

Briefs Country is making progress: FM

DNA

MULTAN: Foreign Min-

ister Shah M e h m o o d

Qureshi says Pakistan is progressing

each

with

passing day and the path of

development will continue despite hurdles being cre-

ated by opposition. Talking

to media in Multan, he said

after 70 years, an honest

leadership came into power

in the form of Prime Min-

ister Imarn Khan. The For-

eign 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 pro-

PDM jalsa a

'flop show'

gress of the country.

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:

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 La-hore had "flopped". Sharing footage pur-portedly 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

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

Shibli slams PDM's 'irresponsible' acts

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

FIAZ 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.

Continued on Page 06



Punjab to Chief Minister on Information Firdous Ashiq Awqan



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.



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

Babar ruled out of NZ T20 series

DNA



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.

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".

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.

he said in a tweet. The minister had held a

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

Continued on Page 06

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

Continued on Page 06

UK envoy greets Pakistan

A.M.BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: British High Commis-sioner 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

Continued on Page 06

was thought that a cylinder exploded to cause the blast. but police investigation revealed that a timed 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 Mango Development Council under the forthcoming Strategic Trade Policy Framework.

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.

Continued on Page 06

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02

NATIONAL

Islamabad **POST**

Monday, December 14, 2020

Briefs

Moulana Tariq Jameel tests positive for corona

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan's



ure, Maulana Tariq Jameel. has contract ed the deadly coronavirus, he announced

on his Twitter account on Sunday

"Since last few days I was not feeling well," Maulana Tariq Jameel confirmed on Twitter "On getting tested for COV-ID, 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'ās," 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 PakhtunkhwaA 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. Thee 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 Kapoo's house has been fixed at Rs.15 million. – APP

PHA plants around 1.068 mln saplings

LAHORE: Parks and Hor-



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 curruption 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 Sunday 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 ruption, he added. 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

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 corruption

were holding a public meeting at Minar-e-Pakistan. The gathering of looters and plunderers, at the sacred place of Minar-e-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

We are moving towards

the law over the public meeting, he said. The CM said that Pakistan Movement (PDM) Democratic 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

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, Pun-jab 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 infec-438 425 the NCOC.



high value items which are available for up to 49% off

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 trialists that they are running at the KARACHI: Federal Minister for Maricountability and their main leadership time Affairs, Syed Ali Haider Zaidi on maximum production. Speaking about is not in the forefront. They are hold-Sunday said that despite so many probhis visit to a hospital at Landhi, Syed ing public meetings but their own main lems and challenges we are moving to-Ali Haider Zaidi highly appreciating leaders are not participating in their wards revival economically and things the efforts of the management of the meetings, he added. To a question, he are moving in the right direction. hospital at Koohi Goth Landhi, said said that if the sacked employees of the He was speaking on the occasion of Pakistan Steel Mills are given jobs in the that they are doing miraculous work the inauguration of Park in the Over-Karachi Port Trust, the KPT would suffor the extending medical treatment seas Banglows at Gulistan-e-Johar to the women of poor sections of the fer losses because the organizations are block-14 here on Sunday. society. Allah Almighty tests those he destroyed due to political appointments. He said that the economy of the coun-Syed Ali Haider Zaidi said that we have loves the most and we can also study try is moving in the right direction as the lives of messengers of Allah, who to make the organizations profitable through the process of restructuring. the textile sector in Faisalabad is facfaced hardships in their lives, he added. Speaking about the Pakistan Dem-He told a questioner that around 70 to ing a shortage of labor due to excessive orders. Wherever Prime Minister ocratic Movement (PDM), he said the 75 percent of employees of Karachi Port Trust (KPT are the holders of the domi-Imran Khan is visiting in the country, sole objective of the movement is to hide corruption and escape from acthe Premier is being told by the induscile of Karachi, which is, double. - APP

ticulture 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 Mivawaki 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, Shah dra, and Begum Kot (Sheikhupura). Yasir Gillani said that as per traditions of the PHA, the annual Chrysanthemum show (Gul-e-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 DNA

est 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 part-

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

from 12th-18th December LAHORE: Daraz - the largexclusively 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.

30.5

PMD predicts more chances of fog in coming days

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Me-Department teorological (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 ac-

tress 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 "PS Pravers and movie recommendations are more than welcome. X." - APP

"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 Rafaqat 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

LAHORE: Special Assistant to Chief Minister Punjab Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan visiting

control room at DC Office. - DNA

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

'Opp making failed attempts to pressurize govt'



ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court of Pakistan will hear Shah, MNA on receipt of multiple complaints that bail plea of former opposition leader in National Ashe was richest man in the sembly and senior leader Sindh beyond his known of Pakistan People's Party sources of income and (PPP) Syed Khursheed investigation whereby col-Ahmed Shah today (Delected the evidence against cember 14). According to him and filed a Reference details, a three member in NAB Court Sukkur. bench presided by Justice He was nominated the Mushir Alam and comprisaccused No.1 in the Refing Justice Sardar Tariq erence No.17/2019 along Masood and Justice Yahya with seventeen others and the Petitioner/ accused in Afridi would hear the bail pleas filed by Syed Khyrconnivance with other co-acsheed Ahmed Shah and his cused persons accumulated son Syed Farukh Ahmed assets beyond their known Shah. Court, while fixing sources to the tune of Rs the plea for hearing, sent 1.229 billion which were notice to prosecutor NAB. disproportionate to their NAB had alleged that it known sources of income, it added. - APP conducted inquiry against



Briefs Mayor seat; objections to be received by Dec 14

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) will receive the objection on the nomination papers by December 14 for vacant seat of Mayor in Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad, Islamabad Capi tal Territory (ICT).

According to ECP election schedule, the date of scrutiny of nomination papers by the Returning Officer would be December 16 while December 18 will be the last date for deciding appeals by Appellate authority.

The ECP has fixed December 21 as last date for withdrawal of candidature while December 22 will be the last date for publication of list of contesting candidates along with symbols. The date of consolidation and declaration of result by the Returning Officer will be December 29.

The last date for filing of appeals against decisions of the Returning Officer (accepting and rejecting the nomination papers) was December 12 while the date for publication of notice of all the nomination papers was December 12.

The public notice was issued by the Returning Officer (RO) on December 9 for Islamabad Mayor election to be held on December 28. The last date for filing of nomination papers with the Returning Officer (RO) by the candidates was December 11.

Through a notification, the commission called upon members of Metropolitan Corporation to elect Mayor of the Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad, against the vacant seat as per schedule. - APP

NCPC educates 275 children

UNICEF, PSDF sign accord for youth skills development

The PSDF would work with UNICEF, federal and provincial governments, partners from civil society organizations and the private sector to design and pre-test the 'Non-Formal Education to Job Placement' model in Punjab

Shujaat Hamza

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Punjab Skills Development Fund (PSDF) signed a partnership agreement the other day to implement a research and development project in support of adolescent and youth education, skills development and job placement as part of the 'Generation Unlimited' partnership in Pakistan.

"The agreement will help research, design and pre-test an accelerated and cost-effective 'Non-Formal Education to Job Placement' model, improve the skills and employability of the most vulnerable and economically, socially disadvantaged adolescents and youth," a news release said Saturday.

It targets adolescents and young

people who have never attended formal education or dropped out of the formal education system without achieving primary school competencies, and do not have access to education and economic opportunities.

The PSDF would work with UNICEF, federal and provincial governments, partners from civil society organizations and the private sector to design and pre-test the 'Non-Formal Education to Job Placement' model in Punjab. "It aims at offering a unique, in-

tegrated solution by simultaneously (1) providing adolescents and young people age 10-19 who are outside the formal education system with the opportunity to enroll in an Accelerated Learning Program so they can achieve foundational skills in literacy and numeracy at primary school; (2) equipping those who have

achieved grade 5 competency level with the job and entrepreneurial skills through training to enhance their capacities to access non-hazardous income generational opportunities; and (3) linking young people who have successfully graduated from the program to the labour market.

"We are proud that UNICEF has partnered with PSDF in Pakistan for this landmark initiative to educate and skill out-of-school adolescents," PSDF CEO Jawad Khan said. He termed the agreement "recognition" of the PSDF as the most innovative and progressive development sector organization in Pakistan.

"The PSDF has deep knowledge in skills training gained through managing large evidence-based and demand-driven programs, operational excellence achieved through working with largest international

donors, and unmatched ability to deliver results as PSDF graduates generate annual incomes of PKR 20 Billion." he said.

The project is part of the 'Generation Unlimited' (GenU) partnership in Pakistan, which aims at creating a movement to help young people, particularly adolescent girls and boys between the ages of 10 and 19, acquire the education and skills training required to access employment opportunities.

The GenU multi-sector partnership platform brings together government, private sector, civil society organizations and development partners, and forges innovative collaboration with young people, with a view to expand and link formal education and skill development.

"Pakistan has the largest generation of young people in its history, which provides unique challenges as well as opportunities," said UNICEF Representative in Pakistan Aida Girma.

This new model, she said, was aimed at expanding opportunities for and with young people, particularly out-of-school adolescent girls and boys, providing access to quality education, skills training and employment.

"It supports the Vision of 'Generation Unlimited', which is to gather public and private partners around the goal of investing in young people to help them achieve their potential while supporting economic and social growth."

In the first phase, the model would be developed and pre-tested in Punjab, following which similar programs would be started in other provinces to reach millions of young people, who lack opportunities.

ISLAMABAD: A vendor displaying and arranging plastic dolls to attract

the customers at his roadside setup. - APP

Federal capital records

279 fresh corona cases

He said the ministry had also asked the

administrations of public and private

organization functioning in the ICT to strictly

monitor the SOPs to ensure protection

HEC announces scholarships for PhD in US

Those having GRE waived by the host university will be required to appear in the HAT test and get a 60% score in addition to meeting the eligibility criteria of the host university

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) on Sunday announced a scholarship programme for PhD candidates for fall 2021 and Spring 2022.

The scholarships are announced under the "US-Pakistan Knowledge Corridor" initiative of the HEC, according to a statement issued on Twitter.

The Pakistani scholars will have a chance to study at the US universities.

Eligibility Criteria: Pakistani/ AJK nationals. Minimum four-year Bachelor's degree (BS/BSc/BE -16

years of formal education). Maximum one 2nd Division and no 3rd Division in the entire academic career. Maximum age on the closing date shall not exceed: 40 years in the case of regular faculty members of public sector universities/government colleges and researchers of approved/registered R&D Organizations (born after January 10, 1981).

Govt. holds awareness workshops at 'Panahgahs'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Rising to the challenge of second wave of coronavirus pandemic, the management of shelter homes is conducting a series of workshops to reinforce the COVID-19 related standard operating procedures (SOPs) at its facilities in twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad through massive sensitization of the service provid-

ers and dwellers. Prime Minister's Focal Person on Shelter Homes Naseem ur Rehman informed journalists on Sunday that third workshop scheduled to be held on Monday at Tarlai Panahgah, located in Islamabad's outskirts.

"So far, we have arranged workshops at two of the biggest shelter homes set up near Peshawar Mor and Sabzi Mandi to educate its service providers and residents about the health guidelines," Naseem noted. He said protection of daily wage earners, who belonged to the poorest segments of society, from the coronavirus was the government's foremost priority, adding allout efforts were being made to ensure safety of everybody, visiting or staying at all the establishments.

The focal person said apart from imparting health messages to the service providers, strict enforcement of precautionary measures would be ensured within the premises of all the shelter homes to transform them into safe and secure places in the wake of second wave of pandemic.

IRSA releases 70,500

cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 70,500 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 54,200 cusecs.

in two years

ISLAMABAD: Nation al Child Protection Center(NCPC) has educated 275 children during years 2019 -2020 providing them a chance to create bet ter life for themselves.

According to an official data released by NCPC on Sunday, in 2 years 67 children were reunified. Non-formal learning was provided 285 children while 23 children received education through main stream schools in 2019-20 by NCPC. – **APP**

IESCO notifies power suspension program

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Sunday notified a power suspension program for on December 14 for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work. According to IESCO Spokesman, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 09:00am to 02:00pm, Khor, Fatehpur, Mandi Bahlwal, Scheme-1, Matawa feeders and surrounding areas. - APP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special As-

sistant to Prime Minister

on Climate Change, Malik

Amin Aslam announced that

Islamabad Marghazar Zoo

would be transformed into a

world-class wildlife conser-

vation facility center soon.

According to a press release

issued here, he said that

a comprehensive plan has

been chalked out to trans-

form the Islamabad Marg-

hazar Zoo into the wildlife

conservation center. He said

a decision to this effect has

been taken by the Islamabad

wildlife management board

(IWMB) during its second

meeting held on December

8 presided over by its chair-

Named as the Margalla Wild-

man Rina Saeed Khan.

ISLAMABAD: COVID-19 cases continued to surge in the federal capital as 279 new Corona cases were reported from the city during the last 24 hours. According to an official of

National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) on Sunday, as many as 286 cases were reported on Saturday while 319 cases were reported on Friday. He said so far 34,579 cases were reported from the federal capital while 368

deaths were reported from Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). He added 28,020 patients had been recovered completely. Meanwhile, on the direction

of Ministry of National Health Services, the district admin-

life Conservation Center,

the facility will be a first of

its kind the state-of-the-art

and well-planned set-up es-

tablished as a part of Prime

Minister Imran Khan's clean

and green agenda for overall

environmental sustainability

and wildlife conservation.

which will be home to local

wildlife species kept in open

enclosures for both public

He emphasised, "This was

completely a new concept

rolled out under the Prime

Minister Imran Khan's

Clean and Green Pakistan

Agenda and the incumbent

government's environmen-

tal-friendly and wildlife con-

servation and protection

policies as a part of the

biodiversity conservation

education

purposes,

entertainment,

and research

SAPM revealed

of their employees from the COVID-19 istration of Islamabad had disease.

DNA continued smart lockdown in different streets of the capital to reduce transmission of the infection in the selected streets and other sectors. They also started taking actions on violation of stand-

ard operating procedures (SOPs) related with the corona while visiting marriage halls, markets and petrol pumps by its inspection teams. The administration also sealed schools, shops, workshop and restaurants on violation of SOPs. The inspection teams also issued notices to marriage halls besides imposing fines on owners of different shops. Commenting on the situation, an official of Ministry

of National Health Services said that several local level administrative decisions were made to control the

Marghazar Zoo to be transformed

Named as the Margalla Wildlife Conservation Center, the facility will be a first of its kind

well-planned set-up established as a part of PM Imran Khan's clean and green agenda

efforts." Malik Amin Aslam

said that the wildlife conser-

vation facility would span

over 82 acres in the foothills

of Margalla Hills National

Park (MHNP) and house

wildlife sanctuaries, a vet

hospital, rescue and trau-

ma centre for indigenous

species and research on the

Due to its close proximity

with MHNP, the area was

a natural habitat for wildlife

species, which would be

re-designed to help fulfill

our national commitments

regarding wildlife conser-

vation, protection and their

welfare goals, he said. "All

the available resources

would be utilised to devel-

op a facility at the Margalla

wildlife conservation centre

for rescue and rehabilita-

tion of wildlife species in

flora and fauna of MHNP.

He advised the citizens to continue following the social distancing, use of mask and other precautionary measures to stop increasing local transmission of COV-ID-19 in the city.

He said the government had adopted effective strategy to combat COVID-19 that resulted reduction in corona cases in the country. He said a strategy was made

to control corona keeping in view the global information, focusing on data with integration of local data in a scientific way.

He said the ministry had also asked the administrations of public and private organization functioning in the ICT to strictly monitor the SOPs to ensure protection of their employees from the COVID-19.

their natural habitat.

It is also part of the plan

to rescue and rehabilitate

injured and abandoned wild

animals as well as treat and

feed them for their com-

plete rehabilitation, which

would be released back into

the their natural habitats

after their recovery at the

rescue-cum-rehabilitation

facility within the centre.

Spelling out overarching

objectives. Aslam said that

the proposed wildlife con-

servation centre would aim

to promote wildlife conser-

The planned rehabilitation/

rescue centre would be

well-trained staffed with

well-qualified and trained

wildlife rescue, rehabilita-

tion and management skills;

veterinary and wildlife spe-

cialists to provide strong

vation and sustainability.

ITP crackdown against drivers ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has con-

stituted special squads to take action against amateur drivers and bike riders not using helmets. Following directions of In-

spector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfiqar, Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Farrukh Rasheed asked all Zonal DSPs for strict action against amateur drivers to ensure safe road environment in the city. He directed to ensure renewed efforts for awareness about traffic rules among citizens by ITP education wing.

SSP (Traffic) has also appealed the parents to refrain handing over vehicles or bikes to their under-age children.

He directed ITP's teams to visit educational institutions to create traffic sense as several students have joined ITP as traffic volunteers. The SSP (Traffic) said that purpose of action against amateur drivers and motorcyclists with helmets was to ensure their own

safety and it should not

management with scientific

operations based around the

concept of animal well-being

and health care for them, he

said. PM's aide also revealed

that the wildlife conserva-

tion centre would also house

an education and informa-

tion centre for creating pub-

lic awareness about local

Introducing electric trains

was also a part of the plan that

would give visiting families.

particularly children, a living

and pollution-free amuse-

ment experience of being in

the world-class wildlife safari park. "We as a part of the

present government 'strong-

ly' believe that by conserving

wildlife, we're ensuring that

future generations can enjoy

our natural world and the

incredible species that live

within it," he remarked.

flora and fauna.

be considered a punitive measure. - APP

35 years in all other cases on the closing date of the application (born after January 10, 1986). Merit Determination Formula:

GRE Scores-60% (preference will be given to the higher scores). Those having GRE waived by the host university will be required to appear in the HAT test and get a 60% score in addition to meeting the eligibility criteria of the host university. HEC AEF Formula 30%. Must not be availing any other Scholarship.

Application Submission: The application must be submitted online on the HEC portal until January 10, 2021. The closing date for the scholarship application is January 10. – DNA

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1476.01 feet, which was 84.01 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 25,400 cusecs and outflow as 25,000 cusecs.

The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1171.65 feet which was 131.65 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 11,300 cusecs and 28,000 cusecs respectively. – APP

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Mechanical Division-I

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited on percentage basis for the following work form the contractors having valid registration in Pakistan Engineering Council in appropriate category and having the codes mentioned against the work.

S.#	Name of Work	NIT Cost	Earnest Money	Date & Time for Receipt of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender	Tender Fee	PEC Code
1	Providing / Installation of Road Lights at ATTA TURK AVENUE (WEST), Islamabad	Rs.15,693,362/-	Rs.471,000/-	29-12-2020 at 11:30AM	29-12-2020 at 12:00 Noon	Rs.2000/-	EE-04 EE-06

The tenders form complete can be download from CDA website; however, contractor is responsible for followings

- a) Contractor must pay tender fee of Rs: 2000/- before opening of tender in shape of deposit at call non-refundable or cash payment in office of Dy. Director Mechanical Division-I, CDA.

 - Contractor must sign and seal all pages of tender documents at lower right corner of each page. Tender name should clearly be mentioned on the envelope with the information that the documents inside are c)
 - downloaded or purchased directly from the office of DD Mech-I, CDA d) Before opening of tender contractor must provide the valid attested copy of enlistment in PEC in the above
 - mentioned codes. e) Tender pages must be properly stapled in sequence.
- Tender forms can also be purchased on cash payment (non-refundable) for above mentioned work from the office Dy. Director Mechanical Division-I, CDA located at Room No. 48 Old Naval Head Quarter, G-6 Markaz, Islamabad during working hours. No tender will be sold on the date of opening of tender.
- Application for issuance of tender documents shall accompany name, address(s), signature of contractor, and valid enlistment of Firm in PEC in the above referred code.
- Tender will be issued those firms who have valid PEC registered certificate having appropriate category /EE-04, EE-06 and valid Electrical License issued by Electrical Inspector Islamabad region renewed for the current financial year 2020-2021 for execution of E&M works at Rawalpindi/Islamabad.
- In case of the total bid amount is less than 10% of NIT cost, the bidder shall submit call deposit as measure of security equal to the difference between NIT cost and total quoted amount less 10% of NIT cost. The performance security of the successful bidder shall be released after completion of project, otherwise the tender will be rejected at the time of opening.
- Earnest money in the shape of deposit at call as mentioned against the work and in terms/clause of NIT in favor of Dy. Director Mechanical Division-I, CDA from local schedule bank of Islamabad must accompany with the application, without call deposit no application for issuance of tender will be entertained. Cash/cheque will not be accepted
- If any contractor wants to participate in tender opening process through its representative, then he should issue authority letter on the letter head of the firm depicting complete valid address & contact number along with attested copy of CNIC.
- Tender for the work mentioned above will be received and opened in the office of Director E&M Development, CDA located at Room No. 49, Ground Floor Old Naval Head Quarter Building, G-6 Markaz, Islamabad on same date and time in presence of the contractor or their authorized representatives.
- CDA may reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to acceptance of a bid or proposal. The CDA shall upon at request communicate to any supplier or contractor who submitted a bid or proposal, the ground for its rejection of all bids or proposals, but shall not be bound to justify those grounds
- Advertisement can also be seen at CDA website www.cda.gov.pk and PPRA website www.ppra.org.pk 12. The contractor will provide following additional documents while submitting the tender, otherwise the tender will be liable to

rejection.							
a. Power of attorney	b. Partnership deed	c. Programme of Work					
d. Non-relationship Certificate	e: Income Tax Registration Certificate						
f. Profesional Tax certificate	g. Registration Certificate						
h. Non- Judicial Stamp paper worth Rs. 10 only							

(Ikhlag Hussain) Dy: Director, Mech-I Ph: 051-9209886

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PID(1) 3093/20

04

TWIN CITIES

Islamabad **POST** Monday, December 14, 2020

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 anvthing 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 tac tics 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 anticorona SOPs

ISLAMABAD: The Islam-Capital Territory abad (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.



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 Shehrvar Khan Afridi Sunday said that Pakistani nation could no more by 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 alliance under PDM to help save thugs stand united today to save each other. People rejected them their plundered wealth. Just like in 2018 general elections, in FATA 2018, their defeat will be declared polls and again in Gilgit Baltistan. at the hands of common peo-But the corrupt and crooked poliple, " he added. Shehryar Afridi ticians are making their last ditch deplored that despite NACTA's efforts to fool the people again threat alert, a bunch of rejected with political gimmicks," he said. politicians were bent upon play-Afridi said that by rejecting the poing with the lives of the people of litical gimmick of PDM, the peo-Lahore to further their political interests. The PDM leadership ple would show that they stood beside Prime Minister Imran Khan's would be held fully responsible

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

ed. "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

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 toenhance cooperation between police and public and devise effective strategy tocombat crime through mutual cooperation. Members of Conciliatory Committees specially attended themeeting and all were briefed about the working and progress of these Committeesso for. Coordination between Police Pairs and members is established formututal cooperation in order to curb the crimes. Issues of members werediscussed and future action plan is set. Members praised the initiative ofthese commiteess and said crime has reduced since constitution of thesecommitees. All members assured their full support in this noble cause

Chirstmas 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

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 power 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 electrici-

ty 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, Basho Hydropower, Chitral Power Enhancement. Hingol dam project, Lower Palas Valley, Lower Spat Gahm Middle Palas Valley hydropower, Murunji dam project, Patan, Tank Zam Project, Shvol dam, Tungas hydropower, Upper Palas Valley Hydropower, Upper Spat Gah Hydrower and Yulbo hydropower project. - APP

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

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 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-

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 add-

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

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

ICT launches drive for awareness on labour laws

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 complaints. - APP department was commit-

ISLAMABAD: Directorate 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'



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

forced to suspend service if they ISLAMABAD: The ongoing protest of doctors and supporting found any doctor in patient room staff at Pakistan Institute of Mediin hospital. "They are not opposcal Sciences (PIMS) has increased ing the treatment of poor patients the miseries of incoming patients but actually they are contradictowith having multiple medical isry those ethical and professional sues due to refusal of outpatient norms and values of this noble department services and suspenprofession, which are taught to sion of major surgeries in operathem to follow during their job tion theaters. Responding to profor better treatment of patients, test call given by Grand Health "Anees Qazi, a young attendant Alliance to review decision of imsaid. He said that rather following plementation of Medical Teaching these values they prefer to go for Institutions (MTI), doctors went strike in case of any complaint on strike from early morning till against the authorities concerned evening in the hospital, badly afwithout considering the suffering of patients due to their this attifecting medical services there, while treatment in private hospitude. "Poor patients cannot afford to go to private hospitals but they tals, dispensaries and clinics continued as usual by them at evening are ignored in such routine protime. Registration of treatment of test at PIMS for minor gains." Saleem Hayat, a patient admitted OPD patients started in the morning but doctors refused to attend at PIMS said "I am not against the patients or remained absent their demands as they should raise in OPDs. Many protesters even their voice against any discrimination 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 others 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 hospi-

tal's workers. - APP

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 Markaz were operational in the city. – DNA

PTI in a spin

ESPITE differences both old and new, the PPP and PM-L(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 PMLN() 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.

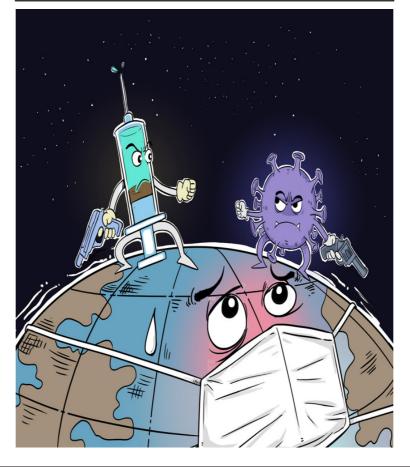
The PTI leadership is nervous for it is now being subjected to criticism couched in the sort of acerbic language that it employed against the governments in power. Federal Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has suddenly discovered that PDM chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman had contacts in British intelligence agency 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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Monday, December 14, 2020

Cabinet shuffle

By MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

N HE 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 (retd) 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

EOPLE 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 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,

simple precautions while generally keeping 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 eyecatching - are found either on notebooks or decorated walls in premises. Also, notebooks bear the same attractive school icons and promotions

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 encosts 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

HE debate on homework is quite an old one. A stark contradiction exists among parents. For some, vironment, consequentially, the creative and innovative flair of the teacher hides in the deep mist of artificial display. This 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.

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WORLD / SPORTS

Islamabad **POST** Monday, December 14, 2020

Briefs

PDM announces march

From Page 01

"When he was staging sit-ins he had benefactors and now that he is in the government it is because he was brought here." The PPP chairman said that these "fools have no clue or wisdom about history", adding: "When have we ever feared dictators? We have burned all our boats.' He said that when the people band together in a show of force like today "chains of oppression are broken". "Your victory is near," he said, to a roaring crowd.

"InshaAllah this puppet government will be sent home." He said that although students, traders, doctors, and shopkeepers are all in deep distress, the future of Pakistan is bright. "The government cannot feel the pain of the people because they did not come through your vote. This is not the choice of the people." The PPP chairman said that PDM stands by the people of Lahore. He said that it is the platform's demand to free Opposition Leader Shahbaz Sharif and PPP's Khurshid Shah.

Maryam, welcoming supporters to the gathering, said: "Who would say in their pharoah-like tone that the PML-N should dare and fill the venue?" "To them I say: Come and behold this full venue. The entire area surrounding the venue is full." "Thousands could not find space here," she said. Maryam also urged the supporters to give a warm welcome to leaders of other provinces that have arrived. She said that Lahore will be the binding force for all provinces.

She also requested the men present to respect and take care of and protect the women in attendance.

"I have received word that the media is being told to portray as if the rally failed. I know who is making these calls," Maryam said, adding: "The people of Lahore have thrown this anti-people government off from the heights of Minar-e-Pakistan."

The PML-N vice president also mocked Prime Minister Imran Khan, shaking her head in the negative, quoting him as saying: "I won't give an NRO." She said that the

US recognises Morocco's soverignity over W Sahara

AGENCIES

WAHINGTON: The United States has adopted a "new official" map of Morocco that includes the disputed territory of Western Sahara, its ambassador to Rabat said. "This map is a tangible representation of President Trump's bold proclamation two days ago - recognising Morocco's sovereignty over Western Sahara," Ambassador David Fischer said on Saturday, according to a statement seen by AFP news agency. He signed the "new official US government map of the kingdom of Morocco" at a ceremony in the US embassy in the capital, Rabat, adding that the map would be presented to Morocco's King Mohammed VI.

Western Sahara is a disputed and divided former Spanish colony, mostly under Morocco's control, where tensions with the pro-independence Polisario Front have simmered since the 1970s. Morocco on

Proclamation of U.S. President on Moroccan Sahara

WAHINGTON: Here is the verbatim of U.S. President Donald Trump's proclamation on the Moroccan Sahara. "The United States affirms, as stated by previous Administrations, its support for Morocco's autonomy proposal as the only basis for a just and lasting solution to the dispute over the Western Sahara territory. Therefore, as of today, the United States recognizes Moroccan sovereignty over the entire Western Sahara territory and reaffirms its support for Morocco's serious, credible, and realistic autonomy proposal as the only basis for a just and lasting solution to the dispute over the Western Sahara territory. The United States believes that an independent Sahrawi State is not a realistic option for resolving the conflict and that genuine autonomy under Moroccan sovereignty is the only feasible solution. We urge the parties to engage in discussions without delay, using Morocco's autonomy plan as the only framework to negotiate a mutually acceptable solution. To facilitate progress toward this aim, the United States will encourage economic and social development with Morocco, including in the Western Sahara territory, and to that end will open a consulate in the Western Sahara territory, in Dakhla, to promote economic and business opportunities for the region. NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim that, the United States recognizes that the entire Western Sahara territory is part of the Kingdom of Morocco. – Agencies

Thursday became the fourth Arab state this year, after the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Sudan, to announce it had agreed to eignty over Western Sahara, some-

normalise relations with Israel. US President Donald Trump, in turn, backed Morocco's contested sover-

thing Morocco has spent decades trying to gain support for. Western Sahara has been on the United Nations' list of non-self-governing

territories, a stance also taken by the African Union, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and the European Union. The region is home to some 500,000 people, most of whom live in the capital, Laayoune. The Polisario Front condemned "in the strongest terms the fact that outgoing American President Donald Trump attributes to Morocco something which does not belong" to the country.

The movement dismissed the announcement and vowed to fight on until Moroccan forces withdraw from all of Western Sahara. Last month, the Polisario announced that it regarded a 1991 ceasefire as over after Morocco sent troops into a UN-patrolled buffer zone to reopen the road to neighbouring Mauritania - Morocco's sole land link to sub-Saharan Africa.

The Front has since claimed that repeated exchanges of fire have taken place along the 2,700-km (1,700-mile) sand barrier that separates the two sides.

Misbah optimistic on

Pak to remove hitches in CPEC projects

From Page 01

representatives from CPEC projects to discuss ways forward. Several Chinese companies have been complaining about bureaucratic hurdles in smooth working on the CPEC projects. Prime Minister Imran Khan recently ordered to settle the issues and expedite work on the CPEC-related projects. He especially directed to facilitate the working on the CPEC projects in the Balochistan province.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Defence Minister Pervez Khattak-led steering committee to oversee CPEC-related projects in the Khyber Pakhtunkhaw province will hold its maiden meeting on Monday (December 14) to expedite the work on the CPEC ventures. The steering committee will take up the Chashma Right Bank Canal project in its first meeting, an official statement said. The establishment of the

Steering Committee was

agreed at a recent meeting between Speaker National

Sudan's PM arrives in Ethiopia western border into Sudan.

FOREIGN DESK

ADISABABA: Sudan's Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok arrived in Ethiopia on Sunday to discuss security matters with Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali.

Last month, the Ethiopian government launched a military offensive against a rebellious regional government in Tigray. The ensuing conflict has

killed hundreds, and almost than 45,000 refugees had 50,000 Ethiopians have already crossed the Ethicrossed the country's northopian-Sudanese border. In

the next few months, and depending on how the con-It is a refugee crisis that is straining the humaniflict develops, the United tarian infrastructure in Nations estimates that the Sudan. The United Nanumber of Ethiopian refutions refugee agency has gees in Sudan will swell to appealed for \$150 million as much as 200,000.

to help cope with the Although Sudan agreed situation. Both leaders to open its doors to the reached an "understand-Ethiopian refugees, it ing on various issues," the was not prepared for the Ethiopian prime minister influx it would result said, following discussion in. The villages of Hamdayet and Hashaba, for between the two delegations. December 1, more instance, were immediately flooded with thousands of refugees, and the food and the blankets

that local NGOs collected among villagers quickly ran out. Many refugees have therefore had to sleep outside without neither. Shortly after arriving in Ethiopia, Hamdok said that hoping for productive discussions on the situation. "I look forward to having productive discussions on political, humanitarian and security matters of common concern that serve the future of peace, stability and prosperity for our two sisterly nations and the region." he said.

SPORTS DESK QUEENSTOWN: National team head coach Misbahul-Haq is hopeful that Pakistan T20I vice-captain Shadab Khan will regain full match fitness ahead of the first T20I against New Zealand at Auckland. The 22-year-old Shadab is carrying a groin niggle due to which he also miss the T20I series against Zimbabwe last month.

"The medical team is monitoring his niggle and we remain optimistic that he will be available for the T20Is, but we will neither risk him nor the team's chances if we think he needs a few more days to be back to his complete fitness," Misbah said in a statement released by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). Misbah expressed disappointment as Pakistan will be from December 18.

Hundreds of Nigerian

Shadab's availability Assembly and Chief Miniswithout their best batsman and captain Babar Azam, who suffered a fracture in his right thumb during today's practice session. "Injuries are part and parcel of professional sport and while it is hugely disappointing to lose a player of Babar Azam's calibre for the T20Is. I have spoken with Babar and he is sad to miss the T20I series as he was fully focused and

keenly looking forward to the T20Is," he added. "This opens up opportunities for the other highly talented and exciting players to step-up, understand their responsibilities and try to prove that the Pakistan side is a complete package," he maintained. It must be noted that the Green Shirts are scheduled to play three T20Is and two Tests against New Zealand, starting

ter Khyber Pakhtunkhaw Mehmood Khan after they felt the CPEC projects were moving ahead at a slow pace due to procedural and coordination flaws. Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser had approved establishment of a steering committee under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Defence Pervez Khattak to oversee the CPEC related projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhaw. The steering committee would oversee and resolve the issues related to Chasma Right Bank Canal Project, Peshawar-Dera Ismail Khan Motorway and Chakdara Chitral Road (Dir Motorway). The committee has also been mandated to oversee the expeditious execution of the CPEC projects in KPK and their timely completion.

Shibli slams PDM's *'irresponsible*

acts

Earlier Minister for Infor-

From Page 01



prime minister is now asking the PDM and Nawaz Sharif for an NRO. "Tell me people of Lahore, will you give him an NRO?" "Remember this Imran Khan, Taabedaar Khan," she said, referring to loud chants by the gathering. The PML-N vice president also played two sets of videos showing all of the promises made by PM Imran Khan, when the PTI held a jalsa, right under Minar-e-Pakistan. "When a leader engages in corruption, it is the people who pay with inflation. So who is the real thief?" she asked. "When he does not have an answer to Nawaz Sharif's words, he says Nawaz Sharif is a traitor." "Tell me, are any of Nawaz Sharif's demands unconstitutional?" She said that the people of Lahore have "decided that Taabedaar Khan has to go".

Rashid registers another Guinness record

SPORTS DESK

KARACHI: Martial Artist Rashid Naseem's one more record was approved on the birthday of Guinness World Records. It was Rashid's 63rd individual record while it was the 19th overall record for Pakistan in the year 2020. Rashid has also received the official confirmation via e-mail.

"The most martial arts kicks in three minutes while wearing 5 kg ankle weights (one leg) is 131 and was achieved by Muhammad Rashid (Pakistan), in Karachi, Pakistan, on 18 November 2020," Guinness World Records said in a statement.

The previous world record was 100 kicks in three minutes while wearing 5 KG weights on the ankle.

Rashid was recently conferred the title of Bruce Lee of Pakistan by the organization. He was special ly approached by Guinness to break world records on their birthday. Rashid had made three records on this occasion out of which two records have been ap proved so far. Last month, he broke the record of breaking most clay sporting targets with punch strikes. In one minute, he punched 62 clay.

LONDON: Chlesea players celebratingvictory against Everton in a premiere league match. - DNA

Khamenei awards military medal to slain scientist

FOREIGN DESK

("Victory" TEHRAN: Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Sunday posthumously awarded a prestigious military decoration to top nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, who was assassinated last month, state television reported. Fakhrizadeh was killed on a major road outside Tehran pendence," Bagheri said. in late November in a bomb and gun attack that the Islamic republic has blamed on its arch foe Israel.

The broadcaster said the of the troops.

After Fakhrizadeh's death. first class Order of Nasr in Persian), Defense Minister Amir bearing Khamenei's sig-Hatami referred to him as nature, was handed to the his deputy minister and scientist's family by the head of the ministry's Orarmed forces chief of staff ganization of Defensive Major General Mohammad Innovation and Research Bagheri. "This is a decora-(SPND), focusing on the tion meant for dear ones field of "nuclear defense." who defend the Islamic Israeli Prime Minister Benrevolution and Iran's terjamin Netanyahu alleged in 2018 that Fakhrizadeh ritorial integrity and indewas the head of a secret He added that it is the nuclear weapons program, highest medal awarded the existence of which the in recognition of logistics Islamic republic has alcontribution and support ways denied.

Kuwait authorizes use of vaccine KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait's Ministry of Health authorized on Sunday they emergency use

of Pfizer-BioNtech vaccine against the coronavirus. A joint committee of the medicine registration and supervision department and the public health department approved the emergency use of the vaccine, assistant undersecretary for pharmaceutical and food supervision, Abdullah Al-Bader said in a statement. The committee's decision followed a thorough review of the safety and quality specifications of the vaccine, he said. – DNA

students missing

"Search parties are working with a view to find or rescue the missing students," he said

FOREIGN DESK

LAGOS. NIGERIA: Hundreds of Nigerian students are missing after gunmen attacked a secondary school in the country's northwestern Katsina state, police have confirmed. The Government Science Secondary School in Kankara was attacked Friday night by a large group of bandits who shot "with AK 47 rifles," Katsina State police spokesman Gambo Isah said in a statement.

Police engaged the attackers "in a gun duel which gave (some of) the students the opportunity to scale the fence of the school and run for safety," Isah said. About 400 students are missing, while 200 are accounted for. Isah said. The school is believed to have more than 600 students.

"The police, Nigerian Army, and Nigerian Air

mation and Broadcasting Shibli Faraz said government is determined to bring all possible facilities Force are working closely with the school authoriin people lives. ties to ascertain the actu-In a series of tweets he al number of the missing

said that price reduction of sugar is a clear depiction and/or kidnapped students," said Isah. of Imran Khan s commit-"Search parties are workment to provide relief to ing with a view to find the poor. Lauding Prime or rescue the missing Minister s vision to deal students," he said. A reswith Covid-19, he said it ident of the town, Mansur was Prime Minister s wise Bello, told The Associated strategy that country s Press that the attackers economy and human lives took some of the students remained safe. away. It is the latest at-The Minister said despite tack on a school by gunchallenges, Pakistan s men in Nigeria. The most economic indicators are serious incident occurred positive. He said in the in April 2014, when memfirst half of the financial bers of the Jihadist group

year, remittances have increased by 27 percent, 276 girls from their school Foreign Direct Investment dormitory in Chibok, in by 150 percent and cement production by 17 percent. He said government under the leadership of Prime attack is believed to have Minister Imran Khan is striving for a bright future several groups of bandits of the people and this journey of development will continue at the same pace. notorious for kidnapping

Suresh new India Charged Affaires

From Page 01

Current Charge d'Affaires at the High Commission of India, Islamabad, Gaurav Ahluwalia will be leaving soon for his next assignment as Ambassador of India to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria. Gaurav Ahluwalia had replaced JP singh as deputy head of mission. But due to Pakistan, India tensions, the Indian High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria had to leave Pakistan. Consequently, Gaurav was tasked to act as

UK envoy greets Pakistan

From Page 01

way on Climate Action by announcing no new coal power projects and with - 1 percent of global emissions but 5th most affected country. He said we are working together to tackle the threats of Climate Change.

UK and EU agree to extend Brexit talks to vote on any deal that emerg-

DNA

BRUSSELS: The UK and EU have agreed to carry on post-Brexit trade talks after a call between leaders earlier on Sunday. In a joint statement, Boris Johnson and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said it was "responsible at this point

a post-Brexit trade deal since to go the extra mile". March and are attempting The pair discussed "major unto secure one before the soresolved topics" during their called transition period end call. The two sides had said on 31 December - when the Sunday was the deadline for a two sides would move to traddecision on whether to contining on World Trade Organizaue with talks, with the UK set tion (WTO) rules. to leave EU rules at the end Without a trade deal, tarof the month. The two leadiffs - charges on goods being ers agreed to tell negotiators bought and sold between the to carry on talks in Brussels "to see whether an agreement

two sides - could be introduced and, in turn, prices on can even at this late stage be certain products may go up. reached". They did not set say Reading out the joint statehow long these talks would ment, Mrs von der Leyen said: continue, but the ultimate "Despite the exhaustion after deadline is 31 December, and almost a year of negotiations, time must be allowed for the despite the fact that deadlines UK and European Parliaments have been missed over and

es before then.

was "most likely"

Mrs von der Leyen said Sun-

day's call with Mr Johnson had

been "constructive and use-

ful". But Mr Johnson repeated

his warning from earlier in the

week that a no deal scenario

The UK and EU have been

carrying out negotiations for

over, we think it is responsible at this point to go the extra mile." Mr Johnson later said "where there is life, there is hope", and that the UK "certainly won't be walking away from the talks". But he added: "I've got to repeat the most likely thing now is of course that we have to get ready for WTO terms. "As far as I can see, there are some serious and very difficult issues that currently separate the UK from EU and the best thing

should stick to EU economic rules in the future. The EU is



to do now for everybody... [is to] get ready to trade on WTO terms." Labour called on the government to "deliver on the promise" of securing a deal to "allow us to move on as a country". Talks will now continue in Brussels, with a focus expected on how close the UK

- not paying taxes on goods being bought and sold - while setting its own standards on products, employment rights and business subsidies.

waters for EU fleets, UK fish-

ermen will no longer get spe-

cial access to EU markets to

But the UK argues that what

goes on in its own waters,

and its wider business rules,

should be under its control as

Business lobby group the CBI

said the continuation of talks

"gives us hope", and that a

deal was "both essential and

possible" for the UK economy.

sell their goods.

a sovereign country.

Boko Haram kidnapped

northeastern Borno State.

About 100 of the girls are

still missing. The latest

been carried out by one of

active in northwestern

Nigeria. The groups are

people for ransom.

The EU is reported to have dropped the idea of a formal mechanism to ensure both sides keep up with each other's standards and is now prepared to accept UK divergence - provided there are safeguards to prevent unfair competition. Fishing rights is another major area of disagreement, with the EU warn-Charge d Affaires. ing that without access to UK

N7

BUSINESS / WORLD

Briefs

Turkey to begin phase 2 trial of its vaccine

FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: The phase two trials of the Turkish-made COVID-19 vaccine will begin on Dec. 25, Health Minister Fahrettin Koca announced on late Saturday. "In parallel with the world, 16 different vaccine studies are carried out in our country. One of them has completed the pre-clinical period and started human trials. Phase two study will begin on Dec. 25," he told the lawmakers during the 2021 budget debate in parliament.

Koca said that the vaccine's production for phase two started on Wednesday. Apart from our vaccination studies, we are also to access safe and efficient vaccines made elsewhere in the world, he said. "I hope we will make our domestic COVID-19 vaccine by April,' he said. The ERUCOV-VAC vaccine is being developed at the Erciyes University in the central Kayseri province with support from Turkey's Institutes of Health Administration (TUSEB). The COVID-19 pandemic

has claimed over 1.6 million lives in 191 countries and regions, since its outbreak last year in December.

Malaysians demand early approval of vaccine

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysians are urging the government to approve coronavirus vaccines and start a vaccination drive at the earliest, as a minister said it will not rush the approval of antigen for emergency use. "All countries, including Malaysia, should accept the vaccine and save the world from this virus," Mohd Shamil Ngoh Abdullah, a restaurant owner in the capital Kuala Lumpur, told Anadolu Agency on Sunday. "The government should decide which vaccine is effective and approve it without waiting for too long."

Street food sel

Pakistan sends a Planeload of relief assistance to Azerbaijan

The relief consignment was received by the Ambassador of Pakistan and the Defence Attache at the tramac and handed over to Colonel Rustam Gozalov representing ministry of Defence, International Military Cooperation Department in a simple but dignified ceremony





DNA

ISLAMABAD: A special flight of Pakistan Air Force C-130 plance carrying relief assistance for Azerbaijan landed at the Heyder Alivev International Airport, Baku. The relief assistance

containing essential items including large tents, blankets and ready to Eat meals has been sent by the Government of Pakistan for the Azerbaijan servicemen and other people working in the newly liberated areas to rehabilitate the retuning IDPs. The relief consignment was received by the Ambassador of Pakistan and the Defence Attache at the tramac and handed over to Colonel Rustam Gozalov representing ministry of Defence, International Military Cooperation Department in a simple but dignified ceremony. Talking to the officials of the host government,

Ambassador Bilal Hayee noted that the relief assitance sent by the Government of Pakistan is yet another testimony of Pakistans affection and care for the brotherly people of Azerbaijan. Government and the people of Pakistan have always stood by Azerbaijan and are also willing to

extend their full support during reconstruction in the liberated areas and for rehabilitation of the local people in their ancestral lands. Azerbaijani officials thanked the Ambassador for the generous relief as-

in the congressional vote.

More than 100 arrested at Paris protest

FOREIGN DESK

PARIS: Paris police have taken nearly 150 people into custody in what quickly became a tense protest against proposed security laws, with officers wading into the crowds of several thousand to haul away suspected troublemakers.

On Saturday, police targeted protesters they suspected might coalesce together into violent groups like those who vandalised stores and vehicles and attacked officers at previous demonstrations. The interior minister said police had detained 142 people. Long lines of riot officers and police vehicles with blue lights flashing escorted Saturday's march through rain-slickened streets. They hemmed Around 200 members of in protesters, seeking to the Proud Boys, a violent prevent a flare-up of viofar-right group, had joined lence. A police water canthe marches earlier on non doused demonstrators Saturday near the Trump at the end of the march. hotel. Many wore combat as night fell. Thousands of fatigues, black and yelmarchers were protesting low shirts and ballistic against a proposed security vests, carried helmets and law that has sparked succesflashed hand signals used sive weekends of demonby white nationalists. strations and against a draft Earlier, police in riot gear law aimed at combating and on bicycles kept the "radicalism". The security demonstrators bill's most contested measapart by blocking streets. ure could make it more dif-After dark fell, the protestficult to film police officers. ers - including members It aims to outlaw the publicaof the aggressive far-left antion of images with the intent ti-facism movement - splinto cause harm to police.

WB pledges \$85m grant for Afghan projects

KABUL: The World Bank (WB) has pledged an \$85 million grant to help Afghanistan improve access to clean water, sanitation and public services. The global financial institution said on Saturday COVID-19 had imposed a severe socio-economic burden on Afghanistan. Faced with the pandemic and ongoing conflict, many poor and vulnerable Afghan households subsist on daily earnings and have little or no access to water, sanitation, or healthcare.

The \$85 million IDA grants are part of two financial packages, which include additional support from the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF), - a fund managed by the World Bank on behalf of 34 do-

including \$150 million from the ARTF. The project will improve access to and quality of water supply in Kabul, Kandahar and Herat.

It will also strengthen the capacity of Afghanistan Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Corporation (AUWS-SC) to deliver sustainable services and contribute to national efforts to manage COVID-19 and other disasters. \$35 million from IDA for the Second Additional Financing of the Citizens' Charter Afghanistan Project (CCAP).The grant will total \$193 million, including \$158 million from the ARTF. The project aims to improve the delivery of core infrastructure, emergency support, and social services to communities through

Afghanistan, continue to respond to the COVID-19 crisis among communities, provide critical assistance to Kuchi communities, increase employment through public works, initiate peace pilots in rural and urban areas, and continue to strengthen gender equality. "Access to clean water, hygiene and basic services is essential to prevent the transmission of infectious diseases, including COV-ID-19," said Henry Kerali, the World Bank country director for Afghanistan. "The new grant under the A-WASH project will address the core health and water needs of Afghan communities. The additional grant for the Citizens' Charter Afghanistan Project will build

will be implemented by AU-WSSC. The A-WASH project will support the Government of Afghanistan in safeguarding essential water supply Kabul, Kandahar, and in Herat during the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthen AUWSSC's long-term performance and capacity for resilient service provision. The project will also help address the long-term challenge of water supply in Afghanistan's largest cities, mainly through infrastructure investments in Kandahar to stop groundwater depletion and provide access to safely treated, affordable water to the population. A-WASH is planned to be the first in a series of projects to be implemented over 12 years to improve access to water

Israel and Bhutan establish diplomatic relations

FOREIGN DESK

TEL AVIV: Israel and Bhutan have announced the establishment of full diplomatic relations between the two countries. The agreement on Saturday will "open the path to greater cooperation and further strengthen relations" between Israel and the South Asian kingdom, according to a joint statement. Israel's new relations with the relatively-isolated Himalayan nation did not appear to be related to its budding ties under US-sponsored accords with Arab and Muslim countries in the Middle East and Africa. The agreement follows several years of secret contacts between Israel and Bhutan with the aim of establishing relations, Israel's Ministry

sistance provided by Pakistan at the start of the winter season.

> expanding," said Israeli Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi. "The establishment of relations between us and the Kingdom of Bhutan will serve as another milestone in deepening Israel's ties in Asia." Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu welcomed the deal, writing on Twitter that it is an "additional fruit of the peace agreements". He added that Israel was in contact with more countries to normalise relations. Saturday's announcement comes days after Morocco agreed to normalise relations with Israel, the fourth Arab state to do so since August. A signing ceremony was held between the Israeli and Bhutanese ambassadors to India on Saturday, the foreign ministry said. The countries agreed to formulate a joint work plan in the areas of water management, agriculture, healthcare and other

Venezuela opposition claim big turnout in protest vote

Islamabad **POST**

Monday, December 14, 2020

FOREIGN DESK

CARACAS: Venezuela's opposition has concluded a "popular consultation' vote to repudiate President Nicolas Maduro's government days after boycotting a congressional election they considered fraudulent.

The consultation started virtually on Monday and ended with in-person participation on Saturday.

With 87 percent of responses reviewed, the opposition said just under 6.5 million people participated. Of those, over three million voted in person, and 2.4 million online. Close to 845.000 Venezuelans abroad took part, the opposition reported.

The consultation asked Venezuelans if they want a change of government and whether they reject the results of the election, which saw the Maduro-led political alliance win more than 90 percent of the seats in the legislature. Congress was the last state institution not in the hands of the governing Socialist Party.

The Maduro government said 5.2 million Venezuelans or about 31 percent of eligible voters cast their ballots

Opposition leader Juan Guaido, the speaker of the outgoing National Assembly, and other top opposition parties had called on people to boycott that vote.

hammed Nur Shefik made a similar demand, asking the authorities to take the advice of health professionals. He expressed satisfaction over the measures against the virus. "The curfew in March left us in a difficult situation, but now we can open our shop and make a living." Jepri Mat Hasan, who works as a courier, said opinion on the efficacy of the vaccines vary, however, "if there are no side effects, Malaysia should go for it." Regarding the official COV ID-19 measures, he said: "I think the restrictions applied so far have been quite appropriate. The public may not be very pleased but we would have been worse off without the containment measures." - APP

UN urges peaceful polling in Central African Republic

WEB DESK

CAMEROON: The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for peace in the Central African Republic (CAR), as the electoral campaign began in the landlocked country to choose legislature and the new president. In a statement issued on Saturday, Guterres said the Dec. 27 general elections constitute an important opportunity to consolidate the peace, constitutional order, and democratic gains, resulting from the 2015-16 elections, which ended a period of instability and conflict. "I urge all politicians, their supporters, voice bearers, and the media to refrain from all hate speeches, incitement to violence and disinformation," the UN chief said. Guterres also urged author ities, including the security forces, to create a safe envi ronment and uphold human rights in collaboration with the UN peacekeeping mission in the war-torn country. He reiterated the UN's commitment to continue to support the people in their efforts to consolidate peace, democracy, and sustainable development. The secretary-general asked people including women and young people to vote in large num bers in Dec. 27 polls.

nors. The financial packages include, \$50 million from IDA for theAfghanistan Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Institutional Support (A-WASH) Project. The grant will total \$200 million.

DNA

KABUL: A survey by the

Institute of War and Peace

Studies (IWPS) shows that

over 57 percent of surveyed

Afghans are optimistic that

the onoing negotiations be-

tween the Afghan Republic

and the Taliban teams in

Doha will lead the country

According to IWPS, from

8,627 respondents, 58.1%

are men and 4.9% are wom-

to a lasting peace.

strengthened Community Development Councils (CDCs). Under the Second Additional Financing, the Citizens' Charter Project will expand its service delivery to 10 new cities across

57% Afghans optimistic about peace talks: Survey

15 percent of the respond-

ents have no hope about the

The Afghan People's Peace

Perception Survey is a third

its kind that shows 15 per-

cent of the respondents

have no hope about the on-

The survey shows that 75.8

percent of the respondents

believe that the Afghan gov-

ernment should take cease-

fire as a priority in the peace

negotiations in Doha. Mean-

while, 58.55 percent of the

ongoing talks in Doha.

going talks in Doha.

on the tremendous results in delivering services to communities recent years and expand access for more Afghans." The Afghanistan Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, and Institutional Support Project

Also, 63.63 percent of

the respondents have re-

jected that the Taliban

should lead and dictate

comprehensive changes in

the defense and security

sector, the survey shows.

Meanwhile, 14.58 percent

of the respondents have

said that the level of vio-

lence has reduced in the

country after the start of

the talks in Doha. When it

comes to the respondents'

views on the country's po-

litical system as a result

of a peace deal, the sur-

vey shows that 25.5 of the

respondents have voted for

equal distribution of power,

25.2 percent voted for the

protection of the republic

system, 20.6 percent of the

respondents voted for early

elections, and 5.9 percent

voted for the return of the

Taliban's emirate.

for the Afghan people. The Citizens' Charter Afghanistan Project is set up as an inter-ministerial program to deliver grants to CDCs that support the delivery of basic services. - APP

Bomb, gun

attacks in

Kabul kill 3

FOREIGN DESK

KABUL: Separate bomb

and gun attacks have left at

least three dead in Afghan-

istan's capital, local police

said, a day after a barrage

of mortar shells shook the

city. A sticky bomb attached

to an armoured vehicle in

northern Kabul killed two

and wounded at least two

others on Sunday, accord-

ing to Ferdaws Faramarz,

a spokesman for the Kabul

police chief. Faramarz also

said an Afghan government

prosecutor had been shot

dead in eastern Kabul.

The prosecutor was on his

way to work when he was

attacked in Kart-e Now

neighbourhood, the police

spokesman said. No one im-

mediately claimed responsi-

bility for the attacks.

of Foreign Affairs said in a statement. "Israel's circle of recognition is growing and areas, it added.

Clashes erupt in US capital

opposing

of their rivals.

tered into smaller groups to

roam the streets in search

Protests were also held in

other communities around

the country, including Atlan-

ta, Georgia, another state

where Trump's campaign

has sought to overturn Joe

Biden's election victory, and

Mobile, Alabama, according

to local news coverage.

FOREIGN DESK

WASHINGTON: Conservative groups claiming without evidence that the Nov. 3 election was stolen from President Donald Trump staged protests across the country on Saturday, with one in Washington turning violent at times as police broke up sporadic clashes after dark. Organizers of Stop The Steal, linked to pro-Trump operative Roger Stone, and church groups urged supporters to participate in "Iericho Marches" and prayer rallies. But groups of pro-Trump "Proud Boys" protesters and "Antifa" counterprotest-Boys" ers brawled in downtown Washington on Saturday night. Police moved in quickly to separate them, using pepper spray on members of both sides, Reuters witnesses said.

Iran summons German envoy

TEHRAN: Iran's foreign ministry Sunday summoned Germany's envoy to protest the EU's condemnation of the execution of an opposition figure, describing it as an "unacceptable interference" in Tehran's affairs, state media reported. Ruhollah Zam was hanged on Saturday after Iran's supreme court upheld his death sentence passed in June over his role in protests during the winter of 2017-18, among other charges. The EU in a statement on Saturday condemned the execution in the "strongest terms" and emphasised its "irrevocable opposition to the use of capital punishment". The Iranian foreign ministry's Europe director in turn told Germany's ambassador, Hans-Udo Muzel, that Tehran "condemned" the statement, which it deemed "an unacceptable interference in Iran's domestic affairs," state news agency IRNA said. Germany currently holds the European Union's rotating presidency. IRNA also reported Sunday that the foreign ministry will summon the head of France's embassy in Tehran. Iran also protested the "indulgence towards elements spreading violence and committing terrorist acts" against Iran shown by "some European

countries," it added.

Uzbekistan's President attends EAEU Summit "We also spoke about how questions about arms exports must be discussed within NATO. We said that

DNA

TASHKENT: President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev attended the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council session, via videoconference. The event, which was chaired by President of the Republic of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko, was also attended by Honorary Chairman of the Council, First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Acting President of the Kyrgyz Republic Talant Mamytov and Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan.

President of the Republic of Moldova Igor Dodon attended the meeting as head of the observer state to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), as well as invited President of the

Republic of Cuba Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez. In accordance with the agenda of

the summit, the issue of granting the Republic of Uzbekistan observer status in the EAEU, as well as current aspects of further development of multifaceted cooperation within the framework of this Union were considered.

In his speech, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, expressing sincere gratitude for supporting Uzbekistan's application for obtaining the observer status, highlighted the growing international authority of the organization and wide geography of its practical cooperation with foreign countries.

It was emphasized that in the context of the ongoing important stage of large-scale socio-economic reforms, Uzbekistan is committed to consistently increasing and strengthening trade-economic and investment cooperation with all international partners, including the devel-



opment of dialogue with the Eurasian Economic Union.

This is due to the following key factors. EAEU countries are, first of all, main trading partners of Uzbekistan. In recent years, Uzbekistan's trade turnover with the Union states has doubled.

The economies of the countries complement each other in many ways, as evidenced by the established effective cooperation and more than a thousand new joint ventures in various sectors of the economy. Transport communications and infrastructure of

Uzbekistan and EAEU countries are deeply integrated and closely interrelated. In addition, today mutually beneficial relations within the framework of vast Eurasian region are characterized by high mobility of labor resources. The Head of the state called for full use of huge potential of the countries' economies, joint elimination of barriers and obstacles in trade relations and mutual formation of new markets. Interest in deepening industrial cooperation, as well as formation of sustainable value chains based on best practices and innovative approaches was noted. Special attention was paid to the importance of developing coordinated approaches in transport and transit, which will allow even more actively use the transport corridors, increase their competitiveness and significantly increase the load. The importance of close cooperation in labor migration, which will help solve many current issues of employment and

meet the growing needs of the

country's economies for quali-

fied specialists, was noted. All the above-mentioned factors led to the approval of the proposal by the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan on coop-

eration between Uzbekistan and the Eurasian Economic Union in the status of an observer state. It was noted that this will allow to enter a qualitatively new stage of practical and multifaceted interaction, to better understand the important process taking place within framework of the Union. The Head of the state emphasized that the development of such partnership should meet the national interests of the countries, be based on the principles of equality, mutual benefit and consideration of each other's interests.

Following the summit, leaders of EAEU member states made a unanimous decision to grant the Republic of Uzbekistan observer status at the organization.

we want to coordinate with the new U.S. administration about Turkey," Merkel told a news conference

en. The survey respondrespondents have said that ents' residence has been the government represents divided into two categories them in the peace process. of rural and urban. The The survey reveals that IWPS says 52.75 percent 74.24 percent of the reof the respondents are residents of rural areas while

spondents think that the level of violence in the 47.25 percent live in urban country has not reduced since the start of the peace areas. The Afghan People's Peace Perception Survey is negotiations in Doha-on a third its kind that shows September 12.







Briefs Govt to complete its tenure: Sh. Rashid

ISLAMABAD: Feder al Minister for Interior Sheikh Rashid Ahmed on Sunday said the government would complete its constitutional tenure under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan as people of Lahore had rejected the Pakistan Democrat-Movement's (PDM) ic political gathering and it was ample proof of their confidence on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf.

Talking to a private TV channel, he said the opposition parties were completely failed to bring out the people from their homes against the present government, adding they were organising a flop show against the government in Lahore.

The minister said the PDM had failed, adding desires of opposition parties remained unfulfilled due to holding failed gatherings against the government.

Replying to a question, he said Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman was using derogatory language in his speeches as his address in the tribal area was an example in that regard. Sheikh Rashid said anti Pakistan forces were active in the country and they were trying to destabilise the peace of the whole region. - APP

3369 new virus cases, 72 deaths reported

ISLAMABAD: The total active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan on Sunday were recorded 46,629 as 3,369 more people tested positive for the deadly virus during the last 24 hours.

Azerbaijan embassy pays respects to Heydar Aliyev

Talking about the national leader Ambassador Alizada said, National leader devoted his whole life to prosperity and well-being of our nations and they hold a special place in the history of our countries



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Ali Alizada along with his embassy staff paid homage to the great leader of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev during a ceremony. er Ambassador Alizada said, Na-

The ambassador also laid floral wreath and later offered dua. The staff of the embassy also joined the Ambassador in this ceremony and all of them offered dua for the national leader. Talking about the national lead-

tional leader devoted his whole life to prosperity and well-being of our nations and they hold a special place in the history of our countries.

He said one of the main pillars of their policy for the progress of our societies and countries was

the development of education and the correct assessment of its importance.

'Heydar Aliyev paid great attention to the development of science and education and took important steps aimed at developing the scientific and education system of the country based on advanced principles.

The education reforms carried out by him in our country since gaining independence had global nature and covered all its aspects and are continued by present leadership of country as well.³

US: 16 mln cases as vaccine starts roll out

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: The United States hit a record 16 million Covid-19 cases on Saturday afternoon, with deaths closing in on the 300,000 mark, even as millions of doses of a new vaccine were expected to start rolling out across the nation on Sunday.

The first vaccine was approved late on Friday by the US Food and Drug Administration and is expected to touch off a mass-inoculation campaign of unparalleled dimension to end the pandemic that has upended daily life and devastated the

US economy. "FDA APPROVES PFIZER VACCINE FOR EMER-GENCY USE!!!" President Donald Trump announced on Friday night on Twitter. He promised Americans the vaccinations would begin in less than 24 hours.

But US Army General Gustave Perna said on a Saturday news call that the first shipments will begin on Sunday and will be delivered to 145 locations around the

country on Monday. The remainder of the 636 delivery locations selected by states and US territories will receive doses on Tuesday and Wednesday, he said, adding that Pfizer will have more doses ready every week for distribution and administration.

COVID-19 claims 31 more lives in Punjab

LAHORE: Another 31 patients lose to COVID-19 while 686 new cases were reported in Punjab on Sunday. A spokesperson for the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department said the total number of coronavirus cases reached 127.212 and death toll to 3,351 in the province while the recoveries were 114,910.

Situation getting worse as Trump refuses to concede

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: Several people were stabbed in the United States capital, Washington DC, on Saturday night after day-long protests by the supporters of outgoing President Donald Trump who refuses to accept the results of the Nov 3 elections.

Earlier on Saturday, the head of the Republican Party in Texas suggested

gathered in Washington -Supreme Court refused marching up and down the to hear the plea, dashing national mall that stretch-President Trump's hopes es from Lincoln Memorial of turning his electoral deto the Capitol, which housfeat into a legal victory. es the US Congress and

The crowds also railed against Fox News for en-Instead of going all the way dorsing Biden's win, holdto the memorial, the crowds ing placards that accused stopped near the White president-elect the of House and then turned tostealing the election.

wards the Capitol, chanting The scene became chaotic after sunset as a group of The chanting was the pro and anti-Trump supfiercest outside the Suporters clashed in downpreme Court, which seems town Washington.

partment said they had treated several people with stab wounds and had arrested six for brawling. At least one police officer was also injured in the clashes. In the evening, police shut down traffic in parts of downtown Washington and sealed off Black Lives Matter Plaza near the White House.

Also on Saturday, Allen West, who chairs the Republican Party in Texas, suggested that "law-abiding states" should "form a Union" to show their rejection of the allegedly rigged election. The United States is a union of 50 states. In 1869, the US Supreme Court ruled unilateral secession unconstitutional but also observed that revolution or consent of the states could lead to a successful secession.

Govt. to ensure strict SOPs at airports

ISLAMABAD: The government has introduced effective anti-coronavirus Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), which are being implemented in letter and spirit at all airports, during all domestic and international flight operations. The existing SOPs, approved to stem the spread of deadly virus by the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) on November 19 for international passengers, chartered and private aircraft flights, would remain in place till December 31, 2020, under which all international passengers arriving in Pakistan are required to register themselves by installing the Pass Track App, according to an official document available with the APP.

"For those passengers who do not possess smartphones shall be required to enter their data on the website https:// passtrack.nitb.gov.pk/login." While, children under 12 years of age, disabled passengers and high level foreign delegations are exempted from the app and web data requirement, however, it is mandatory for them to submit Health Declaration forms at the airport of arrival in Pakistan. Requirement of COVID-19 RT-PCR test from passengers travelling to Pakistan is subject to the country of original embarkation. Pakistan has categorized the countries into three categories like A, B and C. "Asymptomatic travelers from Category-A countries do not require RT-PCR test before commencement of travel; whereas, travelers from Category-B & C countries are required to provide proof of the negative test conducted not more than 96 hours from the commencement of original travel, failing which the operator/airline shall not issue the boarding pass." Besides, international travelers from the Category-C countries would have to undergo another mandatory RT-PCR test upon arrival in Pakistan. – APP

Seventy Two coronavirus patients, 67 of whom were under treatment in hospital and Five in their respective homes or quarantines died on Saturday, according to the latest update issued by the National command and Operation Centre (NCOC).

During the last 24 hours most of the deaths had occurred in Punjab and followed by Sindh.

It added that out of the total 72 deaths during last 24 hours 42 patients died on ventilators. No COVID-19 affected person was on ventilator in Balochistan and Gilgit Baltistan (GB) while 353 ventilators were occupied elsewhere in Pakistan. The maximum ventilators were occupied in four major areas including Multan 58 percent, ICT 52 percent, Peshawar28 percent and Lahore 37 per-cent.-APP

Chohan terms Lahore jalsa a failure

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Prisons Fayyaz ul Hasan Chohan has said that the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) Lahore rally is a failure and the people of Lahore have rejected the opposition. Opposition should drown in shame after Lahore rally. In an interview with private media, he said that the people of Pakistan are only connected with the narrative of Pakistan. The people of Lahore have slapped on the face of Modi and Ajit Doval's narrative.

Comparing the Pakistan Democratic Movement rally, Fayyaz-ul-Hasan Chohan said that the park was not built when PTI held a rally at Minar-e-Pakistan. The number of 67,000 seats was announced by the Shehbaz Sharif government itself.

"I have never seen such a flop rally in my political life," he said. Opposition should be relieved that it s getting dark, their dignity is spared. After today, instead of going to Islamabad, they should go under the earth. Eleven parties could not fill Minar-e-Pakistan by investing billions of rupees. At such a rally, they should drown in shame.

forming a union of pro-Trump states to prevent President-elect Joe Biden, a Democrat, from taking over. Biden won both electoral (306-232) and popular votes - by more than seven million. But Trump and other Republicans are refusing to accept the results.

> Earlier in the day, thousands of Trump supporters

NEW DELHI: The ongoing

farmers' protest in India es-

calated on Sunday after thou-

sands of angry farmers start-

ed blocking highways and

camping on the outskirts of

New Delhi, while many dem-

onstrators have now started

marching towards Kadli to

block major thoroughfares,

including Delhi-Jaipur High-

ways. According to Indian

media, Delhi Police have

tightened security at various

borders as the protest has

However, farmer leaders

have announced the closure

entered its 18th day today.

to have incensed Trump supporters by refusing to entertain his plea to undo the election results. President Trump's legal campaign has filed dozens

and dancing all the way.

the Supreme Court.

of lawsuits, requesting courts to invalidate voting in four battlegrounds states which enabled his rival, Joe Biden, to win the

Protest against Indian

farmers' law intensifies

of major roads connecting

Delhi and a hunger strike

On Saturday, over 4,000

policemen were deployed

in Gurgaon and Haryana to

stop the farmers from occu-

pying highways. The laws are

meant to bring reforms and

increase farmers' income,

Prime Minister Narendra

Modi had earlier said on Sat-

urday in what was seen as a

renewed assurance from the

Farmers say the laws threat-

en their livelihoods. Although

various farmer unions have

govt, NDTV reported.

beginning from Monday.

election. On Friday, the US

Some of the protesters used the cover of darkness to stab rivals while police tried to separate the two groups. Videos posted on social media showed demonstrators exchanging barrages of fireworks, and police intervening on several downtown streets.

A spokeswoman for the Metropolitan Police De-

backed the demonstration,

bills passed in September.

UN chief highlights Pak pledge DNA

the protest is largely led by ISLAMABAD: NEW YORK: "Pakistan angrowers from Puniab and nounced no new coal power Harvana in India's north. The plants," the UN chief has said. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as he recounted the number government and leaders of of countries coming forward the protesting farmers' unwith strengthened national ions have held several rounds climate plans, with commitof talks but a deadlock perments covering some of the sists over the parliamentary world's biggest emitters on display. Speaking to reporters Indian farmers have been at UN HQ, UN Secretary-Genstruggling for years due to eral Antonio Guterres eslow crop prices and rising pecially mentioned the ancosts, demonetisation, and nouncement by PM Khan that widespread droughts despite Pakistan was scrapping plans government subsidies and infor new coal power plants. come tax exemptions.- APP

1392 projects approved for Balochistan

been approved by PDWP and Balochistan government has approved DSC. The provincial finance 1392 various development department had authorized schemes aimed at elimination Rs 28 billion for the projects of backwardness and upliftduring the first half of the fiing the living standard in the nancial year 2020-21 while it remote areas of the province. would further approve the re-The provincial government maining schemes out of total was proposed 1597 develop-1597 schemes in Balochistan. ment schemes in current year He said the government was out of which 1392 projects striving hard to solve basic have been approved for the issues of people through dewelfare of the masses, said an velopment adding that the apofficial of Balochistan governproved development schemes ment. He informed that out included road and infrastrucof 105 priority development ture rehabilitation, and drinkprojects, 65 projects have ing water facilities. - DNA

The P&SHD confirmed that 338 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Lahore, 2 in Nankana Sahib, 46 in Rawalpindi, 4 in Chakwal, 15 in Jehlum, 3 in Gujranwala,1 in Mandi Bahauddin, 7 in Sialkot, 7 in Gujrat, 24 in Faisalabad, 7 in Toba Tek Singh, 15 in Jhang, 13 in Multan, 9 in Vehari, 5 in Khanewal, 5 in Lodhran, 12 in Dera Ghazi Khan, 1 in Chiniot, 43 in Sargodha. 2 in Mianwali, 41 in Jhang, 10 in Bhakkar, 54 in Bahawalpur, 5 in Muzaffargarh, 30 in Rahimyar Khan, 9 in Bahawalnagar, 1 in Sahiwal, 3 in Okara, 10 in Rajanpur and 5 in Pakpattan districts

during the last 24 hours. The Punjab health department has so far conducted 2,179,263 tests for COV-ID-19 in the province. It is pertinent to mention here that services for coronavirus treatment have been provided in 242 hospitals across the province, where 8.762 beds have been reserved for COVID-19 patients in which 3,280 beds were equipped with oxygen facility. As many as 89 ventilators in Lahore, 4 in Faisalabad, 22 in Rawalpindi and 39 in Multan were being used for coronavirus cases. whereas, 503 ventilators were vacant. - APP

4 Peshawar areas sealed

DNA

PESHAWAR: A smart lockdown was imposed in four more neighbourhoods in Peshawar on Sunday after coronavirus cases in the city rose. After orders by the city's deputy commissioner, Phase 1 of Hayatabad's Sector D, three streets in Haji Camp's Sethi Town, Ghalib Street, River Kabul Road, Charsadda Road, and Rashidabad were sealed. Entry and exit points have been sealed and people have been instructed not to leave their houses unless absolutely necessary. Wearing face masks in public has been made mandatory as well. The following instructions have been issued too. No gatherings are allowed. All shops except pharmacies, food supplies, tandoors and general stores to remain closed. Congregations in mosques has been restricted to five people. The lockdown will come into force from 6pm today and will last until further notice.

Italy sees promising trade potential in Pakistan The Ambassador, Andreas Ferrarese said his government prioritized to enhance bilateral trade between Pakistan and Italy to its full potential of US \$ five billion annually in the next three years

ISLAMABAD: The Italian Ambassador to Pakistan, Andreas Ferrarese said here on Sunday that he perceived more trade potential between Pakistan and Italy in different sectors of the economy that would help evolve trade equilibrium between both the sides.

"Both the sides want equilibrium and to achieve trade balance as currently, Pakistan had a trade surplus in bilateral trade with Italy as was observed in FY 2019-20," the ambassador said.

Replying to a question he said Pakistan exports to Italy were US \$ 731million during 2019-20 while Pakistan's major exports to Italy included textile, leather, rice, ethanol, including textiles articles, sets, worn clothing, Cotton ,apparel, crocheted, Cereals, raw hides and skins, leather, beverages, spirits and vinegar, Plastics, footwear

and gaiters. The ambassador said in FY 2019-20, Pakistan's imports from Italy stood at US \$ 521 million and included ships, boats, and other floating structures, machinery, pharmaceutical product, aircraft, spacecraft, electrical, electronic

equipment, Organic chemicals, iron and steel, miscellaneous chemical products, optical, photo, technical and medical apparatus. He said currently, Italy was providing technical assistance in textiles, leather and marble sectors. The Ambassador, Andreas Ferrarese said his government prioritized to enhance bilateral trade between Pakistan and Italy to its full potential of US \$ five billion annually in the next three years

from current US \$ 1.7 billion. He said dairy and livestock, olives and olive products, plastics, processed food and construction sector were the areas where Italy could extend its cooperation with Pakistan. The Pak-Italy Joint Economic Commission was the forum for bilateral economic engagement and was expected to meet in Rome in the last quarter of this year. While replaying about the ex-

pectation of Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between Pakistan and Italy, he said Italy was in European Union (EU) countries adding, "We are fully supporting Pakistan in Generalized Scheme of Preferences (GSP+) status



in every review." He informed that Pakistan has a share of 10 percent of trade with Italy in the whole contribution with EU countries and in future both sides would extend more cooperation in trade and economy.

The ambassador informed that Italy has become the largest contributor from the EU in home remittances to Pakistan. He said in FY 2019-20, it registered 29 percent growth which was far higher than our national growth in remittances. He said Pakistani workers contributed US \$ 142.9 million in home

remittances in FY 2019-20, and US \$ 111 million in 2018-19. He said Italy was the eighl largest economy of the world with US \$ two trillion Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Italy has the third largest economy in the European Union (EU) after Germany and France and Pakistan's 9th top export desti-

nation, he added. He said Italy has the largest Pakistani diaspora in the EU. Ambassador Ferrarese said the construction for the new embassy was underway and his priority task was to supervise the new under-construction Italian embassy in the diplomatic area

and speed up the process. He said a new economic mission would also be established in Pakistan to enhance trade and economic connectivity with Pakistan. The ambassador said, "I want to open up a cultural centre, maybe in one part of the new embassy, and promote Italian cuisine, art, paintings, music so that the Pakistanis can know more about Italy.' He said that he was appointed about nine months ago when coronavirus was at its peak. Replying to a question, he said his predecessor, Stefano Pontecorvo, was a seasoned economist and he tried his best to enhance the overall volume of bilateral trade. He set a good example and stand-

ards for boosting the economic and trade relation between both of the countries. He said COV-ID-19 wasted our efforts and then he had to start afresh to give a quantum jump to the bilateral trade between Pakistan and Italy. Ambassador Ferrarese has many out of the box ideas in-store to promote bilateral, trade and cultural relations between Pakistan and Italy. He also stressed the need for the importance of cultural connectivity to promote trade and said that he would encourage exchange of students to further strengthen bilateral relations. Replying to a question about his family, he said that his father and mother were educationists; his father was a professor of history and his mother a professor of financial economy. He started that his for-

eign services career was started at

the age of 26 from the department

of Economic Affairs, Italy looking

after the Asia region. - APP

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