



# Islamabad POST

Monday, January 04, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

**Amb. Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul condemns coal miners' killings**

Detailed News On Page-01

**Israel illegally extending its settlements**

Detailed News On Page-08



**'Pak-Canada ties and trade links growing**

Detailed News On Page-07



**Briefs**

**Shibli condemns Machh incident**

RANA FARRUKH

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz said on Sunday that heartbreaking Machh incident of killing of miners was highly reprehensible and tragic. Strongly condemning the incident, the minister, in a tweet, said the external enemy in its attempt to destabilize Pakistan was constantly orchestrating such subversive activities on its soil. Unfortunately, the political elements rejected by the people, consciously or unconsciously, were also becoming a tool of external enemies by spreading chaos and anarchy in the country, he added.

**Bilawal condemns massacre**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Sunday strongly condemned the massacre of eleven coal-miners in Bolan district of Balochistan, terming the incident the worst form of terrorism. Bilawal, in a statement, said terrorism should be condemned by every Pakistani and urged the government to take action and provide protection to the workers in the coal fields. He also urged the government to provide compensation to the families of victims and ensure that such incidents do not occur again.

**Boris warns of tougher restrictions**

DNA

LONDON: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said tougher lockdown restrictions were probably on the way as COVID-19 cases keep rising in the United Kingdom, but that the roll-out of vaccines was set to accelerate on Monday with the first 530,000 doses of the newly approved Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccines ready to be administered. He added he hoped "tens of millions" would be treated over the next three months.

## 11 coal miners massacred in Balochistan

Police says that armed men took the coal miners to nearby mountains where they opened fire on them

BUREAU REPORT / DNA

QUETTA: Eleven coal miners were killed and four others were seriously injured after armed men opened fire at them at the Machh coal field. Police said that armed men took the coal miners to nearby mountains where they opened fire on them. Eleven were confirmed dead by police and the others injured were said to be in critical condition. The injured were taken to the Machh hospital for treatment. After news of the incident broke, police and FC personnel have arrived at the coal mine. Balochistan government spokesperson Liaquat Shahwani said that the incident was an act of terrorism. "Investigative institutions are probing the incident from every angle to determine who is responsible for this," he said. Shahwani said that terrorist activities in

Continued on Page 06

**PM Imran orders immediate arrest of killers**

NAVEED MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Sunday condemned the killing of 11 coal miners in Mach area of Balochistan, calling it "yet another cowardly inhumane act of terrorism". Eleven mines were killed after armed militants kidnapped them and took them to a nearby area before opening fire at close range, according to police. The prime minister, in a tweet, directed the Frontier Corps to use all resources to apprehend the killers and bring them to justice. "The families of the victims will not be left abandoned by the government," he said.

## India sponsoring terrorism in Pak: FM

ABID RAZA

MULTAN: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi has said that India is sponsoring terrorism in Pakistan to destabilize the country. Talking to Media in Multan Sunday, he said Pakistan has exposed the nefarious designs of India by providing irrefutable evidence in the form of dossier to the International Community. The Foreign Minister said India has been defaming Pakistan through running fake NGOs and websites.



Shah Mehmood Qureshi urged the international community to take notice of Indian atrocities and human rights violations in the Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi has said that the incumbent government is making all-out

efforts to ensure early completion of the second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor, which will bring a new era of development in the country. Talking to people in Multan, he said that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is pursuing modern trends of economic diplomacy and Pakistani diplomats across the globe have been given certain targets to promote the country's economy. Shah Mehmood Qureshi welcomed the Intra-Afghan dialogue process saying that peace in Afghanistan will lead to peace in the entire region.

## COVID positivity rate surges at 5.12 percent

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The National COVID Positivity Ratio on Sunday was recorded 5.12 percent where 2,284 Coronavirus patients were in critical condition across the country with the number of critical patients rising at a fast pace. The positivity ratio was determined on the basis of positive cases appearing in 100 samples of COVID patients. The highest positivity ratio was observed in Mirpur which was 15.69 percent followed by Peshawar 12.13 percent and Karachi 11.27 percent, according to the latest

update issued by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC). The positivity ratio in various federating units was as in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) was 6.16 percent, Balochistan 9.02 percent, Gilgit Baltistan (GB) 1.11 percent, Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) 3.12 percent, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) 4.65 percent, Punjab 4.16 percent and Sindh had 7.23 percent positivity ratio. It also mentioned the Province wise COVID Positivity Ratio breakdown that indicated in Punjab, Lahore had maximum positivity

Continued on Page 06

## Pakistan urges UN role for release of Asiya Andrabi

A.M.BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Sunday approached the United Nations Secretary General in New York and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva to seek immediate release of Kashmiri political leader Asiya Andrabi. Asiya Andrabi, also a human rights activist, was incarcerated in infamous Tihar Jail in India whose life was in danger owing to imminent risk of persecutory conviction by a sham court on 18 January 2020, according to a Foreign Office statement. Pakistan told the UN bodies that as a champion of human rights and an ardent advocate of women empowerment, Andrabi had worked tirelessly for social reforms and realization of fundamental freedoms for the people of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) for over four



decades. She founded an organization called Dukhtar-e-Millat (DeM), which was one of the biggest women rights organizations in IIOJK working on women's education, empowerment, well-being and protection - especially against physical violence and abuse at the hands of Indian occupation forces. Asiya Andrabi has been under illegal and inhuman incarceration for more than 15 years on fabricated charges under draconian laws aimed at further perpetuating India's illegal occupation of IIOJK through brutalization of the Kashmiri people. "The Indian authorities have now put Ms. Andrabi on trial on trumped up charges; deliberately accelerated the trial; and set aside due process, reflecting malicious intent with clear indications of looming judicial murder," the Foreign Office statement said. The spokesperson said that India's blatant attempts to portray the legitimate Kashmiri struggle as "terrorism", and to prosecute its leaders through concocted cases,



BAHAWALPUR: PDM leaders share stage during a public rally, on Sunday. - DNA

**Turkish envoy grieved over Machh incident**

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Turkish envoy Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul has strongly condemned coal miners' killings in Balochistan. In a Tweet message on Sunday the Turkish ambassador said We are deeply saddened by the news that at least 11 coalminers lost their lives in a terrorist attack perpetrated in the Mach area of Balochistan. "We strongly condemn this heinous terrorist attack and extend our sincere condolences to the friendly and brotherly people and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. We wish Allah's mercy upon those who lost their lives", the message further read.

**Rasheed seeks Machh incident report**

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed on Sunday while strongly condemning the killing of innocent coal miners in Mach (Balochistan), sought report into the tragic incident from Inspector General Balochistan. In a tweet, the Interior Minister said terrorists would not succeed in their nefarious designs and those involved in this heinous act deserved no leniency. - DNA

## Govt responsible for disorder; price hike

PDM Bahawalpur rally vows to oust govt; leaders say govt days numbered

DNA

BAHAWALPUR: Maryam Nawaz has said the support by people "shows that the government's days in power are numbered". She was addressing the crowd at Seraiki Chowk. She conveyed the support (greetings) of PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif and party president Shahbaz Sharif. PDM chief Moulana Fazl ue Rehman while addressing the rally said that PDM is a national movement and all the parties are united for our cause. He said PDM's unity and unanimous stance has caused sleeplessness among incompetent rulers.

Continued on Page 06

**People have rejected politics of PDM: Shibli**

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz Sunday said Vice President Pakistan Muslim League- Nawaz (PML-N) Maryam Nawaz during her address in Bahawalpur forgot to mention that her royal family had robbed funds of people of south Punjab in the name of Lahore renovation. People of south Punjab were deprived of education, health facilities and electricity while all their resources were spent on Lahore, he remarked in his reaction to Maryam Nawaz's speech. He said the farmers of south Punjab hate this royal gang as PML-N forced them to starve during its rule. The sugarcane growers used to curse the then government policies after loading their crops on trolleys. Moreover, he said, the PML-N regime ruined lives of cotton growers due to the hatred with south Punjab. "By blocking supply of pesticides and crop seeds, this royal gang forced the farmers to starve", Shibli remarked. He said the Jati Umrah road had been frequently carpeted and the roads of south Punjab presented a picture of Mohenjo-daro ruins. - APP

**Inside...**

- Govt orders transparent inquiry of student's murder - Page 02
- NAB yielding excellent results under Justice (R) Javed Iqbal - Page 03
- ICCI calls for gearing up economic reforms process - Page 04
- Perils of social media and EU report - Page 05
- Azhar, Rizwan propel Pakistan to 297-run first innings total - Page 06
- 'Pak-Canada ties growing, trade links strengthening' - Page 07
- Israel illegally extending settlements on Palestine land - Page 08

**NEW METRO CITY HOUSING SCHEME**  
KHARIAN - SARAI-ALAMGIR

### GT ROAD'S MOST MODERN & LUXURIOUS HOUSING PROJECT

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL PLOTS ON EASY INSTALLMENT PLAN

LOCATION MAP

LATEST DEVELOPMENT WORK & AMENITIES

FOR MORE INFORMATION FOLLOW US ON  
 @NEWMETROCITY @NEWMETROCITYPK @NEWMETROCITYPK  
**TOLL FREE : 0800 00101**  
 HEAD OFFICE & SITE ADDRESS:  
 NEW METRO CITY SITE MAIN GT ROAD, KHARIAN, SARAI ALAMGIR

A PROJECT OF **BSM DEVELOPERS PVT LTD**







## A complete mess

**T**HE details of the Broadsheet LLP case are a complete mess that Pakistan has been embroiled in for a long time. There is a penalty of millions of dollars hanging over the State's head, and as it scrambles to find out who was to blame, more court judgments get decided against Pakistan's favour and attack the accounts of our embassies upon our delay of payment. In this case, Broadsheet LLP was hired by NAB during Musharraf's regime to trace the hidden assets of 200 Pakistanis. Complications led to the termination of services and the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) awarded a penalty of millions of dollars to the anti-corruption watchdog. While the current government has been pursuing this case to see who to castigate the blame on, the UK high court decided to debit \$28.7m from the accounts of the Pakistan High Commission in London over non-payment of the penalty. There were clearly several fatal mistakes made in the handling of this case, and the government should investigate where it went wrong, in order to ensure more transparency and competence in the future. Yet it also needs to deal with this issue for once and all, before further non-payment damages our High Commission. The case has been lost and a sitting government of Pakistan had agreed to not pursue it and pay—the current government cannot just take back the word of previous government heads. The international politics of a country do not matter to international arbitration courts, when services of foreign firms are sought. The government needs to put this matter to rest, while at the same time initiating inquiries and pushing reforms to ensure that such an episode does not happen again.



## Muslim oppression

**P**ART of the larger trend of systematic subjugation by the Indian government in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), Muslim nomads were forced into eviction after a court determined that they were living in the region illegally. Furthermore, Assam's government has also effectively turned state-run seminars into regular schools, approving Islamic subjects to be dropped from the curriculum, thereby robbing the right to practice religion in a Muslim majority area. Much like many of the other atrocities being committed in Kashmir, such directives of the BJP government are going unnoticed by the global community. Nomads, tribal people who migrate in accordance to the seasons, constitute as 12 percent of the total population of Kashmir. As part of the larger government-led eviction campaign, this significant portion of society is being forcefully removed from their home region—a place where they should have the full right to establish residence, if they wish. In the midst of below-freezing temperatures, countless families are being left immensely disenfranchised by the autocratic rule imposed upon the region by India. Furthermore, the Assam government's decision to drop Islamic subjects and turn state-run seminars into regular school is cause for alarm as well. Instead, Sanskrit tolls are being converted into centres of study for Indian heritage and civilisation. Clearly, behind such developments is an intention to further marginalise the Muslim population of IIOJK who now face immense hurdles in the process of practicing, or in fact learning more about, their faith. As time passes, the Indian government brings us a new story, incident and political move each week that is intended to subjugate the innocent people of Kashmir for satisfying their own political ambitions. Meanwhile, the international community remains apathetic to the grievances of the people as well as the consistent human rights violation in the area. For greater change to be inspired, Pakistan must continue to highlight such a suppressive environment.

# Perils of social media and EU report

Prof Badar Shahzad

The terrorist / extremist organizations are exploiting media technologies for radicalizing populations to achieve their ends. This has become a disturbing phenomenon in the crisis situations, war zones and peace times. Gabriel Weismann from the University of Haifa states, "Nearly 90% of organized terror activities on internet takes place via social media. Terror groups use social media to spread messages, recruit members and gather intelligence." Similarly, fake or distorted news is easy and cheap to produce/ disseminate on social media

**S**Ocial media helps people to isolate themselves in ideological niches by seeking and consuming only information consistent with their views. The internet helps eliminate the barriers of distance and creates a sense of community beyond borders. Acts of terror are promoted and shared and watched in real time like the mosque shooting in Christchurch which was live-streamed on Facebook. Online video games are used to entice and indoctrinate young players to hate ethnic minorities. The games are modified versions of classic videogames in which the original enemies were replaced with religious, racial and ethnic minorities. There are plenty of historical evidences implicating the traditional media for acting as a propaganda tool for hatred leading to ethnic rifts and producing turbulence in society. Printing technology gave rumours a legitimacy. In the 16th century Italy, rumour about the Jewish people drinking children's blood circulated on printed pamphlets. Today, those rumours are considered the precursor to anti-Semitism in the world. Der Stürmer, a weekly tabloid, was found to have "injected into the minds of thousands of Germans a poison that caused them to support the National Socialist policy of Jewish persecution and extermination". Like Der Stürmer, Kangura, a Rwandan tabloid, spewed out hate and fabricated stories against the Tutsis preparing the population mentally for killing them. Broadcast technologies have also been misused to spread hate, which is most visibly in Rwanda where the majority Hutus massacred the minority Tutsis. Social media also played a dirty role in Rohingya ethnic cleansing in Myanmar. The UN put blame on Facebook for playing a role in spreading hate speech amid the mounting Rohingya crisis. Marzuki Darusman, who led the UN Fact-Finding Mission, stated that social media played a determining role in the crisis. Digitization of "text and images" increases their availability, makes them more toxic, more lethal and their impact on society and nations more profound than the previous print versions. The conversion of ink into hypertext has increased violent crimes, hate speeches and propaganda, and enabled the extremists to disseminate it much effectively to its audience. Shrinking of time and space has bestowed upon the text and images the magic power eliciting a massive public reaction and social impact. The massacre and promotion of hate crimes against Muslims in Myanmar, Gujarat, Delhi, and the street protests in response to George Floyd's killing by a police cop in USA is testimony to the fact that media is a powerful mover and shaker of society — a double edged sword. Metamorphosis of the traditional media into different types of social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, WhatsApp, YouTube, Periscope,

Vimeo) has increased the flow of information making it easier for extremists and policymakers to influence and radicalize the youth and sections of society by manifolds. By October 2020, 4.59 billion people had access to internet. With zero or few gatekeepers the flooding of hypertext was almost uncontrollable. With the introduction of 5G, a new dimension has been opened; 5G can elevate data speed by up to 100 times and reduce latency from 20 milliseconds to one millisecond. User is now able to download entire season of a TV series in less than a minute. The terrorist/ extremist organizations are exploiting media technologies for radicalizing populations to achieve their ends. This has become a disturbing phenomenon in the crisis situations, war zones and peace times. Gabriel Weismann from the University of Haifa states, "Nearly 90% of organized terror activities on internet takes place via social media. Terror groups use social media to spread messages, recruit members and gather intelligence." Similarly, fake or distorted news is easy and cheap to produce/ disseminate on social media. Boutros-Ghali was once quoted as complaining that "CNN is the 16th member of UN SC". Policymaker provide a more complex view of the CNN effect. Colin Powell said, "Live TV coverage doesn't change the policy, but it does create environment in which policy is made". The body of 3-year-old Aylan Kurdi, a Syrian refugee, lying face down on a beach in Turkey, changed the entire media debate. Likewise, Rwandan cultural anthropologist Charles Mironko analyzed the confessions of 100 genocide perpetrators. His work confirms that hate messages had an effect on the dehumanization of population that was subject to persistent slander. Indian media in Gujarat printed fake news like "Khoon Ka Badla Khoon" (Avenge Blood with Blood) to provoke, communalize and terrorize people resulting in the massacre of Muslims. Sandesh published fabricated reports before the killings, promoting violent Hinduva policies. Genocide Watch issued genocide alerts for Muslims in Kashmir and Assam. Anti-Muslim venom on Indian social media indicates a serious move by RSS to instigate Hindus against Muslims. "Preparation for genocide is definitely underway in India...next stage is extermination that's what we call a genocide", said Prof Gregory Stanton, the author of The 10 Stages of Genocide. EU Disinfo Lab's recent report reveals how India since decades has been engaged in spreading fake or distorted news from the soil of EU, using names of non-existent individuals and some Pakistani figures. This report should have created a storm in the local and international media, but, again, because of effectiveness of Indian media's propaganda brigade, Pakistani print and electronic media as well as its foreign office have

failed to exploit this heinous crime by Indians agencies. The realization on part of Pakistan's security establishment, as Gen Bajwa had mentioned many a time, about the hybrid war is a good omen and hopefully they are doing their utmost to thwart and frustrate such kind of onslaught. At the same time there is a need to ask social media to have a self-check, too. The World Economic Forum, in 2014, called misinformation one of the 10 greatest perils confronting the society. "It sows the seeds of hate, waters them and harvests them". Social media has become the most powerful news disseminators. Technology serves not only to amplify disinformation and hate but also creates the scope for its automated spread. This sort of tech has no use for borders. So, people and machines in Ukraine can influence public opinion in USA. Russian agencies can interfere with the US electoral process. The Cambridge Analytica scandal shows us how easy it was to manufacture biased info and target it to specific population groups to help Trump win the election. WHO, citing 50 years of research on imitation, has posted media guidelines on reporting suicides to prevent imitative suicides. The guidelines include suggestions such as not sensationalizing suicide (e.g. suggesting an "epidemic"), avoiding prominent headlines, not repeating the story too frequently, not providing step-by-step descriptions of methods, limiting use of photographs and videos, etc. Reacting to such pressures Facebook, Reddit, Google, LinkedIn, Microsoft, Twitter and YouTube have issued a joint statement to check misinformation. The rules will also ban tweets in which people play armchair doctor and make claims like, "If you have a wet cough, it's not coronavirus, but a dry cough is." Social media played a vital role in politicizing Covid-19 and generated fake cures or myths about it. In India, Muslims were accused of Corona Jihad spreading the virus to Hindu population. Indians blamed Pakistanis for sending Corona terrorists for infecting Hindus. Muslims were burnt alive or lynched to death due to propaganda on Indian media which urged Hindus to boycott Muslim merchandise. Accuracy and elimination of fake news/propaganda content is critical for growth and ensuring media credibility and harmony in society. To ensure credibility, Facebook has decided to have stringent rules to check and identify harmful misinformation in collaboration with International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN). Twitter is labeling and issuing warnings for tweets that violate its policy. Crowd Tangle is a public insights tool from Facebook that makes it easy to follow, analyze, and report on what's happening across social media.

— The author is visiting lecturer at Bahria University

# Saudi-Israel relation: A game of interests

Naveed Abbas Maitlo



Saudi Arabia is backward in technology. However, Israel's technology is highly prized. Saudi will request Israeli intelligence firms to structure a special program that had the ability via scanning social media to pinpoint potential terrorist threats in the country. Reportedly, Israel software helped Saudis spy on journalist Jamal Khashoggi

**O**NCE upon a time, Saudi and Israel were archenemies of each other. Saudi troops were sent to fight against Israel in the 1948 and 1973 wars on the behalf of Palestine. Saudi Arabia was one of several Middle Eastern states that voted against the United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine. However, it seems that the unpleasant weather between the countries has been changed. Saudi Arabia has intended to normalize relations with Israel. This new spirit of friendship seems to be based on interests. Crown Prince of Saudi said, "I believe the Palestinians and Israelis have the right to have their land. But, we have to have a peace agreement to assure the stability of everyone and to have normal relations. There are a lot of interests we share with Israel and if there is peace, there would be a lot of interest between Israel and the Gulf Cooperation Council." It is a witness that Saudi has accepted Israel for its benefits. Saudi Arabia is backward in technology. However, Israel's technology is highly prized. Saudi will request Israeli intelligence firms to structure a special program that had the ability via scanning social media to pinpoint potential terrorist threats in the country. Reportedly, Israel software helped Saudis spy on journalist Jamal Khashoggi. Moreover, it is prophesied by astute analysts that discussions are made about how through economic partisanship Israel can participate in Crown Prince Salman's Vision 2030. There are vivid signals that Israeli firms may join in the bidding process through mediators to invest in the Smart City project in the Gulf



of Aqaba. Besides, Saudi has a normalized relationship with Israel because Saudi Arabia is facing serious consequences resulting from its clashes with Shiite Iran and its proxies. Houthi strikes on the Saudi oil business would be disastrous because oil is the central pillar of the kingdom's economy and the cornerstone of its development. According to the IMF's latest data, oil receipts accounted for around 85% of Saudi Arabia's exports and almost 90% of fiscal revenue, and the oil sector comprises over 40% of the overall GDP. Saudi Arabia's budget deficit each year, depending on the price of Brent crude, is \$40-60 billion. Saudi Arabia urgently needs an alternative export route for its oil. There is no ambiguity that Saudi is looking to import natural gas reserves which are the fifth largest in the world.



On the other hand, Israel is developing its natural gas reserves but does not possess enough to justify building an export pipeline to Europe. A link with Saudi Arabia, however, could tip the scales in favor of an Eastern Mediterranean pipeline, which could be extremely lucrative for both partners. Saudi's friendly behavior with Israel is based on interest. However, it should be remembered that Saudi will deteriorate with its sincere ally Pakistan. Because Pakistan is not a self-centered country and will not shake the hand of Israel in the immediate future. The PM Imran Khan explicitly said, "Our stance is very clear; as Qaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah said, Pakistan will never recognize Israel until Palestinians are given their right of a just settlement."





