

A sister publication of **CENTRELINE & DNA News Agency**

accusation of "fake image"

Detailed News On Page-06

\$150 million for Covid-19 vaccine

Detailed News On Page-01



PDM meeting on December 8

Detailed News On Page-01



Price Rs. 20

Briefs

Fazi summons meeting

DNA

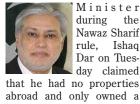


future strategy of the anti-government movement will be announced after December 8 meeting of alliance's leaders. Talking to media person along with former Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani in Multan, Fazl-ur-Rehman Maulana said that people of Multan have rejected the selected government and sons of Yousaf Raza offered sacrifices and became victim of police brutality.

Dar skips question on his return

DNA

LONDON: Former Finance



abroad and only owned a residence in Pakistan that was already seized on the government.

The absconding former finance minister seemed to be perplexed during the BBC talk show, HARDtalk, when the host asked if he and his family had any properties abroad as claimed by the authorities in Pakistan. "I owned a single property in Pakistan, which is now under the custody of the government while my children own a villa," he said when asked if they had properties in London and Dubai.

Cases against PDM rally organizers

ABID RAZA



organ isers of the Pakistan Democratic Movement's (PDM) Multan jal-

sa, Chief Minister Buzdar's special assistant Firdous Ashiq Awan said Tuesday. The development comes a day after the 11-party alliance held a massive rally in Multan despite the government's repeated warnings against doing so, urging it to suspend political gatherings in light of the novel coronavirus

Inside..

'Ties with China cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy'

CCP applauds support of federal cabinet - Page 03

ICCI and TCCIA vow to work together

- Page 04 Anti-conversion laws and Hindu

hostility
- Page 05 PCB challengers win national women's T20 Page 06

PAJCCI's role is highly commendable: Umer Daudzai

- Page 07 WHO to keep supporting Pakistan against HIV - Page 08

PM values China's support for Kashmir

General Wei Fenghe conveyed warm greetings of President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang to the Prime Minister

Govt approves \$150m for vaccine

Commenting on PDM's recent public rally

in Multan, Shibli Faraz urged the opposition

not to play with the lives of people

Tuesday. The Special Assis-

tant said, for this purpose,

few companies have been

Non duty paid cigarettes

seized by tobacco squad

The cartons recovered were of brands Kisan,

Hero, Classic, Highway, Chance, Metro, Melburn

guidelines, Tobacco Squad

of Intelligence and Inves-

tigation, Inland Revenue,

Faisalabad under the super-

vision of Deputy Director,

Imran Zafar, exercising

powers u/s 38 of the Sales

Tax Act, 1990 read with

Rule 62 of the Federal

Ansar Bhatti / DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister Imran Khan deeply appreciated China's principled support on Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of India's unilateral and illegal actions of 5 August 2019. Chinese State Councilor and Minister of Defence General Wei Fenghe called on Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday. Welcoming the Defence Minister's visit to Pakistan, Prime Minister Imran Khan underscored the importance of regular high-level exchanges, even in the time of COVID-19. The Prime Minister appreciated China's consistent support to Pakistan in pursuit of Pakistan's national development goals. He also appreciated China's success in dealing with COVID-19 pandemic. He underlined the serious threat posed by RSS-BJP dispensation through belligerent actions, discriminatory measures against Indian minorities, and harshest steps to curb all the freedoms of innocent Kashmiris in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. (Picture on Back Page)

Continued on Page 06

RANA FARRUKH

ISLAMABAD: The Federal

Cabinet has approved the

grant of 150 million dollars

to procure anti-Covid vaccine.

This was announced by

Prime Minister's Spe-

cial Assistant on National

Health Dr. Faisal Sultan

along with Minister for In-

formation and Broadcasting

Shibli Faraz while giving

details about decisions tak-

en by the federal cabinet,

which met in Islamabad on

BUREAU REPORT

squad Faisalabad on secret

information visited the

sales office of Habib kary-

ana store, Timber market

and recovered hundreds of

Tobacco

FAISALABAD:

cigarette cartons.

Pakistan rejects India's criticism

NAVEED MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday rejected India's statement on the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) Resolution on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, a statement from the Foreign Office said. The unanimously adopted resolution - at the 47th Session of OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), held in Niamey, Niger, on November 28 – is the collective voice of the Muslim Ummah, said the FO. The statement from the Foreign Office highlighted that the OIC is the second-largest international organisation after the United Nations with 57 members and five observer states. "Jammu and Kashmir is one of the oldest internationally recognised disputes on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)," the statement said.

Continued on Page 06

shortlisted, contacted and

Continued on Page 06

Excise Duty, 2005 visited

the business premises and

sales office of a registered

person in Timber Market.

The godown located near

Lari Ada, Tandlianwala,

was searched after getting

a search warrant from the

Continued on Page 06

Covid19 cases cross 400,000

Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (DNA): Pakistan's COVID-19 tally rose to 400,482 on Tuesday after 2,458 new cases were detected in the past 24 hours across the country. The number of coronavirus deaths reported in Pakistan on November 30 reached its highest in nearly five months, offering more evidence that the pandemic was gaining fresh momentum across the country as cooler weather sets in.

The data issued by the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) on Tuesday showed that the rirus claimed 67 lives in the past 24 hours, raising the death toll to 8,091. The country's fatality rate stands at 2.0% against the global mortality rate of 2.3%.

The number of new cases began trending higher over six weeks, with health experts and authorities warning that the second wave may hit harder than the first if SOPs are not followed.

Wuhan to Islamabad direct flights started

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China Southern Airlines has launched a direct flight from Wuhan city to Islamabad on every Monday. The first flight, Boeing 787, departed with 143 passengers carrying 12 tons of goods, including communication devices and medical equipment has arrived in Islamabad. In line with the current COVID-19 prevention and control measures, passengers of direct regular commercial flights from Pakistan to China are required to complete nucleic acid tests and produce certificates with negative results.

KSA opens airspace for Israeli planes

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Poland Piotr Opalinski exchanging views

with leader of the house in Senate Dr. Shahzad Waseem. - DNA

This will help the route of Israeli flights to UAE – to start from this month onwards – shorten by half

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia agreed on Monday to let Israeli airliners cross its airspace en route to the United Arab Emirates after talks between Saudi officials and White House senior adviser Jared Kushner, a senior Trump administration official said. Kushner and Middle East

Brian Hook raised the issue shortly after they arrived in Saudi Arabia for talks. According to the Israeli i24news, the Tel Aviv admin-

envoys Avi Berkowitz and

istration asked Washington

to persuade Saudi Arabia to allow use of its airspace and Kushner stepped in. The agreement was ham-

mered out just hours before Israel's first commercial flight to the UAE was planned on Tuesday morning. The Israir flight was at risk of being canceled with no overflight agreement. An announcement by Saudi Arabia's official news agency said that the kingdom's civil aviation authority had approved a request by UAE's aviation authority

"which includes the desire

and departing from the United Arab Emirates to all countries to pass through the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's airspace". This will help the route of

to allow flights coming to

Israeli flights to UAE - to start from this month onwards - shorten by half. The permit was only valid for the UAE and Israeli companies will not be allowed to use the Saudi Arabian airspace for flights to other countries, said Israel's local media report. - Agencies

SC seeks details of tree Tsunami project

There are no trees in Nathia Gali, Malam Jabba, and even Murree," observed the top judge, questioning the Billion Tree Tsunami project

KHAYAM ABBASI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Tuesday took notice and sought details of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government's Billion Tree Tsunami project in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

A two-member bench comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Gulzar Ahmed and Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan, hearing a case pertaining to tree plantation near rivers and canals, has also summoned the secretary of climate change and issues contempt of court notices to Sindh and Punjab governments over failure to submit a report on the matter.

"There are no trees in Nathia Gali, Malam Jabba, and even Murree," observed the top judge, questioning the Billion Tree Tsunami project.

He remarked that the Islamabad administration boasts planting 500,000 trees but they are nowhere to be seen. "Were they planted in Bani Gala? There are no trees planted along the rivers from Islamabad to Karachi. There are no trees in Peshawar and there is deforestation going on in Nathia Gali."

The bench sought details of the funds spent on the Billion Tree Tsunami including records of expenditure and their justification, and count of trees planted along with photographic evidence - satellite view.

Indoor dining banned in Capital

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The Capital administration has restricted indoor dining in slamabad. According to a notification, only take aways and dining outside in open area is allowed. All Assistant Commissioners Sub Divisional Magis trates are in field ensuring the orders issued under Epidemic Diseases Act in order to prevent further covid infection. It is worth mentioning here that Islamabad is witnessing a surge in Covid-19 cases. with 283 new cases and 4 deaths reported on Sunday. Total number of cases reported in federal capital stand at 30,406.

Qureshi ISLAMABAD:

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi has said that adoption of the Resolution on Kashmir in the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers Meeting is a victory for the Kashmiri people and the principle position of Pakistan. Talking to PM's Special

OIC Kashmir

resolution

a victory:

Envoy for Religious Harmony and Middle East Allama Tahir Ashrafi in Islamabad today, he said Pakistan, as a founding member, considers the Organization of Islamic Cooperation as the most important and suitable forum for resolving issues facing Muslim Ummah.

The Foreign Minister said that he highlighted the isviolations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashsaid fight for Kashmiris' right to self-determination forum. China Southern

sue of serious human rights mir and Indian state terrorism during meetings with his counterparts of different Islamic countries. He will be continued at every Airlines has launched a direct flight from Wuhan city to Islamabad on every

Monday. - APP

Japanese Governmentwould be pleased if these trainees who will learn many things in Japan could build a bright future of Pakistan 20-35 years old and are expected to lead the development of Pakistan in the future. - Around 10 trainees partici-

2020: Japan offers 61 training programmes

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The Japanese Government has offered training programmes, whichare heldin Japan for Pakistaninationalsevery year as a part of development cooperationfor the further development of Pakistan. These programmes are implemented by JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency), thanks to the support by Japanese ministries, municipalities, universities and relevant organizations. Although around 80 traineesare to participate ina total of 61 courses in FY2020, due to restriction on overseas travel

by the COVID-19 pandemic.

these curriculums had to

be reconsidered. Therefore,



JICA is exploring alternative methodssuch asonline coursesso that opportunities to participate in the trainings will not be lost even in challenging times. The programmes are gradually being decided as shown in the attached tables.

The programmes will restart on a full scale once the pandemic calms down.

Japanese Governmentwould be pleased ifthese trainees who will learn many things in Japan could build a bright future of Pakistan.



(1) Group and Region-Focused Programme

- Many traineesparticipatein a course of diverse sectors. - Around 60 trainees participate in 50-60 programmesfor basically 1-2 months with the participants from

the other countries.

trainees have joined under this programme since 1957. (2) Young Leaders Training Programme

young people who are around

The programme targets

Approximately 5,000

(3) Long-term Training Pro-

pate in 1 programme for 2-3

495 trainees have joined

underthis programme since

Participants study atJapanese universitiespursuing masters or post-doctordegreesfor 2-3 years.

32 trainees have studied underthis programme since 2016. (4) Country Focus Training

Programme Order-made programmes which focus on specific sec-

tor for a certain country. The period is less than one year.

Briefs

SHC extends interim bail of Qaim Ali Shah

DNA

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Tuesday extended the interim bail of Sindh's former Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah in a case related to illegal land allotment. The former chief is facing NAB inquiry into illegal land allotment case. Shah appeared before the court as his bail expired on Tuesday. Upon plea, his interim bail was extended till January 13. The SHC has directed the NAB to present arguments at the next hearing of the case. The former chief minister is also facing charges of massive corruption in Roshan Sindh project initiated by the provincial government for the installation of solar streetlights across the province.

The senior PPP leader has won seven out of eight general elections he contested, becoming a MPA six times. and Member of National Assembly (MNA) and senator once. Shah completed his 2nd term as Chief Minister of Sindh on 21 March 2013. He was once again, for the third time, elected to the office of chief minister of Sindh after the 2013 general elections. In July 2016, the PPP leadership decided to replace Shah with Murad Ali Shah as CM Sindh.

Health minister calls for enhanced awareness on HIV

LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid Tuesday called for enhanced awareness among youth on HIV/AIDS stigma reduction and its modes of transmission. While addressing a seminar in connection with World AIDS Day at a local hotel here, she said that creating awareness among university students about communicable diseases, especially HIV/AIDS, was of paramount importance as the disease was spreading at a fast pace. She emphasized that removing stigma attached with HIV/AIDS must be the prime focus of the campaign. The minister said, "I am grateful to the vice chancellors for coming forward for a great cause. The role of Academia is integral in generating awareness among youth on prevention and control of communicable diseases. We must discourage the trend of using injections for treatment by healthcare providers and the public. Injection must be used only when it becomes extremely necessary. Use of infected syringes, surgical/piercing instruments and unsafe blood transfusion are major causes of HIV spread in Punjab." – **APP**

Railway traffic suspended in Karachi

DNA

KARACHI: A large number of sacked employees of the Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) have blocked the main railway track near Bin Qasim, suspending the rail traffic for the last two hours.

As per details, the employees of Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) have staged a sit-in at the railway track near Bin Qasim against the sacking of their services by the federal government. As a result the up and down rail traffic is suspended, whereas Karachi Express and Sir Syed Express are waiting at the stations for clearance for the last two hours.

The enraged protestors are urging the government to take back its decision to lay-

ing-off their services. The 4,544 PSM employincluding teachers, drivers, firemen, operators, health and security staffers, SEDGMs, managers and others had been sacked, a spokesperson from the Steel Mill said the other day. Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairperson Bilawal Bhutto Zardari while criticising the PTI-led federal government, last week, had said in his tweet that the heartless government has sacked 4500 workers of Pakistan Steel mills. PPP will return each and everyone back to work.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi conferring Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military) on minister of national defence of China, General Wei Fenghe, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. - DNA

Ties with China cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy'

"On 5 August 2019, India moved to alter the disputed status of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and change its demographic structure," he said

DNA

Defence, General Wei Fenghe,

and President Dr Arif Alvi, at Ai-

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China have reiterated their resolve to further consolidate their friendship for the mutual benefit of the two countries. This was discussed at a meeting between the visiting Chinese Minister for National

wan-e-Sadr, today. Welcoming the Chinese Defence Minister, the President said that Pakistan's friendship with China was the cornerstone of its foreign policy and Pakistan wanted to further improve and cement its ties with the People's Republic of China so as to address the security challenges being faced by the region. The President informed the delegation that Pakistan and China were great

friends and Pakistan strongly

President Alvi confers Nishan-e-Imtiaz on Chinese Defense Minister

DNA

ISLAMABAD, : President Dr. Arif Alvi has conferred Nishan-e-Imtiaz Military on Chinese Defense Minister Wei Fenghe in recognition of his services for further promoting and strengthening defense cooperation between Pakistan and China. A special investiture ceremony was held at the

adhered to One-China Policy and supported China on issues of Taiwan, Tibet, Xinjiang and South China Sea. The President expressed concern over the Indian hegemonic designs that posed a threat to regional peace

presidency in Islamabad on Tuesday. It was attended by the federal ministers, the services chiefs and other senior ranking officials. Earlier, General Wei Fenghe met Chief of army staff (COAS) general Qamar Javed Bajwa. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, regional security and enhanced bilateral defence collaboration were discussed. General Qamar Javed Bajwa said that Pakistan Army

and stability. The President also highlighted India's state-sponsorship of terrorism against Pakistan. President Dr Arif Alvi appreciated the economic progress made by China as well as the measures taken by the Chi-

greatly values our time-tested and brotherly relations with China. We have been standing together all along, and our relations will be no different in wake of future challenges. Visiting dignitary acknowledged and appreciated Pak Army's sincere efforts for the regional peace. A Memorandum of Understating (MoU) was also signed for enhancement of defence cooperation between both the Armies.

the Covid-19 pandemic. He lauded the steadfast Chinese support to Pakistan on the Jammu &Kashmir dispute, including at international fora.

The President underlined that

there was huge scope of bilateral defence cooperation that needed to be further expanded for the mutual advantage of the two countries. General Wei Fenghe stated that military relations between the two all-weather friends had made significant progress and expressed the hope that his visit would further strengthen the defence cooperation. He said that China wanted to share dividends of development with Pakistan that would help in economic uplift of Pakistan. He thanked the President for being the first foreign dignitary to visit China during March 2020 amidst the Covid-19 pandemic as well as sending the medical equipment. He also thanked the President for conferring the award of Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military) on him, saying that it reflected the true friendship between the two countries.

Mangrove plantation campaign announced

KARACHI: Chairman Karachi Port Trust (KPT) Rear Admiral (retd) Jamil Akhtar termed the plantation of mangroves as extremely necessary for the ports and port cities to avoid natural calamities like Tsunamis. Heat Waves and announced a full year Mangrove Plantation Campaign 2020-21 under which KPT will plant 100,000 mangroves every quarter. The Chairman KPT made this announcement while speaking at the launching ceremony of mangroves plantation campaign 2020-21 here on Tuesday. The ceremony was attended by all the General Managers, senior and middle management officials of KPT besides media and other guests. Sharing the details of the program, the Chairman KPT informed further that mangrove plantation will take place quarter-wise throughout the campaign year and side by side activities like public awareness campaign outreaching school children in second quarter, conferences and symposia arrangements in third quarter and marine eco-tourism entertainment for local hotels in fourth quarters have been scheduled under this campaign. – **APP**

'Govt ready to discuss all issues with opposition'

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar on Tuesday said that apart from accountability, the government was ready to discuss every issue with the opposition. Addressing the media after attending an event regarding anti-polio campaign at Governor's House, he said there could be no compromise on elimination of corruption and transparent accountability. Besides, the government was ready to hold talks with the opposition on all issues and the option of negotiations was never ruled out in democracy. He said if the opposition wanted to end the accountability process, it was not possible. To a question, he said that there was complete democracy in Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and every member of the party had the right to give his opinion on any issue including the opposition rallies. He said political parties should also introduce democracy in their ranks and let everyone speak. He said that Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) government did not believe in political revenge and no one was being targeted for political revenge. To another question, he said that in a telephonic conversation with Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif, he had only expressed condolences on the death of his late mother and no other discussion had taken place. – APP

Smart lockdown imposed in 6 localities

ABBOTTABAD: The district administration Tuesday imposed a smart lockdown in six areas to prevent further

spread of the COVID-19. According to the notification issued by the DC office, the smart lockdown was imposed on the recommendations of the health department to prevent the local transmission of COVID-19 in Hassan Town, Noor Colony, Supply, Maira Rehmat Khan, Chatri, Lal Ghah Muslim Abad Havelian, Jugan Nawan Shahr and Govt. Girls High School Nawanshahr. No general entry or exit to these localities by any person, except for supply of essential commodities, shall be allowed. All types of gatherings within these premises would be strictly prohibited.

Anyone contravening the directions would be be proceeded against under section 17 and 18 of the KPK Epidemic Control & Emergency Relief Ordinance.

In the district, total number

of confirmed coronavirus positive cases were 2463 whereas 1907 patients have been recovered from the virus, 459 patients were under treatment and 97 have been expired. A total number of 25116 coronavirus tests have been conducted in the district out of which 21306 were negative, 2463 were positive while results of 1278 samples were awaited and 69 were inconclusive.

Zinda-dil-a'an-e-Lahore – Billboard **Project**

DNA

LAHORE: The Lahore Biennale Foundation in partnership with Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA), today revealed a list of 16 participating artists and 7 new commissions of artists who are from the City or have strong connections to Lahore for an upcoming billboard project, running from 24th November 2020 to 7th December 2020. Curated by Qudsia Rahim, Executive Director of the Lahore Biennale Foundation, Zinda -dil-a'an-e-Lahore Billboard Project.

16 practitioners are invited to participate whose practices we believe to have strong social relevance and are rightly suited to lead this project and to bring the message of hope and to pay homage to the City and it's Citizens - a reminder of the humanity that holds it together.

The participating artists are Shah Abdullah, Hamra Abbas, Ajaz Anwar, Naazish Ata Ullah, Faiza Butt, Ruby Chishti, Salima Hashmi Ayesha Jatoi, Ali Kazim, Asif Khan, Atif Khan, Saba Khan, Waqas Khan, Imran Qureshi, WardhaShabbirandMasooma Sved. With a focus on the city and its residents, the project is a response to the prevailing Covid-19 situation. "This project is an awareness campaign to interest people towards the concept of contemporary art which is largely missing in our environment. The idea is to also attract the audience, largely unaware of contemporary arts", said Qudsia Rahim, curator of the project and Executive Director of the Lahore Biennale Foundation.



ANKARA: Chief of Naval Staff of Pakistan Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi arrived in Ankara on a 4-days official visit to Turkey. He was received at the airport by Pakistan Ambassador to Turkey Syrus Sajjad Qazi and senior officials of the Turkish Navy. - DNA

NH&MP organizes AIDS awareness program

Besides a professional commitment by all the team members, the credit also goes to the strict imposition of traffic rules, awareness campaigns inculcating road sense among our citizens and bailing out the commuters in distress. Dr. Marlin, Country Director for UN AIDS

DNA

ISLAMABAD: On the occasion of World AIDS Day, a special awareness program was conducted at the National Highways and Motorways Police Headquarters in collaboration with the National Highways and Motorways Police and UN AIDS. UN AIDS officials and senior officers from the National Highways and Motorways Police attended the ceremony. DIG Headquarters, Asghar Ali Yousafzai, while delivering a welcome address, explained the reasons for the spread of AIDS and said that today's special event would help in the prevention of AIDS. Inspector General of National Highways and Motorways Police, Dr. Sved Kaleem Imam,



said that the National Highways and Motorways Police in collaboration with UN AIDS have been instrumental in raising awareness, prevention and eradication of HIV / AIDS in Pakistan. On the occasion, Inspector General, Dr Syed Kaleem Imam, assured that the Motorway Police would ex-

tend full cooperation to UN AIDS to make the campaign success. He further added that in a short period after its inception, the NHMP has displayed remarkable results in reducing road accidents, both fatal and non-fatal, thus saving and preserving precious lives. Besides a professional commitment by all the team members, the credit also goes to the strict imposition of traffic rules, awareness campaigns inculcating road sense among our citizens and bailing out the commuters in distress. Dr. Marlin, Country Director for UN AIDS, while appreciating the role of Motorway Police, said that the

tected blood transfusions, organ tissue transplants and sex can spread HIV. However, air, water, insects, pets, food, drinks and tears are not the sources to spread AIDs. She said that approximately 190,000 people in Pakistan are infected with AIDS whereas 5,300 of them are women. She assured that UN AIDS would extend full cooperation to the Government of Pakistan for the eradication of HIV / AIDS from Pakistan. She elaborated the steps taken by the government of Pakistan to control it. In the end of the program,

souvenirs were presented to

the distinguished guests.

Government of Pakistan is tak-

ing state responsibilities for the

prevention and treatment of HIV

/ AIDS seriously. She said unpro-

Briefs

PNCA to start "Talent Hunt" from Dec 7

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) has planned to start programme titled "Talent Hunt" to discover best singers and musicians from December 7 to 30.

Under the said programme Online music and singing edition would be taken throughout December to discover best singer through competition.

The girls and boys aged between 15 to 20 will be eligible to participate in competition, an official said on Tuesday.

He said that registration would start from December 7 adding that contestants can present national songs and Pakistani film songs.

A competition for playing instruments will be held for both boys and girls to present their skills in playing flute, tabla, guitar, violin, keyboard and harmonium,he added.

"The programme provides a platform to the young enthusiast to discover and polish their talent in different art forms", he stated.

128 more cases reported in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI: 128 more persons tested positive of COVID-19 during the last 24 hours in the district Rawalpindi on Tuesday.

According to a data shared by the district administration here on Tuesday ,124 patients were reported from Rawalpindi district while 4 belonged to other districts. He said that number of C-virus patients in the district hospital's are continuously increasing while the district government, health department and others have made arrangements to control the situation. "19 cases were reported from Pothohar town, Rawalpindi Cantt,32 Rawal town,9 Gujar khan and 34 from Taxila", he said. He further added that 30 patients were admitted in Holy family Hospital,18 Benazir Bhutto Hospital, 8 Red Crescent,46 Institute of Urology and two in Begum Akhtar Memorial Trust who were being provided the best health care facilities. - APP

Footwear exports decrease 5.82%

ISLAMABAD: The footwear exports from the country witnessed a decrease of 5.82 percent during the first four months of current financial vear (2020-21) as compared to the exports of corresponding period of last year.

Pakistan exported footwear worth US \$42.599 million during July-October (2020-21) against the exports of \$45.231 million during July-October (2019-20), showing negative growth of 5.82 percent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). In terms of quantity, the exports of footwear also witnessed nominal decline of 0.06 percent by going down from 5,002 Th. pairs to 4,999 Th. pairs.

Among the footwear products, the exports of leather footwear declined by 4.60 percent as it down from \$38.540 million last year to \$36.769 million during the current year.

The canvas footwear exports of the country stood at just \$ 0.074 million during the current year against \$ 0.082 million during last year, showing decrease of 7.96 percent. Likewise, the exports of all other footwear commodities also dipped by 12.91 percent during the period under review as these went down from \$6.609 million last year to \$5.756 million during the current fiscal year.

Meanwhile. year-on-year basis, the footwear exports however witnessed an increase of 13.02 percent during the month of October 2020 compared to the same month of last year.

The footwear exports during October 2020 were recorded at \$9,152 million against the exports of \$8.098 million in October 2019. - APP



RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and industry signed a MOU with Tanzania Chamber of Commerce and industry in Islamabad Hon'ble Senator Mr. Talha Mahommood also attended the Ceremony. – DNA

RCCI, TCCIA vow to boost trade between Pak, Tanzania

President TCCIA Paul Koyi on this occasion gave a short brief on TCCIA role and urged the Pakistani businessmen & industrialists to improve ties with Tanzanian counterparts by exploring more avenues of trade and investment cooperation

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) aiming to boost trade, increase exports and networking between Pakistan and Tanzania.

The document was signed by Chamber Group Leader and former president Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce Industry Sohail Altaf and Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture President H.E. Paul Koyi.

The signing ceremony was held at a local hotel which

was attended by Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture delegation Charles Chavalla, Ms. Pilly Mkaka Maklinenge, Ms. Mariam Said Rashid, Senator Talha Mehmood and Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry former Presidents Asad Mashadi, Zahid Latif Khan, Chairman Regional Trade Khursheed Barlas and other chamber members. Sohail Altaf on this occasion

said that the Chamber has always strived to enhance trade

Under the Africa Trade Forum and the government's Look Africa policy, our focus was to explore new markets. The MoU

will strengthen the Chamber's

Charter, he added. He assured all kinds of assistance from Rawalpindi Cham-

ber of Commerce and Industry to Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture in promoting trade ties and exchange of delegates. Pakistan economy is showing good and positive indicators despite COVID-19 and we are thankful to Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture commitment for engaging private sector.

President Tanzania Chamber of culture Paul Koyi on this occasion gave a short brief on Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture role and urged the Pakistani businessmen & industrialists to

improve ties with Tanzanian counterparts by exploring more avenues of trade and investment cooperation between the two countries in different sectors of the economy.

He said that the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture and RCCI would work together for the exchange of delegations and organizing exhibitions. He invited Pakistani business-

men and industrialists to visit Tanzania which would not only help in improving the existing vide a golden opportunity for further exploring the Tanzanian market.

Earlier on Monday, the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture delegation met Advisor to Prime Minister on Trade Razak Dawood. Ministry of Commerce assured the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) of Pakistan's full support to further enhancing Pakistan's trade with Tanzania and Africa under the "Look Africa Policy Initiative" of the Ministry of Commerce, the advisor said this on his official twitter account.

He said that it was an honour for the Ministry of Commerce to receive President of the Tan-Industry and Agriculture (TC-CIA), Paul Koyi. The ministry of commerce acknowledged his important role in facilitating trade and investment between the two countries.

of the world's most signifi-

cant challenges. This year's

list includes 26 Nobel lau-

21 fields. Of the world's

population of scientists and

social scientists, Highly Cit-

ed Researchers represent

Presently, Rehmani is

teaching at the Depart-

ment of Computer Sci-

ence at the Cork Institute

of Technology (CIT). He

previously worked at the

COMSATS University Is-

lamabad for five years as

1 in 1,000.

Daniel Pearl case adjourned

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday adjourned hearing of a case against acquittal of accused by the Sindh High Court (SHC) in American journalist Daniel Pearl murder case till Wednesday.

A three-member special bench of the apex court headed by Justice Mushir Alam and comprising Justice Sardar Tariq Masood and Justice Yahya Afridi heard the appeals filed by the government and Pearl's parents challenging the acquittal of the previously convicted men by the Sindh High Court (SHC).

During the course of proceedings, Advocate Farooq H Naek counsel for the Sindh government said that four accused including the main accused Omar Sheikh were arrested while seven accused were absconding in this case. Daniel was an American citizen and a Jewish journalist, he added. He said that Daniel Pearl

was a reporter for the leading American magazine The Wall Street Journal. The accused conspired to

kidnap Daniel Pearl in PC Rawalpindi, he added. He said that the accused demanded ransom from his wife via e-mail after kidnapping Daniel Pearl.

He said that the accused brutally killed Daniel Pearl when their demand was not met.

He said that the accused also released a video of Daniel Pearl's murder, which spread fear and terror in society.

He said that the Anti-Terrorism Court Hyderabad had sentenced the accused to death. Farooq Naek completed his arguments on legal issues and he would continue his arguments on Wednesday.

Two arrested for running illegal LPG

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi District Police under an ongoing operation against illegal Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and Petrol agencies conducted raids and arrested two accused. According to a Police spokesman. Sadigabad police netted Iftikhar Ali for operating illegal LPG agencies and another accused namely Muhammad Khalid for running an illereates and recognises gal petrol agency. Police confiscated LPG 6,400 researchers across

cylinders and refilling gadgets from their possession and registered separate cases against the accused, he added. He said, police would continue their operation against the rules viola-

tors and the illegal petrol and LPG agencies would be sealed. He warned the violators

to stop the illegal business immediately otherwise strict action in accordance with the law would be taken.

ISLAMABAD: The Utility Stores Corporation of Pakistan (USC) Tuesday changed its trademark to meet customers' satisfaction across the country. Managing Director USC, Umer Lodhi announced the change in USC trademark to rebrand it in the eyes of all stakeholders, with an effort to modernize Utility Stores across the country, said a press release issued here by the USC. Managing Director said that the new logo envisages corporation dynamic approach towards making Utility Stores better able to meet customer satisfaction. The shift from red and yellow to orange, green and olive green depicts a friendly, confident and growth-oriented message. Lastly,

holds by ensuring supply of staple food items at subsidized rates. - APP

Employee's death: PRCS constitutes probe committee ISLAMABAD:

The spokesman said the senior management removed acting Secretary General Khalid bin Majeed from all temporary appointments and suspended

his all official assignments with immediate effect and constituted a high level independent, impartial and transparent

inquiry committee in this regard

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) has taken notice of rumors mongering and gossiping in the national and social media with regard to the death of a female employee, Kainat Tariq, as the police have registered a case and are investigating the unfortunate incident.

In a statement, a spokesman said in addition to the registration of case, the senior management had also taken a serious notice of the incident.

The spokesman said the senior management removed

acting Secretary General Khalid bin Majeed from all

temporary appointments and suspended his all official assignments with immediate effect and constituted a high level independent, impartial and transparent regard. The mittee in this said Chairspokesman man PRCS Abrar ul Haq committed to ensuring free, transparent inquiry and delivering justice to the aggrieved fam-

Special squads to check noise pollution

Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has constituted special squads to check noise pollution which would be authorized to take action against installation of pressure horn in vehicles and impose heavy fines on

those using them. According to the police spokesman, Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Farrukh Rashid has constituted special squads to make the capital noisefree. During the ongoing year, pressure horns from 818 vehicles/bikes were removed by the police teams and fine tickets were issued to their drivers.

The SSP (Traffic) said that ITP had launched a campaign as the noise pollution affects the nerves and injurious to human health, therefore, strict action would be taken against those install-

ing pressure horns. Special squads of ITP has been constituted to conduct regular checking and fine vehicles involved in creating noise pollution or other environmental pollution in the city. The purpose of this whole practice was to end noise pollution in the city, the SSP maintained. - APP

Pakistani lecturer among world's top researchers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani lecturer Dr Mubashir Husain Rehmani has been named in the world's top 1% researchers in the field of computer sciences.

The educationist is a graduate of the Department of Computer Systems Engineering from the Mehran University of Engineering and Technology. Rehmani's work focuses on wireless networks, blockchain, cognitive radio networks, and software-defined networks.

peer-reviewed articles, of which 12 were among highly cited articles by Clarivate. The professor's research work has been recognised internationally and has received multiple best paper awards.

He has written over 100

The latest 'Highly Cited Researchers' report, compiled by Clarivate Analytics, highlights researchers with significant influence in their chosen field through the publication of cited papers during the last decade.

The report shortlists researchers working on some an assistant lecturer.

USC changes its trademark

the shopping cart speaks for itself giving USC a modern brand image.

"In our efforts to uplift standards of services at all utility stores across the country and ensuring provision of grocery items at prices lower than the open market, we have taken many initiatives including change in USC Trademark", said Umer Lodhi. Umer Lodhi reiterated that USC is providing five staple food items (Wheat Flour, Pulses, Rice, Ghee and Sugar) at subsidized rates, successfully transferring Government's subsidy to the people of Pakistan. Managing Director informed that since January, 2020 USC has served 40.28 million house

digital financial inclusion of the

masses, and this recognition fur-

ther strengthens our resolve to

play our part in the development

As the most widely used digital

wallet App in Pakistan, serving

millions of people every day, we

look forward to continue building

the Easypaisa platform through

which all Pakistanis will be able to

of a digital ecosystem.

Easypaisa bags emerging payments award

The winners were announced recently at the virtual Emerging Payments Awards Ceremony, streamed online for the global community to participate

DNA

ily without en-

pressure whatso-

ISLAMABAD: Easypaisa, Pakistan's leading digital payments platform has vet again added another feather to its cap by winning the Emerging Payments Award 2020 for the 'Best Financial Inclusion Payments Initiative'.

The renowned mobile banking platform was one of the two winners, out of four contestants, to bag the awards.

The winners were announced recently at the virtual Emerging Payments Awards Ceremony,

streamed online for the global community to participate. The Awards celebrate innovation and collaboration by recognizing companies that have made significant advances in payments. Now in its 13th year, the Emerging Payments Awards is the UK industry's most prestigious event.

tertaining any

This isn't the first time that Easypaisa has emerged as a major player in the sphere of financial inclusion. It has been making significant headway in the field by forging partnerships with other companies to play the role of an enabler for financial inclusion

through ensuring access to digital financial services.

Commenting on the achievement, M. Mudassar Aqil, President & CEO, Easypaisa / Telenor Microfinance Bank said, "It is a matter of great pride for us

easypaisa

at Easypaisa to become the winparticipate in the country's formal ner of the prestigious Emerging economy." Payments Award for 2020 and Easypaisa has been making conwe are ecstatic to say the least. Easypaisa has always strived to play the role of an enabler for the

sistent efforts to introduce a digital landscape by allowing more people to leverage various use cases and experience seamless digital transactions through its App.

The platform also won 'The Innovators 2020' Award in May this year for the second consecutive time in the field of Payments by the Global Finance Magazine, wherein it was recognized for forging new paths and introducing tools for greater financial inclusion

IRSA releases 102,500 cusecs water ISLAMABAD: Indus River

System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 102.500 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 49,900 cusecs. According to the data re-

leased by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1482.15 feet, which was 90.15 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 24,800 cusecs and outflow as 48,000 cusecs. The water level in the

Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1182.75 feet, which was 142.75 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 7,600 cusecs and 37,000 cusecs respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 75,500, 50,200 and 11,500 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 10,300 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 2,000 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala. - APP

TWIN CITIES



Wednesday, December 02, 2020

Hult Prize

2020 held at **IoBM**

DNA KARACHI: The Hult Prize is a global competition that crowd-sources ideas from MBA and college students. Recently this

event was held at the In-

stitute of Business Man-

agement (IoBM), Karachi.

The theme was 'Food for

Good.' The participating

teams of IoBM students

shared business ideas to

reduce food wastage and

envision such viable food

enterprises that can im-

prove supply chains and

All students from IoBM

were invited to partici-

pate. Over the years, the

Hult Prize has brought

impact-focused programs,

events, and training to

over a million students

globally, creating opportu-

nities for youth to act for a

better tomorrow. Mr. Tal-

ib Karim, President IoBM

delivered the Welcome Ad-

dress. He praised the initi-

ative and said that it will

add value to IoBM's ef-

forts in developing entre-

preneurs. The ten student

teams from IoBM selected

to present their ideas for

the Hult Prize were mentored by leading corporate

icons of Pakistan. The

Keynote Speakers were

Ali Mukhtar (CEO, Fatima

Gobi Ventures) and Shais-

ta Ayesha (CEO, Seed Ven-

tures). The judges includ-

ed Owais Shaikh (Startup

Mentor, Founder Insti-

tute), Tehmina Chaudhry

(Managing Director, IN-

STA Foods), Syed Zafar

Hussain (Program Man-

ager, National Incubation

Centre), and Rehan Mu-

zammil (HoD Entrepre-

IoBM). Sohaib Amir (Vice

Curator, Global Shapers),

Talha Bin Afzal (Program

Manager, Pasha), and

Naureen Hayat (Co-Found-

er, Tez Financial Services)

were the Guests of Honor.

Dr. Shujaat Mubarik, Asso-

ciate Dean, CBM, IoBM,

presented the closing note.

He appreciated the organiz-

ing committee's efforts to

present such a thought-pro-

voking online event during

challenging times.

neurship

Department,

economies.

stimulate

Briefs

20,000 surgical masks gifted to Cops

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Green Inspire Foundation (GIF) on Tuesday handed over 20,000 surgical masks to Islamabad police which is standing on the frontline in struggle to curb COVID-19. These masks were formally handed over to SP (Headquarters) Syed Arif Hussain Shah Director GIF Ch. Sheeraz here at Central Police Office. The SP (Headquarters) thanked the representative of GIF and said that Islamabad police is performing role at front line to combat this daunting challenge. Following directions of IGP Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfigar, he said that efforts are also being made for to protect health of policemer so that they may accomplish their responsibilities in an effective manner. He said that Islamabad police is standing with its citizens and the morale of the force is very much high He said that Islamahad police is creating awareness among citizens to adopt precautionary measures and also doing its best to ensure protection to the lives and property of the citizens.

The SP said that these masks would be distributed among those performing duties in field including traffic policemen so that they could work in safe atmosphere. He also appealed the citizens to cooperate with Islamabad Police in its efforts to curb COVID-19. Director GIF Ch. Sheeraz also lauded the efforts of Islamabad police in curbing spread of coronavirus and ensuring implementation on SOPs in this regard.

Court adjourns LNG reference till Dec 8

ISLAMABAD: An Accountability Court (AC) on Tuesday adjourned hearing on LNG reference till December 8, against former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi. AC-II Judge Muhammad Azam Khan conducted hearing on graft reference filed by National Accounta bility Bureau (NAB) against Shahid Khaqan, his son Abdullah Khaqan, former finance minster Miftah Ismail and others. At the outset of hearing, the court started testimony of prosecution witness Muhammad Hassan. The defense lawyer Barrister Zafarullah objected on the proceeding and said that the NAB had not provide the complete copies of reference against his client to this the prosecutor said that his department had already shared the copies of reference and it could provide against if the defense required it. - APP

CDA restoration of roads underway

ISLAMABAD: The work of Capital Development Authority (CDA) on restoration and repairing of all the main roads, link roads, streets in the city is underway. Work of carpeting, kerb stones, lane marking, and cutting of shrubs is also continued with full pace. Jogging tracks are also being con structed along the various roads. Upon the special directions of the Chairman CDA, Aamir Ali Ahmad all the departments of CDA are working in two shifts to complete the work as soon as possible. Chairman CDA himself inspecting the work of progress, development, and beautification by making the sudden visits of the sites. The projects upon which work has been completed include repairing and restoration of Srinagar Highway, Plaining of land at Park enclave 1, Jogging track at Nazim-Uddin road, restoration and repairing of sector D-12, construction of water land at Margala road, cutting of gross at School Road F-6, removal of illegal speed breakers, kerb stones at Bilal road F-11, lane marking at Diplomatic Enclave, Installation of speed breakers, Lane marking at G-6/1 and G-6/2, and lane marking and installation of speed breakers in sector G-5. - DNA

ISLAMABAD: SardarYasir Ilyas, President ICCI presenting souvenir to Paul. F. Koyl, Presidentanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture during their visit to ICCI. - DNA

ICCI and TCCIA vow to work together

Addressing the delegation, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that despite huge potential, Africa was still an unexplored market for Pakistan

RANA FARRUKH

ISLAMABAD: Africa was the future for the world and Pakistani investors should visit Tanzania to explore JVs and investment in order to capitalize on the emerging business and economic opportunities in the African region. This was observed by Paul F Koyi, President of Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (TCCIA) while addressing the business community during a visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI). He visited ICCI along with a delegation of Tanzanian entrepreneurs and exchanged views with Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President ICCI and his team to promote bilateral trade and economic relations with Tanzania and Pakistan. Mian Akram Farid Chairman Found-

President ICCI, Umar Hussain, Omais Khattak, Muhammad Shakir, Khursheed Barlas, Khalid Chaudhry and others were also present at the occasion.

Paul F Koyi said that Tanzania was determined to promote business relations with Pakistan and that's why despite the challenges of Covid-19, Tanzanian business delegation has come to Pakistan to interact with Pakistani counterparts in order to explore business collaborations. He said that there was a disconnection between the private sectors of both countries as for the 3 decades, no Tanzanian delegation had visited Pakistan. Therefore, more meetings and exchange of delegations were needed to know each other, build confidence and improve trade rela-

er, Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI, Umar Hussain, economies, Pakistan and Tanzania have good potential to cooperate in value addition of agro products. He said both countries should set up joint working groups at government level and a Pak-Tanzania Business Council to promote longterm cooperation between the private sectors of both countries. Addressing the delegation, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that despite huge potential, Africa was still an unexplored market for Pakistan, however, now Pakistan has made a Look Africa policy to focus on this big market. He said that developing close relations with Tanzania was important for Pakistan to get better penetration into the African market. He said that our

neighbours were exporting products worth billions of dollars to Africa in which Pakistan also has competitive advantage. He emphasized that with more focus and strenuous efforts, Pakistan can make a significant increase in its exports to Africa. He said that Pak-Tanzania bilateral trade of around US\$ 154 million in 2019-20 was much below their actual potential and stressed that both countries should focus on promoting business linkages between their private sectors to further improve bilateral trade volume. He said that many Pakistani products including pharmaceuticals, textiles, surgical instruments, sports goods, engineering goods, IT products could find a good market in Tanzania. He identified agriculture, pharmaceuticals, minerals, IT, tourism as potential areas of

mutual cooperation between Pakistan and Tanzania. He assured that ICCI would take a delegation to Tanzania to explore JVs and investment. MianAkramFarid, Chairman Founder Group said that frequent interactions between private sectors and exchange of trade delegations should be the way forward for promoting bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Tanzania. He said that Tanzania provided Pakistan easy access to the huge African market while Pakistan provided easy access to Tanzania to South Asian market, thus promoting strong bilateral business cooperation should be a high priority of both countries. ICCI and TCCIA also signed an MoUto promote bilateral trade, JVs and investment between Pakistan and Tanzania with joint efforts.

ChildLife to expand life-saving operations

ISLAMABAD: ChildLife Foundation (ChildLife) has selected Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI) to support its third party hospital management system application. As a result, Child-Life has significantly increased the utilization of the application by improving its availability and performance, at a reduced cost. This is helping it direct the maximum amount of funding and resource towards achieving its mission: providing quality and free-ofcost emergency healthcare to every child in Pakistan. Child-Life operates in 21 hospitals with 10 state-of-the-art, model emergency rooms in all public-teaching hospitals across Sindh and Baluchistan provinces and 11 telemedicine satellite centers serving far-flung areas, providing services that typically help save one million lives annually. ChildLife has been expanding its operations exponentially since its inception in 2010. To continue this, it needed a stable, secure and scalable platform to underpin its hospital management information system and support

this ongoing growth. "Preventable deaths claim kistan, with pneumonia dren annually. Our aim is possible by making rapid access to free-of-cost and quality emergency medical care possible across the country," said Dr. Ahson Rabbani, CEO - ChildLife "Knowing Foundation. that our hospital management system application is running on a reliable, performant and secure cloud like Oracle Cloud, gives us peace of mind and allows cient healthcare system."

Chairman NAB eradicating corruption

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Corruption is mother of all evils. NAB is geared up to bring the corrupt elements to justice to eradicate corruption from the lives of hundreds of the country. This was statchildren annually in Pa- ed by Honorable Justice Mr. laved Igbal. He said that alone killing 92,000 chil- NAB has perfected its procedures and its officers/ofto save as many of them as ficials are working with the realization that eradication of corruption is their national duty. NAB role model for entire SAARC countries. He said that Pakistan and China have inked Memorandum of understanding MoU for eradication of corruption. Pakistan and China are jointly working for ensuring transparency in China Pakistan economic coordination us to ensure that the malin CPEC project. NAB has jority of our funding goes established a state of the towards delivering an effi- art training academy on modern lines to train its in-

vestigation officers in order to inquire/investigate white collar and complex cases more professionally and on a scientific basis. He said that NAB is determined to eradicate corruption by using all its resources. NAB's proactive Anti-Corruption Strategy has started yielding positive dividends. Due to its effective anti corruption strategy, NAB has not only recovered Rs. 466 billion looted money from corrupt and deposited it in national exchequer which is a record achievement of any Anti Corruption Organization working in Pakistan. NAB's conviction ratio is about 68.6 percent. We have also adopted a policy to arrest Proclaimed Offenders and Absconders to bring them to justice as per law. He said due to NAB's proactive anti corruption Strategy, eradication of

corruption has become the

can lead us towards a prosper and develop country. The Chairman NAB said that NAB is committed to eradicate by adopting "Accountability for All" policy. He said that there are about 1130 references under trial in respective Accountability Courts and their approximately worth is Rs 943 billion. He said that NAB has conducted probe in 56 public limited companies in Punjab, probe in 435 offshore companies, probe in alleged illegal allotment of Industrial and Commercial plots by Gwadar Industrial and Estate Development Authority, NTS, LNG Terminal, Narowal Sports City Project, Billion Tree Tsunami, illegal Housing/ Cooperative Societies and Modaraba scams etc. On

the instructions of Chair-

man NAB, NAB's perfor-

voice of the whole nation mance is being evaluated as corruption free Pakistan under monitoring and evaluation system. On the basis of annual evaluation. all concerned of NAB are being informed about their strengths and weaknesses under NAB's self Accountability Mechanism. They are also being directed to overcome their shortcomings which are helping in improving the overall performance of NAB. On the directions of Honorable Mr. Javed Igbal, Chairman NAB, NAB's effective awareness and prevention campaign is in process in order to aware people about the ill effects of corruption throughout the country. Chairman NAB has directed multiple efforts for eradication of corruption and to arrest Absconders/Proclaimed Offenders. Joint efforts of all could ensure eradication of corruption and corruption

Nadra chief visits different centres

DNA

ATTOCK: The chairman of Nadra, Usman Y. Mobin, paid visits to different centres of the authority on Tuesday. The Nadra spokesman said the Chairman NADRA Usman Y. Mobin visited NADRA Centres Hassan Abdal, Wah Cantt. and Pindi Gheb. The NRCs have recently been refurbished and equipped with one-window operations and extended capacity. The Chairman urged the Nadra staff to ensure strict observance of SOPs to avoid 2nd wave of Covid-19. He commended the efforts of DG Islamabad in transforming NADRA Centres. Pindi Gheb center have recently been remodelled and established with one-window operations, enhanced capacity and other modern facilities. Chief purpose of Chairman NADRA's visit was to encourage NADRA staff to contact serve the general public, however, implementing all mandatory SOPs in order to avoid

Sania visits Ehsaas Kafaalat payment site

"It is critical to ensure all standard operating procedures are followed with regard to COVID-19 and deliver quantum change in relation to quality of cash transfers", Dr. Sania reiterated wile interacting with the Ehsaas and partnering bank teams

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation, Dr Sania Nishtar Tuesday visited Kafaalat Payment site in Tarnol area of Islamabad and interacted with the beneficiaries. The Ehsaas Kafaalat tranche for the period July- December 2020 has been released this week.

With the release of Kafaalat tranche nationwide, biometrically enabled payment operations have also been mobilized in the entire country to serve Kafaalat recipients. Dr Nishtar met the Kafaalat beneficiaries who had arrived to collect Rs. 12,000 payment for the period July 2020-December 2020. She also witnessed biometrically driven cash withdrawal demonstrations along with COV-ID-19 protective safeguards, said a news release issued here.

"It is critical to ensure all standard operating procedures are followed with regard to COVID-19 and deliver quantum change in relation to quality of cash transfers", Dr. Sania reiterated wile interacting with the Ehsaas and partnering bank teams. The main precautionary preparations being ensured at the Ehsaas

campsites include social distancing compliance, cleaning, hand sanitization and fumigation of campsites etc. Alongside that, security agencies are ensuring the safety of beneficiaries by managing crowd and social distance. Describing the scale of Ehsaas Kafaalat operations, Dr. Sania stated that the Ehsaas Kafaalat payment will be made in phases.

Phase-I has commenced this week where disbursements have begun to 4.3 million women beneficiaries nationwide.

Each Kafaalat beneficiary will be paid Rs. 12,000 covering the period July 2020 to December 2020. Prime Minister has already given approval to increase the number of Kafaalat beneficiaries to seven

tional beneficiaries will be made December 2020 onwards and the process will be completed in the current fiscal year, she said.

Ehsaas Kafaalat is the government's flagship social protection program through which it gives cash stipends of Rs. 2,000 monthly and bank accounts to the most deserving and poorest women across the country.



This time round, Ehsaas Kafaalat beneficiaries have the choice of going to, a biometrically enabled ATM or the payment sites.

free Pakistan a reality.

Under Ehsaas, HBL serves cash disbursals in Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan and Bank Alfalah across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Both banks are enhancing services across the country to ensure that women have easy access to their payments in a decent manner. Later in the day, Dr. Nishtar visited Panagah (shelter home) being built in Tarnol. She took round of the site and reviewed the progress of construction work. Aon Abbas Buppi, Managing Director Pakistan Bait ul Mal gave an overview of the construction work being done at the site. PM's Focal Person on Panagah Naseem ur Rehman and other senior officials were also present. The construction work is ongoing under the supervision and management of PASSD through its executing agency, Pakistan Bait ul Mal. Tarnol Panagah is expected to be completed for inauguration by the end of Dec 2020 and it will serve 100 people with shelter and 800 people with meals everyday. - APP

3 bootleggers arrested, 373 liquor bottles seized

COVID-19's current wave.

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Police in their crackdown against anti-social elements have arrested three bootleggers and recovered 373 bottles of liquor from their possession, a police spokesman said on Tuesday. He said Cantt police team conducted a raid and arrested Tanveer Masih for possessing 48 bottles of liquor. Later, the police party

on information of the accused carried out another raid at a liquor factory and seized 325 bottles of liquor and other items besides, netting two other accused identified as Ahsan Khan and Sohail Khan. A case has been registered against all the accused and police started further investigation.

Protecting the vulnerable

AILY wage earners in Pakistan top the list of the most vulnerable employees. Since the provincial labour departments do not protect them, many employers violate their rights with complete impunity. However, it seems that the government of Punjab has realised the plight of the daily wage earners; the decision to introduce a modern smart e-card scheme to solve daily wage earners' social security problems is a great initiative. Under the new plan, daily wage earners will receive medical facilities, including medical treatment and wages if they are ill. The project will also cover the cost of diagnosing various diseases. This is, undoubtedly, a revolutionary step, for it aims to provide some social security to the masses that work either on or below minimum wage. But, initiating a scheme is one thing; implementing it is a different ball game.

The real challenge before the government will be to ensure that all employers comply with the new initiative's requirements. Moreover, the officials will also need to keep a separate database of such ad-hoc workers to ensure that they get all the announced benefits. The introduction of smart e-cards for daily wagers will include the workers who earn their livelihood from the informal economy. The initiative will benefit the most disadvantaged groups such as the poor women, the elderly, and the migrant workers that often remain caught in a continuing cycle of poverty and vulnerability. Indeed, the initiative is a much-needed intervention from the government to offer some protection to the daily wagers since the global pandemic has further destabilised them economically. The step will offer safety against poverty reduction challenges that the pandemic has exacerbated due to a decline in economic activity. The provincial government must take more steps like this and expand them to other sectors to give people easy access to other socio-economic rights that the employers violate otherwise.

Islamabad POST

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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National reconciliation

HERE is little that the opposition and the government can agree to these days. Every issue portends another barrage of point scoring against one another. The PDM jalsas have now become the main bone of contention where the government points to the pandemic as a reason to hold off on public gatherings and the opposition contends that that the ruling party is only using coronavirus as an excuse to suppress voices against its rule. Both have valid points. This is why Shehbaz Sharif's call for national dialogue and reconciliation between political parties across the spectrum is one that should be taken seriously. There is little in the way of any agreement, and what that does is take away from actual governance. The opposition is always bent on castigating the government, while the treasury benches are quick to dismiss any productive ideas from the opposing side as political statements.

In the current political scenario, there is no room for compromise, no middle ground. The polarisation is too stark. This must change. The Multan rally has made it apparent that sides will stick to their guns; the blockages by the government and bullish response of PDM all but confirms this. Across the world, political leaders engage with one another no matter how vast their differences-for the good of the general public. This is something that parties here must look to do as well. If the former CM is truly committed to standing by his words, his party and others in the alliance must first step back from their rally schedule-this is needed for the welfare of the public. They must then look to cooperate with the government on controlling the pandemic, finding solutions to revive the floundering economy and attempt to stabilise Pakistan's position in a very tumultuous region. The government must look to step back from its tactic of consistently painting the opposition as a villainous entity. The ruling party must also be willing to listen to legitimate grievances where possible. Cooperation will soon follow if both sides actually want it.

Anti-conversion laws and Hindu hostility

Farooq Alay

The USCIRF has recently called for putting India on the religious freedom blacklist. "India should be considered amongst the world's worst violators", the CIRF observes. The situation of religious minorities in India has seen a steady decline during much of independent India's history as well as the onslaught of a hateful and divisive ideology that has sought to impose political and cultural hegemony by Hindu majority. They are being harassed and forcefully converted to being Hindus; their young females are being kidnapped and put in the unwedded solitary confinements so that they conceive Hindu babies, says the report

EOPLE belonging to non-Hindu minority religions are facing a new wave of hostility at the hands of Hindus backed by BJP-led fanaticism. A similar, but with a different modus operandi, kind of plot has been hatched for the people of Kashmir, involving young women who are being forced to marry RSS goons for conceiving children who will be considered born Hindus. Elsewhere in other states, Muslims, Christians and low castes are threatened to either convert to Hinduism or else leave India for good. This is how the Modi government is following "Hindustan is for Hindus; all others have no room to enjoy citizenship in India.

Several Indian states have passed anti-conversion laws aimed at restricting the right to propagate religion, which is guaranteed by Article 25 of the Indian constitution. This has been of late a big question mark for the saner elements amongst the ruling Hindu comity but now it is thing of the past. India's so-called diversity and traditional ethos of tolerance exists no more; this has been marred by hostility and hate along caste and religious lines.

It is no more a secular country; Hindutva's penetration into Nazist mentality that is hell bent upon forced conversions is very much the new reality. Reality is that the Narendra Modi government is not only harboring a grudge against anti-conversion laws introduced by various states, but also working on implementing the agenda of either expelling those who defy the orders or obediently accept Hinduism as their new religion.

Ever since the Bhartiya Janata Party has taken over power in India in 2014, religious intolerance and anti-Christian violence by Hindu-RSS terrorists has surged across the width and breadth of this country. Religious persecution, especially of Muslim and Christian communities, now caricatures the changed Indian constitution.

All minorities have a miserable life, their plight at the hands of goons who have gone berserk with swords and daggers in their hands is at its all-time peak. The preachers, including the incharge of Delhi preaching center, have been challenged under the anti-terrorism and anti-money

laundering laws. This is a fact, which has not only perturbed the minorities at home but also the world community and the intelligentsia. They are demanding their respective governments to exert pressure on Modi government to eschew the path of violence against the minorities and let them live peacefully.

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has recently called for putting India on the religious freedom blacklist. "India should be considered amongst the world's worst violators", the CIRF observes. The situation of religious minorities in India has seen a steady decline during much of independent India's history as well as the onslaught of a hateful and divisive ideology that has sought to impose political and cultural hegemony by Hindu majority. They are being harassed and forcefully converted to being Hindus; their young females are being kidnapped and put in the unwedded solitary confinements so that they conceive Hindu babies, says the report.

Christian missionaries, priests and bishops are being harassed; they are either expelled and deported or even being killed. The BJP government recently ordered 'deportation of three American missionaries who belonged to the Church of Christ in North Carolina on the first available flight to the US. In a similar incident, a Christian missionary was burnt alive to death right in front of his two minor kids in the Indian state of Orissa by a serial killer named Dara Singh.

What to talk of the Muslim minority community, which is the major target of victimization and violence at the hands of RSS goons, who are avenging the centuries long Muslim rule over Hindustan. A Muslim girl named Gul Naz was kidnapped, manhandled and repeatedly raped by Satish Kumar and his friends. When they found that the girl was no more in her senses, the perpetrators set her on fire by and by pouring kerosene oil. Her charred and mutilated body was later found in front of the house of the victim family, which is now demanding justice from the Indian police and courts of law, but no one is listening to them even af-

ter many weeks have passed. In the past, such kind of heinous crime and gory incidents have been resented by the saner elements, liberal Hindus and educated lot, including intelligentsia and educationists.

The Bollywood actors had been voicing their outrage over the discriminatory treatment meted out to the minority communities, their young girls and children, but now they too have gone silent, probably out of shame or fear of the RSS goons. The silence of liberals and political leaders on

Gul Naz's tragic molestation and torching to death is deafeningly deplorable. The Muslim minority community in India has either been left on the mercy of perpetrators or its own to bear the losses, abductions of females and young boys and wait for another similar kind of incident happening in front of their elders.

The fear and dread is so prevalent that even the girl Gul Naz, on the bed in hospital had recognized and named the perpetrators in her testimony before succumbing to burn injuries, no action has so far been taken by the police, local administration, political leadership or the court of law. So much so very little coverage was given to such a horrendous act, which has put a shameful curtain on the barbaric act by Satish Kumar and his accomplices.

Needless to say, the Muslim and Christian minority communities are the most vulnerable targets of the Hindutva extremists in today's India. Both the communities are being offered only two options with them: become Hindu or leave Hindustan. The RSS and its backed Hindu goons are distributing pamphlets or dropping leaflets at homes or train stations throughout the country, warning the Christians as well as Muslims to leave India or convert to Hinduism, or they will be killed by year 2021.

Already in 2016, a global index of human rights and social and religious freedoms by PEW Research Center has placed India among the worst 10 of the world's 198 countries when judged for "social hostilities".

– The writer is freelance columnist based in Islamabad

Breast cancer and CVD

Nusrat Majeed



Primary prevention includes screening with MAMMOGRAPHY; it is very helpful and effective in the detection of the disease. But it is expensive and many women may not have access to tertiary care centers with radiological facilities, simplest isself-examination

REAST cancer is the most common non-skin cancer in women. It is estimated at over 1.38 million cases, according to GLOBOCAN of WHO.

It is a major health risk for women all over the world.

It was considered to be the no.1 killer in women, but now cardiovascular {CVD] causes more deaths than Breast cancer. Now these two deadly diseases have become interlinked. For breast cancer survivors CVD represents the greatest single non cancer cause of death, accounting approximately 35 % of non-breast cancer mortality for women of 50 years of age and older.

In Asia, Pakistan has the highest rate of breast cancer. 1 in 9 women are diagnosed with this cancer.

Every year 90 thousand new cases are diagnosed and 40 thousand die annually. Socio-economic conditions are responsible for poor health of women. Illiteracy is also a major cause of the problem.

Most women here do not have proper access to the medical facilities due to gender based discrimination

Different treatment modalities include Surgery, radiation, medical and complementary like yoga, acupuncture and psychotherapy.

Cancer by itself is catastrophic and heart is an easy victim to its collateral damage .Cardio-oncology specific CVS disorders in cancer survivors are

1-High blood pressure 2-diseases of heart valves 3-diseases of heart muscle [cardiomyopathy] And finally heart failure.

Treatment especially chemotherapy may be lifesaving but it does not come without a hearty price.

It also causes unfavourable changes in lipid levels and increases the risk of cardiovascular events.

Radiation therapy, especially onleft sided breast cancers may increase the risk of heart diseasethrough injury to Heart muscle or surrounding blood vessels

The severity or form of radiation induced CVD is less fatal than chemotherapy induced heart disease.

And now the most important question is of preventing women from primary breast cancer and treatment related heart disease.

Primary prevention includes screening with MAMMOGRAPHY; it is very helpful and effective in the detection of the disease. But it is expensive and many women may not have access to tertiary care centers with radiological facilities, simplest isself-examination.

We need to educate women about this very effective diagnostic method.

How can we prevent cardiac disease after treatment for breast cancer. CVD becomes a disproportionate cause of death in cancer survivors, especially those treated with chemotherapy.

It is recommended that Breast cancer survivors should be closely monitored for development of heart disease, beginning in the years immediately following diagnosis

and treatment.

In order to arrive at a timely diagnosis, it is important to have pretreatment ECG, Cardiac markers and blood test to estimate serum cholesterol and blood sugar levels. Evaluation of liver and kidney function is important by ordering relevant tests.

Echocardiography is very important to assess the pumping function of heart. Must have a baseline echocardiographic examination; repeat it at three, six and nine months. The main treatment goals of managing chemotherapy induced cardio. Myopathy is focused on management of Heart failure. Future opportunities include work to standardize a specialized and multi-disciplinary approach to screening and effective management approaches.

Registries to better understanding the true incidence of CVD and the utility of current treatment would be invaluable for this growing population of breast cancer survivors.

Risk factors modification is beneficial in CVD prevention and should be addressed at baseline and at follow up visit-in patients with a history of breast cancer.

Role of women cardiologists is very important inour country, as the ladies are more comfortable discussing this problem with a lady cardiologist.

Women constitute 52 % of society and have very important role in nation building. So prevention is very important and this can be achieved by educating masses, encouraging early detection and treatment.

Briefs

Corona starts from north Italy: German virologist

WEB DESK

BERLIN: German virologist Alexander Kekule has said that about 99.5 percent of the coronavirus spreading all over the world right now is a kind of variant mutating in north Italy. At the Markus Lenz program, aired on Thursday by German public broadcaster ZDF, Kekule said that the virus circulating around the world is called G variant, which has changed its gene and now it is highly possibly more contagious than the Wuhan variant.

Since 1999, Kekule has held the chair for Medical Microbiology and Virology of the University of Halle-Wittenberg and Director of the Institute for Medical Microbiology of the University Clinic Halle. He said during the interview that at the beginning of this year, an undetected outbreak of the original virus exploded for several weeks in north Italy.

Govt approves \$150m for vaccine

From Page 01

initial conversation has been started with them. He said in first phase of providing the vaccine, our priority will be healthcare workers and old age people who are most vulnerable to the virus. Commenting on PDM's re-

cent public rally in Multan, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Shibli Faraz urged the opposition not to play with the lives of people for its personal gains as the second wave of coronavirus is at its peak in the country. He said public rallies are banned to protect people from the Coronavirus and we will deal with the violators legally instead of putting hard

The Minister said in today's meeting, the cabinet was apprised on the latest development of the Ravi and Bundal Island projects. It was informed that investors have expressed their full satisfaction on the steps taken for the development of construction sector by Prime Minister Imran Khan, therefore, they are willing to invest in these mega projects.

restrictions.

He said the forum was informed that these projects are planned to keep environment clean and attract foreign investment.

Non duty paid cigarettes seized by tobacco squad

From Page 01

magistrate, station city Tandlianwala. The authorities 150 recovered cartons of counterfeit, non-duty paid cigarettes from there. The owner was asked to provide a sales tax invoice or Bill-T and other allied documents, but they failed to produce any document whatsoever, and 150 cartons of non-duty paid cigarettes were recovered accordingly. The cartons recovered were of brands Kisan, Hero, Classic, Highway, Chance, Metro, Melburn and mix carton. Initial inquiry revealed that these brands were manufactured by Khyber Tobacco Company.

Oslo's New Year's fireworks canceled amid virus

DNA

OSLO: The New Year's fireworks in Oslo are canceled due to infection control considerations, the municipality states. "An assessment has been made of whether the event could take place within the infection control rules and the guidelines that are available today, but the municipality can not see how to move forward without it leading to accumulations of people and greater risk of infection," the Urban Environment Agency wrote in a press release. Richard Kongsteien, communications director at the Urban Environment Agency, says it is a sad but correct thing to do. The municipality is now working on an idea to mark the New Year that is more in line with the infection control rules.

PCB challengers win national women's T20

Earlier, PCB Challengers posted 133 for seven in their allotted 20 overs. After losing the crucial wicket of Pakistan captain and ace batter Bismah Maroof (18 off 12 balls) to a run out

RAWALPINDI: PCB Challengers defeated PCB Dynamites by seven runs in a thrilling final of the National Triangular T20 Women's Cricket Championship here at the Pindi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday.

Besides, lifting the glittering trophy, the PCB Challengers team that remained undefeated in the tournament also pocketed Rs1 million as the winning prize. PCB Dynamites had to settle for a Rs500,000 runners-up cash prize. PCB Dynamites were set a 134-

run target, they fought hard but eventually finished their quota of 20 overs at 126 for six as the PCB Challengers bowlers and fielders led by a fine spell of two wickets for 21 runs by Aroob Shah defended the score to ensure the title for their side. Opener Nahida Khan top-scored for the PCB Dynamites with 39 off 37 balls (three fours, two sixes), however, she failed to convert her start into a match-winning effort. Kainat Imtiaz chipped in with an unbeaten 32 off 29 balls (two fours) while Hafsa Khalid made a 20-run (22 balls) contribution (three fours). Kainat who gave an all-round performance through-



out the tournament (111 runs and three wickets) was adjudged as the player-of-the-tournament and awarded Rs50,000.

Aimen Anwar took one wicket for 23 runs in her four overs. Fatima Sana also took one wicket as she provided adequate all-round support to her side following her unbeaten 24-run contribution with the bat in the PCB Challengers' innings. Earlier, PCB Challengers post-

ed 133 for seven in their allotted

cial wicket of Pakistan captain and ace batter Bismah Maroof (18 off 12 balls) to a run out, PCB Challengers mixed caution with aggression as they accumulated a competitive total.

20 overs. After losing the cru-

Kainat Hafeez who was later adjudged the player-of-the-match, top-scored with 31 off 27 balls, her innings included three fours and one six. Fatima faced 22 balls for her 24 which included a six and a four. - APP

Babar eyes spot where players are compared to him

SPORTS DESK

KARACHI: Pakistan's all-format captain Babar Azam aspires to reach a stage where top batsmen around the world would be compared to him. While speaking to a YouTube channel Cricket Baaz, the 26-year-old said that he feels overwhelmed when he is compared to Virat Kohli and other top batsmen of the world. "I feel happy and proud

when pundits and fans compare me with top batters. My dream is to get to the same level where others are compared to me," Babar said. "My aim has always been to compete with them and try to produce the same amount of performances in every possible condition just like them," he added. It must be noted that he holds a unique record of being the only batsman to feature in the top-five spot in the ICC batting rankings of all three formats (second, third and fifth position in T20Is, ODIs and Tests respectively). Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), Wasim Khan has said that Bahar Azam will hold the post of national team's captaincy for a long time. "I can assure you

that until Ehsan Mani [PCB

chairman] and myself are in

the Pakistan board, Babar will remain the captain," Wasim said in an interview with YouTube channel 'Cricket Baaz'. Babar was handed over the reins of team's stewardship in both limited overs formats last year, with his first assignment in T20Is coming against Australia in November 2019, while the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League series against Zimbabwe in November was his first challenge as ODI captain. Wasim Khan revealed that

Babar himself wanted the Test captaincy and was given the same after having a discussion with the PCB chief. "Babar himself showed keen interest in becoming Test captain and assured us he could handle the pressures and it would not affect his batting. "We felt he [Babar Azam] is

our best choice because he has a good future, he's our best batsman and getting better every day. And we've found him to be mentally very strong when we first tested him as captain in the white-ball formats. "That's why when the time

came we felt that Azhar Ali had done his best but now was the time to start grooming Babar and make him Test captain as well," Wasim reckoned.

233,000 killed in Yemen war

WEB DESK

SANAA: The UN Tuesday said the conflict in Yemen has claimed 233,000 lives over the last six years. In a report, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said the conflict in Yemen has so far claimed the lives of 233,000 people, adding that "this large number is unfortunate and unacceptable." It stressed that these people have lost their lives since the start of the war in Yemen either directly due to the conflict or for reasons related to it. According to the OCHA, Yemen has reached a critical point and there is an urgent need for a cease-fire now. Yemen has been beset by violence and chaos since

territorial gains. Tens of thousands of Yemenis, including civilians, are believed to have been killed in the conflict, which has led to the world's worst humanitarian crisis, as millions face the risk of starvation.

2014, when Houthi rebels

overran much of the coun-

try, including the capital,

Sanaa. The crisis escalated

in 2015 when a Saudi-led

military coalition launched

a devastating air campaign

aimed at rolling back Houthi

Macron's govt agrees to modify 'security' law

DNA

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron's ruling party has agreed to rewrite a controversial bill that would place restrictions on filming police, after it sparked mass protests. More than 133,000 people took part in several rallies across France against the draft "security" law, which the protesters believe is designed to cover up police brutality, on Saturday. A provision in the draft law known as article 24 would vaguely criminalize the publication of images of on-duty police officers with an "ob-

vious intention to harm," making it an offense punishable by a year in prison and a 45,000-euro (54,000-dollar) fine. Rights groups and citizens say the bill in its current form would be used to target anyone who happens to record potential police misconduct. "We propose a new version of article 24 and a new version will be submitted," Christophe Castaner, head of Macron's Republic on the Move (LaRem) Party in the lower house of the parliament, said at a press conference on Monday.

"We acknowledge that there are doubts, that some people consider that the right to in-

form is under threat... That is why it is necessary to clarify it," Castaner added. Castaner's remarks came

after Macron held an emergency meeting with leaders of his parliamentary majority and Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin on the plan at the Elysee palace earlier on Monday. According to officials, the new version of article 24 will be submitted at a later date. But it was unclear when. The legislation was passed by the lower house of the French parliament last week and has been sent to the Senate, where the conservatives, and not Macron's party, have a majority.

Iran parliament passes bill to increase nuke activities

Foreign Desk

TEHRAN: The Iranian parliament on Tuesday approved a bill allowing uranium enrichment by at least 20% and a rise in low-level enriched uranium stocks. According to a report by the Iranian state television, the draft law called the "Strategic Action Plan for Lifting the Sanctions and Protecting the Interests of the Iranian Nation" was accepted by 251 votes in the 290-member parliament. After voting in favor of the bill, Iranian lawmakers chanted slogans such as "Down with America", "Down with Israel", "Martyrdom is our honor" and "Blood in our veins is a gift to our [Supreme] Leader [Ayatollah Ali Khamenei]". If the bill passed by the parliament gets the final approval of the Constitutional Council and becomes a law, the Iranian Atomic Energy Authority will begin to enrich uranium by at least 20% and increase its low-level enriched uranium stocks.



ISLAMABAD: Special representative to the Prime minister on religious harmony, Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi calls on foreign minister, Makhdom Shah Mahmood Qureshi at ministry of foreign affairs. - DNA

UK: Post-Brexit visa applications for foreigners start tion period kicked in, keep-Foreign Desk

LONDON: All foreign na-

tionals who would like to work in the UK after Dec. 31 will be able to apply for a visa from Tuesday under the new immigration rules. Foreigners, including the EU citizens, are requested to use an online application platform if they are to work in the country after the Brexit tran-

sition period is completed at

the end of the year.

Everyone considering to apply for a work visa will need to be a skilled worker, to provide evidence for a job offer, to be proficient in English and earn at least £25,600 (\$34,250) per year. The UK has left the EU on

Dec. 31, 2019 but a transi-

ing the country in line with EU rules until a trade agreement is signed between the parts. The agreement is still pending as parties continue their negotiations.

The free movement, enjoyed by millions of EU citizens, will come to an end after the transition period and the right to work in the UK for them will be limited to the new skilled-worker visa. The EU nationals who have

lived in the UK will have to complete their applications to continue to work and live in the country under the EU Settlement Scheme until June 30, 2021. British voters had voted to leave the European club after more than 40 years of membership in a 2016 referendum.

China refutes Australia's accusation of "fake image"

She pointed out that the image was based on a confirmed inquiry report by the Australian Defence Force (ADF). "Although it is an illustration, it reflects facts." On Nov. 19, the ADF released the findings of the inquiry that heard testimonies from more than 400 witnesses

Foreign Desk

BEIJING: A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson on Tuesday refuted Australia's accusation that a Chinese official had tweeted a "fake image" about the Australian military's atrocities committed in Afghanistan.

"The accusation is false in itself as the image was never a real one, but a computer-generated illustration by a young artist. The concept is completely different," spokesperson Hua Chunying told a routine press briefing, adding that the Australian side was trying to shift blames by hyping up the issue.

She pointed out that the image was based on a confirmed inquiry report by the Australian Defence Force (ADF). "Although it is an illustration, it reflects facts." On Nov. 19, the ADF released the findings of the inquiry that heard testimonies from more than 400 witnesses. The inquiry found that "credible ev-



idence" proved that special-forces soldiers murdered 39 prisoners, farmers and civilians during the war in Afghanistan.

Citing an interview of the image's creator, Hua said what Australian soldiers had done was much more brutal than what's been portrayed in the image. When dealing with issues involving China, some people always insist on the "I can, but you are not allowed" mentality, Hua said, citing examples from the fields

"I can have the 5G, but you are not allowed" "I can take you down economically, but you are not allowed" and "I can openly

of technology and economy.

criticize you, but you are not allowed." Such an attitude reveals the arrogance and hypocrisy of some people and exposes the real purpose, which is to deprive China's right to speak out the truth, the spokesperson said. "I hope these people can view China and China's development calmly and rationally, take constructive actions and work with

China to resolve differences,

and jointly maintain the healthy

development of bilateral rela-

tions," said Hua.

SPORTS DESK COLOMBO: Veteran cricketer Shahid Khan Afridi looked unhappy by the constant abusive behavior of Afghanistan's Naveen-ul-Haq with Mohammad Amir on the field. Afridi, who is the captain of Galle Gladiators in the Lanka Premier League (LPL), revealed lat-

er today that his advice to

Naveen was simple as he re-

minded him not to indulge

in abusive talk.

Afridi reveals

what he advised to

Naveen

"My advise to the young player was simple, play the game and don't indulge in abusive talk. I have friends in Afghanistan team and we have very cordial relations. Respect for teammates and opponents is the basic spirit of the game," Afridi wrote on Twitter. Note, Afridi scowled Naveen-ul-Haq after he showed dissent to Amir following his team Kandy Tuskers' 25-runs victory against Galle Gladiators. At the end of the match when players were shaking hands, Afridi was having a smile until Naveen came up and Afridi inquired him what he was saying to Amir. "Kya Hoa [What Happened]," he asked.

The on-field camera recorded the moment and it went viral on social with fans criticizing the young bowler for not showing respect to his

Pakistan rejects India's criticism

From Page 01

It said that the matter remains unresolved because of India's intransigence and unwillingness to implement relevant UNSC resolutions and its solemn commitments made to Pakistan, the Kashmiris, and the international community.

"The latest OIC resolution is another forceful repudiation of India's completely flimsy and legally untenable contention that Jammu and Kashmir is its 'internal' matter," the statement said.

The Foreign Office said the resolution was further proof that India can neither hide its gross and systemic violations of human rights of the Kashmiri people and the denial of their inalienable right to self-determination nor can it escape international censure of its egregious behaviour. Rather than dismissing the international community's concerns as reflected in the OIC Resolution, India would be well-advised to pay heed and stop its state-terrorism in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), the statement said. It further called for India to end its illegal and forcible occupation of the disputed territory, and take concrete steps towards the solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute per the UNSC resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

PM values China's support for Kashmir

From Page 01

The Prime Minister underscored that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is transformational and stressed that the economic and social impact of CPEC on the region will be substantial and beneficial. General Wei Fenghe con-

veyed warm greetings of President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang to the Prime Minister and underscored the importance the Chinese leadership attached to China's relations with Pakistan. The Prime Minister warmly reciprocated the greetings and recalled his past meetings and exchange with President Xi and Premier Li.

General Wei Fenghe underlined that Pakistan was China's close friend, good neighbor and iron brother. Underscoring the depth and breadth of China-Pakistan ties, he conveyed Chinese leadership's firm commitment to further strengthening China-Pakistan ties in a host of areas.

He maintained that both countries needed to make collective efforts to protect and promote their common interests.

Business / World



'Azerbaijan

creates

new reality

after enemy

expelled'

Foreign Desk

BAKU: The Azerbaijani president on Tuesday said

his country has expelled Ar-

menia from the Azerbaijani

lands, created a new reality,

and that everyone should ac-

"We have expelled the ene-

my from our land and creat-

ed a new reality. Everyone

should acknowledge this

reality," Ilham Aliyev said,

gorno-Karabakh today are

Azerbaijani citizens, they

will see that their lives will

now be better in the state of

Azerbaijan, Aliyev stressed.

On a so-called French res-

olution on Karabakh, Al-

iyev said France, "if they

want it so much", can give

their southern Marseille

region to Armenians to

establish a state. On Nov.

23, the French Senate

adopted a resolution, call-

ing for the recognition of

Nagorno-Karabakh as "a re-

public". Nagorno-Karabakh,

also known as Upper Kara-

bakh, is a territory recog-

nized as part of Azerbaijan.

It was occupied by Armenia

in 1991 and has since caused

a deep rift with neighboring

Azerbaijan. New clashes

in the territory erupted on

Sept. 27 and ended with a

Russian-brokered truce six

addressing the nation.

People living in

knowledge this.

Briefs

Germany bans farright, pro-Nazi group

Foreign Desk

BERLIN: Police raided homes in three German states early on Tuesday after the German government banned a far-right group, a spokesman for the interior ministry said.

The homes of 13 members of the far-right group, Wolfbrigade 44, were searched in Hesse, Mecklenburg West-Pomerania and North Rhine-Westphalia to confiscate the group's funds and far-right propaganda material, German news agency reported."Whoever fights against the basic values of our free society will get to feel the resolute reaction of our government," Interior Minister Horst Seehofer said, according to his spokesman, Steve Alter. The group's goal is to re-establish a Nazi dictatorship, according to security officials. The 44 in their name stands for the fourth letter in the alphabet. DD. and is an abbreviation for Dirlewanger. Oskar Dirlewanger was a known Nazi war criminal and commander of a Nazi SS special unit. The farright group was founded in 2016. It is known for possessing illegal weapons and members have participated in far-right protests. Earlier this year, the German government banned other far-right groups including

Palestine agrees to hold int'l peace conference

the Combat 18 and the Nor-

dadler, dpa reported.

DNA

RAMALLAH: Palestine agreed with Jordan and Egypt to form a joint committee to support convening an international peace conference to resolve the Mideast conflict, a senior official announced on Tuesday. Mahmoud al-Aloul, deputy chief of the Fatah movement, told reporters in Ramallah that forming the joint committee "supports the Palestinian diplomatic efforts to preserve the twostate solution's vision."

The committee will support the Palestinian initiative to hold an international conference for peace early next year and to mobilize the global support for restoring the two-state solution, al-Aloul said. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, also Fatah's chief, visited Jordan and Egypt this week to boost the relations after several Arab countries normalized ties with Israel.

Al-Aloul said the Palestini

ans want to enhance coordination and cooperation with the influential Arab powers regionally and international ly, especially Egypt and Jordan, to gain more support for the Palestinian cause. In a speech addressed before the United Nations General Assembly in September. Abbas asked to start preparations with the international parties to hold a peace conference next year. The Palestinians call for an international mechanism to sponsor the peace talks with Israel, which had been

breakthrough. Russia "actively" dovetailing Eurasian bloc, BRI

stalled since 2014 after nine

months of U.S.-sponsored

talks that did not lead to any

DNA

MOSCOW: Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin said Monday that the country and its partners are "actively' dovetailing the Eurasian Eco nomic Union (EAEU) with the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Agreements have been reached covering several areas of cooperation, Mishustin said at the 19th meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) held via video link. "It is necessary to work out specific parameters for connecting national strategies and multilateral projects. The SCO serves as a key link in the formation of an open, mutually beneficial and equal space for cooperation in Eura-

PAJCCI's role is highly commendable: Umer Daudzai

Honorable Daudzai shed light on the significance of consolidation of shared vision during the recent Pakistan Premier visit and established that chemistry between the two leaders was superlative as compared to the past

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Subsequent to critical visit of honorable Prime Minister of Pakistan to Afghanistan to deliberate upon finalization of shared vision document with his counterpart focusing intensively on strengthening bilateral state to state relations, longterm peace in Afghanistan, enforcing against terrorism for ensuring overall security regime and regional connectivity in terms of consolidating bilateral trade, transit & investment regime, a hi-level delegation of private stakeholders under leadership of PAJCCI Chairman Zubair Motiwala called upon H.E. Umer Daudzai, Special Envoy for Pakistan to President of Afghanistan to discuss matters of mutual interest. Honorable Daudzai shed light on the significance of consolidation of shared vision during the recent Pakistan Premier visit and established that chemistry between the two leaders was superlative as compared to the past that also resulted in immediate order of release of Pakistani prisoners detained in Afghanistan as a sign of positive gesture. He lauded the role of Pakistan Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PAJCCI) as the joint body for voicing concerns of private stakeholders effectively across the border and iterated that all future economic interactions must have the optimum engagement of PAICCI for attaining constructive results and long-term solutions to the economic hindrances. Motiwala welcomed the new visa regime announced for Afghanistan by Pakistan after the visit of H.E. Abdullah Abdullah and hoped for the reciprocity. He staunchly believed that the results of these meetings



will surely bring the positive outlook and strategic framework will be developed on an urgent basis to help stakeholders recover from the resulting devastating effects. He mentioned that Afghanistan is the only country with which Pakistan enjoys trade surplus and this trust deficit will critically affect economy of Pakistan more than Afghanistan, hence these issues must be sorted out on priority basis as Pakistan's efforts in reaping potential benefits in Central Asia can only be substaintiated by prioritizing resolution of Af-Pak trade and transit issues. He also mentioned that the proposed draft on both APTTA and PTA was developed by PAJCCI across the border and have been submitted across the border to relevant ministries and

presented the same to the Special Envoy. Additionally, he also tabled issues faced by Pakistani businesses across the border specially in exporting to Central Asian countries via Afghanistan that also needs immediate resolution. He specifically sought the support of the Afghan Government in facilitating Pakistan to import cotton from Uzbekistan, keeping in view shortage of raw material in Pakistan at the moment, and requested that it should be put under "free list of customs" as the said material has no use in Afghanistan and will not have any repercussions thereof. Further he acknowledged that Pakistan should provide as much leverage to Afghanistan as possible under new PTA regime but as an interchange Afghan-

istan should at least give preferential treatment to Pakistan in contrast to other regional players and conducive policies may be devised for Pakistani investors to penetrate the market for mutually beneficial outcomes. Daudzai assured that new visa regime

for Pakistan is underway and will soon be announced and envisioned that with engagement of PAJCCI the newly signed APTTA and PTA will bring colossal results for the business communities of both the countries. During the visit, PAJCCI also organized its fourth focus group discussion whereby private businesses from Pakistan deliberated with public officials in Afghanistan from Ministry of Commerce, Harakat, Customs, Transport and leadership of apex

members unanimously reiterated the significance of national sanctity and security and supported all measures that respective Governments may take to ensure the same. However, the same may not be continued at the beset of hurting the economic and social ties across the border resulting in massive monetary losses and trust deficit. Zubair Motiwala put forth issues faced by Pakistani businesses specifically pertinent to stuck containers at Afghan side of Torkham due to infrastructural issues, delayed operationalization of newly added border crossings at Afghan side, absence of quality assurance and control mechanisms whilst importing perishable goods from Afghanistan, undue delays and illicit charges on Pakistani trucks carrying exports intended for CAS, difficulties in importing cotton from Uzbekistan, 110% guarantee of custom duties charged on Pakistani exports to CAS were major highlights. Khan Jan Alokozai, Co-Chairman PA-JCCI, acknowledged role played by Zubair Motiwala on behalf of business community of Afghanistan and mentioned submission of 21 point items to Ministry of Commerce Pakistan for immediate resolution. He also suggested to constitute a 6 member committee, comprising 3 members from each chapter of PAJCCI, to deal with the respective Governments on pertinent matters for prompt resolution. This committee would act as economic and confidence building catalyst to ensure further enhancement of bilateral trade, rejuvenate regional linkages, pro-

and other regional chambers. The

Russia's COVID-19 death toll tops 40,000

DNA

MOSCOW: Coronavirus fatalities in Russia are now over 40,000, authorities said on Tuesday. A total of 569 more deaths - a new high since the start of the pandemic - pushed the toll up to 40,464, the country's emergency task force said in a daily report.

Infections went up by 26,402 over the past day, bringing the overall count to over 2.32 million, while recoveries increased by 24,763 to move past 1.8 million. Active COVID-19 cases in Russia currently stand at 478,125, with almost half of them registered in urban hubs, including the capital Moscow and the second-largest city of Saint Petersburg. Russia's caseload remains the fourth highest in the world, behind the US, India, and Brazil. Authorities have been taking steps to curb the rapidly rising infections, with many regions in the country having extended quarantine measures until the end of January.

'COVID-19 will increase humanitarian needs in 2021

FOREIGN DESK NEW YORK: The coronavi-

rus pandemic is pushing the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance to new highs, according to the United Nations, dramatically increasing the ranks of extreme poverty in just one year. One in 33 people will need aid to meet basic needs like food, water and sanitation in 2021, an increase of 40 percent from this year, the UN said on Tuesday in its Global Humanitarian Overview 2021. That translates to 235 million people worldwide, with concentrations in Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ethiopia, it said. "The crisis is far from over," said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in a statement. "Humanitarian aid budgets face dire shortfalls as the impact of the global pandemic continues to worsen. "The lives of people .. already living on a knife's edge are being hit disproportionately hard by rising food prices, falling incomes, interrupted vaccination programs and school closures.' The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said it hopes to reach 160 million of those people. "The picture we're painting this year is the bleakest and darkest perspective on humanitarian needs we've ever set out, and that's because the pandemic has reaped carnage across the most fragile and vulnerable countries on the planet," said UN humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock, who heads OCHA.

Zarif warns of 'misinformation' over scientist's killing

Foreign Desk

TEHRAN: Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has warned of a "targeted misinformation campaign and psychological war" following the assassination of the country's top nuclear scientist last week. In an Instagram post late on Monday, Zarif said early news reports of Mohsen Fakhrizadeh's death in Farsi-language media had said "the Israeli media claimed that the scientist's name had reached Mossad through UN lists", referring to the intelligence agency of Israel, which is being blamed for the assassination. "This is 180 degrees counter to the truth." Zarif wrote, adding that the United States and Israel had named Fakhrizadeh to the UN in the mid-2000s, leading to him being placed on a sanctions list by the UN Security Council in 2007. Fakhrizadeh, 62, a top sci-

entist in Iran's nuclear and

FOREIGN DESK

WASHINGTON: Australia

and the United States will

jointly develop hypersonic

cruise missiles, the Aus-

tralian defence minister an-

nounced on Tuesday, pledg-

ing to invest in "advanced

capabilities" that will give

"more options to deter ag-

gression" against its inter-

ests. Both China and Russia

are developing similar mis-

siles. The weapons are ca-

pable of travelling at more

than five times the speed of

sound and the combination

of speed, manoeuvrability

and altitude makes them dif-

ficult to track and intercept.

Linda Revnolds, the Austral-

ian defence minister, called

military

country's

Aus, US to develop

hypersonic missiles

missile programmes, was assassinated in an explosion and ensuing gunfire on his car near Tehran on Friday. Iran has accused regional rival, Israel, of the assassination. But Israel and its key ally, the US, have remained silent while the UN has urged "restraint".

Zarif said a review of thousands of tweets published following the assassination showed that 79 percent of them aimed spreading disinformation - namely through opposing the nuclear deal, negotiations with the West, and presence of the IAEA inspectors in Iran - while only 21 percent con-

demned the heinous crime. Moreover, he said, 93 percent of the tweets were sent through unknown accounts that were set up less than a year ago and were created outside Iran, pointing to an external attack on Iran and a link between the assassination and efforts to sabotage the country's nuclear deal amid efforts by the parliament to expel international

the bilateral project with

the US a "game-changing

capability", but did not re-

veal the cost of developing

the missiles or when they

"Investing in capabilities

that deter actions against

Australia also benefits our

region, our allies and our

security partners," she said.

"We remain committed to

peace and stability in the re-

gion and an open, inclusive

and prosperous Indo-Pacif-

ic." The United States' Act-

ing Under Secretary of De-

fense Michael Kratsios said

the project, officially known

as the Southern Cross In-

tegrated Flight Research

Experiment (SCIFiRE),

builds on 15 years of col-

laboration between the US

and Australian military.

would be operational.

Turkey to detain 82 military officers

WEB DESK

ANKARA: Turkey has or-Operations were on active duty.

released after 15 months

FOREIGN DESK

dered the detention of 82 military personnel in an operation targeting suspected supporters of a Muslim preacher who Ankara accuses of masterminding a failed coup in 2016, according to state-owned Anadolu news ing the network of United States-based religious leader and businessman Fethullah Gulen have continued under a four-year-long crackdown since the attempted coup in July 2016 to topple President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Gulen denies involvement in the attempt, in which some 250 people were killed, excluding the putschists. A former ally of Erdogan, he has lived in self-imposed exile in Pennsylvania since 1999. Tuesday's operation was spread over 39 provinces and 63 people have already been arrested, Anadolu said. Seventy of the suspects

RAMALLAH: Mays Abu Ghosh, a 22-year-old Palestinian student, was released by Israeli forces on Monday, 15 months after she was arrested. Abu Ghosh, a journalism student at Birzeit University, was arrested in August 2019 and charged with being a member of

the Democratic Progressive Student Pole, a student bloc banned by Israeli military orders, and taking part in student activities against Israeli occupation. She was also charged with "communicating with an enemy" - she took part in a conference on the Palestinian right of return and contributing to an allegedly Hezbollah-affiliated news agency. Abu Ghosh was fined 2,000

shekels (\$600) and released from Damon prison at the Jalameh checkpoint, north of the illegally occupied West Bank city of Jenin, where her family and friends received her. human rights Several groups said Abu Ghosh told

Palestinian student

them about the physical and psychological torture she suffered for more than a month at the notorious Maskobiyeh interrogation centre in Jerusalem. groups added

she was forced into several stress positions for extended hours and was threatened that she would go home either paralysed or mentally broken. She was also forced to listen to the cries and screams of other prisoners undergoing interrogation, and faced repeated slaps to her face as Israeli soldiers shouted obscenities at her. "I want to tell everyone what happened with me during the interrogation and torture period," Abu Ghosh told Al Iazeera a day after she was released. "Not as some-

thing that has happened

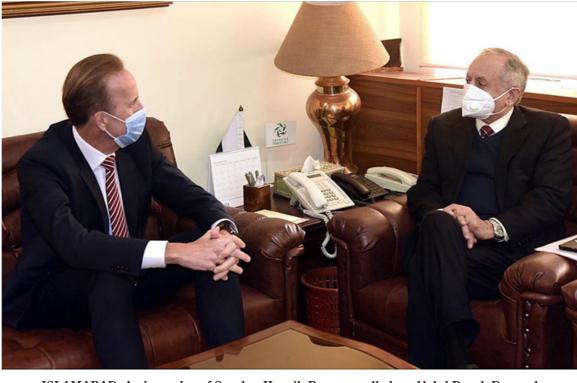
tinian to know what to expect when Israel arrests them." Israeli military courts, which Palestinians in the occupied territories are tried by, have a 99.74 percent conviction rate. The military prosecution

to me but for any Pales-

charged Abu Ghosh over acts related to her student union activities at the uni versity in addition to her media action," said Addameer, a prisoner rights group. "Such a practice demonstrates the occunation authorities' criminalisation of fundamental human rights through military orders.'

Abu Ghosh added that the message she carries from other female prisoners is one of "national unity".

"They also have demands regarding living conditions, especially for those who are serving long sentences," she said. "Cameras in the prison courtyard are on all the time and violate their privacy."



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Sweden Henrik Persson called on Abdul Razak Dawood, advisor to the Prime Minister on Commerce & Investment. – DNA

said in a statement.

Pfizer applies for EU vaccine authorization

The formal application, submitted to the European Medicines Agency (EMA) on Monday, came after final results showed the vaccine candidate developed by the companies was 95% effective in preventing infections

Foreign Desk

BERLIN: US drug maker Pfizer and German biotech company BioNTech have applied to the EU drugs regulator for emergency authorization of their COVID-19 vaccine, the pharmaceutical companies announced on Tuesday.

The formal application, submitted to the European Medicines Agency (EMA) on Monday, came after final results showed the

vaccine candidate developed by the companies was 95% effective in preventing infections.

"If EMA concludes that the benefits of the vaccine candidate outweigh its risks in protecting against COVID 19, it will recommend granting a Conditional Marketing Authorization (CMA) that could potentially enable use of BNT162b2 in Europe before the end of 2020," the companies said in a statement. The vaccine candidate BNT162b2, developed

by Turkish-German scientist Ugur Sahin's BioNTech company, has an efficacy of more than 94% in adults aged 65 and over, according to the results of Phase 3 clinical study. Sahin expressed hope on Tuesday that they would soon be able to ship the COVID-19 vaccine doses worldwide after receiving the authorizations.

stone is important to us as we

continue to seek to enable a

world to enable the rapid distribution, should the vaccine receive the approval, contribut-"As a company located in the heart of Europe, today's mile-

ing to the joint efforts to let the world heal and regain its normal pace of life," he added. Last month, BioNTech and Pfizer submitted a request to the US Food and Drug Administration

for emergency use authorization

worldwide supply upon potential of their vaccine candidate. They have also initiated additionapproval of BNT162b2," Sahin al rolling submissions across the "We will continue to work with globe, including Australia, Canaregulatory agencies around the da, and Japan, and plan to submit applications to other regulatory agencies around the world, according to the statement by the companies. If regulatory approvals are obtained, BioNTech and Pfizer are planning to manufacture more than 50 million doses by the end of this year and potentially over 1.3 billion doses by the end of 2021.



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Briefs

Application for extending parole submitted

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) has submitted an application for extension in parole of its president Shehbaz Sharif and Hamza Shehbaz Sharif

here on Tuesday. The application has been submitted through party Deputy Secretary General Attaullah Tarar to the Home department, government of Punjab, said PML-N sources. The duration of five-day parole granted to Shehbaz and Hamza would end on Wednesday (tomorrow).

It was contended in the application that people from all over the country were still coming to offer condolence on the death of Begum Shamim Akhtar and wanted to meet Shehbaz Sharif and Hamza Shehbaz , therefore an extension in parole be granted. Begum Shamim Akhtar, mother of Shehbaz Sharif and grandmother of Hamza Shehbaz had passed away on November 22 in London and was laid to rest on November 28 at Jati Umra, Raiwind.

Taliban suffer heavy casualties

DNA

KABUL: At least 19 Taliban insurgents killed during an operation carried by Afghan National Army (ANA) in Dehrawood district of Uruzgan on Monday, Ministry of Defense said in a statement. According to the statement, the Taliban plotted an attack against the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF), which was foiled in cooperation by the national army forces. "19 Taliban were killed during preemptive operations of ANA in Dehrawood district of Uruzgan province yester day. They had gathered and prepared to attack ANDSF positions when they were targeted by ANA and AAF." Meanwhile, further 11 Taliban were wounded and three of their "strongholds and a large amount of their weapons were destroyed during the operation," said MoD in a tweet.

15 Kashmiris martyred in November

ISLAMABAD: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Indian troops in their unabated acts of state terrorism martyred fifteen Kashmiris during the last month of November.

According to the data issued by the Research Section of Kashmir Media Service, Tuesday, of those killed, one youth was martyred in custody and four in a fake encounter.

During the month, 97 youth were critically injured due to use of brute force by Indian police and paramilitary personnel in the occupied territory while 31 people, mostly youth and activists, were arrested, several of them under black law Public Safety Act. The police personnel also misbehaved with at least seven women and damaged a house during the period. - APP

PM to launch third private airline

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan will visit Sialkot on December 9 to formally launch the newly established private airline, AirSial.

PM will also address a special ceremony to be held at Sialkot International Airport.

The federal cabinet meeting chaired by PM Imran also approved the issuance of an aviation license to private airline AirSial.

Three Airbus A320-200s of Air Sial - the airline launched by Sialkot's business community arrived at the Jinnah International Airport, Karachi, from Phoenix, Arizona, early on Sunday morning via Egypt.

WHO to keep supporting Pakistan against HIV

In the year 2019 alone, 25,000 new HIV infections occurred in the country, a 75% increase compared to the baseline year of 2010

DNA

ISLAMABAD: World Health Organization's (WHO) representative in Pakistan, Dr Palitha Mahipala on Tuesday said that WHO was fully committed to continue supporting the efforts of government, civil society organizations and people living with HIV (PLHIV) to strengthen health systems to increase their resilience against the disease. In a message on World AIDS Day, Dr Palitha said that there were many new approaches that WHO was adopting to ensure HIV care

during the COVID-19 pandemic like

providing multi-month dispensing of

HIV medicines and courier distribu-

tion and virtual support groups to protect the health of people on HIV treatment and to reduce the burden on a stretched health services. "Today we are commemorating

the World AIDS Day, 2020. This day was intended to be a milestone year for achieving the global 90-90-90 targets because by 2020, the aim was to ensure that, 90% of people living with HIV knew their status, 90% of people with diagnosed HIV infection received treatment, and 90% of those receiving treatment were virally suppressed." He said, "However, we were already behind on these global targets and then came the COVID-19 pandemic, which has caused widespread

disruption and has threatened to



reverse many gains made in health and other developmental areas. Dr Palitha said, "We have worked tirelessly to respond to COVID-19 and ensure that affected essential health services, including HIV prevention, diagnosis and treatment are least disrupted. He said that COVID-19 has come at a critical time for the HIV epidemic, in Pakistan. There are an estimated 190,000 people living with HIV (PLHIV) and the epidemic is evolving on an unprecedented scale

In the year 2019 alone, 25,000 new HIV infections occurred in the country, a 75% increase compared to the baseline year of 2010. Yet only one third of PLHIV in the country have been diagnosed and only 15%are accessing antiretroviral therapy, he added. He said that during lockdown measures, it became difficult for PLHIV to get to the health facilities, for outreach workers to reach out to key populations and for health services to cope with COV-ID-19 alongside other diseases.

ensuring continued engagement with HIV service clients, maintaining continuity of their services and supporting their adherence during this difficult time, he added.

He said that the HIV services workforce has been depleted, either due to redeployment in the COVID-19 response or, unfortunately, COV-ID-19 infection. This has put many PLHIV at risk of not receiving their life-saving medications and services on time. He said that the pandemic has also offered an opportunity to introduce innovations such as multi-month dispensing and courier distribution of medicines, and virtual support groups and consultations with patient. Similarly, partnership with civil society has been a key in

NAB summons JUI-F chief's close aides

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has issued callup notice to Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) supremo Maulana Fazlur Rehman's close aides while making progress in an investigation into corruption allegations.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman's close aides including Gul Asghar and Noor Asghar have been summoned by NAB investigators on December 10.

The accused persons are facing charges of possessing assets beyond known sources of income and their alleged involvement in cor-

rupt practices. Both accused have been directed to appear at 11:00 am on December 10 where he will be questioned by a combined investigation team of the anti-corruption watchdog, the call-up stated. Earlier on September 22, National Accountability
Bureau (NAB) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) chapter had summoned Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on October 1 in assets beyond means case.

However, the religiopolitical party's JUI-F had claimed that its supremo had not received any notice from the anti-graft watchdog. The accountability watchdog had initiated an inquiry against JUI-F chief in assets beyond means case, sources privy to the development said.

Saudi-bound passengers offloaded

DNA

MULTAN: Two Saudi-Arabia-bound passengers were offloaded from the flight on Tuesday at Multan International airport after they were found COVID-19 positive.

According to the sources within Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), both the passengers were denied boarding to Medina-bound international flight from Multan airport after their COVID-19 test reports were found positive during checking by the staff of the

airlines. Last month, Saudi Arabia had allowed international airlines to fly in pilgrims with valid visas which it earlier suspended due to novel coronavirus spread. Saudi Arabia had allowed all the airlines to resume flight operations bringing in visitors with a valid visit and Umrah visas

in the country. General Authority of Civil Aviation had officially issued a notification to that effect and this applies immediately.

GACA had instructed the airlines to strictly ensure Covid-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) implementation and has categorically stated implementation of Covid-19 SOPs extends to all sorts of travelers flying into the Kingdom.

ECP defers all elections until Jan 31

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has deferred the by-elections of the national and provincial assemblies until January 31, 2021, it announced Tuesday following a meeting held on Tuesday and chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja.

The Election Commission of Pakistan's decision came on the back of a recommendation made by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), which would now review the situation regarding the by-elections on December 31, 2020. The by-elections were to

be held for two seats in the National Assembly and six in the provincial assem-

The Election Commission of Pakistan also announced its decision to hold elections on the vacant position of Islamabad's mayor, directing the relevant schedule be issued.



Business leaders Sohail Altaf, Zahid Latif Khan, Zahid Maqbool, Khurshid Barlas, Asad Mashahdi, Fahad Barlas and others also attended. – DNA

Sino-Pak cooperation to boost Pak agro-economy

ISLAMABAD: Sino-Pak cooperation to drive ahead Pakistan's Agri-economy, under the 2nd phase of CPEC, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday. According to the report, China and Pakistan can strengthen cooperation in seed technology, farm machinery, water and irrigation management, food processing, dairy technology, international compliance,

ogy transfer at all levels. Prof. Igrar A. Khan, Vice Chancellor of University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF) recently told Gwadar Pro that China's yields at the farm level and products in the markets have evidenced huge leap. "China itself is a large consumer market.

The two countries can work together for serving markets on both sides. With CPEC and regional connectivity, the two sides can have joint access to markets in a greater region (Central East and Africa)." Agricultural economy of Pakistan is in urgent need of reform. The yield is stagnant and productivity is lower than other countries

in the region, with food imports surpassing \$7 billion. Igrar argued the priority areas of improvement include Genetics (biotechnology and genome editing), seed technology, mechanization and precision, value addition, good agricultural practices (GAP) and skill development in which China can be a great help.

high-quality Pakistan's items include rice, cotton made ups, potato, corn, mango, citrus, poultry, beef, fodder and hey etc. "Close proximity is the advantage for China and Pakistan.

However, institutional arrangements are still necessitated to be strengthened and the business to business needs a better match making to create successful joint ventures. A facilitation beyond official channels is also required," Iqrar added.



called on Prime Minister Imran Khan.- DNA

will bring genuine improve

ADB, Punjab govt to support health care PPPs

SHUJAAT HAMZA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of Punjab have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to jointly promote public-private partnership (PPP) projects in Puniab's healthcare sector through ADB's transaction advisory services.

The MOU was signed in Lahore by the Head of Public Private Partnership Cell of Planning and Development Board of Punjab Dr Farrukh Naveed and ADB Country Director for Pakistan Xiaohong Yang. Chairman Planning and Development Board Hamed Yaqoob Sheikh wit-

nessed the signing ceremony. "We are pleased to assist the Government of Punjab in developing hospital PPP projects in major cities in order to

strengthen healthcare capacments to health systems and ity and improve quality we're glad to expand our of life for the citizens of Punjab," said Ms Yang. "It will collaboration Punjab into this crucial sector," said Head of ADB's complement Office of Pub-ADB's ongolic-Private ing support to the PPP pro-Partnership gramme in Yoji Morish-Punjab province by creat-"ADB's adviing a pipeline sory support for the first of bankable hospital PPP healthcare PPP projects. project in Pun-"ADB's involvejab will help unment as translock investments action adviser for in the sector by crehospital PPP projects ating a model case with

project documents based on international best practices. We hope that the first hospital PPP project can be replicated in other cities and accelerates the development of future

Shafqat wants

students to study

from home

"Children's health is our priority.

When the situation gets better,

we will open the schools in

January," he said

a heavy heart. "We had to close educational institutions

because coronavirus infections were rising very fast.

Earlier this month, the National Command and Opera-

tion Centre had announced that educational institutions

will remain closed until January 10, 2021. Classes will be

held online and the term will continue till December 24.

Winter vacations will commence from December 25. In

these vacations, Mahmood advised students to revise

their courses, do homework, and continue their studies

as much as possible. Earlier this month, in an interview

to a private channel, he said that the government is work-

better, we will open the schools in January," he said. The

minister said that the new educational year will begin in

August 2021. Exams that were to be held in December

have been postponed and will be held when classes resume

in January. Entry exams such as MDCAT will be held on

schedule. In the first week of January, the committee will

meet again to assess the situation as the country continues

to battle the second wave of the novel coronavirus. - DNA

ing to make the online learning experience better. "Children's health is our priority. When the situation gets

Feder-

ISLAMABAD:

al Education Minister

Shafqat Mahmood has

advice for students stud-

ving remotely: use this

time, not as a holiday

but to revise courses

and complete homework.

Taking to Twitter on

Tuesday, he said that the

decision to close schools

and colleges across the

country was taken with

projects to improve quality and affordability of health care in Punjab." Under the MOU, ADB's Office of Public-

Private Partnership will screen potential hospital PPP projects in ten major cities in Punjab including Bahawalpur, Dera Ghazi Khan, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Lahore, Mianwali, Multan, Rawalpindi, Sahiwal, and Sargodha and will provide transaction advisory services to identify, prepare, structure and tender the top priority hospital projects to develop PPP's. ADB will also provide holistic support in undertaking capacity building and development of a potential project pipeline by mobilizing technical assistance funds.

development of template