bilal Munir, Ch. Muhammad Ali, Raja Intiaz, Akhtar Husain, Ch. Mazhar and others also spoke at the occasion and gave useful proposals for further promoting bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan.

Punjab govt to hold LG polls in March-April

LAHORE: The Punjab government has decided to hold local body elections across the province in March or April 2022, said well-placed sources. Well-placed sources said the provincial government will get the new Punjab Local Government Act 2021 passed from the assembly in the days to come. As per the draft of the new local body act, at least 11 metropolitan corporations will be established in the province. Besides the 11 metropolitan corporations, 15 municipal corporations and 35 district councils will also be set up in the province under the new local body act. All local representatives, from the councilor to the city mayor, would be elected through a direct vote. In addition to this, over 6,000 village and neighbourhood councils will be established, while each village will have its own panchayat across the province. Each village panchayat will comprise five members and it will be given powers as well as financial grant, sources said, adding that the body will decide minor disputes among villagers and will address other issues like street lights and provision of potable water to the people. - APP

Lahore schools to remain shut thrice a week

LAHORE: The Punjab government has decided to shut down private and government schools in Lahore thrice a week as the smog situation in the provincial capital has taken a turn for the worse. In a notification, Punjab Relief Commissioner Babar Hayat Tarar said the restriction would be in place from November 27 to January 15. The commissioner said private offices in the provincial capital would also remain shut three days a week. Schools and offices will be closed on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, the notification said. Lahore was ranked among the top five cities of the world with bad air quality, as it recorded its Air Quality Index (AQI) hit 167. - APP

Sudan frees several civilian leaders

NEWS DESK

KHARTOUM: Sudanese authorities have released several civilian leaders detained since last month's military coup, one of the former captives said Monday, amid efforts to restore a fragile transition process towards full democracy. "I was released late yesterday evening," following a deal to reverse the military takeover, the head of Sudan's Congress Party, Omar al-Degeir, who was among civilians arrested in the army's October 25 power grab, told AFP. "I was in solitary confinement and completely cut off from the world throughout this period." The Congress Party, however, slammed Sunday's deal, saying it "explicitly legitimised the continuation of the coup regime". Other civilian politicians were also released, including Sadeeq al-Sadiq al-Mahdi of the Umma Party, Sudan's largest political group. Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok's advisor Yasser Arman, a leading figure of Sudan's mainstream civilian bloc, Forces for Freedom and Change, was among those freed, according to Degeir. But other key civilian figures and ministers deposed in the coup have yet to be freed. Top general Abdel Fattah al-Burhan last month declared a state of emergency and ousted the government, in a move that upended a two-year transition to civilian rule. It triggered a wave of mass street protests in which at least 41 people have been killed, according to a pro-democracy doctors' union.

Iran: 9 soldiers killed in clashes with US Navy

WEB DESK

TEHRAN: The Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said Monday that nine soldiers were killed in direct clashes with the US Navy in the Persian Gulf waters, local media reported. The Mehr news agency quoted Navy commander Alireza Tangsiri as saying that the clashes took place in the Persian Gulf, without specifying the time. Tangsiri said the clashes resulted in the killing of nine IRGC soldiers, without providing any further details. The Navy commander pointed out that there have been many direct clashes between Iranian and US naval forces. "We have launched nine strikes over our fallen martyrs," he said, without giving further details. There was no comment from US authorities on the Iranian statements. Earlier this month, the Iranian Navy seized a Vietnamese oil tanker following a close encounter with US naval forces in the Sea of Oman. The vessel was released a week later following hectic negotiations between the two sides.

US Embassy launches next set of popular english classes

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: In celebration of International Education Week, the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad's Regional English Language Office is pleased to announce the next set of classes for the English Access Microscholarship Program and the English for Workforce Development Program in Pakistan. The English Access Microscholarship Program (Access) is a global program that provides foundational English language skills to bright, economically disadvantaged students. Access programs help participants develop English skills that improve professional and

educational prospects. Participants are also competitive for and often participate in future exchanges and study programs in the United States. Since the program's start in Pakistan in 2015, approximately 22,000 students in 16 different cities have participated. Globally, approximately 200,000 students in over 85 countries have graduated from the program since its inception in 2004. Through its 13 providers across Pakistan, the U.S. Embassy and Consulates are conducting Access classes that reach over 2,700 students in 16 different cities. To overcome challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the program has provided students with a tablet

to take advantage of online learning while developing technological skills. Classes for the two-year program will begin in November. The English for Workforce Development in Pakistan, popularly known as English Works! improves English language skills of unemployed or under-employed youth from ages 17-25 while promoting the entrepreneurial and technical skills needed to increase employability. The English Works! program strengthens people-to-people relationships between the United States and Pakistan while improving employability of Pakistani workers and creating a better educated and more skilled workforce. English Works! classes are

offered in 12 different cities and reach more than 1,200 students across Pakistan. The program also provides students and teachers with tablets to leverage technology to make classes more effective and engaging and bolster students' technical skills. Classes for the six-month program began in August. These important programs help not just students, but teachers as well, building the capacity of English teachers throughout Pakistan. As teachers are critical to the success of any educational program, their professional development is a key component of these programs, ultimately contributing to a more empowered educational workforce.

Wisconsin: Five dead after car crashes into parade

WISCONSIN: At least five people have been killed and more than 40 injured after a car ploughed into a Christmas parade in the US state of Wisconsin, police say. School bands and a dance troupe of grannies were among those marching through the city of Waukesha when a red SUV came speeding down the road. It hit dozens of people, including children. One person is in custody. The incident does not appear "at this time" to be an act of terrorism, one official said. The suspect appeared to have been fleeing another scene when he ran into people at the parade, the law enforcement official - who is familiar with the

early findings of the investigation - told the BBC's US partner CBS News. Local resident Angelito Tenorio told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel newspaper he had just finished marching in the parade when the SUV "put the pedal to the metal and just [started] zooming full speed along the parade route" at about 16:40 (22:40 GMT). "Then we heard a loud bang, and just deafening cries and screams from people who are struck by the vehicle," he said. Corey Montinho said his daughter's dance team was hit by the SUV. "There were pom-poms and shoes and spilled hot chocolate everywhere. I had to go from one crumpled body to

the other to find my daughter," he told the paper. The parade in Waukesha - a community of about 72,000 located to the west of Milwaukee - is traditionally held every year on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, and includes fancy dress, floats, dancers and marching bands. This year's theme was "comfort and joy". Families lined the sides of the road to watch the event, which was returning after a year's absence due to the coronavirus pandemic. One video shared on social media shows the car crashing at high speed through street barriers, while another shows the vehicle driving into what looks like a group of musicians. - Agencies

Germans will be 'cured or dead'

BERLIN: Most Germans will be "vaccinated, cured or dead" from Covid-19 in a few months, Health Minister Jens Spahn warned Monday as he urged more citizens to get jabbed. "Probably by the end of this winter, as is sometimes cynically said, pretty much everyone in Germany will be vaccinated, cured or dead," Spahn said, blaming "the very contagious Delta variant". "That is why we so urgently recommend vaccination," he added. The stark warning

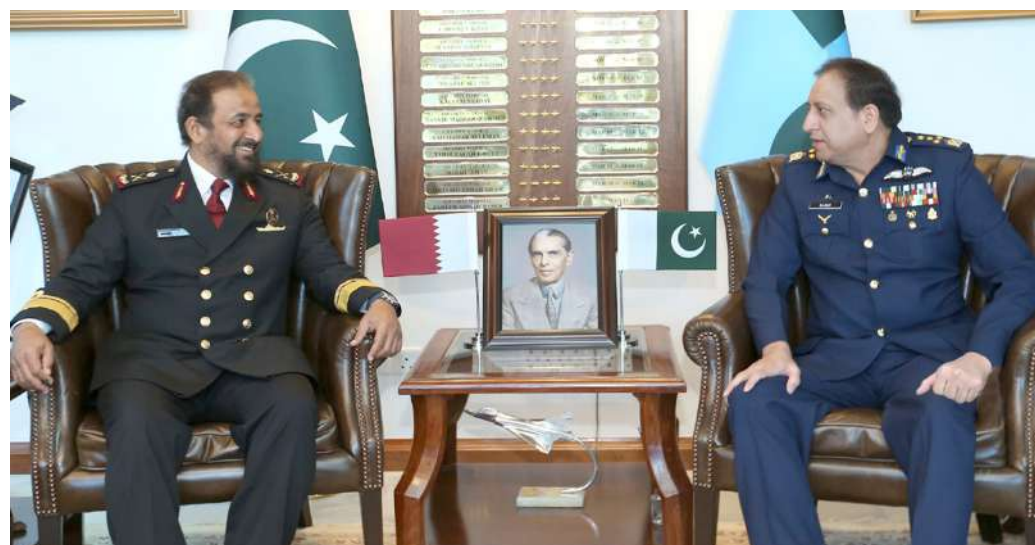
comes as Germany is racing to contain a record rise in coronavirus infections in recent weeks, with hospitals sounding the alarm about overflowing intensive care units. Despite widespread access to free coronavirus vaccines, just 68 percent of the German population is fully vaccinated, a level experts say is too low to keep the pandemic under control. Germany, the EU's most populous country, added another 30,643 cases on Monday. - APP

Qatari Naval Chief lauds PAF's rising capacity

Commander Qatar Emiri Naval Forces also held a meeting with Naval Chief Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Commander, Qatari Emiri Naval Forces, Major General Abdullah Bin Hassan Al-Sulaiti called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force in his office Monday. During the meeting, both the dignitaries discussed matters of professional and mutual interest. Major General Abdullah Bin Hassan Al-Sulaiti commended the professionalism of PAF and acknowledged its rising indigenous capacity in aviation industry. The Air Chief said that Pakistan and Qatar enjoy longstanding religious, cultural and historical bonds which are manifested through strong ties between both air forces. The Air Chief reiterated his re-



solve to further enhance the existing bilateral cooperation between the two brotherly countries. Earlier, Commander Qatar Emiri

Naval Forces Major General Abdullah Bin Hassan Al Sulaiti held a meeting with Naval Chief Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi at

the Naval Headquarters and discussed regional maritime security situation and matters of mutual interests.

The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan Navy's efforts for maritime security and stability. Upon arrival at Naval Headquarters, Commander Qatar Emiri Naval Forces was received by Naval Chief. A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Navy presented Guard of Honour. The visiting dignitary was then introduced to Principal Staff Officers at Naval Headquarters. The Naval Chief highlighted Pakistan Navy initiatives for ensuring maritime security and peace in the region through Regional Maritime Security Patrols. The visiting dignitary highly appreciated and acknowledged Pakistan Navy's efforts and commitments in support of collaborative maritime security in the region. Later, Commander Qatar Emiri Naval Forces was briefed regarding PN roles and operational capabilities.