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Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Baku ready for relations with 'sensible forces'

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Briefs

People of KP boycotted PDM rally

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Syed Shibli Faraz says people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa boycotted opposition's Peshawar rally, which indicates that they have rejected Pakistan Democratic Movement's anti-people agenda. In a video response, he said people's low interest in PDM's rally shows their political acumen and mistrust in the opposition. He said the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, on Prime Minister Imran Khan's appeal, kept themselves protected from Coronavirus by staying away from opposition's meeting.

Afghan Peace Process is in final stage

DNA

MULTAN: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi says Prime Minister Imran Khan's recent visit to Afghanistan was very successful. Talking to various delegations in Multan, he said Pakistan is trying its best for peace in Afghanistan and stability in the whole region. The Foreign Minister said the Afghan Peace Process has entered into its final stage and the talks in this regard are in progress in Doha. He said Pakistan, from the very first day, was of the view that peace in Afghanistan could only be restored by talks and not through the use of force.

Govt has ruined economy

DNA

SWAT: Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Siraj-ul-Haq has said that PTI and opposition are rowing against each other only for 'power.' Addressing a rally in Swat, Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Siraj-ul-Haq said that the present government has ruined the livelihoods and the country's economy. He said that the PTI government has disappointed the nation and made everything expensive while the only difference between PTI and PDM is the regime.

4 terrorists killed during IBO operations

Sepoy Sadam, 27, who was a resident of Karak, lost his life while bravely fighting for the country



BUREAU REPORT

RAWALPINDI: One Pakistani soldier has embraced martyrdom, while four terrorists have been killed during an Intelligence Based Operations (IBO) in North Waziristan on Sunday morning, the Inter-Services

Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement. An intense exchange of fire took place when security forces launched an attack on a terrorist hideout near Kaitu River, situated in North Waziristan's north-western part of Spinwam. According to the military's media wing, as soon as the troops cordoned the area, terrorists opened fire to distract them and flee from the site. All terrorists, however, were gunned down by security forces during the operation. Sepoy Sadam, 27, who was a resident of Karak in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P), lost his life while bravely fighting for the country. Meanwhile, two other Pakistani soldiers sustained injuries. On Thursday, November 19, two soldiers of the Pakistan Army – Havaldar Matloob Alam, 32, and Sepoy Suleman Shaukat, 25 – were martyred after terrorists opened fire on a security check post near Pash Ziarat in South Waziristan.

Fazl declares war against government

DNA

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) chief on Sunday termed the movement against the government as a declaration of war and said it would be a sin to retreat from it, that the people of Peshawar held a referendum in the PDM rally today. The ruling party is confused by today's rally. He congratulated the PDM leaders for the exemplary rally. He also expressed condolences to Mian Nawaz Sharif and Mian Shabbaz Sharif on the demise of their mother.

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January to be last month of govt: Bilawal

PESHAWAR: The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) put on a show of power with a rally in Peshawar Sunday, with PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari vowing an "end" to the incumbent government with January as its "last month in power". PPP chairman Bilawal delivered a long speech at the gathering, vowing that January will be the incumbent government's "last month in power". Bilawal said that the people will decide how Pakistan will be governed and what kind of leadership will rule it. He claimed protests are taking place in Gilgit-Baltistan against election rigging there. "A voice is rising from within Gilgit-Baltistan, saying 'do not steal the vote,'" Bilawal said. Addressing the people of the province in particular, he said they will never be left to fend for themselves, accusing the incumbent government of abandoning them. "The entire Pakhtunkhwa is demanding 'go, Imran, go!'," he claimed. – DNA

Nawaz Sharif's mother passes away in London

Nawaz Sharif has been advised by doctors not to travel, will not be able to accompany his mother's body to Pakistan, Ishaq Dar stated on Sunday

LONDON: Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and PML-N president Shabbaz Sharif's mother Shamim Akhtar has passed away in London, the party confirmed on Sunday. The news of the death has been confirmed by senior PML-N leader Ataulah Tarar, who announced it on Twitter. Begum Shamim Akhtar was 89 years old. "Mian Nawaz Sharif and Mian Shabbaz Sharif's respected mother has passed away," he tweeted. Begum Shamim Akhtar had been ill for quite some time and was being treated in London, said PML-N sources. She passed away on Sunday

Continued on Page 06

Punjab govt to release Shehbaz, Hamza on parole

LAHORE: Punjab government decides to release Shabbaz Sharif and Hamza Shabbaz on parole. The Punjab government decided to release PML-N president Shabbaz Sharif and his son Hamza Shabbaz on parole on the death of his mother. Punjab Prisons Minister Fayyaz-ul-Hassan Chauhan

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ISLAMABAD: CEO Serena Hotels South and East Asia Aziz Boolani along with diplomats of various countries opened Islamabad Foreign Women Association (IFWA) Charity bazaar at Islamabad Serena Hotel on Sunday. – DNA

Highest covid19 deaths in 4 months

RAJA PERVAIZ

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has reported 59 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 374,173. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 7,662 on Sunday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCO), 2,665 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pandemic in terms of cases followed by Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Punjab has overtaken Sindh in most number of casualties. Till now 162,227 coronavirus cases have been confirmed in Sindh, 114,010 in Punjab, 44,097 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 16,744 in Balochistan, 26,569 in Islamabad, 6,000 in Azad Kashmir and 4,526 in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Biden to announce first cabinet picks

WASHINGTON: US President-elect Joe Biden will name on Tuesday the first picks to be part of his administration, his chief of staff said, as Donald Trump refuses to concede his loss to the Democrat. Biden has been pushing ahead with preparations to take over as president in January despite Trump's moves on multiple fronts to try to undo the results of the November 3 vote. "You are going to see the first of the president-elect's cabinet picks on Tuesday of this week," Biden's chief of staff Ron Klain told ABC's "This Week" on Sunday. "You'll have to wait for the president-elect to say that himself on Tuesday," he added. – Agencies

PM Imran hints at 'complete lockdown'

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will be compelled to go into a complete lockdown if the coronavirus cases continue to surge across the country at the same rate and the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) will be responsible for the consequences, tweeted PM Imran Khan on Sunday. Taking to Twitter, the prime minister blamed the PDM

Continued on Page 06

Final decision about closure of schools today

KARACHI: Federal Education Minister Shafiqat Mehmood on Sunday said that the federal and the provincial governments will sit together on Monday to decide about the closure of educational institutions due to the second Covid-19 wave, media reported. The education minister in a statement said that an important meeting regarding the closure of educational institutions will take place on Monday in Islamabad where important decisions will be taken. "The meeting would be attended by all provincial education ministers," he said, adding that he will hold a press conference Monday at 12:30 pm and announce the final decision. – DNA

'More Pakistani content to be screened in China'

BEIJING: Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said on Sunday that more Pakistani films and dramas would be screened in China next year during celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. We are organizing and planning more than hundred events next year. Screening of films and dramas will be very important part of that celebration, he said during the special screening of Pakistani movie Parwaaz Hai Junoon at a local cinema here. The movie received the round of applause from around 400 people including officials of the Chinese government, institutions, enterprises, thank tanks and media who were invited by the Pakistan Embassy, Beijing. Welcoming the distinguished guests, Ambassador Haque said that the movie was a tribute to Pakistan Air Force, its valiant pilots and airmen. It is also an entertainment movie with a lot of drama, romance and action. He said that the values of friendship, love for the country and feelings of patriotism are all parts of this movie. People of Pakistan and China shared these values. – DNA

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France demands Pak to withdraw Nazi jibe aimed at Macron

DNA

PARIS: France's foreign ministry has demanded Pakistan authorities withdraw comments made by Federal Minister for Human Rights Shireen Mazari that President Emmanuel Macron was treating Muslims like Nazis had treated Jews in World War 2. The comments posted on Twitter by Shireen Mazari on Saturday came as part of a clash between Pakistan and France over the publication of images of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) by a French magazine. The images have sparked anger and protests in the

Mazari deletes her tweet, acknowledges mistake

ISLAMABAD: The publication later amended the article and issued a clarification stating that the law mentioned in the article applies to all children in France, not specifically Muslim children. In response to the French envoy's message, minister Shireen Mazari deleted her tweet and issued a clarification on Twitter and admitted her mistake. "The French Envoy to Pak sent me the following message and as the article I had cited has been corrected by the relevant publication, I have also deleted my tweet on the same," she tweeted. The Embassy also sent a series of tweets to point out the mistakes in the article. – DNA

Muslim world, especially children won't) just as Jews were forced to wear the yellow star on their clothing for identification," Mazari said in a tweet linking to an online article.

In a follow-up tweet on Sunday, Mazari doubled down on her claims following a condemnation by France's foreign ministry late on Saturday. "These hateful words are blatant lies, imbued with an ideology of hatred and violence. Such slander is unworthy of this level of responsibility. We reject them with the greatest firmness," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Agnes von der Muhll said, adding that Paris had informed the Pakistan embassy of its strong condemnation of the comments. "Pakistan must rectify these remarks and return to the path of a dialogue based on respect."

Briefs

Medics urge politicians to cancel rallies

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Keeping in view the rising number of COVID-19 cases amid the second wave of the pandemic, senior doctors have appealed to the politicians to cancel their rallies and public meetings in the larger interest of the people.

Talking to a private news channel on Saturday, University of Health Sciences (UHS) Vice-Chancellor Doctor Javed Akram asked the politicians to take COVID-19 seriously, adding that the Coronavirus situation can get out of control if people did not follow the standard operating procedures (SOPs). He said that the second wave of the COVID-19 could be more dangerous which would badly affect the people if they did not follow the SOPs. Dr Akram said that taking precautions is the only solution to prevent the coronavirus as its vaccine could not be developed thus far.

"Winter Food Festival" from Nov 27

ISLAMABAD: Three day long "Winter Food festival" will be held from November 27 to 29, aiming to provide healthy environment and different types of food to citizens of twin cities at Ayub Park. Multiple cuisines will be placed including desi, chinese, continental, italian and other types of food.

The festival will include variety of events including fashion Show, cultural dances, musical concerts, stalls, fun activities and much more. It would be the biggest festival of the year to enthral the people of twin cities with so much enjoyment and pleasure, an organizer told on Monday. He said that it was a family ambience event that has specifically been arranged to enhance the cuisine and cultural activities and provide healthy entertainment to citizens of Rawalpindi and Islamabad. - APP

Day-long Nathia Gali trip amuses special people

ISLAMABAD: Galyat Development Authority (GDA) has brought joy for at least 50 special people by arranging a trip to Nathia-Gali involving day-long recreational activities. "We really enjoyed by visiting wonderful places at Nathia Gali," Jabeen, a physically impaired girl from Abbottabad, said in a video posted by the GDA on its official pages of social networking sites.

The Persons With Disabilities (PWDs), who are students of the Created Opportunities Institute, extended their gratitude to the GDA for arranging a trip to the recreational spots. "I have really enjoyed Zip-line ride," a voiceless boy from Abbottabad Muhammad Umar can be seen as saying in the video with Urdu subtitle.

A blind girl said, "I really feel very sad because I cannot see the world which I know is very beautiful so each and every individual should contribute and make it clean and free from environmental hazards." - APP

IRSA releases 111,600 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 111,600 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 49,100 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1499.61 feet, which was 111.61 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 25,700 cusecs and outflow as 70,000 cusecs. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1188.10 feet, which was 148.10 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 6,800 cusecs and 25,000 cusecs respectively. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Visitors taking interest in various items displayed on the occasion of Islamabad Foreign Women Association (IFWA) Charity bazaar held at Islamabad Serena Hotel on Sunday. - DNA

Pakistan-Uzbekistan Women Entrepreneurs training held

The session aimed to bring together business experts and women entrepreneurs from Uzbekistan and Pakistan on one platform to discuss and exchange ideas for the strengthening of bilateral ties between the business communities of both countries

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Center of Global and Strategic Studies (CGSS) Islamabad, Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry (WCCI), Lahore Division, and Uzbekistan Business Women Association, Tashkent jointly organized the Online Training Week on "Pakistan-Uzbekistan Women Entrepreneurs in Textile Industry" on Saturday.

The session aimed to bring together business experts and women entrepreneurs from Uzbekistan and Pakistan on one platform to discuss and exchange ideas for the strengthening of bilateral ties between the business communities of both countries.

The session was commenced with a panel discussion with speakers from Uzbekistan and Pakistan and was moderated by Ms. Palwasha Nawaz, Project Executive, CGSS & Director, Women Wing, Uzbekistan Pakistan Business Council, and Ms. Odilbekova Dilnoza Muradaliyeva, Business Coach, Association of Business Women, Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

The discussion was initiated by Ms. Yunusova Zamira Gafarova



from Uzbekistan. She stated that it is very important to develop a relationship between the entrepreneurs of Pakistan and Uzbekistan. In the past few years, the bilateral ties are increasing and we are thankful to our friends in Pakistan and Uzbekistan. She mentioned they had a successful interaction with women entrepreneurs of Lahore during the fashion week. She appreciated the session and suggested that we must organize more joint online conferences as well. Ms. Qaisra Sheikh, Coordinator, Women Entrepreneur Seat, FPCCI

highlighted that Pakistan is one of the largest manufacturers in the Textile industry. It is one of the most important sectors for the economy of Pakistan. She mentioned that because of COVID-19 is much lesser in Pakistan compared to other countries, Pakistan has been receiving many international orders. She also stated that the Pakistan government has given important initiatives to the Women Chambers. She emphasized that Pakistan and Uzbekistan must work together for trade enhancements and inter-governmental projects in vari-

ous sectors. Uzbekistan is the best cotton producer and Pakistan is the best in manufacturing we should combine our strengths to enhance our economies. Ms. Shah Bano, CEO Malkani & Shahbano Official, Pakistan suggested initiating exchange programs for the designers of Pakistan and Uzbekistan. She stated that this may help in better understanding the culture and traditional designs of Uzbekistan. Mr. Jasur Saidahmedov, Third Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan discussed the

statistics of Pakistan and Uzbekistan trade in the past few years. He discussed that we have seen a significant rise in the trade volume. He further suggested that Uzbekistan is willing to trade its finest cotton and fabric as well to partners in Pakistan.

The women entrepreneurs and business community from the Republic of Uzbekistan highly appreciated the panelists from Pakistan and welcomed all kinds of cooperation in the field of textile, fashion, and academia as well. They extended gratitude to the Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad, Pakistan for organizing this informative session.

The session was concluded by closing remarks of Lt. Col Saadullah Tashmatov, Chargé d'affaires, Embassy of Uzbekistan, Pakistan. He stated that this online training week was a milestone in developing relations between the entrepreneur and business communities of Pakistan and Uzbekistan. He highlighted that Pakistan and Uzbekistan enjoy brotherly ties and we look forward to enhancing them further with the help of our women entrepreneurs of Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

SOPs to be implemented during polio drive

RAWALPINDI: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Health Authority Dr Sohail Chaudhary has said that COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) would be followed in letter and spirit during five-day anti-polio drive being commenced from November 30. Talking to APP, the CEO said that to make the Polio campaign successful, training of Union Council Incharges of mobile polio teams is underway under the supervision of health officers of Health Authority. During the campaign 2964 polio teams would go door-to-door and administer polio drops to 875,400 children less than five years in all Tehsils and Union Councils of the district, he said. Dr Sohail that SOPs regarding COVID-19 would be implemented to ensure safety during the drive while wearing of face masks and use of sanitizer would also be mandatory for polio teams. - APP

Climate Division to plant maximum olive trees

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Climate Change has completed all arrangements to plant maximum olive trees at specific places in the country for promotion of its healthy and beneficial results. Olive is considered to be the most productive fruit and that is why various steps have been taken for its promotion under an on-going "Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme, Muhammad Omer, a senior official at Forest Department said on Sunday.

He said initially the Ministry has planned to plant these trees in areas like Chakwal, Hungu and some other parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Moreover, the official said an estimated amount of Rs 1.2 billion has been set aside for "Olive Tsunami" project as the government was taking many other positive steps to develop forestation. - APP

Wildlife information center established

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) in collaboration with KP forest and Wildlife department and UN Development Programme Funded Sustainable Forest Management project established first Wildlife Information Center (WIC) at Balakot in Mansehra district. The main purpose of such information center was to focus on various sub sectors of forest and wildlife including forest biology, wildlife, forest economics, fisheries and watershed management, forest carbon sequestration measurements, human-wildlife conflicts and human-forest socio-economic relationship. This was disclosed by an official of the Forest Department, Muhammad Omer while talking to APP on Sunday. He said Pakistan is home to rich and diverse flora and fauna in a wide range of habitats from sea level to high elevation areas in the mountains, including around 177 mammal and 660 bird species. - APP

Erection work started at pedestrian bridge

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has started erection work on pedestrian bridge at Srinagar Highway near Weekly Sunday Bazaar after completion civil work at the site. The authority had assigned installation work of the bridge to Heavy Mechanical Complex (HMC) Taxila, at an estimate cost of Rs51.94 million. The structures of the bridge have been transported at the site after completion at HMC, whereas heavy machinery being used to erect it, an official in CDA told APP. He said the federal civil agency has devised a strategy to carry out the work at fast pace in consultation with Islamabad traffic police to the convenience of the motorists.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman CDA Amir Ali Ahmed inaugurated a new Kanwal Lake and Family Park at Shakarparian and a tourist spot to provide quality recreational facilities to the citizens. - DNA

CDA completes Family park

Park has been constructed without disturbing the terrain of the site. Stones and woods have been used for making the sitting places in the park

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) completed work on family park and kanwal lake at tourist spot Shakarparian to promote the tourism facilities in the city. Chairman CDA, Amir Ali Ahmed inaugurated the family park and lake on Sunday.

According to a press release of CDA, while taking great interest in construction and beautification of tourist spots, the Chairman CDA inaugurated the family park and kanwal lake at Shakarparian to provide the best tourism facilities to the citizens of the capital. It happened first time since 2009 that CDA has constructed a family park. Only families will be allowed in the park. Natural beauty of the sites considered while constructing family park and lake.

Park has been constructed without disturbing the terrain of the site. Stones and woods have been used for making the sitting places in the park. To maintain the natural beauty of the park the CDA has planted saplings and grass, the PR added.

A lake was constructed at Shakarparian in 1970 which was demolished in 2006 during the construction of cultural complex. However, the citizens of Islamabad have been demanding for reconstruction of lake, therefore CDA has constructed the lake again along with a family park. - DNA

QAU to play active role in consortium of excellence

The Foreign Secretary appreciated the decades long contribution of Quaid-I-Azam University Islamabad and hoped that it would play an effective role as important member of the consortium

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU) Islamabad being top ranked federal University would play an effective role as member Institution of the COMSTECH Consortium of Excellence (CCoE), it was assured by Vice-Chancellor Quaid-I-Azam University Islamabad and Chairman Vice Chancellor Committee Prof. Dr Muhammad Ali Shah during

meeting with Sohail Mahmood Foreign Secretary of Pakistan and Prof. Dr Muhammad Iqbal Chaudhary Coordinator General COMSTECH at COMSTECH Headquarters Islamabad. He informed that QAU had already established a committee comprising of senior scientists for effective liaison with COMSTECH. He also highlighted importance of collaborative research, joint degree programmes and exchange of faculty as well as students among

higher education institutions of Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC). Murtaza Noor Advisor COMSTECH on Media/Linkages and Secretary General QAU Alumni Association was also present on the occasion. Speaking on occasion, Coordinator General, COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. Iqbal Choudhary, said the purpose of CCoE is to put our efforts to achieve excellence in partnership. He said that Pakistan has done a lot in the area of science and tech-

nology and now its time reap the benefit by showcasing Pakistan. He said that this forum would bring technology to Pakistan and would help in internationalization of the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. CCoE is launched under the "Science Diplomacy Initiative" of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Government of Pakistan. Mr. Sohail Mahmood, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan said that the higher education institutions are

shaping the future of Pakistan. He said that the CCoE initiative is conceived to provide the platform to the leading universities of Pakistan and the universities of the OIC member states to cooperate, collaborate and showcase their achievements. The Foreign Secretary appreciated the decades long contribution of Quaid-I-Azam University Islamabad and hoped that it would play an effective role as important member of the consortium.

Evasion tactics

ONCE again, in the face of an implicating and all-revealing dossier, Modi has chosen to point the finger at Pakistan through two unverified tweets stating that the country was preparing to launch a terrorist plot in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). A lack of acknowledgement, acceptance or response towards proven state-sanctioned aggression in Pakistan by the BJP government only goes to further verify their malicious intent—a noteworthy development for all members of the international community.

As Modi hails his security team as heroes, the fact India has been backed into a corner, through the use of authentic information only, has become evident. Accusations of violent ploys against the country only come after days of silence since the dossier was released by Pakistan. Furthermore, anti-Pakistan propaganda has been amped up as well as the desperate attempts to divert focus towards accusations of Pakistani state-sponsored terrorism in IIOJK. Not only does all this allude to the idea that these claims are baseless but it further incriminates all the leading members of the government who have been implicated directly in the dossier. Surely, such a reaction is not enough to negate the overwhelming proof put forth.

Time and time again, Pakistan's government has tried to bring to the attention of the global community the crimes being committed in IIOJK by Indian forces. Violence has become an instrument of the state and there is little to nothing being done to preserve the lives, and interests, of the Kashmiri population. Even now, when proof of active planning in regards to destabilising Pakistan has been released, the Indian government is employing the same evasive strategy to deflect allegations that it utilises when it knows it has been bested. It is imperative that world leaders look beyond the façade being created in front of them and instead, focus on the mounting evidence of hostility presented a few days prior.

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Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

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Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



A crucial stage

BACK in late May during the deadliest phase of the pandemic, there were a lot of troubling firsts and highs recorded—the first time COVID-19 cases exceeded 10,000, highest recorded cases in a day and so on. As the summers came and smart policies were put in place, these numbers fell and thankfully, some normalcy seemed to ensue. Unfortunately, now in November, these highs and firsts have seemed to make a comeback, as once again statistics show a worrying picture. Pakistan on Thursday reported 18 deaths in the last 24 hours by coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 365,927, with the nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 7,248. The daily positivity rate of COVID-19 cases in the capital reached 11.78 percent on Tuesday, the highest since the outbreak of the virus in March. These are highs not recorded since March, indicating that the second wave is truly back in full swing in Pakistan, and this time, seems determined to stay unless measures are not taken.

Unlike last time, the government's efforts to control the virus look to be futile as cases keep rising in every major city. Perhaps this is a sign that while the first wave and a global panic around the virus ensured that people took the lockdown much more seriously, this time SOPs are not being followed with the same grit. The government has implemented much more lax restrictions compared to last time—as wedding season arrives, the government has allowed 300 guests per outdoor wedding—this is an exceedingly large number of guests allowed during a pandemic. In the capital, fines for violating SOPs remain low, leading to a general attitude of carelessness towards the gravity of the pandemic.

We need to take a look at our neighbour India, the second worst hit country, and its capital Delhi, where the number of deaths is so high that demand for more graveyards has shot up. This could very well become us if the government does not get serious—use stricter fines to get the public to comply with restrictions. This is a crucial stage.

The coming of the COVID-19 vaccines

Dr. John C. Hulsman

The Moderna vaccine has been proven to protect people over 65, those most likely to contract the disease, and to stop severe outbreaks of the illness. Even better, it is far easier to transport and store than Pfizer's, as it is stable at normal refrigerator temperatures of 2-8 C for up to 30 days, and can be stored for months at -20 C. Moderna is confident it can manufacture 1 billion doses in 2021 (two are needed by each person), though 770 million have already been allocated for use in the US, Moderna's home country. Large-scale Moderna production is not expected to reach Europe until April of next year

ARTHUR C. Clarke, the great science-fiction writer and futurist, put it well when he said: "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic." Indeed, the seemingly magical nature of these past few days, with the appearance of not one but two possible coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccines on the horizon, is the world's first real cause for hope that this dreaded pestilence is at last on its way out. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the face of America's efforts to combat the pandemic, triumphantly noted: "The vaccine is really the light at the end of the tunnel."

The first glad tidings came with the announcement that the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine is fully 90 percent effective in phase three advanced trials — a far higher percentage of success than anyone had dared hoped for. It relies on a new technique based on messenger RNA (mRNA), a biotech innovation that up until now had inspired great hopes (and a lot of investor interest) but far fewer practical results.

Basically, the coronavirus ensues when infected DNA — the building block of all life — sends a series of nefarious signals to individual human cells that leads to the illness. To combat the disease, the Pfizer vaccine sends mRNA to read these negative signals and instead retransmits positive signals to the cells, causing them to build up proteins found on the surface of the virus, stimulating the body's immune system and combating the disease. The new technique, RNA therapeutics, is not intrusive, leaving DNA intact, merely changing the message the body receives. While this amounts to a major breakthrough, there are some problems with the Pfizer vaccine, relating mainly to logistics. It must be shipped and stored at a frigid

-70 degrees Celsius and can only be used at room temperature for up to five days. Given the huge distribution challenges ahead, this is far from ideal, even if it amounts to the greatest of news.

But, just days later, even better tidings were in store. The developers of the rival Moderna vaccine, which uses the same revolutionary RNA messenger technique, announced that it had an even better 95 percent efficacy rate in phase three trials, prompting hopes that several different vaccine sources could together rid us of this pestilential disease. The phase three results of the Oxford University/AstraZeneca vaccine, which uses a different technique, are expected in the coming weeks.

The Moderna vaccine has been proven to protect people over 65, those most likely to contract the disease, and to stop severe outbreaks of the illness. Even better, it is far easier to transport and store than Pfizer's, as it is stable at normal refrigerator temperatures of 2-8 C for up to 30 days, and can be stored for months at -20 C. Moderna is confident it can manufacture 1 billion doses in 2021 (two are needed by each person), though 770 million have already been allocated for use in the US, Moderna's home country. Large-scale Moderna production is not expected to reach Europe until April of next year.

All of this amounts to the best news for the world in a very long time; truly the beginning of the end for this horrible period of global pandemic. Yet some real caveats have to be mentioned amid all the jubilation. Distribution of the vaccines across the whole of the globe means that there will be a substantial time lag before COVID-19 is truly tamed, with more and greater personal and economic losses along the way.

It is estimated it will take until the end of next summer (August or September) before the virus is fully under control and the world can begin to breathe again and return to normal. Even then, humanity will not yet be out of the woods, as it is unclear how long the immunity the vaccines offer will last.

There are already at least three major political risk consequences of this ghastly plague. First, there will be huge macro-economic problems ahead, as an over-reaction to the chances for death caused by COVID-19 in aggregate — measured in the whole of society, rather than merely the highly endangered elderly population — has led to a pronounced under-reaction at the chances for global depression, given prolonged and numerous lockdowns.

Second, ironically, China — the very country where the virus originated and whose bungling cover-up of its spread in its initial stages has caused such grief — has geopolitically benefited the most from the disruption, being the only major economy to grow this fateful year. The Sino-American Cold War is now a reality, with the pandemic proving to be the key factor heightening the rivalry's growth.

But, for all the bad news for the West, the vaccine story allows for some fundamental good news. It is no coincidence that the Pfizer (US)/BioNTech (Germany), Moderna (US) and Oxford/AstraZeneca (UK) vaccines all emanate from the West. Free people have an unparalleled record in terms of technological innovation and creativity, proving themselves capable of resilience, regeneration, and resurgence over and over again. The Chinese would do well to think about this hidden, but vital, lesson of the coronavirus.

— Courtesy: Arab News

The nation must stay awake!

Attiya Munawar



Muslim countries around the world are well aware of the true nature of Israel, yet the United Arab Emirates has succumbed to US pressure and surrendered to Israel. Kuwait has also recognized Israel and many small Islamic states are willing to recognize Israel. The United States is gradually increasing its pressure and getting Israel recognized

THE campaign to recognize Israel has been going on for a long time, and the campaign seems to be gaining momentum these days. That is why the Indian and Israeli newspapers, quoting Prime Minister Imran Khan, have claimed in their statement that Pakistan is also under pressure to recognize Israel. The Foreign Office has clarified that there is no pressure on Pakistan. The Prime Minister has already made it clear that we will not recognize Israel until the establishment of a Palestinian state. Israel, the United States and the Arab countries have already established a Palestinian state in the name of the Palestinian Authority, so will the Prime Minister recognize Israel on any such declaration?

It is clear that recognizing Israel is not a simple matter as it is not just a matter of democracy and international law, but also a matter of faith and belief. Israel was founded by bringing in Jews from all over the world, occupying Palestinian land and evicting Palestinians. Recognizing Israel on the basis of a mere two-state solution without resolving this issue of occupation is not a solution, nor should other countries be forced to accept it on that basis, but the United States wants to force other countries to accept Israel. Recognition of Israel is neither necessary nor bene-

ficial for the Muslim Ummah.

The Quran says that Jews and Christians cannot be your friends. Then how can we understand that Israel or America can be our friends? The Jews (Israelis) are a nation that does not hesitate to slaughter another's goat for a piece of meat.

Muslim countries around the world are well aware of the true nature of Israel, yet the United Arab Emirates has succumbed to US pressure and surrendered to Israel. Kuwait has also recognized Israel and many small Islamic states are willing to recognize Israel. The United States is gradually increasing its pressure and getting Israel recognized.

The US pressure on Pakistan also cannot be denied, but Pakistan has no intention of recognizing Israel, while Saudi Arabia has opened its airspace to Israel. Pakistan is the only Islamic country that has acquired nuclear power.

Israel does not want Pakistan to continue to increase its nuclear power freely. If Pakistan somehow recognizes Israel, this would pave the way for the United States to monitor nuclear affairs through Israel. The United States and Israel want to see their plan fulfilled in any case, but their dream will probably never come true, because even if the Pakistani government wants, the peo-

ple will not allow it to happen.

There is no doubt that Pakistan's goal of recognizing Israel would be tantamount to inviting its worst enemy. The US-India-Israel nexus is already against Pakistan to destroy Pakistan's nuclear capability in any way if it is not possible then it can be banned. Pakistan is indebted to the World Bank and IMF; both Institutions rule the world with their wealth, issue loans on their own terms and gradually tighten their terms. Pakistan is also mired in debt and is forced to accept their terms due to the economic downturn. How long can the indebted country resist in the face of the major powers?

Prime Minister Imran Khan is also under increasing pressure in the same vein, while the Foreign Ministry refuses to accept any pressure. If there really is no pressure to recognize Israel, then the prime minister must prove why his name is being used by Israeli and Indian newspapers.

We have to see if there is any weakness in our country that has led to attacks here, and why the Jewish lobby, the Indian lobby, the Qadiani lobby are getting stronger in this country, maybe because they are getting privileges and avenues here. As a result, the nation has to stay awake.

— E-mail: attiabutt121@gmail.com

Briefs

APNS grieved on demise of Hashim Rathore

DNA

KARACHI: "Hameed Haroon, President, Sarmad Ali, Secretary General, All Pakistan Newspapers Society on behalf of the Office Bearers and members of the Society have expressed profound grief over the sudden and sad demise of Mr. Hashim Rathore, Director, M/s. ZC Pakistan (Pvt.) Ltd. He was a dedicated advertising practitioner and served the media industry for over three decades. His contribution to advertising and newspaper industry will be remembered for long. The APNS Office Bearers expressed their condolence and prayed that Almighty Allah may rest the departed soul in peace and give patience to bereaved colleagues and family to bear the irreparable loss.

Three alleged TTP militants arrested

ATHAR SUFI

KARACHI: Three terrorists have been arrested on Sunday in Gulshan-e-Maymar area during a joint operation of Karachi Police and the Rangers, according to the law enforcement agencies. According to Sindh Rangers spokesperson, the terrorists belong to Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) splinter group led by Qari Sa'ad Bilal alias Hummayun. The alleged terrorists have been identified as Yaseen alias Qari, Ikramullah, and Muhammad Khalid alias Mansoor. All three had recently returned from Afghanistan and confessed that they had been planning to launch a terrorist attack in the metropolis, said Sindh Rangers spokesperson. He added that one of the alleged terrorists, Yaseen, had previously carried out several subversive activities in Swat, while Muhammad Khalid had been a close associate of Yaseen for a long time. The Rangers have handed over the three alleged terrorists to police so that legal action could be initiated against them.

Pakistan stresses for urgent Covid19 steps

DNA

NEW YORK: At the United Nations, Pakistan has urged the international community to act together with urgency in developing conflict-sensitive responses to Coronavirus crisis. Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Munir Akram in his opening remarks at virtual joint meeting of UN Economic and Social Council and Peace Building Commission said resurgence of Covid-19 underscores the need for continued vigilance. He also called for scaling up financing from all sources in the rebuilding process and getting back on track for the sustainable development goals.

Qamar Kaira recovers from coronavirus

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Punjab President Qamar Zaman Kaira has recovered from the novel coronavirus on Sunday. Kaira was tested positive for COVID-19 during the election campaign in Gilgit-Baltistan after then he rushed back to Lahore and quarantined himself. The doctors have advised the PPP stalwart to take more rest. He has thanked the masses and well-wishers for praying for his early recovery. It may be noted that Qamar Zaman Kaira had tested positive for coronavirus on November 9. Earlier on October 15, PPP leader and Special Assistant to CM Sindh on Political Affairs Rashid Rabbani had breathed his last after suffering from COVID-19. The family of the PPP leader had confirmed that Rashid Rabbani had died of coronavirus.

Baku ready for relations with 'sensible forces'

He recalled that Armenia is currently going through a domestic crisis "which is natural because a military defeat, let alone such a humiliating one"

DNA

BAKU: Baku is ready to establish normal relations with "sensible forces" in Armenia if they come to power, Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev said in an address to the nation following the restoration of Baku's control over the Adgam region. "Armenia is currently going through a domestic crisis, which is natural because a military defeat, let alone such a humiliating one, may lead to protests in any country. If sensible forces come

to power in Armenia after the crisis is over, we will be ready to establish normal relations with them," Aliyev pointed out. According to him, it will be possible if Armenia "makes the right choice and improves relations with its neighbors." "As the country's President and Commander-in-Chief, I am interested in making sure that animosity ends in our home region of South Caucasus and normal business relations are established," the Azerbaijani president noted. "I said during the war that we have no issues with the



Armenian people. We did not carry out an ethnic cleansing against them like they did against us. We did not destroy

their historic sites, we protect them," Aliyev stressed. Renewed clashes between Azerbaijan and Armenia erupted on September 27, with intense battles raging in the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh. The conflict over the disputed territory, primarily populated by ethnic Armenians, broke out in February 1988 after the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region announced its withdrawal from the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic. In 1992-1994, tensions boiled over and exploded into large-scale military

action for control over the enclave and seven adjacent territories after Azerbaijan lost control of them. On November 9, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan signed a joint statement on a complete ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh starting from November 10. The Russian leader said that Azerbaijan and Armenia would maintain the positions that they had held and Russian peacekeepers would be deployed to the region.

Punjab govt not to allow PDM to hold jalsas

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Owing to the growing number of coronavirus cases in the country over the past few weeks, the Punjab government has decided that it will not allow the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) to hold jalsas in Lahore in Multan, sources told media. As per sources, a government spokesperson said that there has been a recent surge in the number of reported COVID-19 positive cases in both the cities because of which banning public gatherings has become necessary. "The Punjab government will issue a written notification to stop the PDM from holding jalsas," the spokesperson said according to sources, adding that all relevant agencies and institutions have unanimously agreed to the decision. The provincial government has also announced that it will take legal action against those who violate the orders and hold jalsas without the explicit permission of the government.

Saudi Arabia confident of 'friendly' ties with Biden

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia expects no major change in its relationship with the US under Joe Biden, a senior official told CNN, despite the president-elect pledging to turn the kingdom into a "pariah". OPEC kingpin Saudi Arabia, a close ally of President Donald Trump, has appeared wary of Biden after he promised a stern stance against the kingdom for its human rights failings. But Adel al-Jubeir, the Saudi minister of state for foreign affairs, dismissed the notion. "We deal with the president of the United States as a friend, whether he's Republican or Democrat," Jubeir told CNN, in an interview released over the weekend. "President-elect Biden has been in the (US) Senate for 35 years, he has tremendous experience... I don't expect that there's going to be major change in terms of America's foreign policy." The comment comes as Saudi Arabia hosts the G20 leaders' summit this weekend, a first for an Arab nation, while global campaigners seek to draw attention to the kingdom's human rights record. Saudi Arabia has largely escaped US censure under Trump, who along with his son-in-law Jared Kushner, has enjoyed a personal rapport with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the kingdom's de facto ruler. Trump's defeat leaves Prince Mohammed vulnerable to renewed scrutiny from the kingdom's closest Western ally. - APP



RAWALPINDI: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo with the winners of 47th Pakistan Open Golf Championship. - DNA

UN chief slams rocket attacks in Kabul

"The upcoming Afghanistan 2020 Conference on 23 and 24 November, co-hosted by Afghanistan, Finland, and the United Nations, is an opportunity to renew commitments to the peaceful development and future prosperity of the country"

UNITED NATIONS: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has condemned Saturday's rocket attacks into the heart of Kabul that killed at least eight civilians and wounded many more. The rockets reportedly were fired from vehicles, hitting several densely populated areas in the capital city. The ISIL/Da'esh affiliate in Afghanistan has claimed responsibility, according to media reports which cited intelligence sources. In a statement issued by his spokesman, the UN chief underscored the urgency of ending the violence in Afghanistan. He expressed his deepest sympathies to the families of the victims and wished a speedy recovery to the injured. "He (UN chief) hopes the Afghanistan Peace Negotiations can swiftly achieve a de-escalation of the conflict and cessation of attacks in order to save lives," the statement said. "The upcoming Afghanistan 2020 Conference on 23 and 24 November, co-hosted by Afghanistan, Finland, and the United Nations, is an opportunity to renew commitments to the peaceful development and future prosperity of the country." More than 70 countries are expected to participate in the donor conference, which aims to coordinate development cooperation for the period from 2021-2024. The event will take place virtually from the UN Office in Geneva, with only the co-hosts meeting in person. The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) has also extended condolences to the bereaved. In a post on Twitter, UNAMA said it was "Deeply shocking and deplorable that civilians should be subjected to such indiscriminate attacks. Those responsible must face justice." - APP

Dealings possible with US despite 'crimes', Iran says

DNA

TEHRAN: The "crimes" committed by the United States against Iran do not prevent "carefully considered" exchanges from taking place, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman said Sunday. "The future of relations between Iran and the United States is not simple," Saeed Khatibzadeh acknowledged

at a press conference in Tehran, as President Hassan Rouhani's government makes signs of apparent overtures to US president-elect Joe Biden. "The United States has committed repeated crimes against the Iranian people," added Khatibzadeh, citing a long list. They included Washington's support for Baghdad during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, the "series of sanctions"

against Tehran, and the US drone strike that killed top Iranian general Qasem Soleimani in January. "It is natural that (between two) members of the United Nations (like the US and Iran) there have always been, and there are, very carefully considered exchanges, in a known framework," Khatibzadeh said, while noting that "does not mean that Iran is forgetting this list of crimes."

Tehran and Washington, enemies for more than four decades, have edged to the brink of war twice since June 2019, amid tensions over Iran's 2015 nuclear agreement with world powers, which outgoing US President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from. Biden has promised a return to diplomacy with Iran after four hawkish years under Trump.

PIA notifies flexible timing for employees

KARACHI: Amid rising Covid-19 cases, Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has introduced "flexible timings" for its employees to mark their attendance with biometric machines. According to a notification issued by the national flag carrier's chief human resources officer, the PIA management introduced flexible timings to prevent the employees from crowding around biometric machines. These timings will be effective from Monday (Nov 23). - DNA

PDM rally proof of its selfishness: Hammad Azhar

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries and Production Hammad Azhar said that 'spread coronavirus movement' of opposition is proof of their selfishness. He asked that what Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) wants to achieve by spreading the novel coronavirus in the country. On the other hand, Head of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said

that the biggest virus facing Pakistan is the government itself. He also said that Pakistan Democratic Movement Peshawar rally will go ahead as planned under all circumstances. Addressing a press conference in Peshawar on Saturday, the Pakistan Democratic Movement head said that despite the illegitimate government's efforts, Pakistan Democratic Movement will hold its rally in Peshawar. He said that Sunday's historic rally will leave the PTI government bamboozled.

This statement comes at a time when the country is facing a serious spike in coronavirus cases with the number of deaths also on the rise. Addressing these concerns, Fazlur Rehman said that the government is only touting the dangers of coronavirus since it sees no other way of stopping Pakistan Democratic Movement rallies. This illegitimate government itself is the biggest virus, ridding the nation of its rule will be the biggest reprieve, he said.

PM, COAS condole demise of Nawaz' mother

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Condolences started pouring in as soon as the news of the former premier's mother's demise was reported. Prime Minister Imran Khan, President Dr Arif Alvi and army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa also extended their condolences. "My condolences and prayers go to the Sharif family on the passing of Mian Nawaz and Mian Shabbaz Sharif's mother," PM Imran wrote on his official Twitter handle. Gen Qamar's condolences were issued from the Twitter account of the military's official media wing, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR). The army chief expressed grief and heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of Begum Shamim Akhtar and prayed for the departed soul. Expressing his condolences Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari said: "May Allah Almighty grant her a place in Jannah and grant patience to the mourners." Bilawal's father and former president Asif Ali Zardari also expressed sorrow over the death of Nawaz's mother.

Pak-China must cooperate in Earth Sciences: Su Lijun

Su stated that CPEC, located at the tectonic junction of the western Himalayas, is a natural museum and laboratory for earth sciences

DNA

BEIJING: The China-Pakistan Joint Research Centre on Earth Sciences, recently launched by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and Higher Education Commission (HEC) has made brilliant achievements in both academic research and supporting CPEC. According to Gwadar Pro, Su Lijun, Deputy Director General of Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment (IMHE) of CAS highlighted the achievements of the Centre in an exclusive in-

terview. He said, proof by facts, Pakistan and China have a solid foundation for cooperation in the field of earth sciences. Su stated that CPEC, located at the tectonic junction of the western Himalayas, is a natural museum and laboratory for earth sciences. It caused many scientific and technological problems in the fields of geology, geography, meteorology, hydrology, ecology, environment, resources and disasters. The series of problems poses a serious threat to regional security and the construction of CPEC.

In order to solve them, the China-Pakistan Joint Research Centre on Earth Sciences was initiated by CAS, HEC and other institutions from Pakistan and China. In May 2019, Zhang Yaping, Vice President of CAS, led a delegation to Islamabad, to promote Pak-China scientific and technological cooperation and boost the building of the center. Later, the center held two international training courses for Pakistani students and scholars. During the COVID-19 outbreak, the center donated 16,100 disposable medical masks and

1,500 KN95 masks to institutions in Pakistan. In the field of academic research, the China-Pakistan Joint Research Centre on Earth Sciences has also made important contributions to the progress of earth science. After field investigation and research, they have found several new theories in the field of earth science, and assembled a database of CPEC natural disasters. The Pakistani co-construction institutions, including HEC, Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS), universities in Pakistan, speak highly of the centre.

They believe that the China-Pakistan Joint Research Centre on Earth Sciences will enable scientists of the two countries to jointly work on the disasters and environmental issues faced by CPEC. It also effectively enhances Pakistan's ability to cope with climate change and promotes the sustainable development of Pakistan. In addition, the center will train a large number of scientific and technological talents for Pakistan and promote its scientific development. The HEC described it as a groundbreaking step in Pak-China science and technology cooperation.