



Islamabad POST

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Pakistan to remove hitches in CPEC projects: Asad Umar

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Italian envoy sees promising trade potential in Pak

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Babar Azam ruled out of NZ T20 series

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Country is making progress: FM

DNA

MULTAN: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi says Pakistan is progressing with each passing day and the path of development will continue despite hurdles being created by opposition. Talking to media in Multan, he said after 70 years, an honest leadership came into power in the form of Prime Minister Imran Khan. The Foreign Minister said no NRO will be given to those who have looted the National wealth and they will be held accountable. He said the Opposition cannot digest the development and progress of the country.

PDM jalsa a 'flop show'

DNA

LAHORE: Special Assistant to Punjab Chief Minister in Information Firdous Ashiq Awan on Sunday declared the Pakistan Democratic Movement's (PDM) Lahore rally a flop show. Addressing a press conference in Lahore on Sunday, she said that PM Imran Khan's rally at Minar-e-Pakistan was way bigger than the rally of an 11-party alliance. The special assistant said that the people of Lahore have rejected PDM rally, adding that the people of Lahore have confined them in the corner of Greater Iqbal Park.

Babar ruled out of NZ T20 series

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan captain Babar Azam has been ruled out of New Zealand T20Is after suffering a fracture in his right thumb during Sunday morning's practice session. "World's second-ranked T20I batsman suffered the injury during a throw-down session, following which he was taken to a local hospital where X-rays confirmed his fracture," the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) confirmed in a statement on Sunday. As per the details, Babar will be unable to attend nets for at least 12 days, meaning he will not be available for the 18, 20, and 22 December T20Is to be played in Auckland, Hamilton, and Napier, respectively.

PDM announces march towards Islamabad in Jan

The PDM chief vowed that the government "will be of the people and this system of rigging will no longer work"

ABID RAZA / DNA

LAHORE: The Pakistan Democratic Movement has announced a long march to Islamabad, by late January or early February. The announcement came during a rally at Lahore's Minar-e-Pakistan on Sunday, hosted by the PML-N. PDM chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman said the march will take place late January or early February. Fazlur Rehman saluted the crowd's passion and enthusiasm. "The resolve that you have shown will prove to be a milestone in history," he said. "The country is currently ruled by an illegitimate government," he said. The PDM chief vowed that the government "will be of the people." "This system of rigging will no longer work." Fazlur Rehman said that people's emotions are now turning to that of anger and resentment. He said the entire movement is aimed at securing stability for Pakistan. Taking the prime minister to task, he said:

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Govt ministers make jibes at jalsa

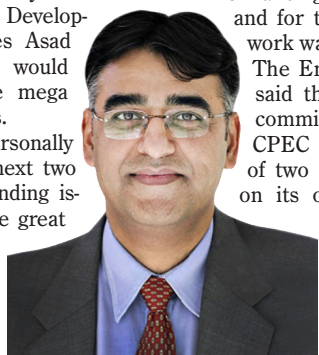
LAHORE: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Political Communications, Dr Shahbaz Gill, said the PDM's jalsa in Lahore had "flooded". Sharing footage purportedly from the PDM rally at 5:15pm, Gill said the jalsa of the Opposition's coalition "was buried in Lahore today". "And these are the champions of democracy who slap for asking questions," he said. Adviser to the Prime Minister on Parliamentary Affairs, Dr Babar Awan, said the decision of the people of Punjab was that PDM had been "rejected". "Two months of preparation, two weeks of Maryam requesting and begging the people of Lahore [to join the PDM rally] but even their political workers did not come out let alone Lahore," Awan said on Twitter. - DNA

Pak to remove hitches in CPEC projects

The Embassy of China said the Chinese companies were committed to the new phase of CPEC cooperation under guidance of two govts

SHUJAAT HAMZA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has vowed to remove hitches in quick completion of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday. According to Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar, Pakistan and China would work together to take the mega CPEC project to new heights. Asad Umar said he would personally hold four meetings in the next two weeks to address all outstanding issues of CPEC projects. "The great nations of Pakistan and China will work together to strengthen CPEC to take it to a higher level for mutual prosperity of both nations",



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he said in a tweet. The minister had held a meeting on Thursday with all the companies working on coal to gas and coal to liquid projects. During the meeting, Asad Umar said induction of this new technology will unlock vast local energy reserves and go a long way in enhancing energy security of Pakistan and for this purpose a policy framework was being developed. The Embassy of China in Pakistan said the Chinese companies were committed to the new phase of CPEC cooperation under guidance of two governments. In a message on its official twitter account, the embassy appreciated Asad Umar and Chairman CPEC Authority Asim Saleem Bajwa for meeting with



RAWALPINDI: Security officials stand high alert and cordon off area after an explosion resulted in injuring at least 25 people. -APP

25 injured in Pindi blast

DNA

RAWALPINDI: At least 25 people have been reportedly injured in an explosion on Sunday near Rawalpindi's Ganj Mandi Police Station. According to police officials, a time device was used in the explosion which took place outside of a filtration plant. Three people are reportedly in a critical condition according to Rescue 1122, while 19 others had to be shifted to the District Headquarter Hospital in Rawalpindi. Three people who sustained minor injuries due to the blast were given first aid on the spot. Police said it immediately reached the site of the blast to carry out further investigation. Initially, it was thought that a cylinder exploded to cause the blast, but police investigation revealed that a time device was used in the explosion. Commenting on the incident, City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi Muhammad Ahsan Younas said that even though an investigation is currently underway, a terrorist plot cannot be ruled out as civilians were targeted.

Cold storage areas to be established

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Adviser on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood held a consultative session with the growers, farmers and exporters of Mangoes in Islamabad on Sunday. In a tweet on Sunday, Abdul Razak Dawood said that the consultative sessions were fruitful. He said in the meeting it was agreed to explore establishing cold storage areas on airports and shipping ports. The Adviser said it was also agreed to establish a Mango Development Council under the forthcoming Strategic Trade Policy Framework.

Shibli slams PDM's 'irresponsible' acts

The Federal Minister said that the people of Lahore have rejected the opposition

FAIZ CHAUDHRY / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Shibli Faraz while criticizing the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) rally said that even 11 parties could not hold rally as big as PTI. In his statement, Shibli Faraz said that we did not disrupt the rally but the opposition leaders were acting irresponsibly during the Coronavirus. Shibli Faraz said that Allah Almighty protect the participants of the rally from Coronavirus. He said that opposition is pushing itself into a dead end. Maryam Nawaz destroyed her father's politics. The



Federal Minister said that the people of Lahore have rejected the opposition. They failed miserably today and will continue to fail.

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Suresh new Indian Charge d Affaires

Gaurav Ahluwalia will be leaving soon for his next assignment as Ambassador of India to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

DNA

NEW DELHI: Diplomat Suresh Kumar has been appointed as the new Charge d'Affaires at the Pakistan High Commission of India. He is expected to take up



the assignment in Islamabad shortly. Suresh is a 2006 batch Indian Foreign Service officer and has worked as deputy secretary at the Pakistan desk in the Ministry of External Affairs.

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PM Imran for keeping the environment clean

NAVID MIRAJ / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that Pakistan is committed to mitigate impacts of climate change by cleaning up the environment. He was virtually addressing the Climate Ambition Summit to mark the fifth anniversary of the signing of the landmark Paris Agreement. The Prime Minister in his address assured the world that Pakistan will be doing its best to make its contribution to mitigate the effects of climate change. He vowed to scrap

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UK envoy greets Pakistan

A.M.BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner to Pakistan Christian Turner has congratulated Pakistan for its global leadership on Climate Action under Prime Minister Imran Khan's leadership. In a series of tweets on Sunday, he said, Pakistan is leading the

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G-8 Markaz, ISLAMABAD-PAKISAN
Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165

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NICOLAE GOIA
Romania, Pakistan have uninterrupted ties for 56 years

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Briefs

Moulana Tariq Jameel tests positive for corona

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan's prominent religious figure, Moulana Tariq Jameel, has contracted the deadly coronavirus, he announced on his Twitter account on Sunday.

"Since last few days I was not feeling well," Moulana Tariq Jameel confirmed on Twitter. "On getting tested for COVID, it came positive." The religious leader said he has checked himself into the hospital on the doctors' advice. "I request you all to make special du'as," he added.

Pakistan's coronavirus positivity rate is at 8%, with 72 deaths recorded over the past 24 hours, bringing the total number to 8,796. The country's aggregate infections are 438,425, of which 46,692 are active cases. — DNA

KP to own ancestral houses of bollywood actors

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has set a price to buy ancestral houses of bollywood legendary actors Dilip Kumar and Raj Kapoor in Peshawar. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Directorate of Archaeology said that both houses will be converted into museums. The Archaeology Department has declared the two houses as national heritage sites that was recognised internationally. The purchase of both the houses is estimated at Rs. 24 million which includes the cost of land and infrastructure. The price of the Dilip Kumar's house has been fixed at Rs. 80,056,696, and the price for Raj Kapoor's house has been fixed at Rs.15 million. — APP

PHA plants around 1.068 mln saplings

LAHORE: Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) planted more than 1 million saplings with proper maintenance mechanism to take extra care of planted trees, saplings and flowers in the provincial capital during the last two and a half years.

PHA Chairman Yasir Gillani told APP here on Sunday that efforts were on to enhance the greener area of the provincial capital and in this regard, the PHA introduced latest technologies of plantation and gardening.

The PHA Chairman further said the Authority was going to establish urban forest after having better results from Miyawaki method at various city areas, adding that 51 spots had also been marked for the plantation of urban forest in the PHA administered areas. He elaborated that Miyawaki was a technique pioneered by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki that helped build dense and native forest. The initiative was to ensure that plant growth was 10 times faster and as a result, it had nourished dozens of native species in the same area, thus turning the urban forest maintenance-free after first three years, he added.

Around nine urban forests have been developed in various areas of the provincial capital including, Railways Station, Johar Town, Faisal Town, Shadara, and Begum Kot (Sheikhupura). Yasir Gillani said that as per traditions of the PHA, the annual Chrysanthemum show (Gule-Dawoodi) was organized at Jilani Park last week and around 275 kinds of chrysanthemum flowers were put on display at the show.

He maintained that in the past, a large number of people from other cities visit the show but this time due to corona pandemic, only a limited number of gatherings were allowed in the annual chrysanthemum show. He said that anti-corona standard operating procedures (SOPs) were being strictly followed and the PHA was making arrangements to allow only those people in the park who wear face masks, adding that as per instructions of National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), a group of 300 people was allowed in the park at a time to avoid spread of coronavirus. He said, "We are trying to engage the private sector including colleges, universities, hotels, real estate developers and others in plantation drives." He was of the view that private stakeholders would prove. — DNA



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan enjoying a sunny day with his pet dogs at his residence. — DNA

Opp has no agenda but to get its corruption files closed: CM

The chief minister said that on the one hand, the number of corona patients had been increasing in hospitals and death toll rising, and on the other hand, the opposition was only worried about completion of their negative agenda

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar said the opposition leaders' rallies had no agenda but to get their corruption cases files closed.

In a media statement here, he flayed negative politics of the opposition parties, saying that the nation had rejected the politics of chaos and anarchy. He said that unfortunately, 11 opposition parties had made coronavirus their

partner, and they were becoming the cause of spread of the virus speedily. The chief minister said that on the one hand, the number of corona patients had been increasing in hospitals and death toll rising, and on the other hand, the opposition was only worried about completion of their negative agenda. The opposition was pushing the nation towards coronavirus just to protect their cor-

ruption, he added. Usman Buzdar said that the opposition should keep it in their mind that their rallies and public meetings would increase the number of coronavirus in the country but their desire to get an NRO [national reconciliation ordinance] would not be fulfilled. Lawbreakers would face the legal proceedings, he warned. Usman Buzdar asked how those who built the towers of corrup-

tion were holding a public meeting at Minare-Pakistan. The gathering of looters and plunderers, at the sacred place of Minare-Pakistan, had no value, he added. The opposition should know that people had discarded them, he asserted. He said that neither the opposition has any vision nor it cared about people. The government was taking initiatives for the welfare of people. Action would be taken according to

the law over the public meeting, he said. The CM said that Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) would always be remember for its 'Corruption bachao and corona philao' [Save corruption, spread corona] agenda. The people were fully aware of negative politics of the PDM; therefore, its every public meeting was proving a failure. Defeat was, and will always be the faith/destiny of the PDM, he added. — APP

Daraz and TCS partner for free shipping

DNA

LAHORE: Daraz — the largest online shopping platform in Pakistan — is about to host the year end 12.12 sale. After a successful run with 11.11, they are shifting gears to make sure that all customers make the most out of the sale with a seamless experience.

The platform has partnered with TCS to provide convenience to customers through FREE SHIPPING on bulky orders on products including air conditioners, refrigerators, televisions and a lot more

high value items which are available for up to 49% off from 12th-18th December exclusively on the Daraz App. For an accelerated customer experience for customers, Daraz has also increased visibility by making timelines more transparent for the customer by providing updates regarding when the item has been shipped and how long it will take to reach the customer. Harris Jamali - CEO, TCS commented, "TCS has been serving Daraz in Pakistan almost since its inception and our partnership is based on mutual respect and collaboration.

SC to hear Khursheed Shah's bail plea

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court of Pakistan will hear bail plea of former opposition leader in National Assembly and senior leader of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah today (December 14). According to details, a three member bench presided by Justice Mushir Alam and comprising Justice Sardar Tariq Masood and Justice Yahya Afridi would hear the bail pleas filed by Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah and his son Syed Farukh Ahmed Shah. Court, while fixing the plea for hearing, sent notice to prosecutor NAB. NAB had alleged that it conducted inquiry against

Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah, MNA on receipt of multiple complaints that he was richest man in the Sindh beyond his known sources of income and investigation whereby collected the evidence against him and filed a Reference in NAB Court Sukkur. He was nominated the accused No.1 in the Reference No.17/2019 along with seventeen others and the Petitioner/ accused in connivance with other co-accused persons accumulated assets beyond their known sources to the tune of Rs 1.229 billion which were disproportionate to their known sources of income, it added. — APP

We are moving towards economic revival: Ali Zaidi

Speaking about the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), he said the sole objective of the movement is to hide corruption and escape from accountability and their main leadership is not in the forefront

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Syed Ali Haider Zaidi on Sunday said that despite so many problems and challenges we are moving towards revival economically and things are moving in the right direction. He was speaking on the occasion of the inauguration of Park in the Overseas Banglows at Gulistan-e-Johar block-14 here on Sunday.

He said that the economy of the country is moving in the right direction as the textile sector in Faisalabad is facing a shortage of labor due to excessive orders. Wherever Prime Minister Imran Khan is visiting in the country, the Premier is being told by the indus-

trialists that they are running at the maximum production. Speaking about his visit to a hospital at Landhi, Syed Ali Haider Zaidi highly appreciating the efforts of the management of the hospital at Koochi Goth Landhi, said that they are doing miraculous work for the extending medical treatment to the women of poor sections of the society. Allah Almighty tests those he loves the most and we can also study the lives of messengers of Allah, who faced hardships in their lives, he added. Speaking about the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), he said the sole objective of the movement is to hide corruption and escape from ac-

countability and their main leadership is not in the forefront. They are holding public meetings but their own main leaders are not participating in their meetings, he added. To a question, he said that if the sacked employees of the Pakistan Steel Mills are given jobs in the Karachi Port Trust, the KPT would suffer losses because the organizations are destroyed due to political appointments. Syed Ali Haider Zaidi said that we have to make the organizations profitable through the process of restructuring. He told a questioner that around 70 to 75 percent of employees of Karachi Port Trust (KPT) are the holders of the domicile of Karachi, which is, double. — APP



LAHORE: Special Assistant to Chief Minister Punjab Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan visiting control room at DC Office. — DNA

'Opp making failed attempts to pressurize govt'

"Completing five-year term in the government is our constitutional and democratic right and we will not desist from this prerogative mandated by the people," he added

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar said on Sunday that the opposition was making failed efforts to pressurize the government through long marches and threats of resignation from parliament. After meeting with a delegation led by members of PTI Punjab Mian Faisal Hayat, Abdul Hai Dasti and Rafiqat Ali here at the Governor's House, he told the media that Prime Minister Imran Khan would not resign and the government will not end due to such acts of the

opposition parties. "Completing five-year term in the government is our constitutional and democratic right and we will not desist from this prerogative mandated by the people," he added. The governor said that the opposition's politics of rallies had been rejected by the people, including Lahore. Today, people were not with the politicians of anarchy and riots, but with the government and its policies under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan,

he said and asserted, "We have saved Pakistan from economic bankruptcy by getting it out of its worst economic problems" Chaudhry Sarwar said that the root cause of problems facing Pakistan was the debt of billions of dollars taken by the previous leaders but the PTI had promised with the nation that they would liberate Pakistan from corruption, inflation and other problems, including unemployment. The government was moving forward successfully because of its policies but the

opposition was protesting to stop the country from moving forward, he said and added "We have thwarted such elements before and this time again, foil the ill intentions of the opposition." The governor said that the people had given them the mandate of the government for five years so it was their constitutional and democratic right to govern and the opposition parties also had a democratic responsibility to not indulge in conspiracies that will destabilize the country but wait for

2023 general elections. The public would give their verdict through power of the vote, he added. Chaudhry Sarwar said that if the opposition thought that they would intimidate the government by threatening about long march or resigning from the assemblies, then it will not happen. Imran Khan will be the prime minister till 2023. The PTI government would complete its term and the opposition will not get any thing except failure, he added. — APP

PM relaxes at home with pets

DNA

ISLAMABAD: While leaders of the Opposition are busy preparing for Pakistan Democratic Movement's (PDM) jalsa at Minar-e-Pakistan in Lahore today where they will talk about ousting the PTI-led government, Prime Minister Imran Khan does not seem to be bothered by the charged political atmosphere in the country. On Sunday, PM Khan took to his Instagram page and posted a set of pictures in which he could be seen spending some quality time with his dogs, Sheru and Tiger. In the pics, which were captured in the garden of his Bani Gala residence, the premier could be seen merrily feeding his pets while soaking up the sun.

He shared five pictures from the photoshoot to show that he is relaxing at home with his pets. The post became an instant hit among PM Khan's fans who praised him for his composure amid the tense political climate in the country.

Highest positivity rate recorded in Karachi at 18.92%

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The highest positivity rate of Covid-19 cases was recorded in Karachi at 18.92 per cent in the past 24 hours, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) was informed on Sunday.

While the countrywide positivity ratio stands at 7.98pc, the number of critically ill Covid-19 patients has risen to 2,471 with 72 succumbing to the infection during the previous 24 hours. Sindh recorded the highest Covid-19 positivity ratio at 12.13pc, followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 11.68pc, Balochistan 9.30pc, Azad Jammu and Kashmir 8.78pc, Islamabad 4.68pc, Punjab 4.39pc and Gilgit Baltistan 1.98pc. As many as 3,369 new cases of the coronavirus were reported across the country during the past 24 hours, pushing the national tally of infections to 438,425, according to the NCOC.

PMD predicts more chances of fog in coming days

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) Spokesman Khalid Malik predicted more chances of foggy weather to continue increasing in capital during next few days.

Talking to APP, he said the moist contents of water would persist in the atmosphere after the current light rains in plain areas as predicted by the PMD for next 24 hours, adding that normally fog consistency would remain increasing during the rain spells. He warned that due to fog the visibility would decrease to zero and during the driving, chances of any mishap might occurred. Therefore, he advised the citizens to be careful while driving in the evening. He further predicted the fog would prolong during mid of December and will continue till end of this month. In late night or early morning time the visibility would be decreased to maximum level, he added. He advised the citizens to get updated about weather situation even before they make a plan to travel outside the city. PMD has also issued its advisory for the convenience of the citizens, he added. — APP

Mahira Dignosed with corona

KARACHI: Leading Pakistani star Mahira Khan was diagnosed with Covid-19 and is now isolating herself, the actress confirmed on social media. The Raees actress shared a statement on Instagram where she said: "I have tested positive for Covid-19. I'm isolating and have informed all those who were in close contact with me over the last few days". "It's been rough but it will be ok soon, InshaAllah."

"Please please wear a mask and follow all other sops for your sake and others." Mahira urged the fans. "Love, Mahira Khan," she said followed by heart emoticons. The actress further said "P.S Prayers and movie recommendations are more than welcome. X." — APP

Briefs

'PM not to be blackmailed by opp'

ISLAMABAD: Senator Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Faisal Javed on Sunday said Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) has planned public gathering to build pressure on the government for finding a way to end their corruption cases but Prime Minister Imran Khan would not be blackmailed by the opposition's tactics. Talking to a private news channel, he said opposition parties could not achieve anything from its futile rallies and there was no threat to the democratic system, adding, the opposition was only endangering lives of people by holding public meetings amid rapid spread of the coronavirus. He said negative tactics of the PDM leadership could not deter Prime Minister Imran Khan from serving people and raising the country's image abroad. He added that aim of opposition parties was not to serve the country but to protect their vested interests. He added that people were fully cognizant of the past of such corrupt leaders and they would not allow them to repeat dark period when the country was led towards a debt trap and the institutions were paralyzed. — APP

40 PSVs challaned for defying anti-corona SOPs

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration challaned around 40 public service vehicles (PSVs) over non-compliance of anti-coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs). Secretary, Islamabad Transport Authority (ITA), Kamran Cheema took action during his recent visit at general bus stands in the capital city to ensure implementation of SOPs. Around seven bus-stands were checked including Faizabad, 'Chungi no 26' Karachi Company and the management of five bus stands were fined Rs 35,000 for defying anti-coronavirus guidelines.

Talking to APP on Sunday, Cheema said teams of ITA were monitoring bus terminals and wagon stands regularly to ensure the implementation of SOPs.

Stern actions were being taken against the violators at the spot, following the directions of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, he added. He appealed passengers and transporters to cooperate with the district administration so the second wave of COVID-19 may possibly be contained. Meanwhile, daily commuters in twin cities complained about the non-compliance of SOPs at PSVs, posing a serious threat to their lives. — APP

WAPDA executing 5 hydropower projects

ISLAMABAD: Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) is currently executing five hydropower projects besides building two mega dams projects Mohmand and Diamer Basha. Sources told that the under construction hydropower projects were included Dasu, Keyal Khwar, Kurram Tangi, Warsak power and Mangla rehabilitation. Similarly, they said currently score of hydropower projects were under operation of WAPDA which were providing thousands megawatt cheap hydel electricity to the national grid. The projects which were currently under operation included Kurram Garhi Hydropower, Chitral Hydropower, Dubar Khwar, Golen Gol, Tarbela, Tarbela 4th Extension, Mangla, Neelum Jhelum, Ghazi Barotha, Jinnah, Rasul, Chashma, Dargai, Khan Khwar, Allai Khwar, Satapara, Renala, Shadiwal, Chichoki hydropower etc. Moreover, future hydropower projects were included Akhori Dam, Basha Hydropower, Chitral Power Enhancement, Hingol dam project, Lower Palas Valley, Lower Spat Gahm Middle Palas Valley hydropower, Murunji dam project, Patan, Tank Zam Project, Shyol dam, Tungas hydropower, Upper Palas Valley Hydropower, Upper Spat Gah Hydropower and Yulbo hydropower project. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Night visuals after restoration and beautification of fountain completed by CDA staff at Super Market sector F-6. — DNA

Pakistanis can no more be fooled by thugs: Afridi

Afridi said that by rejecting the political gimmick of PDM, the people would show that they stood beside Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision of prosperous Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Kashmir Committee Shehryar Khan Afridi Sunday said that Pakistani nation could no more be fooled by a bunch of political stooges who had time and again looted the national exchequer since 1980s.

Talking to media persons here after the ground breaking ceremony of a project, he said that the people of Pakistan were aware of the true agenda of the rejected politicians who had formed an alliance in a bid for their political existence. "After being rejected by the voters in successive elections since 2018, the rejected politicians now have formed an

alliance under PDM to help save each other. People rejected them in 2018 general elections, in FATA polls and again in Gilgit Baltistan. But the corrupt and crooked politicians are making their last ditch efforts to fool the people again with political gimmicks," he said. Afridi said that by rejecting the political gimmick of PDM, the people would show that they stood beside Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision of prosperous Pakistan. "The politicians who have gathered in the name of PDM today, in the past have been calling each other thieves, plunderers and corrupt. But these same political

thugs stand united today to save their plundered wealth. Just like 2018, their defeat will be declared at the hands of common people," he added. Shehryar Afridi deplored that despite NACTA's threat alert, a bunch of rejected politicians were bent upon playing with the lives of the people of Lahore to further their political interests. The PDM leadership would be held fully responsible for causing any harm to masses, he added. The chairman Kashmir committee said that the Indian forces were openly violating the ceasefire agreement on the Line of Control (LOC), bombing un-

armed Kashmiris while our brave forces were fighting the enemy on LOC. "Under such circumstances, some corrupt politicians are hiding in the guise of PDM and planning riots in the country in the name of long march. While the government and the people are united in fighting the monster of Coronavirus, a bunch of politicians with vested interests want to use people to save their plundered wealth," Afridi asserted. He said that the Pakistani nation could not allow these politicians to play with the national interest. The time had come for public to hold these thieves accountable, he ad-

ded. "These thugs have repeatedly robbed the people in the name of democracy. Now they have once again come together to deceive people with empty and false slogans. The people have come to know the reality of these hollow and false slogans. People are no longer ready to be fooled by these thieves," he remarked. Afridi said Modi, Covid and PDM were all contemporary enemies of Pakistan. "This bunch is attacking Pakistan's interests from all sides. Under the leadership of Imran Khan, we will unite to defeat the three enemies of Pakistan," he concluded. — APP

ICT launches drive for awareness on labour laws

ISLAMABAD: Directorate of Labour and Industries, Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) has launched a drive to raise awareness on various labour laws among the employers and workers. Under the drive, banners containing educational material in that regard were displayed alongside major and service roads across the city.

Panaflex standees were also exhibited with the premises of leading employers offices and small industries as well as inside the shopping malls to sensitise workers about their rights. The campaign was aimed at enhancing stability of the working relationship between its two parties and help them understand their rights and responsibilities, said Director Labour and Industries, ICT, Sadia Haider in an exclusive chat with APP. "The department was commit-

ted to providing all means of protection to workers' rights while ensuring employers' interests are being met," she said. The ICT labor department, she said was making all out efforts to ensure that workers' rights were respected, and that they have access to redress when abuses occur. "We have provided relief of millions of rupees to the workers by ensuring strict implementation of labour laws in the federal capital during the ongoing year," she remarked.

The payments of workers were being recovered through judgments under the Wage Act, against complaints lodged by workers for non-payment or delay in wages from their owners, she said. Sadia said, despite the coronavirus pandemic the department remained actively engaged in the redressal of workers' complaints. — APP



ISLAMABAD: A preview of Quaid e Azam portrait on Islamabad Expressway which will be renovated by CDA. For this purpose, a fund of Rs 50.6 million has been released. — DNA

Doctors' protest at PIMS multiplies patients suffering

He said that it had become a regular practice of doctors to suspend outpatient department services, forcing a large number of poor patients, including elderly, to return without any treatment

ISLAMABAD: The ongoing protest of doctors and supporting staff at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) has increased the miseries of incoming patients with having multiple medical issues due to refusal of outpatient department services and suspension of major surgeries in operation theaters. Responding to protest call given by Grand Health Alliance to review decision of implementation of Medical Teaching Institutions (MTI), doctors went on strike from early morning till evening in the hospital, badly affecting medical services there, while treatment in private hospitals, dispensaries and clinics continued as usual by them at evening time. Registration of treatment of OPD patients started in the morning but doctors refused to attend the patients or remained absent in OPDs. Many protesters even

forced to suspend service if they found any doctor in patient room in hospital. "They are not opposing the treatment of poor patients but actually they are contradictory those ethical and professional norms and values of this noble profession, which are taught to them to follow during their job for better treatment of patients," Anees Qazi, a young attendant said. He said that rather following these values they prefer to go for strike in case of any complaint against the authorities concerned without considering the suffering of patients due to their this attitude. "Poor patients cannot afford to go to private hospitals but they are ignored in such routine protest at PIMS for minor gains." Saleem Hayat, a patient admitted at PIMS said "I am not against their demands as they should raise their voice against any discrimina-

tion but patient care should not be avoided in any way." He suggested to adopt any other appropriate way to tell the authorities concerned about their issues rather suspending medical services at the hospital. He said that it had become a regular practice of doctors to suspend outpatient department services, forcing a large number of poor patients, including elderly, to return without any treatment. Akhter Kaleem, an attendant complained that a large number of patients at PIMS had to face several difficulties in accessing health assistance due to routine strikes of doctors and nursing staff. He said that the administration of the hospital should take notice of routine absence of doctors and para medical staff in different sections due to their political activities. He added that many patients

who visit here from other parts of the country with different medical complications had to move to private hospitals due to whole day agitation related activities of doctors. "Doctors should raise voice for their genuine demands but they must realize the sufferings of patients at the hospital who faced refusal of treatment due to their strike," Nasreen Bibi, a patient at PIMS said. She appealed the doctors to serve the ailing rather spending time in agitations and protests for political gains. She added that the hospital administration should also realize the problems of incoming patients and attitude of doctors during protest. "Under professional ethics, medical practitioners are bound to avoid any discriminating attitude or exploiting vulnerable situations in the hospital," Imran Nazeer, a patient said. He said under the

code of ethics prepared by Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) for medical practitioners, gross negligence in respect of professional duties might lead to suspension or removal from services. When contacted the spokesman of the Ministry of National Health Services said that the Medical Teaching Institutions (MTI) would be applicable only on those employees who would join it while those employees who would not join it, would continue to work as civil servants. He said that better future opportunities would be available for the hospital staff with this system. He said that the patient care service would further improve in Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences with the implementation of Medical Teaching Institutions while the MTI would also protect the rights of hospital's workers. — APP

Public cooperation crucial for success: SP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police is committed to provide justice to people and to resolve public issues on priority basis. It was stated by SP (Industrial Area) Zubair Ahmad Sheikh in a meeting with members of Neighborhoodwatch Committees which was also attended by SDPOs and all SHOs. As per directions of IGP Islamabad Muhammad Amir Zulfiqar Khan, the meeting was held to enhance cooperation between police and public and devise effective strategy to combat crime through mutual cooperation. Members of Conciliatory Committees specially attended the meeting and all were briefed about the working and progress of these Committees for. Coordination between Police Pairs and members is established for mutual cooperation in order to curb the crimes. Issues of members were discussed and future action plan is set. Members praised the initiative of these committees and said crime has reduced since constitution of these committees. All members assured their full support in this noble cause

Christmas preparations start

RAWALPINDI: As the Christmas is fast approaching, traditional preparations are at peak in twin cities to celebrate the event in a delightful manner as different programs are also being organized in this regard. The youth are also composing songs that would be sung on Christmas especially during the evening times. The main ritual of the Christmas celebration is decoration of Christmas tree to welcome the arrival of Santa Claus also known as Father Christmas. The Christmas tree is usually decked with different ornaments including bauble, small bells painted gold or silver, stars of different shapes and sizes, pine cones, apples, candies, tinsel and balloons made from glass, metal, wood and ceramic. An angel and star is often placed at the top of the tree representing the host of angels. Christmas is one of the biggest celebrations for the Christian community which is celebrated with great zeal and fervor. — APP

CDA releases fund for Quaid's portrait

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) released Rs 56 million fund for the restoration and addition of new features in the portrait of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on the Express Way. Funds have been released to improve the portrait of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah installed on the Express Way. A sheet of 2 mm iron 50 feet in length and 59 feet in width will be used for the portrait. The features of the Rohtas fort are added in the writing Unity, Faith, Discipline in the portrait. A perimeter wall will also be built to ensure the safety of the portrait. CDA has released a fund of Rs 56 million for the restoration of Quaid's portrait. Quaid's portrait was badly damaged by the harsh weather this year. Initially the portrait was re-erected on temporary basis.

Khidmat marakaz facilitate citizens

RAWALPINDI: Eight Police Khidmat Marakaz (Centers) have accommodated over 200,000 citizens this year providing different services to masses at their door step. These marakaz were set up to facilitate citizens in Rawalpindi district, like other Khidmat Marakaz of the province, endeavouring to facilitate citizens through providing driving learning permit, driving license, character certificate, personal verification and other such facilities under one-window operation. A police spokesman said currently seven Kidmat Marakaz and a mobile Kidmat Marakaz were operational in the city. — DNA

PTI in a spin

DESPITE differences both old and new, the PPP and PML(N) were never united in recent history as strongly as they are now. On Friday, PPP chairperson Bilawal Bhutto Zardari visited Jati Umra to meet the PML(N) leadership and held a joint presser along with PML(N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz. While the PPP Central Executive Committee is yet to take a decision of the issue of resignations, Mr Bilawal Zardari maintained that there would be no division in the PDM on the issue of resignations. He even claimed that he was in fact receiving resignations of his party legislators in large numbers. Yesterday six PPP and PML(N) leaders met at Bilawal House Lahore to review arrangements of the Lahore rally and discuss the future steps of the agitation, including resignations. Ms Nawaz claimed that over the last few days senior PTI leaders, including ministers, had been contacting the PML(N) leaders with requests for talks. She reasserted the stand that there can be no parleys with the PTI government that had been formed through a stolen mandate. To show to the PML(N) rank and file that the decisions being taken by the PDM had the full support of the party's supreme leader, Mian Nawaz Sharif convened the PML(N) working committee meeting yesterday where all took oath that they would abide by party discipline and follow whatever decisions were taken by the party including resignations, long march, and sit-ins. The PML(N) knows it is expected to play the most vital role in organising protests on account of having the largest following in Punjab. It also understands that it would be the principle beneficiary if the ongoing agitation achieved its goal. The PML(N) is therefore keen to keep the PDM united despite the differences. The PTI leadership is nervous for it is now being subjected to criticism couched in the sort of acerbic language that it employed against the governments in power. Federal Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has suddenly discovered that PDM chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman had contacts in British intelligence agency MI6 and was allegedly involved in anti-state activities besides corruption. The question is why didn't the government take immediate action instead of keeping the so called information to itself only to disclose it on the eve of the Lahore rally?

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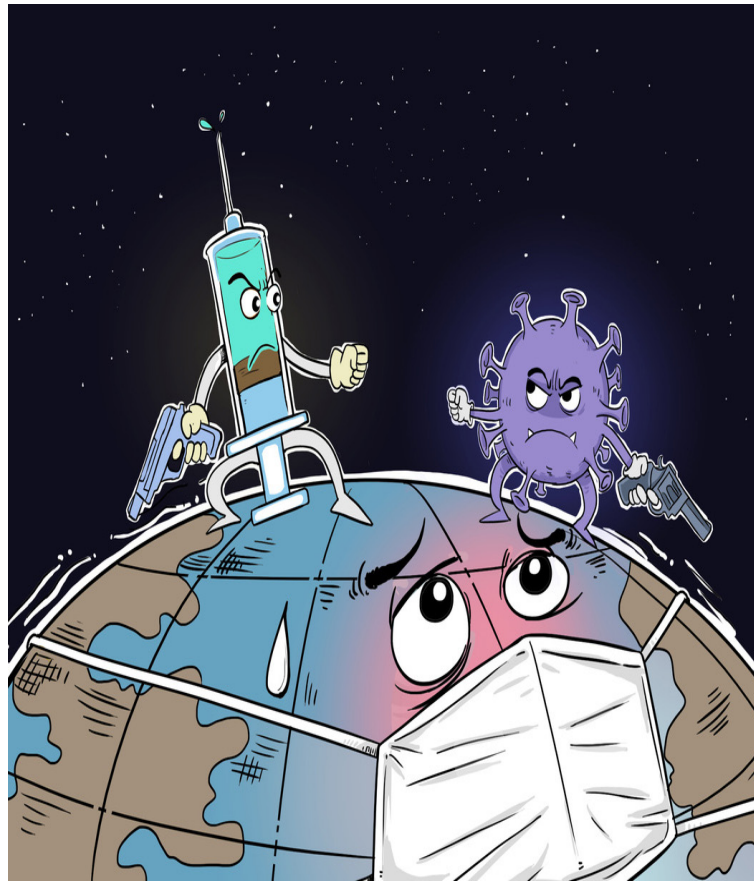
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Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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



Cabinet shuffle

By MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

THE shuffling of cabinet ministers' offices by Prime Minister Imran Khan may herald major changes. In a recent shakeup, Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad was given the portfolio of Minister of Interior. He had been aspiring to work in this position ever since the PTI government came into power in 2018. Dr. Hafeez Shaikh was given the charge to lead as the Minister of Finance. It is expected that he will bring viable changes to the Ministry. Such a change will facilitate the financial concerns at the micro and macro levels as Dr. Hafeez will use his strong acumen and experience. The Ministry of Narcotics Control at the federal level was handed over to Brigadier (ret'd) Ijaz Shah, who was previously the Minister of Interior. These changes spell the government's concern to handle important aspects falling under each ministry. Sheikh Rasheed is known to properly handle the media and his presence in front of the camera will keep a check and balance on the information being disseminated from his Ministry. However, it is yet to be seen how he handles the opposition's move against the government by holding jalsa and rallies. Dr. Hafeez needs to wear his thinking cap and ascertain that such policies are implemented that provide relief to the common man and the business community. Inflation must be reduced while keeping a check on major activities affecting the country's financial aspects. In another decision, Azam Swati was given the charge as the Federal Minister for Railways. This ministry needs proper overhauling as a large number of the country's middle class and lower middle class still uses this mode of transportation. Special emphasis must be given to renovate the tracks, train stations, crossings, engines, and passenger bogies. It is also reported that since Azam Swati has close relations with some Chinese officials, he will pave way for timely completion of the rail projects to be completed under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The Pakistani nation is hopeful that these professionals on their new official roles will prove their mettle and make all such actions that will strengthen their ministry while bringing positive results.

Why Europe is suffering devastating second wave

Kerry Boyd Anderson

Europe's experience offers some lessons for the rest of the world. One is that mitigation measures will remain important tools until there is a widely available vaccine or herd immunity. Lockdowns are not sustainable indefinitely, but less restrictive measures can play a key role in helping to prevent surges. Another lesson is to be very careful about large groups of people traveling to a limited number of destinations within a limited period of time; this type of concentrated travel can quickly spread the virus across countries. Finally, no population group – including young or old – exists in isolation; in a society

PEOPLE with protective masks walk down a shopping street during the second COVID-19 lockdown in Vienna, Austria, Nov. 13, 2020. Austria on Tuesday significantly tightened its coronavirus disease (COVID-19) lockdown, closing non-essential shops and most schools and requiring people to stay at home where possible. Across Europe, many countries have been instituting a range of restrictions, including some partial lockdowns as well as a few stricter ones, to try to stem a devastating second wave of the pandemic. COVID-19 cases are increasing around much of the world, and North America and Europe are experiencing the sharpest increases in infection rates. The US never brought rates far below the initial wave, despite some improvement in the summer; nonetheless, it is experiencing a severe spike in cases that is much worse than earlier in the pandemic. Canada successfully brought rates far down in the summer after its first wave in the spring, but now it is suffering through a second wave far worse than the first. Europe also had significant success in combating the virus early in the summer, but its second wave is far exceeding the rates of the first. There were some positive signs in a few European countries last week, with the increase in infection rates slowing – likely indicating some impact from lockdowns and other mitigation measures. Still, the situation throughout Europe is harrowing, with nearly all countries struggling to contain the virus. The second wave of COVID-19 has spread throughout Europe, from the UK to Russia and Sweden to Spain. Even Central Europe, which escaped much of the first wave, is now experiencing very high infection rates. Reactions across Europe have varied. Sweden still leads among those who think the best approach is to suggest, rather than require, some

simple precautions while generally keeping everything open. It has had significantly more infections and deaths than its Nordic neighbors but fewer than some other European countries. Multiple countries have imposed a range of restrictions, and several – such as Germany – have put partial lockdowns in place. A smaller number, such as France and Austria, have tightened their earlier partial lockdowns. Officials have warned Europeans that there might be restrictions on travel over next month's Christmas holiday. It is difficult to pinpoint a single reason for the greater intensity of the second wave of the pandemic in Europe. One factor was the lifting of restrictions over the summer. Similar to Canada, many European countries instituted lockdowns and other measures during the first wave and successfully brought infection rates far down early in the summer. Understandably, many of the stricter measures were lifted. Life returned largely to normal in many places. Unfortunately, it has become clear that a return to normality allows the virus to spread. A related factor is COVID-19 fatigue. Lockdowns are economically and socially damaging; it is not feasible to maintain them indefinitely. Beyond this, many people are tired of other restrictions, choosing not to wear face masks consistently, gathering in larger groups of people, and traveling. When the second wave began in August, many government leaders were reluctant to reimpose restrictions on a weary public and to cause further economic damage. Another major factor that is more specific to Europe was the August travel season. While summer is a time when people from many countries like to travel, European culture particularly highlights August as a time when Europeans go on holiday, and where tourists are often concentrated in specific areas, such as along the Mediterranean Sea. By August,

internal European borders were open. While tourist numbers were down from the past, partly thanks to ongoing restrictions against visiting Americans, Europe still had a relatively robust holiday season. It is not a coincidence that infection rates started increasing in August. As vacationers relaxed and socialized – sometimes in large groups without masks – outbreaks began occurring in popular destinations, including ones like Greece that had not previously experienced particularly high infection rates. Travelers then returned the virus to their home countries. In Europe, similar to the US, young adults have played a significant role in driving the second wave. They go on holiday, attend university in some cases, and socialize, and then spread the disease among their families and communities. There are differences between European nations that shape those countries' experiences. For example, some have been reluctant to promote or require masks, while others have been much more assertive with this key tool. However, even accounting for these differences, the second wave is hitting most of Europe hard. Europe's experience offers some lessons for the rest of the world. One is that mitigation measures will remain important tools until there is a widely available vaccine or herd immunity. Lockdowns are not sustainable indefinitely, but less restrictive measures can play a key role in helping to prevent surges. Another lesson is to be very careful about large groups of people traveling to a limited number of destinations within a limited period of time; this type of concentrated travel can quickly spread the virus across countries. Finally, no population group – including young or old – exists in isolation; in a society, people of multiple generations, classes and more interact. Their behavior affects each other, especially in a pandemic.

– Courtesy: Arab News

Homework or no homework – “An eternal debate”

Muhammad Amir Saleem



In private-owned Schools, parents and students are valued clients whose satisfaction is the prime goal to be entertained. The policy statements of schools – enthralling, inspirational, and eye-catching – are found either on notebooks or decorated walls in premises. Also, notebooks bear the same attractive school icons and promotions

THE debate on homework is quite an old one. A stark contradiction exists among parents. For some, it is essential to keep children busy at home instead of allowing them to be glued to electronic gadgets or mobiles. Unlike this, some give preference to extra circular activities and family time over it. The same wedge in opinions lay among educationists and psychologists. Their literary and academic work is full of varying degrees of agreement and disagreement. No wonder at all, when the discussion turns up to schools! In private-owned Schools, parents and students are valued clients whose satisfaction is the prime goal to be entertained. The policy statements of schools – enthralling, inspirational, and eye-catching – are found either on notebooks or decorated walls in premises. Also, notebooks bear the same attractive school icons and promotions. So, one can establish a correlation between marketing and a sale factor. Not surprising at all, who is the beneficiary! Nevertheless, this is not the case with all schools! To the utter disappointment, the status of the teacher is no more than a minority creature in institutions where students are considered a valued customer! Further, the performance of a teacher is evaluated through the prism of parent and student satisfaction. In such an en-

vironment, consequentially, the creative and innovative flair of the teacher hides in the deep mist of artificial display. This costs both students and schools alike! Whereas, the unchecked homework or absence of homework is a good pretense in the hands of the school management to take teachers down a peg or two. To support family, the working women do not have much time to monitor kids at home; hence, the advocacy of homework is a natural proclivity because it keeps their children busy at home in the absence. Analogous to this, some parents lend homework a great deal of credence and believe that it improves examination grades. But, the latest research of some prestigious institutions in the west sets aside this abstraction and claims that home assignments only bring a modest improvement in standardized tests. By and large, students pay the least significance to homework. It is precise to say that they bring it off superfluously at home. But, some even accomplish it during lectures at school! The predominant numbers of students detach its importance from the examination perspective and put it down as an additional burden! On top of, teachers do not check the accuracy of assignments; they only mark it as to relieve themselves of this burden. The very predisposition permeates

among teachers who do not check the accuracy of assignments- just scrambling and scribbling the scripts. Here comes the worst, in the shape of tuition and academy, that all tasks from schools become devalued! Undoubtedly, the correct amount and frequency can enhance the significance of homework. Further, if teachers sincerely check the accuracy of work, it will benefit students the most. Well, schools should reduce the burden of teachers in terms of student-teacher ratio, so teachers spend more time improving their knowledge and preparing their lessons. If home assignments carry some marks in the internal assessment system, students may attempt it more seriously. We should follow the Finland model of education in which teachers enjoy high social and economic status. Their selection is the toughest because teachers must have a Master's degree and have to get through specific exams to be a teacher. Indeed, a collective effort is required to revamp our education system that may produce a class of civilized, diligent, honest, and selfless individuals.

– The writer is 'IGCSE' & 'O' Level, Pakistan Studies Teacher Beaconhouse school system Margalla Campus Islamabad Super Nova School System Islamabad; Email: pak2059@yahoo.com

