



# Islamabad POST

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Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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**Pakistan Army vows to defeat terrorists and their abettors**

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**World should condemn the Indian crimes**

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## Briefs

**Pak supports Kashmiris RSD: Alvi**

DNA  
ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday said Pakistan will continue to extend all possible support for the just cause of the people of Jammu and Kashmir till the realization of their right to self-determination in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions. "The right to self-determination is a vital component of human dignity. Negation of this right is the negation of human freedom, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and UN Human Rights Covenants. India is the biggest violator of this inalienable human right," the president said in a message on the occasion of Kashmiris' Right to Self-determination Day.

## Bilawal tells MQM to think of Karachi

DNA  
KARACHI: PPP Chairperson Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday said that he is unable to understand why the Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) is standing with the PTI-led federal government, adding that instead of focusing on "its own helplessness which forced it to form a coalition with the government, it should think about the helplessness of people." He was speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the second phase of the Karachi Neighbourhoods Improvement Project.

## Inzamam concerned about bowling

DNA  
ISLAMABAD: Former Skipper Inzamam ul Haq believes Pakistan team's bowling department was a matter of concern as the bowlers were unable to pick wickets and have been giving massive runs on the scoreboard. "New Zealand has taken a big lead of 360 runs against Pakistan. The scoreboard is telling the whole situation of the Test match. It is a very big lead and I feel Pakistan will have to play 180 overs in two days. I don't think that Pakistan has a chance of winning," he said.

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# Army vows to defeat terrorists

### The Army expresses complete solidarity with resilient and brave Kashmiri brethren till realization of their just cause

SHUJAAT HAMZA / DNA  
RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Army has reiterated that sacrifices would not go waste as terrorists and their abettors will be defeated at all costs. This resolve was expressed at 238th Corps Commanders' Conference held in Rawalpindi on Tuesday with Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa in the chair. The Army expressed complete solidarity with resilient and brave Kashmiri brethren till realization of their just cause in accordance with their aspirations and relevant UN Security Council resolutions. The participants undertook a comprehensive review of regional and domestic security environment with special focus on situation along the borders, internal security and other professional matters of the Army. The Forum reiterated that with the blessing of Almighty Allah, the determined Kashmiris shall succeed in their freedom struggle as decades of atrocities by Indian Occupation Forces have failed to suppress their

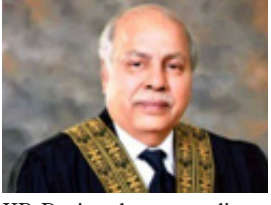
ever strengthening movement. The military commanders also expressed satisfaction over positive developments in Afghan Peace Process and efforts made for regional peace and stability. Dilating upon the current security environment, the corps commanders noted that defeat of complete threat spectrum is only possible through a comprehensive national effort, where all segments of the society play their rightful role. The forum specially discussed the ongoing security situation along the Line of Control, Working Boundary and Eastern Border. It noted that training and professional pursuits must remain our prime focus to enhance operational preparedness and thwart any possible misadventure. Speaking on the occasion, General Bajwa said highest standards of capability and maintaining cutting edge at all levels is vital to meet all challenges in tandem with other elements of national power.

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# SC orders to rebuild Karak Hindu temple

POST REPORT  
ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday ordered to reconstruct Hindu temple that was set ablaze by mob in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) Karak district. According to details, a three-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Gulzar Ahmed conducted a hearing on a suo moto notice pertaining to burning a Hindu temple in



of Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB). Justice Ijaz-ul-Ahsan raised question over the performance of provincial security departments and intelligence agencies and asked the inspector general in KP police what he was doing at the time of incident. The IG told that local leader of JUI Maulana Faizullah had sponsored a public gathering while Molvi Shareef

Continued on Page 06

# Pak, Iran to fight against drugs menace

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Iran on Tuesday agreed to further extend cooperation with each other to eradicate the menace of drugs from both the countries. The agreement reached between the two countries during a meeting between Minister for Narcotics Control Brig (R) Ijaz Ahmad and Iranian delegation headed by Chief of Iran's Anti-Narcotics Police Brigadier-General Amir Majid Karimi, said a news release. Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan Seyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini, Secretary Anti-Narcotics Control Shoab Dastagir, Col Omid Sarwari, Liaison Officer of Iranian Police Force in

Pakistan and senior officials of the Ministry of Narcotics Control also attended the meeting. Ijaz Ahmad Shah emphasized the need to strengthen Iran-Pakistan border cooperation, and welcomed Iran's initiatives and proposals to effectively combat drug trafficking. Brigadier-General Majid Karimi stressed the readiness of Iran and its Anti-Narcotics Police to expand cooperation with Pakistan. Welcoming the issues raised by the federal minister, he said, "Our main problem today is the increase in poppy production in the region." The Chief of Iran's Anti-Narcotics Police said, "We have the capacity to face this challenge, but it is necessary to further strengthen relations and bilateral cooperation between the anti-narcotics forces of Iran and Pakistan." He said Iran and Pakistan were victims of the drug problem and at the same time had an active role in the front line of the fight against the menace. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of UAE Hamad Al Zaabi visited the Chinese embassy and met with the Ambassador of China Nong Rong. The Chinese ambassador also presented a souvenir to the UAE ambassador. - DNA

# Russia keen to supply its vaccine to Pakistan

Russian Direct Investment Fund's (RDIF) head writes a letter to Special Assistant to the PM on Health Dr Faisal Sultan in this regard

NEWS DESK / DNA  
ISLAMABAD: Russia has once again offered to supply Pakistan its Sputnik-V vaccine. Sources privy to the development told media that the Russian Direct Investment Fund's (RDIF) head wrote a letter to Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan through the country's embassy in Islamabad seeking details of the vaccine registration process. In the letter, the sources

## Cabinet approves vaccine procurement

RANA FARRUKH / DNA  
ISLAMABAD: The Federal Cabinet has approved procurement of Covid-19 vaccine to protect human lives on time and emergency basis. The cabinet, which met in Islamabad on Tuesday with Prime Minister Imran Khan in the chair, also approved setting up of an inspection committee to improve the quality of country's exports of the fisheries sector. The committee will be responsible for inspection of fish processing plants in the country. It granted approval to the appointment of members Press Council of Pakistan.

Continued on Page 06

# Georgia votes in crucial runoffs

WASHINGTON: Tuesday is election day for two runoff U.S. Senate races in the state of Georgia that will determine whether Republicans or Democrats control power in the U.S. Senate. Republican Senator David Perdue is facing a challenge from Democrat Jon Ossoff, a television documentary producer, while Republican Senator Kelly Loeffler, one of the wealthiest lawmakers in the country, is going up against the Rev. Raphael Warnock, a Baptist minister. Polls ahead of election day indicate the two Democrats hold slight edges in the contests, both of which were made necessary because none of the four candidates won a majority in the first round of voting in November.

# Pakistan's non-NATO ally' status in trouble

FOREIGN DESK  
WASHINGTON: A bill has been introduced in the US House of Representatives to terminate the designation of Pakistan as a major non-NATO ally. It was presented by Republican Congressman Andy Biggs. It seeks to remove Pakistan's special status, which allows access to US defence supplies and participation in cooperative defence research and development programmes. Pakistan was given the designation as a major non-NATO ally during the Bush administration in 2004. The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. The Economic Times reported that this new bill will also ask the president to certify that Pakistan has shown progress in order to arrest and prosecute senior leaders and mid-level operatives of the Haqqani Network in Pakistan. The bill reads the President "may not issue a separate designation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as a major non-NATO ally or any other provision of law" unless a presidential certification is submitted that Pakistan continues to conduct military operations that are contributing significantly to disrupting the safe haven and freedom of movement of the Haqqani Network in Pakistan. Currently, there are 17 major non-NATO allies. Brazil was the last country to be given this designation by President Donald Trump in 2019.

# World should condemn Indian crimes

SHAHEEN HANIF  
ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Shibli Faraz has urged the international community to shun its silence on the Indian crimes against humanity in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K). In his tweets on Tuesday, he said the 5th January reminds us that the UN resolution accepting the right to self-determination of Kashmiris has yet not been implemented. The Information Minister said Prime Minister Imran Khan being an advocate and ambassador of Kashmiris is forcefully pleading the case of valiant Kashmiri people at all international forums and unmasking the evil face of India.

# GCC leaders agree to end the Gulf crisis

The Al Ula agreement was signed at the 41st session of the Supreme Council of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC)

NEWS DESK / DNA  
AL ULA: Gulf leaders signed the Al Ula solidarity agreement at the Saudi Arabian city of Al Ula. This agreement will pave the way to end the Gulf crisis. The Amir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani signed the declaration along with Kuwait Amir HH Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Saudi Crown Prince HRH Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Bahrain's Crown Prince HE Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Vice President

of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid and Omani Deputy Prime Minister HE Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said. The Al Ula agreement was signed at the 41st session of the Supreme Council of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC), which is being held in Al Ula, Saudi Arabia. The summit has been named as Sultan Qaboos Sheikh Sabah Summit in honour of the two great leaders - Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taimur and Sheikh

MBS embraces Qatari emir on arrival  
RIYADH: Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim exchanged a warm embrace on the tarmac at Al Ula airport after the Qatari delegation arrived for the 41st Gulf Co-operation Council summit on Tuesday. Sheikh Tamim's attendance was another signal of moves towards reconciliation within the GCC, coming a day after Saudi Arabia reopened its borders and airspace to Qatar. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman welcoming Emir of Qatar Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani upon his arrival in the city of al-Ula. AFP  
Qatar's emir is attending the GCC summit for the first time since 2017, when fellow bloc members Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain, along with Egypt, cut off ties over Doha's support for extremist groups. - DNA

Sindh starts vaccine coordination cell  
KARACHI: The Sindh government has established a provincial vaccine coordination cell to finalize the arrangements to administer the Covid-19 vaccine across the province. According to the details, the Government of Sindh Secretary Health Dr. Kazim Hussain has been appointed the head of the cell. Provincial Health Minister Dr Azra Pechuho said the coronavirus vaccine will be given to Sindh by mid-January with the coordination of the National Vaccine Task Force and NCOC. - APP

## Briefs

## KPK IG for arrest of Kifayatullah

DNA

PESHAWAR: Police chief Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has written a letter to the IGs of other provinces for arrest of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) leader Mufti Kifayatullah. IG Police KPK, Sanaulah Abbasi in a letter to police chiefs of other provinces, has said that a FIR has been registered in KPK against Mufti Kifayatullah, seeking his arrest and handing him over to KPK Police as per the requirement of the law. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has lodged a first information report (FIR) against Mufti Kifayatullah for making defamatory remarks against state institutions. The sources claimed that Mufti Kifayatullah has taken shelter at Madrassa Ishaatul Quran in Larkana to avoid detention. JUI-F Sindh Chapter Secretary General Rashid Mahmood Soomro has facilitated him in Larkana, the sources added. Earlier on December 29, Interior Minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad had warned legal action over anti-state remarks of the politicians and said that the first case in this regard will be registered against Mufti Kifayatullah in Lahore. "We will be registering a case against Mufti Kifayatullah in Lahore after complete preparation," he had said. The federal government had decided to take action against Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) leader Mufti Kifayatullah over his remarks against a state institution.

## 'Media management system of police being upgraded'

LAHORE: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Inam Ghani Tuesday said the media management system of the provincial police was being upgraded. In a media talk, he said that the Punjab Police Information Branch (PIIB) was being set up to carry out the task of obtaining and transmitting news and information in a more efficient and orderly manner. He said that the print, electronic and social media sections in the PIIB would be made more strong and functional professionally, and the Chief of Punjab Police Information Branch (PPIO) would be of DIG rank officer, who would also perform responsibilities of official spokesperson for the Punjab Police. DIG Operations Punjab Sohail Akhtar Sukhara has been given additional charge of Punjab Police Information Officer. A standing order was issued under Article 27 of the Police Order 2002 for the establishment of Punjab Police Information Branch (PIIB) and issuance of posts. - APP

## Photo exhibition held to mark solidarity day

M ISHAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: The Right to Self Determination day for people of Jammu and Kashmir was commemorated in the district for reminding the global community that Pakistanis could not shy away from their responsibilities towards the Kashmiri people. A photo exhibition on various stages of the struggle for independence of Kashmiris was organized by the Arts Council in this regard. Punjab Minister for Colonies/Culture Mian Khayal Ahmad Kastro inaugurated the photo exhibition and looked the portraits. Divisional Commissioner Saqib Manan, Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali, AC City Syed Ayub Bukhari, Director Arts Council Zahid Iqbal, Assistant Directors Arts Council Amina Alam, Mohammad Imran Raza, Incharge Control Room Mohammad Sadiq besides people from different walks of life were present. The provincial minister for colonies & culture said that the purpose of celebrating day to self determination was to expose Indian atrocities to the world and reiterate the demand of the United Nations to resolve the Kashmir issue in accordance with the resolutions of the council. He said that rallies and solidarity programs should renew the commitment of the Kashmir Independence Movement to its logical conclusion.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Kashmir, Raja Farooq Haider, Chairman parliamentary committee on Kashmir, Shehryar Afridi and others during a seminar on Kashmir solidarity day. - DNA

# 'India should be tried for misleading about Kashmir'

Addressing at a seminar, He said people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) had asked the United Nations Security Council to materialise its commitment to hold an impartial and free plebiscite to decide their fate

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Kashmir Committee Chairman Shehryar Khan Afridi Tuesday said that India should be tried for criminally misleading the World opinion on Kashmir by spreading disinformation. India was using hundreds of fake Non-governmental organizations, media organisations and websites to mislead the world opinion on Kashmir and EU Disinfo Lab had fully exposed the Indian vicious designs, said Afridi. Addressing at a seminar here in connection with the Kashmiris right to self determination day, he said India could no more keep its illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir. He said people of Indian

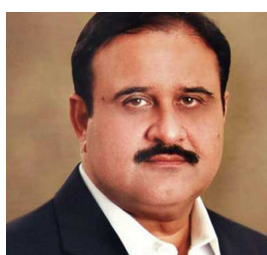
illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) had asked the United Nations Security Council to materialise its commitment to hold an impartial and free plebiscite to decide their fate, but UN had failed to fulfill its promise. He reiterated that Pakistan would continue to expose Indian expansionist designs in Jammu and Kashmir. He said he being Minister for SAFRON, had invited United Nations Secretary General to Pakistan and pledged to stand by the UN resolutions on Kashmir dispute. Afridi said that Kashmir Committee had been reaching out to all stakeholders of Kashmir to develop its policy on Kashmir dispute. The Kashmir Committee he said had representation of all political parties and it was working to help raise the Kashmir issue with

a single voice. Shehryar said tribal Pashtuns had joined hands with the Kashmiri freedom fighters to help liberate Jammu and Kashmir in 1948 and even today, the people of Pakistan stand by Kashmiris through thick and thin. "Today, even the Indian minorities are saying that Jinnah had taken a right decision by getting an independent state for the Muslims of India. Modi regime has been fully exposed due to its expansionist agenda," he said. Afridi said that no one can think of making a compromise on two major security issues of Pakistan - our nuclear programme and our Kashmir policy. He urged Pakistani youth to become bloggers, vloggers and social media activists to help

counter fake propaganda by fake Indian social media sites. He said the government was using all modern tools of information technology to expose Indian expansionist agenda. Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider said that Indian forces were present in Jammu and Kashmir even before freedom fighters launched movement. He quoted some incidents from history to point out the fact how Kashmiri freedom struggle continued despite Indian imperialist designs. He said that Pakistani new political map had been drafted on his advice and Junagadh was added to the map on his proposal. Haider said that Kashmir issue was debated at the European Union due to efforts by the

Kashmiri diaspora and the sacrifices made by the Kashmiris. He urged the Pakistan government to adopt an effective and robust policy on Kashmir adding that Kashmiris should themselves fight the case of Kashmir. He criticised his own party, PML-N, for being silent during their five year tenure and urged Prime Minister Imran Khan to adopt a strong narrative on Kashmir. He also criticised Shimla Agreement with India in the past, saying that this had damaged our case on Kashmir dispute. He urged media to raise Kashmir issue, saying that Pakistani media needs to highlight the sacrifices made by the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He said media coverage could better raise the awareness on Kashmir dispute.

## 'Govt to continue supporting Kashmiris' struggle'



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has said the government will continue all-out support to the just struggle of the oppressed people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) for their right to self-determination. In his message, the CM saluted the strong passion and commitment of the oppressed Kashmiris in Occupied Kashmir and stressed the international community to take immediate notice of Indian brutalities in the valley. The

silence of the international community on the worst barbarities being committed by Indians against hapless Kashmiris was regrettable and tragic, he added. The CM asserted that Narendra Modi had left behind even Hitler with regard to the genocide. It was also deplorable that even the United Nations resolutions had failed to prevent Indian atrocities in Occupied Kashmir, he added. Usman Buzdar urged the international community to play its role in granting the right to self-determination to the Kashmiris, as a peaceful solution to the core issue of Kashmir will ensure durable peace in South Asia. The people and the government of Pakistan will continue to side with the oppressed Kashmiris till the right to self-determination was granted to them, added the CM. - APP

## Al-Shifa Trust to organise eye camps in OIC countries

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital has decided to expand its outreach to the countries member of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to build their capacity, prevent blindness and provide timely eye care. Initially, surgical camps will be held at Kampala (Uganda), Niamey (Niger) and Serrekunda (Gambia) and later the ambit of services will be expanded to other countries, said a press statement issued here today. In this connection, an MOU has been

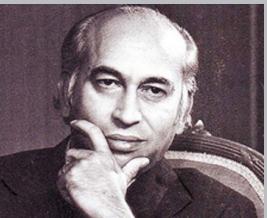
signed between Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital, Rawalpindi and COMSTECH - OIC Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation. The two sides agreed to build capacity of deserving nations in ophthalmology and prevent blindness through providing training and conducting eye camps. The MoU ceremony held at COMSTECH Headquarters and signed by Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General, COMSTECH and Maj. Gen. Rehmat Khan (Retd), President, Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital, Rawalpindi. The Vice-Chancellor of the University of The Gambia, Prof. Dr. Faqir Muhammad Anjum and

Mr. Mohammad Adeel, Assistant Director, Science Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan were also present on the occasion. Pakistan Institute of Ophthalmology, the academic wing of Al-Shifa Trust will impart training to doctors and paramedical staff in ophthalmology, optometry, orthoptics and public health etc. Trust will also offer observerships for 4 to 12 weeks and one-year clinical fellowships to candidates from OIC countries in the subspecialties, such as the cornea and refractive surgery, vitreo-retina, paediatric ophthalmology, glaucoma, orbit and oculoplastic.

## KCCI reposes solidarity with Kashmiris

KARACHI: President, Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, M. Shariq Vohra on Tuesday said the business community firmly supports the struggle of Kashmiris for their right to self-determination as per United Nations' resolution, and to live respectful and peaceful life on their home land. In a statement, KCCI President said, "our hearts beat with those of innocent Kashmiris in occupied held Jammu and Kashmir and we pledge our un-conditional support to them." He said the 'Right to Self-Determination Day' marked 72nd anniversary of United Nations' resolution suggestion that the future of Kashmiri people should be decided through a plebiscite under the supervision of the UN. He condemned that Indian attitude had been totally irresponsible to the demands of Kashmiris and the world community as a whole. Instead of giving them the right to self-determination, in 2019 India bulldozed the disputed status of the held Jammu and Kashmir and announced its annexation. - APP

## 93rd birth anniversary of ZAB observed



LARKANA: 93rd Birth Anniversary of the Founder Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Ex-Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was celebrated on Tuesday with great zeal and enthusiasm by PPP leadership and workers. Large number of PPP leaders and workers arrived at the village Garhi Khuda Bakhsh Bhutto to pay homage to the Zulfikar Ali Bhutto (Late). In this con-

nection Qura'an Khawani was held in the Mausoleum of the martyrs of Bhutto's family at Garhi Khuda Bux Bhutto. On the occasion collective prayers was also offered in Garhi Khuda Bux Bhutto, for the departed soul of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto the Founder Chairman of PPP and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto and others. PPP leaders Aijaz Leghari, Khair Muhammad Shaikh, Saleem Ahmed Soomro, Ghulam Mustafa Leghari, MNA Naseebaan Channa, Dr. Ghulam Sakina Gaad, Nasreen Soomro, leaders, workers of PPP, students of various schools and all walks life participated in the Qura'an Khawani. - APP

## PCG recover 8644 Kg betel nuts

KARACHI: Pakistan Coast Guards (PCG) have recovered 8644 kilograms of betel nuts, 13900 liters of illegal diesel, impounded two trucks and seven vans and arrested 10 accused in different actions. The PCG recovered 7.20 kilograms of high-quality hashish from a passenger coach at the Naka Khari check post near Winder Balochistan, said a statement on Tuesday. The PCG also recovered 4035 kilograms of foreign cloth, 372 sticks of foreign cigarettes, 128 packets of Indian Gutka, and miscellaneous items during the search of various vehicles. Over 1070 kilograms of betel nuts, 128 packets of Indian Gutka were recovered from a truck while one accused was arrested at Naka Khari check post. Two accused were arrested and 7,574 kilograms of betel nuts were recovered during a search of a truck at Super Highway Karachi. Seven persons were arrested and 13,900 liters of illegal diesel were seized during patrolling in the Jeevani area of Balochistan. - APP

## Coca-Cola to establish 17 water filtration plants

ATHUR SUFI

KARACHI: Coca-Cola Pakistan is partnering with Cantonment Board Clifton, Rotary International and 2 other organizations to establish 17 water filtration plants to provide clean drinking water for disadvantaged communities in various parts of Karachi. This project under the CSR leg of Coca-Cola's recent Karachi is Love campaign has a budget of Rs. 26.78 million. All the plants together will provide safe drinking water to over 383,000 people of low-income communities living in areas like Akhtar Colony, Hazara Colony, Machhar Colony, Lassi Goth, KhadimSolangi Goth and Aatma Colony. One filtration plant will also be established at the Karwan e Hayat Psychiatric Care and Rehabilitation Center to provide 4000 gallons per day water for the Center's 100 beds hospital for in-house psychiatric patients. Speaking about this CSR project, Fahad Ashraf, VP & General Manager for Coca-Cola Pakistan & Afghanistan region said, "This is not the first time that Coca-Cola has installed water filtration plants in Karachi. Previously also Coca-Cola had partnered with Rotary International to set up 5 solar-powered water filtration plants in several polio high-risk areas in Karachi. The first reverse osmosis water filtration plant installed in Malir, and subsequently a survey carried out by UNDP Pakistan showed that water-borne diseases reduced by up to 75% in the area." Water is central to Coca-Cola's business and in 2006 the Company pledged that by year2030 it will return to nature an equivalent amount of water that it uses itself in its business, through a diverse range of water conservation projects. - APP

Government of Pakistan

## PAKISTAN PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT CORRIGENDUM

No.CIII/AB/TN/01

Dated: 04-01-2021

Reference Advertisement published in National Daily News papers Daily Ausaf, Daily Johar, Islamabad Post and on PPRA vide letter No.CIII/AB/TN/1633 dated 29-12-2020 posted on vide TS440-135E dated 31-12-2020. The following amendments are made:-

Tender documents can be purchased from the office of the undersigned upto 21st January, 2021 against a non-refundable fee of Rs. 2000/- . All bids must be delivered to the office of the undersigned at or before 11:00 hours, on 22nd January, 2021. Bids will be opened at 11:30 hours on the same day, in the presence of bidders on their authorized representatives who choose to attend at the same address. All the remaining terms and conditions shall remain the same.

This corrigendum is also available [www.ppra.org.pk](http://www.ppra.org.pk)

(Mudassar Irshad Rana)  
Executive Engineer,  
Central Civil Division-III,  
Pak PWD Islamabad

PID (I) No. 3520/20



## Briefs

## Police arrested more than 300 POs

DNA

ATTOCK: Police during the last year have arrested more than three hundred proclaimed offenders, recovered drugs, illegal arms and cash in different attempts. A press release issued from Attock Police Headquarters says this. As per details police arrested 378 proclaimed offenders, recovered 27 mound charas, 42 kg heroin, 25 kg opium, 02 kg ice and 2580 bottles of liquor, registering 818 cases. Police also recovered illegal arms which include 599 pistols, 74 kalashankovs, 78 rifles, 13 revolvers, 14 repeaters, 19 daggers 32108 rounds of different calibre, 44 motorbikes, 03 vehicles one trawler and Rs 120 million looted cash.

## 'Rape incident not committed on motorway'

ISLAMABAD: National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) on Tuesday clarified that condemnable and tragic incident of rape of a Christian girl on December 28 did not take place on Lahore-Sheikhupura Motorway.

A spokesman of the NHMP said that the incident took place on a local road about one and a half km away from the motorway, Sam Nulla, village Fatehpuri jurisdiction of Feroozqabad police station, Sheikhupura district, which was clearly mentioned in the FIR.

He said that the affected family was traveling on a rickshaw from Feroozqabad to their village Kakkar Gul on the local road, which as per rules could not enter the motorway.

He said that Motorway Police has to correct the statement of Christian leader Simon Pyare in the Supreme Court in which the location is mentioned as Lahore, Sheikhupura Motorway.

Motorway Police are ready for any kind of legal guidance related to the incident, he said adding that Motorway Police was always striving for the safety and service of the people.

## Police arrest seven for immoral activities

RAWALPINDI: Naseerabad police on Tuesday arrested seven including three women allegedly involved in immoral activities, said a police spokesman. He said, Naseerabad police acting on a tip-off conducted a raid in their jurisdiction and arrested Imran, Raheel, Asghar and Tamoor and three women. A case has been registered against all the accused while further investigation is underway, he added. - APP

## PUCAR marked Kashmir solidarity day

RAWALPINDI: A photographic exhibition & Rally was arranged at Punjab Council of the Arts in connection with Kashmir Right to Self Determination day. Chairperson Peace and Cultural organization Mishal Malik was the Chief Guest of the ceremony. While addressing the ceremony Mishal Malik said, No one can know the value of independence better than Kashmiri. Kashmiri have been fighting for independence for 72 years. Kashmir's independence movement has intensified despite the atrocities of Occupied India; the sun of independence will soon rise in the Occupied Kashmir Valley, she added. She further said Occupied Kashmir has been under curfew since August 5, 2019. 8 million Kashmiri are imprisoned in their own homes, the United Nations has failed to implement its resolutions in 72 years. The Kashmiri people demand from the international community and the United Nations to urge the occupying India to give Kashmiri the right to vote. Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed said that the occupying Indian forces were inflicting atrocities on Kashmiri. Pakistan stands with Kashmiri in their struggle for independence. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, president Islamabad chamber of commerce and industry pose for group photo with S.M Siddiq Hassan, president Islamabad citizens committee and delegation members during their visit to ICCI. - DNA

## ICCI demands development of Islamabad as a model city

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that cities were playing an important role in the economic development of countries around the world and emphasized that CDA should focus on developing Islamabad as a model city

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Islamabad Citizens Committee (ICC) led by its President S.M. Siddiq Hassan visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) and held a meeting with Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President ICCI to discuss matters for the better development of the federal capital. Shafeeq Siddiqui Vice President, Shams Ullah Awan Secretary General, Ajaz Kaleem Ashraf Finance Secretary, Chaudhry Tahir Mehmood Information Secretary and Ali Ahmed Farooqui IT Sec-

retary were in the delegation. Abdul Rehman Khan, Vice President ICCI, Khalid Chaudhry, Mi-anRamzan and others were also present at the occasion. Speaking at the occasion, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that cities were playing an important role in the economic development of countries around the world and emphasized that CDA should focus on developing Islamabad as a model city to make it a hub of business and economic activities and to provide a conducive living environment to the citizens. He said that capital cities of many

countries have become driving force in the economic development and urged that CDA should focus on modernization of infrastructure in the federal capital including carpeting of all major roads, repair of footpaths, providing parking in markets, restoration of all faulty streetlights, setting up filtration plants and public toilets in all commercial and industrial areas that would facilitate better growth of business activities. He said that CDA and MCI should focus on establishing more public parks and playgrounds in Islamabad and provide better amenities to provide citizens a healthy envi-

ronment. He assured that ICCI in collaboration with Islamabad Citizens Committee would make efforts for better development of Islamabad. S.M. Siddiq Hassan, President, Islamabad Citizens Committee (ICC) highlighted the role and responsibilities of his Committee. He said that realizing their problems and issues, the citizens of Islamabad had constituted ICC in 2977 to act as an association and forum of citizens of Islamabad to bring their difficulties and problems into the notice of relevant authorities for redress. He said that ICCI and ICC were working for some common objectives to

make Islamabad modern looking and well-developed and these objectives could be achieved more effectively by developing close collaboration between both associations. He said that the collective voice of ICCI and ICC would help in addressing the key issues of the business community and the citizens. Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI, Shams Ullah Awan Secretary General ICC, Chaudhry Tahir Mehmood Information Secretary ICC, Khalid Chaudhry and others also spoke at the occasion and shared ideas for making joint efforts to promote the cause of the business

## Two missing boys reunited with their families

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Shahzad Town and Aabpara police stations Islamabad have reunited two missing boys with their families, a police spokesman said. According to details, Muhammad Younas informed Shehzad town police that his four-year old son Muhammad Fahad had been missing and could not be traced despite hectic efforts by family members. Following this information, SP (Rural) Farooq Amjad Butar constituted special team under supervision of DSP Mubarak Ali to trace the missing boy. This team including SHO Shahzad Town police station Sub-Inspector Tipu Sultan searched various under-construction buildings, houses and garbage heaps. Various people were inquired about the missing boy Muhammad Fahad and finally police team succeeded to recover him safely following which he was reunited with his parents. Meanwhile, Muhammad Qasim lodged report with Aabpara police station

that his four years old nephew Rehan had been missing. He stated that he along with family members tried to trace him but no clue was found. Following this complaint, Aabpara police registered First Information Report (case no. 03) on January 3, 2021 under section 364-A/34 PPC. Following this complaint SP (City) Umer Khan constituted a special team under supervision of SDPO Sectt Iqbal Khan headed by Station House Officer (SHO) Aabpara police station Sub-Inspector Saleem Raza, ASI Muhammad Nusrullah along with others. This police team started the investigation, worked hard and succeeded to trace the missing boy Rehan and arrested three kidnappers including a lady identified as Allah Rakhai, Hassan and Faisal Mir. The kidnappers were trying to shift the abducted boy at their hideout through rickshaw when police team intercepted him and recovered the boy. Later, police reunited him with his family after completing the legal proceedings.

## CDA restores water treatment plant in I-9

STP treated water will be utilized in gardening, department of environment, and for construction purposes. This step will reduce the water necessity of the city, he added



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) restored water treatment plant (STP) in I-9 on Tuesday. Chairman CDA, Aamir Ali Ahmed visited the said plant and inspected the water recycling. Speaking at the occasion, Chairman

CDA said that the water plant was not functional for last four years. But, the current administration of CDA repaired STP in just 2 months. STP was treating 2 MGD sewerage water in past. Now it has the ability to treat 6-7 MGD sewerage water. STP treated water will be utilized in gardening, department of environ-

ment, and for construction purposes. This step will reduce the water necessity of the city, he added. He said that prior to this the sewerage water was being wasted either by going down in the earth or through nullahs. 10-12 MGD sewerage water will be recycled in coming three months through this treatment

plant. Sewerage pipelines are also being improved. A tank having capacity of 20,000 gallons water will also be constructed. Cameras and heavy lights will also be installed to ensure the security of the STP. Latest laboratory has also been established to check the quality of the treated water, he further said.

## Iraqi envoy stresses need for practical coordination

The Centre for Middle East and Africa (CMEA) of the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI) aims to promote and provide quality research, analysis, policy input and dialogue on issues related to the Middle East and Africa

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to Pakistan, H.E. Hamid Abbas Lafta expressed his desire to translate friendly sentiments between Iraq and Pakistan into practical cooperation and coordination through increased research and dialogue. He was hosted by the Centre for Middle East & Africa (CMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) here on Monday. The ambassador was received at the Institute by Chairman BOG, ISSI Ambassador Khalid Mahmood and Director CMEA, Ms. Amina Khan. First Secretary of the Iraq Embassy in Pakistan, Mrs. Wassan Jabbar Abdullah and Attache, Mr. Asseel Noori Talib were also present on the occasion. Director CMEA, Ms. Amina Khan

gave a briefing to the Ambassador on activities of ISSI and CMEA. Welcoming the Ambassador's visit, Ms. Amina Khan remarked that academic and research inter-

action between both sides is key to strengthening Pakistan-Iraq bilateral relations. The ambassador lay emphasis on the importance of Centers such as CMEA

for promoting cooperation and coordination. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BOG ISSI said that the people of Pakistan regard the land and people of Iraq

with high respect and reverence and the Pakistani government is keen to forge lasting ties with the Government of Iraq. Both sides pledged continued exchanges and collaboration in future.

The Centre for Middle East and Africa (CMEA) of the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI) aims to promote and provide quality research, analysis, policy input and dialogue on issues related to the Middle East and Africa. It envisions synergy of inquiry and cooperation with these important regions as envisaged in Pakistan's foreign policy. Fostering closer comprehensive ties with the Muslim countries in the Middle East and identifying areas of mutual interest between Pakistan and Africa in keeping with Pakistan's Engage Africa policy are key priorities that underline the vision of CMEA.



## Six injured in road mishap in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI: Six persons including five women of a family received several injuries in road mishap on G.T road near Mandra here on Tuesday. According to Rescue 1122, the incident took place due to the carelessness of car driver as he lost the control over vehicle due to over speeding and struck with a truck, resultantly six people namely Manzoor Ahmed 40, Nusrat Bibi 50, Muskan 17, Nabeela 34, Adil 28, Samima Shahzad of 25 received several injuries. On information, Rescue teams rushed to the spot and shifted the injured to Rural Health Center (RHC) for treatment where there condition is stated to be stable. - APP

## IHC seeks report from PTA regarding blasphemous content

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday directed Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) to submit detailed report pertaining to the measures to stop blasphemous contents on social media and other sites.

Justice Aamer Farooq of IHC conducted hearing on a case filed by Shuhada Foundation seeking to ban Netflix site on uploading sacrilegious movie.

At the outset of hearing, PTA's official informed the court that the department had contacted the site's management to remove controversial material from Netflix. The PTA said that they were taking measures to make the YouTube open its office here in Pakistan, adding that the PTA itself couldn't block any content on it. Justice Farooq remarked that it would be good if all social media sites opened offices here. If there would be offices then the court could seek reply from them on controversial material, he said. The bench said that the controversial film would be banned in Pakistan when it would be released here. It had no connection with information ministry if the movie exists on internet, he said.

Justice Aamer Farooq asked that whether a common citizen could file such complain to PTA to this the official said that citizens were authorized to move complain with department.

Petitioner's lawyer Tariq Asad adopted the stance that PTA could block the Netflix itself as it closed YouTube in the past. The court noted that the PTA had already contacted the site to remove controversial material before this petition moved. The court sought detailed report from PTA regarding measures against controversial material and adjourned hearing for two weeks. - APP

## IGP reviews annual performance

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfikar on Tuesday reviewed the annual performance of Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) and Anti-Car Lifting Cell of Islamabad police and directed for effective measures to eradicate crime from the city. According to details, a meeting presided over by IGP Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfikar was held to review crime situation in Islamabad and annual performance of CIA and ACLC. The meeting was attended among others by DIG (Operations), AIG (General), AIG (Special Branch), SSP (CTD), Zonal SPs, SDPO Ramana (Saddar Circle), SHOs of Golra and Ramana police stations and Inspectors as well as Sub-Inspectors of CIA.

The meeting reviewed the annual performance of CIA wing of Islamabad police and was also briefed by the SP (Investigation) Malik Naem Iqbal about its achievements. The meeting was told that 64 gangs were busted during 2020 and 191 gangsters were arrested. Moreover, CIA police recovered valuables worth Rs. 124.2 million including gold ornaments, vehicles as well as cash and returned all these items to their owners. In addition, CIA police recovered 81 kilogram hashish, 200 gram opium, five kilogram heroin, one kilo ice, 2000 wine bottles and also 111 weapons of different kinds from the various nabbed accused. It also succeeded to nab 34 proclaimed offenders and eight court absconders. - APP

## Massacre in Niger

THE attacks on two villages, Tchoma Bangou and Zaroumadareye, in Niger resulting in more than a hundred deaths, inform us that the threat of Islamic State (IS) still looms large. The group's capacity to slaughter and terrorise has yet to be destroyed. Many believe the IS orchestrated the latest carnage. If this assumption is correct, then the attacks reveal that the organisation's inroads into Africa are growing. Despite the militant group's continuous penetration, the threats to Africa's stability do not find any space in the international community's imagination. The world needs to notice the ever-increasing terrorist threat that has been spreading across the African continent.

A few experts had rightly warned the triumphalist nations to be wary of IS' potential. Driving the group out of the Middle East (ME) was not a permanent solution to IS-induced terrorism. Nowadays, we see that the group has metamorphosed in a far more deadly entity. It can now attack anywhere in Africa. The international community will find it hard to eliminate terrorism on African soil if it does not take immediate action. The subsequent expansion of the militant outfit in West Africa is troubling, given the impunity with which Boko Haram still operates there. According to analysts who are closely observing the developments in Niger, the state's efforts to dam IS in the Greater Sahara are failing. The law enforcement agencies' pulling back from the region provide IS more breathing space and encouragement to consolidate its base in the continent. The world must come together against the terrorists in West Africa lest the spillover effects destabilise the already volatile North Africa. The best way to eliminate the terror threat permanently is to provide logistical and financial support to the states fighting against terror threats.

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Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti  
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

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Email: [dailyisbpost@gmail.com](mailto:dailyisbpost@gmail.com)

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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



## Reopening schools

IN a meeting conducted by education ministers in the country, it has been decided that all educational institutes will be reopened in phases. According to Federal Education Minister Shafqat Mahmood, the initiative was taken after careful consideration of the health conditions prevailing in the country and on account of the colossal educational loss suffered by students across Pakistan. However, considering that transmission rates haven't gone down and new strains of COVID-19 are manifesting, there is a dire need for strict safety measures to be endorsed and adopted.

According to details released, the first wave allows for the return of students from grades nine to 12 on January 18, the second phase for grades one to eight on January 25 and the third for higher education students on February 1. Furthermore, a 50 percent attendance policy, which would entail sectioning the total number of students into halves, has been implemented. This is the best course of action, and a well thought out one at that, for the circumstances we are living in. Given the complications that were arising from online instruction, many students found themselves at a natural disadvantage by virtue of their economic standing, social environment, geographical location, mental health and the like. On top of all this, the quality of education dispensed also suffered in quality. Through this, some sense of normalcy is expected to return.

In the same breath, it is imperative that we do not forget that the second wave is still raging, and infection rates don't seem to be going down. If authorities do not approach this step cautiously, the situation may worsen rapidly. As such, comprehensive protocols are needed within institutions that highlight the importance of taking preventative measures like social distancing, wearing masks and using sanitisers. Only through making this process foolproof can we truly make some progress and protect the health of our children.

## Two-state solution: The opium of Palestinian people

Haidar Eid

The de-Osloisation of Palestine, for most Palestinian activists, has become a precondition for the creation of peace with justice. That requires a redefinition of the Palestinian cause as an anti-colonial struggle against a system of settler-colonialism and apartheid, and reunification of the three components of the Palestinian people, namely, Gaza and the West Bank residents, refugees, and Palestinian citizens of Israel. The WCAR declaration, in a very peculiar way, demanded from Palestinians to offer guidance to the most effective tool of int'l solidarity with their struggle to end apartheid in historic Palestine

LAST month, Saeb Erekat, chief Palestinian negotiator and secretary-general of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, passed away at the age of 65. His death has been seen by some Palestinians as a metaphor for the end of the Oslo era and its twisted logic. Erekat and many Palestinian political functionaries of his generation have firmly stood by the so-called two-state solution, insisting that the Palestinians will be able to strike a fair deal with the Israelis and their American patrons to establish an independent Palestinian state on parts of historic Palestine. The illusion that this is actually possible has been maintained through decades of continued colonisation and disastrous agreements. It is "the opium of the Palestinian people".

The accord with Israel signed by Egypt in 1978 at Camp David, by the Palestinians in 1993 in Oslo and Jordan in 1994 in Wadi Araba were supposed to be necessary steps towards Palestinian self-determination and towards "peace" in the Middle East in general. But all these agreements ignored the existence of the Palestinian people as a people and their basic rights, including the right of return of Palestinian refugees and equality for Palestinian citizens of Israel.

Instead of insisting on those fundamental rights and following the example of South Africa's anti-apartheid movement, which mobilised international civil society around the idea of one person, one vote and the establishment of a secular democratic, non-racial, non-sectarian state, the Palestinian political leadership reduced the Palestinian people to only those living in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem. This resulted in the formation of a Palestinian Bantustan of incongruous territories, where Palestinians live under the constant terror of a military occupation and where the Palestinian Authority does not actually exercise full authority. The insistence on continuing down the Oslo

path towards an illusory two-state solution has persisted even after Israel passed a Nation-State law, in which it explicitly declared the right to self-determination in "the Land of Israel" to be "unique to the Jewish People" – i.e. according to the Israeli state, the Palestinians cannot enjoy that right. And it has persisted even as Arab states have pressed forward with normalisation with Israel without any concessions along the formula "peace for land" and as the United States has put forward yet another "peace deal" in which it offers the Palestinians nothing more than humiliating subsistence.

Oslo and its derivative processes ignore the elephant in the room – the apartheid regime which Israel has effectively imposed on historic Palestine. They also do not pay attention to the consciousness of sumud that has emerged out of the Palestinian struggle. Nor do they take into account the long Palestinian legacy of civil and political resistance.

Over the years, many Palestinians have come to see Oslo for what it is and have opted to draw alternative paths to secure Palestinian rights. In 2001, just a year after the Second Intifada erupted, the NGO forum of the World Conference Against Racism (WCAR) was held in Durban, South Africa. It offered a very clear diagnosis of the nature of the Zionist project and paved the way for a much more practical but also progressive path to a new intersectional cooperation between the oppressed Palestinians and other marginalised groups.

In 2005, the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Movement was created and two years later the BDS National Committee was formed to map its forward trajectory. BDS, along with the establishment of the One Democratic State Campaign and the Great March of Return – to give but a few examples – all represent the beginning of a process of de-Osloisation of the Palestinian mind. And in this process, Gaza has played a central role. Most events that have taken

place in the strip since the 2006 legislative elections represent an outright rejection of the Oslo Accords and their consequences. When we bear in mind that 75-80 percent of Gaza residents are refugees, the anti-colonial and anti-Oslo context of the election results becomes that much clearer.

In the following years, the calls for an alternative paradigm that divorces itself from the fiction of the "two-prison solution" intensified. It is a paradigm that takes the sacrifices of the people of Gaza as a turning point in the struggle for Palestinian liberation, one that builds on the growing global anti-apartheid movement that has been given an impetus by the 2009, 2012, 2014 onslaughts on Gaza and by the Great March of Return.

The de-Osloisation of Palestine, for most Palestinian activists, has become a precondition for the creation of peace with justice. That requires a redefinition of the Palestinian cause as an anti-colonial struggle against a system of settler-colonialism and apartheid, and reunification of the three components of the Palestinian people, namely, Gaza and the West Bank residents, refugees, and Palestinian citizens of Israel. The first steps of this process were taken in Durban in 2001. The WCAR declaration, in a very peculiar way, demanded from Palestinians to offer guidance to the most effective tool of international solidarity with their struggle to end apartheid in historic Palestine. The language used in the declaration was clear, diagnostic, strong, and – most importantly – uncompromising on basic human rights:

"We declare Israel as a racist, apartheid state in which Israel's brand of apartheid as a crime against humanity has been characterized by separation and segregation, dispossession, restricted land access, denationalization, 'bantustanization' and inhumane acts." And this has, to all of us in Palestine, been the beginning of our South African moment, a step in our long walk to freedom, equality and justice.

– Courtesy: Al Jazeera

## COVID-19 and its impact on society

Osama Malick

I have come to know that compassion for humanity, charity for the destitute, tolerance to accept people with different views are such commendable traits that benefit the person who practices them the most and help make this world a better place for everyone to live in. With the arrival of 2021, it really seems like we –who have been lucky enough to survive the pandemic—are now living a second life with the first one being left in the turbulent 2020. Though the second wave of this pandemic is still in it's full swing, everyone is advised to enjoy this "second" life responsibly

COME the year 2020 and nobody knew that it would bring in its wake a disastrous pandemic—namely coronavirus—, leaving the people with no option but to remain indoors and avoid mass gatherings.

To a great extent it was feasible for the bourgeoisie and creme de la creme to adapt themselves to such conditions but it was the poor who had to bear the brunt of the havoc caused by this merciless contagion. The major concern for the latter was as to where to eat from, unless the bread winners would go out to eke out their livings.

In this whole scenario, the students were also no exception, for they had to stay home and study via online classes. Study is a process through which a person evolves gradually. Yet this process requires undivided attention, so it was improbable for a large number of students to have desirable conditions during these unprecedented times, mainly owing to the presence of all family members all the time.

For some students, absence of proper room to study, dearth of resources to fund their education were the mind-boggling problems whereas others have had unavailability of Internet services like issues in their respective regions. On the flip side, there have been a number of stu-

dents too who had to grapple with these predicaments all together to turn this online education into a reality.

Much to our sadness despite agitations in miscellaneous parts of the country, government did nothing to redress the students' grievances and so universities went on to hold online classes. Eventually in the first some months of this virus, more than 1.5 billion students and around 65 million teachers from 180 countries of the world had shifted to online classes leaving the institutes unoccupied.

Online learning has never been an optimal option, yet after so many ifs and buts students have become inured to it in the fullness of time as they know that this pandemic's total termination from this world is nowhere on the horizon.

We are already experiencing the second wave of this death-dealing virus and this time it's been more aggressive and lethal in wreaking havoc as far as exterminating human lives is concerned. Reports of Covid-19's variant being found, first in England and now in different parts of the world including Pakistan, further consolidate this view that this contagion is not going to leave humanity anytime soon. Therefore "transition" is the only alternative we as students and other human beings are left with. The sooner we adapt ourselves to this new normal, the better.

It has been rightly put that there are always two sides to every story.

Ergo the other side of this pandemic has been that it gave students like me—whose more than four hours of a day were spent in commutation in order to reach university and come back home—the opportunity to spend more time with their family members and friends to know and create a stronger bond with them. We had had never before such a good amount of time for ourselves too since the start of our degree education. Covid-19 compelled me to renew my views on life, success and other worldly matters and after that period of contemplations, I feel myself a better person now.

I have come to know that compassion for humanity, charity for the destitute, tolerance to accept people with different views are such commendable traits that benefit the person who practices them the most and help make this world a better place for everyone to live in. With the arrival of 2021, it really seems like we –who have been lucky enough to survive the pandemic—are now living a second life with the first one being left in the turbulent 2020.

Though the second wave of this pandemic is still in it's full swing, everyone is advised to enjoy this "second" life responsibly.



## Briefs

## Proud Boys leader arrested

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: US police have arrested the leader of the right-wing Proud Boys group who is accused of burning a Black Lives Matter banner that was torn down from an historic Black church in downtown Washington last month.

Henry "Enrique" Tarrio, 36, was arrested by Metropolitan Police Department officers after he arrived in Washington, DC, on Monday ahead of protests planned by supporters of President Donald Trump to coincide with the congressional vote expected on Wednesday to affirm Joe Biden's election victory. Tarrio was taken into custody after a warrant was issued for his arrest for destruction of property, police said. He also faces a weapons charges after officers found him with two high-capacity firearm magazines when he was arrested, a police spokesman said.

A pro-Trump rally in December ended in violence as hundreds of Trump supporters – some wearing the signature black and yellow of the Proud Boys – sought out confrontations with a collective of activists and counter-protesters attempting to bar them from Black Lives Matter Plaza, an area near the White House.

By nightfall, vandals tore down a Black Lives Matter banner and sign from two historic Black churches in downtown Washington and set the banner ablaze.

## At least 22 killed in eastern Congo village

FOREIGN DESK

BENI, Congo: At least 22 people were killed in an overnight raid on a village in a part of eastern Democratic Republic of Congo plagued by Islamist rebel attacks, local authorities said on Tuesday. The militants struck late on Monday, killing residents of Mwenda village with machetes and guns, its civil society leader Jeremi Mbweki said. He blamed the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a Ugandan Islamist group which has emerged as the most lethal militia in Congo's eastern borderlands and is suspected of hacking to death at least 17 people in a nearby village last week.

## Polls open in Georgia election

FOREIGN DESK

DALTON: After a gruelling month of campaigning, millions of Americans from the southern state of Georgia head to the polls again on Tuesday to vote in a double runoff election, the outcome of which will determine control of the US Senate and shape the first years of Joe Biden's presidency. Georgians will vote to fill two Senate seats: One race is between Republican Senator Kelly Loeffler, a wealthy businesswoman who was appointed to the seat in 2019 to replace a retiring senator, and Democrat Raphael Warnock, a pastor in Atlanta. The other pits Republican Senator David Perdue, a businessman and cousin of former Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue, against Jon Ossoff, a documentary filmmaker who ran unsuccessfully for a US House seat in 2017. Democrats need to win both races to even the number of Republicans in the Senate and take effective control of the upper chamber. Incoming Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, a Democrat, would cast a deciding vote for any vote ties in the chamber after she is sworn in on January 20. The runoff elections will serve as an important test of party power in this rapidly changing state where Democrats have only recently gained an edge after decades of Republican control. In November, Biden became the first Democratic president to defeat a Republican in a generation, when he bested President Donald Trump by just 11,779 votes. Georgia was the only southern state to slip out of Republican hands in the presidential race, a sign that Democrats could have a promising future if they continued to mobilise voters.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, Nawaf Saeed Al Malikiy in a group photo with the military attaché and other staff of the embassy. – DNA

## COVID-hit Italy gripped by new political crisis

Renzi has threatened to withdraw his small but pivotal Italia Viva (Italy Alive) party from the centre-left coalition that Conte heads, which would force its collapse. "The situation is, in technical terms, a disaster

FOREIGN DESK

ROME: Italy's Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte has more than enough on his plate as he deals with a raging coronavirus pandemic, but also faces the more immediate challenge of staying in office. Despite a soaring COVID-19 death toll and with a deadline looming to come up with a credible plan to spend billions of euros in EU recovery funds, the government has been consumed for weeks by internal sniping from former Prime Minister Matteo Renzi. Renzi has threatened to withdraw his small but pivotal Italia Viva (Italy Alive) party from the centre-left coalition that Conte heads,

which would force its collapse. "The situation is, in technical terms, a disaster," the politician, who led Italy from 2014 to 2016, said in an interview with the Rete 4 channel broadcast late on Monday. Asked about the chances of Conte keeping his job, he said: "We'll see." Renzi has complained about slow progress in rolling out coronavirus vaccinations and delays in school reopenings and has lambasted Conte for seeking to concentrate power in his hands. This includes setting spending priorities without enough consultation for the 196 billion euros (\$240bn) Italy expects to receive as part of a post-virus EU recovery plan, which is due to be submitted to Brussels by mid-April. Italy has



recorded more than 75,000 deaths from the novel coronavirus, the highest toll in Europe, and the associated lockdowns and restrictions have hit the economy hard. The leaked draft spending plan includes more than 50 priori-

ties, with only nine billion euros (\$11bn) for Italy's cash-strapped health system. "This cannot work, there's too much money on hand-outs and too little on investments," Renzi said. The showdown with Conte is expected to come to a head in the coming days when ministers meet – possibly as early as Wednesday – to discuss the EU plans. Conte could try to placate Renzi with a cabinet reshuffle, either by persuading some ministers to step down or by resigning himself to seek a new mandate from President Sergio Mattarella with a revised list of cabinet ministers. But this option is, of course, fraught with risks. Once Conte resigns, Renzi could insist that the governing coal-

ition – which includes the populist Five Star Movement (M5S), the centre-left Democratic Party (PD) and the leftist Free and Equals (LeU) – can survive only under a new prime minister. However, there are no obvious alternative candidates. Former European Central Bank President Mario Draghi is often mentioned as a possible saviour for the country, but he has shown no appetite for a political career, at least in public. "Personally, I think that a government without Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte would be folly," tweeted Federico D'Inca, a minister and member of M5S, the biggest party in Parliament. Conte, a once-obscure law professor who has never himself been

## Abu Dhabi launches free vaccine campaign

FOREIGN DESK

ABU DHABI: A coronavirus vaccination campaign has launched in Abu Dhabi under the supervision of the Abu Dhabi Department of Health and the Abu Dhabi Public Health Centre. The "Choose to Vaccinate" campaign asks everyone to get vaccinated to protect themselves against COVID-19, with the understanding that together we are protected. All UAE nationals and residents can receive the free coronavirus vaccine. Abu Dhabi's rigorous approach to managing the pandemic, including mass screening and testing and active tracing, has allowed the emirate to successfully maintain a low rate of 0.39 percent of confirmed cases out of total tests conducted in the emirate. The vaccination campaign aims to preserve the health achievements attained so far in curbing the spread of Covid-19, and ensures Abu Dhabi will continue to lead the way in comprehensively protecting the population. Sheikh Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Hamed, chair-

man of the Abu Dhabi Department of Health, said: "The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged the world in an unprecedented manner. In Abu Dhabi, we are proud to have prioritized protecting our community and curbing the spread of the virus, while being active in finding solutions by partnering with other global leaders to participate in clinical trials that have contributed to ensuring a vaccine is now available. "As we enter 2021, we want to ensure our people continue to be safe, which is why the vaccines have undergone rigorous trials to ensure their safety, efficacy, and quality. I hope you choose to vaccinate to protect your health and the health of our nation." Dr. Jamal Mohammed Alkaabi, the undersecretary of the Abu Dhabi Department of Health, said: "The approved COVID-19 vaccines are safe and will give recipients the immunity needed to protect themselves. I hope everyone chooses to vaccinate to help get our lives back to normal." Matar Saeed Al Nuaimi, director-general of Abu Dhabi Public Health Centre, said:

## Indonesia to launch mass vaccination drive

FOREIGN DESK

JAKARTA: Indonesia will begin its nationwide COVID-19 mass vaccination program on Jan. 13, with President Joko Widodo leading from the front. Jokowi, as he's popularly known, is set to be inoculated against the coronavirus on the first day of the campaign. The president will receive the shots along with public and army representatives as a way to build confidence

in the vaccine, the country's health minister Budi Gunadi Sadikin said on Tuesday. According to the minister, vaccinations in other regions are set to start in the next two days. The government has previously said 1.3 million frontline workers are set to be among the first to receive the vaccines made by China's Sinovac Biotech. The Chinese company has shipped 3 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to the country. Now, the gov-

ernment is waiting on the local food and drug regulator to issue emergency use authorization for the shots to begin inoculating its population, with a target of reaching 181.5 million people by March 2022. Jokowi has called on the Cabinet to shorten that timeline further. Even before the regulator's approval, the government has started distributing the vaccines to its 34 provinces spread across the world's largest archipelago.



AL ULA: Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman meets Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. Both leaders discussed bilateral relations and cooperation. Emir of Qatar arrived in the Saudi city of Al-Ula to attend the summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council. – DNA

## Johnson announces new national lockdown

Johnson said that the measures were necessary to avoid the UK's health service from being overwhelmed, as the country sees a surge of cases of the deadly virus

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: Boris Johnson has announced a new lockdown for England that will last until at least mid-February as the country reels from a faster-spreading new version of the coronavirus. Britain's prime minister said that the restrictions will require people to stay at home and primary and secondary schools to close alongside all non-essential shops. University students will not return to campus and restaurants will only be permitted to provide take-out services. Johnson said that the measures were necessary to avoid the UK's health service from being overwhelmed, as the country sees a surge of cases of the deadly virus. "As

I speak to you tonight, our hospitals are under more pressure from COVID than at any time since the start of the pandemic," he said. "I know how frustrated you are. Now more than ever we must pull together." It comes as Britain announces a record 58,784 new cases of coronavirus and 407 deaths as the spread of the virus raises fears of a tough new lockdown across the nation. In a statement, Yvonne Doyle, medical director for Public Health England, said that the "continuous rise" in cases should be a "bitter warning for us all". "We must not forget the basics – the lives of our friends and family depend on it," she said. "Keep your distance from others, wash your hands, and wear a mask. This virus will transmit wherever you let your guard down."

## UK offers business bailout

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: Britain offered a 4.6 billion pound (\$6.2 billion) support package for businesses on Tuesday to soften an expected recession caused by a surge in COVID-19 cases that has prompted a third national lockdown. Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced the lockdown on Monday, saying a highly contagious coronavirus variant risked overwhelming the health service within 21 days. Most people must work

from home and schools have closed for almost all pupils. Hospitality venues must stay shut, as well as non-essential shops. Britain's economy now looks likely to tip back into recession – shrinking in the final quarter of 2020 and the first quarter of 2021 – after suffering a record 25% fall in output in the first two months of lockdown in 2020. The new downturn is expected to be far smaller, with most businesses now much better adapted to working remotely and construction sites and factories expected to stay open.

British opposition leader Sir Keir Starmer earlier also called for a full, nationwide lockdown, claiming that the government's tier system – under which the UK is split into four tiers with stricter restrictions in each depending on the spread of the virus – was not working. "The virus is out of control and we know that the tier system isn't working. I know that, the prime minister knows that, and therefore tougher national restrictions are inevitable," Starmer said. In recent weeks, Britain's government has been criticized for failing to impose restrictions on those entering the UK, including – as in other European countries – a requirement for new arrivals to provide a negative test before they are allowed entry.

## Iran tests drones in military exercise

FOREIGN DESK

DUBAI: Iran launched exercises featuring a wide array of domestically produced drones on Tuesday, Iranian media reported, days after the anniversary of the U.S. killing of a top Iranian general by a drone strike in Iraq. Iran and the regional forces it backs have increasingly relied in recent years on drones in Yemen, Syria, Iraq and the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf. Iran's armed forces are to test combat drones used as bombers, interceptors and in reconnaissance missions in the two-day exercises in central Semnan province, the semi-official Fars news agency said. Beyond surveillance, Iranian drones can drop munitions and also carry out a "kamikaze" flight when loaded with explosives and flown into a target, according to a U.S. official who spoke to Sources last year here. Iran has developed a large domestic arms industry in the face of international sanctions and embargoes that bar it from importing many weapons. Western military analysts say Iran often exaggerates its weapons capabilities, though concerns about its long-range ballistic missile programme contributed to Washington leaving Tehran's 2015 nuclear pact with world powers.

## Al-Qaeda branch claims killings of French soldiers

WEB DESK

MALI: Al-Qaeda's branch in North Africa has claimed responsibility for killing two French soldiers who died when their armoured vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device in eastern Mali. The soldiers were on a reconnaissance and intelligence-gathering mission in the eastern region of Menaka when the blast occurred. The attack came just days after three other troops from France were killed in a similar fashion. The branch, known as the Group to Support Islam and Muslims (GSIM), said it "detonated an explosive device" as the vehicle was passing, "bringing the toll to five in less than a week", in a statement released by its propaganda platform Al-Zalaga late on Monday. The deaths brought to 50 the number of French soldiers killed in the West African nation since France first intervened in 2013 to help drive back armed groups. The GSIM condemned the "indiscriminate" killing of 100 civilians in two villages in western Niger over the weekend, the Site Intelligence Group also reported. "This attack, whoever carried it out, is not different from the massacres of the French occupiers and criminal militias," GSIM said, adding its "jihad" has not turned against the people and vowing reprisals. The group appeared to be referring to the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (IGS), its rival in the region and with whom it has clashed violently in recent months.

## S.Korea to send delegation to Tehran

WEB DESK

SEOUL: South Korea is sending a delegation to Iran to seek the release of a tanker seized in Gulf waters by Iranian forces, with a senior diplomat set to go ahead with a scheduled visit to Tehran on Sunday amid tensions over \$7bn in Iranian funds frozen in Korean banks due to sanctions imposed by the United States. "In the earliest possible time, a working-level delegation led by the regional director will be dispatched to Iran to try to resolve the issue on the ground through bilateral negotiations," South Korea's foreign ministry spokesman Choi Young-sam told a briefing in Seoul on Tuesday. Iranian state TV previously cited a Tehran government official as saying South Korea's Vice Foreign Minister Choi Jong-kun was already scheduled to visit before the seizure of the tanker Hankuk Chemi to discuss Iran's demand that the frozen funds be released.

