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Mehriban Aliyeva: Inspiration for women

Happy to announce 4 Tug boats for Karachi: Turkish envoy



Opposition gave priority to self-interest: Shibli



Briefs

PM Imran constitutes Committee on Tourism

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan constituted the National Coordination Committee on Tourism (NCCT) to "steer the country towards becoming the fastest growing tourism destination", read a statement from the Prime Minister's Office on Wednesday. According to the notification, the committee will seek to raise the competitiveness of the tourism industry and "maximize utilization of Pakistan's natural, cultural, historical, archeological, religious and geographical tourist assets for employment creation, poverty reduction, sustained economic growth, social inclusion and quality of life improvement".

Opposition gave priority to self-interest, says Shibli

FIJAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz said on Wednesday that the Sindh government was responsible for the plight of Karachiites after recent rains but it was blaming the federal government to cover up its own incompetence and inefficiency. Addressing a press conference along with Minister for Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam, he said that Pakistan People's Party was politicising the natural disaster issues - coronavirus, locust and now recent rains. The PPP, which has been ruling Sindh for the past over one decade, was responsible for the sorry state of affairs of Karachi, he added. He said that they claimed to transform Larkana into Karachi, but they converted Karachi into Larkana. They were given over Rs 14 trillion by the federal government during the past ten years but they spent nothing for alleviation of poverty and improvement of health and education facilities in the province, he added.

NAB to send reminder to Buzdar

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar on Wednesday failed to respond to the questionnaire sent by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in liquor license case. According to NAB sources, the Punjab chief minister had to submit his response by August 18. Sources further said that the anti-graft watchdog has decided to send notice to Usman Buzdar in order to remind him. On August 15, the anti-graft agency had sought details of salary, movable and immovable properties, source of income and utility bills from Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar in the liquor license case.

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Japan provides equipment to ANF

Ambassador Matsuda commended the hard efforts by UNODC and ANF while highlighting the importance of the equipment to strengthen ANF



IBRAN KHAN / DNA

ISLAMABAD: As part of sequential significant support by the Government of Japan for Pakistan to contribute the promotion of peace and stability in Pakistan and Afghanistan region, H.E. Mr. Matsuda Kuninori, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan and Mr. Jeremy Milsom, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Country Office Representative in Pakistan handed over

equipment for the Precursor Information Management System (PIMS) and Networking Equipment to Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) at the handover ceremony held at ANF Headquarters, Rawalpindi on 26th August, 2020. H.E. Muhammad Azam Khan Swati, the Federal Minister of Narcotics Control and Major General Muhammad Arif Malik, Director General ANF, were also present at this important ceremony. Ambassador Matsuda commended the hard efforts by

UNODC and ANF while highlighting the importance of the equipment to strengthen ANF's capacity for effective interdiction and investigation of illicit drugs. He reiterates that Japan stands committed to helping Pakistan eradicate all types of transitional crimes, including drug trafficking which in any society hinders the socio-economic development and overall prosperity of the country. He also noted that enhancing the border security between Pakistan and Afghanistan is crucial as the stability of the region is essential to the national security as well as economic and social development of Pakistan. The Ambassador continues that, for that purpose in 2016, the Japanese Government provided necessary equipment for the strengthening border security against illicit drug trafficking and related transnational organized crime through UNDC.

PN ready to respond aggression: Naval Chief



SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Command and Staff Conference of Pakistan Navy concluded at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad. The Conference was chaired by Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi. The Field Commanders participated in the conference through Video Tele-conference from respective Field Headquarters. Matters related to geo strategic environment, national security, operational preparedness, training and welfare of troops were reviewed. Comprehensive

briefings on diverse developmental projects of Pakistan Navy were also given to Chief of the Naval Staff. While reviewing the continued deteriorated security situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJ&K), the forum reaffirmed the support for just and rightful struggle of Kashmiris. The Naval Chief expressed confidence over combat readiness and significant contributions of the Navy in maritime domain. He emphasized over strengthening maritime security and to effectively respond to any aggression against Pakistan.

The Naval Chief lauded the initiatives undertaken towards capability development through acquisition of emerging technologies. He also appreciated the Field Commanders for the on-going relief operation undertaken in support of aggrieved populace in flood-ridden areas of Sindh. Command & Staff Conference is the apex decision making body of Pakistan Navy in which Chief of the Naval Staff along with all Chiefs of Staff, Principal Staff Officers and Field Commanders undertake review of Pakistan Navy's Policies and Plans.



ISLAMABAD: Palestine ambassador Ahmed Rabei and DC Islamabad Hamza Shafqaat planting tree at Palestine embassy. - DNA

Palestine envoy, DC plant olive tree

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Pakistan, Ahmed Jawad Rubai, met at the embassy headquarters with the Deputy Commissioner of Islamabad Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat, accompanied by the President of the Pakistani Youth, where they discussed joint cooperation methods and plans for the Embassy of the State of Palestine to contribute to the initiative of the Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan aiming to cultivate millions Trees by planting many Palestinian olive trees that will be imported from Palestine with funding from the Palestinian government and under the patronage of His Excellency President Mahmood Abbas. At the end of the meeting, the Ambassador of the State of Palestine and Deputy Commissioner of Islamabad planted an olive tree from the first batch brought by the embassy from Palestine in front of the diplomatic quarter.

FM for promotion of Pak-US ties

Ambassador Jones also praised Pakistan's positive role in the Afghan reconciliation process and for peace and stability in the region

NEHAL MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi on Wednesday said promotion of Pak-US relations and a mutual partnership is essential to ensure peace and stability in the region, including the Afghan peace process.

FM Qureshi was talking to US Charge de Affairs Paul Jones during his farewell visit in Islamabad. During the meeting, issues of mutual interest, including bilateral relations and the overall law and order situation in the region were discussed. The foreign minister appreciated the services of the US diplomat in further strengthening relations between the two countries.

Jones also praised Pakistan's positive role in the Afghan reconciliation process and for peace and stability in the region. The FM thanked the US diplomat for the timely assistance provided by the US in tackling the Covid-19 pandemic in the country.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Ali Alizada presenting a souvenir to MD Bait-ul-Maal Aon Abbass. - DNA

Mehriban Aliyeva: Inspiration for women

Pakistan, Azerbaijan enjoy cordial relations from very beginning and the first Vice-President Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva also attaches particular importance to the cooperation and relations with Pakistan

DNA

MRS. Mehriban Aliyeva, the First Vice President of Azerbaijan - a living legend, a woman, a mother, a doctor, and a leader with pragmatic abilities was born on this day, August 26, 1964 year to bring positive changes in the society and she celebrates her 56th birthday today. Apart being the First Vice President of Azerbaijan, she makes also enormous contributions to the social, cultural, and political life of the country as a president of Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO and ISESCO. In addition, she also deals to serve the humanity to homes in people's hearts, and she does it not because it is a necessity or because she is the First Vice-President and First Lady of Azerbaijan, but she does it from the bottom of her heart. As an experienced female leader Mehriban Aliyeva is vigorously involved in

different spheres of life. She pursued many activities in almost every field from sports and education to cultural and social development. She is strongly involved in conservation of heritage and cultural wealth at national as well as global levels through the different projects and works. Mehriban Aliyeva is also the president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation which was established in 2004 to examine the rich legacy of countrywide leader of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev and convey the national statehood ideas shaped by Heydar Aliyev to new generations. The core interest of foundation is to support promotion and implementation of the policy guidelines aimed at the country's social, economic and cultural development. It aims to increase the living standards and further integration with the civilized world and to develop and implement various programs and projects in science, culture, healthcare, sports, and environment in Azerbaijan



and abroad. Construction of new schools, hospitals, cultural and health centers were the major assignments that are done by her foundation. Development of sports is also one of worth working project of Heydar Aliyev

Foundation. Being the land of tolerance, peaceful coexistence and harmony between people of different faiths, Azerbaijan ensures that religious communities live and worship freely. In this regard, the Heydar Aliyev Foun-

deration reconstructed a number of mosques and shrines in Azerbaijan, including catholic and orthodox churches, in compliance with the project of "Azerbaijan - home to tolerance". Mehriban Aliyeva is not less than a role model for all the women either Muslim or non-Muslim. She is handling all the matters of her life in a pragmatic way including both home and state affairs, through which one can analyses her management qualities as well. She is more than an inspiration for every woman. It would be of worth to mention here her achievements in shape of titles and awards such as UNESCO's Mozart Gold Medal; Officer Class of the National Order of Legion of Honor, France; The Senior Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Polish Republic; The Heydar Aliyev Order; The World Health Organization Prize; The title of Goodwill Ambassador of ISESCO; Honorary Diploma of the State of Kuwait; Hilal-e-Pakistan civilian award of

Pakistan and many other awards which justifies her efforts and works done for the strengthening peace, unity, solidarity and humanity among nations. Pakistan and Azerbaijan enjoy cordial relations from very beginning and the first Vice-President Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva also attaches particular importance to the cooperation and relations with Pakistan. After the devastating earthquake in 2005, Heydar Aliyev Foundation leading by Mehriban Aliyeva started its works also in Pakistan and constructed a new school for girls in Muzaffarabad and all these 15 years the Foundation initiated a series of social and humanitarian projects in all provinces of Pakistan. These humanitarian efforts are a good sign for the people to people and state to state level connections. Her tremendous potential, strong leadership skills and incredible management abilities made Mehriban Aliyeva an icon and a symbol of development, peace and prosperity.

Briefs

CTP devise traffic plan for 7th Muharram

RAWALPINDI: 1552 cops and 280 volunteers will provide security cover to 7th Muharram processions besides enhanced number of Traffic Wardens to be deployed on city roads to regulate traffic load. City Traffic Police (CTP) have devised a traffic plan for longest mourning procession of the city to be taken out on 7th Muharram-ul-Haram from Sadiqabad. District police have also finalized all the arrangements to provide foolproof security to the mourners. According to a police spokesman, all the arrangements for the security of 7th Muharram procession have been finalized. Strict monitoring of the procession would be conducted as Close Circuit Television (CCTV) Cameras have been installed at the route of 7th Muharram procession. Total 52 processions would be taken out including nine of A category, 15 of B category and 28 of C category in Rawalpindi district. 1552 cops under the supervision of 24 Inspectors, 57 Sub-Inspectors, 100 Assistant Sub-Inspectors and 280 volunteers would be deployed to ensure foolproof security of the mourners. — APP

Customs seizes goods worth Rs 327 million

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Customs Peshawar has seized goods and vehicles worth Rs327 million during the past three weeks, Spokesperson Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) said Wednesday. In a tweet, the spokesperson said that the customs also auctioned goods worth Rs28 million during the period. The seized items include 11 non-duty paid (NDP) vehicles worth Rs28.2 million and 19 offending vehicles/conveyance worth Rs62.3 million. In addition, these also included 6,089 kilograms gold worth Rs64 million; 6,696 yards of fabric worth Rs5.136 million; 30 generators of Rs6 million; 3150 mobile phones worth Rs12.6 million; 41,360 kilograms of dry fruit worth Rs69.345 million; 19,500 kilograms of betel nuts of Rs49 million and other miscellaneous goods of Rs30.3 million. — APP

NIC to hold webinar on 31 Aug

ISLAMABAD: National Incubation Center (NIC) will hold an online webinar titled "Failure is part of my Life" on August 31. The webinar will shed light on hypothesis that as they say, there can be no success without failure and the idea is to create a culture of embracing failure and learning the importance of getting back up after. — APP

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Outgoing Indonesian ambassador Iwan Suyudhie Amri in a meeting with Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi. — DNA

China Cultural Centre shifts its activities online in wake of COVID-19

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: As the world fought the deadly coronavirus, the China Culture Centre here never gave up its activities - shifting online to promote China, Pakistan's iron brother, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday. It is the second cultural center that China established in South Asia, inaugurated by Chinese President Xi Jinping during his last visit to Pakistan. Since the China Cultural Centre was put into trial operation in September 2014, a series of cultural activities had been held at the place, such as exhibitions China in the Eyes of Pakistani Painters and Review of China-Pakistan Friendship, and cul-

tural performances under themes of China-Pakistan Friendship Year and Happy Chinese New Year. The China Cultural Centre in Pakistan, working under the Chinese Ministry of Tourism and Culture, organises performances, exhibitions, lectures and other activities around the theme of "cultural activities, teaching and training, dialogues of minds, and information services". It also provides services of information consultation, lending of books and journals as well as trainings of Chinese language and culture. The Centre has become a window for Pakistani people to experience Chinese culture, a platform for deepening China-Pakistan cultural cooperation, and a bridge



for enhancing relations between the two peoples. The establishment of the China Cultural Center in Pakistan is an important symbol of the further deepening of bilateral relations between China and Pakistan. The Centre's aim and objective is to strengthen cultural exchanges and cooperation between China and Pakistan and enhance mutual understanding and friendship between the people of two countries. Since its establishment in Pakistan, China Cultural Centre's has actively organized various types of cultural activities like cultural performances, visual arts exhibitions, film festivals, film shows, teaching, train-

ing, lectures, seminars and other different cultural activities. The COVID-19 pandemic had a sudden and substantial impact on the arts and cultural heritage sector. In order to fight the epidemic and convey confidence and determination to overcome the Covid-19, China Cultural Center in Pakistan organised more than 30 Online Cultural activities including photographic exhibitions, documentaries and celebrations on its Facebook official page at 'China Cultural Center in Pakistan' which is viewed by more than 8000 audience. Visiting China Online series of activities covered the exhibitions which were published online on China Cultural Center in Pakistan's facebook page during these

months. There were a number of online exhibitions during the period. Thousand of visitors Online visited these splendid Chinese cultural exhibitions and there were viewers from all over Pakistan and around the globe though a new digital offering that includes free access to virtual tours, video and pictorial activities. China Cultural Centre in Pakistan is comprehensively utilising all the humanity resources in the future to showcase Chinese history, culture and stories, promote traditional and contemporary Chinese culture, tourism, intangible culture and making relentless efforts for a new chapter of China-Pakistan friendship as envisioned by President Xi Jinping.

CGSS mulls establishment of Regional Integration Center



DNA

LAHORE: On 25th August 2020, a meeting was held between Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar (S.I.) - Vice-Chancellor, University of the Punjab, Lahore and CGSS Management headed by Major General Hafiz Masroor Ahmed, (Retd) - Vice President CGSS. The discussion of the meeting focused on the establish-

ment of Regional Integration Center (RIC) within premises of University of the Punjab, Lahore. This Regional Integration Center (RIC) will act as a connecting point between Pakistan and all the regional countries for enhancing cooperation in areas of education, research and development, culture and student exchange programs. University of the Punjab and CGSS also agreed on enhancing cooperation in area

of women empowerment through Academia. The attendees of the meeting included: Brigadier Abdullah Khan (Retd), Member Advisory Board CGSS, Lt Col Khalid Taimur Akram (Retd), Executive Director, CGSS, Ms. Mehreen Gul, Director, CGSS, Dr. Sobia Khurram, Director, Directorate of External Linkages, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Ms. Palwasha Nawaz, Project Executive, CGSS.

Sh. Rasheed visits city areas

RAWALPINDI: Federal Minister for Railways, Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed here on Wednesday visited different city areas and inspected Nullah Leh flood situation. Expressing satisfaction over arrangements made to counter any emergency during rains, the Minister said, situation is under control and there is no threat of flash flooding in the city. Congratulating the administration, Commissioner, WASA and other departments concerned he said, water flow was normal in Nullah Leh as proper plan for monsoon season was devised nearly two months ago. Nullah Leh was cleared from start to end to avert floods and nearly 1000 dumpers of solid waste and silt were removed from the Nullah to save the low-lying areas from flood. He said, 100 mm rain was recorded on Tuesday and there was no flash flood in any area of the city particularly in low-lying areas of the town. — APP

Govt to bring back Nawaz Sharif, says Senator Faisal

Nawaz Sharif went out of Pakistan on medical grounds with the permission of court and guarantee of his brother Shehbaz Sharif, says Senator Faisal Javed

ISLAMABAD: Senator Faisal Javed on Wednesday stated in the Senate that government will bring back leader of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Nawaz Sharif to Pakistan through legal course. Speaking in the Senate, he said Nawaz Sharif went out of Pakistan on medical grounds with the permission of court and guarantee of his brother Shehbaz Sharif. He gave details of the facilities of health sector provided by the government of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including the Sehat cards for whole population of the province, added that needy patient's family could now get Rs one million every year for medical treatment. He said Imran Khan got his medical treatment in Pakistan and sold his flat in London and brought back money to the country through official banking channels. The society could only move forward when there was equality among people, he stressed. Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed urged for implementing a national policy to promote sports which was a unifier for the country and utilized talents of youth. Mushahid suggested building up of a national sports museum to highlight the achievements of Pakistan sportsmen who made huge achievements in the fields of cricket, hockey, squash, snooker, kabbadi and other games. — APP

IESCO makes special plan for Muharram

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) has devised a special plan to ensure uninterrupted power supply during Muharram ul Haram specially to Majaalis/ Imambargahs and processions routes. Central Control Room at the head office and sub-control rooms were established in all five circles of the company to ensure uninterrupted power supply besides monitoring the situation, the spokesman told APP here. The control rooms would work round the clock, he said. He said emergency squads were also constituted for provision of smooth and uninterrupted power supply to the Majaalis and procession routes. The emergency squads equipped with all necessary tools and gadgets would be present along the procession routes for ensuring smooth power supply, he said. He said leave of officials deputed in the emergency squads has already been canceled. The spokesman said the IESCO Chief Shahid Iqbal Chaudhary also directed regional stores to provide additional transformers, meters, cables etc to all field offices to cope with any untoward situation. All over 126 complaint offices in all five circles would also remain opened round the clock for prompt addressal of complaints, he said. — APP

1460 kanal land transferred to allottees

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Housing and Works Chaudhary Tariq Bashir Cheema on Wednesday informed the Senate that 1460 kanals of land had been handed over and transferred to allottees in G/14 sector in Islamabad. Responding to a question during question hour, he said due to COVID-19 the development of sector G-14 was stalled in months of March, April and then work in the sector was resumed in month of May, 2020. He said that the award of land in sector G-14/4 Islamabad was announced in 1995 @ Rs 2,30,000 per Kanal for total land of 1459 kanals. The minister said, the sector G/14/4 was now developed and allottees were residing there. — APP

WPC welcome raise in marriage grant

ISLAMABAD: Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) on Wednesday welcomed Workers Welfare Fund (WWF) decision to double marriage grant for the industrial workers' daughters. In a statement WPC termed it a historic feat, adding that Workers Welfare Fund has decided to double marriage grant for the industrial workers' daughters, raising it to Rs 200,000 from Rs 100,000. The grant had not been raised since 2012. Keeping in view the hardships of industrial workers, present government decided to raise the marriage grant. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Women exhibiting their skills in Islamabad Floral Art Society show. — DNA

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Dangerous words

IT is disturbing how people in public office think so little of calling for individuals to be put to death on one pretext or another. On Monday, Aviation Minister Ghulam Sarwar Khan while speaking to the media accused the leadership of the PPP and PML-N of having ruthlessly looted the public exchequer and said that such individuals were liable to be killed. In response, PML-N spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb excoriated him for resorting to what she termed the "language of containers". Actually Mr Khan's utterance was worse: in the light of the bloody history of vigilante 'justice' and religious extremism in this country, his words can be described as incitement to violence. They deserve to be condemned at the highest level of the party. There is a vast difference between political rhetoric which can make its point intelligently without resorting to abuse, and that which springs from a reductive thought process heedless of the consequences.

Around a year ago, Federal Minister for Water Resources Faisal Vawda cavalierly declared on a couple of TV talk shows that "If we had it in our power to hang 5,000 people, the future of 220m people would be transformed". He then went on to suggest that the Constitution, which enshrines fundamental rights to security of person and due process, was an impediment to true 'progress'. Mr Vawda's pronouncements too can be seen as part of a political ecosystem where since several years authoritarian tendencies are becoming more pronounced and the quality of public discourse has coarsened to an unacceptable level. With social media accessible to all and sundry to make their opinions known, the crudeness is further amplified. In the din, each side can only make itself heard if its words outdo the other, a situation that becomes uglier with every post and every tweet. Given it is the party at the centre, the PTI must set an example by asking its leaders to tone down their rhetoric. It should also admonish those amongst its ranks who appear resistant to the idea of a fair trial in cases of corruption and would rather advocate vigilante justice.

EVER since the 2011 fall of Libyan strongman Muammar Qadhafi in protests fuelled by the Arab Spring, the North African country has not seen stability. In fact, the fate of Libya in many ways mirrors that of Syria, even though Syrian ruler Bashar al-Assad continues to cling to power whereas Qadhafi met a gruesome end. In both cases, foreign intervention designed to remove an autocratic ruler has, instead, caused even more chaos and the collapse of the state. In Libya's case, there were signs of hope last week when the Government of National Accord, the UN-recognised set-up based in the capital Tripoli, announced a ceasefire. However, the truce has swiftly been rejected by the Libyan National Army, an armed group led by warlord Khalifa Haftar that controls large parts of the country's east. An LNA spokesman on Sunday referred to the ceasefire as a "marketing stunt".



Libya ceasefire

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Unfortunately, similar to the Syrian situation, the differences between Libyan groups and tribes have been exacerbated by external meddling. In Libya's case, the GNA is supported by Turkey and Qatar, while the rebel LNA has the support of Egypt, Russia and the UAE. Needless to say, these external players are using Libya as a battlefield to settle scores, while the Libyan factions are amenable to receiving arms, funds and fighters from foreign backers. This, as in Syria where the Western-Arab states joined forces to try and oust Mr Assad, who is backed by Iran and Russia, has been a recipe for disaster. It illustrates the fallacy of nation-building programmes and the so-called responsibility to protect, which was invoked by the West in both Syria and Libya. Qadhafi, much like the Syrian leader, was no model democrat. In fact he was a ruthless dictator who brooked no dissent. Yet his forced removal by Nato has arguably created more problems for ordinary Libyans. Now, instead of creating more chaos, all foreign forces must work to make the ceasefire in Libya succeed, so that the once functional state can be rebuilt.

COVID-19 and the problems of Higher Education System

Lt. Col. Khalid Taimur Akram (Retd)



Although universities often function as small cities and they have their civic infrastructure and above all, they are normally believed to be providing relatively much higher support to their professionals and students but universities in Pakistan do not seem to comply with this global practice

THE outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic is an issue of international concern that has inflicted disastrous impacts on lives and institutions across the globe. From global disruption in production to a new era of work and study from home, the virus has caused severe socioeconomic chaos resulting in the postponement and cancellation of sports, religious, political, and cultural activities in many countries. The education sector is the worst affected and is still under the influence of negativity radiated by the novel Corona Virus resulting in the closure of educational institutions (schools, colleges, and universities) in almost 193 countries. Unfortunately, the current coronavirus pandemic has almost halted the educational flow all over the world. The situation of the education sector in Pakistan is the same as the country has enforced this global practice of shutting the doors of schools and universities in line with the social distancing recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO). Pakistan has forced its educational institutions to be close to curtail the epidemic, authorities in Pakistan instructed all the universities to organize online teaching and learning classes. Pakistan's Higher Education Commission (HEC) asked universities to "engage faculty and quickly develop online courses and disseminate those to the students because of the coronavirus situation in the country". The letter states: "Coronavirus pandemic has endangered us all and online education is the solution for the safety of the faculty and the students."

Challenges Faced by Universities during COVID-19
University closures in Pakistan have been witnessed in the past

as well due to problems. However, the universities have never shifted their medium of instruction from traditional classroom learning to E-learning which necessitates online teaching classes to be the key medium of instruction. A sudden shift to digital learning amid the coronavirus crisis has posed some challenges to the system. Having approximately 1.8 million students enrolled in the higher education sector Pakistan produces about 445,000 university graduates and 80,000 computer science graduates per year. The recent developments have caused many difficulties to students from canceling the classes and exams to emptying dorms to lowering the quality of research, Universities in Pakistan are facing increased uncertainty.

Hurdles in Remote Learning

Although universities often function as small cities and they have their civic infrastructure and above all, they are normally believed to be providing relatively much higher support to their professionals and students but universities in Pakistan do not seem to comply with this global practice. During these times, many universities in Pakistan stand out to be ill-prepared and do not possess the necessary equipment and requirements for online learning or remote classes as their campuses close and their students return home.

No or Poor Internet Connectivity

Some university students in Pakistan came from remote areas that do not have access to the internet and proper facilities to continue with their online learning process which causes them to suffer a lot. Some students face issues like higher costs of internet accessibility and connectivity and some don't even have access to the internet altogether. Many students reported significant disruption in the form of slower data speed while taking their classes online. Approximately 36.8% of Pakistan's population has access to the internet, transferring higher education online has limited the number of students who can participate. In its annual report, the Economist Intelligence Unit has placed Pakistan at 76th out of 100 countries in terms of availability, affordability, and ability of people to use the internet. Many Pakistani university students have expressed their concerns regarding online learning classes and rejected this system of education due to no or poor internet connectivity and lack of effectiveness of the online education system. According to the students, the online system of education has flopped and due to persistent internet issues, it is nearly impossible to complete their tasks and attend lectures and quizzes. They believe that instead of shifting to the online education system, the universities must consider this time as a semester break because their grades and practical learning are affecting adversely.

Limited Resources

While educational institutions are devoid of the students, the cost of institutional development is elevating. It has two-pronged implications as on one hand the students are reluctant to pay their fees owing to the fact that their learning is almost at a halt and on the other hand universities are under immense pressure to manage faculty and staff with weak or almost no prospects for new investments both in the form of new students enrolment and net tuition revenue and also in the form of financial aid or donations from any other source.

Another important factor that surfaced during the time of Corona Virus and has a direct impact on students is that due to lockdown and work from home policy, many students from remote areas or from a nominal financial background who are working as daily wagers have lost their jobs and also there are no new opportunities for them to do part-time jobs to support their studies. Due to all these many students are at risk of dropping their semester as their finances are drying up. Electricity shortage in Pakistan is another major hurdle in developing a conducive online virtual learning environment. Many remote areas and even urbanized cities in Pakistan face the problem of load shedding throughout the year. In this situation when electricity is not

available students are unable to learn because due to electricity issues, they are compelled to miss their classes sometimes.

Degrading Quality and Effectiveness of Education and Research

The quality of studies has also fallen too much lower standards as students trained in traditional classroom settings find it difficult to learn through a computer screen. University provides a suitable platform for the students hailing from different departments to conduct practical research for instance students from natural and mathematical sciences need lab testing and data analysis software like Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) that can be only available to them in universities. Lack of provision of such facilities that are particular to university campuses has reduced the quality as well as quantity of the research output. Access to libraries and print material is one of the important aspects of the university environment as students conduct research consult libraries. Furthermore, Pakistani Universities have also provided their students with access to digital libraries and credible data sources that are not accessible from home. Closed university campuses have caused students to suffer while searching for data both in print and electronic forms. Thus, impacting the quality of the research. University is a multipurpose platform that apart from teaching you about your subject area provides you with necessary practical learning which is very important for the students for their professional growth. COVID-19 has caused many students to let go of their practical learning which in return is impacting their professional growth.

Lack of Technical Training

Computer and technological illiteracy are prudent factors that cannot be overlooked. Many students from remote areas do not have practical learning of how to use computers and software like Microsoft Office and other important software used in lab testing in natural sciences and other fields of education in Pakistan along with virtual apps like Whatsapp, Zoom and Google Meeting (in case if they have the electronic equipment with them). Apart from students many senior teachers having a traditional way of teaching and who are not acquainted with modern technologies face difficulties while using such apps. The development of a reliable online teaching platform is relatively slow and many times face unexpected hurdles including connectivity and privacy concerns surrounding online communication tools like Zoom thus making it difficult to transform instructional methods from the classroom setting to the virtual one.

Social distancing and lack of motivation

Virtual classes are unable to generate an aura of effective communication and learning, hence causing a lack of attention and interest at both teacher's and student's end. Many students express their lack of motivation while studying from home and complain that they do not feel motivated while taking classes because many of their classmates do not take classes at first place and those who do take classes does not seem interested in learning which ultimately effects the overall learning experience and does not provide satisfactory results. Teachers also find it very difficult to teach to a blank computer screen because to ensure the quality of the session they have to make everyone switch their videos off so that the class does not face any disruption. They believe that it's very demotivating to not to get any response from the students while teaching them because teaching is two-way communication in which you deliver something and then get a response from your students but in case of online teaching classes they are unable to get the response which they are used to get in traditional classroom settings.

Way Forward

There is no doubt that formidable issues like COVID-19 create many challenges for the developing states like Pakistan, however, it also provides opportunities for the states to come up

with multi-pronged and holistic actions involving a wide range of actors at all levels. Educational institutes particularly universities are in need to react skillfully and strategically and make this pandemic a chance to learn new things.

- The foremost action is that the universities must provide technical training to both students and teachers so that they must learn how to use new technologies and apps such as Zoom which has become prudent in the present scenario. Although Pakistan has come along so far despite lacking basic requirements pertinent to virtual learning but we must train our teachers and student to prepare them and equip them for alike problems in the future.

- It is pertinent to mention that, the scope and teaching and operational style of every university in Pakistan are different therefore, developing a one-size-fits-all approach is not applicable. There is a need to understand that in times of crisis "good" now is better than "perfect" later and temporary measures to address difficulties in teaching and learning process are much more effective than waiting for a policy response from the central leadership.

- The principle of equity is imperative for universities while adopting measures to deal with the problems of online learning because many students in Pakistan does not have the required devices and connectivity to complete their online coursework. Pakistan must modernize its means of education and must provide easy access to technology, particularly the internet in most far off places so that students from these remote areas can also be streamlined with the rest of the students from urban populations to maintain an atmosphere of equality and quality learning for all.

- There is a need to evaluate the potential disruptions and threats to online learning programs and suitable measures should be taken to deal with them.

- Project-based learning and collaborative training can be feasible options in this regard. As an increasing number of employers demand educational programs that closely meet the requirements of the modern global industry, the higher education sector in Pakistan especially universities should facilitate their graduating students by arranging mentoring sessions.

- Universities must arrange online skills development programs along with the traditional coursework to ease the pressure of employment uncertainty on the students and must also create new avenues for their professional growth and development, for instance, paid internships.

- Efforts are also required on the part of university students. They must get themselves enrolled in internationally acclaimed courses that are available free or at a nominal cost. It will help them to develop their skills and will boost their educational expertise per international standards.

- Pakistan must strive to develop a platform like MIT Open Course Ware (MIT OCW) – an initiative by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to publish all of its educational materials online which is free of cost and is available to anyone, anywhere. Universities in Pakistan must extend their assistance in this regard.

- Although HEC has developed an extended version of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) at the University of Karachi which is aimed at providing similar services to the student it is not known to the majority of the students and is often un-accessible. Therefore, there is a need to direct students to such platforms so that they can get benefits out of them.

- Pakistan must induce the culture of online learning with greater accessibility for a large number of students to ensure the success of virtual learning in situations like the pandemic or even in conflict. For that, Pakistan must digitize its system of education. The educational institutions in Pakistan can partner themselves with digital networks to provide a medium for digital education.

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Jacinda Ardern - A torch bearer

Ali Sukhanver



Astonishing is the fact that most of the times religious hatred is overcome by racial hatred. The Blacks in the West are facing the same atrocities which the low-caste Hindus are facing in India

ALL places of worship must be safe and secure; it is one of the basic human rights of all religious sections of a society. Be it a temple, a mosque, a Buddhist monastery or a Church; all places of worship are sacred and sublime but forceful conversion of a Church into a Buddhist monastery or of a mosque into a temple is however a crime. Mishaps do occur, unpleasant incidents are always in possibility but wise rulers lessen the acidity of such unpleasant incidents with their kind wisdom. Last year the most peaceful land of flowers and fragrances New Zealand witnessed a very heart-rending incident of terrorism when two consecutive mass shootings occurred at mosques in a terrorist attack in Christchurch.

That was 15th March 2019. According to the details a single gunman entered the Al Noor Mosque during Friday Prayer and started non-stop firing and then targeted the people in the neighboring Linwood Islamic Centre. Reports say that he killed 51 people and injured 49. It was all very horribly terrifying and no doubt nerve-breaking. At such a critical moment, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern played an exemplary role by providing all support to the victims and by establishing a Royal Commission of Inquiry. Jacinda described the day as 'one of New Zealand's darkest days'. Her sympathy, kindness and the way she felt and shared the pain and agony of the victims was appreciated and admired all over the world. She simply set a new tradition in taking care of the minorities. The religious and racial minorities always find them alone with no one to take care of them in some countries though a very few in number. In such countries, the minorities have to fall a victim to the hate crimes. The Muslims and the Sikhs are on the top of the list of those hated ones the basis of their religion. In August 2017, an analysis of A.C. Thompson was published in ProPublica with the title 'Sikhs in America: A History of Hate'.

The analysis says, "In the U.S, the Sikhs are a frequent target for xenophobes and haters. They are often immigrants or the children of immigrants. They tend to have brown skin. And their garb and personal grooming practices set them apart. Following the directives of the gurus, observant male Sikhs do not cut their hair – ever – and many keep their locks covered by a turban whenever they leave the house. They also typically refrain from shaving, often growing robust beards. But in America, the bulk of the populace knows little to nothing about Sikhism, so they see a person with a turban and assume he's a Hindu or a Muslim."

This resemblance with the Muslims so many times creates a lot of trouble for the Sikhs particularly in the societies where hatred for the Muslims is a dominating feature. According to the media details, in 2010, in West Sacramento, California, two men assaulted a Sikh cab driver breaking an orbital bone in his face and fracturing a bone in his spinal column. In their rage and fury, the attackers kept on calling the victim 'Osama bin Laden' during that violent activity. In short it is very unfortunate that in spite of not being the Muslims, the Sikhs have to face the hatred and disgust which actually is the fate of the Muslims in this 'frightened' world of today; just because of a little similarity in appearance with the Muslim community.

The worst of all are the Sikhs who are facing the same discrimination rather hated not only in the West but in their own motherland India too. The Minority Rights Group published a report a few months back. The report says, " Though the Khalistan movement has lost momentum in the latter half of the 1990s and early 2000s, the country-wide anti-Sikh riots in 1984 have left a lot of bitterness between the two communities - Hindus and Sikhs and have left a deep sense of injustice in their wake." It further states, "Various commissions have been

set up since 1984 to investigate the riots by the government but there has been no move to punish the perpetrators of the violence or even to prosecute cases against them."

Astonishing is the fact that most of the times religious hatred is overcome by racial hatred. The Blacks in the West are facing the same atrocities which the low-caste Hindus are facing in India. Most of the Blacks in the Western countries are the Christians and almost all low-castes are the Hindus in India. The commonality of religion fails in saving them from the racial-wrath. This all needs to be taken care of; things could be brought into a better position with the help of the thinkers, writers, poets, journalists, teachers and politicians. They all could prove a very useful tool in this context but even these tools could prove useless in the countries where the governments are blamed of supervising and patronizing the miscreants involved in racial and religious hatred.

On 5th August 2020, the ever worst example of racial and religious hatred was observed in India when Mr. Modi, in spite of a very tough resentment from the Muslims, inaugurated the construction work on the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. The Al Jazeera said commenting on the situation, "Justice has eluded those who suffered the loss of life and properties in the nationwide violence that ensued in the wake of the destruction of the mosque - often dubbed the darkest chapter of modern India." Mr. Modi says that his party is trying to promote communal harmony and inter-religion brotherhood but practically it is very much obvious that his political party is doing its utmost to construct a China-Wall of distrust between the Muslims and the Hindus. Certainly this action of the BJP government would widen the distances between the two majority communities of India. If Jacinda Ardern were the Prime Minister of India, the state of affairs would not have been so depressing, disappointing and horrible. Certainly Mr. Modi must learn a lesson from her.

Briefs

Qasim plant safely operates for 1000 days

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Qasim Coal Fired Power Plant has been safely operating for 1000 days since the first unit was put into operation without any major safety accident. Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday that in the past 1000 days as per the position on August 19, Qasim project has cumulatively generated more than 22.5 billion KWH of electricity, including 6.036 billion KWH in 2020. The stable and reliable electricity production for national power grid has a positive influence on the adjustment of domestic energy structure. Meanwhile, it also greatly alleviates the insufficient power supply and frequent power brownouts for Pakistan. Qasim plant has brought social benefits to the local region and also the nation. The project has provided more than 3,000 jobs per year during the construction period and more than 500 local jobs per year during the operation period.

Electric buses will start plying this year: Fawad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhry has announced that electric buses will start plying in the country this year. He was speaking at a MoU signing ceremony signed between a private transport company of Pakistan and a Chinese company, in Islamabad. The MoU will lead to introduce an electrical vehicles chain in Pakistan which, will help reduce air pollution as well. In the first phase, 50 million dollars will be invested in building infrastructure; while in the second phase, manufacturing of electric buses will start in Pakistan within next three years. The Minister termed it a breakthrough in fulfilling another promise by the PTI government to take the country to progress. He said that Pakistan would be first country in Asia that will have electric vehicles. He said in next three years, these electric buses will be completely manufactured in Pakistan. He said the PTI government is working to promote Pakistan's new energy vehicles policy. Speaking on the occasion, Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing said the governments and peoples of the two countries are working together for development and strengthening of bilateral ties. He appreciated role of Pakistan in providing facilities to the private sector for strengthening business to business relationship between the two countries. He said several power plants are also being set up under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to overcome power shortage.

China: US spy plane disrupted exercises

DNA

BEIJING: Beijing has accused the US of sending a U-2 spy plane into a no-fly zone to "trespass" on live-fire exercises being conducted by China below. The high-altitude US reconnaissance craft went into airspace Beijing deemed off limits during drills by the People's Liberation Army's Northern Theater Command on Tuesday, Wu Qian, a spokesperson for the Chinese Defense Ministry, said in a statement. "The trespass severely affected China's normal exercises and training activities, and violated the rules of behavior for air and maritime safety between China and the United States, as well as relevant international practices," Wu said. "The US action could easily have resulted in misjudgments and even accidents." Two exercises were underway Tuesday in Northern Theater Command, according to Chinese state media.



ISLAMABAD: President ICCI Mohammad Ahmed and Ahsan Bakhtawari presenting Rs 10 Million cheque to PM Imran Khan. -DNA

Egypt shows interest to develop G2G cooperation in energy sector

The SAPM gave an overview of Pakistan's Energy sector and apprised the delegation about government's efforts in reforming the energy sector

ISLAMABAD: Egypt on Wednesday expressed keen interest to develop government-to-government (G2G) cooperation in energy sector of Pakistan after seeing conducive investment environment and opportunities in diverse areas like power, gas, renewable energy, LNG and CNG. A delegation of Egyptian Energy Company TAQA, led by Ambassador Tarek Dahrough, called on Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Petroleum Nadeem Babar here and showed interest to invest in

energy sector of Pakistan, a news release said. The delegation focused on exploring business opportunities in energy sector of Pakistan. The SAPM gave an overview of Pakistan's Energy sector and apprised the delegation about government's efforts in reforming the energy sector, adding "These efforts are being personally overseen by the Prime Minister of Pakistan himself." Nadeem Babar also reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to cleaner fuels and green energy and said Pa-



kistan's energy-mix would be diversified by injecting more hydel and renewable sources in the national grid.

He foresaw the share of renewable energy to increase 20 percent by year 2025 and 30 percent by year 2030.

The Egyptian company expressed interest to invest in the energy sector including areas of power generation,

transmission and distribution, projects related to renewable energy as well as in Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and gas Distribution sector of the country. The delegation thanked the SAPM for the presentation on energy sector and expressed keen interest to develop footprint of the company in Pakistan. The ambassador hoped that G2G relations between Egypt and Pakistan would be forged in energy sector to further the existing bilateral economic ties. - APP

Rs 13 bln package announced for Faisalabad city

MUHAMMAD TAHIR

FAISALABAD: A Special meeting chaired by Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Bazzdar was held at Circuit House Faisalabad. Chief Minister Usman Bazzdar was given a detailed briefing on Administration arrangements for Muharram in Faisalabad. RPO Faisalabad informed him about security arrangements during Muharram. Crackdown order against hate speech and video sharing elements on social media. The Punjab Chief Minister while talking to media said Fool-proof security arrangements should be made during Muharram. No negligence is to be tolerated in the security arrangements. The concerned ministers should monitor the security arrangements of the meetings and processions in their area. The CM

gave directions to ensure implementation of Corona SOPs in meetings and processions. Observance of masks and social distance should be made mandatory during Muharram. Commissioner Faisalabad gave a briefing on ongoing and new development projects. Chief Minister Usman Bazzdar announced a special package of Rs 13 billion for the development of Faisalabad city. In Faisalabad, the problems of sewerage and clean drinking water will be solved as a matter of priority. Kashmir underpass will be completed as soon as possible, Rs 50 crore has been released. Funds of Rs. 50 crore have been provided for Haseeb Shaheed Hospital. The process of identifying lands for journalist colony in Faisalabad has been completed. 187 canal lands have been identified in Bismillahpur for Sahafi Colony.

Africa declared Polio free

DNA

GENEVA: Polio has been declared eradicated from Africa, the World Health Organization said Tuesday. "Today we come together to rejoice over a historic public health success, the certification of wild poliovirus eradication in the African region," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general of the World Health Organization, said during a livestreamed event. "The end of wild polio in Africa is a great day," said Tedros, who is also the chair of the polio oversight board. "Your success is the success of the world. None of us could have done this alone." Polio once was a common virus. In some young children it can affect the nerves and cause muscle weakness or paralysis. There is no treatment and no cure but getting vaccinated can prevent infection.

President Mirziyoyev signs decree on abolishing 70 types of licenses

TASHKENT: President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev has signed a decree on measures to radically improve licensing and permitting procedures. From January 1, 2021, the government will abolish 70 types of licenses and 35 permits by introducing a notification procedure. In addition, the period of validity of all licenses and permits, which expire in 2020, has been extended until January 1, 2021. Individuals and legal entities confirm, by sending a notification, their compliance with the requirements and conditions specified in legislative acts for the implementation of activities or actions in respect of which the notification procedure has been introduced. At the same time, in the process of submitting documents through an automated electronic system, a check is carried out for compliance with the requirements and conditions specified in legislative acts, without human intervention. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: CGSS and FPCCI Women Wing signing MoU for mutual cooperation. - DNA

South Asian Dalit scholars express solidarity against systemic exploitation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Distinct and considered political representation of Dalits in South Asian countries is a prerequisite for their socio-economic uplift. This was the unanimous viewpoint of social scientists and scholars from Pakistan, India and the UK, mostly representing the Dalit or scheduled classes of the Subcontinent, who were speaking at a webinar organized by Institute of Policy Studies (IPS). The first-of-its-kind dialogue, titled 'South Asia, Neo-Communal Settings and Implications for Social Democracy' connected Dalit scholars across political boundaries to understand and discuss the conditions, deprivations and reservations of the sched-

uled castes in South Asia, especially Pakistan and India, while trying to identify a way forward for their elevation. The panelists included Prof Meena Dhandha from University of Wolverhampton; Prof Dr Sumeet Mhaskar from Jindal Global University; Prof Amit Thorat from Jawaharlal Nehru University; Dr Abhay Kumar, Indian scholar and journalist; Asif Aqeel, a journalist and researcher from Pakistan's Christian-Dalit community; Faqir Shiva Kachhi, president, Darawat Ittehad; Sarwan Kumar Bheel Advocate, a social activist from Tharparkar; Heba Ahmed, research scholar, Centre for Political Studies, JNU; Dr Sunaina Arya, JNU research fellow and editor of Dalit Feminist Theory: A Reader. From IPS' research faculty Dr Shahzad Iqbal Sham,



Sufi Ghulam Hussain, Nadeem Farhat Gilani, and Agha Noor Muhammad Pathan participated in the discussion, while the session was chaired by Khalid Rahman, the Institute's executive president. Dalit speakers from Pakistan said the upper caste Hindus were a small minority and they cannot represent the Dalits who were in a majority. They said the upper castes continue to ignore the issues of the

being deprived of education, employment and socio-economic opportunities whereas their rights were being violated. Aqeel was of the view that the Dalit Christians in Pakistan have been linked with menial jobs as part of their caste, which was hampering them in pursuing socio-economic uplift. Mhaskar pointed out that things were not very different in India, as the structures of exclusion generated from the Brahminism and spread across South Asia. He said caste was a big concern that permeated into every domain and created many issues. He said there was a long list of exclusionist areas including education, jobs, scholarships and representations that need to be analyzed. The Prevention of Atrocities Act was enacted in India in 1989 however it

has not been able to fully address these issues. He added that there were provisions to compensate for the deprivation of scheduled castes in Indian constitution but firstly they are not well-implemented, secondly they are applicable only for civil services which constitute just 4-6 percent of the jobs in India. On the other hand, these deprivations are still largely prevalent in the private sector. He also drew some parallels between the conditions and issues faced by Muslims and Dalits in India. Abhay Kumar reflected as how caste-based discrimination is labelled as inter-religious issues under a politically-motivated campaign of Islamophobia. He said under this trend the term Islamophobia was not only directed at the Muslim religion but also the society.

Webinar discusses the future of law firms in Pakistan

DNA

KARACHI: Eminent lawyers among national and international experts were invited at the webinar on "The Future of Lawyers and Law firms in Pakistan - Legal Tech, Big Data & Online Courts." It was organized recently by the Entrepreneurship and Management Excellence Center (EMEC), Institute of Business Management (IoBM), Karachi in collaboration with Continuing Legal Education Institute of Pakistan (CLEIP) and The Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP), USA. During the opening dialogue, Mr. John Dickerson, Senior Attorney, CLDP, USA said that legal practitioners need to focus on continuing legal practice. He advised lawyers to not stick to what they have been practicing but to evolve according to the needs of the changing times where technology is playing an instrumental role. The panelists of this webinar were Barrister Nausheen Ahmed, General Counsel, Company Secretary and Head of Corporate, ICI, Pakistan; Mr. Shaharyar Nashat, Company Secretary, Director Legal and Public Relations, Hub Power; Mr. Amar Naseer, Partner, AUC Law, Karachi and Lahore, and Member, Continuing Legal Education Institute of Pakistan (CLEIP); Mr. Altaf Qureshi and Mr. Sohaib Saleem, Co-Founders, wukla.com & paksign.pk.

PML-N blackmailing for NRO won't work: Ali Nawaz

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Capital Development Authority, Ali Nawaz Awan Wednesday said that corrupt opposition leaders of Pakistan Muslim League-N party will not get a National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) despite using blackmailing tactics and actions against the incumbent government. Talking to PTV news, Ali Nawaz reiterated his government's resolve not to forgive corrupt politicians of Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) unless they pay back the looted public money. - APP

ML-1 tender to be issued this month, says Rasheed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Railways Minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed says tender for Main Line One railway project will be issued by the end of this month. Addressing a ceremony in Rawalpindi on Wednesday, he said railway tracks are going to be updated in the country after one hundred and fifty years. The Minister said the previous governments did not take any steps to improve railways. He said education has been a priority of the PTI government. He said the government plans to establish another university in Rawalpindi. Later talking to the media, Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed said the opposition wants the government to abolish the NAB so that the corrupt people are not held accountable. He said the NAB is an independent institution.