



# Islamabad POST

Wednesday, November 25, 2020

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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**Army is ready to thwart all the challenges: COAS**

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**Pak to continue exposing India: Zahid Hafeez**

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**Melania Trump savagely trolled over a tweet**

Detailed News On Page-01



## Briefs

**Qureshi urges UNSC to play role**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has called on the United Nations Security Council to prevent India from carrying out its "criminal colonial project" to convert Occupied Jammu and Kashmir's Muslim majority into a minority. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi in a letter to the Security Council President for the current month said it is the 15-member body's "direct responsibility to do this under the UN resolutions. The Foreign Minister drew the UNSC President attention to highly concerning developments in the IIOJK and grave human rights violations.

**Steve Smtih says Babar his favorite**

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Top Australian Test batsman Steve Smith has chosen Babar Azam as his favourite Pakistani cricketer, saying he enjoys watching the Lahore-born cricketer bat. The Australian cricketer revealed that he enjoyed watching Pakistan's all-format captain bat when he was asked to name his favourite Pakistan player during an Instagram question-answer session, as quoted by Cricket Pakistan. "I like watching Babar Azam bat," Smith said. This is not the first time Smith has heaped praise on Azam as he was asked about his thoughts on the 26-year-old's batting earlier this year as well.

**Melania savagely trolled**

DNA

WASHINGTON: Melania Trump is on her way out of the White House after her husband, Donald Trump, lost the election to Joe Biden. However, many on social media are finding it difficult to forgive the FLOTUS and her husband so soon. The first lady was subjected to immense trolling after she uploaded pictures of a Christmas tree being brought to the White House, exclaiming her joy on having the chance to decorate it. That did not sit well with Twitter.

## Cabinet okays anti-rape ordinance

Syed Shibli Faraz said the Cabinet approved in principle the establishment of a Special Technology Zones Authority to promote technology in the country

ANSAR BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet has approved in principle the Anti-rape (investigation and trial) Ordinance and Pakistan Penal Code (Amendment) Ordinance 2020. Giving detailed about decisions taken by the federal cabinet, which met in Islamabad Tuesday with Prime Minister Imran Khan in the chair, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Syed Shibli Faraz, while talking to media in the federal capital said the Prime Minister directed to the Law Ministry to finalize provisions of the proposed Ordinance. The Minister said acts of gang-rape has also been inserted in the proposed law in which harsh punishments, including death penalty, have been suggested to give exemplary sentences to the offenders of rape. He said the law will be a deterrent against incidents of rape. Syed Shibli Faraz said the Cabinet approved in principle the establishment of a Special Technology Zones Authority to promote technology in the country. He said Spe-

**No ban on Nawaz to attend funeral**

FAIZ CHAUDHRY / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz said on Tuesday that there was no restriction on the arrival of Nawaz Sharif, Ishaq Dar, Hassan Nawaz and Hussain Nawaz in Pakistan. In a tweet, he said that they should come and attend the funeral of late Begum Shamim Akhtar. The propaganda of state repression was deliberately being done to politicize this matter. Whom the PML-N was trying to befool by such tactics, he questioned.

cial technology zones will be set up initially in Peshawar, Islamabad, Lahore and Haripur. The Cabinet also approved the establishment of these zones in Karachi and Quetta.

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## Army ready to thwart all challenges: COAS

Forum showed serious concern in the wake of irrefutable evidence of Indian state sponsored terrorism and efforts to destabilize Pakistan

NAVEED MIRAJ

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa has said Pakistan Army with support of state institutions and the nation is fully prepared to thwart all internal and external challenges. It is our duty to transform these challenges into opportunities for the stabil-



ity and prosperity of the people of Pakistan. The army chief expressed these views while presiding over the Corps Commanders' Conference held at GHQ.

Forum reviewed geo strategic, regional and national security environment and discussed internal security, situation along borders, Line of Control (LOC) and atrocities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK). Forum also took a comprehensive overview of the positive progress in Afghan Peace Process.

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## Recognition of Israel not under consideration

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Responding to media queries, the Spokesperson categorically rejected baseless speculation regarding possibility of recognition of the State of Israel by Pakistan. The Spokesperson underlined that the Prime Minister's statements in this context have been clear and unequivocal. The Prime Minister

Continued on Page 06

**Pakistan to continue exposing India: FO**

NAVEED MIRAJ / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan says it will continue exposing India and not let the world community be misled by its propaganda. Foreign Office Spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri in a statement on Tuesday urged the world community, including the United Nations counter-terrorism mechanisms, to act on the Dossier presented by Pakistan with incontrovertible evidence of Indian

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Hungary Bela Fazekas in a meeting with Advisor to the PM on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood. -DNA

**Israel drops KSA from virus list**

DNA

RIYADH: A day after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's reported trip to Saudi Arabia, Israel's health ministry added the kingdom to its list of coronavirus "green" countries, exempting returning travellers from quarantine. The health ministry on Tuesday confirmed that Saudi Arabia had been added to the safe list a day earlier, but dismissed any link to Netanyahu's reported visit to the futuristic Red Sea city of Neom on Sunday. "The process is very simple and it happens once every two weeks," health ministry director general Hezi Levi told public broadcaster Kan on Tuesday morning. "On the previous list, Saudi Arabia was red," he said. "The morbidity rates decreased. It's now green. It has nothing to do with anyone's visit to any country." - Agencies

**Pak welcomes Afghanistan President's decision**

SAIFULLAH / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan welcomes the decree by President Ashraf Ghani for the release of Pakistani prisoners in Afghanistan who have completed their terms but remain incarcerated due to non-payment of fines and those with up to or less than one month remaining in their prison terms. Pakistan appreciates this humanitarian gesture which will provide relief to the individuals and their families covered by this decision. Pakistan reaffirms its commitment to continue mutual engagement leading to facilitation and benefits for the people on both sides.

## PM directs to start vaccine production

The prime minister also referenced his recent correspondence with the US, stating that the country has agreed to cooperate with Pakistan

SHAHEEN HANIF

**PM to attend WEF event**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday wrote a letter to the Federal Ministry of Health, directing it to start the process of the coronavirus vaccine production. Sources told media that the prime minister suggested that the ministry prepare proposals for the vaccine in consultation with all government stakeholders as well as the private sector.

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan will be the chief guest at a World Economic Forum event to commemorate Pakistan's "successful policies" against the novel coronavirus, PTI senator Faisal Javed Khan said on Tuesday. According to the senator, the forum is acknowledging the premier's successful policies to contain the virus and has announced it will celebrate "Pakistan Strategy Day" today. - DNA

In the letter, the prime minister also referenced his recent correspondence with the United States, stating that the country has agreed to cooperate with Pakistan

in the development and production of the vaccine. "The United States will first distribute the coronavirus

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**Pak-Jordan have historic ties: Qaiser**  
*Ambassador Maj. Gen. (R) Ibrahim Yala Al-Madani said that Jordan also values its close fraternal relations with Pakistan*



SAIFULLAH / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Speaker Asad Qaiser has said that relations between Pakistan and Jordan are based on strong foundations of religion, brotherhood, culture and history. He said that parliamentary diplomacy can play an important role in promoting bilateral relations between the two Islamic brother countries. He also stressed the need for enhancing bilateral trade which did not commensurate the existing economic potential on either side. He expressed these views during a meeting with Ambassador of Jordan Major General (Retd) Ibrahim Yala Al Madani. The Speaker also spoke about the stance of both the countries on important regional and global issues.

Continued on Page 06

**Pakistan condemns Houthi attack**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday strongly condemned the missile attack by Houthi militants at a petroleum distribution terminal in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia and called for immediate cessation of such incidents violating the Kingdom's territorial integrity.

"We reaffirm our full support and solidarity with the brotherly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia against any threats to its security and territorial integrity," the Foreign Office said in a statement.

The Foreign Office mentioned that the attack caused fire in a fuel tank, which was successfully extinguished without any casualties, terming it an act against the sovereignty of Saudi Arabia and also threatening the lives of innocent civilians. - Agencies

## European Union provides €10m support for refugees

UNHCR will expand its health response as well as improve water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities in refugee and host communities

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The European Union (EU) is providing 10 million to significantly boost UNHCR's assistance for Afghan refugees and their host communities in Pakistan. The funding will focus on mitigating the short and medium-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. With this funding, UNHCR will expand its health response as well as improve water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities in refugee and host communities. Another important component of the new project will be implementing activities that help protect and empower vulnerable Afghan refugees and host communities, including through livelihood opportunities. The three-year project will be implemented across the country

and is expected to benefit some 370,000 Afghan refugees and Pakistani host communities.

The Ambassador of the EU Delegation to Pakistan, H.E. Ms. Androulla Kaminara, and UNHCR's Representative in Pakistan, Ms. Noriko Yoshida, signed the agreement at a ceremony on Monday. The agreement coincides with the quadrennial Afghanistan Conference held in Geneva, which is intended to present an important opportunity for the Afghan Government and the international community to commit to common objectives for promoting sustainable development, prosperity and peace in Afghanistan. At the signing ceremony, Ms. Kaminara said: "As the world faces a second surge of COVID-19, it is clearer than ever that we must assist the most vulnerable and the most in need. We are glad to partner with UNHCR

in assisting the Afghan refugee community, which is generously hosted in Pakistan, as well as the Pakistani host communities."

Placing the support for refugees in a larger political context, the Ambassador underlined: "The European Union has reaffirmed its strong support to an

Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process which ultimately would ensure safety, fundamental rights and prosperity for all Afghans and allow refugees to return to their homeland in safety and dignity."

The UNHCR Representative in Pakistan, Ms. Yoshida, welcomed

the EU's contribution and said such support amid the current COVID-19 pandemic demonstrates the EU's commitment to "leaving no one behind". "This support is truly significant. At a time when it is most urgently needed, the EU will help make a difference in the lives of so many refugees and Pakistani host communities impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic," she said.

She said that UNHCR's overall emergency response is in support of efforts by the Government of Pakistan to prevent and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. She added that UNHCR has been advocating for the inclusion of refugees in the Government's COVID-19 Prevention and Response Plan.

Since July 2018, the EU has contributed 37 million from its development budget and 10 million from its humanitarian resources

to support Afghan refugees and their host communities, in particular through UNHCR's regional programmes.

In May 2020, the EU announced a 150 million package to support Pakistan's efforts in addressing the short-term and long-term public health and socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, including this new funding of 10 million for UNHCR. This funding will be channelled towards three sectors: health, WASH and social protection. In the health sector, it will boost health initiatives by helping to provide personal protective equipment, medical supplies and other relief items to health facilities in support of refugees and host communities. Community outreach on the prevention and response to COVID-19 will also be strengthened.

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Pakistan exports to UK increased by 30 percent - Page 07

Asad requests masses to practice corona SOPs - Page 08

## Briefs

## KCR Train on Orangi route

KARACHI: A meeting on the revival of Karachi Circular Railway (KCR), on Tuesday informed that the circular train from City Station will likely to run on the Orangi route after December 15th. The meeting chaired by Commissioner Karachi Iftikhar Shallwani was briefed that the development work on 16KM long track from City Station to Orangi was underway. The Commissioner was informed that the encroachments on 44km long KCR track has been removed and the track was being repaired.

Secretary Transport Sindh Shariq Ahmed informed the meeting that flyovers and underpasses would be constructed on 11 level crossings of the train service. "Eight underpasses and three flyovers would be constructed in collaboration with the Frontier Works Organization (FWO)," the meeting briefed.

The Commissioner was briefed that work was underway on a plan to install fencing on both sides of the 44 KM circular railway track. "Moreover, the work on laying sewerage line from the Urdu College to Depot Station was also initiated." The Commissioner was told that there would be Wazir Mansion, Lyari, Baldia, Manghopir and Orangi stations on the 14 KM route of the project from City Station to Orangi. The Commissioner said that all concerned agencies should take coordinate efforts to ensure earliest completion of the project. He hoped that the Orangi route of the circular train will become operational after December 15. — DNA

## Court adjourns hearing of Ashiana case

LAHORE: An accountability court on Tuesday adjourned hearing of Ashiana-e-Iqbal Housing scheme case till November 30. The court directed to conclude cross examination from main witness Ejaz Shafique on the next date of hearing. Accountability Court Judge Amjad Nazir Chaudhry conducted the case proceedings, wherein jail authorities produced accused Ahad Cheema and others.

It is pertinent to mention here that the court had recorded statements of 12 witnesses so far, whereas the total number of witnesses was 86. The court had granted permanent exemption from personal appearance to Opposition Leader in National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif and former bureaucrat Fawad Hassan Fawad, whereas their pleaders appeared on their behalf. The court had indicted 10 accused including Shehbaz Sharif in the case, The NAB in the reference alleged that Shehbaz Sharif being the chief minister of Punjab misused his authority by unlawfully assuming powers of Board of Directors of PLDC. It said, he in connivance with his co-suspects awarded a contract to an ineligible proxy firm that resulted in failure of Ashiana housing scheme causing a loss to public exchequer and deprived 61,000 applicants of houses. — APP

## Punjab govt, CPEC authority agree on promoting agriculture research

DNA

LAHORE: The Punjab government and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority have agreed to promote seed development and research related to the agriculture sector. CPEC Authority chairman Asim Saleem Bajwa has met Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar on Tuesday where they exchanged views on ongoing projects under the mega economic corridor in the province. CM Buzdar and Bajwa agreed on the construction of China Centre CPEC Tower in the provincial capital Lahore. They have also decided to pro-

vide seed development and research related to the agriculture sector. The chief minister said that 13,000 acres of land will be used for the research purpose for seed development and agriculture. He detailed that information desks will be established for industrialists at CPEC Tower where all details regarding the Chinese industries will be provided under one roof. He vowed that the provincial government will assist the Chinese investors to establish industries in the province. He asked authorities to ensure implementation of guidelines for industrial development and table recommendations for the resolution of issues to the industrialists. He also issued di-

rectives to finalise the regulations for industrial development at earliest. CM Buzdar said that the initiative of CPEC has further strengthened the bilateral ties of Pakistan and China. Asim Saleem Bajwa said that CPEC project has key importance in the stability of national economy and development work on its projects was expedited. He highlighted that major opportunities exist in the agriculture sector for the economic growth and the country will get benefits from the Chinese experiences in the agriculture sector. The completion of CPEC projects will strengthen the national economy, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan chairs meeting of the Federal Cabinet at Islamabad. — DNA

## 'Efforts are underway to link Gujranwala with motorway'

Ajmal Awan Senior Vice President GCCI said during a briefing that Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce and Industry is making all possible efforts to solve the problems of industrialists and traders by keeping liaison with all concerned Ministries and Departments

DNA

GUJRANWALA: Ajmal Awan, Senior Vice President, Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that efforts are underway to link Gujranwala with Motorway Link at all relevant forums under the leadership of President Gujranwala Chamber Ashraf Mughal so that maximum opportunities for development of industry and trade could be provided in Gujranwala. He said during a briefing that Gu-

ranwala Chamber of Commerce and Industry is making all possible efforts to solve the problems of industrialists and traders by keeping liaison with all concerned Ministries and Departments. Efforts are being made to set up a project to solve the problems of traders and industrialists on priority basis. Former President of Gujranwala Chamber Sheikh Noman said that the reservations of allottees of Industrial Estate three regarding export processing zone industry should be removed and industri-



al necessary facilities should be provided in the state so that the

industrial establishments established here can get the required facilities. Former President of Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce and Industry Malik Azhar-ul-Haq said that along with industrial development, we should also give special importance to environmental protection. Abdul Sattar Mughal, executive member of the chamber, said that the atmosphere in which we breathe and the future of our future generations could be secured if all government agencies perform their duties honestly.

He said hardships of industrialists and businessmen of Gujranwala must be solved on priority basis then a true industrial and economic revolution can be brought in the country. Prominent business leader Noman-ul-Haq said that the industrialists of Industrial State III in Gujranwala are currently suffering from severe problems. Serious efforts and effective measures are required to do so, he said, adding that Industrial Estate III was imposed after a high-level review to abolish taxes.

## Financial aid distributed among farmers

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: The Livestock Department distributed cheques of financial aid worth Rs 13.8 million among farmers of Katta Bachao, Farba Katta (Save the Calf, Calf Fattening) scheme in Faisalabad. In this connection, a ceremony was held in the office of Deputy Director Livestock Tehsil Faisalabad where Deputy Director Dr Rae Shafiqat distributed cheques among farmers. Speaking on the occasion, he said that the livestock teams were registering calves in units comprising 10 animals in Katta Bachao scheme in which the animals have the age from one day to thirty days and these animals are registered for 120 days. Similarly, 25 animals are in the unit of Katta Farba scheme and these animals have the age from one day to 1.5 year and these animals are registered for 90 days. He said that special tag numbers were allotted to the registered animals besides providing them free medicines and treatment facilities. The farmers are being provided stipend of Rs.6,500 for each calf under the Katta Bachao scheme and Rs.4,000 for each calf under Katta Farba scheme.

## District overseas committee meeting held

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: The District Overseas Committee meeting was held in the DC Office. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali and Chairman Mirza Muhammad Asghar jointly presided over the meeting. Member Committee Talha Hameed, Police and other officers were also present. Deputy Commissioner and Chairman listened to the issues of migrants and said that the concerned departments of the district should ensure speedy relief to the Overseas Pakistanis so that their problems were not delayed. They said that the Punjab Government has issued clear instructions for speedy resolution of the problems of Overseas Pakistanis so the applicants should look satisfied with the departmental progress.

## Chinese delegation meets industries minister



DNA

LAHORE: A two-member delegation of Oreac Ceramics of China consisting of Executive Director Mr Liu Fen Chao and director Mr Wu Jian Bin called on Punjab Industries Minister Mian Aslam Iqbal here at Industries Department on Tuesday. During the meeting, Liu Fen Chao disclosed that their company was investing 70 million dollars in Bhalwal but facing different issues including electricity and gas connection for setting up an industrial unit. The minister directed the concerned officials to immediately solve all the problems relating to the establishment of an industrial unit by the Chinese company and made it clear that

no hindrance will be tolerated in the process of investment. The line departments should provide every facility to local and international investors because the promotion of employment opportunity is the priority of the government and this objective can be achieved by rapid industrialization, he added. It is the responsibility of the government to provide required facilities to the investors and complete protection is guaranteed to the investment of foreign investors. Meanwhile, the federal government will also be approached for the solution of gas and electricity issues, he added. CEO PIEDMC Javed Ilyas, CEO FIEDMC Aamir Saleemi and Director PBIT Sohail Ahmad also attended the meeting

## 'Artists to promote Kashmiri culture'

KARACHI: Chairman, Kashmir Committee, Shehryar Khan Afridi on Tuesday said artist communities of Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) would work closely to help preserve and protect true cultural heritage of Kashmir. Addressing the participants of an informal meeting of Karachi-based members of the newly constituted Cultural Advisory Board of the committee here, Shehryar

Afridi said Kashmiri culture was being destroyed by the Indian Occupational regime of Jammu and Kashmir but Pakistani artists from cinematic, television and literary spheres would work with the Kashmiri artists to foil Indian designs. "Modi regime is trying to harm the identity and pride of the Kashmiri nation. For this objective, the occupation forces are using tools of oppression including youth killings, tor-

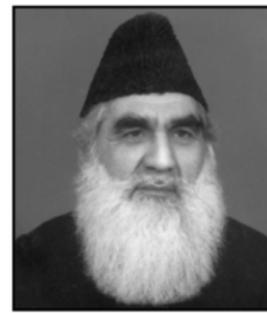
ture, rape and Indian cultural invasion to help their design of Kashmiri genocide. We won't let India do it," he said. Afridi said the occupational regime in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir was also trying to damage Kashmiri culture by massive demographic change through issuance of domicile to non-residents and also by opening wine shops and destroying mosques and shrines in Jammu and

Kashmir. He said that the Kashmir committee stands committed to preserve the Kashmiri culture and identity and all necessary steps would be taken to restore pride of Kashmiris. Shehryar Khan Afridi said rather convening a meeting in Islamabad, he had decided to visit all the four provincial capitals and Muzaffarabad to meet the members of the advisory board in their home towns first. — APP

## SOPs to be implemented strictly: CM

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has said that necessary steps have been taken to check the spread of coronavirus and the decisions made in the consultation with the federal government would be implemented strictly. In a statement, the CM appealed to people to wear face-masks at public places. The government was monitoring the situation daily as the number of patients and the death rate were increasing due to carelessness. During the last 24 hours, he said 18 patients died whereas 630 new cases were reported. The number of active cases had reached 14,225 in the province, he added. — APP

## CONDOLENCE



APNS expresses profound grief over the sad demise of Veteran Publisher and Senior Colleague

## Pir Sufaid Shah Hamdard

Chief Editor

Daily Wahdat.

May Allah the Almighty rest his soul in eternal peace

and grant courage to the family to bear the loss.



All Pakistan Newspapers Society



## Briefs

### Musical evening "Rang-e-Sukhan" on Dec 6

ISLAMABAD: A mesmerizing musical evening and poetry titled "Rang-e-Sukhan" will be held on December 6. The night is being aimed to mesmerize the audience with soulful Qawlis and to spend a quality time with their families and friends. According to an official, Production Platform For Champions (PPC) has arranged the evening in which well known poets will be featured and emerging Qawals would entertain the audience. Tickets will be available on first come first serve basis under the strict COVID-19 SOPs, he said. - APP

### Cutlery export increases 23.82% in 4 months

ISLAMABAD: The cutlery exports from the country witnessed an increase of 23.82 percent during the first four months of current financial year (2020-21) as compared to the corresponding period of last fiscal year. The country exported cutlery worth US \$39.060 million during July-October (2020-21) against the exports of US \$31.547 million during July-October (2019-20), showing growth of 23.82 percent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the cutlery exports grew by 42.76 percent during the month of October 2020 as compared to the same month of last year. The cutlery exports in October 2020 were recorded at \$11.007 million against the exports of \$7.710 million in October 2019, the PBS data revealed. On month-on-month basis, the exports of cutlery rose by 14.56 percent during October 2020, when compared to the exports of US \$9.608 million during September 2020, according to the data. - APP

### CDA seals restaurants, service centers

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) sealed restaurants and service centers over the violation of building code here on Tuesday. According to a press release of CDA, upon the special directions of Chairman CDA, Aamir Ali Ahmed, the authority sealed the illegal restaurants and four service stations in G-9 and G-10. The owners of more than 25 illegal buildings have been given the notices for demolishing their buildings. They have been directed that if they would not demolish the illegal buildings then they will be fined heavily after the expiry of the notices. Their building would also be sealed. The process of demolishing of these buildings will also be started later on, the PR added. The buildings which have been issued the notices for violating the building code include Schools, Hotel, Hostels, cinemas, and residential areas. Newly constructed hostels have also been given the notices.

### IRSA releases 108,900 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 108,900 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 530,400 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1495.89 feet, which was 107.89 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 28,500 cusecs and outflow as 70,000 cusecs. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1186.95 feet, which was 146.95 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 8,000 cusecs and 22,000 cusecs respectively. - APP



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi paid a visit to Islamabad Zoo to say farewell to Kaavan-the elephant. - DNA

## President visits outgoing "kaavan" the elephant

Minister of State for Climate Change Zartaj Gul, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Climate Change Amin Aslam and officials of the animal protection organization For Paws were present on the occasion

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi along with his wife Begum Samina Alvi have attended a farewell function on the occasion of departure of children's favorite elephant "Kaavan" to Cambodia. He visited the Marghar Zoo to attend the special event. Minister of State for Climate Change Zartaj Gul, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Climate Change Amin Aslam and officials of the animal protection organization For Paws were present on the occasion.

On the occasion, Dr. Amir Khalil,

Director, Four Paws, an animal protection organization, gave a briefing on the arrangements for the relocation and care of the elephant in Cambodia.

Speaking on the occasion, President Dr. Arif Alvi said that Chief Justice Islamabad High Court Athar Minallah has made a brilliant decision regarding the protection of animals and providing them a conducive environment in the context of Islamic traditions. "Separating the children of animals from their mothers in childhood has a negative effect on their feelings," he said.

The President expressed hope that Kaavan Hathi would be hap-

py to join his fellow elephants in Cambodia. The President appreciated the efforts of the Ministry of Climate Change in this regard and said that steps should be taken to make Margalla National Park safe under the Clean and Transparent Pakistan Movement.

He called for creating awareness among the people about animal rights and providing a conducive environment for their care. He lauded the services of the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board in protecting the lives of Margalla Hills and relocating the animals of Marghar Zoo following the decision of the Islamabad High Court.

The President called for the implementation of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1890, which provides a good basis for the protection of animals. He called for speeding up the process of re-establishing the Islamabad Zoo for the children and citizens of Islamabad.

The Kaavan elephant, which has been living in Islamabad for 35 years, will be relocated to a Cambodian wildlife sanctuary by order of the Islamabad High Court in the context of providing proper care and natural environment. The elephant, popular among children and adults alike, was born in 1985 in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan

government presented it to the President of Pakistan.

In 1990, an elephant Sahli was brought from Bangladesh and stayed with Kaavan until his death in 2012. Animal rights activists campaigned for Kaavan's release to be better cared for. The Islamabad High Court on May 21, 2020 ordered the immediate relocation of all animals, especially cows, to the wildlife sanctuary. Following Kaavan's relocation, the two wolves will be relocated to a wildlife sanctuary in Jordan on December 6, after which the relocation of all animals from the meadow zoo to other locations will be completed.

### 'Parveen Shakir' remembered

*Shakir was the first female poetess who expressed emotions and feelings of a young girl in a realistic manner. Spontaneity in expression was the hallmark of her poetry that mesmerized the young lot especially girls*

ISLAMABAD: Legendary Urdu poetess Parveen Shakir was remembered on her 68th birthday anniversary across the country on Tuesday (Nov 24) to pay rich tribute for her literary services. Known as 'Commuter of Fragrance', Parveen Shakir was born on 24 November, 1952 in Karachi. She was one of those female poets who could be regarded as pioneers in defying tradition by expressing the "female experience" in Urdu poetry.

During her educational career Shakir earned three Masters degrees in English Literature, Linguistics and Bank Management, and a PhD in Bank Administration. Shakir joined civil services of Pakistan in 1976 in customs department. She was appointed as second secretary in the department in 1986. Private channels reported. Shakir was the first female poetess who expressed emotions and feelings of a young girl in a realistic manner. Spontaneity in expression was the hallmark of her poetry that mesmerized the young lot especially girls. "Khushbu" gave her a dream start and then her road to success never stopped. She employed mainly two forms of poetry - ghazal and free verses. Her poetry is a beautiful combination of classical traditions and modern sensibility. Her prominent work is based on feminism, romanticism and social stigmas. - DNA



### Radio school goes on air

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) on Tuesday has begun a four-hour Radio School transmission due to the closure of educational institutions till January 10 in the wake of second wave of coronavirus pandemic.

According to Radio Pakistan, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Radio Pakistan and the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training to promote distant learning in the country. The MoU was signed by Director General Radio Pakistan Ms. Ambreen Jan and Additional Secretary Ministry of Education and Professional Training Mr. Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani in Islamabad last Friday. Under the MoU, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training will provide the content of the transmission to impart primary level education to children. These educational programmes will be broadcast from various medium wave and FM networks of Radio Pakistan from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon and then as repeat broadcast from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm seven days a week. Radio School is an important initiative taken in light of PM Imran Khan's vision to impart education to the children of far flung and backward areas and address the issue of providing education to children during the pandemic. - APP

### CDNS achieves collection of Rs 27 billion by Nov 18

ISLAMABAD: The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has achieved a collective net target of Rs 27 billion by November 18 of fiscal year 2020-21. The CDNS has set Rs 249 billion annual collection target for the year 2020-21 as compared to Rs 352 billion for the previous year's 2019-20 to enhance savings and promote saving culture in the country, senior official of CDNS told APP here on Tuesday.

The CDNS has set Rs 352 billion annual collection target for the year 2019-20 as

compared to Rs 350 billion for the previous year's 2018-19, he said.

The directorate has also revised and increased the gross target of Rs1570 billion for the fiscal year 2019-20, he said.

Replying to a question on current revision of CDNS certificate profit rates applicable from October 14, 2020, he said CDNS has remained the same the interest rate on the savings certificates investment due to the market situation and of Pakistan Investment Bonds (PIB) policy decision.

He informed that the CDNS interest rates are linked with the policy of PIB, set by State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

He said the rate of profit on Defense Saving, regular income saving, special saving and short-term certificates had remained the same. The senior official said that the profit rate on special saving certificates has remained the same at 7.77 percent.

He informed that on Defense Saving Certificates, the rate is also the same at 8.49 percent. - APP

### MCW to provide upgraded facilities about child care

ISLAMABAD: Model Child Welfare Centre (MCW) would strengthen the existing facilities by setting up new services for children aged 0-5 in different areas of the city. The upgraded services would also include counseling for school going children to avoid incidence of school dropout, said an official of ministry of Human Rights.

Main activities of centre included pre-school nursery classes, facilitating out of school children age ranging 6 to 12 years through non-formal means of education to help bring them in mainstream education, maternal and child health, preventive health services and vaccination.

The center also aimed at surveillance and monitoring the health of mothers and children of area through Maternal & Child

Health (MCH) Services. The official told APP that a purpose-built building of Model Child Welfare Centre Hummak was working for the development of Pre-school children and out of School/ dropout children through non-formal means of education such as field visits and community awareness programs. The future targets included income generating program for mothers and young girls through development, broadening the vaccination program for HPV and Hepatitis and arrangements of biopsy and cervical smear facility for early diagnosis and prevention of cancer.

The center has been working with an objective to create awareness among parents and the people of Model village about child care and development. - DNA

### Parking becomes a nightmare in capital

ISLAMABAD: The vehicle parking has become a nightmare in the commercial centers and markets of the federal capital due to shortage of parking lots. The civic body has constructed a new parking lot at the only market F-7 Jinnah super but many markets missing the facility due to which motorists are only option to park cars at roadsides.

Some of the newly constructed shopping malls also introduced a modern parking lot which is the only option to facilitate people.

The parking issues are becoming a big problem in the federal capital due to rush and increase in the vehicles. An official of CDA told APP that in the future projects parking was always prepared by the managers of the civic body, adding that some markets are attracting more people due to which parking issues witnessed. Ahmad Ali, a resident of G-9 said that there were enough parking spaces at each market but due to increase in the vehicles it becoming an issue. He said that the motorists were also need to avoid parking cars at roadside which create traffic jams and some time pedestrian also face problems.

Zia ur Rehman, a motorist said that with the increase in population of capital city, there was dire need to adopt modern parking methods which was already introduced by some of the commercial malls. - APP

### DC bans poisonous gasses emission

ISLAMABAD: The District Magistrate, Islamabad Capital Territory has invoked section 44, banning the poisonous gasses emission from factories, vehicles and brick kilns to control the environmental pollution in the city. The poisonous gases, chlorofluorocarbons and other pollutants were causing not only environmental pollution but damaging the Ozone layer, which was hazardous for people's health, said a notification issued by deputy commissioner office, the other day. Talking to APP, Deputy Commissioner, Islamabad, Hamza Shafaqat said the directives were issued under an eco-friendly initiative of the federal capital administration. The ban has come with immediate effect that will remain in force for a period of two months, he said, adding that strict legal action would be taken against those found violating the order.

"It has been brought into the notice of the administration that certain vehicles, factories, bricks kilns, commercial establishments, individuals burning garbage, etc., are emitting poisonous gases chlorofluorocarbons and other such pollutants resulting in environmental pollution and damage to Ozone layer, and this seems hazardous for the health of public at large and a consistent cause of public nuisance," the notification added. - APP

### Pakistan Post payments can be collected from 500 locations

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Post remittance beneficiaries can collect their remittance payments sent from abroad using National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) remittance services from the 500 e locations free of charge. Director General Pakistan Muhammad Akhlaque Rana told APP on Tuesday that the process of remittances was made convenient and easy for the postal customers at home and overseas Pakistan to receive and send money. He said that customers wishing to send their remittances through Pakistan Post's selected branches can visit any of National Bank's correspondents and request a cash transaction for NBP. He said that the booking agent will provide a secret code/PIN number to the remitter, adding that the remitter has to share the PIN number with the customer and inform them about the exact amount send in Pakistani Rupees. - APP

## Govt has finalized Anti-Rape Bill: Shahzad Akbar

The decision had been taken in a session of the government's legal team which was chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan where he was given a briefing over the legal procedures to pronounce penalties to the rapists and regulations for the protection of witnesses

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Accountability Barrister Shahzad Akbar said the government has finalized Anti-Rape Investigations & Trial Bill. The adviser took to Twitter on Tuesday and said the bill aims for expeditious investigations and trial through special courts, creating sex offenders register and protection of rape victims

on instructions of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

The premier's advisor on accountability and interior retweeted the post of the Ministry of Law and Justice regarding a high-meeting which was held on Monday under the chair of Federal Minister for Law and Justice Barrister Dr Muhammad Farogh Naseem to discuss anti-rape law, creation of special courts and joint investigation teams for rape cases. Earlier on Saturday, it emerged

that the federal government had decided to bring an ordinance for pronouncing strict punishments to the rape convicts.

The decision had been taken in a session of the government's legal team which was chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan where he was given a briefing over the legal procedures to pronounce penalties to the rapists and regulations for the protection of witnesses. While addressing the session, PM Imran Khan had said that

the authorities will have to bring up a plan for curbing rape incidents and any delay in its legislation will be disastrous for the country. Sources told that PM Khan refused to give more time to the legal team for the lawmaking. He directed the legal team to work day and night to finalise the legislation.

The premier had said that justice must be provided to the victims through the speedy trial of rape cases. The meeting was

attended by Federal Minister for Law and Justice Dr Farogh Naseem, Minister for Human Rights Shireen Mazari and other concerned officials. The legal team had been ordered to bring forward a comprehensive plan for keeping the identity of the child rape victims under secrecy besides ensuring to keep their future safe and secure. The concerned authorities had decided to expedite the legislation following the instructions of the premier.

## Briefs

## AIOU postponed its exams

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University has postponed its ongoing examinations for the Semester Spring, 2020 throughout the country from November 26. However, papers scheduled on 25 November will be conducted as per previous schedule. This decision was made yesterday in a high level meeting held under the chairmanship of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor, Dr. Zia Ul Qayyum. Moreover, the decision will not apply on online examinations of the overseas students of the University. The Vice-Chancellor said that the university would follow the decisions of the government in true letter and spirit. He, further, said that COVID-19 SOPs must be implemented strictly and number of visitors visiting the university should be curtailed. It was, also, decided that all classes and workshops would be conducted online for the autumn 2020 semester.

## Police launch search operation in Defense Road

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Police on the special directives of City Police Officer (CPO) on Tuesday launched a search operation in Defense Road and adjoining areas in the jurisdiction of Morgah Police Station. According to the spokesperson of Rawalpindi Police, heavy police contingents, Elite Force, Special Branch personnel and Ladies police under the supervision of SHO Morgah Police Station conducted search operation in the area and searched 148 houses while 306 persons were also interrogated. Police also checked particulars of various 60 tenants, he added. The spokesman said the search operations to net criminals and proclaimed offenders were regularly being conducted in different areas of the district particularly to ensure law and order.

## Literary and Cultural Event Held at PMAS-AAUR

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A literary and cultural event held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR), here on Tuesday, which included a dialogue on impact of art & literature on the society with the discussion on Allama Iqbal's poetry, his ideology, musical performance on Kalam-e Iqbal, poetry competition, mushaira and cultural show. Vice Chancellor (VC) of the university Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman participated as a chief guest along with the renowned personalities of the country related to art, literature & culture Prof. Jalil Aali, Dr. Fakhira Nourin, Abdul Qadir Tabaan and Abdul Basit Saim. Addressing the participants the VC, PMAS-AAUR Dr. Zaman said that Art, Literature & Culture is as necessary and important for the students as education. Highlighting the importance of art and literature in the society he said that no society can survive and groom without it as this is one of the characteristics which differentiate us from machines. He said that art creates harmony, love and positivity in society which is the most needed aspect nowadays. University had planned this event in the start of this year, but due to Coronavirus it was delayed, he said. Arts promote an advanced level of thinking that can be applied in other academic disciplines and beyond, he said. He thanked the artists and the organizers Aridian Literary Society and Senior Tutor Office whose effort made this event successful. He also distributed shields and certificates among the guests.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the naval staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi in a group photo with the members of annual general assembly and executive committee of national rifle association of Pakistan at Navy headquarters Islamabad. – DNA

## ICCI calls for promoting competitive power market

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said the capacity payment obligation, which was Rs.488 billion in 2018 was projected to increase to over Rs.1.4 trillion by 2023 as system utilisation would stand at 55 per cent, compared to 84 percent in 2018

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) said that Pakistan's power sector was marred with multiple issues including high electricity prices for industrial, commercial and domestic consumers, rising circular debt, capacity payment issues, inefficient performance of GENCOs and DISCOS, high transmission and distribution losses and rising power theft losses, therefore, he urged that government should seriously consider to unbundle the power sector by encouraging private sector participation that would address all these issues and promote a competitive power market in the country. He said this while addressing a meeting of the ICCI Executive Body. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said the capacity payment obligation, which was Rs.488 billion in 2018 was projected to increase to over Rs.1.4 trillion by 2023 as system utilisation would stand at 55 per cent, compared to 84 percent in 2018.



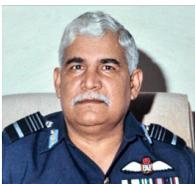
He said that these projections were not good for the economy as it would increase per unit cost of electricity and further enhance the cost of doing business in the country. He said that the circular debt has risen to Rs.2.15 trillion by 2020, which would create more problems for business and investment activities in the country.

He said though the government has claimed that it has taken major initiatives for reducing the cost of power generation that would lead to Rs.300 billion impact over the next three years, however, he stressed that government should prefer unbundling the power sector vertically and horizontally and bring private sector players in the power sector through good incentives in order to promote a highly competitive power market.

ICCI President said that unbundling of banking and telecom sectors have brought phenomenal improvement in performance and service delivery of these sectors besides introducing competitive prices for the end consumers. He said that opening these sectors has also created plenty of

new jobs apart from improving tax revenue for the government. However, keeping the generation and transmission of electricity in the public sector has not produced good results for the economy as it has made Pakistan's energy cost as one of the highest in the region. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that the standard package of reforms prescribed by the international donors for Pakistan also advocated for vertical and horizontal unbundling of power utilities, private sector participation and promoting competition in the power sector. He was of the view that opening the power sector for private sector would produce multiple benefits for the economy as it would reduce the fiscal burden of subsidies being given by the government to the power sector, bring operational efficiencies in the entities, improve financial sustainability and service delivery and reduce power tariffs for end consumers leading to low production cost and better growth of business and investment activities in the country.

## Air chief pays tribute to PAF war veteran



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Legendary PAF fighter pilot Air Marshal (Retd) Dilwar Hussain, who was awarded Sitara-i-Jura'at for his heroics in the 1965 War against India, breathed his last in Islamabad on Tuesday. Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force has expressed heartfelt grief on the sad demise of the great War

Veteran. While paying tribute to Air Marshal (Retd) Dilwar Hussain, the Air Chief acknowledged his heroics during the 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pak Wars. Air Chief further added that he was an exceptional fighter pilot who would always be remembered for his valour and professionalism. Air Marshal (Retd) Dilwar Hussain was born in Quetta in 1940. He was commissioned as a fighter pilot in March, 1962. During 1965 War, he served in No 19 Squadron at PAF Base, Peshawar. Apart from inflicting heavy damage to Indian forces, his formation destroyed 14 aircraft on ground at Pathankot Airfield. For his outstanding bravery and devotion to duty in 1965 War, he was awarded with "Sitara-i-Jura'at".



ISLAMABAD: Senior journalist Ghulam Abar meeting President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi. – DNA

## COMSTECH Int'l workshop, exhibition on AI Starts

Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General, COMSTECH, Dr. Shoab A. Khan, Chancellor, Sir Syed CASE Institute of Technology and Dr. Shahid Mahmud, Chairman & Group CEO – Interactive Group addressed the inaugural session

DNA

ISLAMABAD: 2-day international workshop and exhibition of products of artificial intelligence developed and marketed by various institutions of Pakistan inaugurated today morning at COMSTECH. Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General, COMSTECH, Dr. Shoab A. Khan, Chancellor, Sir Syed CASE Institute of Technology and Dr. Shahid Mahmud, Chairman & Group CEO – Inter-

active Group addressed the inaugural session. Dr. Iqbal informed that we will have to live with new normal now. He said that the paradigm of development has changed and now we have to invest in human resources to accelerate the development of the country. He urged that now its time to fund innovation, and centers of excellence in artificial intelligence. Dr. Iqbal highlighted the role of COMSTECH in science diplomacy and informed about the recent launch of COMSTECH Consortium of Ex-

cellence, a joint initiative of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan and COMSTECH. Dr. Shoab A. Khan, Chancellor, Sir Syed CASE Institute of Technology, talked about the current status and use of the artificial intelligence in his opening remarks. He highlighted the importance of the AI and showed the use and benefits of this technology in general and in the area of healthcare. He stressed the need to have a policy and strategy to nurture, adopt, develop, and implement AI

in Pakistan to ultimately reap the benefits of this technology. Dr. Shahid highlighted the importance of the artificial intelligence and its impact on the world. He mentioned that how AI technologies are changing the world. Dr. Shahid said that technology billionaire individuals are rich than many countries in the world due to the application of these modern technologies. He urged that Pakistan must have strategy to trigger the potential of artificial intelligence. On the exhi-

bition floor 11 exhibitors from Pakistan have their AI products on display and eight researchers have their products, ideas poster presentation. The workshop consists upon six technical sessions which are being conducted by eighteen experts from Pakistan, United Kingdom, and Austria. It is being attended by a large audience virtually from OIC member states and a certain number of people are attending it in-person at COMSTECH Auditorium as per COVID SOPs.

## Book launching ceremony held

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Council of the Arts in collaboration with Halqa Ilam-o-Adab Pakistan arranged a launching ceremony of the book 'Phool se Lipti Aag' by Khalid Mehmood Malik. The ceremony was presided over by international fame poet and intellectual Iftikhar Arif while senior poet Naseem-e-Saher and Dr Farhat Abbas were chief guests while Dr Abid Sial was guest of honor of the ceremony.

Addressing at the occasion, Iftikhar Arif said that poetry was the name of sensitive feelings and the poetry of Khalid Mehmood was also in the phase of transition. Naseem-e-Saher and Dr Farhat Abbas said that poetry had its important place in literature. Khalid Mehmood expressed many difficult things in the form of poems in a very beautiful way. A large number of people belonging to the literary circles were present at the event.

## Zong launches 'Taleem Bundle' for AIOU

ISLAMABAD: To equip students with the fastest data connectivity for distant and e-learning programs, Zong has introduced a comprehensive data package 'Taleem Bundle' for the students of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU). Zong 4G's partnership with AIOU is a testament to relentless focus on digital inclusion for the masses and youth, said a news release. Zong 4G is a frontrunner of the ICT-powered digital transformation in the country helping key sectors to adopt digitization and providing them innovative tools to keep abreast with the global digital revolution. "Taleem bundle is a joint venture of AIOU and Zong 4G which will enable e-learning and encourage students to benefit from distant-learning. Zong 4G is aligned with Government of Pakistan's ambition of a Digital Pakistan and our partnership with AIOU is in-line with our commitment of enabling the country's development through digital solutions," said the spokesperson of CMPAK Zong 4G. The 4G network of the country is focusing on digital inclusion and supporting students with the best data connectivity in Pakistan. The strategic collaboration will enable seamless connectivity and unmatched services to these students for an enhanced learning experience. "We are grateful to Zong 4G for its contributions and support in developing customized data bundle for our students at a very nominal cost. Through the partnership, we aim to provide social service to those students who are from humbler backgrounds and cannot afford to access their education online," said AIOU Dean Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood. – APP

## Police apprehends 153 alms seekers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police have arrested 153 beggars during last 24 hours with an objective to curb the menace of begging and initiated a legal process by registering First Information Report against professional alms seekers and their handlers. Islamabad police have launched special campaign to curb this curse following the directions from Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Amir Zulfikar and Deputy Inspector General (DIG) (Operations) Waqar Uddin Syed and nabbed 153 beggars during last 24 hours. DIG (Operations) Waqar Uddin Syed has directed to shift child beggars to Shelters Homes and Protection Centers for their proper upbringing and making them a responsible citizen. He has directed all Superintendents of Police (SPs) to keep vigilant eye against beggars outside Masajid, Imambarghas as well as at markets and ensure arrest of professional alms seekers. DIG (Operations) said this social evil would be curbed and those backing the professional beggars would be dealt with an iron hand.

## Baseless reports

**T**HERE were staggered reports on Sunday of a possible meeting between US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, along with Israel's PM, Benjamin Netanyahu, and Saudi Crown Prince, Mohammad bin Salman, for the first time in history. However this has been roundly denied by Saudi authorities. The meeting, according to KSA, was between Pompeo and Saudi officials only. The fact that Saudi Arabia has put the rumours to bed shows that attempts to change the politics of the Middle Eastern region will not succeed so easily.

The one thing that continues to remain the same, as it has in the past, is our stance on the Palestinian cause. The external affairs of any ally are beyond the concerns of our government, and that is how it should remain. So long as we are steadfast in our efforts and commitment towards providing relief to the people of Palestine, any potential influence that countries like Israel may amass in the Middle East are of little significance here at home.

It is also worth noting that the meeting was claimed by Israeli officials, which shows its desperation. As far as we know, the Kingdom has always declined any efforts to enhance ties with Israel on the basis of demanding the Palestinian cause to be put forward first and this has not changed. This just shows that spoilers in the region will continue to attempt to sow discord to get even the most minor gain. What must be prevented in the status quo is the threat to Palestine's movement. This would involve highlighting the grievances of the people, addressing any immoral steps taken to secure political objectives by any party involved and to give a voice to the country on an international forum—something that Pakistan intends on doing.

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## Protecting ourselves from Covid-19

MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

**T**HE decision was taken by the Federal Minister of Education to close educational institutes across Pakistan from November 26, 2020, to January 10, 2021. With the second wave of Covid-19 stronger than its predecessor, children are again more vulnerable. Moreover, the winter season tends to accentuate the strength of any virus. Precautionary and preventive measures to be taken in this regard is of the highest priority. With the Learning Management System (LMS) and an online mechanism already in place and functional in schools, colleges, and universities; the educational institutes can continue with online teaching. This was a result of the efforts educational institutes had put in to create an online learning mechanism when the first lockdown was implemented across Karachi in March 2020.

The second phase of the lockdown of educational institutes will also include winter vacations from December 25, 2020, to January 10, 2021, as stated by the Federal Ministry during a press conference on November 23, 2020. Parents need to keep a strict eye on their children. If the educational institutes are closed, then the children must stay at home and not roam around the neighborhood with friends on foot or on bicycles. Parents and elders must not take children to the market or parks. The safety of all children is of the utmost importance. Special care must be taken to prevent them from touching surfaces. Parents must keep the interior of their homes clean and properly sanitized. The maid coming to work at home must also be sanitized. Parents and elders returning from the office should keep their clothes separately and put their shoes outside in the open. We can protect ourselves from Covid-19 by actively pursuing precautionary measures.

## Beware CPEC

Hassan Daud Butt



In the socio economic development front both sides are keen to accelerate the progress as the recent natural calamities including pandemic Covid-19 have made us to realize that in order to combat the challenges, partnerships needs to be strengthened to draw a new normal where harmony can be achieved through economic integration. In coming years there will be burn centers across major cities of Pakistan

**A**S preparations for 10th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting of the CPEC get into full swing, this year the meeting will be held in an environment where production and distribution systems across the globe have been impacted by the COVID-19 virus and therefore, cooperation within regional partners and global markets is imperative. In this changing scenario, the meeting will be held in an increased atmosphere of cordiality, friendship, mutual trust and desire to explore new avenues for cooperation. But as we approach the meeting dates the negative campaign by naysayers will commence maintaining proclivity as has been the pattern in last seven years since China announced its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Pakistan commenced CPEC. The most popular and frequently repeated false narrative is around the 'Debt trap' which I believe has outlived its life. Under the 9 completed projects and 13 on-going projects, over 70,000 direct jobs have already been created under CPEC and another 450,000 direct jobs could be generated in next 4 to 5 years which mainly depends on commencement of the SEZ's and Gwadar Free Trade Zone. Despite COVID-19, since last JCC significant progress has been made on projects under Gwadar with the port becoming operational for Afghan transit trade, first fishing vessel with 200 tones cargo arriving on 20th November, IA/PPA for 300 MW power plant in final stage of process, work on Gwadar airport and vocational center starting and that of connecting the port to the Coastal highway through the East Bay expressway nearing its completion and more importantly, new investors registering in the free zone creating new opportunities for local employment. Since start of development work in Gwadar, its opponents have been critical on the progress as is now the case for ML-1 project where the foes know that it is another game changing project which will transform the way we do travel and trade. During past two years, teams led by experts from both sides have worked meticulously on the technical details of the project bringing results

through out of box solutions including for financing, incorporating new technology and discussion of extension beyond Peshawar. The most interesting benefit will be for the engineering universities providing necessary HR for the project. This is bound to bring about a major change on plans for regional connectivity linkages, improving tourism, transfer of knowledge and technology besides developing rural urban synergy in the country which is leading towards a true inclusive growth. The impact of such development initiatives will transform Pakistan into a better place for foreign investors. ML-1 project will be another manifestation of the time tested friendship between the two iron brothers like the one demonstrated during construction of KKH. On the Industrial cooperation front the challenge will be to attract investment that brings export led industry with new technology and support import substitution at a time when economies are getting insulated as an immediate response to the pandemic and investors are becoming risk averse. Pakistan on its part is working on policies favorable to market transactions, such as being open to foreign direct investment, protecting property rights to encourage entrepreneurship and promoting sustainable knowledge investment. With Rashakai, Dhabheji and Faisalabad SEZs all set for starting development work, efforts need to be to remove bottlenecks in the banking processes, provision of utilities and crafting regionally competitive incentive packages spurring growth and employment under the vision of the PM Imran Khan who strongly believes that "CPEC is great opportunity for Pakistan. CPEC connect Pakistan to China which is one of the biggest markets." The industrial development is likely to take place in two stages as in the initial stage it is expected that the SEZs will be occupied by labour intensive industries followed by modern hi-tech industries that will demand workers possess a combination of high tech skills. In the socio economic development front both sides are keen to accelerate the progress as the recent natural calamities including pandemic

Covid-19 have made us to realize that in order to combat the challenges, partnerships needs to be strengthened to draw a new normal where harmony can be achieved through economic integration. In coming years there will be burn centers across major cities of Pakistan. Health care equipment including ambulances are also being provided through Chinese grant and some of the latest technology is coming in vocational training and HEC projects are also going in the same direction by providing virtual training to students. Under Agriculture JWG, establishment of Center of Excellence in the fields of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cotton Research and Establishment of FMD Free Zones are being contemplated. Action plans in agriculture and oil and gas are also being prepared. Similarly, under the newly established JWG for science and technology host of new initiatives are being discussed for embracing the 4th Industrial revolution (4IR).

As a developing country in transition, Pakistan faces numerous challenges and opportunities in the process of industrialization. In this process to becoming "Gateway of Prosperity", CPEC will be confronted by number of opponents who are aware that the initiative is not only linking Pakistan and China but is also creating new job opportunities, poverty reduction, and development and boost sustainable industrial growth. In response to this negative narrative all we have to do is to echo Mr Zhao li Jian Spokesman & DDG, Information Department, Foreign Ministry, China who recently stated that "any attempt to sabotage the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project would not succeed".

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## "Forced marriage, crime against humanity"

Sana Saeed

Force is a shameful act that people do. This act shouldn't be allowed to do not only in Pakistan but all over the world. First of all, our religion Islam forbade us the forced marriage of a child. We can take an example of Hazrat Fatima and Hazrat Ali that, When Hazrat Ali came to Holy Prophet about the relation of Hazrat Fatima, Holy Prophet firstly went to the Hazrat Fatima and asked about this relation. When Hazrat Fatima accepts this proposal then Holy Prophet accepts this relation, and after this, then Hazrat Ali and Hazrat Fatima get Nikkahfied

**F**ORCED marriage is a crime against humanity because everyone has their own rights and their own independence related to its life.

The types of forced marriages are not to be confused with an arranged marriage which occurs mainly in peacetime. In our society, many people think that arrange marriage in some context a forced marriage is, but this is not true. An arranged marriage is a marriage that is planned and agreed upon by the families or guardians of the couple concerned. A forced marriage totally differs from an arranged marriage, in which both parties presumably consent to the assistance of their parents or a third party such as a matchmaker in finding and choosing a spouse.

Forced marriage is not only an issue of the past; it is prevalent in conflicts around all over the world today. Pakistan is going backward due to force marriage. Force marriage is mostly done in the rural areas of Pakistan due to poverty and illiteracy. Many parents engaged their children in their childhood, and when they become elder their parents told them that they are engaged by someone and now they will be married by them and when they refuse to get marry with them their

parent's strong manual with them and force marry them. Mostly Parents marriage their girls at an early age to get free from their finance and low the burden of poverty. They think that this is a better way to get free from poverty. But due to unawareness, this is not good for the girl who is going to be married at an early age of her life.

Forced marriage is a viable crime, i.e. capable of living a separate existence. Only parents are not responsible for this act, it is done by the relatives and neighbors also. Parents' marriage their child for the fear of honor that if their children do some act which may ashamed them, parents' marriage their children.

Force is a shameful act that people do. This act shouldn't be allowed to do not only in Pakistan but all over the world. First of all, our religion Islam forbade us the forced marriage of a child. We can take an example of Hazrat Fatima and Hazrat Ali that, When Hazrat Ali came to Holy Prophet about the relation of Hazrat Fatima, Holy Prophet firstly went to the Hazrat Fatima and asked about this relation. When Hazrat Fatima accepts this proposal then Holy Prophet accepts this relation, and after this, then Hazrat Ali and Hazrat Fatima get Nikkahfied.

This highlights the point that marriage should be done by mutual agreements, not to force a child to marry someone. Forced marriage is a social issue, and this act never successful in society. The society members that are victims of this act by themselves try to convince other people to don't do this shameful act to others. Force marriage can affect mental health/stability, shatter the confidence of an individual, and may lead to the social isolation of the individual, it may also lead even to suicide. Force marriage has a negative impact on society like people start fearing of marriage as a negative act, trust issues in society and cause disability in society. Forced marriage is a crime not only in specific countries, it is a crime all over the world. Forced marriage is a shameful act that people do because everyone has their own rights related to their lives. Parents and relatives shouldn't force a girl or a boy for marriage because they have to spend life so it should their own opinion that from which one, they want to marry or not. Governments should make strict rules and appropriate laws against this act. Moreover, we should work on moral values, learn from the incidents, and try to educate people about our surroundings as well.

## Briefs

Cabinet  
okays  
anti-rape  
ordinance

From Page 01

The Economic Affairs Division informed the Cabinet that at present the repayment of 1.7 billion dollars to 2 billion dollars of loans taken during the period of May to December this year has been extended by the G-20 countries.

The Cabinet authorized the Secretary Economic Affairs Division to enter into agreements for debt rescheduling with 16 G-20 countries.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister of Industries and Production Hammad Azhar said the government imported around 1,25,000 tons of sugar due to which a decline of 10 to 12 rupees per kilogramme at the ex-mill price of the commodity has been witnessed in last ten days. He said the imported sugar is being provided at the rate of around 81 rupees per kilogramme at facilitation centers in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, whereas the commodity is available at 4000 Utility Stores, across Pakistan at 68 rupees per kilogramme.

EU provides  
€10m  
support for  
refugees

From Page 01

In the WASH sector, the EU's contribution will help enable UNHCR to upgrade or construct facilities such as toilets, handwash basins and water pumps in schools, health centres and communal facilities in or close to refugee villages – benefiting both refugees and Pakistanis. In terms of social protection, the assistance will contribute to UNHCR's emergency cash programme for the most vulnerable registered Afghan refugees in Pakistan. The one-time cash assistance mitigates the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic by helping refugees meet their basic needs.

In addition, the project – covering a three-year period – aims to support the COVID-19 recovery through medium-term interventions, such as income-generating activities and technical and vocational skills training. This will ultimately help provide new skill sets to both refugees and their host communities.

PM directs to  
start vaccine  
production

From Page 01

vaccine among its citizens before sending it out to countries who are its allies," the letter stated, according to sources. PM Imran Khan also directed the health ministry to immediately send him the recommendations once consultations have been carried out with all the stakeholders. On November 21, the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) had approved a technical supplementary grant worth \$150 million to book coronavirus vaccines from international manufacturers.

Pakistan-  
Jordan have  
historic ties:  
Qaiser

From Page 01

He expressed the need to further enhance cooperation at CPA and IPU level for joint input on issues confronting region and the world at large. He also stressed the need to tackle growing trend of Islamophobia in the West. He said that Muslim Ummah should adopt a common strategy to eradicate Islamophobia.

Ambassador Major General (R) Ibrahim Yala Al-Madani said that Jordan also values its close fraternal relations with Pakistan and seeks to expand them further. He said that Jordan seeks to boost economic and trade cooperation with Pakistan. He said that undoubtedly there are excellent trade opportunities between the two countries that can be tapped for mutual benefit. He agreed for further enhancing parliamentary ties between the legislatures of Pakistan and Jordan. He said that apart from cooperation in diverse economic sectors, collaboration to tap tourism potential in Pakistan and Jordan should also be pondered.



KABUL: Pakistan Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry meeting held at Pakistan embassy Kabul. Both sides agreed on promoting trade, business and connectivity between Pakistan and Afghanistan. – DNA

Senior European official  
welcomes Karabakh peace deal

The declaration envisages the return of occupied Kalbajar region on November 25, Aghdam region on November 20, Lachin region on December 1, 2020

## FOREIGN DESK

BRUSSELS: Council of Europe Secretary-General Marija Buric has welcomed the Russia-brokered agreement signed by Azerbaijan and Armenia on the complete ceasefire and cessation of all military operations in and around Nagorno-Karabakh. Marija Buric expressed this opinion in a letter to Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov, the ministry reported on 23 November. The secretary-general stressed

that she will continue to monitor the situation on the implementation of the agreement.

Meanwhile, the head of the EU delegation to Azerbaijan, Ambassador Kestutis Jankauskas, said that the EU has been cooperating with Azerbaijan and the region for peace and development.

He made the remarks as part of his visit to liberated Azerbaijani region of Fuzuli on November 22 with a group of foreign diplomats and Azerbaijani presidential aide Hikmat Hajiyev.



"We saw ruins in Fuzuli with our own eyes. Everyone who visits Fuzuli asks himself - what is war, what is destruction?"

What everyone, every person and family want is development and peace," he told Azertag.

He expressed the hope that similar events will not repeat again.

"We hope that such events will not occur again in the future. Everyone who comes here sees what is war, destruction and peace. All of this shows the difference between war and peace. I express my gratitude to the Azerbaijani officials for organizing this visit, as we were able to see all of this with our own eyes," he added. On November 10, 2020, Azerbaijani President Ilham

Aliyev, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a trilateral declaration on the complete cessation of hostilities in the Nagorno-Karabakh region. Under the declaration, complete ceasefire and the cessation of all military operations in the zone of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict was announced from 00:00 November 10, 2020. The declaration envisages the return of occupied Kalbajar region to Azerbaijan on November 25, Aghdam region on November 20, Lachin region on December 1, 2020.

Belarus to  
promote linking of  
BRI with EAEU

## DNA

MINSK: Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said his country will promote the linking of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative with the integration process of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). The Belt and Road Initiative is a project that gives concrete results, Lukashenko said on Tuesday when accepting the credentials from China's new ambassador to Belarus Xie Xiaoyong. Belarus will do its best to promote the Belt and Road Initiative and will contrib-

ute to its docking with the EAEU, Lukashenko said. Lukashenko also said the nature of Belarus-China relations is a comprehensive strategic partnership of mutual trust and win-win cooperation. Xie praised the China-Belarus cooperation on all fronts, including the importance of mutual support between China and Belarus during the difficult time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The China-Belarus comprehensive strategic partnership has kept developing steadily since the two countries established diplomatic relations 28 years ago, the ambassador said.

Pakistan squad arrives  
in Christchurch

## DNA

CHRISTCHURCH: The National squad has arrived in Christchurch to play the T20I and Test series against New Zealand, scheduled to start from December 18. Upon arrival in New Zealand, the 54-member contingent comprising of men's team and Shaheens was divided into four different groups. The national squad first arrived in Auckland and flew for Christchurch. They will

stay in isolation at the Hilton Hotel for 14 days. The first COVID-19 test for all members of the squad will take place on November 25. If tested negative, the national squad will be allowed to train in a biosecure environment after three days of complete isolation. The 14-day isolation policy will allow all groups to train at their own specific time and place. It must be noted that Pakistan will play three T20Is and two Tests while Shaheens will play four T20Is and two four-day matches.

ICC announces awards of decade,  
only two Pakistanis nominated

## SPORTS DESK

Karachi: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced awards of the decade this time around instead of regular yearly awards. 60 nominations have been named across ten men's and women's categories. ICC has decided that the fans will pick the winners of these awards by voting. Winners will be announced on December 18, 2020. From Pakistan, only Misbah-ul-Haq and Yasir

Shah have been nominated. Misbah is nominated for the ICC Spirit of Cricket Award of the Decade while Yasir Shah is nominated for Men's Test Player of the Decade.

The 46-year-old Misbah claimed the spirit of the year award in 2016. He was adjudged the winner for inspiring his side to play the game in its true spirit, at the same time lifting the Pakistan cricket team from number four to number one on the ICC Test team rankings. The 34-year-old Yasir is the

second joint-fastest to take 100 wickets while he is the fastest to take 200 wickets in Test cricket. He is taken 224 wickets until now in 42 matches played.

Here is the complete list of players nominated in various categories. Virat Kohli (India), Kane Williamson (New Zealand), Joe Root (England), Steve Smith (Australia), AB de Villiers (South Africa), Ravichandran Ashwin (India), Kumar Sangakkara (Sri Lanka), Ellyse Perry (Australia), Meg Lanning

(Australia), Suzie Bates (New Zealand), Stafanie Taylor (West Indies), Mithali Raj (India), Sarah Taylor (England), Virat Kohli (India), Joe Root (England), Kane Williamson (New Zealand), Steve Smith (Australia), James Anderson (Sri Lanka), Yasir Shah (Pakistan), Virat Kohli (India), Lasith Malinga (Sri Lanka), Mitchell Starc (Australia), Rohit Sharma (India), MS Dhoni (India), Kumar Sangakkara (Sri Lanka), AB de Villiers (South Africa).



MALE: Ambassador of Pakistan to Maldives vice admiral (R) Ather Mukhtar met with president and members of the CSC, Maldives and discussed for enhancing existing cooperation, agreed to work together for provision of best training and development opportunities to the Civil Servants. – DNA

## Palestinians slam Pompeo over pro-Israel efforts

The statement included a move to allow products made in the occupied territories to be labeled "Made in Israel," a clear contradiction to recent UN Security Council resolutions and efforts by the EU to reject such labeling

AMMAN: Palestinian officials have downplayed the effectiveness of a statement by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo during his recent visit to Israeli settlements in the West Bank. The statement included a move to allow products made in the occupied territories to be labeled "Made in Israel," a clear contradiction to recent UN Security Council resolutions and efforts by the EU to reject such labeling.

Nasser Al-Kiddwa, former Palestinian envoy to the UN, told Arab News that the US efforts are "dangerous," despite being ineffective.

"This is a dangerous move even though it will not have much of an effect and is reversible," he said.

In harsh comments, Al-Kiddwa said that, while President Donald Trump's administration is keen to help Israelis and settlers, the country's efforts constitute helping Israel "commit a war crime."

"While the Trump team wants to support settlements and settlers, their action makes the US an accomplice in a war crime," he said. Al-Kiddwa said the Pompeo statement violates UN Council Resolution 2334, which calls for differentiating between the West Bank and Israel. He said it was also a clear violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Jamal Dajani, a lecturer at San Francisco State university, said the Trump administration is not "recognizing the reality on the ground," but rather creating its own fictitious reality by implementing Benjamin Netanyahu's settler-colonial vision.

Dajani, who previously served as director of strategic communications and media in the Palestinian prime minister's office, said the "true reality on the ground" is that Area C in the West Bank is an internationally recognized occupied territory. He added that the presence of Israeli colonial settlements in the region is a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which states: "The Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies." Al-Kiddwa, who is a member

of the Fatah Central Committee, told Arab News that the US action will not alter the international consensus. "This is a biased administration that does not care about international law or the future of the region." He called on the newly elected administration in the US to reverse the decision.

"As a world citizen, I believe that the new administration must reverse all the decisions that were carried out without coordination with the US Congress, which are in clear violation of the way things are carried out," he said. Wadie Abunassar, a Haifa-based political analyst and the director of the International Centre for Consultations, told Arab News

that the Trump administration has ignored the more than 7 million Palestinians to the west of the Jordan River. "This administration repeatedly damaged US chances to be perceived as an honest broker by the vast majority of Middle East residents. The US would do well by respecting international law and encouraging Israel to do so." Senior Palestinian officials contacted by Arab News said that the gifts being bestowed on the Netanyahu government will not change anything on the ground.

"Trump and Pompeo are playing in lost time and their actions will not change anything regarding the occupied territories." – APP

England to  
allow up to  
4,000 fans

## SPORTS DESK

LONDON: The British government has said up to 4,000 spectators will be allowed to attend outdoor elite sporting events in the lowest-risk areas of England when a month-long lockdown to slow the spread of coronavirus is lifted next week. The announcement on Monday will permit the resumption of attendance from December 2 at football, rugby and racecourses, among other sport. Supporters have not been allowed into sporting venues since the first lockdown was announced in March, barring a few exceptions.

The crowd ceiling will be set at 4,000, or half the stadium capacity, whichever is lower, in the lowest-risk "tier one" parts of England once a stricter lockdown due to the pandemic ends, the government said. In "tier two" areas, the limit will be 2,000 outdoors, or half the capacity, it added. In the highest "tier three" regions where COVID-19 remains acute, no spectators will be allowed. The government said it would announce which regions of England will be placed in each tier on Thursday, based on the latest weekly coronavirus data. English Premier League matches have continued behind closed doors during the second lockdown announced on November 1.

Prior to the current lockdown, most of the country including London was in "tier two". But three of the biggest Premier League clubs – Liverpool, Manchester United and Manchester City – are located in the highest "tier three" areas, so it remains to be seen whether they will be allowed to admit fans after December 2. The government said that where spectators are allowed, only home fans will be permitted, to prevent unnecessary travel on public transport by opposing fans.

Army ready  
to thwart all  
challenges:  
COAS

From Page 01

Forum showed serious concern in the wake of irrefutable evidence of Indian state sponsored terrorism and efforts to destabilize Pakistan. Indian efforts to sabotage CPEC, involvement in financing and training of terrorist organizations for fomenting unrest in Pakistan, especially in AJK, GB and Balochistan are an affront to peace and security in the region, forum emphasised.

Deliberating upon recent surge in Cease Fire Violations (CFVs) by the Indian Army, forum resolved to take all measures necessary to protect innocent population living along LOC from Indian firing deliberately targeting civil population.

Forum expressed strong will, resolve and determination to defend the motherland against any misadventure. Forum also deliberated upon the COVID-19 situation and measures required to confront the pandemic in the wake of 2nd wave. COAS specifically directed all commanders to ensure measures to support the national effort.

Waseem to  
fight Filipino  
boxer on  
Dec19

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's top pro boxer Muhammad Waseem will have his first-ever fight in the country as he is all set to compete with Jency Boy Boca of the Philippines for the WBC Middle East Title in Lahore, next month. The erstwhile world flyweight title challenger Waseem (10-1, 7 KOs) will be fighting Jency Boy (14-6 12 KOs) on an Amir Khan Promotions event, scheduled to be held on December 19 at the Governor House. "All paperwork has been agreed by Governor Punjab Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar," British boxer of Pakistan-origin Amir Khan said in a statement on Tuesday. He said that due to a flare-up in Covid-19 cases during the ongoing second wave of the pandemic the fight would be taking place without spectators. "However, PTV Sports has confirmed that it'll live telecast the event for two hours." According to Amir, co-main fight will be held between Pakistan's Nadir Baloch and Jawad Hassan of Afghanistan. While there will be four other exhibition bouts too. – APP

## Briefs

## Ready to talk with Hamas: Israeli defense chief

## FOREIGN DESK

JERUSALEM: Meeting with the UN special coordinator for the Middle East peace process Monday, Israel's defense minister expressed his country's readiness to engage in talks with Palestinian group Hamas aimed at improving conditions in the blockaded Gaza Strip. On Twitter, Benny Gantz expressed his gratitude to the UN's Nikolai Mladenov "for helping facilitate the resumption of coordination with the Palestinian Authority," and also to discuss what he called "Hamas' violation of our sovereignty in the south." Gantz added that Israel is prepared "to arrive at a solution and contribute to improved conditions for the residents of Gaza" provided an understanding is reached that includes the release of Israeli soldiers detained by Hamas. There was no immediate Hamas response to Gantz's remarks. Last week, Palestinian Civil Affairs Minister Hussein Al-Sheikh wrote on Twitter: "In light of the calls made by President (Mahmoud) Abbas regarding Israel's commitment to the bilateral signed agreements, & based on the official written and oral letters we received, confirming Israel's commitment to them. Accordingly, the relationship with Israel will return to how it was." The Gaza Strip suffers from an acute shortage of food and medical supplies plus extreme unemployment compounded by a severe electricity crisis as a result of the Israeli blockade imposed on it since 2007.

## 'Turkey plays key role in fight against terrorism'

BRUSSELS : Turkey has played a key role in the fight against terrorism, providing infrastructure and platforms for liberating territories controlled by Daesh/ISIS, NATO's secretary general said Monday. Speaking at the 66th Annual Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, Jens Stoltenberg made the comments while addressing questions from parliament members. Speaking during the session, German lawmaker and NATO Parliamentary Assembly member Jurgen Trittin claimed that Turkey does not share NATO's values and there is no rule of law in the country. Trittin also claimed that Turkey is breaching the UN arms embargo in Libya and threatening German vessels in the Eastern Mediterranean. "Shouldn't we look at Turkey not as a partner, but as a spoiler and threat to NATO?" he said. In reply, Stoltenberg said: "Turkey is a valuable ally and an important ally because they play a key role, for instance, in the fight against international terrorism." He said Turkey is the only NATO ally fighting against Daesh/ISIS in Iraq and Syria. "They've been important in providing the infrastructure and platforms for liberating the territories controlled by ISIS. "No other ally suffered more terrorist attacks than Turkey, and no other ally hosts more refugees - close to 4 million refugees," he added. - APP

## China launches historic mission to moon

## FOREIGN DESK

BEIJING: China on Tuesday launched a historic mission to moon to collect "first lunar samples," state-run media reported. The spacecraft will "collect and return samples from the moon" Xinhua news agency said, adding that it will be the country's "first attempt to retrieve samples from an extraterrestrial body." China's indigenous Long March-5 rocket carried the "Chang'e-5" spacecraft which blasted off from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site on the coast of southern island province of Hainan province at around 4:30 a.m. local time (2030 GMT Monday). It has been named after the Chinese moon goddess. The spacecraft is "world's first moon-sample mission for more than 40 years" and one of the most complicated and challenging missions in China's aerospace history, the report said.



SAKAKA: Ambassador of Pakistan to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Raja Ali Ejaz called on Prince Faisal bin Nawaf bin Abdulaziz, Governor of Al-Jouf region. - DNA

## Pakistan exports to UK increased by 30 percent

The officials further said that total trade volume between Pakistan and the UK during October 2020 stood at US \$ 248 million compared to US \$ 216 million achieved the same month of October 2019 depicting an increase of 15 percent

LONDON: Pakistan exports to the United Kingdom (UK), during the month of October 2020, registered at US \$ 200 million as compared to US \$ 154 million realized in the corresponding month of last year showing an increase of 30 percent. According to Economic Trade and Investment Wing of Pakistan High Commission London, Pakistan imports from the UK in October 2020 stood at US \$ 48 million compared to the imports of US \$ 62 million in the corresponding month of last fiscal year showing a negative growth of (-23 percent). The officials further said that total trade vol-

ume between Pakistan and the UK during October 2020 stood at US \$ 248 million compared to US \$ 216 million achieved the same month of October 2019 depicting an increase of 15 percent. Similarly, the balance of trade between the two countries during the month of October 2020 registered at US \$ 152 million compared to US \$ 92 million in the same period of 2019 indicating an increase of 65 percent. They added that all major export categories during the month of October registered remarkable increase in the UK markets despite COVID-19 pandemic and suppressed demand

and reduced global imports. The chapters, they said, which registered increase included Home textile (27 percent), Apparel non-knit or crocheted (16 percent) and Articles of apparel, accessories, knit or crocheted (26 percent). Other chapters which have shown increase were Cereals (55 percent), Beverages, spirits and vinegar (100 percent), Vegetables, fruits, nuts etc, food preparations (55 percent) etc. They said that chapters where Pakistan's exports registered decline during the month of October 2020 were Articles of leather (19 percent), Toys,

games, sports requisites (4 percent) and Edible, fruit, nuts, peel of citrus fruits, and melons (48 percent). They said that imports into Pakistan from the UK recorded considerable decline of 23 percent which helped Pakistan further improve its trade balance with the UK by 65 percent. Pakistan's Exports to the United Kingdom (UK) during the July-September 2020-21, despite COVID-19 stood at US \$ 465 million as compared to US \$ 414 million achieved same period of the last fiscal year, depicting an increase of 12 percent. Pakistan imports to the UK during the period July-Sep-

tember 2020-21 also registered US \$ 152 million as compared to US \$ of 168 million achieved in the corresponding period of last fiscal year registering a decrease of Minus (-10) percent. Similarly, the bilateral trade volume during July-Sept 2020-21 registered at US \$ 617 million as compared to US \$ 582 million achieved in the same period of last fiscal, depicting an increase of 6 percent. Similarly, the balance of trade during July-Sept 2020-21 was US \$ 313 million compared to US \$ 246 million in the same period of previous fiscal showing an increase of 27 percent. - APP

## UN decries 'structural racism' in Brazil

GENEVA: The UN said Tuesday the deadly beating of a black man by white guards in Brazil exemplified "structural racism", and called for an independent investigation and urgent reforms in the country. Several days of protest have erupted in Porto Alegre, southern Brazil, after video footage last week showed 40-year-old welder Joao Alberto Silveira Freitas being punched in the face and head by a supermarket security guard while another guard held him. Ravina Shamdasani, a spokeswoman with the UN rights office, told reporters during a virtual briefing in Geneva that his killing was "an extreme but sadly all too common example of the violence suffered by Black people in Brazil." "It offers a stark illustration of the persistent structural discrimination and racism people of African descent face," she said. She said government officials had a responsibility to acknowl-

edge the underlying problem of persisting racism as the first essential step towards solving it. Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has downplayed structural racism in Brazil, where around 55 percent of its population of 212 million identifies as black or mixed-race. Bolsonaro has insisted he himself is "colour blind", while his vice president Hamilton Mourao also caused an outcry Friday when he said "there is no racism" in Brazil. Shamdasani however insisted that "structural racism, discrimination and violence people of African descent face in Brazil is documented by official data." She pointed to statistics showing that "the number of Afro-Brazilian victims of homicide is disproportionately higher than other groups. "Black Brazilians endure structural and institutional racism, exclusion, marginalisation and violence, with, in many cases, lethal consequences," she said. - APP



KUWAIT CITY: Ambassador of Pakistan to Kuwait Syed Sajjad Haider met with Lt. Gen. Essam Salem Al Nahaam, under secretary of Kuwait Interior Ministry. During the meeting both sides discussed issues of mutual interest. - DNA

## Sajjad Haider presents credentials to Lukashenko

Ambassador Khan conveyed the readiness of Pakistani leadership to further strengthen the bilateral ties in the years ahead. Highlighting the broad framework of cooperation and mechanisms in place

## DNA

MINSK: On 24 November 2020, the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Republic of Belarus Mr. Sajjad Haider Khan presented his Credentials to the President of Belarus, His Excellency Alexander Lukashenko. During the short conversation after the credentials ceremony, President Lukashenko underlined the importance attached by Belarus to its relationship with Pakistan. The president highlighted the possibility of enhancing relations in the key areas of agriculture, industry, education, healthcare and pharmaceuticals. He

shared his desire to see the uninterrupted growth of bilateral ties between the two countries and hoped that Prime Minister Imran Khan would be able to pay his first official visit to Minsk in the near future. On this occasion, appreciating the momentum of growth of cooperation between the two friendly countries ever since the establishment of embassies in Islamabad and Minsk in 2014 and 2015 respectively, Ambassador Khan conveyed the readiness of Pakistani leadership to further strengthen the bilateral ties in the years ahead. Highlighting the broad framework of cooperation and mechanisms in place, the Ambassador expressed his



commitment to work towards increasing the momentum of bilateral cooperation in all fields including political, trade, investment and economic cooperation between Pakistan and

Belarus. Diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Belarus were formally established in 1994 and since then both countries have enjoyed warm friendly relations. In a short span of

time, Pakistan and Belarus have been able to evolve the bilateral relationship into a durable partnership by establishing multiple mechanisms of bilateral cooperation including Joint Economic Commission, Bilateral Political Consultations, Joint Working Groups on Industry, Agriculture, Science & Technology and robust defense cooperation. Ambassador Khan is a career diplomat, with over 20 years of experience. He has served in the embassies of Pakistan in Indonesia, Germany, Hungary, Syria and Saudi Arabia in different capacities besides working at the Headquarters in Islamabad in Americas Division, Africa Division, Europe Division and Human Resource Division.

## 'Inmates killed in Colombia riot shot intentionally'

## WEB DESK

New evidence indicates most of the 24 inmates killed during a prison riot in Colombia's capital earlier this year were shot to death intentionally, according to a report by Human Rights Watch. The organisation on Tuesday said autopsy reports it commissioned from independent forensic experts shed light on one of the deadliest prison uprisings in the nation's recent history. The Independent Forensic Expert Group and the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims concluded none of the dead was shot in a way that indicated whoever fired only wanted to injure them. "Most of the gunshot wounds described in the autopsy reports are consistent with having been produced with the objective of killing," the experts found.

The report did not determine who fired in the chaotic moments of the March 21 uprising, but it raises new questions about compliance with international human rights law and the importance of a thorough investigation. "This new report is based on official documentation pointing to the intentional killing of detainees, yet there is little sign of progress in the investigation," said Jose Miguel Vivanco, Americas director at Human Rights Watch.

The Colombian attorney general's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment. In the past, prosecutors have said they are continuing to interview witnesses but have not yet charged anyone in the deaths or injuries.

## China's top diplomat to visit Tokyo, Korea

## FOREIGN DESK

BEIJING: China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi is set to visit Tokyo on Tuesday, marking the first such high-level trip since Japan picked a new leader in September. His visit comes amid mounting concerns over Beijing's growing assertiveness in the region.

It is widely expected that Wang could make a courtesy call on Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, who has so far sought to balance Japan's deep economic reliance on China while addressing security worries, including Beijing's claims over disputed East China Sea islets. While Suga has steered clear of the harsh anti-China rhetoric used by the United States, Japan's key ally, he has moved to counter its influence by deepening ties with Australia and making his first overseas trip to Vietnam and Indonesia. "There are various pending issues between the two countries, so through high-level meetings, it is important to reach solutions to each issue one by one," Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi told reporters on Monday before the bilateral meeting. He said he would have a "frank exchange" of views on bilateral relations with Wang, including on how to resume traffic between the two countries during the pandemic. Japanese media reported that Motegi would also raise concerns about China's beefed-up activity in the East China Sea.

## Case against Netflix over temple kissing scene in show

## FOREIGN DESK

DELHI: A police case has been filed against two executives of online streaming service Netflix after a leader of the governing Hindu nationalist party objected to scenes in the series, A Suitable Boy, in which a Hindu girl kisses a Muslim boy against the backdrop of a Hindu temple. A First Information Report (FIR or official police complaint) was registered in Madhya Pradesh state on Monday against two executives of Netflix for allegedly hurting religious sentiments of Hindus. "It has extremely objectionable scenes that have hurt the feelings of a particular religion," Narottam Mishra, the interior minister of the central state of Madhya Pradesh, said on Twitter. "I've directed police officers to get this controversial content tested" to determine "what legal action can be taken against the producer-director of the film for hurting religious sentiments". "On the basis of a complaint filed by Garuv Tiwari, an FIR is being registered under section 295 (A) (malicious acts to outrage and insulting the religious feelings and beliefs) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) in Rewa against Netflix officials - Monika Shergill and Ambika Khurana," Mishra said in a video statement posted on Twitter.

**Briefs**

**Students' health top priority, says Shafiqat**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education Shafiqat Mahmood on Tuesday said that the decision to close down educational institutes was taken due to non-compliance with government-issued coronavirus SOPs. Talking to a private news channel, students' health was top priority of government and called upon students and teachers to continuously cooperate with authorities in curbing the spread of Covid-19.

Education minister also said that the students should focus on self-improvement and to continue learning during the coronavirus pandemic. He pointed out that the schools were "shut down" but the students were barred from attending it in person. "We have asked schools to adopt an online mechanism." The education minister said those who cannot adopt online schooling should give out homework. "Students or parents can be called once a week to submit the homework." He asserted that schools will remain open till December 24.

Minister said the decision was taken after a "near consensus" was reached during the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) meeting. With the help of online platforms, students can revise their lessons, practice academic exercises, find additional learning materials on difficult topics as well as obtain immediate feedback from their teachers, he said.

**Contempt notices issued to Sindh govt, ECP**

DNA

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court has issued contempt notices to the Sindh government and the Election Commission over their failure to hold local government elections in the province.

The ECP has been instructed to write another letter to the provincial government over the local body polls. Justice Ali Mazhar asked when the elections will be held. The elections were postponed because of the census. The petitioner said that the Sindh government is not able to account for the Rs78 billion it spends every year. The results of the census haven't been made public till now. The Sindh Bureau of Statistics Planning and Development Department told the court that the results will be available soon. The case has been adjourned till December 15. According to Section 20 of the Sindh Local Government Act, 2013, the four-year term of Sindh's local councils expired in August 2020. The ECP is supposed to conduct the elections within 120 months of the expiry of the term. But the area was delimited on the basis of the 1998 census, which has now become obsolete after a fresh census was conducted in 2017.

**MoST to introduce certification program**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Chaudhry Fawad Hussain Tuesday disclosed that his ministry would soon launch animation and video games certification program. "This program will not only serve the purpose of gaming for the youth but prove as a game changer for the young people", the federal minister said in a tweet. Chaudhry Fawad asked the youth, "Be prepared, if you are interested in video games on the phone instead of reading as the Ministry of Science and Technology is launching a special program of video games programming". The minister said the objective of launching this program was to become a part of this 90 billion industry.



ISLAMABAD: Special Representative to the Prime Minister on religious harmony, Maulana Tahir Mehmoed Ashrafi called on Leader of the House in Senate, Senator Dr Shahzad Waseem at his residence. – DNA

**Asad requests masses to practice corona SOPs**

"If we follow these easy steps, Allah will save us from the virus, just like He did during the first wave of the pandemic," the minister concluded

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Asad Umar on Tuesday said that the surge in coronavirus cases across the country is getting worse day by day and if precautions are not taken in a timely manner, patients will be unable to find beds in hospitals, just like it happened in June this year. He was addressing a press conference alongside Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan.

"We started issuing warnings in early October as we had anticipated that the situation will worsen if the COVID-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs) are not strictly followed," Asad Umar said.

He added that back in June, more than 1,750 people across the country suffered from COVID-19-related complications and were in urgent need of oxygen. Meanwhile, others had to be shifted to ventilators. "At that time (in June), people were concerned about not finding beds in hospitals as infections had peaked during the first wave," he recalled. "Looking at the ongoing situation, which arose over the last three weeks, we will be pushed back to a similar situation if SOPs are not followed."

The minister added that in order to contain the rapid spread of the potentially deadly infection, the federal government will direct provincial administrations to speak to religious clerics and mosque Imams so that they could convince the masses to take precautionary measures once again. "Earlier this year, mosques had played a vital role in controlling the coronavirus situation in the country. Gradually, however, people stopped following the SOPs," Asad Umar said. Shedding light on the decisions of the National Coordination Committee (NCC), minister Asad Umar said that the

government has decided to close schools and ban indoor dining, among other measures.

He also appealed to the political parties of the country who are arranging jalsas despite the alarming situation, saying that the National Command Operation Center (NCOC) called to impose a ban on public gatherings – a move that was endorsed by the Islamabad High Court. Citing the example of India and western countries where thousand of people succumbed to the virus and lost their jobs, Asad Umar said that the government does not want a similar situation to arise in Pakistan. "It is the responsibility of political

leaders to spread awareness among the masses regarding the infection. I would myself fail as a politician if I endanger people's lives and livelihood by holding large gatherings," he said.

The minister said that a meeting of the parliamentary committee on coronavirus has been convened tomorrow, adding that he hopes political leadership present at the meeting will seriously consider the situation. "I request the people of Pakistan to follow simple measures like not shaking hands, wearing masks, using hand sanitizers, and observing social distancing to control the pandemic," said Asad Umar.

**BRRC holds first meeting**

DNA

QUETTA: The first meeting of the Balochistan Regulatory Reform Committee (BRRC) was held today in Quetta. Formed with the support and technical assistance of the International Trade Centre (ITC) under the European Union funded Growth for Rural Advancement and Sustainable Progress (GRASP) project, the Planning and Development Department notified the constitution of Balochistan Regulatory Reform Committee (BRRC) on 8th September 2020.

Mr. Ghulam Farooq, Secretary Planning and Development Department, chaired the meeting attended by BRRC members, which included representatives from key provincial government departments, private sector organizations and academia. Secretary Livestock Mr. Tayyab Lahry expressed his interest in the project, and gave his valuable inputs on ways the committee could be mutually beneficial to the GRASP, government institutions, and SME's in the province. Mr. Dawood Bazai, DG Small Industries, Mr. Imran, Additional Secretary Agriculture, representatives from Women Development Department, ITC GRASP staff and other key stakeholders from the agriculture and development sector also joined the event.

**Covid-19 cases soaring at Punjab hospitals**

DNA

LAHORE: The number of the coronavirus cases on rise in Punjab hospitals as this month six times more serious patients have been admitted at hospitals in comparison to the previous month, sources said.

The death rate of COVID-19 patients has also enhanced by three times, sources further said. The rapid increase in coronavirus cases could overwhelm the available facilities in hospitals, apprehended the sources. The hospitals across Punjab have overall 1280 ventilators and over 5000 oxygenated beds. Mayo Hospital in Lahore has maximum 75 ventilators allocated for the novel coronavirus patients. The hospital has presently 30 patients in intensive care unit. According to reports 12 government hospitals have been made corona focal facilities and 161 critical patients have been admitted at these 12 hospitals. Mayo Hospital has most of the corona patients i.e. 89 under treatment, while in 19 private hospitals in Lahore have total 130 patients, according to sources. The Field Hospital at Expo Centre in Lahore has overall 280 oxygen beds available and 40 of them have been fully equipped for the patients.

**Sehat Insaaf Card flagship programme of govt**

DNA

LAHORE: Special Assistant to Punjab Chief Minister on Information Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan on Tuesday said that Sehat Insaaf Card was a flagship programme of PTI government which was facilitating downtrodden and deserving people to avail health-care facilities and treatment for chronic as well as major ailments free of cost.

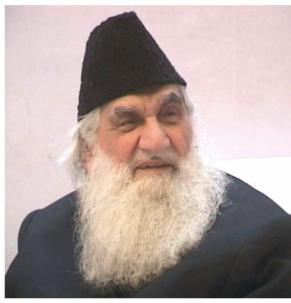
She expressed these views in a ceremony organized for distribution of Sehat Insaaf Cards at Rural Health Centre Jaman Shah in Layyah District, says handout issued here. Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan said that thousands of deserving people were benefiting from the Sehat Insaaf Card scheme across the province. She said that provision of standard health facilities, quality education and timely justice was the top priority of Prime Minister Imran Khan. She said that the nomination of Usman Buzdar as the Punjab Chief Minister proved Prime Minister's love for the people of South Punjab, adding that no one else could better understand and resolve the problems and issues of the region then Usman Buzdar, as he belonged to the people.



ISLAMABAD: Ali Alizada, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan has met with Sohail Mahmood, Foreign Secretary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. – DNA

**APNS grieved over sad demise of Pir Sufaid Shah**

LAHORE: "Hameed Haroon, President, Sarmad Ali, Secretary General, APNS on behalf of the Office Bearers and members of the Society have expressed profound grief over the sad demise of Pir Sufaid Shah Hamdard, a veteran journalist and Chief Editor of Daily Wahdat, Peshawar. Pir Syed Sufaid Shah Hamdard was born in August 1928 in a religious family of Syed Qasim Shah Bacha. He did his Pushto Honors from Peshawar. He has 46 year long outstanding experience in journalism including 16 years with various newspapers and later as Editor-in-Chief of Pushto daily Wahdat, Peshawar. Pir Sahib has been Member of the Executive committee of the APNS as well as Convener for Khyber Pukhtoon Khawa Provincial Committee of APNS for several terms. For his outstanding services in the field of Pushto literature and excellence in journalism, Government of Pakistan decorated Pir Sahib with Tamgha-e-Imtiaz. He was elected Vice President for the terms 1996-1997, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003. The APNS Office Bearers expressed their condolences to his son Syed Haroon Shah and the bereaved family and prayed that Almighty Allah may rest the departed soul in eternal peace and give patience and courage to the bereaved family and his colleagues to bear the loss. – DNA



**China reiterates its full support to Gwadar**

*The international transit activities have started with arrival of first fish cargo at the Gwadar port for onward shipment to China*

BEIJING: China has reiterated its full support to the Gwadar Port's project for its greater role in the regional cooperation on trade and goods transition. Chinese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson Zhao Lijian during a media briefing in Beijing today (Tuesday) said that China supports the greater role of the port, an important component of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and we are glad to see the new progress. Zhao Lijian said that facts have proven that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has not only delivering benefits to Chinese and Pakistani people but has also facilitated the regional connectivity and economic cooperation. He said we are confident that with efforts from all parties, the CPEC will surely play a more positive role to help promote prosperity in the region. The international transit activities have started with arrival of first fish cargo at the Gwadar port for onward shipment to China. – DNA

**CTD foil terrorist attack**

LAHORE: The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) on Tuesday foiled a terrorist attack on CTD police station Burki Road, here during which a suicide bomber was killed. Attacker's suicide jacket, hand grenades, pistol, ammunition were recovered, CTD spokesman said. A person tried to enter CTD Police Station, Burki Road, early morning but the security official deployed at check post tower countered the attacker. The terrorist had opened fire when he was asked to identify himself. The CTD security official retaliated, killing the attacker died on the spot. The attacker wore a suicide jacket, and carried two hand grenades, as well as a pistol. Bomb Disposal Squad was called, while the area was cordoned off to find the 'handler'. The officials said it was clear that he was a suicide bomber who would have blown himself in the police station if not countered instantly. – DNA

**Efforts underway to enhance trade with Afghanistan**

Ambassador of Afghanistan Nahibullah AliKhel said that his country also attaches great importance to its fraternal relations with Pakistan

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Afghanistan Najibullah AliKhel called on Speaker National Assembly in Parliament House. While taking to the Afghan Ambassador, the Speaker said that recent engagement between the political hierarchy, parliamentarians and business communities had brought both the nations more closer. He said that the cultural, religious and historic affinities existed on either side of the border. He said that Pakistan seeks further enhancement of cooperation with Afghanistan for economic and regional development. Speaking about the recommendations of the Executive Committee of the Pak-Afghan Friendship Group, the Speaker said that

majority of the recommendation on visa and Pak-Afghan Trade and Investment have been implemented. He said that signing of

MoUs on long-term trade and investment agreements between the two countries will further boost trade and investment.



Ambassador of Afghanistan Nahibullah AliKhel said that his country also attaches great importance to its fraternal relations with Pakistan. He said that Afghanistan values Pakistan's efforts to bring peace to the region. He acknowledged that excellent trade opportunities exist between the two countries that would be further utilised for mutual benefit. He also expressed his gratitude to the Speaker Asad Qasir for his efforts to address impediments in visa access and bilateral trade. He said that Parliament can play an important role in further strengthening relations between the two countries. He termed the recent visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan to Afghanistan, a important milestone in bringing the two countries more closer.