



# Islamabad POST

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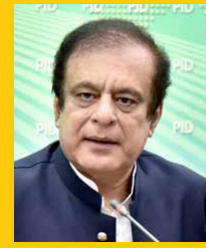
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**Briefs**

**Shibli Faraz blames rallies for virus surge**

RANA FURRAKH

ISLAMABAD: Minister for information and Broadcasting Shibli Faraz has expressed displeasure over the increased Corona virus cases in Peshawar and Multan amid PDM's public gatherings. In a tweet on Sunday, he said such political gatherings are becoming a major cause of Corona spread in the country. The Minister said holding of such gatherings is tantamount to the violation of Law and SOPs. Shibli Faraz said Opposition leaders have quarantined themselves in their homes in a comfortable environment, while people are being used for personal political gains.

**Fazl warns govt of retaliation**

DNA

LAKKI MARWAT: The Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has warned the government that it will respond in the same coin if it used force to disrupt the Pakistan Democratic Movement's (PDM) Lahore rally. Addressing the late Sheikhul Hadith Maulana Amanullah Conference in Sarai Naurang, Lakki Marwat, the JUI-F leader blamed "selected rulers" for facilitating India's occupation of Kashmir and destroying the country's economy. He alleged that the government has started talking about recognising Israel.

**Govt taking measures for economy**

DNA

SIALKOT: Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Punjab on Information Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan on Sunday visited the residence of PML-Q Senior Vice President Punjab Chaudhry Saleem Baryar and Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) President Qaiser Iqbal Baryar. She discussed the expected visit of the prime minister and Chief Minister Usman Bazar on Dec 9. On this occasion, Dr Firdous said the PTI was committed to take all possible steps for betterment of the country.

## Qureshi says PDM a bunch of the turncoat

– says that PDM is risking the lives of the masses by holding public rallies in the pandemic



BUREAU REPORT / DNA

MULTAN: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi has said that Pakistan Democratic Movement's (PDM) alliance is 'unnatural' and its leaders are only striving to save their corruption, local media reported. Foreign Minister said that Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) was putting lives of the people at risk for personal gains as coronavirus becoming more lethal by each passing day across the world. Talking to journalists before the oath taking ceremony of new body of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Women wing here, he said that opposition should review their decisions of holding public gatherings and rallies keeping in view the rising number of coronavirus patients. The foreign minister said that coronavirus would be more aggressive in the month of January. He said that there was health emergency in the country and political leadership should think about the public lives first instead of their personal gains.

Qureshi said that alliance of these parties could hardly last longer as they had ideological differences. He said that the second wave of coronavirus was more dangerous as compared to the first adding that it would affect everyone if SOPs were not followed. He emphasized importance of delaying all unnecessary activities. The foreign minister said that when he recently visited Saudi Arabia to perform Umra, he observed limited number of people there. To a question, Qureshi said that PDM public meeting in Multan was a failed show. He said that he was in favour of political activities but the protection of public lives should be the top priority. The foreign minister said that sons of former Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani alleged his participation in arrest of people before PDM power show in Multan which was baseless. He said that leadership of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz was in confusion as there was complete difference between Maryam Nawaz and Shahbaz Sharif's statements. He suggested that PML (N) should decide what actually they want. FM Qureshi said that Indian government was being criticized internally on Kashmir issue, adding that India was on defensive stage on the issue which was victory of Pakistan's stance. He said that Pakistan was in favour of peace in the region and its role was being acknowledged internationally for sustainable peace in Afghanistan. He said that Pakistan gave counsel access to kulbhushanjadhav twice and ready to offer this at third time but India was ignoring its own citizen.

Continued on Page 06

## PDM to unfurl key decisions in Lahore

Maryam says if this government goes home, flour, sugar and vegetables will be cheaper; claims govt will not complete its tenure

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) will make important announcements during Lahore rally on December 13. Addressing the PML-N's social media workers convention in Lahore she requested all elected MNAs and senators to recognize their dignity and said that if your parties decide to resign then you should refuse to come under any pressure. She warned assembly members and senators that if anyone betrayed the party,



people would besiege his house. Maryam Nawaz said that important decisions will be taken in the meeting of PDM. She urged people to attend PDM rally in Lahore and said that Pakistan

can only progress after sending this government home. She said if this government goes home, flour, sugar and vegetables will be cheaper. We will fly the flag of our victory in Minar-e-Pakistan. I will personally invite the people to come to the meeting by going to different places in Lahore. She said that the PDM is going to make big decisions. The people of Pakistan will soon hear the good news, the only thing left is to announce at the December 13 meeting. She said PM Imran Khan used to claim that the "green passport will be respected across the world" but now flights from Pakistan have been banned.



ANKARA: Commanding officer of Pakistan Navy Ship TABUK exchanging souvenir with Aksaz Base Commander during ship visit to Aksaz port. –DNA

## Major Shabbir Sharif (NH) remembered

RAWALPINDI: The wreath laying ceremony of 1971 war martyr Major Shabbir Sharif Shaheed, Nishan-e-Haider was held at his monument at Lahore to pay homage for his supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. Major General Raza Aizid laid floral wreath on behalf of Chief of Army staff (COAS) General Qamar-Javed Bajwa, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) press release. The ceremony was attended by relatives of the Shaheed. Earlier, Director General ISPR Major General Babar Iftikhar paid tribute to the brave martyr. In a tweet, the ISPR DG said tribute to Major Shabbir Sharif Shaheed, Nishan-e-Haider, recipient of Sword of Honour, Sitara-i-Jurrat in 1965 War and Nishan-e-Haider in 1971 War. – APP

## Queen Elizabeth to get vaccine

LONDON: Britain's Queen Elizabeth II will receive the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine within weeks, after UK regulators granted emergency approval and the world's first roll-out begins next week, reports late Saturday said. The monarch, 94, and her 99-year-old husband Prince Philip are in line to get the jab early due to their age and will not receive preferential treatment, the Mail on Sunday reported. The newspaper said Britain's most senior royals would reveal they have been given the inoculation "to encourage more people to take up the vital jab". – Agencies

## Virus positivity rate reaches 7.94pc in Pak

FIAZ CH.

ISLAMABAD: National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) on Sunday said that coronavirus positivity rate has climbed to 7.94 percent in Pakistan. As per NCOC, the highest positivity ratio was observed in Mirpur with 22.00%, followed by Karachi with 17.39% and Peshawar with 16.02%. The positivity rate in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) is at 11.29%, AJK 10.83%, Balochistan 11.62%, Punjab 4.42%, Sindh 11.47%, GB 2.68%, and Islamabad 6.16%. On the other hand, Sindh has crossed grim milestone of over 3,000 deaths from novel coronavirus as total number of cases in the province has surged to 182,473. Meanwhile, Tragedy struck Peshawar's Khyber Teaching Hospital when seven coronavirus patients passed away as oxygen cylinders from Rawalpindi did not arrive at the hospital on time.

**3,308 new cases; 58 deaths reported**

KHAYAM ABBASI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: The total active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan on Sunday were recorded 53,126 as 3,308 more people tested positive for the deadly virus during the last 24 hours. Fifty Eight corona patients, who were under treatment in hospital died on Saturday, according to the latest update issued by the National command and Operation Centre (NCOC). No COVID affected person was on ventilator in Balochistan and Gilgit Baltistan (GB) while 357 ventilators were occupied elsewhere in Pakistan, out of 1,762 allocated for COVID-19 patients. Some 41,645 tests were conducted across the country on Saturday, including 13,684 in Sindh, 14,983 in Punjab, 4,757 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), 6,852 in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), 413 in Balochistan, 411 in GB, and 545 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).

Hospital authorities told Geo News that the incident took place on Saturday when the coronavirus patients died due to non-supply of oxygen. Hospital sources disclosed that patients in other wards of the hospital were also facing difficulties due to the absence of oxygen cylinders. "The hospital receives oxygen cylinders from Rawalpindi," said Khyber Teaching Hospital spokesperson. "Oxygen cylinders did not arrive on time."

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## Saudi prince criticizes Israel at Bahrain summit

Prince Turki's comments come as neighbouring Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates recently moved to normalise relations and establish ties with Israel

WEB DESK

MANAMA: A prominent Saudi prince harshly criticised Israel on Sunday at a Bahrain security summit that was remotely attended by Israel's foreign minister. Prince Turki al-Faisal, who led Saudi intelligence for more than two decades and served as ambassador to the United States and Britain, warned that any normalisation deals needed to help the Palestinians obtain their own independent state. He described Israel as a "Western colonising" power. He said Israel has "incarcerated (Palestinians) in concentration camps under the flimsiest of security accusations – young and old, women and men, who are rotting there without recourse to justice. They are



demolishing homes as they wish and they assassinate whomever they want." Although the prince does not hold any official position, his stance is seen as closely mirroring that of King Salman. In contrast, Saudi Crown

Prince Mohammed bin Salman has signalled a greater willingness to quietly engage with Israel to counter common rival, Iran, and boost foreign investment in the kingdom. Prince Turki's comments come as neighbouring Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates recently moved to normalise relations and establish ties with Israel. Saudi Arabia has insisted that any normalisation between it and Israel can only happen alongside a lasting peace deal involving a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Israeli Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi, who spoke immediately after Prince Turki, said: "I would like to express my regret on the comments of the Saudi representative. "I don't believe that they reflect the spirit and the changes taking place in the Middle East," he said.



## Briefs

## FPCCI urges to extend deadline for Tax Returns

DNA

KARACHI: Mian Anjum Nisar, President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) and Sheikh Sultan Rehman Vice President have urged the Advisor to the Prime Minister on Finance Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh, and Chairman of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Mr. Muhammad Javed Ghani to extend deadline for filing Annual Income Tax Returns from 8th December 2020 to 15th February 2021.

The President FPCCI said that a large number of business community members have not been able to file their tax returns mainly due to COVID-19 effects on whole of the working environment and now the second wave which is more severe and requiring strict observation of SoPs has also significantly disturbed business activities all over the country. This has slowed down the normal economic and commercial activities. He further informed that there are also some discrepancies being faced by the filers in filling of Income Tax Return when a tax payer is requested to file two types of returns relating to partnerships / importers & suppliers. Mian Anjum Nisar President FPCCI and office bearers of the FPCCI have requested to extend the deadline of filing of Income Tax Return till 15th February 2021 as huge returns are pending for submission due to certain discrepancies while filling the returns, political situation and above all the severe COVID-19 rise in cases all over the country.

## Saif, Afzal, Shafi Khokhar summoned by FIA

DNA

LAHORE: The FIA Anti-Corruption Circle has summoned Saif-ul-Malook Khokhar, PML-N MNA Afzal Khokhar and Shafi Khokhar on December 7 over links with land-grabbing groups as well as money laundering. The FIA Anti-Corruption Circle sent summons notices to the three leaders stating that the agency had information that they were not only supporting the land-grabbers in Lahore but also having ties with them. The three leaders will be probed on their bank accounts, assets and money laundering as the assets they have disclosed do not match their income. Therefore, the FIA Anti-Corruption Circle has summoned the three to its office on December 7. The summons says that if they fail to show up on December 7, it would be considered that the three have nothing to say in their defense and the Agency would go forward with legal action.

## Mirpur record highest positivity ratio

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NOC) said on Sunday the countrywide positivity ratio of Covid-19 cases was recorded 7.94 per cent in the past 24 hours. Azad Jammu and Kashmir's Mirpur recorded the highest positivity ratio at 22pc followed by Karachi 17.39pc, Peshawar 16.02pc, Rawalpindi 11.26pc, Hyderabad 10.36, Muzaffarabad 6.76pc, Gilgit 6.67pc, Quetta 6.19pc, Islamabad 6.16pc, Lahore 5.47pc, Swat 4.64pc, Faisalabad 3.98, Multan 1.89pc and Abbottabad 1.59pc. Province-wise, Balochistan recorded the highest Covid-19 positivity ratio which was 11.62pc, followed by Sindh 11.47pc, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 11.29pc, Azad Jammu and Kashmir 10.83pc, and Punjab 4.42pc. 2,436 of the total Covid-19 patients under treatment are said to be in critical condition, out of whom 327 are on vents across the country, including 85 in Lahore, 45 in Multan, 20 in Rawalpindi, 82 in Karachi, 38 in Islamabad and 51 in Peshawar. Balochistan and Gilgit Baltistan had no patient on ventilators, while Muzaffarabad and Mirpur had one each on vents.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan chairing the meeting on mobile manufacturing policy in Islamabad. – DNA

## 7 Covid-19 patients die due to oxygen shortage in KTH

Hospital sources disclosed that patients in other wards of the hospital were also facing difficulties due to the absence of oxygen cylinders. "The hospital receives oxygen cylinders from Rawalpindi," said Khyber Teaching Hospital spokesperson

DNA

PESHAWAR: In an unfortunate incident, at least seven Covid-19 patients died allegedly due to a shortage of oxygen at Peshawar's Khyber Teaching Hospital. The deaths occurred last night, sources at the health facility confirmed Sunday.

According to a spokesperson for the hospital, five of the patients were under treatment at the health facility's coronavirus ward while the others were in the intensive care unit. He added the hospital gets its oxygen supply from Rawalpindi which did not reach on time, as a result of which the critically ill patients died.

## KP CM takes notice of KTH incident

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Mahmood Khan here on Sunday took strong notice about death of patients due to lack of oxygen supply at Khyber Teaching Hospital and directed Board of Governors to complete and submit inquiry report within 48 hours. In a statement here, special assistant to CM KP for information, Kamran Bangash said the Chief Minister has expressed anguish over the incident and assured to take strict action against responsible. He said inquiry report would soon be made public. He said rumors should not be paid attention and all matters in this regard would be brought before masses. – DNA

Confirming the news, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Health Minister Taimur Khan Jhagra tweeted: "There was an incident at KTH last night involving a shortage of oxygen supply." "I have directed the BoG [Board of Governors] to conduct an immediate inquiry & take action within 48 hours. If found unsatisfactory or if otherwise required, the govt will immediately order its own independent inquiry," Jhagra vowed that all the facts of the case will be made public, requesting people not to peddle unverified information on social media. "Neither this, nor any other incident will be left unused, to improve the health system; it's service;

and it's system of accountability and transparency," he said. Hospital sources disclosed that patients in other wards of the hospital were also facing difficulties due to the absence of oxygen cylinders. "The hospital receives oxygen cylinders from Rawalpindi," said Khyber Teaching Hospital spokesperson. "Ox-

ygen cylinders from Rawalpindi did not arrive on time." He said that patients are in more need of oxygen during winters, adding that the hospital was carrying out a probe to find out why the cylinders did not arrive in time. According to KP government's Shaukat Yousafzai, the provincial government has ordered an inquiry into the unfortunate incident and assured that a strict action will be taken against those four responsible. Taking notice of the incident, Chief Minister Mahmood Khan assured that a probe into the incident will be completed within 48 hours, promising strict action against those found responsible.

## Lt Gen (retd) Mohsin Kamal passes away



DNA

RAWALPINDI: Former Corps Commander Rawalpindi Lieutenant General (retd) Mohsin Kamal passed away on Sunday. The deceased's funeral prayers will be offered at 4 pm at the city's Defense Phase 8 cemetery. Expressing his condolences, Azad Kashmir's Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider expressed deep sorrow and grief. "Mohsin Kamal was a proud son of Kashmir whose services are unforgettable," Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Raja Farooq Haider said. "He served

in Pakistan Army as a lieutenant general and was the pride of Kashmiris across the country."

Gen (retd) Mohsin Kamal also served as the chairman of the Azad Kashmir Public Service Commission. "I shared a brotherly relationship with the deceased. I am deeply saddened by this separation," Raja Farooq Haider said. In a Twitter message, Haider added that despite reaching the highest positions in Pakistan, Gen (retd) Kamal remained attached to his soil throughout his life. "As AJK PSC chairman, a position he accepted on my insistence, he restored the lost credibility of this institution," the AJK premier said. Gen (retd) Kamal was born in Sialkot in 1953. He received his early education in Muzaffarabad after which he joined Cadet College Hasan Abdal in 1966 (13th Entry) and remained there till 1971. In the same year, he joined the Pakistan Military Academy in Kakul.



KARACHI: Toshikazu Isomura, Dean of the diplomatic corp and Consul General of Japan, met Eng Najeer Haroon, MNA and PM Focal Person on Karachi Mega Projects. Meeting took place at Japan CG official residence, had discussed about Prime Minister's vision &amp; federal government projects for Karachi. PTI Young Leader Mustafa Karani, and Yousuf Karani were also present. – DNA

## Biden unlikely to mediate on Kashmir: AJK President

Referring to the situation in India Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, President Khan said there is a genocide taking place and there is lebensraum in the territory. Around 2.2 million non-state Hindus from all over India have been brought into IOJK just in the past 4 months

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Sardar Masood Khan has said that the possibility of mediation on Kashmir issue by the new US administration led by Joe Biden is not high, but the United States as an influential member of the UN Security Council can play a pivotal role to resolve the issue between India and Pakistan. He made these remarks while addressing a webinar hosted by the London School of Economics Students' Union's Pakistan Development Society as a foreign policy expert. The event was also addressed by former Foreign Minister of Paki-

stan Hina Rabbani Khar, well-known journalist, Najam Sethi and other prominent panelists. The Trump administration, with the help of Pakistan, had made good headway on the issue of Afghanistan and also President Trump attempted to act as a mediator to resolve the Kashmir issue between India and Pakistan. But later he (Trump) backtracked and instead adhered to maintaining an artificial balance between the two countries and then the mediation offer came to a naught," he said. Sardar Masood Khan however expressed his optimism that the new US government under the leadership of President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-Elect, Kamala Harris would come forward and dissuade India from killing the

Kashmiris and help end the human rights violations taking place in the illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK). "Our success in achieving the desired goals would depend on our advocacy and our outreach. This should not only be limited to the government level but the non-governmental sector particularly the civil society has to be involved in order to make Kashmir a civil rights movement," he asserted. Sardar Masood went on to say that in 2019, soon after India stripped Jammu and Kashmir of semi autonomous status and split it into two Union Territories, Biden-Harris very plainly said "Kashmiris are not alone in the world and that they are keeping a track on the situation.

The AJK President said that we must see that Pakistani expatriates in America have the same kind of ingress into the US power corridors as the Indian diaspora. Pakistanis in the US, he said, are around 700,000 and they have a key role to play in influencing decision making directly or indirectly. Referring to the situation in India Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, President Khan said there is a genocide taking place and there is lebensraum in the territory. Around 2.2 million non-state Hindus from all over India have been brought into IOJK just in the past 4 months. He suggested that our policy on Kashmir should be proactive and we should build our own narrative to help stop the killing of Kashmiris in IOJK and prevent India from turning the disputed region

into a colony. Rejecting bilateral talks with India, Masood Khan categorically stated that the solution of Kashmir conflict lies in multilateral diplomacy. He said that solution to the issue has already been given to Kashmiris by UN Security Council seven decades ago by suggesting a plebiscite to determine their will of Kashmiris regarding their future through a plebiscite. Emphatically seeking the resolution of Kashmir dispute as per UN Security Council resolutions involving three parties to the dispute, the President said that bilateral negotiations have been a mirage and India has been using them as a tool to perpetuate its hold on the Jammu & Kashmir territory.

## 'No point sitting in assemblies'

DNA

LAHORE: Former federal minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Khawaja Asif on Sunday said that there was no point in sitting in the assemblies that have failed to protect the constitution and law. Addressing the charged party workers in Lahore on Sunday, he said that former PM and PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif is not fighting a war for his premiership but for the supremacy of constitution. The PML-N leader said Nawaz Sharif's daughter Maryam Nawaz was also fighting for the right of general public, adding that restoration and rule of law will be decided on December 13 in PDM's Lahore rally. Khawaja Asif went on to say that there was no point in sitting in the assemblies which could not protect the constitution, law and the people of Pakistan. December 13 will remind the people of 1940, he said. He further said that Nawaz Sharif was in exile and was requesting loyalty from his brothers and daughters in Lahore, adding that the Lahore rally should resonate across Pakistan. Speaking on the occasion, former prime minister and PML-N senior vice president Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said that the PML-N supreme has given his narrative, adding that he made a statement that no one in 73 years of history could make.

## Transgender abused sexually

DNA

PESHAWAR: A group of unidentified men allegedly sexually abused a transgender woman in a moving car after kidnapping her, police confirmed on Sunday. The incident took place in Peshawar's Chamkani neighbourhood. According to the police, a first information report (FIR) of the incident has been registered. However, it is unclear if the case only included a charge of kidnapping or gang-rape as well. "I was going home after a programme [event] when unknown individuals forcibly threw me inside their car and whisked off," the transgender woman told police. "They cut my hair and snatched my mobile phone. They also raped me" in the car, she claimed. "They let go of me near Chughal Pura and left me there." Members of the marginalised transgender community are often targeted by criminals across the country.

## Punjab orders to make field hospitals functional

DNA

LAHORE: The Punjab government has issued orders to make all field hospitals on divisional level functional including Lahore's Expo Field Hospital amid raging second wave of the coronavirus pandemic. The National Command and Operation Centre (NOC) on Sunday said that the countrywide test positivity ratio of Covid-19 cases was recorded 7.94 per cent in the past 24 hours. The positivity rate in Lahore has increased from seven to 10 percent within one week. Punjab government has also directed divisional administrations of Rawalpindi, Faisalabad and Multan to make the field hospitals functional in their limit. The government has also decided to re-allocate ventilators and oxygen beds for novel coronavirus patients. The Chief Secretary has been issued instructions for an effective implementation of the coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs) from the next week. Chief Minister of Punjab has also ordered the finance department to allocate funds for the field hospitals across the province. The Punjab government had earlier issued alert to major hospitals of Lahore in view of the increasing number of COVID-19 cases. According to the notification, Expo Centre's Hall Number 2 will be made functional for coronavirus patients in Lahore. The health authorities have prepared a 300-bed high-dependency unit (HDU) at the field hospital where patients with breathing problems will be admitted. The administrations of Mayo Hospital, Services Hospital, Jinnah Hospital, General Hospital have also been directed to take immediate steps to operationalise the HDUs and intensive care units (ICUs) at the same level as it was functioning in June.



## Briefs

### Minor domestic helper tortured

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In yet another incident of violence against domestic helpers, a minor housemaid was beaten up badly over a fight between children in the Eden Valley area of Faisalabad. According to police, an 11-year-old domestic helper was beaten up by a woman after the former had an argument and a fight with the latter's children. "Munir's children went to see peacock in the neighbouring house, where the maid beat them up over a quarrel," they said adding that later, Munir, his wife, and a son tortured the girl. A video of the incident showed the members of the Munir's family slapping and tweaking the hairs of the victim. A case has been registered against Rana Munir and his wife Samina at Madina Town police station over the incident after a complaint was lodged by District Child Protection official Sara Ahmed. The police have arrested Munir and shifted him to Madina Town police station.

### ITP fines 652 VIPs during 2020

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has fined as many as 652 VIPs over traffic rules violations during the ongoing year including parliamentarians, diplomats and bureaucrats. As per basic objectives defined at the time of inception of Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP), 2006, it's personnel are ensuring equal implementation of law and they fined 652 VIPs on traffic rules violation during the ongoing year, SSP (Traffic) Farrukh Rasheed said.

The VIPs fined during the ongoing year included 52 MNAs/MPAs, 16 Senators, 317 government officials, 24 senior police officers, 89 diplomats, 54 media persons and 47 Judiciary officers among others. "Whether there is any VIP or common people on the road, everyone is equal to us and it is our responsibility to save his life through ensuring implementation on traffic rules," the SSP (Traffic) maintained. He said ITP will provide maximum facilities to road user and will ensure safe travel on Capital roads. Farrukh Rasheed said that as per directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfiqar, fine tickets are issued not as a punitive measure but the purpose is to make citizens more law abiding to ensure safety to their own lives on roads. He said that ITP personnel will continue their efforts for ensuring safe road environment in the Capital and urged the people to cooperate with them to make this city accident-free. - APP

### DC distribute quilts among homeless

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Hamza Shafqaat, distributed quilts, pillows and blankets among the poor and homeless people to keep them warm during chilly season. The activity was held in a ground at sector G-9/1, the other day where comforts were provided by some local philanthropists to distribute them among needy. Talking to APP the DC said it was observed that some people were shivering on main roads in the federal capital. Taking cognizance of the situation the administration swiftly responded to make sure that nobody sleep without blanket/quilt in the city, he added. There was a large number of poor people who could not afford to buy clothes for the winter season, he said and appealed the masses to join hands with administration to become a quilt volunteer. Shafqaat said the district administration has launched a drive, under which needy and homeless families were being given comforter and warm clothes with the help of local philanthropists. - APP

## 'Pakistan-Tanzania business council should be established'

DG BOI Seema Raza Bukhari said the project would be launched under Engage Africa to further improve diplomatic relations with Tanzania

ABID RAZA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Visiting President of Tanzania Chamber of Commerce and Industry Paul Moyo along with other members of his delegation called on DG BOI Seema Raza Bukhari in Islamabad. Chairman Regional Trade Promotion Committee RCCI Khurshid Barlas, Executive Committee Member RCCI Fahad Barlas and others were present. During the meeting, steps were taken to promote diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Tanzania. President of Pakistan Paul Moyo said that Pakistan-Tanzania Business Council should be established for the development of industry and trade in Pakistan and Tanzania. DG BOI Seema Raza Bukhari said the project would be launched under Engage Africa to further improve diplomatic relations with Tanzania.



## Pakistan launches first radio school

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The government has launched the country's first radio school and education portal for distance learning. A joint venture of the government and Radio Pakistan, the radio school aims to educate over eight million children across the country. It will run educational programmes for four hours every day in two slots. The morning slot is from 10am to 12pm. The education portal is a digital platform where students will be able to take online classes. The

initiatives were introduced to help students continue their education as schools remain closed during the pandemic. Speaking at the launch of the programmes, Prime Minister Imran Khan lauded the efforts of the Education Ministry and all those involved in the projects. "The government will ensure hiring trained, well-qualified teachers to make the facility of distance learning effective," he said, adding that a single national curriculum will soon be launched to ensure that the country is together as a nation. "These divisions at the

school level prevent citizens to unify as a nation," the premier said, pointing out that the new curriculum will provide equal opportunities to everyone irrespective of their socio-economic classes. PM Khan added that it was important to provide students skill-based education so it's easier for them to get jobs after graduating. In April, the government had launched the Tele-School Channel. The educational channel beams programmes at PTV from 8am to 5pm everyday and delivers content for grades 1 to 12.

## Fawad Chaudhry launches 'Huawei's IdeaHub'

*The Idea Hub boasts a sleek, contemporary, user-centric design with a slender, minimalist stand giving it the look of a next-gen product that will fit right into your new office space*

ISLAMABAD: Fawad Chaudhry, the Federal Minister for Science and Technology launched the IdeaHub. The IdeaHub is a revolutionary product by Huawei that is set to change the way projectors are used everywhere around the world. Addressing the launching ceremony, the federal minister said 5G would bring a revolution in the world as there was no limit to science, he further said Pakistan was one of the few countries where IdeaHub had been inaugurated. 5G technology will revolutionise the world. The Idea Hub boasts a sleek, contemporary, user-centric design with a slender, minimalist stand giving it the look of a next-gen product that will fit right into your new office space. It has a 4K screen with H.265 technology and 60fps that delivers a crisp, clear, smooth experience. The device even has a touch feature that lets you make your presentations interactive with your users. It lets you directly connect your phone or laptop to it with a touch and start projecting your screen in an instant using wireless sharing. There are three versions of the IdeaHub i.e. the IdeaHub Enterprise and the IdeaHub Pro. Both come in two sizes (65 inches and 86 inches) with the difference of the front camera that it boasts. The Simple version has a 1080p 30 fps front camera whereas the Pro version has a 4k 30 fps camera. Depending on the price, this may change how projectors are used since this makes the experience much more interactive and easy without needing to set up a big wall where you can display. - DNA



## Islamabad police reunite lost teenagers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police on Sunday reunited 20 teenagers with their family who lost their way while hiking at the Margalla Hills, a police spokesperson said. According to details, Shahzad Ali and Abdul Saboor lost their way while hiking on trail-III. They managed to call Rescue 15 police and informed about forgetting the way. After the call, Deputy Inspector General (Operations) Waqar Uddin Syed tasked Superintendent of Police (City-Zone) Muhammad Umer Khan to trace the boys. A special team was constituted which started search operation and managed to trace the boys after efforts for several hours.

## 200 people get relief through 'Open Kutcheri'

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad local administration has resolved over 200 complaints of various natures, raised by the residents in 'Open Kutcheri' during the last few weeks amid coronavirus pandemic. 'Open Kutcheris' are being held to interact with the public without formalities and to address their grievances in swift manner, said deputy commissioner, Islamabad, Hamza Shafqaat in an exclusive chat with APP. As per the orders of Prime Minister Imran Khan, he said, the events were organised every alternate weekdays at f-8 Markaz courts. Most of the issues highlighted in the open kutcheri were land encroachment, transfer, registration, sanitation, waste collection, drinking water, unnecessary road studs and absence of streetlights, the DC added.

## VAA granted permission to operate to, from Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Virgin Atlantic Airways, a British airline, has been granted permission to operate to and from Pakistan. It will be operating four direct flights a week from London to Lahore and three a week from London to Islamabad. The CAA has approved the airline's cargo and passenger flight operations.

Permission for passenger flights has been given from December 13 to March 27. According to Virgin Atlantic's website, the first flight available to Lahore from London is on December 17. The airline posted a message on its website announcing the new flights to Pakistan.

"We're thrilled to let you know that we're adding two brand new destinations to our flying schedule. From December, we'll be flying four times a week from London Heathrow to Lahore, three times a week from Heathrow to Islamabad, and four times weekly from Manchester to Islamabad." Flight bookings started in September and the news was first reported in August. - DNA

## Cabinet to take policy decision on ties with France

The appointment of MD of PTDC is on the agenda. Appointment of ED of SLIC will be approved

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A policy decision regarding diplomatic relations with France will be considered in the meeting of the Federal Cabinet to be held on Tuesday. According to details, the federal cabinet will meet next week on Tuesday to consider a 15-point agenda. The meeting will consider a policy decision on diplomatic relations with France. The next meeting will decide to reconstitute the boards of six power supply companies. The new boards of Fesco, Hesco, Isco, LESCO, PESCO and Casco will be

presented to the cabinet for approval. The cabinet will approve the construction of the Federal Courts Complex in Karachi. The appointment of MD of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation is on the agenda. Appointment of Executive Director of State Life Insurance Corporation will be approved. The proposal to relax the policy of importing prohibited bore arms and ammunition will be considered. The joint financial statements of the federal and all the provinces will be presented to the Cabinet. The appointment of MD of House Building Finance Company is also on the agenda of the Cabinet. Approval of dentistry quota for Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University Islamabad is on the agenda. Reconstitution of Pakistan Central Cotton Committee will be approved.

## PNCA to set-up National Film Archives

ISLAMABAD: National film Archive of Pakistan, National Council of the Arts (PNCA) has planned to contribute film prints for the promotion and development of films in Pakistan.

According to an official of PNCA, the council has taken various measures for promotion and education of film. He said PNCA has started making arrangements for acquiring feature films for its Film Archives.

He said Pakistan has made close to 6000 plus feature films since 1948, adding that the earlier films made on Nitrate Material from the late-forties and early-fifties have been lost forever. He said this apart, many other films were now also not available and this was a loss of our film culture and rich heritage. "In setting up a Film Archive, we need support to make films available for posterity", he added.

This needs long-term planning and cooperation from the entire film fraternity individual collectors Film Producers, Distributors, Exhibitors and those who have contributed in any capacity, he stated. He said films acquired from respective quarters would only be used for occasional free screening for education, training and reference purposes.

He said it might not be possible for PNCA, at this time, to preserve and maintain 35 mm prints however, digital format is here, a good quality films on VHS, BETA, DVD, DCP are good options for PNCA to convert and save our past film treasure and heritage for the generation to come. Films posters, press books and photographs (mostly exhibited in cinemas during theatrical release) and scripts, film lyrics in print are equally important for the archives. - APP

## Two-day World Fintech Festival from Dec 9

ISLAMABAD: A two-day long online "World Fintech Festival" in Pakistan will start from December 9th to make big things happen by bringing together the whole Eco system.

Organised by the Pakistan Fintech Association, a series of expert talks, panels, and masterclasses designed around financial inclusion and the investment landscape in Pakistan. According to an official, well known guest speakers would join the event including Kalsoom Lakhani, Ali Meurani, Farhana Asif, Owais Zaidi and others.

He said startup ecosystem in Pakistan is fairly new to the process of raising investment through venture capitalists and angels adding that not that fund raising is a new concept, however, things have changed significantly over the past few years and interest in technology backed startups and emerging markets is steadily increasing. - APP

## Islamabad excise recovers 5 stolen vehicles

ISLAMABAD: Excise and Taxation department teams have recovered five stolen vehicles and handed them over to Anti Car Lifting Cell Islamabad to return to their genuine owners. The vehicles were stolen from various areas of Koral, Ramna and Si-hala Police stations, Director Excise, Bilal Azam told APP. The vehicles were brought to the excise office for registration and after checking the records and conducting a physical examination it was seized, he said. He added that vehicles were also physically checked while ownership of registered vehicles was verified to avoid tampered vehicles from being registered a new, he added. The department had so far recovered over 20 vehicles this year where a physical inspection had disclosed that their chassis number had been tampered with and were registered as stolen with various police stations in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi, the director informed. - APP

## Fellows oppose to close down lead Pakistan

LEAD Pakistan is the only self-sustaining chapter out of 13 funded by the Rockefeller Foundation that has emerged as an indigenous national think tank. Some 12 have already been closed down after the Rockefeller Foundation stopped funding them in 2000

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Fellows of Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD Pakistan) who are the leading professionals in different sectors have strongly condemned the decision of the LEAD Pakistan Board of Governors (BoG) to close it down. Speaking at a webinar on Saturday they termed it the "conspiracy of some pseudo-intellectuals playing black sheep to shut down the doors of 27-year old self-sustaining think tank on climate change when it is needed the most". They pointed out that the organization has cash reserves of PKR 140 million in addition to the tangible and intangible assets and a national and international repute. LEAD Pakistan is the only self-sustaining chapter out of 13 funded by the Rockefeller Foundation that has emerged as an indigenous na-

tional think tank. Some 12 have already been closed down after the Rockefeller Foundation stopped funding them in 2000. The webinar was organized by the Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) in collaboration with the LEAD Fellows Network on "Sustainability of Lead Pakistan - a case of nonprofit governance" Saturday late evening. Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed said usually the Board members of a Non-profit Organization (NPO) are supposed to strengthen their respective organization. Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy (PCP) also guides the NPOs to have 'reputable and visionary professionals on the Board that shall lead the organization towards sustainability with their oversight and guidance to the chief executive or executive director'. The Board members of Lead Pakistan are acting contrary to the

set rules and scope of the BoG despite the fact that organization has sufficient funds to survive in the period of ongoing financial crunch. It is deliberate and intentional murder of a living and self-sustaining organization. The present BoG of Lead Pakistan is chaired by Dr Iqbal Ahmad Khan who has been restored by the Lahore High Court as Vice Chancellor of the University of Agriculture Faisalabad despite Punjab's anti-corruption department and NAB cases of financial embezzlement of more than PKR 420 million against him. Other members include former Member National Assembly (MNA) Malik Uzair Khan, LUMS vice chancellor Dr Arshad Ahmad, LUMS Associate Professor Dr Mohammad Abubakar, Senior Legal Consultant Privatization Commission Ikram ul Haque Qureshi, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) Vice Chancellor Dr Na-

deem ul Haque, and PACRA Managing Director Dr. Adnan Afaq. Azhar Qureshi, a LEAD Pakistan Fellow and the CEO of Eco-conservation Initiatives, said the Lahore High Court Rawalpindi Bench has served a notice to all the LEAD Pakistan board members and management for not implementing the orders of the Registrar of Societies that were issued on the instructions of the Lahore High Court two months back. He said "the Orders have asked the LEAD Pakistan board to convene a meeting of Fellows to discuss the crisis, but the BoG has totally ignored the legal orders that is contempt of court". He said this is the first time in 27 year that board members have forced the Lead Pakistan CEO to resign on the pretext of a huge salary and failing to secure any projects in the time of financial crunch. They are trying tactfully to handover all the Lead Pakistan resour-

ces to the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) on a proposal moved by Shahzad Wazir Ali to grab the lavish resources the organization has. Dr Saeed Ismail, CEO of HNADS, termed the crisis created by the LEAD Pakistan board members as a sorry state of affairs by the 'custodians' who were supposed to strengthen the organization. The issues were not so big or unresolvable. The Board members mishandled the merely a small challenge to a big crisis that might have some multiple hidden vested interests which are not expressed publicly. Before taking any decision, the Fellows should have been taken on board by the BoG that was not actually done. Secondly, it was strange to see the derogatory tweets against Fellows by Dr Na-deem ul Haq, the Vice Chancellor PIDE. The entire scenario shows an extreme mindset against a living organization and its Fellows.



## Briefs

PNCA to start  
"Talent Hunt  
Program"

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) has planned to start programme titled "Talent Hunt" to discover best singers and musicians from December 11 to 30. Under the said programme online music and singing edition would be taken throughout December to discover best singer through competition. Girls and boys aged between 15 to 20 will be eligible to participate in competition, an official said on Tuesday. He said registration would start from December 7, adding that contestants could present national songs and Pakistani film songs. A competition for playing instruments would 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 enthusiasts to discover and polish their talent in different art forms", he stated. — APP

Police arrests  
2 dacoits  
after exchange  
of fire

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Wah Cant police operation, 02 dacoits arrested after exchange of fire between dacoits and police near Bajaan village, injured and weapons recovered. The robbers shot and injured shopkeeper Zakir during a robbery at Easy Paisa shop in Lab Thatto area at night and fled. A third accomplice of the accused opened fire and fled the scene, for which an operation is being conducted. Both the injured robbers have been shifted to the hospital. Evidence is being collected from the scene, a case will be registered against the accused and challaned with solid evidence.

ECP observes  
National  
Voters Day  
today

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) will observe the National Voters' Day on Monday across the country in befitting manner to create awareness about importance of registration as voters. The main event in this regard will be held here at Election Commission of Pakistan Secretariat. Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja will address the ceremony. Events in this regard will also take place at the Provincial Offices of the Election Commission of Pakistan. COVID-19 SOPs will be observed at all the events to be organized by the ECP. The day is celebrated in commemoration of first general elections of Pakistan held on 7th December, 1970. On this day in 1970, voting took place in 300 constituencies of National Assembly on general enfranchisement of the Unicameral Parliament of Pakistan. The primary purpose of commemorating the day is to create awareness among the general public with regard to importance of vote and inclusion of all segments of the society in electoral process.

Motorcyclists  
urged to use  
helmet for  
safety

RAWALPINDI: Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Syed Ali Akbar urged the motorcyclists to use safety helmets for their own safety. CTO said that motorcyclists must wear helmet to avoid fatal accidents. He said, Traffic wardens had been directed to take strict action in accordance with the law against the violators. He said wearing a helmet could save a driver's life in case of any accident. "Sometimes it's the only difference between life and death," he added. CTO said all traffic issues could be resolved by observing traffic rules which are for the safety and protection of the road users. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Denmark Lise Rosenholm planting a tree as part of govt of Pakistan tree plantation drive. — DNA

98 % targets of polio  
vaccination achieved

According to an official of Polio Eradication Initiative, the immunization drive was started on November 30 to vaccinate over 39 million children under the age of five years across the country

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) on Saturday said that 98 percent targets have been achieved from the five-day national polio immunization drive. According to an official of Polio Eradication Initiative, the immunization drive was started on November 30 to vaccinate over 39 million children under the age of five years across the country. He added around 285,000 polio frontline workers visited house-to-house, observing strict SOPs for COVID-19, to ensure protection of children from the crippling polio virus. Special Assistant to the Prime

Minister, National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Dr Faisal Sultan said, "The government is committed to make Pakistan Polio-free. We are determined to close the immunity gap in children which had unfortunately widened because of disruption of essential services due to COVID-19 pandemic." He said, "Ensuring timely and repeated vaccination of children is critical for us to reduce the immunity gap and protect them against polio." Dr Faisal said, "I am confident, together we will achieve our target of making a safer, healthier and polio-free Pakistan for our children." During the campaign, the trained polio frontline workers reached

every child with essential polio vaccine while adhering to strict COVID-19 standard operating procedures such as wearing mask, using hand sanitizer, and maintaining at least minimum distance during vaccination. "While continuing our efforts to enhance essential immunization coverage across, the back-to-back planned immunization campaigns are imperative to give quick immunity boost to children under the age of five," said Dr Rana Muhammad Safdar, Coordinator of the National Emergency Operations Centre, Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) "We need to ensure that no child is missed during this critical national immunization campaign aimed to

build on successful immunity building efforts during last three months." Rana Safdar said that all segments of society including communities, media, religious leaders, social activists, celebrities and doctors should play active role so that no child remains at risk of contracting polio disease and getting paralyzed for life. He said that Pakistan was one of the two polio-endemic countries in the world along with its neighbour Afghanistan. The country is facing a challenging situation in polio eradication with the upsurge of the number of polio cases. He added so far in current year, a total of 82 polio cases have been reported including

24 from Balochistan, 22 each from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh, and 14 from Punjab. He said that Polio was a highly infectious disease caused by polio-virus mainly affecting children under the age of five years. It invades the nervous system and can cause paralysis or even death. While there is no cure for polio, vaccination is the most effective way to protect children from this crippling disease. He said that each time a child under the age of five is vaccinated, their protection against the virus is increased while repeated immunizations have protected millions of children from polio, allowing almost all countries in the world to become polio free.

PM's move to  
normalise ties with  
Bangladesh lauded

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former President ICCI Shahid Rasheed Butt on Saturday lauded the move of the Prime Minister Imran Khan to normalise bilateral relations with Bangladesh. The move can revive dormant SAARC to bring a meaningful change in the lives of two billion people living in South Asia, he said. Shahid Rasheed Butt said that the majority of the world's poor are living in the SAARC region, one of the least integrated areas, who deserve a better life for which the countries must bury their past like the EU, ASEAN and other countries. He said that masses living in the region could have a break if the regional countries initiate trade which is at the lowest ebb for which cordial relations are imperative.

SAARC countries ignore trade with neighbours and prefer it with countries located thousands of miles away while excessive focus on security has resulted in poverty, illiteracy and other problems. He noted that 21 percent of the world's population is living in SAARC countries but their share in global GDP is mere 4.21 percent while small western nations are performing well. The situation can be improved by reducing mistrust, increasing trade, doing away with tariff and non-tariff barriers and increasing cooperation in all sectors for which all the countries must work together. He said that South Asian countries must understand the long-term benefits of regional cooperation and conflicts between SAARC nations should be resolved through dialogue to bring stability and finish unending hostility.

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) has urged that CDA should amend its building bylaws in consultation with ICCI, developers, builders and other stakeholders in order to give boost to construction activities in the federal capital as its existing bylaws were not conducive for the construction industry to boom. He said that PM's construction package was valid up to 31st December 2020 and urged that the government should consider extending it for one year that would enable the investors to take maximum benefit of it and generate more economic activities

ICCI urges CDA to  
revise building bylaws

DNA

across the country. He said this while addressing a delegation of Traders Welfare Association, G-11 Markaz, Islamabad that visited ICCI led by President Aftab Gujjar. Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI, Qaiser Shah Secretary General TWA G-11 Markaz, Ch. Nadeem ud Din PTI Coordinator Islamabad Administration and Convener Islamabad Task Force, Zafar Iqbal Gujjar President, TWA G-10/4, Islamabad, Khalid Chaudhry and others were also present at the occasion. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that CDA was not giving title to the purchasers of apartments and flats constructed on upper portions of commercial plots as title was given only to the plot holders. But due to this situation,

owners of apartments and flats were unable to avail bank financing as without title, banks were not giving them loans. He stressed that CDA should amend its laws to give title to the buyers of such apartments and flats. He said that the BCS department of CDA was issuing notices against additional storey in markets, which was a cause of great concerns. He said that demolishing additional storey in markets will cause great financial loss to the investors besides affecting the business activities. He stressed that instead of considering demolition, CDA should regularize all additional storey constructions with nominal charges so that business activities could flourish. He said that ICCI was work-

ing with CDA on SOPs for removal of encroachments from markets. He assured that ICCI will cooperate with TWA G-11 Markaz, Islamabad in resolving the key issues of their traders. Speaking at the occasion, Aftab Gujjar President and Qaiser Shah Secretary General, TWA G-11 Makaz Islamabad stressed that CDA should urgently install streetlights in the G-11 Markaz as due to absence of streetlights, incidents of car thefts, mobile snatching and burglary in shops were on the rise in the area. They said that the G-11 Markaz was one of the major commercial areas of Islamabad and CDA should focus on its better development in order to facilitate the growth of business activities.

## Forced marriage, crime against humanity

The society members that are victims of this act by themselves try to convince other people to don't do this shameful act to others. Force marriage can affect mental health/stability, shatter the confidence of an individual, and may lead to the social isolation of the individual, it may also lead even to suicide

SANA SAEED

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

Forced marriage is not only an issue of the past; it is prevalent in conflicts around all over the world today. Pakistan is going backward due to force marriage. Forced marriage is mostly done in the rural areas of Pakistan due to poverty and illiteracy. Many parents engaged their children in their childhood, and when they become elder their parents told them that they are engaged by someone and now they will be married by them and when they refuse to get marry with them their parent's strong manual with them and forced marry them. Mostly Parents marriage their girls at an early age to get free from their finance and low the burden of poverty. They think that this is a better way to get free from poverty. But due to unawareness, this is not good for the girl who is going to be married at an early age of her life.

Forced marriage is a viable crime, i.e. capable of living a separate existence. Only parents are not responsible for this act, it is done by the relatives and neighbors also. Parents' marriage their child for the fear of honor that if their children do some act which may ashamed them, parents' marriage their children. Force marriage is a shameful act that people do. This act shouldn't be allowed to do not only in Pakistan but all over the world. First of all, our religion Islam forbade us the forced marriage of a child. We can take an example of Hazrat Fatima and Hazrat Ali that, When Hazrat Ali came to Holy Prophet about the relation of Hazrat Fatima, Holy Prophet firstly went to the Hazrat Fatima and asked about this relation. When Hazrat Fatima accepts this proposal then Holy Prophet accepts this relation, and after this,

then Hazrat Ali and Hazrat Fatima get Nikkahfied. This highlights the point that marriage should be done by mutual agreements, not to force a child to marry someone. This is also written in the Article 16 of Universal declaration of human rights that; "Marriage should be entered into only with the free will and full consent of the intending spouses" Forced marriage is a social issue, and this act never successful in society. The society members that are victims of this act by themselves try to convince other people to don't do this shameful act to others. Forced marriage can affect mental health/stability, shatter the confidence of an individual, and may lead to the social isolation of the individual, it may also lead even to suicide. Force marriage has a negative impact on society like people start fearing of

marriage as a negative act, trust issues in society and cause disability in society. Forced marriage is a crime not only in specific countries, it is a crime all over the world. Forced marriage is a shameful act that people shouldn't do because everyone has their own rights related to their lives. Parents and relatives shouldn't force a girl or a boy for marriage because they have to spend life so it should their own opinion that from which one, they want to marry or not. Governments should make strict rules and appropriate laws against this act. Moreover, we should work on moral values, learn from the incidents, and try to educate people about our surroundings as well. Sana Saeed student of Defense and Diplomatic Studies, Fatima Jinnah women University

CDA to  
construct  
110 ramps  
for disables

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) will initiate work on the construction of ramps for disables today. According to a press release of CDA, in the first phase these ramps will be constructed at 110 different sites. Upon the special directions of the President Arif Alvi, CDA has decided to construct ramps for disable persons at various markets, business centers, roads, main chowks, zebra crossing, and parks. The road and maintenance department will construct ramps for disables at 110 different places of 16 centers of the city. This step is being taken to facilitate the disables so that they can easily go in markets and business centers. In the second phase the ramps will be constructed in F-9 park, Rose and Jasmine garden, Japan Park, Lotus Park, Lake View Park, and other main parks of the city. Later on, the ramps will be constructed in all the small and big markets, roads, parks, and other places of the city, the PR added. Chairman CDA, Ali Ahmad said that disable persons are the asset of the country so it is our responsibility to facilitate them in all regards. CDA will give its best to provide the facility of ramps to disable persons throughout the city, he added.

Five stolen  
motorcycles  
recovered

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The police arrested a man and recovered five stolen motorcycles from his possession, informed police spokesman here on Sunday. During course of action, Bani police held a man namely Rustom Khan operating in different localities and recovered five stolen motorcycles from his custody. The police registered case against him and started investigation. City Police Officer (CPO) appreciated the performance of the officials, adding that there was a dire need to take stringent action against such anti social elements.

Commissioner  
Hazara  
inspects public  
transport

ABBOTTABAD: To review the Coronavirus SOPs enforcement in public transport Commissioner Hazara division Riaz Khan Mahsood Sunday inspected various vehicles at Muslim Abad Interchange. Commissioner Hazara and Secretary Regional Transport Authority (RTA) Sohail Khan also inspected public transport vehicles those were coming from Peshawar and Islamabad. During the inspection, he also directed commuters, drivers and cleaners to strictly follow COVID-19 SOPs, wear face masks and also use sanitizers for their own safety. Riaz Khan Mahsood while talking to the people at the occasion said that the second wave of Coronavirus is more lethal and district Abbottabad has become a sensitive area, the number of death tolls is also increasing during the fast spreading Coronavirus. He further said that owing to the non-serious behavior regarding COVID-19 the number of positive cases is increasing day by day, it's very important for the safety of the masses to strictly follow the SOPs and guidelines issued by the government and the World Health Organization (WHO). Commissioner Hazara stated that following the directives of provincial government district administrations of the region are taking measures to strictly enforce COVID-19 SOPs at public places, public transport, mosques and schools.



## The final showdown

THE PDM and the government scenario, as the PDM prepares for its rally in Lahore on December 13, seems to be heading towards the final scene. The PDM is focusing hard on its Lahore rally and according to analysts and reports, Maryam Nawaz has been asked by Shahbaz Sharif as well as her father to ensure that the Lahore rally is a success, after which a march to Islamabad followed by possible resignations from assemblies could be on the cards – all this as per the talk going around the political analysts' circles. If members of the PDM do hand in their resignations, one would think the logic would be that they feel the government would just have to give up and opt for elections, instead of undertaking by-elections on such a huge number of seats. That said, there is always the consideration that the PDM is formed of not one or two parties but a number of parties with their own internal compulsions and considerations. Which is why en-masse resignations may be a wish for one party but may not come about as easily as some would think.

There is of course also the question of whether removal of government is more a regression to the politics of the 90s than an evolution in our political realm. The opposition has spoken consistently of various scandals and examples of mismanagement within the government, which they say is badly hitting people. To them, that is reason enough for the government to get going. Again, the question remains whether the PDM can succeed in doing so, and then also follow that up by adhering to the democratic values it is openly advocating at the moment. Pakistan has a long tragic history of governments forcibly ousted through means that are not constitutional, something the past decade of democracy has tried to stem. For the opposition, though, the fact that people are facing more and more hardship and seem eager to act in their favour would be a big plus in pushing this movement ahead now rather than later. The Lahore rally will be extremely significant in this regard. The PML-N is particularly anxious to make a big show in its own hometown, with Nawaz Sharif's reported insistence that there be no talks with the government or the establishment. This can only mean we are headed towards a finale of one kind or the other. However, in politics – and particularly in Pakistani politics – we never say never and how things will end is still difficult to predict. In the past, long marches to Islamabad have faced challenges of logistics involved in keeping people at an open ground for a prolonged period of time. This time around, even with the threat of mass resignations from assemblies, there is the nagging presence of past scepticism even within the parties that make the PDM. Will the PPP agree to mass resignations? For that matter, will PML-N law-makers opt for them? What about the ever-present 'pressure' to not resign or the precedent of the infamous Senate elections? In the meanwhile, the coronavirus pandemic is gaining ground. The PDM will no doubt want to act now, when it has steam and support, and not lay low and wait. The next few days may see some more phone calls and meetings between the leaders of the PDM, as well as the government perhaps using a whole new round of crackdowns on opposition leaders ahead of the Lahore jalsa. None of this in any way makes dialogue an option but, as per history, the winds can always change direction.

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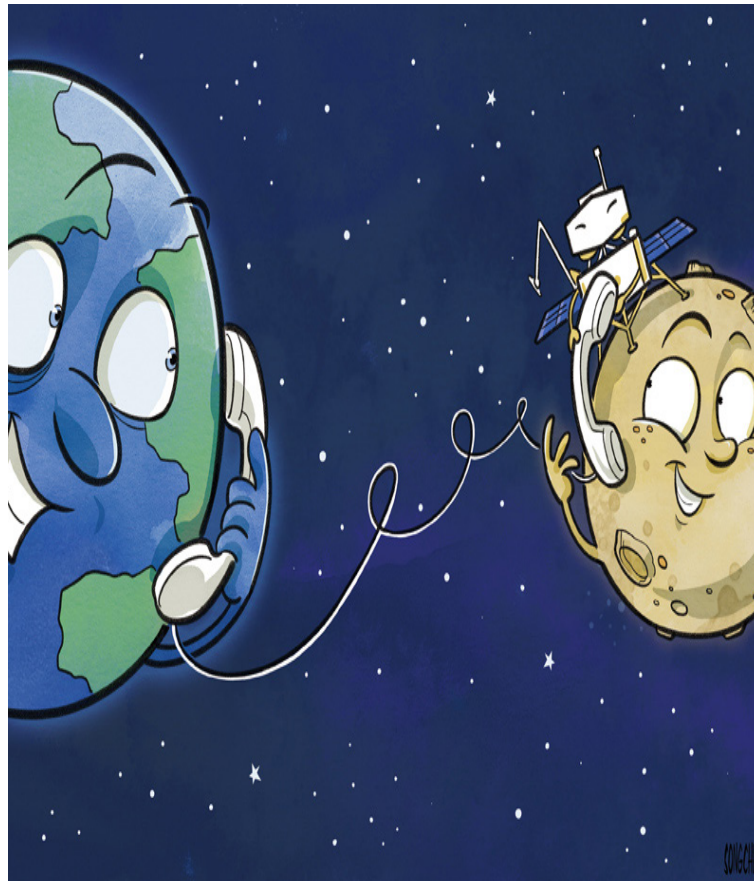
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## Local Governance

THE Prime Minister's words from a speech on Friday indicate that the ruling party has noticed perhaps its largest failing since coming into power; the inability to keep the local government system going. The PTI government has often addressed the issue and pointed towards reforms, the pandemic and other reasons for not renewing grassroots governance in provinces such as KP, where it is in power. However, whatever the reason, the ultimate result is the same—power has not trickled down the way it should in order for our administrative services to be fully functional for the public.

The party has often stressed the importance of letting democracy take its course down to the last tehsil, which is why it is surprising that two years at the helm have not already led to the revolutionised system of local government that the PM referred to on Friday. Nevertheless, there is still time; time enough to follow through on the orders of the judiciary in KP and beyond and conduct the LG exercise as soon as possible.

Issues that escape the federal and provincial government's notice are normally the purview of the local set-up. However in Pakistan, the inability of successive governments to make the local government exercise fruitful has led to a toothless practice that does little to alleviate the problems of the public at the district-level. Areas such as waste management, infrastructural upkeep and overall community development are all facets we have seen our country struggle in, with the potential solution all but ignored. It is hoped that the current PTI government will strike a different path and actually get around to establishing a local model that does not need to be overhauled every term. Local government needs to be taken more seriously than it currently is, and now that the PM has turned his attention towards this issue, one can hope that there is quick resolution.

## Who killed Iran's nuclear mastermind ... and why now?

Yossi Mekelberg



However, Iran's nuclear program has survived diplomatic pressure, economic sanctions, assassinations of scientists, physical sabotage of nuclear sites, and cyber attacks. It was actually the JCPOA, despite some of its obvious shortcomings, that slowed Iran's program by tying the removal of sanctions to limiting its enrichment of uranium. President Trump's withdrawal left the agreement hollow and meaningless, and without a viable alternative

AFTER the assassination of Prof. Mohsen Fakhriadeh, the "father" of Iran's nuclear program, the question on everyone's mind was the identity of the perpetrator. The list of suspects was relatively short (actually very short), and pointed mainly at Israel, with the consent and maybe even the encouragement of the US. Ostensibly, Israel's motive, or that of any other country keen to hamper Iran's nuclear development, seems self-explanatory, even for those who vehemently oppose such acts of international piracy. However, the timing raises the question of whether there was more to this operation than simply harming the scientific aspects of Iran's nuclear program.

Clearly, it would be naive to believe there was no link between the decision to assassinate one of the main figures of the Iranian nuclear program, and the timing – in the twilight of the Trump presidency. Fakhriadeh had long been a marked man for those who wanted to halt Iran's nuclear military ambitions. However, the elimination of one individual, as important as he was, won't curb those ambitions. At worst it is a setback that will require regrouping rather than starting from scratch; after all, an accumulated knowledge prevails among the Iranian scientific community. This may indicate that the timing of Fakhriadeh's killing is at least as important as the target itself, and suggests that it is a move to disrupt any attempt by the incoming Biden administration from returning to the JCPOA nuclear agreement between Iran and the P5+1, and removing the sanctions on Iran.

As well as the need to make the Middle East a nuclear weapon-free zone, there is a near-universal consensus that an Iran with nuclear military capability is a threat to peace and security in the region and beyond. Moreover, few are inclined to buy the official Iranian line that it is spending an abundance of energy and resources on a nuclear program that is solely for civil purposes. Yet the question remains: What is the optimum way

to stop Tehran from acquiring nuclear military capability? Israel's approach since the 1990s – one that has intensified during Benjamin Netanyahu's years at the helm – is through punitive measures, and if necessary military operations, overt or covert.

For Iran, the killing of Fakhriadeh is not only the loss of a leading scientist who was also a senior figure of the military establishment, but an unsettling demonstration that a foreign force has the intelligence, the capability and the audacity to execute such a sophisticated, accurate and deadly operation.

Yossi Mekelberg

However, Iran's nuclear program has survived diplomatic pressure, economic sanctions, assassinations of scientists, physical sabotage of nuclear sites, and cyber attacks. It was actually the JCPOA, despite some of its obvious shortcomings, that slowed Iran's program by tying the removal of sanctions to limiting its enrichment of uranium. President Trump's withdrawal left the agreement hollow and meaningless, and without a viable alternative. It may be argued that Iran breached the spirit of the agreement by continuing the development of ballistic missiles and its aggressive actions in the wider region; but it did not violate the terms of the agreement itself until the US withdrew. The fear among those who supported Trump's withdrawal, especially Israel, is of a Biden administration re-joining the JCPOA; and on this view the assassination of Fakhriadeh was probably aimed at instigating a crisis that would harden Iran's position and prevent even a mild rapprochement between Tehran and Washington.

For Iran, the killing of Fakhriadeh is not only the loss of a leading scientist who was also a senior figure of the military establishment, but an unsettling demonstration that a foreign force has the intelligence, the capability and the audacity to execute such a sophisticated, accurate and deadly operation. Considering Fakhriadeh's centrality to the regime's strategic objectives, his assassination in broad daylight inside Iran is

a massive embarrassment.

Israel's ability to hit Iranian targets in Syria at will, together with the latest assassination, is adding to Iran's sense of vulnerability, its sense of victimhood and its paranoia. This in turn will lead to a bitter internal debate among the regime's different and conflicting centers of power. Should it retaliate immediately against Israeli or even US targets, or should it reconsider its foreign policy priorities, or at least wait until Biden takes office? Retaliating, especially in a manner likely to escalate tensions with Israel and possibly other countries, is not going to serve Iranian interests, but those Iranians who thrive on conflict and friction are advocating such a course of action.

The regime's more pragmatic elements understand the danger of overreacting, especially at a time when Washington is going through a political transition, and Israel will soon be heading to the polls. President Hassan Rouhani has promised a response, but he qualified that by asserting that it will happen in "the proper time." In other words, it might never happen if it depended on him, but this is not necessarily the case, especially as Iran is about to enter its own presidential election year. A more hardline candidate is expected to win in June, which may also harden the position of those currently in power. Relations between Israel and Iran dominate a significant portion of Middle East affairs, and for all the wrong reasons. Escalation by proxy, covert and even direct confrontation can't be ruled out, and it behoves the international community and the new US administration to step in and prevent it, in their own interests as much as those of Iran and Israel.

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## Vaccines must be for all, or pandemic will persist

Hafed Al-Ghwel



A lack of transparency in the deals between pharmaceutical companies and powerful governments leaves little guarantee for the rest of the world, particular poorer nations. An inability to purchase the vaccines, let alone strike deals to manufacture them locally, will restrict low-income countries' access to about 10 billion doses by the end of 2021

THE success of clinical trials of COVID-19 vaccines has not only delivered desperately needed relief to a world teetering on the edge of a major catastrophe, it has also highlighted a major concern for global public health experts.

At least 10 vaccines will probably be approved by early 2021, but wealthier nations have already ordered up to 5 billion doses for their own people. The US alone has secured more than a billion doses of at least 6 vaccines in development, and the UK has signed agreements to supply as many as 5 doses per citizen.

A lack of transparency in the deals between pharmaceutical companies and powerful governments leaves little guarantee for the rest of the world, particular poorer nations. An inability to purchase the vaccines, let alone strike deals to manufacture them locally, will restrict low-income countries' access to about 10 billion doses by the end of 2021. Only 4 of the 10 major vaccine manufacturers will be able to produce significant quantities this year, and most of these doses will be delivered to countries that ordered as early as August, while vaccines were still in development.

The nature of COVID-19 is such that, to effectively eradicate the virus across the planet, efforts must be applied everywhere and equitably. Unilateralism and vaccine nationalism will do more harm than good, prolonging the pandemic and even weakening any positive impact of intensive vaccine distribution programs.

The misallocation of vaccines is not new. It happened with H1N1 influenza in 2009, when wealthier nations hoarded vaccines, which prolonged the outbreak. H1N1 pales in comparison to the devastating impact of COVID-19, which makes the prospect of vaccine hoarding unconscionable. The hypocrisy of calling for equitable vaccine access and effective distribution adds insult to injury. On the bright side, there are initiatives such as the Geneva-based COVAX facility and the ACT Accelerator Facilitation Council that not only fund the development of vaccines but also help poorer nations to secure doses and safely distribute them. After all, finding an effective vaccine is only the

first step; distributing it effectively presents new challenges that require significant coordination at the highest level with organizations such as the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and the World Health Organization.

Unilateralism and vaccine nationalism will do more harm than good, prolonging the pandemic and even weakening any positive impact of intensive vaccine distribution programs.

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Lack of infrastructure, already a problem forcing most poorer countries to resort to palliative rather than curative care, will again rear its head when it comes to delivering and storing vaccines. Some will require cold-chain facilities; the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine must be stored at -70 degrees Celsius. This does not bode well for southern hemisphere countries, especially those without reliable power capacity. Relying on generators only leads to increased costs in terms of fuel and maintenance, since inconsistent storage temperatures are likely to render vaccines with short shelf lives useless.

It is therefore crucial that collaborative institutions be well funded and competently managed. However, ACT calculates that its efforts are underfunded by as much as \$35 billion, while COVAX estimates vaccine manufacturers will need as much as \$18 billion to produce and deliver at least 2 billion doses. So far, wealthier nations have only expressed interest in these initiatives; few have committed to them. With economies battered and domestic challenges mounting, it is unlikely that the world's wealthiest countries will step up to ease the multibillion-dollar financial burden, despite the obvious benefits to all. However, there are other viable solutions to address inequitable access to vaccines. Governments around the world could require vaccine developers to license their vaccines to domestic manufacturers. World Trade Organization rules allow for such licensing, which has worked with the development of generic antiretrovirals against HIV. However, compulsory licensing of vaccine patents does not cover proprietary information regarding the complicated development, testing and approval of vac-

cines. Pharmaceutical companies would probably reject such moves, and most governments have little leverage given rising COVID-19 numbers and the potential for economic disruption.

While forced licensing is one way to increase production and access, the real threat to equitable distribution of vaccines is the lack of collaboration between governments to raise the adequate funding and ensure dosage affordability worldwide.

Failure to apply the lessons of 2009 will only prolong the pandemic. Additionally, even if by some miracle the world's poorer nations were able to secure adequate doses and distribute them, the same cannot be said of fragile states and conflict zones. This issue could be resolved by a coordinated and well funded international effort to secure doses and supervise their distribution as widely and as safely as possible. Unfortunately, with a global recession putting downward pressure on donor funds, it is likely that COVID-19 will not simply vanish.

After months of woeful news, it is certainly worthwhile to celebrate successful vaccine trials and inject a fair bit of optimism into these bleak times. However, the spread of COVID-19 was facilitated by how interconnected we have become, and no nationalistic, unilateral or protectionist actions can prevent the worst outcomes from inequitable access to vaccines. Only pluralistic, multilateral and well coordinated efforts will ensure a quick end to this pandemic. In our rush to bury COVID-19, we must not create new challenges before we even tend to the wounds wrought by the pandemic.

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## Briefs

Pakistani  
squad  
completes  
Covid Testing

## SPORTS DESK

WELLINGTON: Pakistan cricket members complete Covid-19 testing in Christchurch on Sunday. Test results will be announced by New Zealand Ministry of Health today. 43 members of the Pakistan touring contingent were tested on their 12th day in Christchurch. However, Assistant coach, Shahid Aslam, was tested in Auckland. Aslam was stopped in the city on the complaint of cough. The coach completed his isolation period there. New Zealand's health ministry will announce the results of the fifth Covid-19 test tomorrow. Pakistan's cricket squad will leave for Queenstown on December 8 after completing the 14-day quarantine period. Members of the squad have been taking a walk before and after the coronavirus testing.

Qureshi  
says PDM a  
bunch of the  
turncoat

## From Page 01

The foreign minister said that Pakistan had unveiled the real face of India at international level by presenting dossier on India's involvement in terrorism. Responding to another question, Qureshi said that border fencing was being completed at Pak-Afghan border which, he added, would not only control illegally border crossing but also reduce terrorism. He said that Pakistan had decided of border fencing at Pak-Iran border also. He said that target of border fencing would be complete before the end of current year. The foreign minister maintained that policy of newly elected president of United States Joe Biden looked different from the former president Donald Trump. "As per my understanding, new administration of US will prefer diplomatic negotiation which will be good initiative," Qureshi added. To another question, he said that Muhammad Nawaz Sharif went abroad for medical treatment adding that he must come back as his health was not unstable now. The foreign minister said that Pakistan was in conversation with British government on various issues. He said that the incumbent government was ready for dialogue with opposition on all national matters excluding corruption and NRO. He said that Prime Minister Imran Khan had struggled for 22 years and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had become a political reality. Qureshi said that PTI won elections from KPK on second time on the basis of its performance and also made government in Punjab. He said that opposition was in confusion on all matters adding that no one would stop them if they want to resign from the assembly. He said that opposition could decide this at the assembly session on December 08. On this occasion, he administered oath to the new body of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Women wing of city, district and minorities. The foreign minister congratulated and urged them to continue work as per vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan under the party policy

New Zealand  
beats WI in  
first test

## SPORTS DESK

WELLINGTON: New Zealand wrapped up record innings and 134-run victory over West Indies before lunch on the fourth day of the first test in Hamilton on Sunday after finally breaking a rearguard action from Jermaine Blackwood and Alzarri Joseph. The victory margin was the largest by New Zealand over West Indies, surpassing the innings and 105-run win at Wellington's Basin Reserve in 1999, and gave the hosts a 1-0 lead in the two-match series. New Zealand had been cruising to victory inside three days and was close to the rare feat of dismissing a side twice in one day before Blackwood and Joseph came together at 89-6 and shared a 155-run partnership. Blackwood completed his second test century on Sunday but fell for 104 shortly after Joseph was caught in the deep for 86 and Neil Wagner finished off the innings at 247 when he bowled Shannon Gabriel for a duck.



LAHORE: A portrait of renowned Sindhi folk singer Alan Faqir is being presented to Chief Minister Punjab, Sardar Usman Bazzdar on the occasion of Sindhi culture day. – DNA

Democrats 'cheated' in US  
presidential election: Trump

Trump appeared frustrated at what he perceived to be a lack of loyalty as he tweeted: "I will easily & quickly win Georgia if Governor Brian Kemp or the Secretary of State permit a simple signature verification. Has not been done and will show large scale discrepancies

## DNA

Outgoing US President Donald Trump remained defiant in the face of his election loss as he told a crowd at a rally on Saturday that last month's vote was "rigged" despite there being no evidence to support his claims. "They cheated and rigged our presidential election but we'll still win it. And they are going to try to rig this election too," Trump told the hordes in Valdosta, Georgia, ahead of a Senate run-off that will include Republicans Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue. Supporters of the current president responded by chanting: "We love you!" and "Four More Years!" Trump's claims have been rejected by

## Trump urges turnout in Georgia runoff

Valdosta: President Donald Trump has urged voters in Georgia to support Republican Senate candidates in the upcoming runoff elections while repeating baseless allegations that his re-election was "stolen" by Democrats. "You must vote for David Perdue and Kelly Loeffler. Go out and vote," Trump told thousands of people gathered on an airport tarmac in Valdosta in southern Georgia on Saturday. "With your help, we are going to continue our mission to save America." With the presidential election over, America's gaze is now focused on this battleground state where two runoff elections in January will determine which party will control the US Senate. A victory for either Loeffler or Perdue will give Republicans a Senate majority and the hope of restraining the ambitions of President-elect Joe Biden, a Democrat. Biden's party already controls the House of Representatives, and if Democratic candidates Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock win the Senate runoff in Georgia, the party will control the White House and both houses of Congress, giving it the power to enact the president-elect's agenda with minimal disruption from the Republicans. Trump holds powerful influence over Republicans in Georgia. – DNA

state and federal officials across the country, and his campaign's numerous legal challenges have almost all failed. Trump used Saturday night's rally to support Senators Loeffler and Perdue

by recycling the falsehood that he won the state, despite President-elect Joe Biden garnering 12,500 more votes. "You know we won Georgia, just so you understand," Trump said at his first rally

since losing last month's election. Trump revealed he wanted to travel to Georgia to help "ensure" the two Republicans win what are arguably the most important Senate runoffs in US history.

Hours before the event, Trump asked Republican Brian Kemp to order the legislative session, but Georgia's governor refused.

Trump appeared frustrated at what he perceived to be a lack of loyalty as he tweeted: "I will easily & quickly win Georgia if Governor Brian Kemp or the Secretary of State permit a simple signature verification. Has not been done and will show large scale discrepancies. Why are these two 'Republicans' saying no? If we win Georgia, everything else falls in place!" As the large crowd in Valdosta chanted "Stop the Steal" the US president continued his rebuke of Kemp by telling his supporters: "Your governor could stop it very easily if he knew what the hell he was doing."

PCB announces  
18-player squad for  
New Z T20Is

## SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Sunday announced an 18-player men's national squad for the three T20Is against New Zealand. The two sides will lock horns on December 18, 20, and 22. According to a press release issued by the PCB, the squad was finalised by Head Coach Misbah-ul-Haq and captain Babar Azam in consultation with Pakistan Shaheen's coach Ijaz Ahmed – who also locked his 16-player squad for the four-day match against New Zealand 'A' to be played in Whangarei from December 17. Both Pakistan and Pakistan Shaheen's squads are scheduled to depart for Queenstown on December 8, Tuesday, after completing their 14-day coronavirus isolation period in Christchurch.

In a bid to ensure the safety of the players against the coronavirus, both sides will stay in different hotels and train at different times. For the New Zealand T20Is, Pakistan have recalled Hussain Talat and Sarfaraz Ahmed in the only changes from the side that defeated Zimbabwe 3-0 in November. Hussain, who has replaced Pakistan Shaheens' Zafar Gohar, played his last T20I against South Africa at Centurion in February 2019,

while Sarfaraz Ahmed has reclaimed his spot from Rohail Nazir, who will captain Pakistan Shaheens against New Zealand 'A', read the official document. Fakhar Zaman had played in all the three T20Is against Zimbabwe but missed the New Zealand tour after failing to recover in time due to high fever. Meanwhile, Misbah ul Haq also hailed the players for their persistence and cooperation during the coronavirus pandemic. "I want to compliment my players and the management team for their patience, sacrifices, and the hardships they have endured to ensure they not only lead the safe resumption of international cricket during the Covid-19 pandemic since the series in England but also try to give their best every time they step on the field," he appreciated.

**Pakistan squad for New Zealand T20Is:** Babar Azam (captain), Shadab Khan (vice-captain), Abdullah Shafique, Faheem Ashraf, Haider Ali, Haris Rauf, Hussain Talat, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imad Wasim, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Hafeez, Mohammad Hasnain, Mohammad Musa Khan, Mohammad Rizwan, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Usman Qadir, and Wahab Riaz.

Judge tells Babar Azam  
to stop harassing Hamiza

## SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: A session court in Lahore on Saturday ordered Pakistan national cricket team captain Babar Azam and his family to not harass Hamiza Mukhtar - the woman who claims to be his former girlfriend and accuses him of wronging her. Hamiza, who levelled

shocking allegations at Azam last week, had filed two petitions against the star cricketer. The petitioner, in one petition, stated that Azam, his family and police were pressuring Hamiza to withdraw the case. Additional session judge Abid Raza, as per Geo News, heard the woman's case and issued the afore-

said orders before disposing off the case. For the second petition, which pertains to the petitioner's main allegations against Azam, the hearing was adjourned. It is pertinent to mention here that Hamiza accuses Azam of being in years-long relationship with her and even impregnating her at one point, only to force

her to abort upon the advice of Usman Qadir - another national cricketer and Azam's close friend. In her press conference last week, she also alleged that Azam was abusive and violent towards her, further adding that she supported him with money before he made it big. Her demand is for him to right the wrong and marry her.



MADRID: Barcelona's Lionel Messi vies with A. Espino and others during a La Liga football match between Barcelona and Cardiz. – DNA

## Brexit deal not 'feasible' unless disputes resolved: EU

"Nevertheless, significant differences remain on three critical issues: level playing field, governance and fisheries. Both sides underlined that no agreement is feasible if these issues are not resolved

## DNA

BRUSSELS: European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen released a statement on Saturday after a phone call with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson in which she said "no agreement is feasible" if the "significant differences" on critical issues are not resolved. Von der Leyen's office issued a statement after her phone call with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson "In a phone call today on the on-going negoti-

ations between the European Union and the United Kingdom, we welcomed the fact that progress has been achieved in many areas. "Nevertheless, significant differences remain on three critical issues: level playing field, governance and fisheries. Both sides underlined that no agreement is feasible if these issues are not resolved. "Whilst recognising the seriousness of these differences, we agreed that a further effort should be undertaken by our negotiating teams to assess whether they can be resolved.



"We are therefore instructing our chief negotiators to reconvene tomorrow in Brussels.

"We will speak again on Monday evening," the statement read. The issues on which there are divergences have not changed since the beginning of negotiations. The UK is insistent on taking back control of its fishing waters, a topic that is politically charged but economically relatively insignificant to the UK. France, a heavyweight inside the EU, has been particularly insistent for the EU not to give ground on this front. The EU fears the UK is creating a low-regulation economy that props up its companies

with state subsidies, thus undercutting the EU. There is now less than a month before Britain's transition period out of the EU ends on Dec. 31. If the two sides cannot reach a trade agreement, then they will trade on World Trade Organization terms – also known as a "no-deal Brexit" – which involves tariffs and quotas on goods and services flowing between the two countries. If a deal is reached, it must still be ratified by the 27 members of the EU, meaning time is now running extremely short.

Pakistan  
int'l squash  
tournament  
to start today

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF) in collaboration with Pakistan Air Force will be organising Pakistan International Squash Tournaments for Men and Women from December 07-11 in Islamabad. The men event has a prize money of \$ 12,000/- whereas women event has \$6,000/- as prize money. A large number of squash players are participating in this mega event. Sports are an important medium for bringing people together and participation in sports helps in improving leadership, teamwork and communication skills along with promoting a healthier lifestyle and presenting a positive image of the country internationally. The tournament is also being organized to provide opportunity to female players from all across the country to challenge their mental and physical toughness. This tournament is a true manifestation of the PAF's commitment in promoting sports both at national and international levels.

US terminates  
5 exchange  
programs with  
China

## WEB DESK

NEW YORK: The US has canceled five cultural exchange programs with China because Beijing uses them as propaganda tools. "While other programs funded under the auspices of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act (MECEA) are mutually beneficial, the five programs in question are fully funded and operated by China's government as soft power propaganda tools," the US State Department said Friday. "They provide carefully curated access to Chinese Communist Party officials, not to the Chinese people, who do not enjoy freedoms of speech and assembly," it said. The programs include the Policymakers Educational China Trip Program, US-China Friendship Program, US-China Leadership Exchange Program, US-China Transpacific Exchange Program and the Hong Kong Educational and Cultural Program.

Azerbaijan to  
hold military  
parade on  
Dec 10

## DNA

BAKU: The Azerbaijani Defence Ministry has reported that the military parade dedicated to the victory in the Patriotic War will be held on December 10. "More than 3,000 servicemen will participate in the military parade that will be held on Azadliq Square. Up to 150 military vehicles, including new military equipment, missile and artillery pieces, air defence systems recently adopted into the armament, as well as military ships and boats will be demonstrated at the parade. Some of the war trophies seized from the enemy defeated by the Azerbaijan Army during the Patriotic War will also be presented at the parade," the ministry reported on its official website.

The 44 days of war in and around Nagorno-Karabakh ended with the Russian-brokered peace deal signed on November 10 by the Azerbaijani, Russian and Armenian leaders. Under the peace agreement Azerbaijan's Kalbajar, Aghdam and Lachin regions were vacated by the Armenians by December 1. The agreement also envisages the return of Azerbaijani IDPs to Azerbaijan's Nagorno-Karabakh and the seven adjacent regions under the control of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan resumed after Armenia launched large-scale attacks on Azerbaijani forces and civilians on September 27. Five Azerbaijani civilians were killed in the first day of the Armenian attacks. Over 90 Azerbaijani civilians were killed in Armenian's indiscriminate attacks on Azerbaijani civilians.



## Briefs

## Opposition gives ultimatum to Pashinyan

DNA

YEREVAN: Opposition parties in Armenia on Saturday gave an ultimatum to the Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan to resign until Dec. 8 amid the ongoing protests against the government. Gathering at the Freedom Square in the capital Yerevan, thousands of protesters called on Pashinyan to resign. Protests erupted in Armenia earlier last month after Pashinyan accepted defeat by signing the deal with Azerbaijan and Russia to halt the fighting over Upper Karabakh. The opposition parties also warned Pashinyan that there would be civil disobedience across the country if he does not resign within the given period. Relations between the former Soviet republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia have been tense since 1991, when the Armenian military occupied Nagorno-Karabakh, also known as Upper Karabakh, a territory recognized as part of Azerbaijan, and seven adjacent regions. When new clashes erupted on Sept. 27, the Armenian army launched attacks on civilians and Azerbaijani forces and violated several humanitarian cease-fire agreements. During the 44-day conflict, Azerbaijan liberated several cities and nearly 300 settlements and villages from Armenian occupation. On Nov. 10, the two countries signed a Russian-brokered agreement to end the fighting and work toward a comprehensive resolution. The truce is seen as a victory for Azerbaijan and a defeat for Armenia, whose armed forces have been withdrawing in line with the agreement.

## China helps to achieve good harvest in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Maize-soybean strip intercropping technology, an advanced agricultural technology introduced from China, achieved good harvest in various demonstration plots in Pakistan both under irrigated and rainfed conditions. According to a report published by China Economic Net (CEN), the data indicated that the yield per hectare of the intercropping system was equivalent to the yield of crops on 1.5 hectares of the sole cropping system. Therefore, the intercropping system is more profitable in obtaining a higher net income with less input. More specifically, under irrigated conditions, in Vehari, the yields of intercropped maize and soybean respectively reached 7,608 kg/ha and 1,029 kg/ha, and in Bahawalpur, the data is 7,219 kg/ha and 887 kg/ha. In sole cropping system in Bahawalpur, maize and soybean produced 1537 kg and 7894 kg per hectare. Under rainfed conditions, at PMAS-Arid Agriculture University's research farm, intercropped maize and soybean produced 4969.4 kg/ha and 940.1 kg/ha, while sole cropped maize and soybean produced 6052.75 kg/ha and 1263.5 kg/ha.

## Pak, china collaborate to fight pandemic

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Cloud signing ceremony of the Sino-Pakistan International Gene&Cell Technology Research & Transformation Center Project was held here, Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday. The initiative by the Biotech & Biomedicine (Shenyang) Group and Dynamic Engineering and Automation Group Pakistan has added new impetus to deepening the cooperation between both countries in gene and cell health. According to the report, it is a comprehensive project of Gene&Cell Technology Research & Transformation Center between the two countries. Badar uz Zaman, Commercial Counsellor of the Pakistani Embassy in China, said at the occasion that through the epidemic, we realize that there is much room for improvement in medical technology in Pakistan.



RABAT: The Muslim world league partners with a number of organizations around the world to for initiatives and programs related to dismantling extremist discourse and promoting the values of moderate Islam, which call for harmony and respect. – DNA

## 'US must consult Gulf states on reviving Iran nuclear deal'

"Primarily what we expect is that we are fully consulted, that we and our other regional friends are fully consulted in what goes on vis-a-vis the negotiations with Iran," Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan told media

## FOREIGN DESK

RIYADH: The Gulf states must be consulted before the United States revives a nuclear agreement with Iran, says Saudi Arabia, warning that this would be the only path towards a sustainable agreement. President-elect Joe Biden has signalled a willingness to return the US to a landmark 2015 nuclear accord with Iran if Iran showed

compliance with the terms of the agreement. The nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was negotiated during the presidency of Barack Obama and Donald Trump withdrew from it in 2018. Analysts say a return to the JCPOA would delight US allies in Europe but concern the Gulf states, who have criticised US engagement with Tehran. "Primarily what we expect is that

we are fully consulted, that we and our other regional friends are fully consulted in what goes on vis-a-vis the negotiations with Iran," Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan told media on the sidelines of a security conference in Bahrain's Manama. Biden has indicated he will bring Iran's US-allied Arab neighbours, such as Saudi Arabia, which sees Iran as its archrival, into the process. "The only way towards reaching

an agreement that is sustainable is through such consultation," the Saudi foreign minister said. "I think we've seen, as a result of the after-effects of the JCPOA, that not involving the regional countries results in a build-up of mistrust and neglect of the issues of real concern and of real effect on regional security." Asked whether the Biden administration was already in touch about the shape of a revived Iran deal, Prince Faisal said there were no

contacts as yet, but that "we are ready to engage with the Biden administration once they take office". "We are confident that both an incoming Biden administration, but also our other partners, including the Europeans, have fully signed on to the need to have all the regional parties involved in a resolution," he said. Germany said in recent days that a new, broader Iran nuclear accord must be reached to also rein

## 'Japan to set up 2tr yen fund for green tech development'



TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said on Friday that Japan will set up a 2 trillion yen (\$19 billion) fund to support the development of green technologies over the next decade and invest another 1 trillion yen in digitalization, as the country seeks to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and spur economic growth, Kyodo reported. In a press conference held the day before the end of the current extraordinary Diet session, which started on Oct. 26, Suga reiterated the importance of taking environmental measures. "Environmental response is no longer a restriction on economic growth. Rather it facilitates private investment toward the future, pushes forward changes of society and the economy as a whole and produces major growth," said Suga. "To achieve a virtuous cycle of environment (protection) and growth, the government will take a big step forward in green investment first," he added. Suga also pledged

to secure more than 1 trillion yen in expenses related to digitalization including the research and development for post-5G wireless communications technologies supporting cellular data networks so that Japan can "take the lead in the world in the next generation technologies." "What our country needs is a source of growth in the post-corona (era). And green and digital (technologies) will serve as its axes," he said. He called for developing hydrogen aircraft and vessels as well as low-cost batteries for electric vehicles while promoting carbon recycling, and attracting green investment from around the world.

Regarding the country's ongoing fight against the novel coronavirus pandemic, Suga said the Japanese government is tackling the latest resurgence with a "strong sense of crisis," adding that a rise in the number of severely ill patients has started to put a strain on hospitals. He asked the public to continue taking basic precautions against the spread of COVID-19 including wearing masks and washing hands, and said that shorter opening hours for restaurants should help curb further outbreaks.

## Japan parliament approves post-Brexit trade deal with UK

DNA

TOKYO: Japan's parliament approved a post-Brexit free trade deal with Britain, clearing the way for its enforcement Jan. 1 next year to ensure continuity in bilateral business operations beyond London's end of transition of the European Union this month, Kyodo reported. The deal, signed by Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and British Interna-

tional Trade Secretary Liz Truss in Tokyo in October, passed the upper house following its approval by the lower house last month. Britain still needs to complete its domestic ratification procedures for the pact to enter into force. The two countries needed to wrap up the deal as the existing Japan-EU pact will not cover Britain after the completion of the Brexit transition period in December and could result in impositions of higher tariffs on

both countries. While Japanese companies welcome the deal, those that operate both in the United Kingdom and in continental Europe are still wary about whether London will reach a free trade agreement with the bloc by the end of the transition period. Without such an agreement, the European businesses of Japanese manufacturers, including Nissan Motor Co. and Toyota Motor Corp., which benefit from supply chains built across the con-

tinent and Britain, could be disrupted. The two automakers procure parts from continental Europe and assemble vehicles in Britain. The free trade deal with Japan is Britain's first trade pact with a major economy following its exit from the European Union in January 2020. Britain said it would be a major step forward for its aspiration to join the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade deal, which features 11 Asia-Pacific countries including Japan, Australia and Canada.



TURKEY: Pakistan Navy Ship Tabuk during visit to Aksaz. – DNA

## 'March of Liberties' protests turn violent in Paris

Article 24 supports law enforcement by forbidding disseminating images of police taken while on duty. The bill has been objected to virulently by journalists, media organizations and human rights groups who say it directly violates freedom of speech

## FOREIGN DESK

PARIS: Demonstrators took to the streets Saturday across France in The March of Liberties, to protest police brutality and a new global security bill making its way through parliament. The "StopTheSecurityLaw" motto has taken hold by those protesting. It was the second straight Saturday the country has seen demonstrations against ongoing violence by police and new legislation, one element of which – Article 24 – supports law enforcement by forbidding disseminating images of police taken

while on duty. The bill has been objected to virulently by journalists, media organizations and human rights groups who say it directly violates freedom of speech. An estimated 52,530 people marched in 90 protests throughout France with 5,000 alone in Paris. The march emanated from the Porte des Lilas, the metro stop on the border of the 19th and 20th arrondissements, and wound its way toward the Place de la Republique. Protesters came out in France's other major cities of Rennes, Strasbourg, Lille, Marseille, Lyon, Dijon and Nantes. The latter three were marred with violence with sev-

eral officers seriously injured in Nantes, one by a Molotov cocktail, according to French daily Le Monde. Protests were banned in Bordeaux, Montpellier and Caen with officials there worried about marchers getting out of control. Members of the Yellow Vest movement as well as the labor unions attended the marches. The first Saturday in December every year marks is a day when trade unions hold a national rally in solidarity with workers who are in a state of precarity or are unemployed. In the capital, disorder took place by hoodlums who threw small explosives and smoke bombs at police and set fire to at least six cars

and a truck on the Avenue Gambetta. Vandalism and the torching of street furniture and makeshift barricades characterized the protest once again as the windows of a supermarket, real estate office and a bank were shattered. Police responded with teargas and water cannons on the crowd. Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin called protesters "very violent individuals" in a Twitter post. Frustration with police conduct has been catalyzed in recent weeks by the brutal beating of music producer Michel Zecler, a 41-year-old Black man who was accosted by three officers Nov. 21 at a studio in Paris. Footage of the 15-minute attack was cap-

tured by interior security cameras; its subsequent posting a few days later on social media caused an uproar. The three officers were immediately suspended by Darmanin. Saturday's demonstration ended at the Place de la Republique, eventually cleared by police. By 8 p.m. (1900GMT), the Interior Ministry said 64 people were arrested throughout France, with 21, including two minors, in Paris. Due to the ongoing protestations – by the demonstrators and communication via letters and social media – the new security bill is currently being re-written by parliamentarians.

## 95 arrests at French protests

PARIS: Police arrested 95 people during protests across France against a planned security law and 67 officers were injured during the demonstrations, Interior Minister Gerard Darmanin said Sunday. In Paris, the site of the worst violence, 48 police officers or gendarmes were injured during Saturday's street clashes, the interior ministry said on Twitter. A firefighter was also injured in the capital after being hit by a projectile, a police source said. Paris police held 25 people, including two minors, said the prosecutors' office. It was the second weekend of violence in the capital during protests against a security bill currently going through French parliament. Demonstrators clashed with police, vehicles were set alight and shop windows smashed. The weekly nationwide protests are becoming a major headache for President Emmanuel Macron's government, with tensions intensified by the beating of a black music producer by police last month. Paris city officials and others also expressed outrage over the way police broke up an improvised migrant camp in the heart of Paris in November. Darmanin has ordered an investigation into the incident. The numbers demonstrating on Saturday were significantly down, with the nationwide figure at 52,350 against 133,000 a week earlier, the interior ministry said. Around 5,000 people demonstrated in Paris against 46,000 last week, it added. – APP

## Iran sends biggest ever fleet to Venezuela

## FOREIGN DESK

TEHRAN: Iran is sending its biggest fleet yet of tankers to Venezuela in defiance of U.S. sanctions to help the isolated nation weather a crippling fuel shortage, according to people with knowledge of the matter. Some of the flotillas of about 10 Iranian vessels will also help export Venezuelan crude after discharging fuel, the people said, asking not to be named because the transaction is not public. The Nicolas Maduro regime is widening its reliance on Iran as an ally of last resort after even Russia and China have avoided challenging the U.S. ban on trade with Venezuela. The country's fuel crunch follows decades of mismanagement, corruption and under-investment at state-owned Petroleos de Venezuela since the time of Maduro's late mentor and predecessor, Hugo Chavez. The country that was once a top supplier of crude to the U.S. and boasted one of the lowest domestic gasoline prices in the world, now can barely produce any fuel.

## Pak Navy ship TABUK visits Turkey

ISLAMABAD: Recently commissioned Pakistan Navy Ship TABUK, visited Port Aksaz, Turkey on her return passage to Pakistan aimed at strengthening bilateral ties, enhancing naval collaboration and interoperability with Turkish Navy. During stay at Port, Pakistan Navy Ship was extended warm welcome by Turkish Naval Authorities, said a press release. Commanding Officer of PNS TABUK called on Aksaz Naval Base Commander Rear Admiral I. Kurtulus Sevinc and discussed matters of mutual interest. The Commanding Officer conveyed sincere regards of Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi for the people of Turkey in general and the Turkish Navy in particular. The host Military dignitary acknowledged the Pakistan Navy's contributions in ensuring regional maritime security. The Commanding Officer also highlighted the deteriorating situation and human rights violations being committed by Indian Armed Forces against innocent people of Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJ&K). He also extended his gratitude for the whole hearted support provided by the Turkish Navy for TABUK's port call. Later, on departing the Port, PNS TABUK participated in Coordinated Patrol with Turkish Navy ships. The recent visit of PNS TABUK is reaffirmation of PNTN collaboration and to further foster brotherly relations between both the countries.



**Briefs**

**Targets achieved from anti-polio drive**

ISLAMABAD: The government has successfully achieved the target of vaccinating around 39 million children under the age of five years across the country, during five-day polio immunization drive despite COVID-19 pandemic.

"Our objective was to reach every child to ensure protection against the crippling polio virus for which around 285,000 polio frontline workers visited house-to-house, observing strict SOPs for COVID-19," said an official of National Emergency Operations Centre, Polio Eradication Programme on Sunday. During the campaign, the trained polio frontline workers reached every child with essential polio vaccine while adhering to strict COVID-19 standard operating procedures such as wearing mask, using hand sanitizer and maintaining at least minimum distance during vaccination.

He added so far in current year, a total of 82 polio cases have been reported including 24 from Balochistan, 22 each from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh, and 14 from Punjab. He said that Polio was a highly infectious disease caused by polio-virus mainly affecting children under the age of five years. It invades the nervous system and can cause paralysis or even death. - APP

**National Voters day being observed**

**IBRAR KHAN**

ISLAMABAD: Election Commission of Pakistan will observe the National Voters' Day across the country today to create awareness about importance of registration as voters. The main event in this regard will be held in Islamabad where Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja will address a ceremony. Ceremonies will also be held at Provincial Offices of the Election Commission in connection with the day. The National Voters' Day is being celebrated in commemoration of first general elections of Pakistan held on 7th December, 1970. The primary purpose of commemorating the day is to create awareness among general public about the importance of vote and inclusion of all segments of the society in electoral process.

**USA, UK, Germany remain top destinations of Pakistani exports**

ISLAMABAD: United States of America (USA) remained the top export destinations of the Pakistani products during the first four months of financial year (2020-21), followed by United Kingdom (UK) and Germany. Total exports to the USA during July-October (2020-21) were recorded at US \$ 1461.063 million against the exports of US \$ 1428.525 million during July-October (2019-20), showing growth of 2.27 percent, according to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). This was followed by UK, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US \$ 602.367 million against the exports of US \$ 580.674 million last year, showing increase of 3.73 percent. Germany was the at third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth US \$ 493.735 million during the months under review against the exports of US \$ 445.968 million during last year, showing growth of 10.71 percent, SBP data revealed. Among other countries, Pakistani exports to China stood at US \$ 462.268 million against US \$ 586.363 million during last year, showing decrease of 21.16 percent while the exports UAE to were recorded at US \$ 449.642 million against US \$ 534.027 million last year, the data revealed. - APP

**Mandviwalla vows to expose NAB's atrocities**

Mandviwalla opined that owing to its actions and undue pressure tactics, NAB's credibility is not strengthening; instead, the institution is getting maligned due to its abrupt decisions

**STAFF REPORT / DNA**

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman Senate Saleem Mandviwalla and other civil society members on Sunday held a press conference to express their grievances against the National Accountability Bureau (NAB). The deputy chairman of the upper house said many people have died in NAB's custody, which should be investigated. "Now the senators will hold the NAB accountable. We will approach every foreign ambassador in Pakistan and will expose NAB's atrocities," he said. Mandviwalla opined that owing to its actions and undue pressure tactics, NAB's credibility is not strengthening;

instead, the institution is getting maligned due to its abrupt decisions.

"Now if the NAB sends a notice to someone, people laugh at their decisions. Their actions have no value now, neither in bureaucracy and judiciary nor in the civil society or among business community members," he maintained. The deputy chairman added that NAB has committed many atrocities in the past, for example, using intimidation tactics and filing fake arrests. "Numerous people have lost their lives in their custody. I have a human rights activist with me today who will tell you how rights have been violated by the accountability watchdog," he said. "This is not a battle between Saleem Mandviwalla



and the NAB but this is a battle between NAB and the Senate of Pakistan. Also, every senator in this country - whether he is from the opposition or from the govt - has concurred on the fact that NAB should be exposed." Mandviwalla added that he, along with other senators, will make sure to investigate the appointment of

NAB's Director-General Irfan Mangi and Investigation Officer Mudassar, stating that it will be the first time when a probe will be launched against the NAB. "We will check the degrees of NAB's employees. It will be the first time when NAB will be accountable and [how these employees] are [leading a lifestyle] beyond their means," he said.

Speaking about the actions that the Senate will take against the bureau, Mandviwalla stressed that no one would be able to stop him from conducting an investigation. "It is high time we hold such institutions accountable for their deeds and expose them without getting intimidated by them," Mandviwalla said. He also clarified that the Senate's move against the National Accountability Bureau is not for a specific individual but against all the injustices that the institution has committed. "We will not conduct the investigation inside a closed room like them. The trial will be conducted in front of media and facts will be presented in front of everyone," he said. Answering a ques-

tion about how people are queuing up outside the Senate to lodge their complaints against the brutalities and inhumane behaviour adopted by the bureau when dealing with the suspects, Mandviwalla said that he will make sure to get the NAB blacklisted, not only in Pakistan but across the world. "I will again approach Prime Minister Imran Khan and the Opposition to get them on board so that we can pass legislation. As you know that the ordinance was passed by the government to curtail NAB's powers and limit it to only corruption but the ordinance lapsed as there was no consensus between the Opposition and the government in this regard," he informed journalists.

**Custodial deaths NAB: seeks legal action**

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau has said that it will send legal notices to those who have claimed that there have been deaths in its custody, five days after former finance minister Ishaq Dar had claimed that dozens of people have been killed in its custody. In a statement issued Sunday, NAB said that "no person has died in NAB custody. NAB rejects all such media reports and will issue legal notices to all such persons who levelled baseless allegation upon NAB." Former finance minister Ishaq Dar, in an interview with BBC Hard Talk this week, had said, "What's happening in Pakistan? Where are the human rights? What's happening in NAB custody? Dozens of people have been killed." The NAB statement refuted claims that it forced those in custody to enter into plea bargains. Senate Deputy Chairman Saleem Mandviwalla lashed out at NAB last week and in a press conference today, and said that it is harassing his brother, businessman Nadeem Mandviwalla, and forcing former chairman of PIA Aijaz Haroon into entering into a plea bargain in a fake accounts case investigation against several people.

**Six patients die as oxygen supplies ran out**

**DNA**

PESHAWAR: At least six patients admitted at the Covid-19 and one other ward died at the Khyber Teaching Hospital in Peshawar on Saturday night as the hospital ran out of oxygen supply. Hospital's spokesperson, Farhad Khan, confirmed that six patients died due to lack of oxygen supply. "Of the six, five were admitted in the Covid-19 ward, whereas one other was admitted at a different ward," he added. He said the facility usually receives oxygen cylinders from Rawalpindi, however the last batch did not arrive in Peshawar on time causing serious problems. During winters, patients require a higher quantity of oxygen supply, he said, adding that the hospital was carrying out an investigation regarding the delay. Khan added that the hospital's director had formed an investigation committee that would be looking into the incident. According to hospital sources, the Khyber Teaching Hospital's central oxygen plant has the capacity to store 10,000 liters, that are supplied by a company called BOC in Rawalpindi. Sources said that due to the ongoing Covid-19 outbreak, oxygen cylinders were being supplied to hospitals across the province, and it was because of the high demand that the supply run got delayed. Following the incident, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Chief Minister Mahmood Khan directed the provincial chief secretary and health minister to order a probe into the incident, to be conducted by the hospital's board of governors, and have the inquiry completed in 48 hours.

**Pakistan vows to cooperate in counter-terrorism**

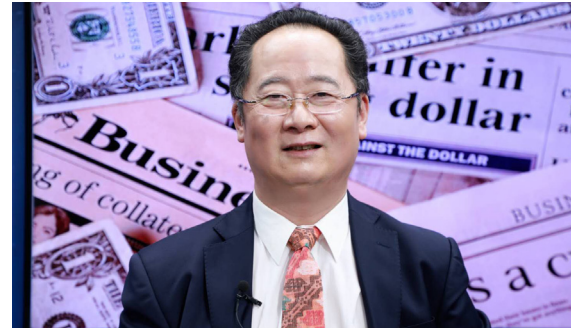
**DNA**

NEW YORK: Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Munir Akram held a meeting with Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of Security Council Michele Coninx in New York. They discussed areas of common interest and reaffirmed their commitment to close cooperation in the efforts of counter-terrorism. Speaking on the occasion, Munir Akram said Pakistan looks forward to working closely with UNCTED and strengthening bilateral cooperation.

**Expert hails Chinese minister's Pakistan visit**

In Pakistan, General Wei Fenghe held talks with General Nadeem Raza, Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, and General QamarJavedBajwa, Chief of Army Staff, and exchanged views in depth on the regional and international situation

BEIJING: Chinese Defense Minister, Gen. Wei Fenghe's last week visits to Pakistan and Nepal was of great practical significance for safeguarding the security of border areas of the south-western China. "In the China's southwest, Nepal and Pakistan are very important friendly neighbors. Therefore, General Wei Fenghe's trip is of great practical significance for safeguarding the security of border areas of the south-western China," Cheng Xizhong, former Chinese Defense Attache in South Asian countries and visiting professor at Southwest University of Political Science said in an article here on Sunday. During his visit to Pakistan, Gen. Fenghe met with President Dr. ArifAlvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan respectively. During his visit to Nepal, he met with President Bidhya Devi Bhandari and Prime Minister and Defense Minister Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli respectively.



The China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership is unique in the world. Under the leadership of the leaders of the two countries, the two sides have continuously strengthened cooperation in various fields and firmly supported each other on issues involving each other's core interests. China is willing to develop closer ties, enhance strategic mutual trust and strengthen strategic cooperation with Pakistan so as to push the bilateral military relations to a higher level, jointly cope with various risks and challenges, firmly safeguard the sovereignty

and security interests of the two countries, and firmly safeguard regional peace and stability. General Wei Fenghe said China highly appreciates Nepal's firm adherence to the one-China policy and China firmly supports Nepal in safeguarding its national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. China will continue to maintain close relations with Nepal, carry out bilateral in-depth practical cooperation, provide support and assistance to the construction of the Nepalese Army as always, making greater contributions to the well-being of the two peoples and regional peace and stability.

In Pakistan, General Wei Fenghe held talks with General Nadeem Raza, Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, and General QamarJavedBajwa, Chief of Army Staff, and exchanged views in depth on the regional and international situation, bilateral military relations, and equipment and technical cooperation. In Nepal, General Wei Fenghe held talks with General Purna Chandra Thapa, Chief of the Nepalese Army. The two sides exchanged in-depth views on the international and regional situation and the relations between the two militaries. The Indian media noted that on November 30, Chinese Defense Minister Wei Fenghe and Pakistan Chief of Army Staff QamarJavedBajwa discussed regional security issues and signed an agreement to deepen defense cooperation between the two all-weather strategic partners. - APP

**Romanians head to polls amid pandemic**

*The recently-formed centre-right alliance USR-Plus are forecast to win 18 percent, which would bolster their growing influence in Romanian politics*

BUCHAREST: Romanians began voting in parliamentary elections on Sunday, with the governing pro-European liberals tipped to win despite criticism for their handling of the coronavirus pandemic. Polling stations opened at 7:00 am (0500 GMT) and are scheduled to close at 9:00 pm (1900 GMT), when an exit poll will be published by the local media. The first official results are expected later in the evening. The vote has been organised to take in the now familiar virus safety measures of social distancing, mask-wearing and hand disinfectant. In a region where populists and nationalists have recently gained ground, liberal Prime Minister LudovicOrban has pledged to modernise one of the EU's poorest countries and keep it on a "pro-European" path. Orban has been running a minority government for the past year. A recent opinion poll published by the IMAS institute showed his National Liberal Party (PNL) garnering 28 percent of the vote, ahead of the main opposition Social Democratic Party (PSD) at 23 percent. The recently-formed centre-right alliance USR-Plus are forecast to win 18 percent, which would bolster their growing influence in Romanian politics. Both the virus and widespread disillusionment with politics are expected to weigh on turnout, which is not expected to exceed 40 percent. - DNA

**Pakistan for protecting Islamic heritage in India**

**NAVEED MIRAJ**



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has called upon the international community, the United Nations and relevant international organizations to play their role in preserving the Islamic heritage sites in India from the extremist 'Hindutva' regime. On the 28th Anniversary of demolition of Historic Babri Masjid today (Sunday), Foreign Office spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri urged India to ensure safety, security and protection of minorities, particularly Muslims and their places of worship. He said the flawed judgment of the Indian Supreme Court in the Babri Mosque case in last year, not only reflected the preponderance

of faith over justice but also the growing majoritarianism in today's India. He said the recent shameful acquittal of the criminals responsible for demolishing the historic Babri Mosque in 1992 represented another egregious travesty of justice. The spokesperson said the new illegitimate Hindutva-driven BJP structure that is converting India into a Hindu Rashtra, is a scar on the face of so-called largest democracy in the world.

**Economy going strong despite pandemic: Khusro Bakhtyar**

ISLAMABAD: Despite challenges faced on domestic and external fronts, particularly in the wake of the second wave of COVID 19, the key macroeconomic indicators have shown strong performance, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, MakhdumKhusroBakhtyar said here Sunday. "The Key economic indicators are showing strong performance despite challenges posed by second wave of COVID 19 and depressed economic conditions that encircled globally," he said. In a detailed statement on state of economy, the minister

said that the current account imbalances inherited from previous government stood firmly addressed while the economic performance was remarkable in the context of sharp growth contraction worldwide. He said that the government was confident that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) would exceed the growth target by June 2021, setting the stage for much higher growth the following year. Economy is expected to maintain this strong momentum and gather more steam going forward, he said

and attributed the economic turnaround to performance of different economic sectors. He said the Current Account Balance (CAD) for the first 4 months of fiscal year 2020-21( FY2020-21) registered a surplus of US\$1.2 billion as against a deficit of US\$1.4 billion in the same period of last year, adding this strong performance of current account balance was achieved after 17-years. The Worker's remittances during first four months of FY2020-21 stood at \$9.4 billion as against \$7.5 billion of the last year, he said. - DNA

**Shah Faisal Mosque's hall sealed**

ISLAMABAD: The inner hall of the Shah Faisal Mosque was sealed on Sunday by Islamabad's district administration, citing violation of coronavirus SOPs. Congregational prayers will not be offered in the inner hall of the mosque, the administration said, adding that the decision was taken after precautionary measures were not followed during the Friday prayers two days ago. As of December 6, the total number of active COVID-19 cases in the country rose to 53,126. - DNA

**Pakistan vows to support Egypt in ICJ**

Ashrafi stated that OIC resolution on Kashmir issue is endorsement of Pakistan's stance. He also added that cooperation among all seminaries and universities of Pakistan will be strengthened with Jamiatul Azhar

**SHUJAAT HAMZA**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Ulama Council, Special Representative to Prime Minister on Interreligious Harmony, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi Sunday said Pakistan endorsed the decision of Sheikh-ul-Azhar to move into International Court of Justice against blasphemous caricatures issues in France. Talking to Egyptian Ambassador to Pakistan Tarek Dahrough, Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi

stated that Egypt owns very key and effective position in Muslim Ummah and JamiatulAzhar is great center for Muslim scholars. Holy places of Muslims and non-Muslims are situated in Egypt, which associated with great Islamic and cultural history of the world, he said. Coordination on part of JamiatulAzhar and Government of Egypt for Pakistan's students is very commending and appreciated. He conveyed message of Prime Minister Imran Khan to Sheikh-ul-Azhar stating that

Pakistan will remain present to support and cooperate at every level. Ashrafi

stated that OIC resolution on Kashmir issue is endorsement of Pakistan's stance. He also added that co-operation among all seminaries and universities of Pakistan will

be strengthened with Jamiatul Azhar. "Pakistan is being esteemed in the Muslim world and country will keep striving for unity and stability of Muslim Ummah," he said. Pakistan playing frontline role to eliminate the menace of extremism and terrorism and the entire Muslim world should demonstrate unity against such threats. Egyptian Ambassador to Pakistan Tarek Dahrough said that Pakistan is very affectionate country and relations between Pakistan and Egypt are deep

rooted and strong. Promotion of Arabic language among Pakistani students and religious scholars, Arabic courses have been increased through the platform of JamiatulAzhar. He also stated that exchange of delegates and rising trend of learning Arabic language in Pakistan will further strengthen relations between Pakistan and Egypt. Ashrafi said Pakistan stood firmly on its stance of not recognising Israel until and unless an Independent Palestinian state is not established.

